

I AM

RED
RIVER
MÉTIS

2024 ANNUAL REPORT







The background of the page is a photograph of a tree trunk with rough, grey bark. A vibrant, multi-colored thread (red, blue, yellow, green) is wrapped around the trunk, with some strands hanging down. The text 'TABLE OF CONTENTS' is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font. The page is decorated with colorful dot patterns in the corners, forming abstract shapes like flowers and swirls in red, blue, yellow, and green.

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

On behalf of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) - National Government of the Red River Métis - welcome to your 2024 Annual General Assembly (AGA). This year our theme is "We Are Red River Métis!"

We again gather with confidence and strength for the future of our Red River Métis Citizens who live Beyond Borders both within and outside our Homeland.

Your MMF government has been working hard to strengthen the economic engine that propels us forward advancing the investment priorities of our Nation. Part of the thrill of every AGA is collectively celebrating every win, every ribbon cutting, and every program and service success. All Red River Métis Citizen share in the AGA celebration no matter where they live and how they choose to attend. Many of MMF's economic investments in the last year have been high in profile and in the heart of the Homeland. From the most recent acquisition of 333 Main Street, 191 and 179 Pioneer Avenue, and 200 Main in 2023, we know that investing in Winnipeg's downtown core will deliver the returns needed to ensure the continuity of MMF's programs and services for Citizens.

From brand new Early Learning and Childcare Centres, new housing developments for 55+ Citizens, and a second MEDO pharmacy in Dauphin, to celebrating the 1000th First Time Home Buyer's purchase, smart investments make Citizen wellbeing a reality.

I am also proud to share that our Bill C-92 negotiations are nearly complete. We have already finished the negotiations on the Coordination Agreement, which will coordinate the return of jurisdiction over Red River Métis Child and Family Services back to where it belongs: with the Red River Métis. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen oversights by the Federal Government, we are in a holding pattern. I remain hopeful that we will be able to conclude this Agreement, which will better equip us to make systemic changes that will better support the needs of our families.

When we last assembled at the 2023 AGA, we anticipated our Citizens would witness the signing of our Red River Métis Treaty with Canada before its introduction to Parliament. Leading up to that day MMF staff had moved mountains and our Citizens made it their priority to gather, learn, and understand the implications of the Treaty.

In the late winter of 2023, we had a draft version for consultations with Red River Métis Citizens across the Homeland and Beyond Borders. In June of 2023, I remember the incredible energy and flood of emotions at our Extraordinary General Assembly with the Treaty being unanimously accepted. I will never forget that moment – your energy sustains and guides me. The momentum we all felt that day is still here. Our unbreakable spirit is stronger than ever.

After our ratification, despite Canada's requests and delays, our negotiators continued to make excellent progress. Editing strengthened the protections of our identity, our rights, and interests. We are now finished. I am ready to sign the Treaty. We have kept the faith after 154 years and expect our negotiating Partner in Confederation – Canada – to keep their promises to us.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also promised to settle our Section 31 Land Claim by the end of this term. Discussions on this are continuing to move forward and we will continue hold this government accountable to this promise to our Nation.

This past year we also continued the fight against the theft of our Red River Métis identity but this time we took a united stand with equally vocal allies. In the same way our Ancestors made alliances with other Indigenous peoples – such as through what was on the prairies called the Iron Confederacy – we joined forces with the Chiefs of Ontario, the Innu Nation, and the Nunatsiavut government.

Our actions, including our Identity Summit, got the attention of Canadian citizens, institutions, and governments – as we intended. The warnings raised by our Nations are finally being acknowledged by governments and the wider public. We are maintaining the integrity of our Red River Métis identity. Our integrity is not negotiable. The truth is not negotiable. Our identity is not for sale. Never forget who you are. Always be proud of who you are. **WE ARE RED RIVER MÉTIS!**

At this year's AGA, we will celebrate our accomplishments, and we will have serious conversations about the work to start and the work left to finish. There will be laughter and hugs with friends and family, entertainment, talented Red River Métis artisans to introduce yourself to, and of course – lots of fantastic food!

Never forget – your MMF government has your back.

Believe in Yourself, believe in Red River Métis!



INFINITY WOMEN SECRETARIAT SPOKESWOMAN ANITA CAMPBELL

INFINITY WOMEN SECRETARIAT (IWS)

MMF MINISTER OF FINANCE & HUMAN
RESOURCES

MMF MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND
TECHNOLOGY (IT)

Welcome Elders, MMF Cabinet, Red River Métis Women, Delegates, Youth and Special Guests. On behalf of InFINITY Women Secretariat, it is a great pleasure to extend greetings to the attendees of this Annual General Assembly.

This year's MMF theme "*We are Red River Métis*" is particularly meaningful to InFINITY Women Secretariat. Red River Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ individuals are at the forefront of creating meaningful impact and driving change. Extending unwavering support to one another, striving to inspire and uplift, as we stand together as sisters. MMF - the National Government of the Red River Métis is surpassing the national average of women holding senior leadership roles, not only is progress being made in the pursuit of gender equality, but they are also breaking down barriers that prevent women from ascending to leadership positions. This not only empowers our Red River Métis women but also sets an example for future generations, showing them that they can achieve anything, regardless of their gender.

Claiming your space as a Red River Métis woman is a critical step towards gender equality, as it provides a platform for women to have a voice, representation, and equal opportunities in all aspects of life. When women use their voice to address and challenge systemic barriers, discriminatory practices, and gender-based violence, it forms a sense of sisterhood and solidarity among women, creating a supportive network.

With the support of the National Government of the Red River Métis, IWS creates the opportunities for connections through our programs, services, supports, and resources, tailored to meet our members' unique needs. We empower our members through workshops, program activities and gatherings, cultivating a community of shared experiences. Our goal is for members to feel empowered, knowledgeable, resilient, and equipped to tackle life's challenges.

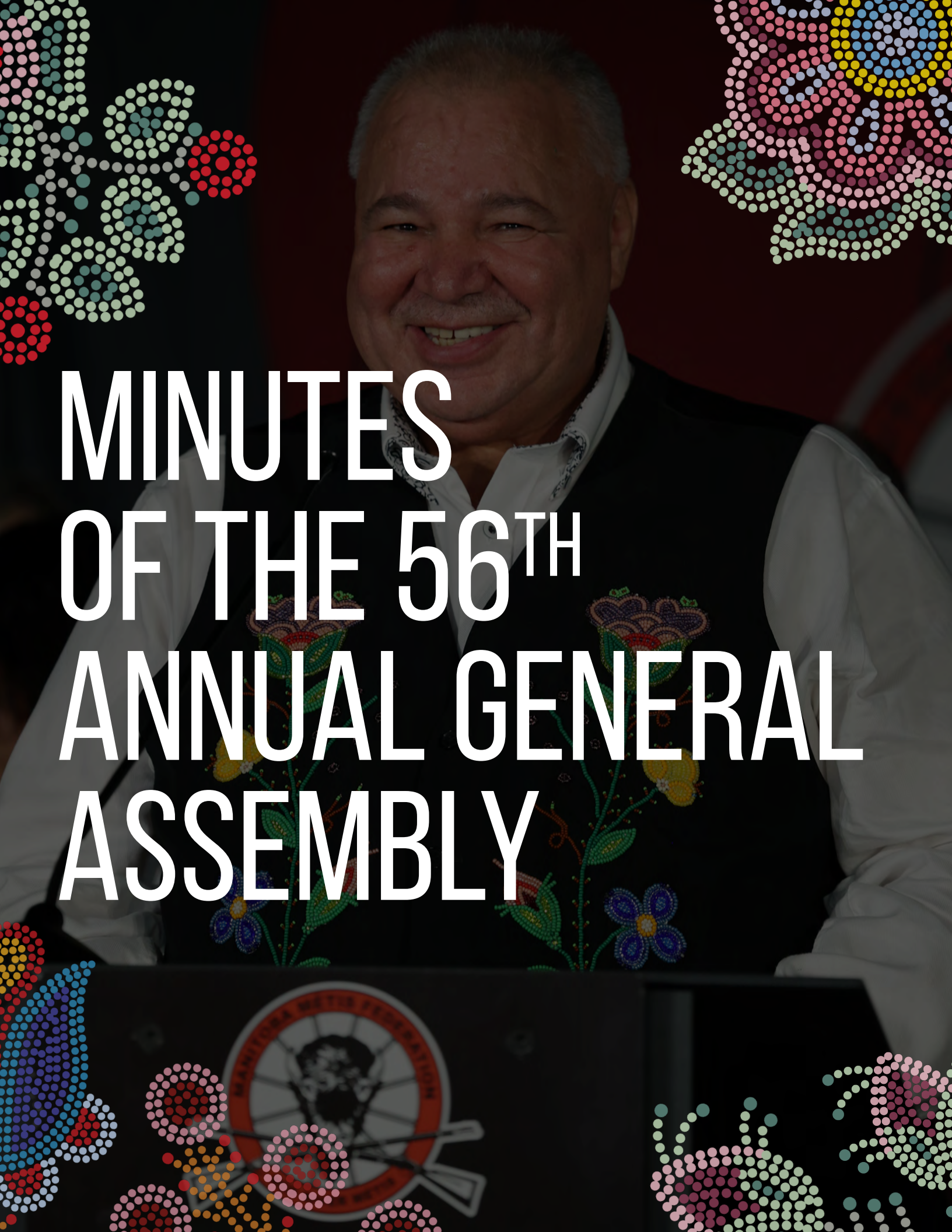
Our purpose and vision will forever be to foster a strong sense of belonging for our members, encouraging them to thrive, succeed, and lead by enhancing their social, cultural, economic, and political well-being.

Together, with the MMF – the National Government of the Red River Métis, and with everyone's continued support, we can proudly claim our space and continue striving towards a more inclusive and equal future.

I wish you good health, happiness, and to please remember also to take a few moments for yourself over the next few days to reflect on all that is happening, as we reconnect at this Annual General Assembly.

In Métis Sisterhood,

Anita Campbell



MINUTES OF THE 56TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF THE 56TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY - ASSINIBOIA DOWNS - OCTOBER 13-15, 2023

Minutes of the Annual General Assembly (AGA) of the Red River Métis held October 13-15, 2023, at the Assiniboia Downs, 3975 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, prepared by Megan Krempel, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

DAY ONE – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023

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.

Minister Will Goodon, Housing and Property Management, welcomed Delegates to the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) AGA at 9:30 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Elder Verna DeMontigny provided an Opening Prayer in Michif and in English. On behalf of the National Government of the Red River Métis, Minister Will Goodon presented Elder Verna DeMontigny with a gift.

1. APPOINTMENT OF ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY CHAIRS

Minister Judy Mayer, Constitution, Rights, and Governance, introduced the proposed AGA Chairs, Will Goodon, Marc LeClair, Virtual Moderator, David Gray, and Youth Co-Chair, Lydia Gork. The motion to appoint them as AGA Chairs was read into the record.

MOTION 01-10-23

It was MOVED (Minister Mona Buors, Interlake Region) and SECONDED (Minister John Fleury, Southwest Region)

To appoint Minister Will Goodon and Marc LeClair as Chairpersons, and to appoint David Gray as Virtual Moderator, and to appoint Lydia Gork as Youth Co-Chair for the MMF National Government of the Red River Métis October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA

Co-Chair Will Goodon noted the MMF AGA was one of the largest Indigenous gatherings in Canada. Decisions made at the AGAs made a difference to Métis citizens now and for future generations.

Co-Chair Marc LeClair commented it was great to see the many citizens and familiar faces of friends and families in attendance. Youth Co-Chair Lydia Gork added it was a dream and an honour to serve the work of the Red River Métis government.

MOTION 02-10-23

It was MOVED (Annette Niven, The Pas Region) and SECONDED (Minister Denise Thomas, Southeast Region)

To accept the Agenda for the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. APPOINTMENT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The resolution mover, Associate Minister Peter Fleming, Environment and Climate Change and Natural Resources, and seconder, Minister Julyda Lagimodiere, Justice and Pemmican Publications confirmed their support for the motion.

MOTION 03-10-23

It was MOVED (Associate Minister Peter Fleming) and SECONDED (Minister Julyda Lagimodiere)

To appoint the following individuals to the October 13-15, 2023, MMF National Government of the Red River Métis Annual General Assembly Resolutions Committee:

- ∞ James Fyke, Thompson Region
- ∞ Albert Linfitt, The Pas Region
- ∞ Jeannette Porter-Brown, Northwest Region
- ∞ Bertha Buote, Southwest Region
- ∞ Ken Lodge, Southeast Region
- ∞ Jesse Gair, Winnipeg Region
- ∞ Greg Balmer, Interlake Region
- ∞ Lorna Sanderson, Infinity Women Secretariat.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Co-Chair Will Goodon noted the AGA could be livestreamed at [youtube.com/manitobametismmf](https://www.youtube.com/manitobametismmf). Delegates were asked to be respectful of presenters and attendees by remaining quiet and ensuring discussions were taken outside the main room. Locations of the First Aid Centre and Personal Protection Equipment stations were reviewed. Elder Assistants, notable by their blue vests, would be supporting Elders during the AGA. Delegates were required to check in to their regional registration area each morning.

The various seating areas of the AGA were reviewed, and introductions made to the satellite venues in Vancouver, Ottawa, Toronto, and Thompson, Manitoba. 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 3.

The AGA evening entertainment was reviewed and Delegates were informed that chicken and potatoes, compliments of President David Chartrand, would be distributed to Delegates at the end of the AGA. Paintings from the Red River Métis Self-Government Treaty (Treaty) consultations, created by Métis artist, J.D. Hawk, were on display at the front entrance.

4. MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 14-16, 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Youth Co-Chair Lydia Gork read the motions and actions of the Minutes of the October 14-16, 2022, MMF AGA of the Red River Métis into the record. During review of the Minutes, the following corrections were made:

- ∞ Spelling corrections throughout:
 - Russ Halpin
 - Camille Bertholet
 - Adrienne Carriere

- James Fyke
- Bertha Buote
- ∞ Motion 23-10-22, Minister Denise Thomas, Southeast Region
- ∞ Motion 03-10-22, Andrea Clarke, Southeast Region
- ∞ Motion 17-10-23, Portage Local, not Portal Local.

MOTION 04-10-23

It was MOVED (Connie Lucian, The Pas Region) and SECONDED (Lorraine Horechka, The Pas Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) October 13-15, 2023, MMF National Government of the Red River Métis Annual General Assembly approve the Minutes of the October 14-16, 2022, MMF Annual General Assembly as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. MINUTES OF THE JUNE 3-4, 2023 EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Youth Co-Chair Lydia Gork read the motions and actions of the Minutes of the June 3-4, 2023, MMF Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA) of the Red River Métis into the record.

Co-Chair Marc LeClair noted approval of the AGA and EGA Minutes was a key part of the MMF's governance system and to hold Cabinet and Ministers accountable for following through on the directions provided.

MOTION 05-10-23

It was MOVED (Gerry Carriere, Richer Local, Southeast Region) and SECONDED (Eugene Martel, Winnipeg Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) October 13-15, 2023, MMF National Government of the Red River Métis Annual General Assembly approve the Minutes of the June 3-4, 2023 MMF Extraordinary General Assembly as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. PORTFOLIO/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

6.1 CENTRAL REGISTRY OFFICE AND NATURAL RESOURCES – MINISTER LEAH LAPLANTE

Minister Leah LaPlante provided an update on the Central Registry Office and highlighted:

- ∞ Approval of 4,863 new citizenship applications in the last year
- ∞ 27,303 Métis harvesters registered
- ∞ Steady increase of Beyond Border citizen applications:
 - 600 new citizens approved for a total of over 3,000 outside of Manitoba
- ∞ Mobile Citizenship Office visiting communities and offering citizenship and harvester card services.

During Minister Leah LaPlante's update on Natural Resources, comments were offered regarding:

- ∞ The Province of Manitoba's continued disregard of Red River Métis harvester rights; the MMF will support any Métis harvesters unjustly charged
- ∞ The MMF's re-opening of moose hunting in Duck and Porcupine Mountains through its moose conservation harvesting initiative
- ∞ Making the Homeland green again through tree planting; conducted training on how to propagate trees with senior citizens.

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

- ∞ Suggestion that specific positions would be needed to support Beyond Border citizens so elected officials could focus on their responsibilities to the region
- ∞ Concerns that provincial conservation officers may charge or take hunter's guns and/or trucks:
 - If a Métis hunter is following the Laws of the Harvest, including holding valid Conservation Trust Fund stickers, the MMF will support them against any charges
 - It is highly unlikely that trucks/guns would be taken; these threats are scare tactics
 - Manitoba Premier-Elect Wab Kinew acknowledged Métis Section 35 rights in the province
 - In the event of an interaction with provincial conservation officers, Delegates were advised to follow instructions, obtain the name of the officer and call the MMF for support.

MOTION 06-10-23

It was MOVED (Joan Church, Rivers Local, Southwest Region) and SECONDED (Marg Bagley, Fort Ellice Local, Southwest Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accepts the Central Registry Office and Natural Resource Reports as presented by Minister Leah LaPlante.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.2 AGRICULTURE – MINISTER DAVID BEAUDIN

Minister David Beaudin reported the Agriculture Department priorities which include: to build capacity, provide and support agriculture producers, promote opportunities for economic sustainability, and address barriers for food security and climate change impacts.

Further highlights included:

- ∞ \$7.2 million in funding for the Agriculture on Farm Climate Action Fund in 2022 including \$75,000 in financial support to adopt on-farm benefit management practices in nitrogen management, cover cropping and rotational grazing
- ∞ Work to facilitate on-farm mentorship to share traditional Métis values in agriculture practices
- ∞ Food security initiatives and a \$610,000 Local Food Infrastructure Fund
- ∞ Collaboration with Red River Métis owned Ironhead Bison Ranch and distribution of 425 pounds (lbs) of bison meat per region
- ∞ Connecting with Métis farmers and ranchers to address the impacts of Crown lands leasing programs
- ∞ Riel House Vegetable Garden in partnership with Parks Canada produced 800 lbs of produce
- ∞ At Home Garden Project to provide garden boxes to Red River Métis citizens.

Minister David Beaudin confirmed there would be one garden box per family.

MOTION 07-10-23

It was MOVED (Lenora Hepner, Portage Local) and SECONDED (Annette Niven, The Pas Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accept the Agriculture Report as presented by Minister David Beaudin.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.3 CULTURE AND HERITAGE – MINISTER ALFRED ANDERSON

Minister Alfred Anderson informed the Culture and Heritage Department was a stand-alone department with four program staff and one Director. The department worked to build capacity and secure funding for cultural events and collaborate and partner with other departments and the Louis Riel Institute (LRI) to promote and preserve Red River Métis culture and heritage.

Additional portfolio highlights include:

- ∞ National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, 2023, and 1,500 participants in Selkirk Park celebrating Métis culture
- ∞ Partnered with LRI, Métis Community Liaison Department (MCLD) and Métis Employment and Training (MET) to hold an Elders and Youth Gathering, August 29-30, 2023
- ∞ Métis Music Van continues to share Métis culture and music with plans to visit all regions and Locals
- ∞ The availability of a Culture and Heritage newsletter and events calendar on the website.

MOTION 08-10-23

It was MOVED (Eleanor Cockerill, Thompson Region) and SECONDED (Shirley Grosky, The Pas Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accept the Culture and Heritage report as presented by Minister Alfred Anderson.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.4 ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE – MINISTER JACK PARK

Minister Jack Park noted the significant growth of the department with 17 staff working closely with six different ministries and strong relationships with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Canada Energy Regulator, Atomic Energy of Canada, and Canadian Nuclear Labs.

Department activities include:

- ∞ Nuclear energy projects with Canadian Nuclear Labs
- ∞ St. Andrews Lock and Dam and the finding of incredible Red River Métis artifacts
- ∞ A Manitoba Hydro Revitalization Agreement bringing benefits to Métis citizens for years to come
- ∞ Métis N4 Construction (Métis N4) holds significant construction projects including the Métis Heritage Centre.

A video of some of the activities and projects of Métis N4 was shown including the six storey multi-use complex in Selkirk and the Métis Heritage Centre.

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

- ∞ Note that an update on the Vivian Silica mining project would be provided in the Mining report
- ∞ Information on employment opportunities with Métis N4 and of training and trades programs, which could be found at the Energy and Infrastructure or MET booths, or on the Métis N4 website

- ∞ Note that Métis N4 utilizes Métis businesses registered in the business directory and with the Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC) wherever possible:

- Contractors were invited to reach out to the LRCC, Housing Department, and Métis N4.

MOTION 09-10-23

It was MOVED (Conrad Nabess, Roblin Local, Northwest Region) and SECONDED (Candice Bercier, Thompson Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accept the Energy and Infrastructure Report as presented by Minister Jack Park.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

HEALTH BREAK

The AGA recessed at 12:15 p.m. and resumed at 1:10 p.m. Several images produced by J.D. Hawk from the Treaty consultation sessions were shared.

6.5 ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION DEPARTMENT – MINISTER DENISE THOMAS

Minister Denise Thomas reported on the department's work on consultation proposals, budgets, workplans, and obtaining agreements from proponents and government to secure funding.

Activity highlights included:

- ∞ Partnered with Infinity Women Secretariat (IWS) on implementation plans of the federal *United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDA) including drafting the MMF's list of priorities and creating a Métis specific action plan
- ∞ Consultations with citizens regarding maternal health, medial transportation, health legislation, and addictions; this will inform policy, services, and programming
- ∞ Ensuring departments/affiliates have necessary tools to advocate for citizens' rights
- ∞ Working with partners and governments on Métis acknowledgments
- ∞ Supported the Beyond Borders team with consultations and responded to over 5,000 emails received from Beyond Border citizens.

MOTION 10-10-23

It was MOVED (Gerry Carriere, Richer Local, Southeast Region) and SECONDED (Esther Ducharme, Winnipeg Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accept the Engagement and Consultation Report as presented by Minister Denise Thomas.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.6 SIXTIES SCOOP – MINISTER DENISE THOMAS

Minister Denise Thomas reported on the department's continued fight for recognition, reconciliation, and redress of Métis Sixties Scoop survivors and their families, including:

- ∞ Supporting the MMF's Sixties Scoop legal strategy
- ∞ Engaging with Red River Métis Sixties Scoop survivors to pursue a federal apology

- ∞ Seeking funding for the development of a plan for a national inquiry that seeks to uncover the experiences of survivors and provide direction toward advancing systemic change
- ∞ Launch of newsletter “What’s the Scoop” to keep survivors and families updated and informed of available programs, services, and supports
- ∞ Prioritizing the mental health of survivors and creation of a help line: 1-833-390-1041, ext. 1.

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

- ∞ Government’s reluctance to acknowledge culpability and utilization of courts and class action suits to get the government to pay attention
- ∞ Concerns that academic institutions and universities are reflecting inaccurate Métis history
- ∞ The MMFs work on establishing a body of Métis experts to review books and curriculum related to the Métis to ensure for factual accuracy
- ∞ How the MMF would ensure the protection of Red River Métis collective rights and representation in research, often conducted by non-Indigenous entities.

MOTION 11-10-23

It was MOVED (April Dale, Winnipeg Region) and SECONDED (Candice Bercier, Thompson Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accept the Sixties Scoop Report as presented by Minister Denise Thomas.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accept the Environment and Climate Change Report as presented by Minister JoAnne Remillard.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.8 HOUSING AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT – MINISTER WILL GOODON

Minister Will Goodon commented on the department’s growth and that safe, clean housing was fundamental to family success, happiness, and health.

Highlights of the Housing and Property Management Report included:

- ∞ The Infinity House of Hope for Red River Métis citizens aging out of care; project completion scheduled for February 2024
- ∞ Michif Manor providing cultural wrap-around services to families receiving medical care in Winnipeg
- ∞ Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) centres
- ∞ Transitional housing through the Fre Maachi (*Fresh Beginnings*) and Rapid Services project
- ∞ First Time Home Purchase Program (FTHPP) supported 1,259 applications with over \$12 million provided in funding which has leveraged \$202 million in mortgages:
 - The program has made a significant impact on the provincial economy
- ∞ Home Enhancement Loan Program (HELP) with over 1,400 applications approved:
 - Actively seeking and recruiting contractors to keep up with demands
- ∞ Affordable housing and senior complexes
- ∞ Seeking a share of the federal Urban, Rural Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy funding.

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

- ∞ The Southeast Region is in need of investments in crisis housing and housing for seniors:
 - The MMF is conducting a needs assessment of the region and working on plans for 2024
 - Needs assessments should be conducted in all regions
- ∞ Métis housing is needed in the Lundar Local area (Interlake Region)
- ∞ Senior housing is available to all Red River Métis citizens regardless of the region they are in:
 - Citizens should contact the department to be placed on the waiting list
- ∞ Whether there were plans to expand the FTHPP to Beyond Border citizens:
 - Plans are underway to expand the program
- ∞ Seniors’ desire to remain in their homes and the need for support to adapt their homes to accommodate their needs, such as with renovations for disability access:
 - The HELP could be utilized for these purposes
- ∞ Gratitude for the FTHPP which has enabled many citizens to purchase their homes
- ∞ Suggestion the MMF create a specific department for Seniors
- ∞ Suggestion for a Red River Métis-owned hotel in Manitoba

6.7 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE – MINISTER JOANNE REMILLARD

Minister JoAnne Remillard informed the department was responsible for implementing environment-related programs and initiatives to assist citizens and protect lands and waters.

During the report, the following was highlighted:

- ∞ A Métis Youth Boreal Forest Stewardship Program training youth on environmental protection and conservation
- ∞ The Red River Métis Steward of the Homeland Program providing land-based, cultural education training
- ∞ Métis Community-Based Climate Monitoring Program provides opportunities and training for citizens to participate in monitoring activities
- ∞ Métis Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow educating youth on the impacts of climate change and positive climate actions
- ∞ Métis Climate Leadership assisting Métis citizens to advance programs and policies under Canada’s climate plan
- ∞ Métis Knowledge Land-Use and Occupancy studies; data will help determine how Red River Métis rights, claims, and interests have been impacted by development projects and inform the design of environmental monitoring programs and protocols
- ∞ Partnerships on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) offsets and reducing GHG to earn carbon credits
- ∞ Return of fuel charge proceeds and MMF’s share of 10% of approximately \$3.1 million.

MOTION 12-10-23

It was MOVED (Shirley Langan, Winnipeg Region) and SECONDED (James Fyke, Thompson Region)

- ∞ The MMF plans to push the new Minister of Housing for more personal care homes.

MOTION 13-10-23

It was MOVED (Jacqueline Chartrand, Anola Métis Local) and SECONDED (Minister JoAnne Remillard, Winnipeg Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accept the Housing and Property Management Report as presented by Minister Will Goodon.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.9 LOUIS RIEL CAPITAL CORPORATION – MINISTER LEAH LAPLANTE

Minister Leah LaPlante reported on the LRCC and highlighted:

- ∞ Over \$75 million in commercial loans to Métis businesses in Manitoba
- ∞ Provided support to more than 1,500 business to maintain an estimated 4,200 jobs
- ∞ Over 1,000 inquiries a year from potential or existing Métis businesses
- ∞ \$99,999 available for individuals as a non-repayable equity contribution
- ∞ Provides 75% of the costs for hiring consultants to prepare business plans
- ∞ LRCC-MMF Entrepreneurship Initiative providing financing and increased support for new and existing micro-businesses
- ∞ The Métis Women Entrepreneur Program
- ∞ Red River Métis personal loan program of up to \$30,000
- ∞ Métis business directory of registered Métis businesses.

MOTION 14-10-23

It was MOVED (Lavern Richards, Flin Flon Local, The Pas Region) and SECONDED (Chloe Cote, The Pas Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accept the Louis Riel Capital Corporation Report as presented by Minister Leah LaPlante.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.10 MÉTIS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES – MINISTER MONA BUORS

Minister Mona Buors reported on:

- ∞ Work with Bill C-92, *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*
- ∞ Métis Child and Family Services (CFS) redefining child welfare, shifting power back to the family, and providing exemplary care for Métis children and youth
- ∞ Ongoing court case against the Province of Manitoba for misappropriating the Children’s Special Allowance will result in millions of dollars returned to Red River Métis youth
- ∞ Working with MMF on cultivating revolutionary pieces of legislation that prioritize family-led decision making and ensuring children remain attached to their families and communities
- ∞ Ensuring eligible children in care receive government funding owed to them through the Registered Disability Savings Plan and Registered Education Savings Plans

- ∞ Staff positions created to locate and guide former children in care
- ∞ Métis Community Addictions Response Team supporting parents and children affected by intergenerational trauma
- ∞ Métis CFS and Michif CFS Connect support family and community decision making for children
- ∞ Youth celebrations for those leaving care.

MOTION 15-10-23

It was MOVED (Christian Carriere-Kennedy, Conseil Elzéar Goulet Local, Winnipeg Region) and SECONDED (Ron Burwash, The Pas Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accept the Métis Child and Families Report as presented by Minister Mona Buors.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.11 MÉTIS COMMUNITY LIAISON DEPARTMENT, RESIDENTIAL AND DAY SCHOOLS, FRENCH AND MICHIF LANGUAGE PROTECTION, LOUIS RIEL HOUSE – MINISTER ANDREW CARRIER

Minister Andrew Carrier reported the Riel House, a national historic site, encapsulates the rich history of the Red River Métis and the legacy of Louis Riel. Riel House staff wear historical clothing and provide an immersive program and interpretation to connect visitors to the Red River Métis. In 2022, 1,702 visitors were welcomed to the site. Staff are trained in tanning, Métis flower beadwork, finger weaving, Bannock making, jigging, and making moccasins.

In regard to Michif and French Language Protection, Minister Andrew Carrier noted the development of a Michif Language Unit and the hiring of a Michif Language Director to advance the work of language protection.

The MCLD provides supports for citizens of all ages and in all regions including in the areas of optical, parenting, and memorial service financial support programs, income taxes, emergency medical travel, and casework and advocacy.

In regard to residential and day school programming, Minister Andrew Carrier spoke of working with survivors and relevant ministers to seek repatriation for harms done to those who were forced to abandon their language, culture, and way of life. A conference of survivors was held recently and over 250 individuals attended. An Every Red River Métis Child sash was created and would be given to every Red River Métis survivor of residential and day schools and the Sixties Scoop.

In response to questions, it was confirmed that the MMF would work with any Red River Métis survivors who suffered abuse at residential and day schools or those run by protestant or catholic churches. It was additionally confirmed that the bereavement fund was available to Beyond Border citizens, as long as they hold a valid MMF citizenship card.

MOTION 16-10-23

It was MOVED (Roger Hupe, Conseil Elzéar Goulet, Winnipeg Region) and SECONDED (Valerie Tomchak, Lorette Local, Southeast Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accept the MCLD, Residential and Day School, Louis Riel House, French and Michif Language Protection Report as presented by Minister Andrew Carrier.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

HONOURING PRESENTATION

Minister Andrew Carrier presented an Every Red River Métis sash to Ministers Denise Thomas, Leah LaPlante, Judy Mayer, and Anita Campbell, members of the Red River Métis Residential and Day School Survivors Advisory Committee. The Métis sash is a culturally significant, vibrant garment deeply rooted in the Métis collective heritage and holds historic value. The colours in the sash are intricately woven and reflect the rich cultural tapestry of pride and connection to Red River Métis roots.

The sash designer, Melanie Cutler, a Sixties Scoop survivor, was introduced and Advisory Committee members presented sashes to survivors in attendance at the AGA, along with a letter, description of the sash, and commemorative box. Survivors in attendance were invited to make themselves known to the booth to receive their memorial sash.

6.12 SPORTS AND YOUTH – MINISTER RICHARD GENAILLE

Minister Richard Genaille provided an update on:

- ∞ The delivery of programs, services, and events designed to make positive impacts to Métis youth
- ∞ Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples (UPIP) funding to support youth development and initiatives and provide opportunities to develop Red River Métis culture
- ∞ Community summer employment program focuses on developing work skills
- ∞ Supports provided to 815 youth for participation in sports and cultural activities
- ∞ The Believe Program provides funding support to committed, dedicated, and accomplished athletes and performers:
 - In 2022, 81 applications were approved for a total of over \$133,000
 - Believe Program recipients include sisters, Zoey, Jaycee, and Tessa Terrick (curling), Aaron Riehl (speedskating), and Ross Gabriel (football).

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

- ∞ Interest in the Youth Entrepreneurship Program for those under 18 years of age
- ∞ Encouraging athletes to give back to the youth
- ∞ UPIP funding cut to \$15,000 per year but additional funding may be available through regions
- ∞ Suggestion the \$350 support be increased to keep up with rising costs of sports programming.

MOTION 17-10-23

It was MOVED (Mark Bernard, South Junction Local, Southeast Region) and

SECONDED (Conrad Nabess, Roblin Local, Northwest Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accept the Sports and Youth Report as presented by Minister Richard Genaille.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED

The October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis, adjourned on October 13, 2023, at 4:45 p.m. after agreeing to convene on October 14, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

DAY TWO – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED

The Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis reconvened on October 14, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

Co-Chair Marc LeClair welcomed Delegates.

7. PRAYER – ARCHBISHOP RICHARD GAGNON

Archbishop Richard Gagnon reflected on the AGA, an important gathering to come together, putting hearts to the presence of God and the Creator. Prayers were said that the good efforts, hard work, and generous spirit of dedication would enhance the work of reconciliation in the Province of Manitoba and country and ensure the rights of people and address historical wrongs. The hope was that the decisions made at the AGA and direction taken would ensure the common good of all citizens of the Province and of Canada and the protection of cultural and social rights within Red River Métis communities. Gratitude was extended to the many men and women who have worked hard and done what is right for their brothers and sisters.

8. OPENING CEREMONIES

Anita Neville, Lieutenant Governor Manitoba

The Lieutenant Governor Anita Neville commented it had been a memorable year in the long and proud history of the Red River Métis, with the historic approval of the Treaty. This would be viewed by historians as a key event in the history of the Métis of Manitoba and of Canada. The process of consultation and the democratic structure made it possible, and with the MMFs seven regions, 135 locals and the Assembly, it set a strong example of the democratic decision-making process and the passionate commitment of citizens across Manitoba. The dedication of members of the MMF enabled its many accomplishments in the areas of housing, childcare, economic development, and environmental protection. Lieutenant Governor Anita Neville closed with offering congratulations to the MMF on its achievement and wished for continued growth and prosperity.

Minister Dan Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs

As a proud Red River Métis, a Member of Parliament (MP), and federal Cabinet minister, Minister Dan Vandal noted the positive progress made in the government-to-government, nation-to-nation relationship whether it was the housing agreement, the veteran's initiative, the signing of the Manitoba Métis Self-Government Recognition Implementation Agreement (MMSGRIA) in 2021, or the government's announcement at the 2022 AGA of \$25 million to the Métis Heritage Centre at Portage and Main. Showcasing and celebrating Métis heritage would benefit current and future generations, preserve Métis culture, and emphasise the significance of the Métis Nation.

Minister Dan Vandal offered congratulations to Premier-elect Wab Kinew and his team, and encouraged all Métis citizens to participate in elections, to vote, and support parties that will have their best interests at heart, and to do good for the citizens of Manitoba and Canada.

Terry Duguid, Member of Parliament, Winnipeg South

Member of Parliament Terry Duguid commented on the significant number of delegates in attendance at the AGA adding it was great to be among many government colleagues. Kudos were extended to Premier-elect Wab Kinew and his team for practicing positive politics and a thoughtful campaign; the Winnipeg South Caucus would work well with them to get things done with Manitobans and Métis communities.

As a MP in Winnipeg South, Terry Duguid saw daily the many Métis landmarks, they were reminders that there would not have been a Manitoba were it not for Louis Riel and his government. Since 2015, and with the incredible leadership of President Chartrand, the MMF, and the liberal government, history has been made together. The Manitoba Caucus was there for the signing of the MMSGRIA, recognizing the MMF as the government of the Red River Métis.

Investments in the hundreds of millions of dollars have been made for housing, economic development, the Métis Heritage Center, CFS, and to the IWS, who do great work in investing in Métis women skills and employment training. There are more chapters to write in the future and this will be done together to build a better province and support Métis communities.

The names of the five Métis and five First Nation Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) recently elected were read aloud.

Honourable Wab Kinew, Manitoba Premier-Elect, New Democratic Party (NDP)

The Honourable Wab Kinew commented it was good to be back at the Red River Métis AGA and to feel the connection, support, and gratitude offered by the Red River Métis to his election and team. The new Premier and his team would continue to work hard each day to deliver to the Métis.

The swearing-in ceremony as Premier would take place on October 18, 2023, and the Premier's new Cabinet and government roles would be announced and include Métis voices at the table. The MMF was doing great things to make life better for all its citizens and the new provincial government would deliver on that work in areas such as healthcare, education, and employment. There would be a Métis person on the MMF's side of the table but also on the provincial side of the table and there was great optimism of what could be achieved in that arrangement.

Citizens have asked that the province not be divided, but unified, to build one great province for all Manitobans. Citizens want improved healthcare and lowered costs for groceries and gas. The Métis have specifically asked for the return of St. Madeleine, and these priorities were understood by the new government leadership.

The Premier-elect Wab Kinew stated he was a leader for all people in the province and sought to move forward in a progressive manner and recognized that the reason he was able to take his seat as the first Indigenous Premier of Canada, was because of the work of the Elders, veterans, and the sacrifices made by the previous generations of Indigenous peoples, and most notably, Louis Riel.

Louis Riel and the Métis Nation were the reason why Manitoba is part of Canada and this would not be forgotten. President Chartrand always said, "Never forget where you come from", and Premier Kinew's government would ensure that future generations of Manitoba youth, students, and children never forget where they come from.

When the new government is sworn in, they will introduce an act to bestow upon Louis Riel the honorary title as Manitoba's first Premier, a title he so rightfully deserved.

His Worship Scott Gillingham, Mayor of Winnipeg

Mayor Scott Gillingham spoke of his commitment to work with President David Chartrand, the federal government, and with the new Premier-elect Wab Kinew. President David Chartrand was acknowledged as a dedicated, visionary inspirational leader and Mayor Scott Gillingham looked forward to the opportunity to work together to make Manitoba's cities and province better.

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

Superintendent Scott McMurchy reported on the RCMP's continued effort to build a strong relationship with the MMF and was pleased to announce the creation of an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the RCMP and MMF which was expected to be completed in the coming weeks. The MOU would allow the RCMP and Métis government to proactively address matters before they affect the health and safety of citizens and ensure for the ability to keep the lines of communication open.

Corporal Brent Montour was noted as the RCMP's Métis Community Liaison and Superintendent Scott McMurchy added that the RCMP were committed to reconciliation and believe that training and education were key in achieving this. An Indigenous Perceptions training course was recently added to training and would provide an overview of the Missing Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), the history of the residential school system, along with cultural aspects.

Congratulations were extended to Premier-elect Wab Kinew who had made history as the province's first Indigenous Premier. The RCMP looked forward to consulting with President David Chartrand to ensure actions were in alignment. Safe and vibrant communities was a top policing priority. Red River Métis citizens were invited to visit the RCMP recruitment booth at the AGA and consider a career with the RCMP in Manitoba.

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

Honourable Minister Gary Anandasangaree, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs

Minister Gary Anandasangaree commented it was a pleasure to be in attendance and acknowledged the many distinguished guests in the room who have been champions of the Red River Métis.

Minister Gary Anandasangaree read a letter sent to President David Chartrand in which the Minister offered regrets and an explanation for being unable to sign the Treaty at the MMF AGA. The Treaty, a culmination of milestones and work conducted over 150 years, represented a crucial moment in Métis and Canadian history. As Minister responsible for ensuring the Treaty was both finalized and entrenched into Canadian law, and recognizing the previous commitments made by the Honourable Minister Marc Miller and the Honourable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Minister Gary Anandasangaree committed to ensure the Treaty became enshrined in Canadian law.

The MMF government and Cabinet was praised for the work it does and for its leadership and patience. The federal government was working to ensure that consultation on the Treaty with other Indigenous groups was meaningful and done the right way, as it was legally obligated to do. Good progress was being made and government was working hard to conclude

the consultation step and then advance to the signing ceremony of the Treaty.

The MMF and federal government must work together to co-develop and implement legislation for introduction to the House and through the Senate. This would give effect to the Treaty and be legally acknowledged and enshrined in Canada law. The signing of the Treaty confirms that the Government of Canada and Parliament recognize and affirm the governance of the Red River Métis, and Minister Anandasangaree confirmed his commitment to achieving this as soon as possible.

The signing of the Treaty was critical to the work to implement the UNDA, as the Act provides renewed emphasis on the government's relationship with the Red River Métis and all Indigenous peoples of Canada. Implementing the MMF's vision of self-governance was an important part of the systemic change government was committed to making. Much was accomplished in 2021 with the signing of the MMSGRIA, which formalized the government-to-government relationship while taking important steps together toward reconciliation.

Minister Gary Anandasangaree congratulated the MMF on its recent acquisition of 200 Main Street, recognizing the significance of the property to the Red River Métis. Although the Treaty could not be signed at the AGA, an incredible amount of work was done to have reached this point in history and the success of the Red River Métis in Manitoba and across Canada should be celebrated.

President David Chartrand presented Minister Gary Anandasangaree with a gift of Métis slippers adding that to walk in Métis shoes would mean the Minister would not forget the Métis. President David Chartrand emphasised his faith that Minister Gary Anandasangaree would follow through on his commitment and looked forward to the Treaty being signed prior to the December 15, 2023, deadline.

Minister Leah LaPlante introduced President David Chartrand and welcomed him to the stage.

9. STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS – PRESIDENT DAVID CHARTRAND

President David Chartrand commented that it was a proud day in Manitoba and in Canada to see five Métis and five First Nations MLAs in the new Manitoba government.

President David Chartrand praised the work of the MMF Cabinet and all that it had achieved, and the Locals, the backbone of the MMF government. Locals see the change its government is making on the ground.

Referring to the Treaty, President David Chartrand expressed disappointment that its signing would not take place in front of Red River Métis citizens in assembly. The federal government has promised the signing would be done prior to Christmas after completion of the required consultations.

The Red River Métis have fought for the Treaty since it was stolen from them by John A. McDonald in 1870. Nothing has ever been given to the Métis, they have had to fight for all they have.

As Premier-elect Wab Kinew stated in his comments, there was no doubt that Louis Riel was the first Premier of Manitoba, he negotiated Manitoba into Confederation and brought the west in to Canada. But the fight to get Riel's picture amongst the other Premiers has been a struggle. Premier Kinew's commitment to ensure for recognition of Louis Riel's rightful title is touching to

all Red River Métis citizens, not the least because this effort was being led by a First Nations individual.

In regard to the MMF, its economic growth and program and service delivery, President David Chartrand offered comments regarding:

- ∞ Economic growth planning for generations to come
- ∞ The success of the FTHPP and helping citizens purchase over 850 houses
- ∞ Working with the Mayor of Winnipeg on strategies to tackle homelessness
- ∞ The increase of Local grants from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to support Local initiatives
- ∞ Negotiations with Manitoba Hydro on a \$120 million settlement of which \$40 million has been received; the remaining settlement funds to be distributed over the next 50 years
- ∞ Continued development of affordable senior housing
- ∞ MMF's purchase of 200 Main Street with 320 parking spaces which will generate significant revenues
- ∞ The commitment by Prime Minister Trudeau to settle the Land Claim by 2025.

President David Chartrand extended gratitude to the many staff who worked on the AGA to make it a success, and shared of his pride to see so many Métis businesses participating in the trade show.

Minister Anita Campbell, Spokesperson IWS

Minister Anita Campbell reflected on the positive reactions of the Delegates in attendance to the speakers presenting and recognizing all of the work they have done for the Métis. Métis women are hungry to be part of the work, to have space and forums to have their voices heard to the benefit of their families and communities.

When planning the first IWS AGA, it was expected that 50 women would attend, and yet 200 did. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the IWS focused on growing its membership and there are now over 1,700 IWS members.

At the most recent AGA, the IWS unveiled a dress to honour the MMIWG, in which the names of the women were woven into the fabric of the dress. The families and survivors of the MMIWG want a forum to speak and to be heard and the Red River Métis government creates spaces for them to share their voices, and Premier-elect Kinew speaks from the heart and will hold up and support the families and survivors.

Minister Anita Campbell closed with encouraging Métis women to run for political positions, and different boards and committees.

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

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

President Dave Lamouche commented it was an honour to be in attendance and to hear the inspiring words from Premier-elect Wab Kinew and President David Chartrand. The MMF was making history and paving the way for all Métis and the Métis across the country were witnessing the incredible progress the MMF was making.

The Métis are a hardworking people and have been the “go between” of the First Nations and Europeans. There is a long history of the Métis and their native brothers, they are all Indigenous, but the Métis are its own people and will continue to forge for the benefit of the Métis people.

Co-Chair Will Goodon reminded delegates that the Resolutions Committee would be accepting resolutions until 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, Day 3 of the AGA. Resolutions could be submitted in hard copy to staff on site or by email at resolutions@mmf.mb.ca.

HEALTH BREAK

The AGA recessed at 11:52 a.m. for lunch and resumed at 1:08 p.m.

11. MMF 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, and Lakhter Malki, Chief Financial Officer, MMF Finance Department.

In reference to the audit, Locals would have each received a copy of the audit and a copy was circulated at the AGA. Following the approval of the audit, it would be posted in its entirety on the MMF website on Monday, October 16, 2023.

Terryl Luhowy, Meyers Norris Penny, presented the “MMF Inc. Non-Consolidated Financial Statements, March 31, 2023” 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:

- ∞ The MMF’s continued reinvestment of funds/monies back in the Red River Métis
- ∞ A recent loan agreement with the Bank of Montreal (BMO) who provided terms only given to governments, a signal of their recognition of the MMF as the Government of the Red River Métis
- ∞ Request that the audited financial statements be available online in advance of the AGA to allow time for Delegates to review the information and be prepared with questions:
 - The audited statements had to be approved by Cabinet prior to presentation to Delegates and this took place at Cabinet’s most recent meeting on October 11 and 12, 2023
 - Questions pertaining to the audit could be submitted to the Finance Department for response.

MOTION 18-10-23

It was MOVED (Minister Judy Mayer, The Pas Region) and SECONDED (Connie Lucian, The Pas Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accept the MMF Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2023, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION 19-10-23

It was MOVED (Minister Anita Campbell, Infinity Women Secretariat) and SECONDED (Joan Church, Rivers Local, Southwest Region)

That the Manitoba Metis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis appoint the Auditors Meyers Norris Penny for the MMF Audit for Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. PORTFOLIO/DEPARTMENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

6.13 HEALTH AND WELLNESS / EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE (ELCC) – MINISTER FRANCES CHARTRAND

During the report on Health and Wellness, Minister Frances Chartrand offered comments on:

- ∞ Community health programming including prescription drug program of which revenues from the Métis Economic Development Organization Care Pharmacy go back to services and supports for Red River Métis citizens
- ∞ Métis senior vision care in which citizens can receive glasses for \$150
- ∞ Mental wellness support line provides citizens with access to Métis counsellors and mental health resources
- ∞ Clinical services including health screening and foot care provided by registered nurses travelling to regions
- ∞ Health research on tobacco reduction strategies, cannabis and mental health, maternal health, and a Red River Métis cancer strategy
- ∞ A Red River Métis Regional Health Survey to better understand the health experience of citizens
- ∞ Medical housing initiatives including Michif Manor providing short-term accommodation for citizens and families who are in Winnipeg for medical appointments and treatments.

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

- ∞ Full coverage of eye examinations for qualified citizens aged 55+ years
- ∞ Suggestion that funding be provided for seniors to take part in exercise classes to retain their physical and mental health
- ∞ Extension of the Cost of Living Supplement to December 31, 2023
- ∞ Supports needed for those struggling with mental health, depression, and bipolar disorder:
 - \$1 million in funding for counsellors in the province
- ∞ Suggestion that healthier foods be served at the AGA and that access to the information and booths is made easier for Elders who struggle to use staircases:
 - Elder Assistants are available to assist Elders and can get them the information they need
- ∞ Whether the MMF can support citizens dealing with domestic violence with advice or access to a lawyer or shelter:
 - Regional MCLD Officers can provide advocacy and assistance
 - IWS offers gender-based violence programming, supports, and resources
- ∞ Many Elders live alone and require support with medical appointments:
 - Regional Health Navigators can assist Elders in this regard
 - The MMF is encouraging Métis youth to get trained in the home care and health fields
- ∞ Plans underway for a travelling optometrist to visit regions to provide eye care:

- A minimum of 25 citizen appointments would be required
- ∞ Continuation of the snow removal program for Elders
- ∞ Need for medical mobility aids such as hospital beds, wheelchairs, and walkers:
 - Regional Health Coordinators can support these requests.

MOTION 20-10-23

It was MOVED (Conrad Nabess, Roblin Local, Northwest Region) and SECONDED (Shawna Mazier, Rorketon Local, Northwest Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accept the Health and Wellness Report as presented by Minister Frances Chartrand.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In regard to ELCC, Minister Frances Chartrand offered comments on:

- ∞ Continued development of new childcare spaces including in Duck Bay, St. Eustache, Swan River, and Thompson
- ∞ The November 21, 2023, grand opening of a 40-space childcare centre in St. Laurent
- ∞ Licensed home childcare programs including a \$40,000 forgivable loan and training course:
 - 18 home childcare locations set to open
- ∞ ELCC education and training through LRI, MET, and Assiniboine College:
 - The MMF pays the top rate for ELCC workers
- ∞ Partnership with Manitoba to train Ukrainian refugees as childcare workers through the Louis Riel Vocational College (LRVC)
- ∞ Promoting Métis culture and heritage through the “My Little Métis Box” for those 0-6 years old.

MOTION 21-10-23

It was MOVED (Minister Denise Thomas, Southeast Region) and SECONDED (Chloe Cote, The Pas Local, The Pas Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accept the Early Learning and Child Care Report as presented by Minister Frances Chartrand.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.14 MÉTIS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING AND INDIGENOUS SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT TRAINING – MINISTER JOHN FLEURY

Minister John Fleury reported the department focuses on providing access to employment and training services to better prepare citizens for jobs and success in the labour market.

Presentation highlights included:

- ∞ MET budget of \$15.8 million offering a wide range of training opportunities
- ∞ Programs and services include employment search support, job placement, and referral services
- ∞ Partnership development and recruitment with Green for Life (GFL), Manitoba Hydro, Bell MTS, Stanley Electric, and Expert Electric

- ∞ Partnership strategies with ELCC, Métis N4, MMF Energy, Infrastructure and Resource Management, LRCC, IWS, and others
- ∞ Summer Student Employment Partnerships supporting youth and business in communities:
 - Supported 357 summer positions in 2022-23 with 146 employers for a cost of \$3.4 million
- ∞ Early Childhood Educator training and workplace program
- ∞ Métis Energy Advisor Training Program
- ∞ In 2022-23, 2,089 clients served, 804 clients employed, 925 clients supported in funded programs, and 431 clients returned to school for further education and training
- ∞ Success of Heavy Equipment Operator training program.

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

- ∞ The benefits of online courses to those wishing to upgrade their skills while continuing their employment
- ∞ The availability of MET services for Red River Métis citizens
- ∞ Beyond Border citizens can receive up to \$5,000 for educational purposes.

MOTION 22-10-23

It was MOVED (Christian Carrier Kennedy, Conseil Elzéar Goulet Local, Winnipeg Region) and SECONDED (Wes Hannah, Portage Local, Southwest Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accept the Métis Employment and Training and Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Report as presented by Minister John Fleury.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.15 HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) AND INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY (IT) – MINISTER ANITA CAMPBELL

In regard to HR, Minister Anita Campbell, offered comments regarding:

- ∞ Strategic plans for the MMF to be an employer of choice including a promotional video
- ∞ Strong focus on recruitment to keep up with the MMF’s expanding workforce:
 - Filled over 300 positions last year with 50 active job postings remaining
- ∞ Enhancing employee benefits and pension plans
- ∞ Passing of the MMF *Finance and Administration Act* and adapting impacted policies
- ∞ Plans for career and recruitment fairs at post-secondary institutes and AGAs and intention for a Métis-specific fair
- ∞ Near completion of a compensation/salary review.

During Minister Anita Campbell’s IT Report, the following was noted:

- ∞ Culture and technology and ensuring Métis history is connected to the future
- ∞ Following and respecting Métis traditions and culture in the IT world
- ∞ Connectivity and bridging distances to keep all communities connected

- ∞ Protecting and showcasing Métis heritage
- ∞ Retaining and securing Red River Métis history.

Delegates expressed gratitude for the connections to the Starlink satellite. In response to whether there was a central repository for Métis citizens to donate photos, stories, and videos, Minister Campbell confirmed that these items could be shared and archived at the Métis Heritage Centre.

MOTION 23-10-23

It was MOVED (Joan Church, Rivers Local, Southwest Region) and SECONDED (Seal Prudent, Kinew Local, Winnipeg Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accept the Human Resources and Information and Technology Report as presented by Minister Anita Campbell.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.16 PROVINCIAL EDUCATION – MINISTER JOAN LEDOUX

During the Provincial Education Report, Minister Joan Ledoux highlighted:

- ∞ \$4.9 million spent to support 1,183 students in 2022
- ∞ Partnerships including with the Manitoba Education Council, Manitoba Collaboration Indigenous Education Blueprint Steering Committee, Red River Métis Education Strategy Working Group, post-secondary institutions, and Indigenous Learning Hub Advisory Committee
- ∞ Métis Inclusion Coordinators (MIC) supporting citizens at universities
- ∞ Six diploma programs at LRVC including for healthcare aids and medical office assistants
- ∞ LRVC partnerships with ELCC, MET, LRI, Métis Justice Institute (MJJ), Winnipeg Airport, Swan Valley School Division, and SkyAlyne
- ∞ LRI providing Métis 101-103 to educate people on Métis history
- ∞ \$27 million Endowment Fund and bursaries to 700 Métis students totaling \$976,489.

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

- ∞ Concerns that a MIC position at University of Manitoba remained unfilled and that the posting had not been shared with the Indigenous community on campus
- ∞ Suggestion to increase the current \$5,000 per student to in response to cost of living increases:
 - Allocations must be forecasted to ensure longevity of the supports for future students.

MOTION 24-10-23

It was MOVED (Minister Frances Chartrand, Northwest Region) and SECONDED (Joan Church, Rivers Local, Southwest Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accept the Provincial Education Report as presented by Minister Joan Ledoux.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.17 MÉTIS JUSTICE INSTITUTE (MJJ) AND PEMMICAN PUBLICATIONS – MINISTER JULYDA LAGIMODIERE

Minister Julyda Lagimodiere offered the following highlights on the activities of the MJJ:

- ∞ Key areas of development and delivery in restorative justice, Métis Court Workers Program, Red River Métis Justice Strategy, Métis Family Support Program, community safety, and education and justice programs
- ∞ Court diversion programs to assist citizens who have become involved with the law:
 - The process focuses on building relationships within the community to repair harm done
 - The MMF continues to deliver anger management and domestic violence programs
- ∞ Métis Court Worker Program developed to facilitate and enhance access to justice by assisting citizens involved in the court system providing services in and out of court
- ∞ Métis Family Support Program providing education and prevention measures for Red River Métis families including with information and intake for family requests regarding the “Bring Me Home” program
- ∞ Community safety and education and an Elders community safety workshop series
- ∞ Métis mediation services project and justice support programming.

Minister Julyda Lagimodiere informed that Pemmican Publishing had been dormant since 2018 and work is underway to revamp the company and issue books relating to the Métis and authored by Métis, with a particular focus on children and e-books. Tony Sherelli, hired as the Director of Pemmican Publishing, would be heading up these efforts.

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

- ∞ Whether justice resources were available to support Beyond Border citizens or if there were plans to engage justice sectors outside the province of Manitoba:
 - Court diversion programs cannot be offered to Beyond Border citizens as they are jurisdiction-based
- ∞ Whether the MMF supports Métis citizens currently incarcerated:
 - The MMF works with federal penitentiaries and attempts connection to incarcerated Métis to support them with obtaining citizenship cards and when reintegrating into community
- ∞ Whether the MMF can support Métis women and children part of the Maintenance and Enforcement Program:
 - The MMF aims to develop a program to support these individuals but does not currently have a working relationship with the program
- ∞ Suggestion that the words of the Louis Riel song should be confirmed and archived:
 - The song, in French, includes a lyric, “...death makes us all die, and we all die one day, so I am better to die a brave man”
- ∞ Suggestion that the MMF broaden its Métis Family Support Project, for those at risk of going missing, to reach Beyond Borders citizens
- ∞ Whether there is a plan with Pemmican to develop a database of Métis culture and heritage research:

- The MMF is creating a body for the purpose of ensuring material relating to the Métis is factually accurate
- ∞ Supports, including half-way houses, are needed for those integrating back into society:
 - Plans for a MMF addictions and mental health treatment centre at Breezy Point
 - The hope the new provincial government focuses on rehabilitation and not incarceration.

MOTION 25-10-23

It was MOVED (Connie Lucian, The Pas Local) and SECONDED (Candice Bercier, Thompson Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accept the Métis Justice Institute and Pemmican Publications Report as presented by Minister Julyda Lagimodiere.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Co-Chair Will Goodon 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 October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis, adjourned on October 14, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. after agreeing to convene on October 15, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

DAY THREE – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED

The Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis reconvened on October 15, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. The Lord's Prayer was recited.

6. PORTFOLIO/DEPARTMENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

6.18 MINING – MINISTER MARK PARENTEAU

Minister Mark Parenteau reported on:

- ∞ Mining and resource development projects being sources of employment and economic drivers
- ∞ Addressing the impacts of the mining industry affecting the health and wellbeing of citizens
- ∞ Working on a Métis-specific Manitoba mineral development protocol
- ∞ Ensuring for engagement on all mineral projects including Minagao Nickel Project and the Vivica Sillica Sand Project
- ∞ Pushing the Province for more extensive monitoring of water, sediment, and surrounding area at the abandoned mine site in Sherridon.

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

- ∞ Concerns with the impacts of dangerous mining practices in the Southeast Region:
 - The MMF is working with the Province and Canada to address these concerns
 - The MMF is pushing the Province to take action on Sherridon Lake
 - A follow-up report on progress on this issue should be provided at the next AGA

- ∞ Untested methods for sand removal at Sillica Sands could result in the sinking of the land:
 - Clean Environment Canada put restrictions on the proposal for sand extraction but this has had little influence on the Province issuing licenses
 - The MMF continues to push hard with Manitoba to deny this license and will address this with the new related Minister
- ∞ Letters sent to both the Province and federal government in regard to ensuring that work at the Seymourville mine is safe to continue.

MOTION 26-10-23

It was MOVED (Beverly Poitras McEwan, Toronto) and SECONDED (Candice Bercier, Thompson Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accept the Mining Report as presented by Minister Mark Parenteau.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.19 MÉTIS VETERANS – MINISTER SHAWN NAULT

Minister Shawn Nault shared the department was committed to improving the quality and quantity of cultural supports to Métis veterans, families, and caregivers, and to ensure they have access to services and that World War II (WWII) veterans are honoured and compensated through the Métis Veterans Legacy Program.

Further report highlights included:

- ∞ Strategic planning to deliver on commitments to support Métis veterans, and identified short and long-term goals through a community focused approach
- ∞ A survey conducted to better understand veteran needs indicated the main challenges they face including mental health, financial assistance, and housing
- ∞ Indigenous Veterans Day ceremony at the Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada
- ∞ Hosting an Indigenous Veterans Day event in partnership with the St. Laurent Royal Canadian Legion on November 8, 2023
- ∞ Working to increase career opportunities through a recruitment partnership with the Canadian Armed Forces
- ∞ A Red River Métis veteran's database to identify the number of veterans and active service members.

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

- ∞ Seeking MMF support to reinvigorate the Royal Canadian Legions and increase membership
- ∞ The need for outreach to veterans living Beyond Borders and who may be unaware of services available to them:
 - The MMF is partnering with Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) to help with the service delivery
- ∞ Whether the MMF is supporting veterans and serving members with cost of living and housing supports:
 - Individuals are encouraged to contact the Red River Métis Veteran's Department for information on available services
 - Informal discussions were taking place with the MMF Housing Department on potential housing projects for veterans

- ∞ An MMF trust of \$20 million ensuring the legacy of Métis WWII veterans is never forgotten:
 - Locals can apply for funding to be used to honour or commemorate WWII Métis veterans
- ∞ The importance of attending international events recognizing Indigenous veterans to demonstrate the MMF government's commitment to its veterans and ensuring the gravesites of Métis veterans abroad are recognized and honoured in a Métis way:
 - These meetings provide further opportunities for veteran advocacy
 - Canada funds First Nations to attend some memorial events but not the Métis
- ∞ Some World War I veterans were not recognized by VAC or the MMF:
 - Individuals should contact the Red River Métis Veterans Department with information so action could be taken.

MOTION 27-10-23

It was MOVED (John Campbell, British Columbia) and SECONDED (Brenda Zak, Interlake Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accept the Métis Veteran's Report as presented by Minister Shawn Nault.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.20 TRADITIONAL ECONOMIES – MINISTER DARREL FERLAND

Minister Darrel Ferland spoke of the department's focus to create and restore traditional economies including in fisheries, forestry, and fur harvesting.

Key highlights of activities in 2022-23 included:

- ∞ Engaged with Métis commercial fishers to collect information on their concerns and priorities
- ∞ Supported over 150 Métis commercial fishers and provided over 2,000 nets to citizens
- ∞ Métis land use, occupancy and spawning ground studies, and catch and tag activities conducted
- ∞ Consultation and engagement to obtain recommendations on forestry
- ∞ Sun Grow Horticulture Peatland Expansion project and recommended mitigation measures
- ∞ Red River Métis Fur Company uses sustainable and ethical fur harvesting practices
- ∞ Ensuring Métis people are able to practice their traditional ways of life and earn a living through fur harvesting and trading, grounded in cultural traditions and values
- ∞ Providing tanned furs and leathers to Métis artisans at no cost.

MOTION 28-10-23

It was MOVED (Sandra Trottier, Thompson Region) and SECONDED (Arlene Lalonde, Seven Oaks Local, Winnipeg Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accept the Traditional Economies Report as presented by Minister Darrel Ferland.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.21 CONSTITUTION, RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE, RED RIVER MÉTIS BEYOND BORDERS – MINISTER JUDY MAYER

Minister Judy Mayer provided highlights of the activities of the Constitution Department including:

- ∞ Ratification of the Treaty at the June 2023 EGA and work to get the Treaty signed by Canada
- ∞ Governance Committee work on an Elders Policy, Local Executive Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct, Local bylaw review, and development of a Local handbook
- ∞ Hiring of a Chief Electoral Officer
- ∞ Development of a certificate for Local Executives to recognize their position and tenure
- ∞ Presentation of two resolutions on constitutional amendments at the AGA.

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

- ∞ Whether there was potential for Locals to be formed for citizens outside of Manitoba:
 - Ministers were given direction to identify services for citizens living in other provinces
 - Cabinet will explore this idea and report back to citizens at the next AGA
- ∞ Whether a newsletter or communication would be created to keep Beyond Border citizens informed on activities and programs related to Beyond Border citizens:
 - The MMF website is the best platform to obtain up to date information, along with Facebook and Twitter
 - A Local Grassroots Paper could be accessed through the Locals.

Appreciation was extended to Delegates for taking the time to ask questions.

MOTION 29-10-23

It was MOVED (Minister Denise Thomas, Southeast Region) and SECONDED (Minister Mona Buors, Interlake Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accept the Constitution, Rights and Governance, Red River Métis Beyond Borders report as presented by Minister Judy Mayer.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VIDEO PRESENTATION

A video presentation was shared of participants from Ottawa speaking of their appreciation to the MMF for the supports and services they have provided their Beyond Border citizens.

INFINITY WOMEN SECRETARIAT (IWS) PRESENTATION

On behalf of the members of the IWS, Joan Church presented IWS Spokesperson Minister Anita Campbell with a coat, created with the beadwork of Métis Artisan Jennine Krauchi. The gift was in recognition for the incredible work Minister Anita Campbell has done for the IWS and the difference she has made for the lives of Métis women and citizens in general. Métis Artisan Jennine Krauchi spoke of the design noting the flowers and beading each had a story and colours of significance, and was a labour of love as the work had been done with her mother.

Minister Anita Campbell offered words of thanks for the beautiful gift and several IWS members shared words of praise for the IWS and its success.

President David Chartrand welcomed Jocelyn Larocque, from St. Anne, Manitoba, a Métis citizen who plays for the Canada Women's Hockey Team. Ms. Jocelyn Larocque shared of her love for the sport and spoke of how important sports are for kids.

HEALTH BREAK

The meeting recessed at 11:45 a.m. and returned at 1:00 p.m.

13. RESOLUTIONS

Murray Trachtenberg, MMF Legal Counsel, reviewed the criteria for acceptable resolutions, the function of the Resolutions Committee, and the process for accepting resolutions. It was noted that resolutions are considered in terms of whether they have a mover and seconder, the resolution language was clear, there were financial expenditures associated, and whether the resolution called for a constitutional change or was contrary to the existing MMF Constitution.

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 with Respect to Citizen Attendance at Assemblies

The resolution was read into the record. It was noted the Resolution had been previously moved by Minister Judy Mayer and seconded by Minister Jack Park.

The motion was stayed until the seconder, Minister Jack Park, was present.

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

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

RESOLUTION 01-10-23

It was MOVED (Minister Judy Mayer, The Pas Region) and SECONDED (Minister Julyda Lagimodiere, Thompson Region)

WHEREAS in early 2023, the MMF undertook intensive consultations with our Red River Métis Citizens across Manitoba as well as inside and outside our Homeland on the *Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty* (the "**Treaty**");

AND WHEREAS the Treaty preamble accurately describes our Nation, our history, and our culture while its main body proudly uses our own definition of Red River Métis – a vibrant Indigenous People established with our own identity, language, culture, institutions, and way of life within the historic Northwest and centred in the Red River Valley;

AND WHEREAS the Red River Métis is properly who we are and what we call ourselves – this is our roots – we are Canada's negotiating partner in Confederation and the founder of Manitoba, and this is our legacy which we must continue to protect as we grow our Ancestors' Nation into the future;

AND WHEREAS on June 3rd, 2023, the MMF Extraordinary General Assembly ("EGA") unanimously ratified the Treaty, and it is expected to become effective in the near future;

AND WHEREAS the Treaty includes our definition of Red River Métis and it is appropriate to include that definition in the MMF Constitution;

AND WHEREAS the MMF Constitution currently contains a definition that is not expressive of our unique, distinct, and national Red River Métis identity, Homeland, and Government, and is not appropriate for continued use in our MMF Constitution;

AND WHEREAS on June 4th, 2023, the MMF EGA passed a resolution which revised the MMF Constitution, and those changes will take effect on the Effective Date of the Treaty, and this Resolution should become effective prior to the Effective Date;

AND WHEREAS a resolution in substantially the same form to this resolution was adopted and approved by the MMF Cabinet at a meeting of July 26, 2023;

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

1. Article IV (1) DEFINITION of the MMF Constitution be deleted and substituted with the following:
2. DEFINITIONS
 - "Red River Métis" means the Indigenous collectivity, also known as the Manitoba Métis, that:
 - a. is a distinct Indigenous people historically known as the Red River Métis, the Manitoba Métis, the New Nation, or *la nouvelle nation*, a vibrant Indigenous collectivity that was established with its own identity, language, culture, institutions, and way of life within the historic Northwest and centred in the Red River Valley, and whose citizens and individuals entitled to become citizens are today located within what is now Manitoba as well as elsewhere inside and outside of Canada,
 - b. is not a part of any other Indigenous collectivity,
 - c. collectively holds the right to self-determination recognized in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and
 - d. collectively holds the rights referred to in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and the rights and freedoms referred to in section 25 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* that are derived from those of the Red River Métis, including the inherent right of self-government;

"Red River Métis Citizen" means a Citizen or Child Citizen, as the case may be, who:

- a. self-identifies as Red River Métis;
- b. is of historic Red River Métis Ancestry;
- c. is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples; and
- d. is accepted by the Red River Métis as determined by Red River Métis law;

"Red River Métis Ancestry" means a demonstrable connection to the historic Red River Métis whose traditional territory is the Red River Métis Homeland; and

"Red River Métis Homeland" means the area of land within the historic Northwest centered in the Red River Valley as used and occupied as the traditional territory of the Red River Métis.

2. Article IV (2) (b) be amended to read as follows:
 (b) Applications for Citizenship shall be made in a form established from time to time by resolution of the MMF Cabinet. Consistent with demonstrating **Red River Métis Citizenship in the Manitoba Métis Community**, the application shall be submitted to the Local of the MMF, or the Local in care of the Regional Office, which represents the:
- Birthplace of the applicant; or,
 - Childhood residence or current residence of the applicant; or,
 - Place in which the applicant has a direct ancestral connection as evidenced by a genealogy including supporting evidentiary documents.

For the purpose of this Article, “**demonstrable connection**”, “residence”, and “direct ancestral connection” shall bear the meaning established by resolution of the MMF Cabinet.

3. Article IV (4) (a) be amended to read as follows:
 (a) CITIZENS
 Any person who **is Métis, meets the criteria to be a member of the Red River Métis Citizen Manitoba Métis Community** and who is at least 18 years of age, and whose Citizenship application has been approved by the MMF, is **entitled to be** a Citizen. Citizens have a right to vote and hold office in accordance with the MMF Constitution and Red River Métis laws.

All applicants for Citizenship shall be required to provide a genealogy including supporting evidentiary documents completed by a recognized institution to objectively verify the applicant’s historic **Red River Métis Nation Ancestry**.

The MMF Cabinet shall by resolution designate acceptable recognized institutions and required criteria and documents.

4. This Resolution will take effect immediately on approval of the MMF Annual General Assembly and the amendments set out in this Resolution will continue and be incorporated into the revised MMF Constitution that comes into force on the Effective Date of the Treaty.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution of the Manitoba Métis Federation Annual General Assembly October 13-15, 2023 To Amend the Manitoba Métis Federation Constitution with Respect to Citizen Attendance at Assemblies

With Minister Jack Park in attendance, and with the confirmed support for the resolution by both Minister Park and Minister Judy Mayer, the resolution was passed.

RESOLUTION 02-10-23

It was MOVED (Minister Judy Mayer, The Pas Region) and SECONDED (Minister Jack Park, Interlake Region)

WHEREAS the Manitoba Métis Federation (“**MMF**”) Constitution provides for the ability of an Annual General Assembly or an Extraordinary General Assembly (“**Assemblies**”) to make revisions to parts of the MMF Constitution by way of a vote of 60% of the Citizens “in actual attendance”;

AND WHEREAS the MMF has successfully been able to accommodate Red River Métis Citizens to participate in

Assemblies virtually and at MMF Satellite Locations responding to the needs and desires of its Citizens;

AND WHEREAS it is unclear what “in actual attendance” means and it is appropriate to clarify this requirement; **AND WHEREAS** on June 4th, 2023, the MMF Extraordinary General Assembly (“**EGA**”) passed a resolution *To Amend the MMF Constitution to Reflect the Red River Métis Self- Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty* (the “**June 4th Resolution**”);

AND WHEREAS the June 4th Resolution revised the MMF Constitution, and those changes will take effect on the Effective Date of the Treaty, and this Resolution should become effective at the same time; **AND WHEREAS** a resolution in substantially the same form to this resolution was adopted and approved by the MMF Cabinet at a meeting of July 26, 2023;

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

- Article XIII (2)(e) of the MMF Constitution, as revised by the EGA on June 4th, which states:
 (e) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, Citizens may by resolution of 60% of the Citizens in actual attendance at the AGA make and approve, change, or revoke parts of this Constitution.

Is hereby deleted and the following is therefore substituted:

(e) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, Citizens may by resolution of 60% of the Citizens **in attendance at the Assembly, being those Citizens in-person at the main assembly hall, an MMF satellite location, or virtually on an MMF approved platform**, make and approve, change, or revoke parts of this Constitution.

- This Resolution will take effect on the Effective Date of the Treaty.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution of the Manitoba Métis Federation Annual General Assembly October 13-15, 2023 To Request the MMF Cabinet Consider the Existing Governance Structure

The resolution was read into the record.

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

- ∞ After leaving the Métis Nation British Columbia, Red River Métis citizens in British Columbia (BC) are feeling disconnected:
 - Cabinet will return to the next AGA with an update on the suggestion that Locals are created in other provinces
- ∞ Preference that the resolution be taken to the Local level for input; insufficient information has been provided to make a decision
- ∞ Before a constitutional amendment can get to the AGA floor, it must go through the Local, Region, and Cabinet first.

The Resolutions Committee advised that one resolution submitted to the Committee had been removed as it contained the same content and issue of the previous resolution.

RESOLUTION 03-10-23

It was MOVED (Darren Brown, New Horizons Local, BC) and SECONDED (Cheryl Marion, Red River Local, BC)

WHEREAS the Red River Métis live within and outside of the Province of Manitoba, and Canada;

AND WHEREAS the Red River Métis, acting through their democratically elected government, the Manitoba Métis Federation, have recognized this fact and provided the constitutional structure to enable those Red River Métis who reside beyond the borders of the province of Manitoba to obtain Citizenship;

AND WHEREAS there are currently approximately 3,200 Citizens who reside beyond the borders of the province of Manitoba and as a result, it is appropriate that consideration is given to the existing governance structure of the MMF;

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

1. The MMF Cabinet examine and consider the existing MMF governance structure and applicable processes, including but not limited to the:
 - a. creation of additional Locals;
 - b. expansion of existing Regions;
 - c. creation of new Regions in addition to the existing Regions; and
 - d. any other related issues as the MMF Cabinet decides appropriate.
2. The MMF Cabinet report to the next AGA on the results of the examination and consideration referred to in (1), including any recommendations the MMF Cabinet has.

CARRIED

(ONE ONLINE VOTE OF OPPOSITION NOTED)

Resolution of the Manitoba Métis Federation Annual General Assembly October 13-15, 2023 Regarding Compensation to Local Executive Members

The resolution which had been moved by Eric Chartrand and seconded by Cory Boucher was read into the record. The mover and seconder were present to confirm their support for the resolution.

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

- ∞ Volunteers by definition donate time and energy for a greater cause
- ∞ The \$10,000 Local Capacity Grant provided to Locals by the MMF is sufficient
- ∞ Concerns that the reimbursement of Local Executive could create opportunities for abuse
- ∞ People may take on roles on the Executive for monetary reasons and not because they are passionate about the Red River Métis
- ∞ Locals were not created to make a profit but to raise money for citizens
- ∞ The resolution was not seeking a commitment for payment but only for it to be considered
- ∞ A role on the Executive is similar to a part-time job, volunteers put in hundreds of hours per year
- ∞ Some volunteers struggle to support themselves financially and this could help them
- ∞ Any compensation for Executive expenses should be reimbursed from the Local, possibly through a capacity grant, but they should not earn a wage

- ∞ Suggestion that a member of MMF staff be allocated to provide support to Locals or that Locals pay an employee to support them
- ∞ Cabinet members receive compensation, so should Local Executives, in a small way
- ∞ Locals must ensure they access the UPIP funding to support their initiatives
- ∞ Constitutionally, Locals are only required to have four meetings per year
- ∞ If Local Executives were compensated, the Capacity Grants would need to be withdrawn.

After a vote, the resolution was defeated.

RESOLUTION 04-10-23

It was MOVED (Eric Chartrand, Redboine Local, Winnipeg Region) and SECONDED (Cory Boucher, Keenleyside Local, Winnipeg Region)

WHEREAS the Manitoba Métis Federation (“MMF”) is completing its evolution into a recognized Government and has increasing resources;

AND WHEREAS the MMF anticipates entering into the *Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty* in the near future;

AND WHEREAS the MMF governance structure includes Locals with elected leadership in addition to the President, Cabinet, and Regions;

AND WHEREAS this governmental structure is set out in the MMF Constitution;

AND WHEREAS Locals are recognized as a vital component of the MMF governmental structure, and allow MMF Citizens to canvass issues of concern and to make representations to the Regional Executive and Cabinet;

AND WHEREAS the Local Executive has the primary responsibility to ensure the Local is active and accomplishes its objectives and purpose;

AND WHEREAS those objectives and purposes are currently described in the MMF Constitution as including but not limited to:

- ∞ To organize the Métis people of their community.
- ∞ To promote the objectives of the MMF.
- ∞ To act as a Local Métis governance on behalf of Métis in their respective communities. These activities must be consistent with the MMF’s objectives.
- ∞ To inform the Citizens within their Locals of all matters that affect the MMF.
- ∞ To participate at regional meetings of the MMF.
- ∞ To initiate programs to address the needs of their Métis Citizenship in their respective Locals.
- ∞ To hold at least four meetings per year with a quorum requirement of at least five Local Members, and forward copies of minutes of Local meetings to the Regional and Head Offices of the MMF.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MMF CABINET is directed to review and consider the issue of the MMF providing compensation for members of each Local Executive;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the review consider, in addition to such other matters as MMF Cabinet decides are appropriate, the following issues:

1. The amount, if any, of payments that ought to be made;
2. The capacity of the MMF to fund such payments;
3. The sustainability of such payments;
4. The criteria for such payments, if any;
5. Variations, if any, in payments to Local Executive members by virtue of position, membership size of the Local, and activities conducted;
6. The process for providing the compensation, if any;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MMF Cabinet is asked to refer the matter to such committee(s) as appropriate and retains such expertise as necessary to assist with the consideration and provide a report to the Annual General Assembly (“**AGA**”);

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MMF Cabinet report on the progress and alternatives being considered, and any legislative or regulatory proposals being made at each AGA until a final report is written and presented at an AGA.

MOTION DEFEATED

Resolution of the Manitoba Métis Federation Annual General Assembly October 13-15, 2023 Resolution Regarding Federal Government Accountability

The resolution was read into the record. The resolution had been moved by Diane Burelle and seconded by Andrea Clarke, and both were present to confirm their support for the resolution.

President David Chartrand spoke to the resolution and informed that Canada had openly committed resources to the search at the Prairie landfill, causing him to be reluctant to attack the federal government. In regard to the search at the Brady Landfill, President Chartrand noted the cost would be \$184 million, and the debate was ongoing between the First Nations and the government who was to pay for it. President Chartrand emphasised he would not be interfering in First Nations business. The MMF had contributed \$10,000 toward the search for the missing boy, Marcus McKay.

After a vote, the resolution was defeated.

RESOLUTION 05-10-23

It was MOVED (Diane Burelle, Southeast Region) and SECONDED (Andrea Clarke, Lorette Local, Southeast Region)

WHEREAS Colonization has created great harm and inequities for all Indigenous Peoples of Canada;

AND WHEREAS Bill C-15 received Royal Assent on March 31, 2022, committing the Federal Government to recognizing UNDRIP and addressing the TRC’s 94 Calls to Action and The National Inquiry into MMIW2S+ 231 Calls for Justice;

AND WHEREAS Article 12 of UNDRIP states:
“Article 12

2. States shall seek to enable the access and/or repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains in their possession through fair, transparent and effective mechanisms developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MMF unite with our First Nations and Inuit Relatives to incite the Federal Government to be accountable (action, resources, funding) for these commitments, including searching the Brady landfill for the remains of Indigenous Women.

MOTION DEFEATED

Resolution of the Manitoba Métis Federation Annual General Assembly October 13-15, 2023 Regarding Prayer at Assemblies

The resolution was read into the record. The resolution had been moved by Richard Charpentier and seconded by Doreen Windsor, and both were present to confirm their support.

A lengthy and passionate discussion took place with many Delegates offering their support and objection to the resolution. A common theme of comments was that by removing prayers, the Métis culture and spirituality would also be removed. It was suggested that prayers should be spoken in Michif to make it more Métis specific.

President David Chartrand read the words of Louis Riel before he died, “...bless all those that are here around me, bless Jesus Christ, our Savior...”, and emphasised the important role prayer played in the buffalo hunt and way of life for the Métis.

After a vote, the resolution was defeated.

RESOLUTION 06-10-23

It was MOVED (Richard Charpentier) and SECONDED (Doreen Winsor, Winnipeg Region)

WHEREAS it is imperative to maintain a diverse, inclusive, and respectful environment during our assembly gatherings;

AND WHEREAS adhering to a secular stance helps uphold the principle of separation of church and state;

AND WHEREAS diverse beliefs and backgrounds of attendees should be respected;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- Any form of Christian prayer, shall not be a part of official proceedings during our Assemblies;
- The organizers of our Assemblies shall create a secular and inclusive opening or moment of reflection that welcomes attendees from all religious, spiritual, and non-religious backgrounds;
- This resolution shall take effect immediately and shall be communicated to all organizers and attendees of our Assemblies.

MOTION DEFEATED

With no further resolutions for consideration, the Resolutions Committee members were thanked and commended for their work.

6. PORTFOLIO/DEPARTMENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

6.22 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – PRESIDENT DAVID CHARTRAND

President David Chartrand recognized the sponsors of the AGA and thanked them for their tremendous support. Notable sponsors included Métis N4, BMO, SkyAlyne, LRCC, Stanley Electric, Energy Management, Efficiency Manitoba, M Builds, Enbridge, NRG Architect Group, Louisiana Pacific, and Transcona Roofing. Approximately \$35,000 worth of good were sold during the AGA.

A video was shared of the MMF lands and properties assets and changing the lives of Red River Métis citizens.

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

- ∞ Three-year projection of \$200 million in investments
- ∞ Investing in projects that will bring in revenues; millions made in rent and capital assets
- ∞ Projects supporting citizens including:
 - Michif Manor, providing accommodation for families coming to Winnipeg for medical treatment
 - Affordable 55+ senior homes
 - 25 acres of land purchased in West St. Paul, with plans for a women's shelter location
 - Daycare centres with potential to employ 300 people
 - \$6 million to support Métis farmers
 - Cost of Living supplement
 - \$13 million for Locals accruing interest of \$700,000-\$1,000,000 each year
 - Negotiations with Manitoba Hydro including \$40 million increasing over years.

President David Chartrand introduced Hussein Hassan, a friend and business associate from Jordan who had provided support to the MMF during the COVID-19 pandemic with vaccines, when the Manitoba government denied early access to vaccines to the Métis but not to First Nations. Mr. Hassan additionally sent a cross and statue of Jesus from Jordan to the MMF for the St. Malo Grotto. The MMF and Mr. Hassan are working in a partnership on a special weapon detection software.

Mr. Hassan praised President David Chartrand for prioritizing the safety of Red River Métis citizens.

MOTION 30-10-23

It was MOVED (Lynne Robson, Anola Local, Southeast Region) and SECONDED (Minister Shawn Nault, Southeast Region)

That the Manitoba Métis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis accept the Economic Development Report as presented by President David Chartrand.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION 31-10-23

It was MOVED (Minister Andrew Carrier, Winnipeg Region) and SECONDED (Minister Julyda Lagimodiere, Thompson Region)

That the Manitoba Metis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly of the Red River Métis be now concluded.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(TIME: OCTOBER 15, 2023 AT 4:40 P.M.)

* * *

This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Manitoba Metis Federation October 13-15, 2023, Annual General Assembly scheduled October 13-15, 2023, 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

14. OTHER BUSINESS

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

10-Year Services awards and staff recognition

Numerous recipients of the 10-Years of Service awards were recognized.

President's Pride Award

President David Chartrand announced the winners of the President's Pride Award as chosen by Delegates at the AGA. First place went to the Housing and Property Management Department, followed by the Veteran's Department in second place, and the ELCC in third.

15. CLOSING REMARKS

Delegates were thanked for their questions and participation and invited to remain for the prize draw.

16. CONCLUSION

Elder Linda St. Cyr-Saric offered a Closing Prayer and Elder John Lee was recognized.

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
BMO	Bank of Montreal
BC	British Columbia
CFS	Child and Family Services
ELCC	Early Learning and Child Care
EGA	Extraordinary General Assembly
FTHPP	First Time Home Purchase Program
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GFL	Green For Life
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
MMSGRIA	Manitoba Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
MP	Member of Parliament
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MCLD	Métis Community Liaison Department
MET	Métis Employment and Training
MIC	Métis Inclusion Coordinators
MJI	Métis Justice Institute
MMIWG	Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
RCMP	Royal Canadian Mountain Police
UPIP	Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples
UNDA	United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act
VAC	Veterans Affairs Canada
WWII	World War II

A close-up, profile view of a man with grey hair, wearing a yellow baseball cap and a blue and white floral patterned shirt. He is playing a violin, with a microphone positioned near the instrument. The background is dark and out of focus.

DEPARTMENTS & PORTFOLIOS



A photograph of a greenhouse and hydroponic system. In the foreground, there are several large, clear plastic water jugs (IBC containers) stacked and used as part of a hydroponic setup. Behind them is a long, arched greenhouse structure made of clear plastic. The background shows a large blue industrial building with a tall antenna tower. The sky is overcast. The image is decorated with colorful, abstract dot patterns in the corners, resembling stylized flowers or fireworks. The word "AGRICULTURE" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

AGRICULTURE



DAVID BEAUDIN
MINISTER

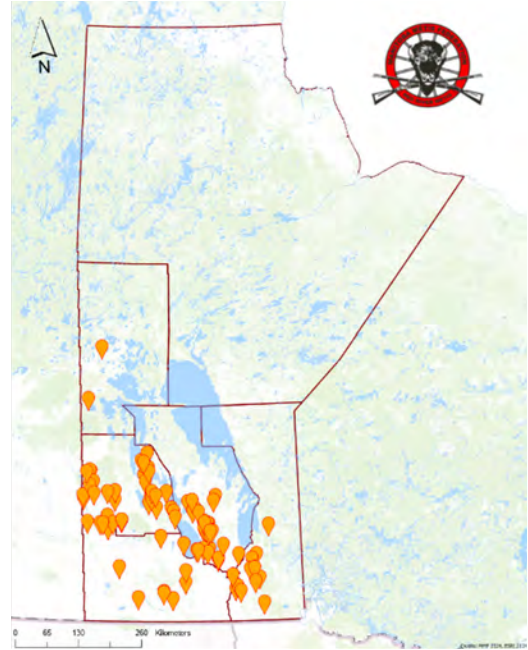
The Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Agriculture Portfolio is housed within the MMF's Energy, Infrastructure and Resource Management (EIRM) Department. Since its revitalization in 2020, the Agriculture Portfolio has achieved significant progress in programming and initiatives that serve Red River Métis interests in the agriculture and agri-food sector, including:

- ∞ Programming for Red River Métis agricultural producers;
- ∞ Support for all Citizens towards achieving food security;
- ∞ Addressing the driving economic and social barriers causing food insecurity;
- ∞ Supporting the sustainable management of lands and waters being threatened by a changing climate;
- ∞ Receipt of funding to expand capacity and support Red River Métis Citizens;
- ∞ Expanding technical staff to assist with portfolio initiatives; and
- ∞ Continuing to expand database of Red River Métis agricultural producers.

RED RIVER MÉTIS ON-FARM CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAM

The MMF has secured funding through Agricultural Climate Solutions: On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF), administered by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. This program provides Red River Métis agricultural producers with funding of up to \$75,000 to implement eligible on-farm beneficial management practices (BMPs) that address climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Throughout 2023-2024, approximately \$6 million in funding was distributed to over 90 Red River Métis agricultural producers. (See map below.) Through the implementation of on-farm BMPs, over 53,000 acres of Red River Métis-owned or rented agricultural land has been improved through this program, helping position Red River Métis farms towards environmental sustainability. MMF staff had the privilege of travelling to recipient farms throughout 2023 to see these improvements firsthand. This program continues to support Red River Métis farms in 2024.



BISON HERD

Beginning in 2020, the MMF partnered with Iron Head Bison Ranch, a Red River Métis-owned bison ranch in southeastern Manitoba, which cares for the MMF's bison herd. The herd currently consists of 19 bison, including 10 cows and a yearly calf crop. These bison are not only a symbol of Red River Métis culture and tradition, but present opportunities for education, research, economic development, and traditional food distribution to Elders and Citizens in need.



FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE

The MMF's Food Security Initiative has committed to establishing a network of food security greenhouses, community gardens, and edible forests across the National Homeland to help tackle food insecurity. Through these activities, Red River Métis Citizens will have improved access to a variety of traditional fruit, vegetables, and herbs. Greenhouses and community gardens also serve as a space to gather and share traditional knowledge of horticulture, returning this skill to the greater Red River Métis collective. In 2023-2024, two greenhouses were constructed in the Interlake and Southwest Regions. In 2024, the MMF is continuing to work hard to build greenhouses and community gardens across all MMF Regions.



AT-HOME GARDEN PROJECT

The At-Home Garden Project helped to further tackle food insecurity across the National Homeland by providing garden boxes and heritage variety seeds to Red River Métis Citizens at home. This program received high interest, with a large volume of applications accepted throughout 2023-2024. Garden box construction and distribution, through Métis Employment and Training, has begun and will continue throughout the next fiscal year.

RIEL HOUSE GARDEN

Since 2021, the MMF has taken responsibility for the vegetable gardens at Riel House National Historic Site, in partnership with Parks Canada. These garden plots provide summer employment opportunities for Red River Métis Youth who plant, maintain, and harvest heirloom variety vegetables for distribution to Elders and Citizens in need. In 2023, over 730lbs of vegetables were harvested



and distributed. The 2023 garden layout provided educational opportunities, with a small demonstration plot featuring three sisters planting, a traditional Red River Métis technique of companion planting corn, beans, and squash. The 2024 growing season will continue to provide these opportunities and support food security.

THREE SISTERS PLANTING

In 2023, the Agriculture Portfolio collaborated with the University of Manitoba on a research project examining traditional three sisters planting techniques. This technique involves companion planting corn, beans, and squash to improve yields and plant health. As an additional benefit to the research, over 3,600lbs of vegetables were harvested and distributed to Red River Métis Citizens. In 2024, this partnership will continue to grow, and provide thousands of pounds of food to Red River Métis Citizens.

FARMERS' MARKETS

On August 19, 2023, in partnership with Le Marché St. Norbert Farmers' Market, the Agriculture Portfolio hosted Red River Métis Market Day at the farmers' market. This event showcased Red River Métis culture through food and handicraft vendors, workshops, demonstrations, and live entertainment. Visitors to the market learned about seed saving, plant propagation, and sash weaving, while Red River Métis vendors were highlighted throughout the day. A second annual Red River Métis Market Day was planned for summer 2024, at the St. Norbert Farmers' Market, and will continue to celebrate Red River Métis producers, artisans, and culture. Looking ahead, the MMF is continuing to explore additional opportunities to host Red River Métis farmers' market events.

AGRICULTURAL CROWN LANDS

Red River Métis farmers and ranchers have a long history of utilizing Crown lands to support their families and local communities. Farming and ranching represent both a modern livelihood and a traditional economic foundation of the Red River Métis; however, previous amendments to the Agricultural Crown Lands Leases and Permits Regulation, and the Crown Land Dispositions Act, have caused severe hardship for many Red River Métis Crown Land Leaseholders. The MMF continues to connect with our Red River Métis farmers and ranchers to address the impacts associated with the amendments to the Agricultural Crown Lands Leasing Program.

For questions concerning the Agriculture Portfolio, please use the following link to contact technical staff: <https://www.mmf.mb.ca/agriculture>



The image features two men in the foreground. The man on the left has a mustache and glasses, wearing a grey sweater. The man on the right is smiling and wearing a purple shirt and a black vest. They are both holding a small blue and white card that reads "Manitoba Métis Federation" and "Individual". The background is dark with a large, stylized white graphic of a person's head and shoulders. The entire image is overlaid with decorative patterns of colored dots in red, blue, green, and yellow, arranged in floral and abstract shapes.

CENTRAL REGISTRY OFFICE



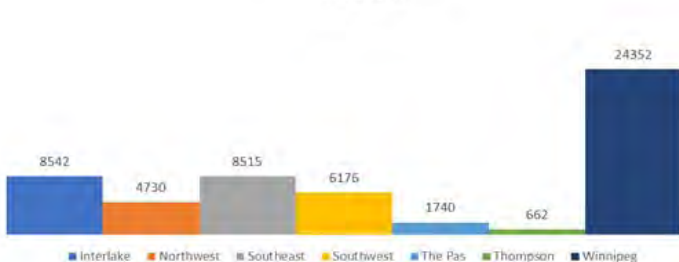
LEAH LAPLANTE
MINISTER

This past year has been one of the busiest for the MMF's Central Registry Office (CRO) to date. The CRO has continued to see increased demand 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 Métis history, and more Red River Métis people want to participate by obtaining their Citizenship. The CRO takes this responsibility seriously, and are honoured to do the work we do for our Métis Citizens.

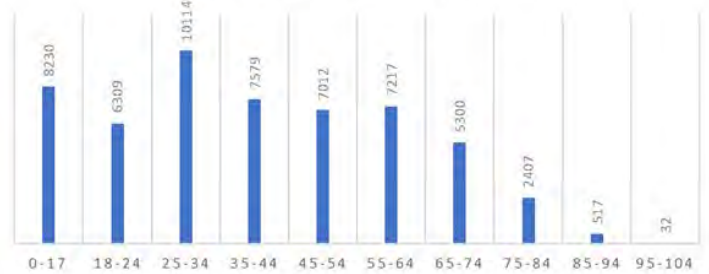
2023-24 CITIZEN APPLICATION STATS

- ∞ Approved New Applications: 7,412
- ∞ Approved New Male Citizens: 3,443
- ∞ Approved New Female Citizens: 3,940
- ∞ Approved New Non-Binary Citizens: 29
- ∞ Approved New Youth: 2,444
- ∞ Approved New Adults: 4,968
- ∞ Approved New Harvesters: 4,586
- ∞ Approved New Citizens Living Outside of Manitoba: 715
- ∞ Total Approved Citizens: 54,717
- ∞ Total Approved Harvesters: 32,701

REGIONAL CITIZENS APPROVED



CITIZENS BY AGE GROUP



THE HUB DATABASE

CURRENT STATUS

As CRO has reported in the past few years, a key focus area of work that has been undertaken is increased data management capabilities, and providing more online resources for Citizens. Since the CRO implemented our new Citizenship database in January 2022, we have had proven successful with enhancing our ability to process applications. Last year, CRO reported processing 4,764 new applications, which was the highest amount ever processed by CRO in a year. This year, by end of March 2024, the CRO far surpassed that number of applications by processing 7,412 new applications. CRO continues to work on technology enhancements to ensure optimum application processing capabilities. We strive to meet our goal of reducing application processing times and providing efficient service.

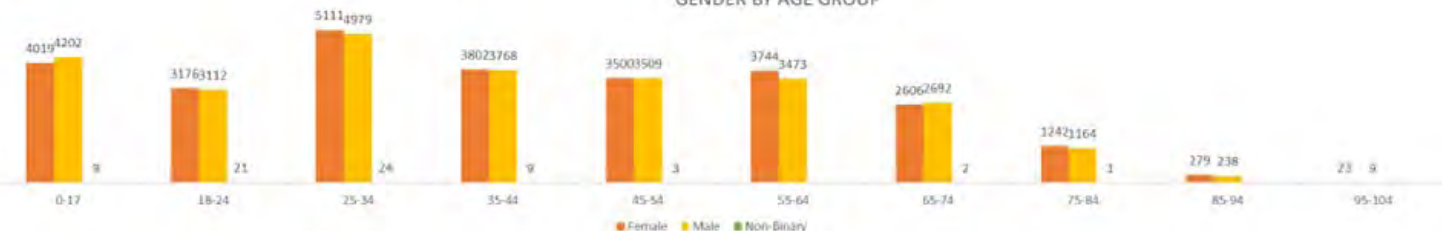
ALL APPLICATIONS BY YEAR (2009 - CURRENT)



UPCOMING

Last year, the CRO implemented card scanning capabilities for Citizenship cards. When registered Citizens arrive at meetings and present their Métis Citizenship card, the barcode on the card will be scanned by a staff. The barcode will open up an electronic profile for 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 sophisticated and accurate methods to ensure only registered Métis Citizens are entitled to participate in voting activities.

GENDER BY AGE GROUP

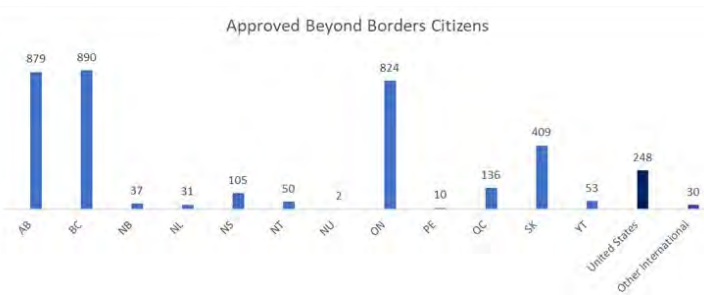


As part of the barcode scanning activities, the CRO is also working with the MMF Policy & Delivery Unit to ensure our Citizenship cards are recognized as a form of Government-issued photo ID. In the last year, it was announced by the Province of Manitoba that Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries will now accept MMF Métis Citizenship cards as a form of ID. We continue to work with different levels of government and other entities to ensure the recognition of our Red River Métis Government and our Government-issued ID.

As part of the Citizenship Minister's mandate, CRO has also started working with other MMF departments to discuss initiatives where we can work together on efficient data management strategies to better serve Citizens. The CRO has worked closely with the MMF Housing department to assist with enhanced data management and Citizenship verification, and we are close to completing the majority of the work. The CRO has also started engaging 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.

BEYOND BORDERS CITIZENSHIP

The CRO has continued to see an increased interest from Citizens who live outside of Manitoba to apply for a Citizenship card. During the 2023-24 year, we have seen our highest number of applications from Citizens outside of Manitoba to date, with 715 new processed. This interest has remained consistent and the CRO continues to work with the MMF Beyond Borders Department to assist Citizens to obtain their Citizenship, no matter where they live.



MOBILE CITIZENSHIP OFFICE AND LOCAL SUPPORT

Our Mobile Citizenship Office (MCO) was back out for travel during summer 2023, and we travelled across Manitoba to various communities to offer Citizenship and Harvester card services. Our MCO often travels to communities at the request of our hardworking 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.

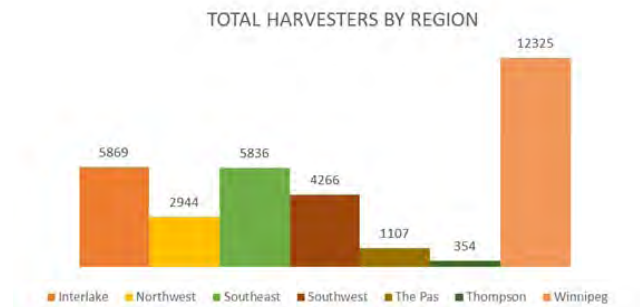
As part of our supports to MMF Regions and Locals, the CRO has also been working on incorporating new communication resources. One example of this is the implementation of providing Local Citizenship lists to Local Executives so they may contact Local members about news and events. CRO recognizes the importance of Citizens receiving updated information about their Local and the 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 ensures 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 program. Through this grant, MMF Locals can apply to receive \$10,000 each fiscal year for use toward events and meetings. During the 2023-24 year, the MMF provided 50 Locals that applied for the grant a total of \$319,352.81.

MÉTIS GENEALOGICAL INSTITUTE

With the increased demand for Métis Citizenship, there has also been increased demand for genealogical services. The MMF has partnered with the St. Boniface Historical Society for many years to provide accurate genealogies with historical documents. Since the increased demand, St. Boniface Historical Society has also felt pressures with backlogs. To help address this, the CRO is working with the St. Boniface Historical Society to develop and implement the new Métis Genealogical Institute (MGI). The MGI will assist new applicants to apply for a genealogy and help them through the process to obtain a genealogy. Watch through the 2024-25 fiscal year for further announcements about the opening of this new initiative.

ONLINE HARVESTER SURVEY AND ONLINE CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION



As part of the work CRO is doing to upgrade our electronic systems, we have introduced an online application form and an online harvester survey. Both tools give Citizens the ease of submitting information from anywhere via an online method. These resources have proven to be very beneficial, and we have seen a great increase in the amount of people using these systems.

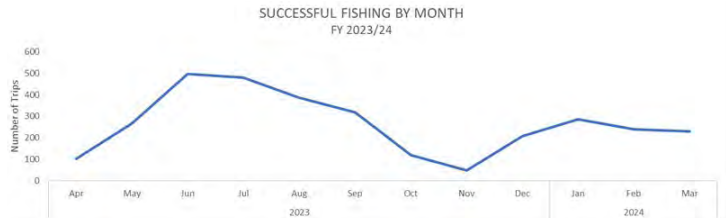
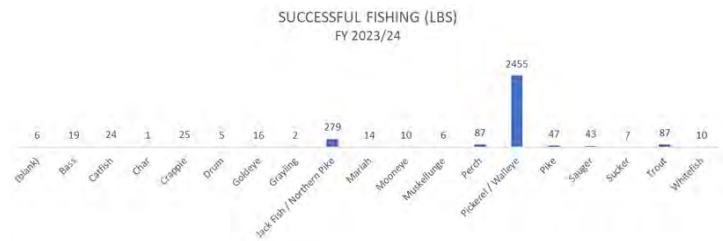
We have seen a large increase of online applications received through the 2023-24 year. Last year, we saw an average of about 100 applications per month. During this current reporting year, we have seen an average of approximately 170 applications per month. The online applications received are streamlined 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 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 harvesters the ability 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.

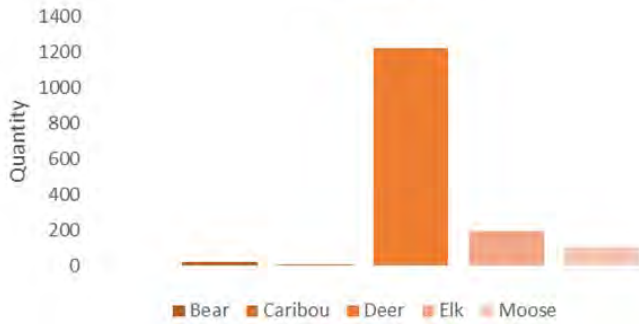
The CRO would also like to remind Harvesters that the annual harvesting survey is mandatory to complete in order to receive a new annual CTF sticker and big game tags. Harvesters are encouraged to utilize the online survey for the upcoming harvesting season, or a paper copy can be obtained from the MMF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

Since the introduction of the online harvester survey tool, we have seen an increase in the number of harvester surveys completed. In the 2023 season we received a total of 6,986 completed surveys, which is higher than the 5,551 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.

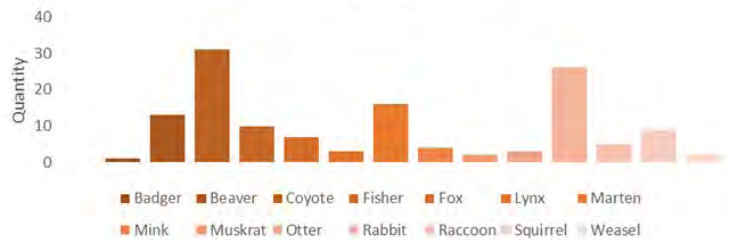
As part of CRO's data management, we have more sophisticated reporting capabilities. The following graphs show animals harvested during the 2022/23 season:



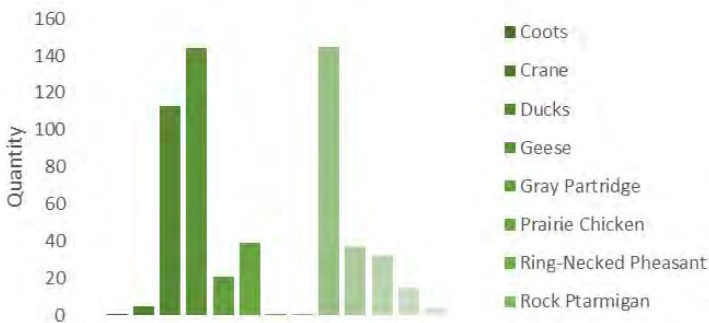
SUCCESSFUL BIG GAME
FY 2023/24



SUCCESSFUL SMALL GAME
FY 2023/24



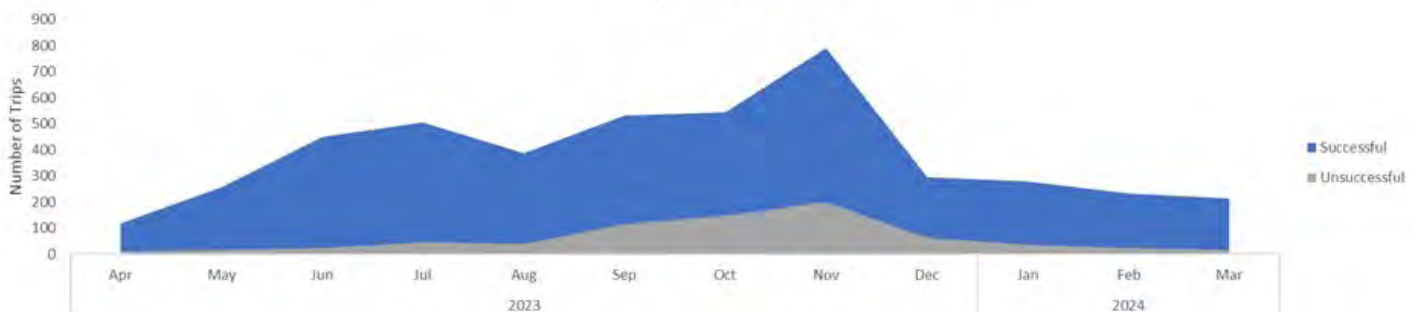
SUCCESSFUL GAME BIRDS
FY 2023/24



SUCCESSFUL UPLAND BIRDS
FY 2023/24



OVERALL SUCCESSFUL/UNSUCCESSFUL HARVESTER TRIPS BY MONTH
FY 2023/24



A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing glasses and a black t-shirt, is shown in profile. She is wearing a large, blue, tassel earring. The background is blurred, showing other people. The image is decorated with several colorful, dotted patterns in the corners. The word "COMMUNICATIONS" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image. The t-shirt she is wearing has the word "COMMUNICATIONS" partially visible on the back.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Department oversees the Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) digital footprint and provides communication support to all MMF departments, affiliates, and Regions. This ensures our Citizens, partners, and the public are informed on the important work being done by the National Government of the Red River Métis. The Communications Department is responsible for curating Citizen-driven content through various channels such as social media, the official website, email marketing, the *Le Metis* newsletter, *Metis HourX2*, and printed materials, as well as advertising campaigns with mediums such as billboards, newspaper, transit, and radio and television.

To keep up with the increased demand from other MMF departments, and to expand our content across our platforms, the Communications Department has continued to expand over the last fiscal year to accommodate the changing needs of our Social Media, Editorial, and Art sectors.

This past year, the Communications Department has increased the publication of *Citizen Spotlight* and *MMF Spotlight* articles on our website. We have also increased our output of commercial and Métis Minute scripts for CTV. As the distributor of key communications such as press releases, media advisories, Letters to Citizens, and special statements, we expanded our reach, with over 1,000 net new contacts.

The MMF's social media presence soared this year, reaching nearly one million accounts in 2023-2024. On Facebook alone, 772,095 accounts viewed the MMF's social media content.

Social media users engaged worldwide with the National Government of the Red River Métis, especially during our Extraordinary General Assembly. Top locations outside Manitoba included Calgary, Toronto, Edmonton, and the United States – likely from Citizens living beyond borders.

Milestones included hitting 10,000 Instagram followers, a 196 per cent increase by the social media team within three years. Key content featured legendary women in Métis history, land-based camps for kids, agricultural initiatives, the First Time Home Purchase Program, and a popular video on Louis Riel that users played over 30,000 times.

The MMF made several efforts to improve user-friendliness and accessibility of our government website. This was done by simplifying navigation, adding text-to-speech headers, and optimizing meta tags. The MMF also advertised programs and services via billboards in various locations like Winnipeg, Brandon, Dauphin, and more, promoting over 25 initiatives. Transit ads were also used to promote brand awareness.

In addition to our internal efforts, the Communications Department covered MMF-hosted and sponsored events by providing photography, videography, as well as livestream, social media, and written coverage. MMF events take our Communications staff across all seven Regions, but this past year, our Communications staff provided photo and video coverage as far as British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, the United States, and Europe.

Here are some of the major events the Communications team supported this past year:

- ∞ Graduation acknowledgement ceremonies
- ∞ National Indigenous Peoples Day in Selkirk
- ∞ Regional Meetings
- ∞ Treaty consultations
- ∞ Infinity Women Secretariat Annual General Assembly
- ∞ MMF Extraordinary General Assembly
- ∞ MMF Annual General Assembly
- ∞ Ste. Madeleine Métis Days
- ∞ Louis Riel Commemoration Ceremony
- ∞ Louis Riel being honoured as Manitoba's first premier
- ∞ Ribbon cutting and groundbreaking events for Housing, Early Learning & Child Care, building acquisitions, and other projects
- ∞ MMF's Indigenous Veterans Day ceremony
- ∞ Christmas Building lighting ceremony at 200 Main

Looking back on a successful year of event coverage, social media and advertising campaigns, and team growth, the Communications Department is focused on expanding our sectors and content in the coming year.

Follow the MMF on social media to stay up to date about the latest from your Red River Métis Government – we're on Facebook ([@Manitoba Métis Federation](#)), Instagram ([@manitobametisfederation](#)), X ([@MBMetis_MMf](#)), LinkedIn ([@Manitoba Métis Federation](#)), YouTube ([@ManitobaMetisMMF](#)) and TikTok ([@manitobametisfederation](#)).

In addition to our social media platforms, Citizens can stay engaged through our website at mmf.mb.ca, our *Le Metis* newsletter, and more. Have a question? Email communications@mmf.mb.ca.



THE MMF'S SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE SOARED THIS YEAR, REACHING NEARLY ONE MILLION ACCOUNTS IN 2023-2024. ON FACEBOOK ALONE, 772,095 ACCOUNTS VIEWED THE MMF'S SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT.



COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE NUMBERS

APRIL 2023 - MARCH 2024



LE METIS ISSUES:

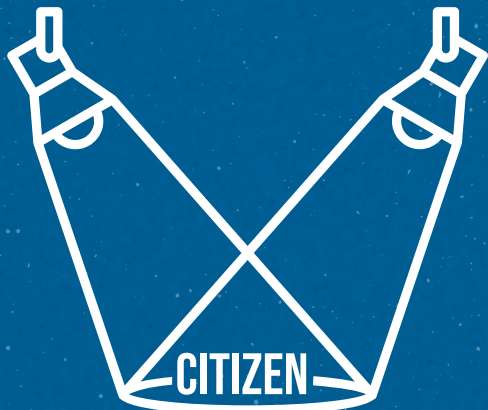
24



196%
INCREASE IN
THREE YEARS



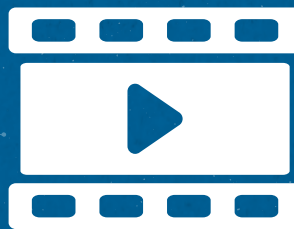
WEBSITE USERS



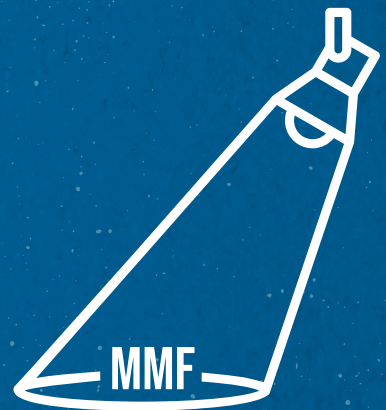
CITIZEN
SPOTLIGHTS:

28

89.6K
YOUTUBE VIEWS



+429
YOUTUBE
SUBSCRIBERS

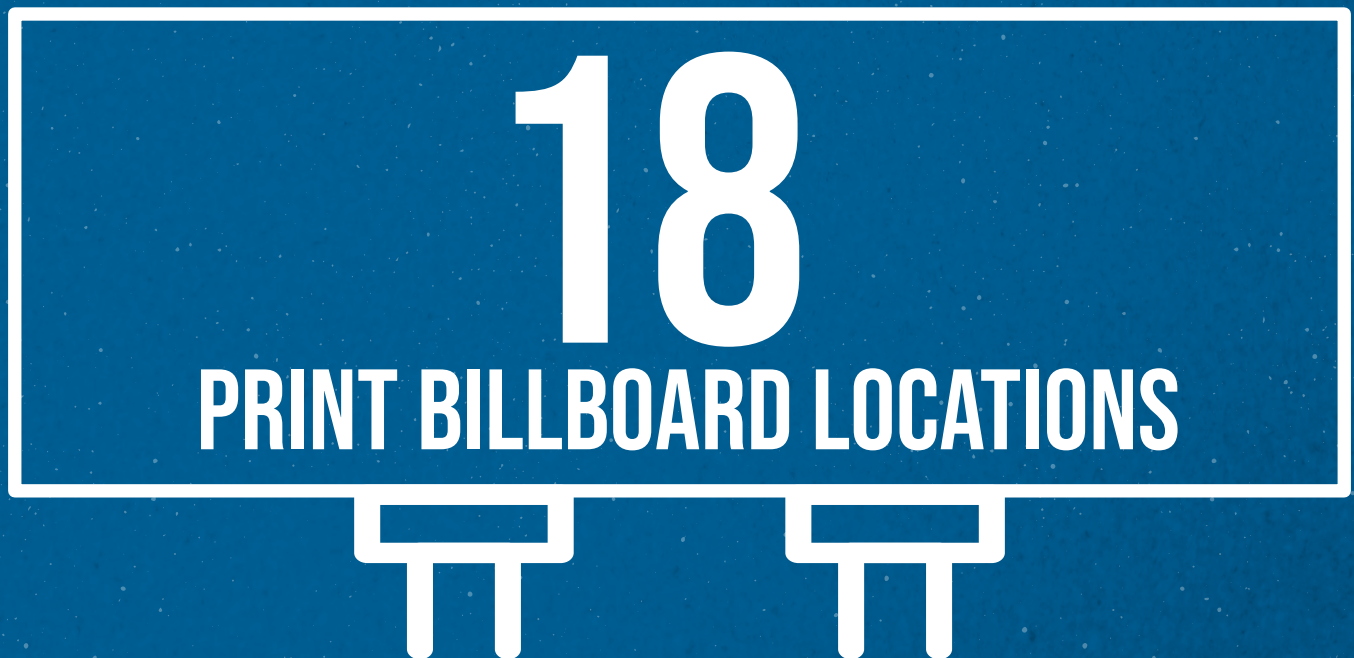
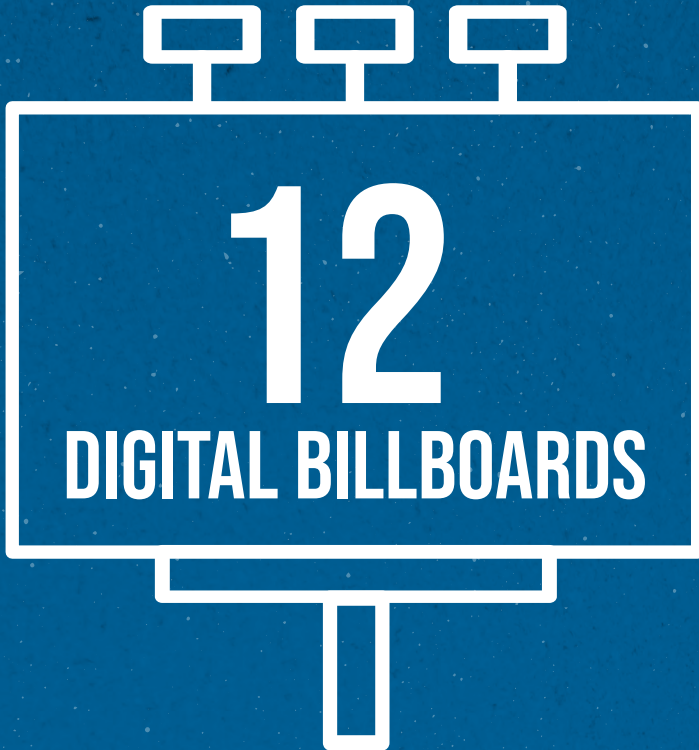


MMF
SPOTLIGHTS:

23



OUTDOOR ADVERTISING





COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE NUMBERS | APRIL 2023 - MARCH 2024

EMAIL CAMPAIGNS



+1,006

NET NEW CONTACTS

143



1,194,450
OPENS



26,173 **CLICKS**

OPEN RATE INCREASED BY 6% SINCE PREVIOUS YEAR





CULTURE & HERITAGE

live
music

NG
.com



ALFRED ANDERSON
MINISTER

The 2023-2024 fiscal year saw an expansion to the Culture & Heritage Department programming, initiatives, and events. The Culture & Heritage department aimed to bring Citizens together to celebrate and take pride in our culture, heritage, and identity.

Minister Anderson was busy promoting our Red River Métis culture and history throughout the Homeland, sharing his love for our music, dance, and symbols via the Métis Music Van, parades, and school presentations. The Culture & Heritage Department expanded to consist of five full-time staff members who supported the Minister's efforts of celebrating our culture by taking part in grassroots events with our Culture and Heritage booth, expanding the programming available for the Métis Music Van, and coordinating Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) events with the collaboration of other departments to promote our Red River Métis culture and history.

EVENTS

2023-2024 saw the continuation of our annual events, such as the Victory at Frog Plain Commemoration Ceremony, taking place on June 19, 2023. This event marks one of the first times the Red River Métis blue infinity flag was flown, an important moment in Red River Métis history. It also marks the victory for our Red River Métis trading rights, and the declaration of the Red River Métis as "a new nation"/"la nouvelle nation" by the iconic Red River Métis leader Cuthbert Grant.



On June 21, 2023, the MMF's National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration returned to Selkirk for its 18th year, with live music, jigging, free pancakes, followed by hamburgers and hot dogs for attendees, and plenty of Red River Métis pride! We were pleased to see the support of the MMF Departments with booths at this event.

Culture & Heritage teamed up with the Ste. Madeleine Heritage Local and the Southwest Region to put on the Ste. Madeleine Métis Days event on July 14-16, 2023. Ste. Madeleine Métis Days is a weekend-long festival that commemorates the Red River Métis community of Ste. Madeleine, which was extinguished in 1938 with the Canadian Government's *Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act*, to make room for cattle pastures. The community was forced to leave this land, and by having an annual festival where the community used to be, we remember the sacrifices and the strength of our people in the face of adversity.

In August 2023, the Culture & Heritage Department collaborated with Métis Employment & Training, Red River Métis Community Resource Department, and the Louis Riel Institute (LRI) for the MMF Elders and Youth Gathering. The gathering was held in Selkirk Park and brought together Youth and Elders from all Regions for teaching, learning, and celebrating our Red River Métis culture and identity.

Culture and Heritage worked with the City of Selkirk and Huddle Selkirk to have the Métis Music Van and a Culture and Heritage booth on the riverfront in Selkirk for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2023.

To commemorate the anniversary of Louis Riel's death, on November 16, 2023, we hosted the Louis Riel Commemoration Ceremony at Louis Riel's gravesite at St. Boniface Cathedral. This event was well-attended by the Members of Parliament, Premier Wab Kinew, members of the provincial political parties, the Mayor, our MMF Ministers and IWS Spokeswoman, Citizens, and the public, and following the commemoration was a reception at Le Musée de Saint Boniface Museum with Red River Métis musicians for entertainment.

Also in November 2023, we partnered with Métis Economic Development Organization and LRI for the Santa Claus Parade in Winnipeg, where the Métis Music Van, LRI bus, and the Red River Métis Marketplace trailer travelled down Portage Avenue, spreading holiday cheer to Citizens and the public.

We hosted Light up the Heart of the Homeland on December 5, 2023, to celebrate Red River Métis pride at the newly acquired 200 Main St. building. This event was well attended by Members of Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Mayor, the Superintendent of Community Engagement with the Winnipeg Police, our MMF Ministers, IWS Spokeswoman, President Chartrand, Citizens, and the public.

We partnered with the Sports and Youth Department and the Selkirk Steelers to present the Selkirk Steelers Gala Dinner and Christmas with the Steelers Market on December 14-16, 2023. Minister Genaille had the opportunity to arrive at this event in a helicopter, which was organized by the Selkirk Steelers. President Chartrand, Minister Genaille, and Minister Anderson were presented with a custom Selkirk Steelers jersey at this event.

We once again partnered with the Sports and Youth Department and the Selkirk Steelers to host the Louis Riel Weekend on February 15, 2024, at the Selkirk Recreation Complex. We have a five-year partnership plan with the Selkirk Steelers and plan to host events such as the Christmas Market, Christmas Dinner, Louis Riel Weekend, and more in the future. Minister Simard attended the Louis Riel Weekend alongside the Mayor of Selkirk.

MICHIF LANGUAGE

In 2023-2024, the Culture & Heritage Department created and distributed high-quality Michif activity books at local events with the Culture & Heritage booth. These books were given out through all the Regions and Beyond Borders with the assistance of the Early Learning and Child Care Department's "My Little Métis Box" initiative.

The Culture & Heritage Department also promoted the Michif language with revamped trivia questions for the Culture & Heritage booth and created Michif word searches for the newly established Culture & Heritage newsletters.

At 2023 AGA in October, the Culture & Heritage Department booth, with assistance from Louis Riel Institute, handed out surveys to begin the analysis of Michif knowledge with our Citizens, which helps determine the strategic plan for the establishment of the Languages Department.

The Michif Word of the Day continues to run on MMF social media platforms to familiarize the Red River Métis Citizens and the public to the Michif language in a daily setting. We anticipate the growth of this initiative with the establishment of the Languages Department to include additional context behind the words.



MÉTIS MUSIC VAN

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

The Métis Music Van toured multiple Regions and was in high demand for 2023-2024. The Métis Music Van was featured in various parades, community events, and festivals, as well as graduations, anniversaries, birthdays, and funerals.

2023-2024 saw the growth of educational programming provided with the Métis Music Van, where Minister Anderson and Culture & Heritage Departmental staff presented on the history and culture of the Red River Métis and taught introductory jigging lessons to students ranging from Kindergarten to high school.

FLAGS INITIATIVE

2023-2024 saw the Culture and Heritage Department continue to establish our flag initiative, which is to promote the symbolism of the Red River Métis blue infinity flags and our MMF Government flags flying in local communities. For National Indigenous Peoples Day, we had our flags flying proudly down Main Street in Selkirk (with the assistance of Métis Employment and Training staff). Gimli and Teulon are now following this initiative and flying our flags in their communities for Red River Métis events as well.

Civic offices, schools, and community buildings in regional municipalities are also now flying our Red River Métis flags, following one of the Culture and Heritage Departmental goals of raising awareness of our Red River Métis culture and heritage, one community at a time. We look forward to continuing this initiative for years to come.



NEWSLETTER

Culture and Heritage released our first quarterly newsletter in October 2023 and released a second issue in February 2024. The newsletter includes a calendar of MMF events, and a recap of what the Culture and Heritage Department has accomplished in the last quarter. Also included are educational pieces of our Red River Métis symbols, icons, and heroes, and spotlights on Red River Métis Elders, Youth, and artists in our community. We look forward to expanding our newsletter to include information on Red River Métis historical sites in the future.

Our newsletter was uploaded on the Culture and Heritage webpage by the Communications Department, and future newsletters will be uploaded on the webpage as well.

Minister Anderson and the Culture & Heritage Department look forward to expanding on the successes found in 2023-2024 by continuing to promote the revitalization of the Red River Métis culture and identity through events, programming, and other initiatives, and showing our support for our Citizens. The Red River Métis are no longer hiding in plain sight!

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





EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE



FRANCES CHARTRAND
MINISTER

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Department continued to offer strong Métis-specific programs and services throughout the Red River Métis Homeland during the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

We celebrated the opening of Li Pchi Pwayson Child Care Facility, a 40-space infant-preschool centre in St. Laurent. The Department also saw the renovation of the Louis Riel Child Care Centre in the Winnipeg Region and the building of Li Pchi Taanfaan in The Pas. Both locations will offer 40 licensed infant and preschool spaces. Our partnership with Infinity Women Secretariat will celebrate the grand opening of Little Infinity, a 55-space infant, preschool, and school-aged before and after program/centre. The MMF property at 200 Main Street has been benchmarked to open an additional 40-space child care centre focused on meeting the child care needs of our MMF staff and families.

MMF ELCC strives to offer affordable, accessible, and inclusive child care to our youngest Red River Métis Citizens. Our dedication and passion for quality child care services continues. We currently have 10 operational facilities: Michif Children's Place, Li Chi Shevru, Louis Riel Child Care Centre, Li Pchi Taanfaan, Elbert Chartrand Child Care Centre, and Li Pchi Pwayson, including our partnerships with Abinoje Head Start in Duck Bay, Keewatinowi Awasisak Opi-Ki-Wak Child Care Centre in Thompson, Little Infinity in St. Andrews, and Little Stars PLAYhouse in Winnipeg.

The Department's Licensed Home Child Care Program also continued to flourish. We celebrated opening three new home facilities, with two more set to be licensed in late 2024.



The Department continues to experience an influx of interested Red River Métis Citizens and can expect another program to run in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Through committed partnerships with MMF Government Departments and recognized institutions, MMF ELCC provided opportunities to train passionate individuals to receive their Early Childhood Education. Métis Employment and Training and Louis Riel Vocational College have supported the classification of Child Care Assistants and Early Childhood Educators, Level II and Level III. We saw the addition of the Ukraine Child Care Cohort, which secured funding to train up to 25 Ukrainian evacuees in Early Childhood Education in partnership with the province. Through ongoing recruitment and retention strategies, MMF ELCC has dedicated itself to aiding the child care workforce shortage by offering programs that meet the needs of our child care staff and centres; this included a strong campaign during the Week of the ECE and the Inspire Tomorrow's Leaders initiative.

Continuing to meet the demands of our Citizens, MMF ELCC distributed four rounds of the My Little Métis Box, a subscription box specifically designed for registered Red River Métis children between the ages of zero and six. To complement this popular initiative, MMF ELCC also launched Bundle of Joy, a subscription box for newborns up to one year of age.

Parenting Programs and the Summer Métis Mobile Program were offered throughout each Region. The former connected participants to the Michif language, traditions, and culture, while the latter focused on land-based education and activities. Both programs allowed MMF ELCC to work in conjunction with the Regions and Locals while instilling Red River Métis pride and identity throughout the Homeland.

The Red River Métis longitudinal study, the first of its kind, is in development. Alongside the Health and Wellness Department, the study will focus on the outcomes of language and culture amongst our Red River Métis children. The Early Learning and Child Care Department will continue to develop and offer meaningful programs to our Citizens through provincial scans, including feasibility studies, research, data collection, and engagement.

Our community outreach and collaboration with MMF Departments took us to the Shell River Jamboree, Ste. Madeleine Métis Days, National Indigenous Peoples Day, LRI Corn Roast, Louis Riel Day, and the Swan River Rodeo, to name a few, and provided our Department with invaluable opportunities to connect with Citizens and provide hands-on learning opportunities. ELCC was also invited once again to speak at the Aboriginal Head Start Conference, and we rounded out a full year with our first annual Red River Métis Child Care Conference. Our discussions on Red River Métis identity, inclusion, and land-based opportunities were just a few of the workshops. Over 250 delegates and participants were in attendance.

ELCC would like to thank our Elders, Cabinet, and Red River Métis Citizens for their continued encouragement and engagement in our programming. ELCC is committed to offering quality, affordable, and accessible Early Learning programming to our children, families, and communities.

A man in silhouette is shown in profile, looking out a window. The background is a bright, overcast sky. The image is decorated with several colorful, abstract patterns of dots in the corners, resembling stylized flowers or starbursts. The colors include red, blue, green, yellow, and pink. The text 'ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT' is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



DAVID CHARTRAND
PRESIDENT

In 2023-24 Economic Development led, coordinated, and supported economic development initiatives across the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF). The Department worked closely and collaboratively with the MMF Policy and Delivery Unit, and the majority of Departments and Affiliates to advance MMF economic development interests and promote Red River Métis businesses and entrepreneurship. Economic Development emphasized and supported Red River Métis economic and community development in traditional economies, business development and growth, procurement, major capital projects, business ventures and partnerships, international trade, as well as in lands and properties and other commercial 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 nine (9) Officer positions, provided direct Red River Métis distinction-based support to over 700 Red River Métis businesses and entrepreneurs registered with the MMF in 2023-24. Services, among others, included navigation to business supports, alignment to procurement opportunities, and promoting network connections.

Through collaboration with the Red River Métis Business Development Corporation (RRMBDC) and Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC), RRMECD contributed to the delivery of the Red River Métis Business Expo in November 2023. At the Expo the MMF announced the creation of the Red River Métis Business Association. The Association is informed by an Advisory Group



made up of 12 Red River Métis business owners, administratively supported by the RRMBDC, and actively promoted by RRMECD.

RRMECD equally contributed to the preparations of the inaugural Red River Métis Business Excellence Gala to be held in 2024-25. Planning activities in 2023-24 included working with others in establishing award categories, event planning, and promoting nominations.

In 2023-24, RRMECD worked closely and coordinated with the Red River Métis Marketplace to connect, promote, and showcase over 170 Red River Métis artists and artisans. The work of Red River Métis artists and artisans continue to be featured in the Marketplace retail storefronts, online, and at various events.

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

Developing partnerships and creating alignment to procurement opportunities for Red River Métis businesses continued to be a priority activity for Economic Development in 2023-24.

Representing MMF and Red River Métis interests, Economic Development played an active role in Canada's Transformation of Indigenous Procurement Strategy, which explored and continues to seek new ways for the Government of Canada to deliver on its 5% mandate of Indigenous business participation in its procurement.

The Red River Métis Business Expo in November 2023 was focused on procurement and over 120 participating Red River Métis businesses learned more about procurement processes and networked with representatives from the Government of Canada, provincial Crown Corporations, multi-national and national Corporations, and Departments and Affiliates of the MMF.

During 2023-24, Economic Development engaged with 20 entities to discuss their procurement needs and potential alignment with Red River Métis businesses. Discussions continue with these entities with one-on-one introductions and event-based connections planned for 2024-25.

Economic Development offered expert technical procurement advisory services at no cost for Red River Métis businesses. Through the service, 13 Red River Métis businesses accessed 3 to 5 hours of personalized procurement support. Support included, but was not limited to, assistance in finding procurement opportunities, responding to tenders/Request for Proposals (RFPs), and understanding contract responsibilities.

MMF AFFILIATE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development led and supported business creation, development, and acquisition services for MMF Affiliate businesses in 2023-24.

Working closely with MMF Affiliate Métis Economic Development Organization (MEDO) and its group of companies, Economic Development continued to support the business performance of ESGS Inc., MEDOCare Pharmacy, MEDO Golf & Country Club (o/a Lake Manitoba Resort), and MEDO Developments. Key activities in 2023-24 were the expansion of MEDOCare Pharmacy to its second location in Dauphin and completion of the Lake Manitoba Resort Clubhouse Restaurant. Grand Openings for both of these are planned for 2024-25.

Economic Development also led the start-up of the Red River Métis Tree Nursery business which once fully operational will deliver on the MMF's Make our Homeland Green Again initiative as well as deliver a self-sufficient model through the sales of trees for reforestation, urban canopy projects, and shelterbelt and erosion control initiatives.

Working with MMF IT and MMF Operations, Economic Development initiated a review of data centre capabilities at the MMF for potential business development. Early promising signs suggest business development of a data centre service for third parties will be pursued in 2024-25.

Economic Development spent a significant amount of time in 2023-24 conducting an assessment and due diligence in the acquisition of Rapid City Granite (o/a Rapid City Memorials). The business is expected to be acquired in 2024-25. The over 30 year-old memorial stone business serves the MMF Southwest and Northwest Regions and has notable potential for expansion.

LANDS AND PROPERTIES

The Lands and Properties division of Economic Development, through its Manager, worked with MMF's Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Policy and Delivery Unit, Finance, and Housing and Property Management, as well as with MMF Affiliates LRCC, and Métis N4 Construction, and 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.

Some examples of land and property acquisitions in 2023-24 include the youth camp in Woodlands, and 200 Main Street and 165 Fort Street in Winnipeg. Property acquisition assessment and due diligence was also undertaken in 2023-24, of note were 333 Main Street, 191 and 179 Pioneer Avenue in Winnipeg with those purchases expected to conclude in 2024-25.

Throughout 2023-24, Lands and Properties worked closely with others in the assessment, coordination, and support of capital development and redevelopment projects on government and commercial properties. Examples of major capital projects included the Government House Energy Efficiency Retrofit Project, 335 Main (Winnipeg) Redevelopment, 25-35 Ray Marius (Winnipeg) Warehouse Development, Lake Manitoba Resort Campground Development (RM of St. Laurent), and 1133-1147 Breezy Point (RM of St. Andrews) Redevelopment.





A worker in winter gear and a balaclava stands on a blue scissor lift against a dark building facade. The scene is decorated with colorful dot-matrix graphics of stylized flowers and abstract shapes. The text 'ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE' is overlaid in white.

ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE



JACK PARK
MINISTER

The Energy and Infrastructure portfolio was created by the Manitoba Métis Federation, the National Government of the Red River Métis, to protect the rights, claims, and interests of our Citizens across the National Homeland. The Energy and Infrastructure team manages engagement and consultation with a variety of energy and infrastructure proponents, including the Provincial and Federal Government, Manitoba Hydro, SaskPower, Federal Regulators, and the private sector.

Projects that Energy and Infrastructure staff work with include generating stations, transmission lines, pipelines, solar, wind and nuclear power, and infrastructure projects including roads, water treatment plants, bridges, dams, and outlet channels. An example of a Beyond Borders initiative is the ongoing engagement with SaskPower for the siting of a possible small nuclear reactor in southern Saskatchewan. The team also leads monitoring initiatives, sample testing plans, and actively seeks out new opportunities that benefit Red River Métis.

Energy and Infrastructure is guided by the Resolution 8 Process which seeks meaningful, distinctions-based Red River Métis engagement and consultation and represents the collectively held rights, claims, and interests of our Citizens. Citizen meetings are the backbone for gathering feedback, sharing information, and recording possible impacts. When necessary, Energy and Infrastructure undertakes 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 holders. All this information is combined into a comprehensive report that Citizens can review, and proponents can use to develop appropriate mitigation strategies. As part of the Manitoba Métis Federation'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.

By working in close partnership with other Manitoba Métis Federation departments such as Métis Employment and Training, Mining, Environment and Climate Change, Natural Resources, and Housing, and with affiliates such as Métis N4 Construction, Energy and Infrastructure has been able to help usher in new programs such as Métis Energy Efficiency Offers, and infrastructure projects like the home office energy retrofit of 150 Henry Avenue and the Breezy Point (St. Andrews) Greenhouses.



The Métis Energy Efficiency Offers program is a partnership between the Manitoba Métis Federation and Efficiency Manitoba. It is aimed at providing qualifying low to mid-income Red River Métis households with a free high-efficiency furnace and/or home insulation to make their homes more energy efficient by lowering their monthly energy bills.

Monitoring is a crucial component of engagement and allows for firsthand knowledge of projects that concern Citizens. Energy and Infrastructure employs Red River Métis construction and environmental monitors that ensure contractors are following mitigations to protect the environment. Heritage monitoring is crucial to the Manitoba Métis Federation because it reinforces connections to the past, to the National Homeland, and to the incredible collective history we share as Red River Métis. Through a partnership with renowned Red River Métis archeologist Dr. Supernant, Energy and Infrastructure is developing heritage protocols to better identify artifacts and sites of significance to our Citizens. These heritage protocols will guide governments and archeologists on best practices for Red River Métis heritage resources.



MONITORING IS A CRUCIAL COMPONENT OF ENGAGEMENT AND ALLOWS FOR FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE OF PROJECTS THAT CONCERN CITIZENS. ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE EMPLOYS RED RIVER MÉTIS CONSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORS THAT ENSURE CONTRACTORS ARE FOLLOWING MITIGATIONS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT.

As part of the agreed terms for the Line 3 Replacement Project, the Canadian Energy Regulator created the Indigenous Advisory Committee. The Indigenous Advisory Committee is a committee of nine representatives and is led by a Chair and Vice-Chair selected by the Indigenous Advisory Committee. The Red River Métis representative at the Indigenous Advisory Committee is Marci Riel; she continues to represent the rights, claims, and interests of the Red River Métis.

Energy and Infrastructure is working with federal project funders like Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (formerly Infrastructure Canada) and federal regulators that guide Canada's energy and infrastructure future. Guided by Resolution 8, the Energy and Infrastructure team works with federal counterparts to ensure Red River Métis are included in the many opportunities that are coming from Canada's energy transition. Your Red River Métis Government is working with Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure to better engage and consult with Red River Métis Citizens, with the aim of addressing the massive influx of infrastructure projects that have potential impacts on Red River Métis rights, claims, and interests. Consultation meetings were held in the Fall to get feedback on multiple projects, with more meetings planned for 2024/25.

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) has resurfaced the St. Andrews Lock and Dam bridge and added wheelchair accessibility to the bridge walkway at the site. In the spring of 2021, the project uncovered 150-year-old human remains. To date they have uncovered over 23,000 artifacts from the soils of this historically Red River Métis land. A monitoring agreement with PSPC allowed Energy and Infrastructure to hire a Red River Métis archeologist to work onsite for the duration of the construction phase and to assist with cataloguing artifacts. PSPC plans to have ongoing retrofits on the structure over the next decade. In 2023 the Manitoba Métis Federation signed the Revitalization Agreement with Manitoba Hydro. The agreement represents a new chapter in the relationship with Red River Métis and provides capacity to undertake studies, Citizen engagement, and to participate in Hydro's engagement and monitoring activities. Manitoba Hydro has several projects in progress through 2023/24, including the St. Vital Transmission Line, preliminary engagement for the PW75 Pointe du Bois refurbishment of lines and generating station, Wash'ake Mayzoon Station near Portage la Prairie and ongoing monitoring with the Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project, 24kms of new line near Gillam as part of R44H, and a new line segment near Portage la Prairie as part of the Portage Area Capacity Enhancement project. Energy and Infrastructure continues to work closely with Manitoba Hydro on monitoring activities such as the Coordinated Aquatic Monitoring Program, Citizen engagement sessions, and through negotiations to refine Hydro's engagement and consultation process so that it is representative of Red River Métis specific distinctions.

Energy and Infrastructure completed a Métis traditional knowledge, land use, and occupancy study for the Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels project in 2022. The report considers the potential impacts of the project on the way in which our Citizens use the land, water, and resources in and around the project area. Energy and Infrastructure also produced a study on low impact design options that would support biodiversity and mitigate impacts to Red River Métis harvesters. The Government of Canada's June 6th Impact Assessment Report about the project agrees with the Manitoba Métis Federation that impacts to the exercise of Indigenous rights to harvest and use the land for traditional-use purposes will be

fundamentally altered and have not been sufficiently mitigated. The Manitoba Métis Federation will continue to advocate for appropriate design and mitigations to ensure that the path forward fully considers the impact of the project on the rights, claims, and interests of our Citizens.

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories has begun decommissioning the Pinawa nuclear reactor site and is applying for a licence from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission on their proposed decommissioning plan to remove radioactive waste to the Chalk River, Ontario storage facility and decommission the WR-1 reactor by burying the reactor in concrete grout at the site.



With funding from the Canadian Nuclear Labs and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, your Red River Métis Government has undertaken a technical review of the project, held two community consultation meetings on the plan, and proposed monitoring activities, Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study, and an assessment of the value components used by the proponent to assess the potential impacts of the project.

Your Red River Métis Government appeared on your behalf in the regulatory hearings for the environmental licensing of both the current state of the nuclear reactor and the proposed in-situ decommissioning. As a result of that intervention, the Manitoba Métis Federation had a Métis Environmental Monitor on site for a variety of monitoring tasks over the past three years, including: water sampling at the discharge lagoon; monitor well water sampling; overland water outflow testing; and edible plant, fungus, and game testing in the area.

Although your Red River Métis government terminated the engagement-based relationship agreement with Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, we continue to work with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission on important regulatory processes across our National Homeland. Energy and Infrastructure has recently hired a Nuclear Energy Specialist to develop a Red River Métis specific environmental monitoring program based on Citizen land use and harvesting in the area which includes foods such as berries, fungi, medicines, fish, game and firewood.





ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION



DENISE THOMAS
MINISTER

The Engagement and Consultation 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. Engagement and consultation with the Red River Métis Community is vital to ensure our rights are protected and any 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 2023-2024 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, housing, justice, and education. The Department worked with various MMF Departments, assisting with proposal writing and undertaking engagement and consultation activities. In our previous AGA report, the Department had been involved in approximately **550** files. Currently, the Department oversees approximately **711** files, which represents an increase of approximately 29%.

RED RIVER MÉTIS BEYOND BORDERS

Throughout the year, the Department continued to play an integral part in ensuring the inclusion of Citizens living Beyond Borders for community meetings and events.

Following the 17 Red River Self-Government Treaty consultations across the Homeland and Beyond Borders, the Department managed satellite viewings of the Extraordinary General Assembly in Vancouver, BC; Toronto, ON; and, Ottawa, ON. The satellite locations provided Beyond Borders Citizens with the opportunity to gather and vote on the historic ratification of the Treaty.

From October 13-15, 2023, the Department managed the first-ever satellite venues hosting the Annual General Assembly in Vancouver, BC; Toronto, ON; and Ottawa, ON, where Beyond Borders Citizens had the chance to interact with MMF leadership, cast their votes, and propose resolutions to the appointed Committee.

From March 8-10, 2024, the Department assisted the Sixties Scoop and Residential Schools Department with managing logistics and outreach for the Survivor Symposium. This included coordinating registration, travel, and accommodation arrangements for Survivors living outside of Manitoba to ensure their inclusion in activities intended to provide tools for healing and resilience.

On March 9, 2024, the Department also held a community meeting on the National Strategy for Indigenous Sport, Recreation, Physical Activity, and Traditional Practices for Red River Métis Youth, which included Citizens from Saskatchewan, Newfoundland, Northwest Territories, Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia.

SURVIVOR SYMPOSIUM – RESILIENCE: OUR NATION, OUR COMMUNITY, OURSELVES

As a continuation of the work the Department assisted with during the ***Bringing Our Children's Spirit Home Consultation*** in 2023, the Survivor Symposium equipped the Sixties Scoop & Residential Schools Department with additional avenues to address historical injustices, identify and acknowledge impacted individuals, and provide a platform for building trust and understanding.

The event focused on the theme of “*Resilience: Our Nation, Our Community, Ourselves,*” with various presentations, panel discussions, cultural workshops, and the Oral History Archival Project.

Department staff managed logistics leading up to the event, including personal outreach to Survivors across the Homeland and beyond, ensuring attendees were accommodated as necessary to meaningfully participate in person. Throughout the event, the Department recorded and led focus group discussions, providing Survivors an opportunity to discuss their needs as they relate to reconciliation. The Department was integral in ensuring Citizens’ overall comfort and well-being on site.

Through sharing circle activities, focus groups, and written submissions, our Departments successfully gathered perspectives from nearly 100 Survivors and their families on advocating for an enhanced federal policy, concrete actions towards reconciliation, and the importance of accountability.



WORK WITH HEALTH REGULATORY/LICENSING BODIES

Throughout Manitoba, many organizations exist to provide effective regulation and oversight for healthcare practitioners, including dentists, nurses, dieticians, and more. They also provide licenses to providers, advocate for patients, and promote the benefits of their services.

As the MMF works to combat the widespread health disparities and institutional racism our Citizens continue to endure, we met with the Manitoba Alliance of Health Regulatory Colleges (MAHRC), to ensure their understanding of Resolution No. 8, Land Acknowledgement language, and the MMF's role in advocating for the advancement of Red River Métis Citizens' health and wellness.

Currently, our work has resulted in a reserved seat on the Manitoba Dental Association task force and the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Manitoba's updated Land Acknowledgement.

It should be noted that not all regulatory colleges are MAHRC members, such as the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba ("CPSM"). Nonetheless, the Department is in negotiations with CPSM to establish Standards of Practice on Anti-Racism to ensure our Citizens are acknowledged and respected across all affiliated practices.

An engagement took place March 19, 2024, with a small group of Red River Métis Citizens impacted by racism in the healthcare field, who provided valuable feedback to CPSM. The Department has also led discussions with CPSM on providing an apology to the Red River Métis to promote a reconciliatory relationship going forward.

WORK WITH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Since our last report, the Department has worked to bring Resolution No. 8 to the educational community by conducting positive discussions with organizations throughout the Homeland, including French-speaking school divisions and post-secondary institutions. The Department has contacted several of these establishments to discuss verification of Red River Métis identity in selection processes, effective communication with the MMF, and distinctions-based programming, including:

- ∞ Red River College Polytech
- ∞ University of Manitoba
- ∞ Assiniboine Community College
- ∞ McGill University
- ∞ Brandon University
- ∞ Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology
- ∞ Winnipeg One School Division
- ∞ University of Winnipeg
- ∞ Division Scolaire Franco-Manitobaine
- ∞ Louis Riel School Division
- ∞ Pembina Trails School Division
- ∞ Seven Oaks School Division
- ∞ St. James-Assiniboia School Division

As we work to promote Resolution No. 8, correct Land Acknowledgements, and create opportunities for collaboration, we continue to lead open discussions and develop partnerships with over 100 organizations.

To date, we have prepared feedback on educational strategies for several institutions, leading to discussions surrounding updated/modified Memorandums of Understanding, corrected narratives, and increased awareness surrounding the accurate representation of the Red River Métis.

Meetings with academic institutions work to advance critical components of the Department's strategic pillars, namely to educate external parties on the engagement and consultation process within the National Government of the Red River Métis and to ensure the educational needs of the Community are considered.

UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES – IMPLEMENTATION OF A RED RIVER MÉTIS ACTION PLAN

Since 2021, Citizens have utilized various opportunities to voice their feedback on the MMF's list of priorities as it relates to the UN Declaration (UNDRIP) and the creation of a Red River Métis-specific Action Plan. Leadership and experts throughout the Homeland have delivered compelling presentations, igniting discussions with Citizens on advancing Red River Métis rights.

Citizens from all seven Regions and beyond have contributed a mass of invaluable data to assist with this initiative, including the following topics:

- ∞ Environment, Lands, Territories and Resources;
- ∞ Red River Métis Languages;
- ∞ Education;
- ∞ Culture;
- ∞ Health;
- ∞ Justice;
- ∞ 2SLGBTQQIA+, Women, Elders, Youth and Children; and
- ∞ The rights of Métis Citizens with disabilities.

In March 2024, the Department was pleased to report our successful application in the amount of \$405,000.00 to continue advocating for the direct needs of our Citizens within UNDRIP, including its validation by Citizens throughout the National Homeland.

This funding will augment the wealth of feedback received since 2021, including addressing the need for a fulsome Research and Ethics Protocol within the MMF. As the assertion of the MMF's jurisdiction in research and data sovereignty is instrumental to our collective and individual rights across the Homeland, the larger UNDRIP Implementation will include this key component.

Commencing in the Spring and Summer 2024, the Department will conduct one-on-one discussions with directors to generate analyses of the current Action Plan's gaps to prepare for additional consultation with Citizens. Through this process, we will be equipped to produce a five-year budget to implement a Red River Métis-specific UNDRIP Action Plan that truly considers the needs of our Citizens.

REVIEW OF FEDERAL CONSULTATION GUIDELINES

The Department hosted the Federal Consultation and Accommodation Unit (CAU) to discuss the Department's mandate, Resolution No. 8, and apparent gaps between our established consultation processes and Canada's outdated federal guidelines. The need for increased regulatory capacity from the CAU and the

MMF's desire to work with Canada using Resolution No. 8 have been included as vital pieces of this proposal.

Following the productive dialogue, the Department will be pursuing \$200,000.00 in funding from the CAU to consult our Citizens on the redrafting of federal guidelines for consultation and accommodation.

As we continue to secure capacity to engage our Citizens, we can ensure federal policy falls in line with UNDRIP and Resolution No. 8 so Red River Métis Citizens can meaningfully voice their concerns regarding projects with the potential to impact their rights, interests, and claims.

NATIONAL STRATEGY ON INDIGENOUS SPORT, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, RECREATION, AND TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PRACTICES

Over the past year, the Department worked to ensure the Red River Métis were properly and meaningfully engaged in the development of the National Strategy for Indigenous Sport, Recreation, Physical Activity, and Traditional Cultural Practices.

Leading the initiative, the Aboriginal Sport Circle is "Canada's national voice for Aboriginal Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation bringing together the interests of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples."

The strategy attempts to drive sustainable change in Canada's sport, physical activity, and health and wellness sectors and is a direct response to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action (No. 87-91) that honour the principles of UNDRIP.

With persistence, the MMF established a three-phase approach with Aboriginal Sport Circle, beginning with securing funding to host a community meeting with Youth on March 9, 2024, to gather perspectives and feedback in creating a framework as part of phase one.

As phase one of the engagement process was completed in March of 2024, the Department continues its efforts to include Red River Métis perspectives by seeking additional funding capacity in the amount of \$200,000.00 to undertake a second phase of engagement.

RED RIVER MÉTIS JUSTICE STRATEGY

Continuing activities from last year, supporting the development of a Red River Métis Justice Strategy and an overall federal Indigenous 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.

Last year, the Department had the honour of conducting interviews with Métis Elders to gather perspectives regarding Traditional Law, incarceration, and alternative sentencing.

On March 21, 2024, the Department assisted with facilitating focus group sessions in Winnipeg, gathering perspectives on topics including reconciliation, intergenerational effects of trauma, and ways to reduce the number of Red River Métis in the justice system.

Throughout the process, the Department assisted with Citizen registration, collecting data during focus group sessions, and other logistical requirements on site. All data provided to the Métis Justice Institute will assist with reporting, informing future programs and services, and understanding uniquely Métis perspectives on the justice system.

Currently, data is being compiled to ensure Canada's Indigenous Justice Strategy considers the most pressing needs of the Red River Métis. By ensuring their interests are meaningfully considered and implemented within the Strategy, the Department will continue to advance reconciliation and culturally appropriate, Métis-led, and community-based justice services.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Department has been meeting with organizations to update outdated language in their Land Acknowledgements to accurately reflect the "National Homeland of the Red River Métis." With the signing of our Self-Government Agreement on July 6, 2021, some organizations still use outdated or inaccurate language, prompting the drafting of numerous letters to school divisions, entertainment industries, private companies, etc.

To date, we have had meaningful discussions with, or sent letters to, over **113** organizations to update their Land Acknowledgement.



A person wearing a blue hoodie and a cap is seen from behind, fishing on a beach. The background is a soft-focus view of the ocean and sky. The image is decorated with colorful, dotted patterns in the corners, resembling stylized flowers or abstract shapes. The text "ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE" is overlaid in large, white, bold letters.

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 and 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 to cultivate a future that allows for the continued and lasting culture of the Red River Métis across our 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 to ensure 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 2023-2024 fiscal year achieved significant progress towards the advancement of the E&CC Portfolio by prioritizing core development centred on:

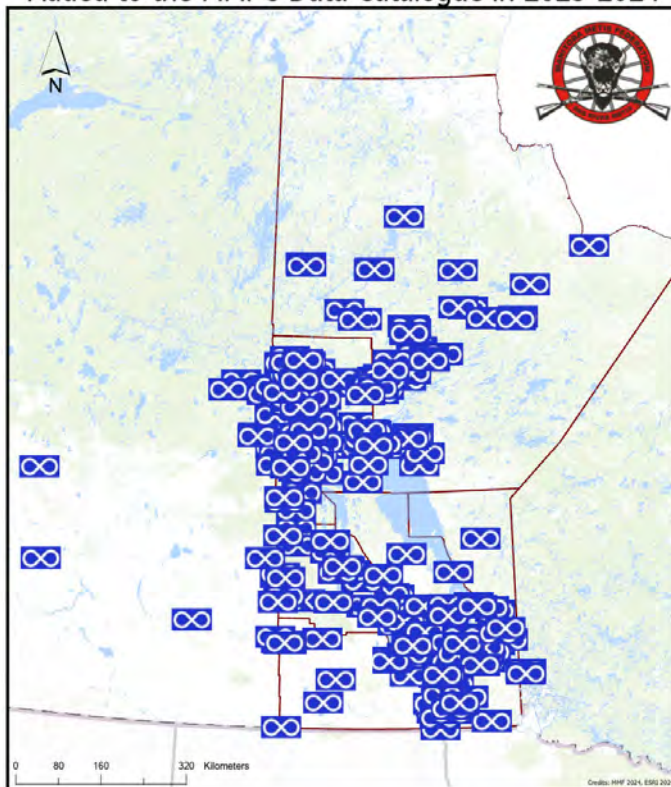
- ∞ Developing a climate adaptation and resiliency plan to reduce MMF's carbon footprint;
- ∞ Working towards developing an Emergency Preparedness strategy for when villages are struck by forest fires, floods, or other natural disasters; and
- ∞ Engaging with Elders and Youth to explore how the rapidly changing climate is affecting Citizens through climate change education and awareness, and land-based education events.

MÉTIS KNOWLEDGE, LAND-USE, AND OCCUPANCY STUDIES

The MMF collected in-depth Red River Métis Knowledge, Land Use, and Occupancy Data with 30 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 Knowledge Land-Use & Occupancy Data Added to the MMF's Data Catalogue in 2023-2024



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, 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 Red River Métis Elders and Knowledge Holders in these activities to promote generational transfer of knowledge.

During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, MELT engaged 121 Red River Métis Youth through a variety of different activities, including the following:



THE MMF COLLECTED IN-DEPTH RED RIVER MÉTIS KNOWLEDGE, LAND USE, AND OCCUPANCY DATA WITH 30 CITIZENS WHO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LANDS AND WATERS WITHIN THE NATIONAL HOMELAND.

- ∞ **Turtle Mountain Field Days:** These events combine different MMF portfolios and files to complete work and host events in areas of historical significance to Red River Métis Citizens. This included local harvesting or trapping demonstrations, conversations with local Knowledge Holders, as well as western science, which includes monitoring efforts.
- ∞ **Regional Environmental Day Camps:** These camps focus on a variety of land-based activities that highlight the natural ecosystem, while learning about the impacts of climate change. Youth took part in activities such as canoeing, plant and animal identification, foraging, birdhouse making and installing, discussions on climate change, nature walks, fishing, water quality testing, critter dipping, and more.
- ∞ **Farm and Ranch Tours:** These tours took place on Red River Métis-owned farms and ranches, all of which received or will receive funding through MMF's Agriculture Portfolio's On-Farm Climate Action Fund. Youth learned about their operations, the climate actions the producers are implementing to adopt on-farm beneficial management practices, and why it is important to help protect the environment. These tours highlighted the importance of farm-to-fork and how to make conscientious decisions when purchasing and consuming foods.
- ∞ **Climate Symposium on the Ice:** In February of 2024, multiple files in the E&CC Portfolio worked together to implement the Climate Symposium on the Ice event. This event provided the opportunity for Red River Métis Youth to fish, connect with Red River Métis Citizens and Harvesters, learn science-related practices from environmental organizations, and to learn the impacts of climate change on ice. This event took place in Gimli and saw 20 Red River Métis Youth in attendance.



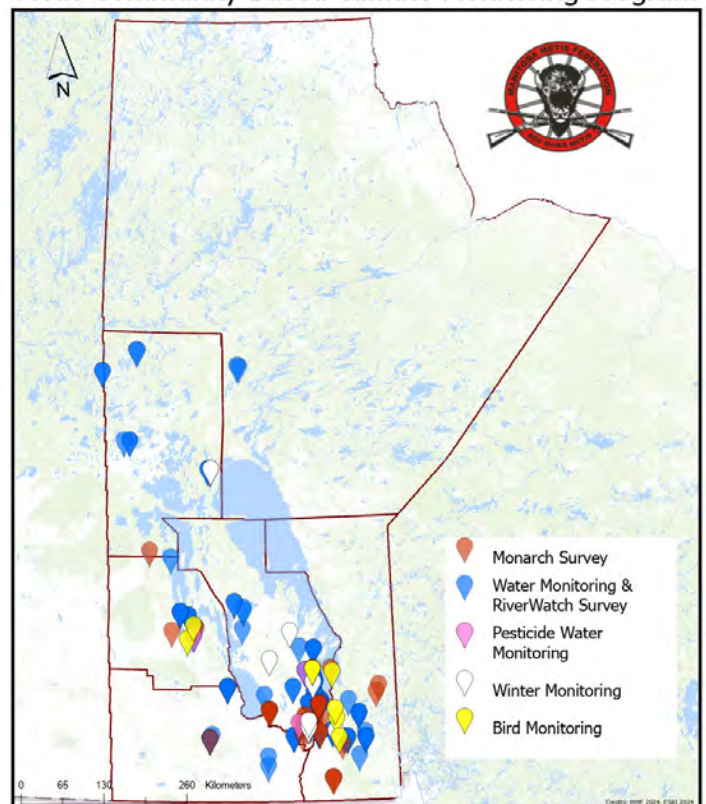
Going forward, MELT will continue to offer these events and work with MMF Regions and Locals interested in hosting other land-based events. MELT also works to create and maintain partnerships within schools and educational institutes which allow the delivery of climate-focused education programs from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



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 and environmental changes across our 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, and to become a Red River Métis Citizen Scientist. 2023-2024 programming under the Métis Community-Based Monitoring Network included 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,

2023-2024 Monitoring Sites for the Métis Community-Based Climate Monitoring Program



including those beyond borders. In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, each monitoring program saw the highest number of recruitment and engagement since the start of the MCBCM program. The MMF has been working diligently to increase the number of programming available to our Red River Métis Citizens, including the addition of an MMF Vegetation Monitoring Program, which will be available for the next fiscal year (2024-2025).

The MCBCM program also hosts many Citizen Science events throughout the year that integrate western science and Red River Métis Traditional Knowledge to increase environmental literacy. Events offered included 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 platforms for future events near you.

WEATHER KEEPER PROGRAM

The Weather Keeper Program, in partnership with the Centre for Earth Observation Science at the University of Manitoba, collected and monitored atmospheric data across the National Homeland. This monitoring network worked closely with Red River Métis Citizens and MMF Locals who are proximate to waterbodies, and maintained meteorological stations for real-time climate data collection. The information collected is publicly displayed on the MMF website. There are weather stations in St. Laurent (Interlake Region), Lakeshore (Northwest Region), and Dawson Bay (The Pas Region). In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Weather Keeper Program acquired two more meteorological stations to deploy and will be working with interested Red River Métis Citizens to expand our monitoring network.

The Weather Keeper Program provides the MMF with valuable information on land-use changes and variability in weather, along with insight into the local and regional effects of climate change.

RED RIVER MÉTIS STEWARDS OF THE HOMELAND PROGRAM



RED RIVER MÉTIS STEWARDS OF THE HOMELAND

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, which includes 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;
- ∞ Receive training to support safe harvest practices and training on environmental data collection to contribute to MMF-led stewardship projects on conservation and protection initiatives; and
- ∞ Assist in the hands-on restoration of the National Homeland of the Red River Métis as a Red River Métis “Steward of the Homeland.”

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

The RRM SOHP is also in the process of developing educational resources and integrating cultural harvesting practice workshops, such as slingshot and snare making, at various events throughout the year.



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 would be 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 for a Carbon Offsets project. This partnership provides an opportunity for the MMF to become involved in the carbon market through formal structured carbon offsets. Projects that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, through required processes, can earn carbon credits/carbon offsets. These credits can then be sold to high GHG-emitting companies (i.e., oil and gas companies) in order to meet the federally mandated carbon reduction goals. This partnership will develop a sustainability framework, gap analysis, and materiality assessment methodologies, and identify alignment standards.



THE MMF WORKED TOWARDS CREATING AND IMPLEMENTING EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLANS ALONG WITH HAZARD IDENTIFICATION RISK ASSESSMENTS (HIRA).

The MMF continued to implement an Indigenous Climate Leadership project to address climate change and promote sustainable development across the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. Using Red River Métis Traditional Knowledge, the project focused on innovative solutions like reducing carbon emissions and creating community-led climate initiatives. To support this work, the MMF will provide Canada recommendations on several key areas such as how to fund climate initiatives, report progress, manage projects effectively, build skills and capacity, climate action priorities, and how to manage costs. These recommendations aim to ensure the project is well-funded, transparent, and effectively managed while addressing Red River Métis climate priorities. By providing these guidelines, the MMF hopes to strengthen collaboration with Canada, ensuring Red River Métis voices are included in national climate plans, benefiting the environment, creating jobs, and preserving Red River Métis culture.

ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

The MMF worked towards creating and implementing 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. The HIRA will help provide information on program priorities, realistic exercise scenarios, and highlight the need for specific plans and procedures. The Emergency Management Plans and HIRAs will assist in protecting Red River Métis Citizens in the event of natural disasters such as wildfires, floods, power outages, and other climate-related disasters. The MMF is preparing programs and initiatives for Red River Métis Citizens, and looks forward to sharing these opportunities soon.

For questions concerning the Environment and Climate Change Portfolio, please use the following link to contact technical staff:

<https://www.mmf.mb.ca/environment-climate-change>





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 has been a fundamental concern for our families and Nation since our inception. The housing crisis was exacerbated during the Reign of Terror in the 1870s and further when we were forced to live on road allowances in our own Homeland. Addressing Red River Métis housing needs has been a nation-building priority in recent years. With strengthened nation-to-nation and government-to-government relations with Canada, the MMF has introduced several initiatives to provide our Citizens with the ‘head start’ promised in the Manitoba Act of 1870. Thanks to our strong governance, we are expanding housing opportunities for our Citizens. From first-time homebuyer programs and home repair funding to homelessness supports and new rental housing for seniors and families, the MMF’s Housing Department is fulfilling that promise of a ‘head start.’

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. 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 and relations for the Red River Métis Nation.”

Minister Will Goodon

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 Department to grow substantially over the past few years. The Department has gone from a team of three to a team of 33 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 a new child care centre in St. Laurent, and are nearing completions for centres in The Pas, St. Boniface, and St. Andrews. Infinity Women Secretariat will operate the St. Andrews child care centre (just south of Selkirk). Child care builds have also been completed in Dauphin, Swan River, St. Eustache, and Duck Bay. Our Construction Division also managed the renovations at the St. Ambroise Youth Resource Centre and completed work at the Dauphin Regional Office and Pharmacy in 2022. Previously, the team had overseen renovations creating the regional satellite office for Flin Flon, and new satellite offices attached to the child care centres in Swan River and St. Eustache.

Throughout the province, the MMF has been working hard to provide safe, affordable housing to Red River Métis Citizens. The MMF Housing Department is managing 83 affordable housing units and five market rate units across the province. Several housing projects have been initiated in the 2023/2024 fiscal year and are scheduled to be complete in the summer and fall of 2024.



NEW SUBDIVISIONS

Work is near completion on new subdivided lands in The Pas and in St. Georges (adjacent to the Winnipeg River). Phase I of The Pas subdivision consists of a new cul-du-sac street, three seniors’ duplexes, and a daycare centre. Units within the subdivision are steel frame construction and 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 have four builds: two duplexes and two single detached two-bedroom bungalows.

The two-bedroom floor plans are designed for wheelchair accessibility. The duplexes will each have one three-bedroom unit and one two-bedroom unit. All units will have attached garages and storages spaces. These projects are scheduled to be complete in the late summer and early fall.



SELKIRK 55+

355 Eveline Street in Selkirk, a six-storey, 49-unit mixed-use commercial and residential building for Red River Métis seniors, is nearing completion. The building will include accessibility features and various bedroom options, tenant amenities, and access to service providers located within the building. Approximately 30% of the units will rent at affordable rates, while the remainder will be rented at market rental rates. There will be a total of 14 two-bedroom units, 20 one-bedrooms plus a den, and 15 one-bedrooms. Nine of the one-bedrooms will be fully accessible. Construction for the project started in July 2023 and is scheduled to be completed by November 2024.

MICHIF MANOR

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

This project being built for the Department of Health and Wellness allows us to provide a facility that takes care of the caregivers. Construction for the project started in the summer of 2023 and is scheduled to be complete September 2024.



MAZOUN INFINITI PAKOSHAYIMOOHK

Mazoun (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, Mazoun will consist of two buildings with seven suites each. The complex will have 10 transitional suites for Youth aging out of care, two emergency suites for Youth at risk of experiencing homelessness, and two suites allocated to family reunification. Construction is currently underway and is estimated to be complete early fall 2024.



ADDRESSING RED RIVER MÉTIS HOMELESSNESS: MMF'S RAPID SERVICES

Launched in 2021, the Manitoba Métis Federation'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 homelessness' root causes – such as land dispossession, cultural disconnection, mental illness, addictions, and poverty – through three pillars:

1. **Housing First:** This approach provides immediate access to permanent, subsidized housing without prerequisites, operating on principles like rapid housing with supports, client choice in housing, and integration into the community.
2. **Repatriation and Reconnection:** The program aids Métis citizenship registration and fosters cultural connections by linking participants to Elders, Knowledge Holders, and MMF events, facilitating family reunification.
3. **Coordination and Access:** The program advocates for access to health, employment, training, and educational supports, addressing barriers to these services.

Since its inception, the Rapid Services Program has supported over 730 individuals, both Métis and non-Métis. The program's impact includes securing transitional or permanent housing for 228 people and preventing 102 evictions. Additionally, at least 28 participants have found paid employment through the program's assistance. Rapid Services has also provided transportation services to 729 individuals, financial assistance to 342 participants, citizenship assistance to 130 people, and advocacy support to 219 individuals.



THE MMF HOME ENHANCEMENT LOAN PROGRAM

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 find Red River Métis and other local contractors.



From April 2023 to March of 2024, HELP has completed repairs, renovations, and adaptations for over 100 homes, while starting work for an additional 73 homes. HELP received 577 applications and invested over \$6.8 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

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% up to a maximum of \$2,500 towards closing costs (legal, land transfer, home inspection, etc.).

As of April 2023, to March of 2024, the FTHPP has facilitated the purchase of 189 homes, providing housing for 390 Red River Métis Citizens. Out of 288 applications received, 245 have been approved, resulting in an impressive 85% approval rate.

The program has leveraged over \$44 million in mortgages and disbursed \$2,717,000 in funding. Additionally, it has created 88 jobs and generated over \$10 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 strived towards constructing, owning, and managing residential properties to enhance Red River Métis Citizens' access to affordable housing. At present, the MMF oversees 39 residential properties across 17 locations in Manitoba, comprising 88 units, with 20 designated as transitional housing units. This portfolio is set to grow with 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, all scheduled to be complete by fall of 2024. The construction projects listed above will add 61 more rental units for Red River Métis Citizens.



In 2014, the Housing Department expanded with the addition of Property Management into the portfolio under the responsibility of Minister Will Goodon. For commercial properties, a new division within the LRCC was created to manage properties owned by the National Government of the Red River Métis. 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.

In 2023, LRCC expanded its work with the Housing Department to include residential property management. LRCC will primarily help with accounting for the Residential Portfolio through its management software. In 2024, LRCC was responsible for 13 office/industrial properties across Manitoba, one property in Ontario, as well as three parking lots and 25 housing units. The annual revenue for the properties totalled more than \$4.3 million for 2023/24 fiscal year, with a total combined estimated market value of all properties totalling more than \$65 million.

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 in two test cases. 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

Would you like to have a real chance to **impact people's lives** with lots of **opportunity for growth** in a **growing government**? Then talk to us about positions within the following departments:

- Métis Employment & Training
- Early Learning & Child Care
- Energy & Infrastructure
- Housing & Management
- Health & Wellness
- Public Safety

We can offer a comprehensive range of services including: health, dental, vision, and more. Talk to us for more information.

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 and safety, recruitment and onboarding of employees, performance management, employee relations, training and professional development, and workplace culture.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Human Resources continues to pursue our strategic goal of becoming an Employer of Choice. With the dedication of 10 professional HR staff members, we have made significant advancements towards our objectives.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We are proud to announce the following significant accomplishments:

1. Compensation Structure Overhaul

Accomplishment: Human Resources spearheaded the development of a comprehensive new Compensation Structure for the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) government, encompassing competitive salary scales for over 250 job positions.



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 the responsibilities, required skills, and experience levels.

2. 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:

- a. **Policy Revisions:**
 - o **Updated Existing Policies:** Revised the employee policies to reflect recent changes in provincial employment standards, including updated leave policies, remote work guidelines, and respectful workplace policies.
 - o **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.
- b. **Compliance Initiatives:**
 - o **Regulatory Alignment:** Ensured all HR policies are compliant with current federal and provincial regulations and reflect the unique culture of the Manitoba Métis Federation.

3. Group Benefits Enhancements

Accomplishment: The MMF has made additional improvements to our Group Benefits plan, including reducing the eligibility period for coverage and introducing a new Portable Benefits option.

Key Enhancements:

- a. **Reduced Eligibility Period:**
 - o **Improved Access:** The eligibility period for Group Benefits coverage has been reduced from **6 months to 3 months**, allowing employees to access health and dental benefits more quickly after joining our government.
 - o **Support:** This change ensures that new hires and their families receive timely support for their health and dental needs, contributing to greater overall employee satisfaction and well-being.
- b. **Expanded Benefits Coverage:**
 - o **Comprehensive Health and Dental Plan:** The enhanced Group Benefits plan continues to provide extensive health and dental coverage for employees and their families, ensuring robust support for a wide range of health needs.

- o **Portable Benefits Option:** Introduced a new **Portable Benefits** feature, offering optional life, critical illness, and accidental death and dismemberment insurance coverage.
 - **Ease of Use:** The Portable Benefits option is designed for ease of use, with no additional administrative work or cost to employees.
 - **Continued Coverage:** Members can maintain their Portable Benefits coverage even if they leave the group plan or the plan terminates, providing continued financial security and peace of mind.
- o **Wellness Benefit:** The MMF offers a **\$500 Wellness Benefit** to staff, aimed at supporting their overall well-being and promoting a healthier lifestyle.

4. Pension Plan Enhancements

Accomplishment: The MMF has significantly enhanced its Pension Plan by increasing employer contributions and offering employees a new opportunity to boost their own contributions.

Key Enhancements:

- a. **Increased Employer Contributions:**
 - o **Contribution Boost:** The MMF has raised its employer contribution rate from **3% to 6%** of eligible employee earnings.
 - o **Enhanced Retirement Savings:** This increase significantly enhances employees' retirement savings, providing greater financial security for their future.
- b. **Employee Contribution Option:**
 - o **Increased Employee Contributions:** Employees now have the option to increase their personal pension contributions by an additional **1%** of their earnings.
 - o **Enhanced Matching:** The MMF will match this additional employee contribution with a further **1%**, bringing the total potential combined employee and employer contribution to **11%** of eligible earnings.

5. Efficiency Improvements

Accomplishment: HR has successfully developed and implemented several Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that have significantly improved efficiency across various departmental processes.

Key Efficiency Improvements:

- a. **Streamlined Recruitment and Onboarding Process:**
 - o **Standardized Procedures:** Created and implemented SOPs to streamline recruitment and onboarding, ensuring a consistent and efficient approach to hiring and integrating new employees.
 - o **Faster Time-to-Hire:** Reduced the time required to fill positions by optimizing job posting, candidate screening, and interview scheduling processes.
 - o **Enhanced Onboarding Experience:** Improved the onboarding experience by standardizing first day orientation activities, leading to quicker acclimatization for new hires.
- b. **Improved Disability Management Process:**
 - o **Clear Guidelines:** Established SOPs for managing disability claims and accommodations, ensuring a systematic and supportive approach to handling employee disabilities.
 - o **Efficient Processing:** Streamlined the procedure for processing disability claims and coordinating with health care providers, resulting in faster resolutions and better support for affected employees.
- c. **Enhanced Return-to-Work Program:**
 - o **Structured Framework:** Developed a structured framework for the Return-to-Work program, including clear steps for managing employees returning from illness or injury.
 - o **Supportive Reintegration:** Improved the process for reintegrating employees, including tailored support plans and accommodations to facilitate a smooth transition back to work.
- d. **Optimized Leave Management:**
 - o **Consistent Procedures:** Implemented standardized procedures for managing employee leave requests, approvals, and tracking.
 - o **Improved Accuracy:** Enhanced accuracy and efficiency in leave management, reducing errors and administrative burden while ensuring compliance with MMF policies and legal requirements.
- e. **Refined Workplace Accommodation Process:**
 - o **Efficient Handling:** Created clear SOPs for requesting and handling workplace accommodations, ensuring a consistent and efficient process for addressing employee needs.
 - o **Enhanced Accessibility:** Improved accessibility to accommodation requests and streamlined the evaluation and implementation process, promoting a more inclusive work environment.



Impact:

- ∞ **Increased Efficiency:** The implementation of SOPs has led to significant improvements in process efficiency, reducing administrative overhead and processing times.
- ∞ **Enhanced Employee Experience:** Streamlined processes have improved the overall employee experience, from recruitment through to ongoing support and accommodations.
- ∞ **Improved Compliance:** Standardized procedures have enhanced compliance with MMF policies and legal requirements, reducing the risk of errors and ensuring consistent application of practices.

MMF WORKFORCE

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

MMF Direct Employees: **580**

MMF Direct Employees, Affiliates, & Regional Employees: **1,150**

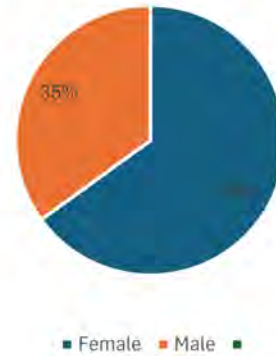
During this fiscal year, the MMF advertised approximately **175** positions and filled approximately **375** positions, which includes internal promotions and transfers. Given the consistent growth in most programs, we are actively recruiting for approximately **50** positions to be filled and we expect 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.

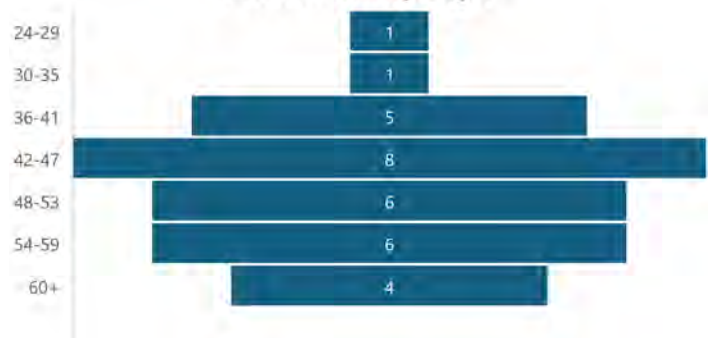
WORKFORCE DATA SUMMARY

This data reflects that the MMF is an employer who respects diversity and appreciates the skill and experience of all persons, regardless of age.

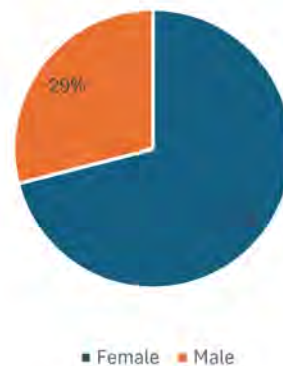
MMF Directors by Gender



Directors by Age



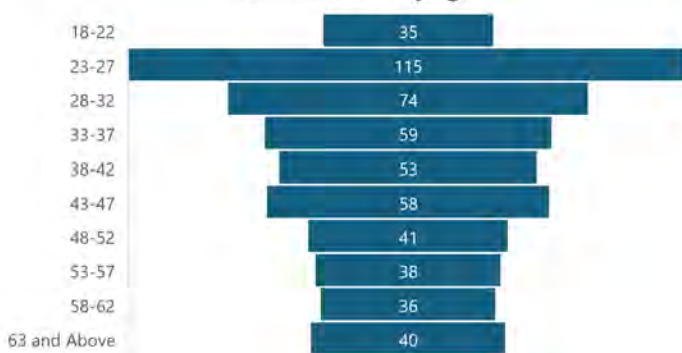
MMF Workforce by gender




The Human Resources Department continues to evolve to meet the demands of our ever-growing government. We have identified a variety of programs and projects that are being developed to realize the vision of the department’s five-year strategic plan.

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

MMF Workforce by Age



Of the approximately **580** employees of the Manitoba Métis Federation, 71% identify as female and 29% identify as male. The Breakdown of Workforce by Gender Chart reflects a workforce that is predominantly female.

A computer lab with students at workstations. The ceiling features several monitors and colorful dot-matrix graphics. The floor is tiled, and there are more colorful dot-matrix graphics in the foreground. The text "INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY" is overlaid in the center.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



ANITA CAMPBELL
MINISTER

INTRODUCTION

As we reflect on the past year, the Manitoba Métis Federation's Information Technology (MMFIT) Department has made significant strides in advancing our technological capabilities and enhancing our services. This report aims to update our Citizens on the various activities, projects, and initiatives undertaken by our department. We have worked diligently to support the growth and development of the Red River Métis Government through innovative solutions and long-term planning.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Daily IT operations are the backbone of our department. Our team ensures that all systems are running smoothly, providing essential support to all governmental offices. This includes troubleshooting technical issues, maintaining hardware and software, managing user accounts, and ensuring data security. Our commitment to providing reliable IT support allows other departments, affiliates, and regions to focus on their core functions without technological disruptions.

HERITAGE MUSEUM

One of our proudest accomplishments this year has been the commissioning of the Heritage Museum. This will be a state-of-the-art facility, which is not only a testament to our rich cultural history but also a beacon of technological integration. Our IT team played a crucial role in ensuring that the museum is equipped with cutting-edge digital displays, interactive exhibits, and robust security systems. This ensures that our heritage is preserved and accessible to future generations. We would like to thank the MMF Department of Housing, the Exhibits Department, and Métis N4 Construction for their engagement and leadership on this project.

200 MAIN STREET

The commissioning of the new administrative offices at 200 Main Street is another milestone worth celebrating. The MMFIT Department was instrumental in setting up the infrastructure for this facility, which includes communication systems, security systems, comprehensive network solutions, and secure data management protocols. This new location will serve as a central hub for operations, enhancing efficiency and collaboration across all departments and affiliates located at this facility.

AUDIO VISUAL SERVICES

Our Audio Visual (AV) Services have seen substantial growth and enhancement this year. The IT Department has been upgrading the AV systems across all governmental and community venues, ensuring high-quality audio and video experiences for meetings, conferences, and cultural events. We have also implemented advanced AV technology at 200 Main Street and the Manitoba Métis Heritage Museum locations, facilitating seamless presentations and interactive sessions. Additionally, our team has provided extensive support for virtual events, enabling remote participation, livestreaming, and engagement for Citizens. These efforts have significantly improved our Audio Visual capabilities and enhanced the overall experience of our events and gatherings.



ONE OF OUR PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS YEAR HAS BEEN THE COMMISSIONING OF THE HERITAGE MUSEUM. THIS WILL BE A STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY, WHICH IS NOT ONLY A TESTAMENT TO OUR RICH CULTURAL HISTORY BUT ALSO A BEACON OF TECHNOLOGICAL INTEGRATION.

NETWORK UPGRADES AND STARLINK DEPLOYMENTS

To keep up with the ever-growing demand for high-speed internet, we have undertaken significant network upgrades across our facilities. Additionally, the deployment of Starlink satellite internet services in remote areas has drastically improved connectivity for our communities. These advancements ensure that all Citizens, regardless of their location, will have access to reliable internet services, bridging the digital divide and fostering inclusivity and economic participation.



CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DATA GOVERNANCE STRATEGY

Our department has also made significant contributions to the Data Governance Strategy project led by Ernst & Young. By developing robust data management frameworks and policies, we will ensure the integrity, confidentiality, and availability of our data assets. This strategic approach to data governance enables us to make informed decisions, enhancing transparency and accountability in our operations.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAP (MÉTIS ARCHIVAL PROJECT) LABS

The MMFIT Department has been actively engaged in the MAP Labs, providing technical expertise and support for various projects in collaboration with many Departments across the MMF. Our shared contributions and partnerships have facilitated the development of innovative solutions and applications, furthering our mission to support the advancement of Métis knowledge and culture through technology. Many thanks to the MMF Policy and Delivery Unit, Central Registry Office, Beyond Borders, and Rights Research Departments.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN IT CAREERS

As we look to the future, we are committed to fostering Youth engagement in IT careers and specialized Computer Sciences. We recognize the importance of nurturing the next generation of IT professionals and are developing programs and initiatives to inspire and equip our Youth with the necessary skills and knowledge. By investing in their education and training, we are ensuring the continued growth and evolution of the MMF's IT capabilities.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the past year has been one of significant progress and achievement for the Information Technology Department. From routine IT support to advanced AI and Computer Science projects, our efforts have been driven by a commitment to innovation and excellence. We are excited about the future and remain dedicated to supporting the growth and development of the Métis community through technology.

We wish all our Citizens a positive and prosperous year ahead. Together, we will continue to build a brighter future, harnessing the power of technology to enhance our lives and preserve our heritage. Thank you for your continued support and engagement.





MÉTIS CONSTITUTION, RIGHTS & GOVERNANCE



JUDY MAYER
MINISTER

INTRODUCTION:

I have the honour of holding a number of Ministerial Portfolios within your Red River Métis Government. These are: Constitution; Red River Métis Rights; and Governance as well as Minister of Beyond Borders.

These portfolios provide the foundation for the Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) governance, including elections, Local governance, and more. My portfolios have a direct relationship with nearly all other ministerial portfolios as well as you, our grassroots leaders.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:

As the Chair of the Governance Committee, I proudly lead much of the work necessary to start discussions, develop solutions, and draft necessary resolutions to address governance issues raised by our Citizens. I continue to work closely with Minister LaPlante and Minister Lagimodiere on this Committee and would like to thank them for their guidance through the years.

This year, the Governance Committee has focused many of their discussions on Governance Structures – regarding Locals and boundaries, drafting an updated Local By-Law, many areas surrounding Beyond Borders, and preparing for the Cabinet Governance Retreat that was held in August of this year to discuss many aspects of my portfolios.

As our understanding of identity and identity theft has increased, we have revisited the issue of protecting our identity information and intellectual property, of the Red River Métis, as directed in the last Assembly. We hope to announce a group of scholars we have asked to advise on this point and to have a formal plan, maybe even a Law, for advancement at the 2025 AGA.



We have been working diligently on several outstanding policy initiatives (some have been outstanding for years, and the time with COVID did not help address them).

The outstanding issues that we are addressing are:

1. Local Oath of Office/Code of Conduct (completed);
2. Policy of the transfer of membership by Citizens between Locals for electoral purposes (completed);
3. Getting membership lists to Locals and the necessary forms for Locals (completed – although this is primarily a CRO achievement);
4. Policy on how to address lost or otherwise inaccessible membership lists by new Local executives (completed);
5. Notice of meetings policy (expected to be approved before AGA);
6. National Elders policy (expected to be approved before AGA);
7. The policy of handling third party requests for information on Citizenship (in process);
8. A conflict of interest regulation and policy for Locals (expected to be approved before AGA);
9. A policy on staff as members of Local executives (expected to be approved before AGA);
10. A branding and communications policy (we are just starting the consideration and consultation on this issue); and
11. We have begun a policy on usage and control. If the email address process mentioned above is approved, it will be delivered concurrently with the rollout of that plan.

RED RIVER MÉTIS RIGHTS:

We are the Red River Métis; we are a distinct Indigenous People and Nation. The MMF is the National Government of the Red River Métis, and the Red River Settlement (now Winnipeg) is the Birthplace of our Nation and the Heart of our Homeland. We are Canada's negotiating Partner in Confederation and the Founder of Manitoba.

This past year, at a national level across Canada, we saw conversations and exposés done on Indigenous Identity Theft that were rampantly taking over the media. With this, your National Government of the Red River Métis – in partnership with the Chiefs of Ontario – co-hosted a two-day summit, bringing together First Nations, Inuit, and Red River Métis leaders from across Canada to discuss identity fraud issues.

Leadership at this summit unanimously adopted a declaration that condemns any person or group falsely claiming an Indigenous identity for financial gain, academic recognition, or any other purpose, that such actions are unacceptable and contribute to the ongoing marginalization of authentic First Nations, Inuit, and Red River Métis voices and experiences.

The summit was a great success, and I look forward to similar ones in the future.

SUMMARY:

This is only a brief summary of the work being undertaken in my portfolios. It is clear that the Red River Métis are advancing our agenda and making great strides in finding our rightful place in Canada's Confederation. I hope you are as excited as I am about this important work. If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns on any of these matters, please contact me. Thank you!

These are exciting times as we continue to move forward and strengthen our responsible and accountable governance for our Red River Métis Citizens.

RED RIVER MÉTIS BEYOND BORDERS:

At the October 2023 Annual General Assembly, a resolution was brought to the floor by Beyond Borders Citizens, to request the *MMF Cabinet Consider the Existing Governance Structure* – internally, this resolution is referenced as *Resolution 3*.

In order for Cabinet to consider the requested, I had called a Cabinet Governance Retreat to be held in advanced to this 2024 Annual General Assembly. The Retreat took place in August, and I am happy to report to you all that Cabinet conducted two full days of business to discuss, deliberate, and provide thoughtful consideration to the requests from Citizens. You will be happy to know a report has been written and published on our considerations.

The Beyond Borders Department continues to act as a liaison with our MMF Departments and Affiliates to best serve our Citizens, and we continue to make advancements in terms of the programs and services we have available to offer.

This work Beyond Borders is ongoing and continues to progress forward. We will continue to proudly welcome our Citizens back to Red River, and plan to be back in your communities meeting with you all soon.

LOCALS

Our primary work this year has been in the development of a variety of materials and policies. Key to that is the draft of the local bylaw, which is being presented for our usual constitutional consultative review. As you will all be aware, we invite comments from Citizens and Locals over the next several months, and the Committee will report to the Cabinet with suggestions and recommendations for changes.

After Cabinet approves that draft, it will again be circulated and presented at every Regional Meeting. We will take careful note of any issues that are raised and alternatives that are offered. After that discussion within Cabinet, the Committee will circulate a final draft to all Locals as a formal notice of constitutional change for the 2025 Assembly.

Additionally, after many years, we now have a resource manual for Local executives and a formal training plan for implementation. The manual will be available at the Electoral Office booth for every executive. In due course, every Region will set out how it wishes the training of the Locals in that Region to be conducted. The manual will also be online, and all forms will be accessible that way.

We are working and expect by the time of the AGA (although not wholly vetted and approved at the time of writing) a process so that we can have easy access to such forms and materials and that the email processes of Locals do not need to tie up those emails of people serving as executive officers in the Local. We expect a rollout of email addresses on a server hosted by the MMF so that each Local will have a distinct email address.

ELECTIONS

Significantly, Local elections (and issues from within Locals) have been increasingly formalized. The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer now conducts most Local elections, which has meant some changes. Most notably, the election dates must be set with that office. Regional Executives are still an essential part of any election meeting, but the Conduct of the actual election is now in that agency's hands. As those who have gone through that process know, the result is a formal certificate of election, and all of the notices and other related documents are handled (or assisted) by that office.

As we go forward, there are additional changes to the election bylaw and the creation of laws if the Constitution is adjusted. We expect to modernize the Constitution, get it to those properly Constitutional items, and then leave it to the Assembly to fill in the needs with laws, which will increase the direction for elections consistent with modern governance theory. Those changes will not be implemented until 2026 or later.







MÉTIS EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING



JOHN FLEURY
MINISTER



JOAN LEDOUX
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

The Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Métis Employment & Training (MET) Department continued its legacy of enhancing economic opportunities for Red River Métis Citizens in 2023-2024.

Operating primarily with funding provided under the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) Agreement with Canada, MET administers the ISET Agreement on behalf of the MMF and is responsible for delivering employment and training services to Red River Métis Citizens.

The ISET Agreement, a 10-year labour market strategy designed to help Indigenous people improve their career skills and find employment, has proven crucial in helping Red River Métis Citizens succeed in today's rapidly changing labour market. Under the ISET Agreement, MET delivers a comprehensive approach to employment and training, through its wide range of programs and services to support the career development and economic independence of Red River Métis Citizens.

EMPOWERING THE FUTURE: CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF INNOVATION & SUCCESS

Over the past 25 years, MET has embraced innovative strategies, built strong community partnerships, and leveraged emerging technologies to support its mandate. Dating back to a time when the economic landscape of our Nation had many challenges, the MET Department has been a difference maker in the lives of Red River Métis Citizens for decades. Reflecting on the past quarter-century of success stories, the numbers tell a story of transformation, lives changed, families supported, and futures secured:



- ∞ 48,568 Individuals Directly Impacted
- ∞ 16,168 Individuals Employed
- ∞ 9,924 Individuals Returned to School

Today, MET is consistently recognized as a top performing ISET Agreement holder and serves as a model of success for Indigenous labour market programming and services.

2023-2024: A YEAR OF CONTINUED EXCELLENCE

Building upon our strengths, addressing changing needs and trends in the labour market, and innovating to provide the best possible support for Red River Métis Citizens, MET has once again exceeded targets and achieved remarkable results in fiscal year (FY) 2023-2024:

- ∞ 2,345 Clients Served
- ∞ 1,086 Clients Employed
- ∞ 1,091 Clients Supported in Sponsored/Funded Programs
 - 595 of these clients were supported in Certificate, Diploma & Final Year University Programs
- ∞ 559 Clients Returned to School to pursue further education & training

MET's progress and growth in FY 2023-2024 is clear through substantial year-over-year increases in several key areas. From a **12% year-over-year increase in clients served and 35% more clients gaining employment, to an 18% rise in clients supported through funded programs and 30% growth in clients returning to school**, the numbers speak for themselves.

MET's strong commitment to investing in impactful programs and initiatives for Red River Métis Citizens is reflected in its budget for FY 2023-2024, in key areas including Occupational Skills Training and Project-Based Work Experience (Targeted Wage Subsidies, Student Employment, and Job Creation Partnerships). With consolidated commitments of \$10,048,998 across various programs and services, these investments have led to significant progress in the career development of Red River Métis Citizens, including the following completed interventions:

- ∞ Occupational Skills Training – Apprenticeship: 69
- ∞ Occupational Skills Training – Certificate: 161
- ∞ Occupational Skills Training – Degree: 166



- ∞ Occupational Skills Training – Diploma: 224
- ∞ Project-Based Work Experience – Targeted Wage
 - Subsidies, Student Employment, Job Creation Partnerships: 377

Innovative partnerships with private industry, government, non-profits, and community organizations, as well as MMF Departments and Affiliates, continue to be a cornerstone of MET's approach to delivering employment and training services to Red River Métis Citizens.

Once again, MET led a successful and very busy summer employment season in FY 2023-2024. Through the Summer Student Employment Program, MET partnered with employers across the province to create and support summer jobs for students to earn money and get real-work experience:

- ∞ Summer Students Employed: 338
- ∞ Employer Partners: 136
- ∞ Summer Student Strategy Commitments: \$3,876,912

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024-2025

Looking to FY 2024-2024 MET aims to continue building upon its legacy of success by expanding and enhancing its programs and service to meet new market demands. Key initiatives for the upcoming year include:

- ∞ **Collaboration and Partnerships:** Continue engaging with industry, government, non-profits, and educational institutions to create tailored training and employment solutions for Red River Métis Citizens.
- ∞ **Post-Secondary Education Support:** Ensure students receive ongoing support from enrolment to graduation, streamline processes with the Post-Secondary Education department and Louis Riel Institute, and offer tailored services to help students transition into the workforce.
- ∞ **Workforce Symposium:** Host a symposium to connect employers with job seekers, discuss industry trends, and plan strategic workforce development.



- ∞ **Employer Engagement:** Hold regular in-person and online sessions for direct employer-job seeker interactions and pursue potential employer partnerships for sustainable employment opportunities.
- ∞ **Housing Services with Fre Maachi:** Expand services to provide individualized employment and career counselling for residents in Fre Maachi housing projects.
- ∞ **ECE Recruitment and Development:** Continue to increase the number of certified ECE professionals through dedicated training programs
- ∞ **Youth Empowerment Through Inclusive Employment (YETIE):** Launch an innovative new program to support barriered Red River Métis Youth in overcoming employment difficulties and attaining the skills and experience to enter and succeed in the labour market.

MET's focus is and will remain on expanding and enhancing our programs and services to meet the evolving labour market demands and socio-economic needs of Red River Métis Citizens.

By maintaining its dedication to social innovation and community-centric labor market strategies, MET is set to build on its history of success, fostering a prosperous future for Red River Métis Citizens – one success story at a time.

For more information about MET programs and services, employer partnership opportunities, and our current recruitment activities, please visit the MET Department booth in the tradeshow area during the AGA, visit us online at mmfemployment.ca, or call us at 204-586-8474.





**National Government of the
Red River Métis**



MÉTIS JUSTICE INSTITUTE





JULYDA LAGIMODIERE
MINISTER

As Minister of Justice, I welcome everyone to the Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Annual General Assembly. I am pleased to provide you with an update on our department's activities over the last fiscal year.

The Métis Justice Institute (MJ) has continued working toward our mandate of focusing responsibility and authority for justice issues within the Red River Métis Government. Our department has focused on several key areas towards the creation of opportunities for our government's inclusion to develop justice services and programs.

Our Métis Community Justice Program has continued to deliver court diversion within our Regions, with services now being offered in the Southeast and Southwest Regions.

Our Department's Métis Court Work Program is now up and running within the Interlake, Southwest, and Winnipeg Regions.

Our Red River Métis Citizen Engagement for the development of our Red River Métis Justice Strategy was a successful event that provided guidance to our department on priorities and recommendations for further discussion with the provincial and federal governments.

Our department continues to make headway, with future discussions focused on Reintegration Supports, Police Legislation, education and resource supports for families of MMIWG and Tribunal Development.

CURRENT INITIATIVES

MÉTIS COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROGRAM

The Métis Community Justice Program is a Court Diversion Program that provides Red River Métis culturally appropriate justice alternatives that support the diversion of Red River Métis people from the mainstream justice system to a community-based alternative.

The program 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.

The programs currently operate within the MMF Northwest, The Pas, Interlake, and Thompson Regions. Over the last year, our service delivery has also expanded to accommodate individuals who identify as Red River Métis Citizens from the Southeast and Southwest Regions.

RED RIVER MÉTIS ENGAGEMENT WITH THE INDIGENOUS JUSTICE STRATEGY

The MJ's Red River Métis Justice Strategy Project was a two-year process to support the development of a Red River Métis distinctions-based Justice Strategy. The Strategy will guide our government's work with the provincial and federal government and assist with our vision of justice to be included within the planned federal Indigenous Justice Strategy.

The project established a Red River Métis-led vision of justice system reforms achieved through a systematic effort to identify Red River Métis traditions of law and justice. The project's Red River Métis-distinctions based framework, that identified priorities and recommendations from our Citizens, will assist our government's movement forward to inform federal government sectors about the inclusion of a Red River Métis distinctions-based approach to program and service delivery.

RED RIVER MÉTIS COURT WORK PROGRAM

The MJ's Red River Métis Court Work Program facilitates and enhances access to justice by assisting Red River Métis Citizens involved in the court system. The program currently offers service in the Southwest, Interlake, and Winnipeg Regions.

The Red River Métis Court Work Program will provide two areas of service:

- ∞ In Court Services – Program will help Red River Métis Citizens with Legal Process Navigation, Court Liaison and Advocacy, Youth Advocacy, and Client Support.
- ∞ Out of Court Services – Program will assist Red River Métis Citizens with Education and Outreach, Cultural Sensitivity, Collaboration and Partnership, and Information and Referral.

MÉTIS FAMILY SUPPORT PROJECT

The MJ's Métis Family Support Project is a prevention/intervention project that supports Red River Métis families who have been/may be impacted by missing and murdered loved ones. The project seeks to identify Red River Métis families through outreach that may need support or resources to better prepare themselves and navigate the system should they find themselves in need of assistance.

The project will:

- ∞ Raise awareness toward the general issue of Missing and Murdered Red River Métis Citizens
- ∞ Provide education and preventative information to Red River Métis families
- ∞ Provide Information and Intake for family requests for supports through the Pey-Key-Way-Ta-Hin – Bring Me Home Program
- ∞ Provide Referral to Supports and Services

POLICE PARTNERSHIPS WITH RCMP

The Manitoba Métis Federation has partnered with the RCMP to establish a cooperative relationship regarding policing. The RCMP "D" Division has a dedicated Métis Liaison Coordinator to focus on Red River Métis community-based policing initiatives.

JUSTICE PROGRAMMING

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ANGER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMING

The MJJ has continued to deliver the Métis Justice Domestic Violence AND Anger Management Programs for individuals that require programming as a part of their Sanctions for Court Diversion. Within six MMF Regions, programming has been utilized as a component for the MMF's Diversion Programs to assist individuals who require Domestic Violence or Anger Management Programming as a component of their court involvement.

JUSTICE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

In our continued efforts to enhance the safety and well-being of Red River Métis Citizens and our communities, the MJJ has continued to develop justice programming:

LIFE SKILLS PROGRAMMING

Métis Justice Life Skills Program will assist MJJ Clients involved in our Justice Support and Court Diversion Programs to empower participants to gain skills and resources to effect positive change in their own lives.

RED RIVER MÉTIS COMMUNITY SAFETY SESSIONS

In our continued efforts to enhance the safety and well-being of Red River Métis Citizens and our communities, a workshop series has been developed to educate and inform our Red River Métis Citizens. Workshop delivery is targeted for the upcoming fiscal year. The workshop series focuses on the following:

- ∞ Elder Abuse
- ∞ Frauds and Scams
- ∞ Internet Safety
- ∞ Safe Banking Practices
- ∞ Fire Safety
- ∞ Emergency Preparedness
- ∞ Personal Safety
- ∞ Planning for Your Future
- ∞ Safe Driving Practices
- ∞ Medication Safety
- ∞ Safe Mobility Practices, and
- ∞ Substance/Gambling Abuse.

RED RIVER MÉTIS MEDIATION SERVICES PROJECT

The MJJ's Red River Métis Mediation Services Project was completed this fiscal year and developed a Red River Métis distinctions-based Mediation Program to support access for Red River Métis Citizens who require Mediation Services. This project focused on the development of services in the areas of civil and family, as well as a sanction option for Court Diversion clients.

MÉTIS IDENTITY WITHIN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM PROJECT

The MJJ's Métis Identity within the Justice System Project is a Red River Métis distinctions-based education and training resource for justice professionals in Manitoba. The project provides the Red River Métis context to address the underlying bias and racism in the Justice System that have led to the continued overlooking of the needs of Red River Métis people involved in the justice system. This resource will be made available within the next fiscal year.

NEW PROJECTS FOR 2024-2025

RED RIVER MÉTIS JUSTICE SUPPORT PROGRAM

Newly received funding for the upcoming fiscal year was secured for the MJJ's Red River Métis Justice Support Program. This program will focus on the delivery of an effective and efficient reintegration process for Red River Métis Citizens.

The program will assist Red River Métis Citizens who have been remanded, released from provincial or federal correctional facilities, or who have received community dispositions.

More information will be available in the coming year.

RED RIVER MÉTIS COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTRE PROJECT

Newly received funding for the upcoming fiscal year was secured for the MJJ's Red River Métis Community Justice Centre Project. The project will develop a Red River Métis distinctions-based Justice Navigation Model which will provide Red River Métis Citizens with a wraparound interdisciplinary support system for navigation within the criminal justice system.

Justice Navigation will focus on:

- ∞ General program and service information
- ∞ Information on the next steps within the justice system
- ∞ Referral to services and comprehensive outreach

More information will be available in the coming year.

CONCLUSION

As a department, the Métis Justice Institute staff are committed to continue working over the next year to further implement and develop justice programs and services needed within the Red River Métis community and assist Red River Métis Citizens involved within the Criminal Justice System.

If you would like further information on any of the initiatives through the MJJ, please feel free to contact our office at:

Métis Justice Institute
560-200 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
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She's more
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PARTITION

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MINING





VINCENT PARENTEAU
MINISTER



MILDRED DORION
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Mining and mineral development projects can have both positive and negative impacts on the lives of Red River Métis Citizens. For many northern Citizens, 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, the mining industry has also led to many negative impacts on the environment, which have affected the health and well-being of Red River Métis Citizens.

Manitoba is home to many of the world's critical minerals and, to date, is still considered under-explored. With the demand for many of these critical minerals, caused by the push towards net-zero emissions, mineral exploration and development have increased rapidly in the province. Several new exploration and development projects were considered throughout the last fiscal year. Unfortunately, the Red River Métis were left out of the Manitoba – First Nation Mineral Development Protocol, and, as a result, provincial officials and project proponents were not proactively notifying or reaching out to the MMF. Your Red River Métis Government continued to pressure Manitoba to develop a Red River Métis-specific Mineral Development Protocol to ensure meaningful and appropriate engagement and consultation through all phases of mineral development projects. Stay tuned for updates on the Red River Métis Mineral Development Protocol.

Mining files from 2023-2024 included:

Tanco Mine – Tantalum Mining Corporation of Canada

Sinomine Rare Metals Resources Co., Ltd., a mineral development company based out of Hong Kong, China, purchased the Tanco property near Lac du Bonnet, MB. The Tanco Mine currently produces tantalum, cesium, and lithium.



In late 2023, Tanco notified the MMF of their proposed expansion and requested to engage Red River Métis Citizens regarding their new operations. Tanco provided funding to the MMF to undertake a Red River Métis Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy Study to better understand the impacts of their mine on Red River Métis Citizens. The MMF began this work in the summer of 2024.

Minago Nickel Project

Flying Nickel has purchased the Minago Nickel Project near Thompson. This project includes an open pit mine, which would produce nickel concentrate. In 2011, an Environment Act Licence was issued to the previous owners, Victory Nickel. This licence was appealed and a Notice of Alteration (NOA) to the 2011 Licence was required and submitted by Victory Nickel in 2014. In 2021 Flying Nickel Ltd. purchased the Minago Project and submitted a revised version of the 2014 NOA.



The MMF participated in the Crown Consultations for the Project, which included a Community Consultation Meeting on September 30, 2023, and Red River Métis Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy Interviews in October 2023. A final report summarizing the concerns and recommendations brought forward by Red River Métis Citizens was submitted to Manitoba in January 2024. No decision regarding the licensing of the Project has been made to date.

The MMF continues discussions with the proponent to explore economic development opportunities and to ensure Red River Métis-specific mitigation measures are incorporated into their project plans.

Vivian Silica Sand Project - Sio Silica

Sio Silica Corporation (formerly CanWhite Sands), a private company based in Calgary, proposed to construct a silica sand processing facility and extraction process to produce 1.36 million tonnes of processed silica sand per year. The provincial licensing process was split between two provincial Environmental Assessment Proposals – the first for the processing facility, which was approved, and the second for the extraction process.

The MMF participated in the Crown Consultation process for the Project and hosted a Community Consultation Meeting on May 10, 2023, to gather Red River Métis concerns and recommendations regarding the Project. A final report was submitted to Manitoba in June 2023.

On February 16, 2024, Manitoba's Minister of Environment and Climate Change announced that Sio Silica's project would NOT be licensed, stating "that it is not appropriate to issue a licence for your proposed project at this time. In accordance with section 11(11) of The Environment Act, I am therefore refusing to issue The Environment Act Licence and thereby prohibiting the construction, alteration, operation or implementation of this development. I am not satisfied that the potential environmental effects can be addressed through licence conditions, even on a step-wise basis, and that drinking water can be protected now and for future generations."

Wanipigow Silica Sand Mine and Selkirk Processing Facility – Canadian Premium Sand Inc.

Canadian Premium Sand (CPS) proposed to construct the Wanipigow Silica Sand Mine near Seymourville, MB and a Solar Glass Processing Facility in Selkirk, MB. The extraction project has a projected life of more than 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 filed as two separate Environment Act Proposals.

CPS has received Environment Act Licenses for both projects. On March 18, 2024, Manitoba sent a letter to the MMF stating that they will require Canadian Premium Sand Inc. to negotiate an Impact Benefit Agreement with the MMF on behalf of Red River Métis Citizens. Your Red River Métis Government is aware of the economic development opportunities that flow from both projects and will continue to engage with the proponent to ensure the Red River Métis are included in these opportunities.

Orphaned and Abandoned Mine Site – Sherridon, Manitoba

The Sherridon site is considered an orphaned and abandoned mine (OAM) and Manitoba is responsible for the remaining environmental impacts, as well as the continued long-term monitoring. Since February 2024, the MMF has been participating in the Sherridon Collaboration Table, which was initiated by Manitoba Environment and Climate Change.

The MMF continues discussions with Manitoba regarding the Camp Lake Remediation Project, which was concluded in the fall of 2021, and the continued impacts to water quality, fish, and fish habitat. Your Red River Métis Government will continue to advocate for your rights, claims, and interests and will request that Manitoba meaningfully include the MMF in future decisions regarding the OAM site moving forward.

Lynn Lake Gold Mine – Alamos Gold Inc.

The federal impact assessment of the Alamos Gold Inc. Lynn Lake Gold Mine was completed on March 6, 2023, and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada released a decision statement determining that the project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects. Following the Decision by the Federal Minister, the Manitoba Environment Act Licenses for both the Gordon and MacLellan Mine Sites were issued.

Since receiving their environmental approvals, Alamos initiated an Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC), which will continue to meet on a quarterly basis. The EAC was part of the licensing conditions set out in the federal Decision Statement. Through the EAC and other means, the MMF will continue to advocate for Red River Métis rights as it relates to the Lynn Lake Gold Project.

777 & Lalor Mine – Hudbay Minerals Inc.

In 2023, Hudbay announced the closure of their 777 Mine operations in Flin Flon, and the increase in operations at their Lalor Mine in Snow Lake. The MMF has been engaging with Hudbay to ensure that impacts to your Red River Métis rights are appropriately and meaningfully mitigated due to the change in their operations, and will continue to pursue opportunities for economic development.

We are always looking for input, comments, questions, and concerns from Red River Métis Citizens who are directly or indirectly impacted by mining projects underway in the local community or within the areas that have traditionally been used for harvesting. If you would like more information about mining projects in Manitoba, please contact Maddy Perry via email: madelynn.perry@mmf.mb.ca.







NATURAL RESOURCES



LEAH LAPLANTE
MINISTER



PETER FLEMING
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

HARVESTING

Despite your Red River Métis Government's best efforts to protect, defend, and expand Red River Métis harvesting rights, the provincial government has continued to disregard our rights and charge Red River Métis Harvesters who exercise their constitutionally protected s.35 right to harvest. This blatant disregard ignores both Canada's Constitution protecting Red River Métis harvesting rights as well as the provincial Crown's commitments to recognize and affirm Red River Métis harvesting rights throughout Manitoba.

Red River Métis Harvesters must follow the laws of public health and safety, must adhere to *Métis Laws of the Harvest—Revised 3rd Edition*, and must hold an MMF Métis Harvester Card with the current year's Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) Sticker. Red River Métis Harvesters must validate their Harvester Card yearly by purchasing the CTF sticker on or after April 1 and prior to harvesting. Written permission from landowners is required to harvest on private property as verbal permission is no longer acceptable. All Red River Métis Harvesters must know and understand where they are harvesting at all times.

MOOSE

Your Red River Métis Government reopened the Duck and Porcupine Mountains for the limited opportunity to harvest moose in GHAs 13 and 13A (Porcupine Mountains) and GHAs 18, 18A, 18B, and 18C (Duck Mountains) under the Moose Conservation Harvesting Initiative. The decision to reopen these areas for Red River Métis Harvesters was made using a conservation-minded approach that was based on provincial survey results and through wildlife management discussions with the Manitoba government. The initiative has taken place over the past four big-game harvesting seasons with successful harvests each year.

CARIBOU

Your Red River Métis Government responded to concerns heard from Red River Métis Citizens on diminishing caribou populations and the need for immediate conservation efforts to help understand and protect caribou populations throughout Manitoba. Over the past four years, 60 motion-activated cameras have captured photos and videos of caribou and other wildlife throughout critical northern caribou wintering habitat. The MMF has also partnered with Parks Canada to continue this important work, travelling to remote areas within Wapusk National Park to support trail camera deployment and the maintenance, data collection, and inclusion of the MMF in

on-the-land activities. The MMF plans to continue Project Caribou by maintaining current cameras, deploying additional cameras, and analyzing data to determine future conservation steps.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal, incurable disease affecting deer, including white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, moose, and caribou. While there's no evidence that CWD can spread to humans, consuming meat from infected animals is not recommended. CWD was discovered in Manitoba in 2022, prompting ongoing provincial efforts to monitor and prevent its spread. Mandatory CWD surveillance zones and licensed hunting seasons do not apply to Red River Métis Harvesters who are exercising their s.35 right to harvest. Harvesters must recognize the seriousness of CWD and follow all health and safety regulations to help prevent its spread.

MMF TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE

Your Red River Métis Government has committed to planting two million trees across the National Homeland of the Red River Métis through an initiative entitled "Make Our Homeland Green Again." This commitment is a direct result of the Government of Canada's announcement in September 2019 to plant two billion trees across Canada by 2031.



By the end of 2023, 18,499 trees and shrubs were provided to Red River Métis Citizens, demonstrating an increase from 5,381 provided in 2022. Forecasts indicate another increase in trees and shrubs distributed through the program in 2024.

The Make Our Homeland Green Again initiative focuses on providing trees and shrubs to meet the needs and objectives of Red River Métis Citizens across the National Homeland. The initiative has five main focuses, represented through its substreams:

- 1. Shelterbelt Stream** – This stream focuses primarily on establishing new shelterbelts and revitalizing pre-existing ones to provide natural windbreaks and snow barriers to Red River Métis Citizen lands.
- 2. Citizen Yard Improvement Stream** – A general stream for Red River Métis Citizens who want to plant additional trees and shrubs to enhance the aesthetic appeal of their property, improve mental health, and augment pre-existing landscape features.

3. Edible Forest Stream – This stream aims to improve edible fruit and nut production on Red River Métis lands to increase local food production and create strong communities, building a more resilient National Homeland.

4. Wildlife Habitat Enhancement & Restoration Stream – Specifically for the establishment or restoration of wildlife habitats to support mammal, insect, and bird populations through the planting of native trees and shrubs.

5. Riparian Area Revegetation Stream – Focused mainly on bodies of water (lakes, rivers, and wetlands) to improve bank vegetation, reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and provide habitat for aquatic life.

Red River Métis Elders and individuals with physical disabilities can request assistance through the current Tree Planting Initiative Application to receive support from MMF technical staff in installing trees on their private property.

HORTICULTURE-BASED EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

Educational workshops play an essential role in the long-term success of the “Make Our Homeland Green Again” tree planting initiative by providing valuable information and skills on best practices for plant maintenance, watering techniques, plant propagation, and pruning. In 2023, six educational workshops were conducted with a total attendance of 105 Red River Métis Citizens, Youth, and Elders. In future years, your Red River Métis Government plans to provide new and unique workshops to teach additional skills related to gardening, horticulture, and environmental stewardship.

RED RIVER MÉTIS TREE NURSERY

Your Red River Métis Government is advancing plans to build and operate an industry-leading tree nursery that will support reforestation and environmental initiatives across the National Homeland, create full-time/part-time employment opportunities for

Red River Métis Citizens, and increase economic activity within the Interlake Region of Manitoba.

In 2023, the MMF started the planning stages of the project, with construction scheduled to begin in spring 2024. Environmental sustainability and a low carbon footprint are important considerations in the planning and design stage of the project.

PARKS CANADA

a) Conservation & Protected Area funding from Parks Canada

Your Red River Métis Government successfully obtained funding to support Red River Métis involvement and capacity in establishing protected and other conserved areas. The MMF has increased our involvement in the establishment and management of new protected and other conserved areas, including Parks Canada-owned properties, such as National Historic Sites, National Urban Parks, Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas, Marine National Parks, and Ecological Corridors. The agreement supports the MMF’s increased involvement in conservation, land management planning, and stewardship, including National Park establishment, advocacy for Red River Métis rights and interests in National Parks, wide-ranging engagement and consultation meetings with Red River Métis Citizens, and broader Red River Métis stewardship discussions.

b) New Proposed Parks & Protected Areas

Parks Canada has made commitments to conserving 25% of Canada’s lands and oceans by 2025. In order to complete this conservation goal, new parks and protected areas must be established. Your Red River Métis Government is working to ensure Citizens are engaged and consulted on all parks and protected area establishment projects throughout Manitoba.

c) Indigenous Open-Door Program

Your Red River Métis Government and Parks Canada have expanded Parks Canada’s Indigenous Open-Door Program by providing free entry for Red River Métis Citizens into Parks Canada-administered National Historic Sites, and National Parks throughout



Manitoba, including the Lower Fort Garry National Historic Site, the Riel House National Historic Site, and Riding Mountain National Park. Red River Métis Citizens who show their MMF Citizenship Card or Harvester Card are provided free entry. Parks Canada's Indigenous Open-Doors Program provides free entry; however, other fees for attractions and services, including tours, workshops, and special programming, or any other fees associated with the site, do still apply and must be paid at the visitor centre.

INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS

Since 2020, your Red River Métis Government has been working towards creating two Indigenous Protected & Conserved Areas (IPCAs) through Canada's Target 1 Challenge and the Government of Canada's commitment to conserve 25% of Canada's lands and oceans by 2025. The first IPCA is located in The Pas and Northwest Regions within the Kettle Hills Blueberry Patch and the second IPCA is in the Thompson Region near Wapusk National Park.

The purpose of the MMF's proposed IPCAs is to conserve and protect Canada's wildlife and habitat along with ensuring Red River Métis Citizens are engaged in conservation. Engagement on this file includes community workshops, virtual community meetings, presentations, environmental monitoring, and conservation planning to ensure the protected areas are built on Red River Métis values, knowledge, and priorities.

If you would like to know more about the MMF's IPCA initiative, please visit our Red River Métis IPCA stories at <https://ipcaknowledgebasket.ca/>.

TYPE II FIREFIGHTER TRAINING PROGRAM

Through the federal government's commitment to training 1,000 community-based firefighters, the MMF and Parks Canada's Natural Resource Management Branch scheduled a collaborative Type II Firefighter training program for Red River Métis Citizens. The training was held in March 2023 in Onanole, Manitoba and successfully trained 10 Red River Métis Citizens as Type II Firefighters.

ADDITIONS TO RESERVE (ATR)/TREATY LAND ENTITLEMENT (TRE)

The Manitoba Framework Agreement provides for TLE First Nations to select or acquire provincial crown land as ATRs and fee simple parcels. After the implementation of this agreement, Canada recognized their duty to consult with the Red River Métis. The MMF and Canada have engaged in a consultation process to identify the potential impacts proposed additions of lands to First Nation Reserves in Manitoba will have on the rights, claims, and interests of our Red River Métis Citizens.

CROWN-INDIGENOUS CONSULTATION FOR THE PROPOSED HOLLOW WATER FIRST NATION LAND EXCHANGE

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI) initiated the Crown-Indigenous consultation process with your Red River Métis Government regarding an outstanding land exchange settlement agreement between the Province of Manitoba and Hollow Water First Nation. The MMF held a Community Consultation Meeting on November 28, 2023, in Manigotagan, Manitoba. The goal of the consultation was to understand how the proposed land exchange could impact the constitutionally protected rights, claims, and interests of the Red River Métis. The MMF submitted a What We Heard Report to MTI following the Community Consultation Meeting.

SPECIES-AT-RISK

Your Red River Métis Government received capacity support under the Canada Nature Fund, for Red River Métis -led Species at Risk (SAR) Conservation.

Red River Métis Citizens can look forward to engagement events and workshops on a variety of endangered and threatened species across the National Homeland.

For questions concerning the Natural Resources Portfolio, please use the following link to contact technical staff: <https://www.mmf.mb.ca/natural-resources>.



A photograph of a group of people at a community event. In the foreground, a man with glasses and a dark jacket is smiling and looking towards the left. Behind him, several other people are visible, some wearing face masks. The image is overlaid with decorative elements: colorful, dotted patterns resembling stylized flowers or leaves in shades of red, blue, yellow, and green, scattered across the top and bottom edges. The text 'RED RIVER MÉTIS COMMUNITY RESOURCE DEPARTMENT' is centered in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

**RED RIVER MÉTIS
COMMUNITY
RESOURCE
DEPARTMENT**



ANDREW CARRIER
MINISTER

The Red River Métis Community Resource Department (MCRD): “We commit to being a strong team of our National Government, the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), with knowledge, training, and resources, and we commit to building relationships and partnerships so that we can connect Red River Métis Citizens with resources, programs, and services they need so they are empowered to lead their best quality of life.” Throughout fiscal year 2023-2024, the MMF continued to provide a range of services, including those highlighted below.

PERSONAL AND FAMILY SUPPORTS AND CASEWORK & ADVOCATION

Oftentimes Citizens require assistance with navigating complex public systems on a variety of issues, such as employment and income assistance, outreach services, referral and advocacy, reunification, Elder support, income tax, repatriation, and community development.

This has an impact on access to important services. MCRD can support Métis Citizens with needs that do not fit into other MMF programming by connecting people to resources both internally and in the community. The MMF strives to assist Citizens through advocacy supports in a variety of areas and sectors, including the following:

- ∞ Northern Patient Transportation
- ∞ Manitoba Health
- ∞ CancerCare
- ∞ Canada Revenue Agency
- ∞ Child and Family Services
- ∞ Manitoba Public Insurance
- ∞ Workers Compensation Board
- ∞ Employment & Income Assistance
- ∞ Employment Insurance
- ∞ Human Rights Commission
- ∞ Manitoba Labour Board
- ∞ Employment Insurance
- ∞ Old Age Pension & Canada Pension Plan
- ∞ Income Tax Benefits & Credits
- ∞ Residential Tenancies Board

ELDER SUPPORTS & COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

The Red River Métis Community Resource Department can link Citizens to culture-based programs and services designed to assist Elders, Seniors, and families. Please see below for a showcase of these important initiatives.

MÉTIS PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM

The Prescription Drug Program is a partnership with the MMF Health & Wellness Department and MEDOCare Pharmacy. This MMF initiative pays for Pharmacare-eligible prescription drugs. MCRD staff assist Métis Seniors by facilitating intake and collecting supporting documentation.



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

The Department does its best to provide Citizens with partial supports or referrals related to medical needs. MCRD helps Citizens seeking supports such as medical equipment (walkers, wheelchairs, canes, bathroom bars, shower/tub seats), financial aid for travel to medical appointments, as well as cost-sharing of ambulance services where possible.

- ∞ *Medical Accommodation Aid*
For Citizens travelling for essential medical purposes, the department has the ability to book hotels at specific locations on behalf of the Citizen and cover the cost of this accommodation for eligible appointments.
- ∞ *Medical Transportation Fuel Donation*
The department will continue to develop this program for donation as we recognize the need is high for this support, especially those in the regions who have to travel a further distance to attend medical appointments.
- ∞ *Ambulance Cost Relief Donation*
The Ambulance Cost Relief fund provides Red River Métis Citizens assistance with the cost of their emergency medical travel via ambulance. The Red River Métis Community Resource Department will contribute to each ambulance bill in collaboration with the Health & Wellness Department.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Memorial Service Financial Support Program is designed to assist the family of a deceased Citizen with costs associated with a funeral or memorial service for their loved one. The MMF Program provides financial assistance of up to \$5,000 to eligible Métis Citizens to cover basic costs associated with funeral home expenses. Total support to Metis Citizens in the 2023-2024 fiscal year was \$770,516.53.

MMF BEREAVEMENT FUND

The Bereavement Fund is a program facilitated by the department and funded primarily by the silent auction at Manitoba Métis Federation events. This financial support fund was developed to assist Métis families in need of financial support with expenses involved with the loss of a loved one. The MCRD department assists the family by facilitating intake and collecting supporting documents to ensure the family receives a \$200 donation.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM

This program provides free basic income tax preparation services for Citizens who meet the eligibility criteria. If MCRD is unable to provide this service, we will refer clients to Community Financial Counselling Services.

FORWARD LOOKING PRIORITIES

Under the leadership of Minister Carrier and other key Ministers, the MMF is exploring ways to enhance the department with resources, as there is a growing demand for the supports. Enhanced resources will help to more effectively service Citizens in need. MRCDD is working to develop some new resources in the coming fiscal year to include outreach and prevention, and Wills and Estate preparation.





A photograph of a cemetery with several white headstones. In the foreground, a memorial wreath is placed on a headstone. The wreath features a red, white, and blue striped ribbon and a sign that reads "Red River Métis Veterans". The wreath is decorated with red roses and a small flag. The background shows green trees and a cloudy sky. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark layer and decorative graphic elements consisting of colorful dots in the corners.

RED RIVER MÉTIS VETERANS DEPARTMENT



SHAWN NAULT
MINISTER

The Red River Métis have always had the utmost respect for our Veterans and their loved ones. Red River Métis Veterans have consistently demonstrated our strength as a People and defended our Homeland for centuries. From defending the livelihoods of our People at the Victory at Frog Plain to fighting Canada for the very existence of our Red River Métis Nation across the Prairies in the late 1800s, and then on Canada's behalf in every conflict since WWII, our Red River Métis Veterans have fought every battle with peaceful democratic values at the forefront.

Over the last century, Red River Métis Veterans have faced a wide range of discrimination for their identity before, during, and after serving in the Canadian Armed Forces. Despite this, our people have enlisted by the numbers to protect and serve a country that didn't reciprocate such humanity. Our Veterans and their families have faced numerous challenges over the years due to the intersecting traumas of discrimination based on their identity, military experiences, and their treatment as Veterans.

Efforts to honour and support our Veterans and their families have always been essential traditions of the Red River Métis. As Minister of the Red River Métis Veterans Department, I am proud to share the incredible accomplishments we've made over the past year to honour our ancestral traditions of caring for the well-being of our Veterans, active serving members, and their families.

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Red River Métis Veterans Department (RRMVD) was established to recognize the immense contributions made by Métis Veterans and their loved ones, connect them with the culturally appropriate supports to meet their needs, and advocate on their behalf to improve the quality of life of our Red River Métis Veteran community.

Our department is founded on representing the interests of the Red River Métis Veteran community with integrity, accountability, and respect. The RRMVD serves a distinct demographic of Red River Métis Citizens with unique life experiences, which is why we are consistently seeking advice from the lived experiences of our Veterans to ensure that our department remains responsible to the Veteran community. As a Red River Métis Veteran myself, I understand many of the circumstances facing our Veteran community today, including mental health, financial assistance, memorials, employment, education, advocacy, and adjusting to civilian life, among other challenges.

I would like to thank my fellow Veteran Cabinet Ministers Jack Park, Andrew Carrier, and John Fleury for their support and collaboration as members of the Red River Métis Veteran Working Group this past year. As members of the Métis Veteran community, they offer valuable insights based on personal lived experiences as Métis Veterans to further guide the department's core purpose of acting in the best interest of the demographic it serves.



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 will remain attentive to the ongoing needs of individual Citizens and the Red River Métis Veteran community at large to identify the challenges they face. At last year's Annual General Assembly, RRMVD staff introduced our plan to uphold these commitments to the Red River Métis Veteran community.

To date, there have not been any studies or surveys conducted to identify the number of Red River Métis Veterans in Canada, let alone to determine what services would be most beneficial to this demographic. To gain an in-depth understanding of our Veterans' contributions and sacrifices for our country, and those of their family



OVER THE LAST CENTURY, RED RIVER MÉTIS VETERANS HAVE FACED A WIDE RANGE OF DISCRIMINATION FOR THEIR IDENTITY BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER SERVING IN THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES. DESPITE THIS, OUR PEOPLE HAVE ENLISTED BY THE NUMBERS TO PROTECT AND SERVE A COUNTRY THAT DIDN'T RECIPROCATE SUCH HUMANITY.

members, the RRMVD is currently establishing the Red River Métis Veteran Archive. The Archive will help identify past and present Red River Métis Veterans, active service members, and their families, giving us an opportunity to establish collaborative relationships with the community, understand their needs, and connect them with the supports to improve their well-being. This Archive will also preserve the legacy of our Red River Métis Veteran community to fill the gaps in Red River Métis history as part of Canadian history.

Many Citizens showed interest in the Archive at the 2023 AGA, with over 300 agreeing to participate once the Archive plan is finalized. Over the past year, the RRMVD has taken steps to develop procedures that care for the well-being of all participants throughout the project, such as interview, data security, privacy, and consent considerations. Each staff involved in this project will receive mental health first aid and trauma resiliency training to ensure that the well-being of our Veteran community remains our top priority.

If you are interested in participating in the Red River Métis Veteran Archive, please contact rrmvreception@mmf.mb.ca.

COLLABORATING WITH VETERAN-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS

To best meet the needs of the Red River Métis Veteran community, we have begun building relationships with internal Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) supports and external service providers with whom we will work collaboratively to build a strong support network of community care. Informed by the Red River Métis Veteran community, we will advocate for service improvements on their behalf, and educate service providers on the cultural context of our Red River Métis Veterans to advise best practices to meet the needs of the community.



These relationships include government and non-governmental service providers, employment opportunity facilitators, commemorative organizations, mental health programs, and other supports for Red River Métis Veterans, active service members, and their loved ones across the Homeland and Beyond Borders.

So far, we have met with the following organizations:

- ∞ The Royal Canadian Legion – Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario Provincial Command
- ∞ Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association
- ∞ Canadian Forces Base – 17 Wing
- ∞ Military Family Resource Centre
- ∞ Royal Canadian Legion St. Laurent Métis Branch #250
- ∞ Helmets to Hardhats

- ∞ Wounded Warriors
- ∞ Canadian Museum for Human Rights
- ∞ Southern Chiefs' Organization
- ∞ Veterans Affairs Canada
- ∞ Juno Beach Centre
- ∞ Manitoba Inuit Association
- ∞ BC Crisis Centre
- ∞ Minto Armouries

HONOURING OUR VETERANS

The RRMVD will continue to work hard to ensure that our Veterans and their family members feel that their legacies of strength and sacrifice to defend our country and our Homeland are remembered in our history. Our Veterans and their families deserve to be recognized for their service to our country year-round, which is why the RRMVD is committed to educating our Citizens and the Canadian public about the immense contributions that our Veterans made to defend the freedoms we all enjoy today.



This past year, we have hosted and participated in several wonderful events to honour members of the Red River Métis Veteran community, including Private Robert Blanchard, a Red River Métis who gave the ultimate sacrifice in Hong Kong in WWII.

INDIGENOUS VETERANS DAY 2023

Every year on November 8, 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 St. Laurent Métis Branch #250, which is the only Métis Legion in Canada. The ceremony was held in very high regard by our Citizens and special dignitaries in attendance.



HONOURING INDIGENOUS SOLDIERS IN THE NETHERLANDS

Last September, Minister Jack Park and I represented Métis Veterans in the Veterans Affairs Canada delegation to commemorate the 3,000 Indigenous soldiers who fought to liberate the Netherlands in Canada's last major contribution to help the Allies to victory during WWII. There, we honoured our fallen Red River Métis soldiers who were laid to rest in cemeteries across the Netherlands as part of the Indigenous Legacy Project.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF JUNO BEACH

To represent the pride that we Red River Métis have for our WWII Veterans on the international stage, the RRMVD sent a delegation of Red River Métis Youth, Veterans, and Cabinet Ministers to attend the 80th Anniversary of Juno Beach ceremony in Normandy this past June.

Before making the journey to France, the RRMVD hosted a Métis Kitchen Table Talk to have a day of open discussion between Youth, Métis Veterans, Veteran Cabinet Ministers, and active serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces. Sergeant Brent Thompson (RCAF Culture Evolution Coordinator and Indigenous Advisor for 17 Wing) and Red River Métis Citizen Colonel David Grebstad (G1 - Director of Canadian Army Personnel Management, Champion of NCR Defence Indigenous Advisory Group) presented at the Métis Kitchen Table about the history and contemporary involvement of Indigenous people in the Canadian Armed Forces. Our delegation provided an opportunity for our Youth to learn of the



sacrifices and contributions our Red River Métis Veterans made for our freedoms through intergenerational discussions while walking the same paths of our ancestors who fought in France. Visiting WWII historic sites and cemeteries where our fallen ancestors were laid to rest was an invaluable experience for all in attendance. We held two ceremonies at the Bény-sur-Mer and Bretteville-sur-Laize cemeteries, to pay our respects and honour the Red River Métis soldiers who gave their lives for ours, and for the French Citizens of Normandy – a people they didn't even know.

The formative relationships and lasting impressions made among delegates would not have been possible without the financial support of the Department of National Defence (DND) and Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples (UPIP) fund. We thank DND and UPIP for their gracious support.

MÉTIS VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM



The MMF entered a service delivery agreement with the Métis National Council in September 2020 to administer the MVLP. 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 MVLP has continued to deliver Recognition

Payments and the Commemoration Program in the best interest of Métis Veterans and their families.

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.

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 long-term legacies of all Métis Veterans throughout Canadian history.

One of the MVLP Commemoration Program projects of the past year was the permanent renewal of the Juno Beach Centre's *Faces of Canada Today* exhibit. The project promoted the stories of two Métis Veteran brothers who fought in WWII, and showcased Métis beaded poppies to celebrate and honour Métis Veterans and culture on the international stage for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day this past June.

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/>.

A photograph of a woman with her eyes closed, hugging a man from behind. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark layer and several colorful, dotted patterns resembling stylized flowers or sunbursts in various colors like pink, yellow, blue, and green. The text is centered in white, bold, sans-serif font.

SIXTIES SCOOP AND RESIDENTIAL & DAY SCHOOLS

SIXTIES SCOOP AND RESIDENTIAL & DAY SCHOOLS



DENISE THOMAS
MINISTER

Empowering Healing, Restoring Dignity



ANDREW CARRIER
MINISTER

INTRODUCTION

The Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Sixties Scoop and Residential Schools Department is committed to addressing the historical injustices faced by Red River Métis Citizens who were affected by the Sixties Scoop, and Residential and Day School systems.

Our mission is to provide support, healing, and advocacy for survivors and their families, while also raising awareness and promoting reconciliation within the Red River Métis community. This annual report serves to highlight our efforts, achievements, and ongoing initiatives throughout the year.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

The Ministers and department officials participate in numerous meetings throughout the year. The following meetings and events are notable high-level engagements.

- ∞ **April 12, 2023 - Kitchen Table Talks: Weaving** - This event focused on community discussions and traditional weaving teachings, promoting cultural sharing and learning.
- ∞ **May 23-24, 2023 - Departmental Strategic Planning Retreat** - A two-day retreat aimed at developing and refining the strategic plans for the department, enhancing organizational goals and objectives.
- ∞ **June 20, 2023 - Site Selection Ceremony of the Residential School National Monument** - A significant ceremony to select the site for the Residential School National Monument, honouring and commemorating the survivors and victims.
- ∞ **September 6, 2023 - National Gathering on Unmarked Burials: Supporting the Search and Recovery of Missing Children** - A national gathering dedicated to addressing unmarked burials, focusing on the search and recovery efforts for missing Indigenous children.
- ∞ **September 27, 2023 - Jordan's Principle Meeting** - A meeting to discuss and advance Jordan's Principle, ensuring equitable access to government services for Red River Métis children.

- ∞ **October 13-15, 2023 - MMF AGA** - The Annual General Assembly of the Manitoba Métis Federation, where Citizens convene to discuss important issues and policies and hear from Ministers on departmental updates.
- ∞ **November 28, 2023 - First Nation, Inuit, Red River Métis Council on Residential Schools Meeting** - A council meeting involving First Nation, Inuit, and Red River Métis representatives to discuss residential school matters and related initiatives.
- ∞ **December 9, 2023 - Red River Métis Residential and Day School Advisory Committee Meeting** - An advisory committee meeting focused on the concerns and developments related to Red River Métis Residential and Day schools.
- ∞ **January 8-9, 2024 - First Nation, Inuit, Red River Métis Council on Residential Schools Meeting** - A two-day council meeting to continue discussions on the search for missing children who attended Indian Residential school.
- ∞ **January 10, 2024 - Strategic Residential School Research Meeting** - A strategic meeting dedicated to planning and coordinating research efforts on Residential Schools and their impacts.
- ∞ **January 15-16, 2024 - Strategic Residential School Strategy Meeting** - A strategy meeting to develop comprehensive approaches and solutions related to Residential School legacies and survivor support.
- ∞ **January 30, 2024 - Virtual Talking Circle** - An online talking circle providing a platform for open dialogue, sharing experiences, and community support regarding Sixties Scoop, and Residential and Day school experiences.



- ∞ **January 31, 2024 - Feb 1, 2024 - National Gathering on Unmarked Burials: Northern Voices** - A national gathering focusing on the perspectives and contributions of northern communities in the efforts to locate and honour unmarked burial sites.
- ∞ **February 10, 2024 - Red River Métis Residential and Day School Advisory Committee Meeting** - A meeting of the advisory committee to discuss ongoing matters concerning Red River Métis Residential and Day schools.
- ∞ **March 8-10, 2024 - Red River Métis Survivor Symposium** - A symposium dedicated to the survivors of the Red River Métis Sixties Scoop, and Residential and Day schools, providing a platform for sharing stories and healing.
- ∞ **March 20, 2024 - Indian Residential School (IRS) Mapping Network Meeting** - A meeting of the IRS Mapping Network to coordinate efforts and share advancements in mapping Residential School sites.
- ∞ **March 23, 2024 - First Nation, Inuit, Red River Métis Council Naming Ceremony** - A ceremony held by the First Nation, Inuit, and Red River Métis Council to formally bestow a spirit name for the council.

3. Advocacy and Policy Initiatives:

- Continued advocacy efforts to address systemic issues and promote the rights of survivors.
- Collaborated with Indigenous organizations/governments, and advocacy groups to influence policy changes and ensure adequate support for survivors.

4. Financial Report:

- Total Revenue: \$1.5 million (funded by federal and provincial government sources specifically allocated for the search for missing Red River Métis children who attended Residential Schools).

LOOKING AHEAD

In the coming year, the MMF Sixties Scoop and Residential Schools Department remains dedicated to advancing our mission of healing, reconciliation, and empowerment. The release of the MMF's **"What We Heard" Red River Métis Survivors Symposium Report** in mid-2024 will guide our future efforts on behalf of our survivors. We will continue to listen to their needs, expand our services, and advocate for meaningful change. Together, we will build a brighter future rooted in healing, dignity, and justice for all Red River Métis Citizens affected by historical trauma.

CONCLUSION

The past year has been marked by significant progress and achievements, but our journey towards healing and reconciliation is ongoing. We are grateful for the continued support of our Citizens and our survivors as we work together to create a more inclusive and just society for future generations.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Program and Support Services:

- Access to MMF's Mental Health Support line is available while the department develops a mental health strategy aimed at providing trauma-informed counseling services for survivors.
- Enhanced intake support systems for managing survivors' requests for MMF government support programs and accessing additional resources in collaboration with the Red River Métis Community Resource Department.
- Major focus on the work related to the *Pekeywaytahihnan nutr zanfaan leur zisprii* - *We are bringing our children's spirit home* project. Phase 1 of the preliminary archival research process is completed. Future work is focused on an in-depth analysis of repositories identified in Phase 1.
- Red River Métis Survivor Symposium that brought 166 Sixties Scoop and Residential and Day School survivors together.

2. Education and Awareness Campaigns:

- Developed educational resources and promotional materials to raise awareness about the impacts of the Sixties Scoop, Residential School, and Day School systems.
- Conducted outreach activities with community organizations to promote understanding and reconciliation.
- Stayed connected with survivors through our "What's the Scoop" newsletter.
- The search for Sixties Scoop and Residential and Day School Survivors through an engagement process is ongoing. Citizens who know of any survivors, including family members, are encouraged to contact the department to add their names to our database. A more comprehensive engagement process is currently being developed.





TRADITIONAL ECONOMIES



DARREL FERLAND
MINISTER

The Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Traditional Economies Portfolio is housed within the Energy, Infrastructure & Resource Management (EIRM) Department and led by the appointed Minister of Traditional Economies, Darrel Ferland.

This past fiscal year, the portfolio has prioritized the resurgence of Red River Métis local traditional economies, conserving natural ecosystems, economic development, and capacity building. The Traditional Economies Portfolio includes fish and fish habitat, forestry, and peatlands.

Throughout the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Traditional Economies Portfolio focused on the following:

FISH AND FISH HABITAT

The MMF sought to identify Red River Métis priorities within the commercial fishing industry, support the resurgence of traditional cultural practices, and conduct habitat restoration and spawning studies to improve fisheries across the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. The MMF ensured provincial and federal governments recognize and uphold their duty to consult and accommodate in a meaningful way on fisheries-related inquiries.



ENGAGEMENT IN THE COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY

The MMF engaged with Red River Métis Commercial Fishers to collect information regarding concerns, goals, and priorities surrounding the commercial fishing industry. Technical staff attended commercial fishing meetings, liaised with proponents involved in the industry, and met with many commercial fishers.

The MMF also engaged with Red River Métis Citizens in the Thompson Region in relation to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and Canadian Coast Guard's Oceans Protection Plan. Information sessions were held in tandem with the Environment and Climate Change Portfolio, and valuable feedback was gathered and presented to DFO. This will serve to ensure that the voices of Red River Métis Citizens are considered in future decision-making.

The MMF will continue to engage with the Province of Manitoba to advocate for Red River Métis Commercial Fishers regarding the importance of consultation on any proposed changes to lake management plans.

COMMERCIAL FISHER NET PROGRAM

The Commercial Fisher Net Program was established in 2020 to assist commercial fishers through the pandemic. The program had remaining nets that continued to supply Red River Métis Commercial Fishers with valuable resources in the 2023-2024 season.

Through this program, the MMF has supported over 200 Red River Métis Commercial Fishers. Feedback received about the program has been overwhelmingly positive.

SPAWNING STUDY 2.0

The MMF bolstered the Fish Spawning Ground Study in 2023 through the Red River Métis Stewards of the Homeland Program. This study saw the deployment of underwater cameras in areas of suitable walleye spawning habitats. Fish populations within the Lake Winnipegosis waterbody are integral to the overall quality of the ecosystem and to Red River Métis Commercial Fishers and Harvesters. The data collected through the Spawning Study 2.0 will be used to assess populations, determine if the habitat is meeting expectations, or if stewardship is required to improve the quality of the ecosystem.



SEINE RIVER RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROJECT

The Seine River Riparian Restoration Project targeted riparian zones as they are a vital component of a healthy aquatic ecosystem. In 2023-2024, the MMF performed field work along the Seine River, a historically significant location to the Red River Métis, and an area with several notable river lots that belonged to Red River Métis Citizens.

Restoration work to remove invasive species and improve the riparian zone took place throughout the summer of 2023, resulting in an improved natural habitat. This work has continued throughout summer 2024.



FORESTRY & PEATLANDS

Forestry and peatland projects have a common theme of proposed timber harvesting, access development, access control, renewal activities, and road development and decommissioning – directly affecting Red River Métis harvesting rights. The MMF ensures the Manitoba Government recognizes and upholds its duty to consult and accommodate in a meaningful way on forestry and peatland operations in Manitoba.

In 2023-2024, the MMF was involved in the consultation process for the following forestry and peatland-related files:

- ∞ Nisokapawino Forestry Management Corporation 20-Year Forest Management Plan

- ∞ Nisokapawino Forestry Management Corporation 2023-2025 2-Year Operating Plan
- ∞ Louisiana Pacific 20-Year Forest Management Plan

Upcoming consultation projects for the 2024-2025 fiscal year include:

- ∞ Nisokapawino Forestry Management Corporation 2025-2027 2-Year Operating Plan
- ∞ Redevelopment of Louisiana Pacific's 20-Year Forest Management Plan
- ∞ PremierTech Poplar Creek Extension Area Project
- ∞ Sun Gro Horticulture Canada's Peatland Development of Sugar Creek sub-areas, Ramsay Point Bog, and Julius Lake West Bog

These projects have the potential to impact the rights, claims, and interests of Red River Métis Citizens, and it is imperative that Crown consultation be conducted in a meaningful way. This ensures 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





RICHARD GENAILLE
MINISTER

The MMF's Youth Department has spearheaded a range of impactful initiatives, yielding tangible economic and social benefits across Manitoba. Through programs such as Individual Youth Support and Believe, the department has facilitated the participation of over 2,000 Red River Métis (RRM) Youth in sports, recreation, and cultural activities. This not only cultivates individual growth but also fosters community cohesion and social integration.

INDIVIDUAL YOUTH SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Individual Youth Support Program provides an annual reimbursement of up to \$350 to Youth ages 29 and under for participation in sports, and recreational and cultural activities. The Individual Youth Support program continues to see increasing applications year to year.

Total Youth Supported 2023-2024: 2,429



BELIEVE – ELITE ATHLETIC AND ARTISTIC SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Believe Program aims to make a positive influence on the future accomplishments of Red River Métis Youth for high excellence within athletic and artistic performance. Through this program, high-level athletes and performers can access support, allowing them to participate in competitions, dedicate time to training efforts, and continue to pursue goals with alleviated financial burden.

Youth Supported: 134
National Aboriginal Hockey Championships 2023: 25
North American Indigenous Games 2023: 131
Total Youth Supported 2023-2024: 290



SPORTS AND RECREATION

The Youth Department is well-versed in planning and delivering a wide range of sports and recreational camps, which allows Youth to access to new activities. The camps focused on building confidence, creating connections through teamwork, and providing tools to develop and succeed, not only physically, but mentally and socially.

YOUTH HOCKEY MENTORSHIP CAMP

The Youth Hockey Mentorship Camp took place at the Seven Oaks Arena and included both on and off-ice activities. Utilizing the expertise of our hockey players that were supported through our Believe program, this camp focused on building young athletes with an interest in hockey.

Head Coach: Kamerin Nault
Assistant Coach: Two Youth ages 18-29
Believe Mentors: 7 Believe Support Recipients
Youth Participants: 30 Youth, ages 11-14



THROUGH PROGRAMS SUCH AS INDIVIDUAL YOUTH SUPPORT AND BELIEVE, THE DEPARTMENT HAS FACILITATED THE PARTICIPATION OF OVER 2,000 RED RIVER MÉTIS YOUTH IN SPORTS, RECREATION, AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

CURLING WITH KERRI

A Curling Mentorship Camp, with Kerri Einarson as the instructor, offered a unique chance for young individuals to interact with an Olympian. The camp took place at Tyndall Curling Club on January 5, 2024, and included curling lessons, entertainment, lunch, and pictures with Kerri for the participating Youth.



YOUTH PROGRAMMING

The MMF's Youth Department has initiated diverse programs, events, and supports aimed at breaking down barriers, creating inclusivity, establishing cultural connection, and promoting empowerment amongst Red River Métis Youth. The department recognizes the important role of Youth, and actively integrates the Youth voice into project planning and delivery processes. The effective approach to constructive Youth dialogue is a driving force behind innovation, progress, and positive change for the young population.

- ∞ Youth Camps
- ∞ Fiddle and Jigging Lessons
- ∞ Moccasin Making
- ∞ Beading Workshops

YOUTH AND ELDERS GATHERING

The Youth and Elders Gathering aimed to foster connections between generations, enhance generational awareness through diverse perspectives, and maintain the Elders' prominent role within the RRM community. The two-day event included workshops, a historical tour, Red River Métis talent show, and entertainment. Elders shared their stories, life experiences, and traditional knowledge, passing on new values and cultural understanding to the Youth.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT

The MMF's generous contribution of \$50,000 to the 2023 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships enabled 16 hockey teams from across Canada to participate in this esteemed event, thereby generating economic development for Winnipeg as the host city. The Youth Department created various employment opportunities for Red River Métis Youth as counsellors and mentors at various summer camps. These positions not only provided valuable job opportunities but also cultivated essential leadership and employability skills vital to building strong attributes for new employment settings. The Community Summer Employment Program, which employed 54 Youth throughout the regions, equipped participants with relevant life skills and contributed to community development and workforce participation.

COMMUNITY SUMMER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The Community Summer Employment Program focuses on developing Youth employability skills to prepare them for their futures. The CSE Program is comprised of three components: training, job readiness, and work experience on community projects.

Supported 16 Communities and Employed 54



AFFILIATES



The image features three women standing behind a table in what appears to be a meeting or conference setting. The woman on the left is wearing glasses and a light pink top. The woman in the center has long dark hair and is wearing a dark top with a red and white striped sash. The woman on the right has reddish-brown hair and is wearing a light-colored blazer with a colorful striped sash. They are all smiling. The background is decorated with large, colorful, dot-patterned graphics of flowers and abstract shapes. The text 'INFINTY WOMEN SECRETARIAT' is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

INFINTY WOMEN SECRETARIAT



ANITA CAMPBELL
MINISTER

Infinity Women Secretariat (IWS) is a proud affiliate of the MMF - National Government of the Red River Métis. As a Red River Métis woman-led organization with experience in addressing the issues that our members face, IWS is a role model, advocating for our members' needs. Having grown substantially since its incorporation on April 23, 2013, IWS now engages with over 2000 members.

The IWS Board of Directors comprises of a Spokeswoman (elected Province-wide), seven Regional Directors (elected regionally), and an appointed provincial Youth Representative, in addition to 14 staff.

Standing together as sisters, we advocate and inspire change on issues that impact all Red River Métis women, and our Red River Métis communities. Our matriarchs lead with wisdom and share their experiences, impacting the lives of our members. Throughout history, the women of our Nation have long-held meaningful, strategic roles in inspiring positive change for our families and communities.

Vision: Métis Women uplifting each other to feel fully alive!

Mission: Infinity Women Secretariat is a non-profit organization that connects and empowers Métis women by providing culturally specific programs, services, and support. We foster a sense of belonging and sisterhood for all Métis women and our communities.

Mandate: To promote, empower, and enhance the well-being of Red River Métis women, girls, 2SLGBTQ+ individuals, throughout the Province of Manitoba, and beyond.

IWS PROGRAMS, SERVICES, SUPPORTS, AND RESOURCES

IWS has designed, created, and implemented several projects, programs, and services in the 2023/2024 fiscal year, with over 2,660 participants attending our workshops, consultations, and events. Over 1,150 participants completed our socio-economic survey and programming evaluations. In addition, our social media

reach was nearly 75,000, enhancing the awareness of IWS and what we do, supporting all our members with education and empowerment, inspiring them to action.

GENDER-BASED ANALYSIS PLUS (GBA+)

Red River Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ individuals face socio-economic disparities and significant obstacles in education and employment, heightened risks of gender-based violence (GBV), and notable underrepresentation in civic and civil society organizations. These challenges have been intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has disproportionately impacted women, girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ individuals.

Gender Based Analysis plus (GBA+) is a framework used in public policymaking to assess the potential impact of policies, programs, and initiatives on diverse gender identities. It goes beyond traditional gender analysis by considering intersecting identities such as race, ethnicity, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Implementing practices of GBA+ helps to ensure that policies and programs are responsive to the needs and realities of all individuals, regardless of their gender identity or background.

Through facilitated consultation workshops, IWS presented an overview of GBA+ concepts to over 600 IWS members from all Regions, as well as gaining valuable data on their diverse needs. The findings served as a guideline for IWS to embed GBA+ into programs, services, supports, and resources and to create the IWS Gender Equality / GBA+ Toolkit, a comprehensive resource that guides individuals on facilitating GBA+ in their workplaces and communities.

While the **“Fighting inequality - Advancing Gender Equality Policy and Practice in Manitoba Métis Government and Communities”** was completed in March 2024, the work has not, and IWS will continue fighting inequality. We will continue to present GBA+ workshops to MMF Departments, affiliates, and IWS members.



**INFINITY
WOMEN**
SECRETARIAT ∞



INCREASING CAPACITY TO ADDRESS GBV

IWS is working to reduce incidences and break the cycle of violence within Red River Métis communities to build stronger communities. This is part of the holistic approach to address gender-based violence (GBV) faced by Red River Métis women and 2SLGBTQ+ individuals.

IWS assists members in accessing GBV-related supports, services, and programs. We are creating a Métis-specific family system, using a holistic Model of Care that will provide wrap-around services and connect survivors and families with community connections and supports. Building a network of relationships within Red River Métis communities that will support GBV survivors and their families and reinforces the collaboration with law enforcement agencies, victim service agencies, and grassroots partners. Our workshops and consultations promote family healing, encouraging members to speak out when they see or experience GBV. We delivered GBV and Child Luring workshops attended by over 350 members.

To support members in need, IWS compiled a comprehensive GBV resource guide and a GBV Portal that contains useful resources and support services across Manitoba. They include hotlines, shelters, food banks, health support services, as well as guidelines on safety planning and supporting individuals experiencing GBV.

ADDRESSING FAMILY AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

With over 550 members who attended our workshops and consultations, IWS members are gaining a better understanding and awareness of the different types of violence. Members are learning how to recognize the signs and patterns of abuse, how to reach out for help, and what measures need to be in place to create effective safety plans.

IWS launched the Family Violence Social Media Campaign on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Over the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, IWS delivered strategic posts to honour all victims and survivors, providing helpful information, supports, and resources. The campaign reached over 15,000+ people.

By providing forums for discussion in safe spaces, increasing access to wrap-around services, supports, and resources in the Red River Métis community, IWS is effectively addressing change.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FACILITY

Identified as a priority, IWS is working in partnership with Métis N4 Construction and the MMF Housing Department to build a transitional housing facility that will provide survivors and families a safe supportive place to live, for up to two years after leaving violent situations.

Transitional housing for women is critical in helping them reestablish themselves after leaving violent situations, providing a safe and stable environment for them to heal and rebuild their lives. IWS will provide a temporary home where women can access wrap-around services, resources, and support tailored specifically to their needs, using a Métis centric approach to healing. Leaving a violent situation can often be traumatic and the facility will offer a necessary stepping stone towards independence and long-term stability.

The IWS Transitional Housing Facility will comprise of ten furnished apartment units, offices for support staff, kitchen, laundry, healing space, green houses, garden space and communal recreational areas, including a childcare centre. Our facility differentiates itself

from other transitional housing projects in that it will provide a culturally familiar environment for survivors. Wrap-around services, including trauma-informed counseling, support groups, life skills training, and assistance with finding permanent housing and employment will encourage survivors to make meaningful lifestyle changes, inspiring new possibilities for the future.

PEY KEY WAY TA HIN – BRING ME HOME

In partnership with the MMF and the Métis Justice Institute, we are supporting Red River Métis impacted by the “Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls, 2SLGBTQ+ People” (MMIWG2S+) genocide, providing resources and referrals for support services. IWS is coordinating the use of billboards that share images and details of missing individuals, increasing awareness and gathering leads from the public. By strategically placing billboards in Manitoba, we are reaching those who may hold crucial information, assisting families 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

Through traditional storytelling and knowledge sharing, IWS members learn about their culture and identity and bond through shared life experiences, creating lasting connections. As a strong matriarchal society, Red River Métis women carry and guard the traditions of our people.

We are very proud that our virtual beading sessions, which started as a way for our members to connect and share our culture through COVID-19, has created a network of artisans and Red River Métis women entrepreneurs. As a result, many have launched their own micro-businesses.

IWS continues to provide engaging and fun workshops that have been educating Red River Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ individuals about beading, and why the Red River Métis are known as the “Flower Beadwork People”. Beading improves participants’ mental health by decreasing stress through thoughtful repetitive work. This fiscal year, over 100 participants learned various techniques used in flat beading and created sash pins, fringe earrings, and lanyards, to name a few. But the main reason why these classes are so successful is because participants created a sisterhood that remains to this day.

The IWS Wellness Weekend was a huge success with 277 members. IWS facilitated traditional Red River Métis cultural activities through fiddling, jigging, spoon lessons, art therapy, affirmations, healing bowls and meditation. Each participant received a “Wellness Care Package” that included items of self-care. IWS strives to show our members how we will always care about their holistic mental, physical, emotional, and social well-being.

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 Métis Economic and Community Development Department, IWS is bridging partnerships for women at all stages of their entrepreneurial journey, connecting them with multiple networking events, training opportunities, and mentoring.

IWS has been connecting our entrepreneurs with networking opportunities, advisory services, professional development, and the tools they need to grow their own businesses. By connecting them with a community of entrepreneurs who have faced similar

situations, we are encouraging them to uplift each another. Offering these services helps our members gain the business skills necessary to overcome obstacles, providing them professional and personal growth opportunities, which empowers and encourages women to start, grow and thrive in self-employment.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

The IWS **“Summer Student Employment Program”** (SSEP) has become one of our success stories. It was created during the COVID-19 as a way to give students more opportunities to find meaningful employment. In partnership with the MMF Métis Employment and Training (MET) Department, IWS provided 51 students with jobs in summer 2023. They were placed with multiple businesses Manitoba-wide, along with various MMF Departments and affiliates. Students gain employment, training, and mentoring and employers gain a fully funded Red River Métis student.

Working in partnership with the MMF Youth Department, IWS youth are connecting with each other and learning new skills through workshops and cultural activities that pass on our Red River Métis traditions. Through land-based education, our youth gain the confidence needed to be leaders in their communities. Over 40 girls and 2SLGBTQ+ kids participated in the in-person and virtual camps in fiscal year 2023/2024.

We are producing relatable social media content that is inclusive and insightful. #Youthvoice Friday has been connecting Red River Métis Citizens of all ages. ‘Youth Member Spotlight’ is an initiative that has provided IWS the space to celebrate our youth.

Hosted by IWS with presentations from various MMF Departments, IWS youth from ages 11 to 29 attended the pilot ‘Adulthood 101’ virtual series. It included topics on Red River Métis history, employability, finances, female health, and healthy relationships.

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

We are excited to announce that we will be opening our very first **“Little Infinity Child Care Centre”** in the Interlake Region in late Fall 2024! Opening the Centre will bring employment opportunities, and will provide childcare to 8 infants, 32 preschools, and 15 school-age children.

Our space will consist of a large welcoming entrance that will lead children and their families to their age-appropriate program. Each program is an open-concept design with high ceilings and large windows to allow for natural light to shine through and give it a “Home-like” feeling. The outdoor play spaces will 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. Our large state-of-the-art kitchen will be fully equipped to allow for a lunch and snack program to be offered to ensure all children have the chance for nutritious meals to fuel their bodies for a full day of play and learning. Our Red River Métis-centric curricula will be shared with children and their families throughout our Centre through music, food, storytelling, and gatherings.

IWS continues to support families by prioritizing early learning and childcare (ELCC). Through our partnership with the MMF ELCC Department, we have been offering members support in opening their own home-based childcare business and furthering their education to become an Early Childhood Educator.

ENHANCING ENGAGEMENT, CONSULTATION, AND ADVOCACY

To identify the programming needs of IWS members, several methods were applied in conducting a needs assessment. Consultations were held to gather input from IWS members. A socio-economic survey was conducted to gather current data, which will be incorporated into future program design and planning, ensuring that the perspectives of Red River Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ individuals are effectively communicated within the community, workplace, and all levels of government.

Findings from consultations and surveys have guided IWS in the development of the initial draft of an Engagement, Consultation, and Advocacy Strategy. This strategy guides and optimizes how we advocate for members' priorities, create alliances and partnerships, engage with governments, utilize various communication channels, and conduct grassroots-level consultation sessions.

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, which is assisting us design evidence-based programs, services, and supports.

IN CONCLUSION

IWS is grateful for our partnerships, especially the MMF - National Government of the Red River Métis. Our programs and services would not be possible without the support of our partners that invest in the lives and wellbeing of Red River Métis women, girls, 2SLGBTQ+ individuals.





LOUIS RIEL CAPITAL CORPORATION



LEAH (PHYLLIS) LAPLANTE
CHAIR



JACK PARK
VICE CHAIR

Secretary James Bruce
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Director Gerald Barron

THE LOUIS RIEL CAPITAL CORPORATION

Thirty-two year Anniversary: The Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC) will celebrate 32 years of providing capital and business services to Métis entrepreneurs in Manitoba in October 2024. The formation of the LRCC was an initiative of the Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Tripartite Self-Government Department. The LRCC continues to deploy valuable loan and grant (equity) funding to support and foster the Manitoba Métis business community and Métis Citizens seeking to start up, expand or buy an existing business. On average, the LRCC provides both loan and/or grant capital totalling more than \$6 million to 100 +/- new business projects each year.

THE LRCC LOAN PROGRAM

The LRCC is one of the Economic Development arms of the MMF providing loans, grants (non-repayable equity contributions) to Métis Businesses and Entrepreneurs in Manitoba. We inherently take on more risk than Banks and Credit Unions when providing loan capital to our Métis businesses. As a result, many of our clients have access to loan and grant capital when otherwise they would not have the ability to access the capital they need.

The LRCC's loan program can provide our Métis business clients with as little as \$25,000 or up to a maximum of \$500,000. Loans can be amortized to a maximum of 15 years based on the life expectancy of the assets being financed or the security available to secure the loan. Loan interest rates are fixed for the entire term and can be as low as 5.00%. The actual interest rate that a client will pay is based on the risk assessed by the adjudication team and/or the strength of the security being provided. For example, to receive the minimum rate, the loan would need to be substantially secured by tangible assets such as mortgage security. Our interest rates are very competitive and, in most cases, better than the fixed rates offered by other financial institutions.

Please visit our website: www.lrcc.mb.ca for more information on how to access our programs and services.

THE LRCC BUSINESS EQUITY CONTRIBUTION FUND (GRANT)

The LRCC continues to deliver the Business Equity Contribution Fund (BECF) commonly known as the Business Grant Program. The intent of the business grant is to provide our Métis clients with the additional capital (equity) that the financial institutions (banks, credit unions, etc.) require in order to obtain a business loan.

The LRCC has been delivering the BECF since the spring of 2013 and to date we have paid out over \$15 million helping support the creation, expansion, or purchase of over 400 Métis-owned businesses. The BECF is adjudicated on a **needs basis**. The client must demonstrate that the grant is needed in order to obtain a commercial loan from a financial institution. A further condition for a Métis client to obtain a grant is that they must contribute some of their own cash into the project. The minimum required client equity contribution is 10% of the total project cost. For example, if the client's total project cost or business acquisition is \$150,000, then the client would need to contribute a minimum of \$15,000 of their own cash in order to access the BECF.

We are pleased to report that the LRCC will continue administering the BECF grant/equity funding for the foreseeable future. These business grants are non-repayable and have assisted Métis people to start up, purchase, or expand their businesses. The maximum grant is \$99,999. In order to access the maximum grant, the project size would need to be in the range of \$300,000. The estimated average grant contribution would be \$50,000. The grant/equity program on average contributes 25% of the project's cost. When applying to the LRCC for a business grant or a loan, please allow sufficient time for our staff to work with you to complete the due diligence and adjudication process as it can take four to six weeks depending on the client's preparedness. We encourage all of our Métis Citizens to contact the LRCC to see how they might qualify to take advantage of this valuable program.

The full details of the LRCC loan and grant program including the application can be found on the LRCC website at www.lrcc.mb.ca.

MMF ENTREPRENEURSHIP INITIATIVE

The MMF Entrepreneurship Initiative was launched in October 2020 with a focus on providing financing and increased support for existing small businesses and new start-ups. The initiative provides financial and training supports to young entrepreneurs aged 18 – 29, small/home based businesses, and small commercial fishers through three loan programs specific to the needs of the applicant.

Funding amounts and rates differ depending on the program being accessed, with all programs providing a portion of the loan forgiven provided the business meets certain repayment conditions. Full program details can be found on the LRCC website at www.lrcc.mb.ca.



MÉTIS WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP (MWE) PROGRAM

Launched in 2022, the MWE provides commercial financing to help Métis women start or expand businesses in Manitoba. This program offers up to \$25,000.00 in financing and may be composed of a grant and loan. Businesses must be at least 51%+ Métis and women owned and controlled. Additionally, the ownership must also have at least 5% of their total costs as available cash equity to put towards their project. Eligible costs may include but are not limited to the purchase of equipment/inventory, leasehold improvements, insurance, commercial rent, utilities, and marketing or promotional items.

A Grant & Mentorship program is also available. This program matches an eligible Métis woman in the early stages of starting a business with an experienced business mentor. Each pair will complete a six-month, one-on-one program with support from LRCC staff. Upon completion, mentees receive a total of \$3,000.00 in grant support and mentors receive a \$1,000.00 honorarium.

Limited spots are available in this program so please check our website and social media for information about upcoming cohorts as they are announced.

Full program details can be found on the LRCC website at www.lrcc.mb.ca.



MÉTIS BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Newly redesigned and enhanced in 2023, the Métis Business Directory has now surpassed 700 registered businesses. Businesses must be majority Métis owned and controlled to be listed on the directory. Adding your business to the directory is at no cost, and the benefits of listing your business include:

- ∞ Providing a web presence for your company.
- ∞ Certification of your business as being Métis-owned to support government and private sector procurement opportunities.
- ∞ Improved communication in relation to new events, programs, and other opportunities within the MMF.

Please visit <https://online-directory.lrcc.mb.ca/> for more information on the directory, including a link to add your business.

LOUIS RIEL CAPITAL INVESTMENTS INC.

Louis Riel Capital Investments Inc. (LRCCI) is a separately incorporated company owned and operated by the LRCC. Recently launched through this corporation is the Red River Métis Personal Loan Program (RRMPLP). The RRMPLP is an interest-bearing loan program wherein eligible Métis Citizens may be able to access up to \$40,000.00. Uses for this loan include the purchase of vehicles, home renovations, or for other personal reasons.

Applicants must demonstrate an ability to repay the loan through regular payments, and security may be required depending on the size, purpose, and risk associated with the loan. Interest rates are fixed during the period of the loan and are set based on overall repayment risk, loan size, and associated security.

Full details on this program can be found on the LRCC website at www.lrcc.mb.ca.

LRCCI also provides small personal loans of up to \$25,000 to full-time employees of the MMF and the employees of their affiliates. These loans are designed to provide funds for personal use (maximum 48 months) to employees that are no longer in their probation period. The loan will become due and payable in full should the employee leave the employ of the MMF or the affiliate. The rate applied to each loan is based on credit history and the value of any security pledged.

It's easy to apply and funds can usually be obtained within five business days. For employees and caucus members of the MMF and their affiliates looking to utilize this program, please 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 Minister Goodon's portfolio report (Housing and Property Management).

LRCC'S PROPERTY INVESTMENTS

The LRCC, through its asset holding company, 5785066 Manitoba Ltd., owns and manages the 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 with signed parking agreements. Public paid parking is available overnight between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. and all day on weekends.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT – 5785066 MANITOBA LTD., A DIVISION OF LRCC

The LRCC's property management company continues to grow, currently managing 22 residential and 17 commercial buildings on behalf of the MMF, MEDO Developments, and one Regional Office. A full property management report can be seen under Minister Goodon's portfolio report (Housing and Property Management).

Helping Métis Business Succeed
Unit 720 – 200 Main St.
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1A8
Phone: 204-589-0772
MB Toll Free: 1-800-387-6004
Email: info@lrcc.mb.ca





LRI, LRVC, EDUCATION & RIEL HOUSE



JOAN LEDOUX
MINISTER



DAVID BEAUDIN
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

LOUIS RIEL INSTITUTE (LRI) PROGRAMS

ADULT LEARNING CENTRE (ALC)

The ALC program is a non-traditional high school for adults, which offers unique course selections such as Métis Studies and Métis Art. There are two streams that students can attend, Post Diploma Upgrading and Mature Student Diploma. During the 2023-2024 school year, the ALC continued to provide students with an exceptional level of support through the Brightspace 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 2023-2024 year there were 264 ALC students, with a total of 191 course completions. 197 new students registered, and 67 returned from previous years. Additionally, the students completed 191 credits during the year and 20 students graduated with their high school, or Mature Student Diploma.

LRI - CULTURAL PROGRAMMING DEPARTMENT

The LRI Cultural Programming department continued to deliver a variety of workshops, presentations, and training both virtually and on-site. The Cultural Programming 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.

MÉTIS HISTORY COURSES

PSESP 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 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.

CULTURAL WORKSHOPS

In 2023 LRI continued their partnership with R. B. Russell Vocational School, who provided space for the Flower Beadwork Circle to resume weekly in-person workshops.

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, bison hunt presentations, and custom three-day 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 at Frog Plain commemoration; National Indigenous Peoples Day; Ste. Madeleine Métis Days; Gimli Métis Days; Child and Family Services 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.

MÉTIS HISTORIC TOURS

The Cultural Programming department provided a series of tours and walking tours through the year. Bus tours focused on:

1. "Birth of Province," which tours historic Métis sites such as the Riel House National Historical Site, the Forks National Historic Site, Upper Fort Garry, St. Boniface Museum, Pare Lagimodiere Gaboury, Fort Gibraltar, Parc Elzear Goulet, and St. Boniface Cathedral; and
2. "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.

RIEL HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE INTERPRETATION PROGRAM

Riel House National Historic Site, managed by Parks Canada, has brought the history of the Red River Métis and Louis Riel to life for the last 10 years, through historically dressed interpreters and programming. In 2023, the site welcomed 2,097 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 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 Métis culture and history, including jigging, finger weaving, and building Red River Frame houses. The site used social media to promote events like 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 Early Learning & Child Care (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

2022-2023 ENDOWMENTS FROM THE LOUIS RIEL BURSARIES

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION	APPLICANTS	AWARDS	TOTAL AWARDED
Assiniboine Community College	13	10	\$40,000.00
Brandon University	98	66	\$185,050.00
Red River College Polytech	71	48	\$47,000.00
University College of the North	6	2	\$6,271.00
University of Manitoba	618	420	\$415,225.00
Université de Saint-Boniface	85	42	\$100,200.00
University of Winnipeg	305	110	\$182,200.00
TOTAL	1,196	698	\$975,946.00

PRELIMINARY 2023-2024 ENDOWMENTS FROM THE LOUIS RIEL BURSARIES

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION	APPLICANTS	AWARDS	TOTAL AWARDED
Assiniboine Community College	23	20	\$33,000.00
Brandon University	114	67	\$174,566.00
Red River College Polytech	86	43	\$42,000.00
University College of the North	11	6	\$30,000.00
University of Manitoba	739	487	\$419,750.00
Université de Saint-Boniface	98	43	\$101,100.00
University of Winnipeg	305	111	\$195,104.00
TOTAL	1,376	777	\$995,520.00

BURSARIES TIMELINES

Louis Riel Bursary

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION	CLOSING DATE
Assiniboine Community College	September 15
Brandon University	June 1
Red River College Polytech	September 15
University College of the North	November 8
University of Manitoba	October 1
Université de Saint-Boniface	September 30
University of Winnipeg	October 1

To successfully apply for the Louis Riel Bursary, applicants must complete the Louis Riel Bursary application with both their institution and the Louis Riel Institute before the deadlines listed above. Please note that this application may be in addition to the institution's general bursary form.

ADDITIONAL BURSARIES AVAILABLE TO RED RIVER MÉTIS CITIZENS

BURSARY	OPEN	CLOSE
Audreen Hourie Governance Fellowship*	Mid-August	October 1, 2024
Mary Guilbault Métis Award	July 1, 2024	October 1, 2024
MMF Vickar Community Chevrolet Award**	August 1, 2024	September 15, 2024
The Red River Métis & Cantor's Family Award	July 1, 2024	November 1, 2024
The Senator Gerry & Margaret St. Germain Award	April 2, 2024	June 26, 2024

* Audreen Hourie Governance Fellowship is available to eligible students attending UW

** MMF Vickar Community Chevrolet Award is available to eligible students attending RRC

LOUIS RIEL VOCATIONAL COLLEGE

MISSION

The Louis Riel Vocational College (LRVC) 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 institute of post-secondary education, we value the following: Commitment, Community, Diversity, Professionalism, Quality, and Success.

As a highly regulated private college operating under the Advanced Education and Training portfolio, LRVC traces its origins to 2013 when it began its operations under the auspices of the Manitoba Métis Federation's affiliate. Commencing with a single diploma program in Health Care Aide, LRVC has since expanded its offerings, providing students with a diverse array of educational opportunities. Presently, LRVC 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

Each of our diploma programs includes a mandatory 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, LRVC 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, LRVC equips participants to excel in the certification process, enabling them to become competent and certified Health Care Aides.
- ∞ **Health Care Aide Bridging Program:** LRVC 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 LRVC, 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 11 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

LRVC 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 100 students have already secured meaningful employment in different Manitoba communities through LRVC's initiatives.

EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS

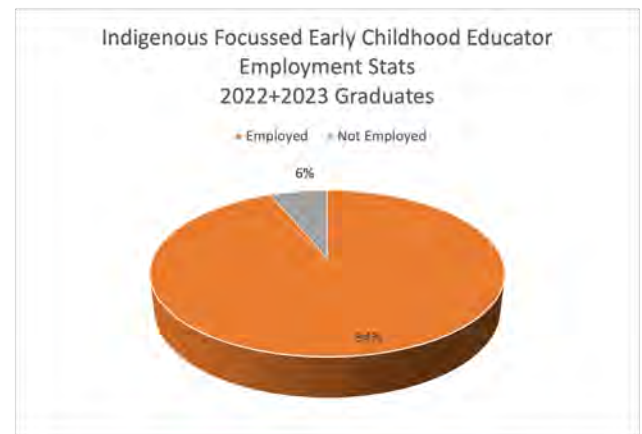
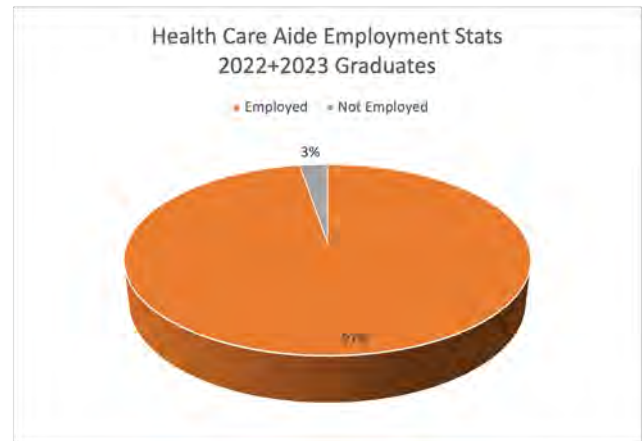
At LRVC, we strongly believe in the power of collaboration to enrich educational opportunities. We have forged valuable partnerships with key stakeholders, including:

- ∞ MMF's 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 Métis students with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in early child



∞ care education. By combining the expertise of LRVC and the support of ELCC, we have created a program that addresses the unique needs of the 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.
- ∞ LRI: Our collaboration with LRI enriches our curriculum through 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 LRVC's dedication to community engagement and knowledge sharing.
- ∞ City of Winnipeg: Corporate lunch and learns exemplify LRVC's dedication to community engagement and knowledge sharing.
- ∞ Tanco Mine: Corporate lunch and learn training for 50 employees with a commitment to train 100 additional employees.
- ∞ Number TEN Architectural Group: Corporate lunch and learn 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 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.



EDUCATION

Over the course of the last year, MMF Education Department:

- ∞ Administered the PSESP.
- ∞ Represented the MMF on Manitoba's Education Council, as well as on the Manitoba Collaborative Indigenous Education Blueprint Steering Committee as an ex-officio member.
- ∞ Met with the Province of Manitoba's curriculum specialists and negotiated a place on the Curriculum Advisory Panel undertaking curriculum renewal in 2024-2025.
- ∞ Signed an MOU with Manitoba's Department of Education and Early Childhood Learning and launched 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.
- ∞ Hired a Programs Manager and an additional Assessment Officer for PSESP.

GRADUATION AND IMPACT

To date, over 1,600 students have placed their trust in LRVC, 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.

- ∞ Held numerous events and workshops on the University of Winnipeg, University of Manitoba, and Brandon University campuses, organized and hosted by our Métis Inclusion Coordinators.
- ∞ Extended presence in Manitoba's high schools through Métis Inclusion Coordinator (MIC) attendance at high school post-secondary fairs.
- ∞ Attended meetings with the presidents of post-secondary institutions from across Manitoba, during which we built relationships, discussed issues and successes with the current programs, explored opportunities for further collaboration, and ensured that the institutions are moving towards the shared goal of improving the education journeys and outcomes of Red River Métis students.
- ∞ Worked with the LRI on a joint Education plan to ensure MMF departments and affiliates are aligned in all programs and services designed to support Red River Métis Citizens as they achieve their education goals.

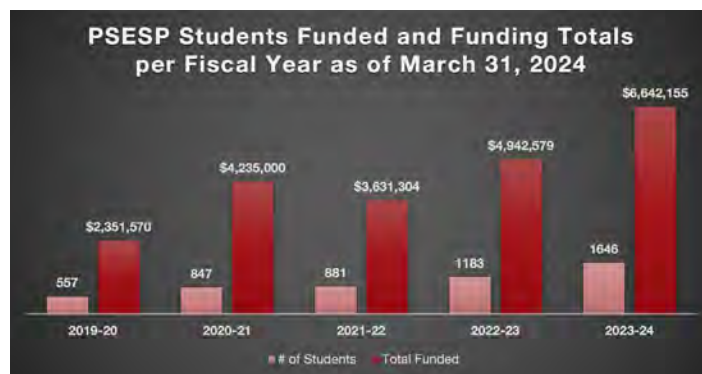
hosted by MMF Education's Métis Inclusion Coordinators. The MICs are full-time MMF employees who are situated on the campuses of post-secondary institutions to offer support to Red River Métis post-secondary students. The current MICs are situated on the campuses of the University of Winnipeg, the University of Manitoba, and Brandon University.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

The MMF's PSESP was developed by the MMF Education Working Group Committee in 2019. The Education Working Group Committee developed and defined the program's Terms of Reference and Guidelines, as well as developed the necessary PSESP sub-committees to execute the programming. PSESP has continued to provide eligible Citizens enrolled in a post-secondary program with up to \$5,000 per MMF fiscal year.

In 2023, PSESP added a Spring/Summer intake to allow students attending courses in May-August to receive funding during these semesters. The fifth intake began on July 15, 2022, and ended March 1, 2023. During this time, PSESP awarded 1,646 students. The students were awarded based on part-time or full-time status with a total award amount of \$6,642,155.

The following figure summarises the number of individuals funded, and the dollar amounts awarded for all years of the PSESP.



RED RIVER MÉTIS EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

In April 2023, an MOU was signed between Manitoba's Ministry of Education and Early Childhood Learning and the MMF's Department of Education. This MOU formalized a partnership between the education arms of the two governments and formally recognized their mutual goal of improving the education outcomes of Red River Métis students in Manitoba's K-12 system. Initial meetings were held to establish the necessary first steps towards creating an education strategy. With the change in Provincial government in October 2023, the Working Group was recalibrated with its new members and meets quarterly. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing took place in April 2023.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE MÉTIS INCLUSION COORDINATORS TEAM

Over the course of the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the MMF Education department held numerous cultural events and workshops on three post-secondary campuses across Manitoba, organized and

The following table provides a recap of the PSESP applications broken down by applications submitted, applications referred to MET, applications awarded, as well as ineligible applications and applications that were withdrawn.

2023-2024 POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM AS OF MARCH 31, 2024

Total Applications Submitted to PSESP	1,747
Total Applications referred to MET	77
Total Applications Completed and Awarded	1,646
Total Applications withdrawn by students for various reasons	24

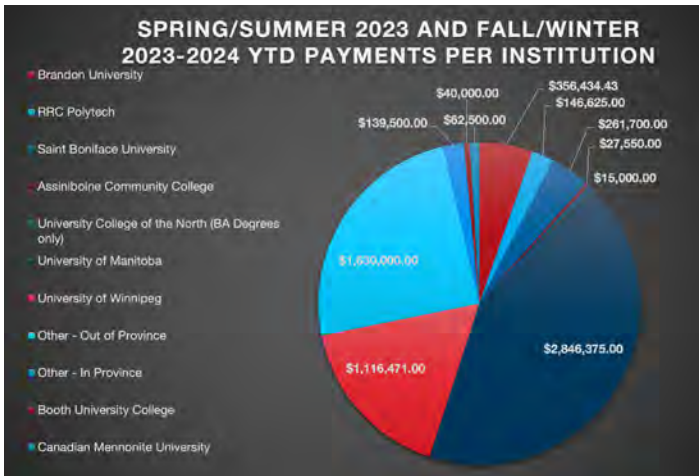


IN APRIL 2023, AN MOU WAS SIGNED BETWEEN MANITOBA'S MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING AND THE MMF'S DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

The following table provides the regional breakdowns of the students funded by PSESP and funding totals for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

REGION	# OF STUDENTS	REGIONAL TOTAL
Interlake Region	200	\$802,275.00
Northwest Region	82	\$330,400.00
Southeast Region	242	\$964,250.00
Southwest Region	189	\$789,216.67
The Pas Region	26	\$113,375.00
Thompson Region	20	\$77,750.00
Winnipeg Region	887	\$3,564,888.76
TOTAL	1,646	\$6,642,155.43

The 2023-24 applicant data also includes applicants enrolled in an eligible post-secondary education program, which includes undergraduate degrees, professional degrees, master's degrees, and doctoral degrees. PSESP also funds some Citizens who are enrolled in diploma or certificate programs, who are ineligible to receive funding through MET.



PSESP 2023-24 COST-OF-LIVING SUPPLEMENT PAYMENTS

In 2023, MMF President David Chartrand gave the directive to continue to pay all students eligible for PSESP, a Cost-of-Living Supplement payment of \$75 per month. This amounted to the MMF supporting 1,646 students with a total of \$499,650.00. The program successfully concluded in March 2024.





ANDREW CARRIER
MINISTER

Riel House National Historic Site, owned and operated by Parks Canada, has been animated by the Louis Riel Institute since 2013. The Institute brings the stories of Riel House and the Red River Métis to life through historical interpreters and educational programming. During the 2023 season, Riel House delivered onsite group programs in June and public programs in July and August, attracting 2,097 visitors.

In May and June 2023, seven staff members were hired and trained extensively in various areas. The training covered Métis history and culture, safety protocols, and enhancing visitor experiences. Specific training areas included first aid, food handler's certification, interpretative skills, fire starting and safety, bannock making, event hosting, and Three Sisters gardening. Additionally, the training emphasized the history and community of Riel House, the Red River Métis, and Louis Riel.

The staff further developed their skills in Red River Métis traditions, supported by the Cultural Programming department. Training included Métis flower beadwork, finger weaving, bannock cooking, fish filleting and preparation, jigging (taught by Dean Davis), and moccasin making. The team also participated in a city-wide bus tour to explore significant sites related to the Red River Métis.

In the 2023 spring season, school programs were offered to a diverse range of schools across Winnipeg. These programs provided school-age children with hands-on experiences in jigging, finger weaving, building Red River Frame houses, making butter, and learning about Louis Riel.

In 2023, social media platforms, including Facebook and Instagram, were utilized to promote programs and events. Notable events hosted at Riel House included National Indigenous Peoples Day, Canada Day, Midsummer Kids' Day, Soiree, and the Annual Corn Roast.

Canada Day was a particularly successful event, featuring activities such as bannock-wrapped hot dog making, traditional art demonstrations, and house tours. The year-end Corn Roast also saw significant attendance. Despite funding challenges, Parks Canada supported the event, which featured performances by Morgan Grace, Brandi Vezina, Sadie St-Cyr, Gil Bernier and Friends, Jason Lepine, and Lionel Desjarlais. The event offered house tours, garden tours, children's games, music, photo opportunities, and sash weaving demonstrations.

The 2023 Annual Corn Roast featured a new collaboration with Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) programs. We extend our thanks to the ELCC for their participation and contributions to the event. Their involvement enriched the experience for young attendees by offering engaging activities, such as slime making, which added a delightful and interactive element to the day.



DURING THE 2023 SEASON, RIEL HOUSE DELIVERED ONSITE GROUP PROGRAMS IN JUNE AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS IN JULY AND AUGUST, ATTRACTING 2,097 VISITORS.



MÉTIS CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES



MONA BUORS
MINISTER

The Métis Child and Family Services (MCFS) System continues to provide services to Red River Métis children, Youth, and families in a way that respects and honours Red River Métis culture and heritage. With the help of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), the Métis Child and Family Services Authority (MCFSA), Métis Child, Family and Community Services (MCFCS), and Michif Child and Family Services have been able to provide the families we walk alongside with the resources they need to contribute to strong and healthy Red River Métis communities.

The MCFS System is composed of two agencies and an authoritative body that ensures Red River Métis communities are supported throughout Manitoba. Our MCFS System is recognized globally as a leader in family-led practice, and ensures that the needs of the children are at the forefront of our planning and decision making.

The MCFS System's accomplishments from this past year could only be achieved through the unwavering dedication of the MCFSA, MCFCS, or Michif Child and Family Services staff. Whether those victories be reconnecting children with family or winning multimillion dollar lawsuits on behalf of children in care, the commitment you have shown to Red River Métis children, Youth, and families ensures our future remains bright.



CHILDREN'S SPECIAL ALLOWANCE

On December 13, 2023, staff across the MCFS System congregated at the Provincial Law Courts to await the decision regarding the certification of the Children's Special Allowance (CSA) Class Action Lawsuit. The court room was full and 50 additional staff awaited the decision in the hallways to hear the outcome. The CSA funds were meant to be provided as a monthly payment to each child in care, ranging from \$530 to \$800. These funds were historically allocated to support children in care with essential needs such as medicine, clothing, school supplies, or as a safety net for those transitioning out of care. This legal battle stemmed from the province's decision to redirect these crucial funds into general revenues, and this recent development marks a significant milestone in the pursuit of justice and fair allocation for the well-being of the children we serve.



BILL C-92: AN ACT RESPECTING FIRST NATIONS, INUIT AND MÉTIS CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES.

The MCFS System is continuing work on Bill C-92: An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families. This legislation represents major positive change in how our system provides child and family services. Our Agencies, Authority, and the Manitoba Métis Federation continue to negotiate with the federal and provincial governments, creating laws that give our MCFS System jurisdiction over Red River Métis children, Youth, and families. This collaboration ensures that our laws will be created by the Red River Métis and empower our communities to raise families in a culturally-appropriate and community-focused environment.



**MÉTIS CHILD, FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY INC.**

OUR AGENCIES

Métis Child, Family and Community Services and Michif Child and Family Services continue to make exciting strides in the field of child and family services.

While the agencies work with the MMF on developing Métis child welfare legislation, they continue focusing on practices that prioritize family-led decision-making and improving our care practice model. This work is meant to ensure that children have the greatest connection and attachment possible to their homes, families, and communities.



MÉTIS CART:

The Métis Community Addiction Response Team (Métis CART) is an initiative that recognizes that intergenerational trauma affects parenting. It is well documented that parents who experience trauma often struggle with mental health and substance abuse. This is an early-intervention service program designed to aid approximately 30 families at any given time. This program provides services to parents with substance abuse or mental health struggles who may have children at risk of coming into care. The support for these parents is based around a team comprised of a caseworker, family mentor, addictions worker, and mental health worker. This team works closely with the Métis/Michif Connect teams to ensure that family and community are welcomed to participate in network gatherings where they are able to talk about how they can support the family.

MÉTIS AND MICHIF CONNECT:

Métis and Michif Connect were created with the goal of supporting staff in shifting practices to honour and welcome families as partners in the planning, support, and decision making for their children. The Métis and Michif Connect Mentors coach staff in “family seeing,” which emphasizes the importance of locating, connecting with, and welcoming family and community as active partners in the planning and decision making for their children. This approach is characterized by genuine and respectful engagement.

CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Our agencies recognize that transitioning into adulthood can be a long and multi-faceted process. That is why our agencies provide supports for young adults who are transitioning from care. This support is given through a variety of programs that include Agreements with Young Adults, housing, rent, daily living expenses, education costs, medical costs, therapy, and much more. Youth can also access support through one-to-one workers or attend group events through the Métis/Michif Spirit programs.

ONGOING CARE

The Ongoing Care program provides crucial support to children who are being cared for by individuals other than their parents. This program emphasizes the importance of maintaining cultural connections and ensuring that children remain rooted in their community and heritage.



Staff are dedicated to building strong and trusting relationships with families. They walk alongside families to explore and create opportunities where the responsibility of care can be returned to the family whenever possible. This involves regular communication, personalized support plans, and ongoing assessments to ensure that both the children and their caregivers receive the necessary resources and assistance.

YOUTH CELEBRATIONS

Our agencies continued to host Youth celebrations for our Youth leaving care. Although these Youth are entering adulthood, they are still able to access resources provided by our agencies through Agreements with Young Adults and other programs. These celebrations include food, music, jigging, speeches, and much more. Our Métis CFS System is so proud of all our Youth, and we cherish these moments to shed a light on their amazing accomplishments and wish them well as they enter the next chapter of their lives.

BECOME A KINSHIP CAREGIVER

Our agencies are always in need of caregivers to support our Red River Métis children and Youth. If you have the means to provide a safe and loving home, then we encourage you to become a caregiver with one of agencies. Our agencies prioritize placing our children and Youth with family, extended family, and members of the community. To do this, we require dedicated community members to become caregivers so that we can ensure the Red River Métis culture, and its people can thrive.

If you are interested in becoming a caregiver, please contact either: Métis Child, Family and Community Services:

Info@metiscfs.mb.ca or

Michif Child and Family Services: **info@michifcfs.com**

SUCCESS STORIES:

SUCCESS STORY ONE:

The Family Support Program with Métis Child, Family and Community Services ran an eight-week Circle of Security group for parents. This attachment-based parenting group provides parents and caregivers with essential tools to look beyond their children's behaviours and address their underlying needs.

By the end of the eight weeks, participants experienced remarkable transformations in their approach to parenting. They reported stronger bonds with their children, improved communication, and a deeper understanding of their children's needs. These positive changes are a testament to the program's effectiveness and the commitment of the parents involved.

The Circle of Security group has made a significant impact on the families we serve, fostering healthier and more connected relationships. We are proud of the progress made and look forward to continuing to support parents in building secure and nurturing environments for their children.

"Before joining the program, I often felt overwhelmed and unsure of how to connect with my toddler. I feel more confident in my role as a parent. Circle of Security has been a life-changing experience for me as a mom."



SUCCESS STORY TWO:

We are delighted to share the inspiring journey of one of our exceptional Youths who has achieved remarkable milestones this year. Graduating with honours, she attended our Youth celebration and has been accepted into the University of Winnipeg for the fall of 2024, where she aspires to become a therapist.

Her dedication and hard work have been recognized through three prestigious awards: the PRTA Award for Academic Achievement, the MMF Award for Achievements, and an award for Visual Arts. These accolades are a testament to her perseverance, talent, and unwavering commitment to her goals.

We are incredibly proud of her accomplishments and look forward to seeing her continue to shine as she embarks on this exciting new chapter. Her story is a beacon of hope and a powerful reminder of the potential within each of our Youth.

SUCCESS STORY THREE:

"I am currently walking alongside a young man who just turned 19 and graduated high school. He has received two scholarships and a mentorship for his musical aspirations. He left an environment that did not allow him to grow. He was making bad decisions and was getting in trouble with the law. He moved, and since then, has started turning his life around. He went back to school full-time, graduated, and all while working a part-time job. He attends the program regularly, and everyone in the department absolutely adores him. He mentors young adults in Métis in Motion and helps with dinner. Our entire team and some OGC workers came to cheer him on at his grad and he was grinning ear to ear."

-Skills for Life Worker

CONCLUSION

Thank you to the Manitoba Métis Federation, the National Government of the Red River Métis, for everything they do for our MCFS System. Their support allows our Authority and Agencies to provide the most efficient, effective, and culturally-appropriate services to our children, Youth, and families.

Thank you to the Board members of the Métis Child and Family Services Authority; Métis Child, Family and Community Services; and Michif Child and Family Services for their countless hours of dedication. Lastly, thank you to all the children within our system for your resilience and hard work. Often, through hard and unpredictable circumstances, you have shown true strength and perseverance. Your accomplishments mean so much to your community, and your continued growth will only help strengthen the future of the Red River Métis.

For more information about: the Métis Child and Family Services Authority; Métis Child, Family and Community Services; and Michif Child and Family Services, please read the annual reports included in your AGA kits and visit our booths on the third floor.



OUR MÉTIS CFS SYSTEM IS SO PROUD OF ALL OUR YOUTH, AND WE CHERISH THESE MOMENTS TO SHED A LIGHT ON THEIR AMAZING ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND WISH THEM WELL AS THEY ENTER THE NEXT CHAPTER OF THEIR LIVES.



MÉTIS N4 CONSTRUCTION INC. & CAPITAL PROJECTS



JACK PARK
CHAIRMAN

INTRODUCTION

Métis N4 Construction is the MMF's industrial and commercial services arm, providing project management, procurement, and human resources services to meet the needs of the MMF and its Citizens. It specializes in securing contracts with all levels of government and industry and serves as an investment advisor for strategic MMF investments.

MISSION

Métis N4 Construction's mission is to serve as an impact-driven and socially responsible for-profit business supporting the MMF Government, with a mandate to employ Red River Métis Citizens and contract with Métis businesses.

VISION

To be a leading force in fostering economic growth and development for the Red River Métis community through innovative construction projects and strategic investments.

MANDATE

Our mandate includes:

- ∞ Employing Red River Métis Citizens.
- ∞ Contracting with Red River Métis-owned businesses.
- ∞ Prioritizing the development of commercial real estate for the MMF.



335 MAIN STREET, RED RIVER MÉTIS NATIONAL HERITAGE CENTRE

The Place Where We Have and Do Live – La Plas Taanshi kaa-Ishipamachihoyaahk

Red River Métis Citizens can be very proud of the deep energy retrofit construction project underway at 335 Main, the future home of our Red River Métis National Heritage Centre. Our flag is flying high and our large project signage faces west, ensuring everyone knows that the Red River Métis historically, and currently, have a significant role to play at the heart of our traditional homeland.

To achieve targeted energy efficiency, upper floor windows were replaced to ensure a high-quality building envelope. In early 2024, the copper and asphalt roofs of this iconic building were replaced to ensure another 100 years of performance. The roof work was completed by two Métis-owned trades: Transcona Roofing and Temple Roofing. Temple Roofing co-owner and principal director Marie Ferguson reflected on what it means to be working on the Heritage Centre:

“For me, as a Red River Métis Citizen raising our four Métis daughters, we’re doing our best to reclaim our culture. It has been awesome to participate with the MMF...to be part of the Red River Métis National Heritage Centre is an honour.”

Interior demolition is required to install new mechanical and electrical upgrades to achieve a zero-carbon building. Métis-owned Cogent Construction was awarded the contract to ensure hazardous materials were safely removed and disposed of.

Reuse of materials is another goal to make the most of what we have in all assets. Métis trade Oak and Hammer provided special deconstruction services to help divert large pieces of tempered glass for reuse in other MMF capital projects.

Métis N4 Construction has had great success working with Bockstael, “Manitoba’s Builder,” to ensure our goals to maximize Métis trades and labour participation at every construction stage. Bockstael is accessing Métis cultural training from the Louis Riel Vocational College, and provided education and training opportunities for their staff to deepen their knowledge of the Red River Métis while also providing new opportunities for Métis bidders on all Bockstael projects, not just those for the MMF. Construction is in progress and will ramp up with intensity in September 2024. Bid opportunities for trades and labour will continue throughout 2024-2026. Completion of the base building is scheduled for the end of 2026.



355 EVELINE, 55+ HOUSING

The Eveline 55+ housing project is the most significant mixed-use residential project the City of Selkirk has seen in over a decade. Construction of the six-storey building started in May 2023 and will be ready for rental in December 2024. The building stands Métis proud and is visible from across the Red River and throughout Selkirk. It represents a significant Métis Economic Development initiative while being an important investment into the City of Selkirk.



Métis N4 Construction is working with M Builds to ensure bid opportunities for Métis-owned trades, including: Transcona Roofing, Quality Glass, Ken's Cranes, Stanley Electric, Boisco Decorating, and Oak and Hammer. The project also has notable Métis labour hours from K.Sleva. Property Management will be provided by the Louis Riel Capital Corporation, with Tenant Liaison services provided by the MMF Department of Housing.



RED RIVER MÉTIS TREE NURSERY

The Red River Métis Tree Nursery is an initiative of the Department of Energy, Infrastructure and Resource Management to produce tree seedlings for sale in Canada's green economy. To achieve this goal, approximately 20 acres of land is being developed just outside of Selkirk for a state-of-the-art, energy-efficient tree nursery facility.

Phase one of the project includes construction of 14 buildings, including 11 nursery growing structures, a biomass district energy system, an office and training centre, and freezer buildings.



Transforming this agriculturally zoned land into a viable industrial operation required extensive road and site development work. Métis-owned BTT Construction performed the majority of civil construction work, with Métis-owned Chabot industries as gravel supply sub-trade. Working with Métis-owned Mikisew Construction Management, the project is currently achieving 58% Métis labour hours, with three of four trades on site being Métis-owned.

Phase 1 of the project will be complete in fall 2025 and will target production of \$2,000,000 trees per year. Phase 2 will add additional greenhouse infrastructure and ramp up to the production of \$10,000,000 trees per year with a target completion date of 2026.





SKYALYNE FUTURE AIRCREW TRAINING PROGRAM MOU

Métis N4 Construction has been negotiating with SkyAlyne, which was recently awarded a contract with Canada to provide the Future Aircrew Training (FACT) program for the Royal Canadian Air Force for the next 25 years. Métis N4 is working with SkyAlyne to develop the Indigenous Participation Plan (IPP) that would provide a minimum of 5% Indigenous value through the contract to improve Red River Métis participation in the FACT program.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SkyAlyne includes:

- ∞ Governance and Management Mechanism
- ∞ Identity Verification of Métis Individuals and Businesses
- ∞ Métis Cultural Awareness and Community Engagement
- ∞ Métis Human Resources Strategic Plan and Targets
- ∞ Métis Business Development Plan and Targets
- ∞ Innovative Approaches and other Measures

SkyAlyne has committed to honouring the MOU with MMF/N4, which outlines commitments to PSE education, training, employment, jobs, procurement, workforce awareness training, establishing a sector council, and leasing office space in Ottawa. Métis N4 met with Canada (National Defence) to discuss the IPP and were informed that Canada will ensure the final IPP plan will be enforced, incorporating the commitments from the MOU.

Métis N4 has identified office space requirements for the Ottawa office to house SkyAlyne and Department of National Defence workers. Short-term options have been presented for consideration. Additionally, Métis N4 is establishing meetings with EllisDon and Lockheed Martin, responsible for construction work in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.



ENBRIDGE PARTNERSHIP

Métis N4 has been meeting with Enbridge officials to continue the partnership work between MMF/N4 and Enbridge. Métis N4, along with its Joint Venture partners, provides subcontracting services for work on Enbridge's Line 3 in Manitoba. This includes equipment rentals, surveys, and environmental services for Enbridge subcontractors. Métis N4 is working to open up Enbridge's supply chain to secure more work for Métis businesses in Manitoba.



GFL/GIP JOINT VENTURES

Métis N4 entered into a Joint Venture Agreement with Green for Life (GFL) and a teaming agreement with its sister company Green Infrastructure Partners (GIP) to pursue large-scale procurement opportunities in both the private and public sectors. This strategic alliance not only benefits Métis N4 but also assists Red River Métis businesses in securing access to the supply chains of these multinational corporations. Métis N4 has bid on several projects with these companies and will continue to do so in the future. Both GFL and GIP are committed to training and employing Red River Métis Citizens.



ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING (EVC) STATIONS PROJECT

Métis N4 has secured funding from Natural Resources Canada to support the establishment of electric vehicle charging stations across Manitoba. N4 is working with MMF and partners to secure locations, design, procure, and install 13 super-fast charging EVC stations and 24 level 2 EVC stations across Manitoba. This project is part of a broader effort to support a green economy and promote environmentally friendly transportation solutions in the province.

N4 is also working with NRCAN and MMF to develop a phase II proposal to bring more electric vehicle charging infrastructure to Manitoba. This will further support the adoption of electric vehicles and contribute to the province's green economy goals.



CAPITAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR NATIONAL ABORIGINAL HEAD START COUNCIL MANITOBA SITES

Métis N4 Construction collaborated with the Manitoba Aboriginal Head Start Council to assess the capital needs of all Manitoba Head Start sites. The project involved developing self-assessments, conducting inspections, and performing comprehensive capital assessments. This work included creating supporting questions and gathering evidence to address the unique challenges faced by Manitoba sites.

The goal of this initiative is to develop a Long-Term AHSUNC Capital Plan that will guide future decisions and investments. This plan aims to support the NAHSC in making informed decisions regarding ongoing minor capital funding and major capital investments for program expansion and new buildings.

CONCLUSION

Métis N4 Construction continues to strive toward its mission of serving the Red River Métis community by securing significant contracts, fostering economic growth, and providing employment opportunities. Our efforts in 2023-2024 have laid a strong foundation for future success and community development.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For inquiries, please contact Chief Operating Officer Wei Xie at 613-276-4168.





RED RIVER MÉTIS FUR COMPANY



DARREL FERLAND
MINISTER

Jason White
Director, Red River Métis Fur Company

The Red River Métis Fur Company (RRMFC) continued its operations to purchase furs and hides from Métis trappers and harvesters in fiscal year 2023/2024. RRMFC offers prices 25% higher than the current market value, which significantly boosted participation.

The 2023/2024 season has seen 61 trappers compared to 43 from prior year or a variance of +18.

Total dollar purchases in 2023/2024 of \$180,340 compared to prior year of \$72,160, an increase of +\$108,180, was driven by word of mouth amongst Métis trappers and social media announcements when fur routes were established for buying throughout the province. Market upswing, along with weather conditions, were a key factor, with the number of pelts produced and increase in pelt value from prior year activity, as conditions for trapping were much more favourable.

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 Métis Citizens who hold a valid Métis citizenship card and a provincial trapper's licence in the same name. This policy promotes transparency, accountability, and supports Métis economic self-determination. Additionally, a new program has been established to support Métis artisans by providing tanned furs and leathers at no cost. This initiative 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 Métis people. Since being launched in the fall of 2023, 54 artisans have joined the program with a total of \$32,800 provided at cost for materials.

FY 2023/2024: \$180,340 purchased from 61 trappers.
Per region breakdown

The Pas	(7 trappers / \$27,990)
Northwest	(26 trappers / \$86,315)
Southeast	(5 trappers / \$6,190)
Southwest	(13 trappers / \$15,055)
Interlake	(4 trappers / \$1,510)
Winnipeg	(4 trappers / \$27,755)
Thompson	(3 trappers / \$15,525)

Total:
61 trappers / 93 transactions
\$180,340

The Red River Métis Fur Company 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 continue building the relationships with trappers and artisans in the future.





MMF





WARNING
24 HOURS

