



Le Métis

∞ EST. 1871 ∞

YOUR RED RIVER MÉTIS GOVERNMENT'S BI-WEEKLY NEWS.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we prepare to mark National Indigenous Peoples Day, I hope all Red River Métis Citizens are able to gather and spend time in community, celebrating and honouring our rich history and traditions across the Homeland and beyond. I also hope everyone takes a moment to reflect on the progress we've made as well as the work ahead of us as we continue to advance our Nation and ensure that our identity is well-understood.

Since last year's National Indigenous Peoples Day, we have seen many advancements, including the unprecedented gathering of Nations at our recent Indigenous Identity Fraud Summit, where we committed to ongoing mutual support against the ongoing theft of our respective identities.

We also saw our great historic leader, Louis Riel, recognized as the first Premier of Manitoba, through the creation of the *Louis Riel Act*. We thank Premier Wab Kinew for honouring his commitment to this Act, expressed to thousands upon thousands of Citizens at our Annual General Assembly last fall. We also thank the Premier for his wisdom in creating the *Louis Riel Act* as an education bill, to ensure that all Manitobans will learn the facts about who Louis Riel was, and who the Red River Métis are.

Thanks to the *Louis Riel Act*, sharing our true and accurate history with others is a shared responsibility. Educators, administrators, and

elected officials of school boards must play a role in ensuring that our history is accurately shared with all Youth. However, we know there is more work to be done in the public school system to ensure this history is accurately told. Youth must be allowed to celebrate their unique identity, be it First Nations, Métis, Inuit (FNIM), gender diverse or other. Schools must create a space where students' identities are included as part of the curriculum and where they feel embraced by the school community, as they are embraced in their community and their family.

The importance of the public school system in the lives of our children cannot be overstated. In recent months, we have witnessed the consequences of the lack of education and lack of understanding about who we are and what our rights are within the Manitoba school system. Specifically, in our Northwest Region, we have witnessed a series of disturbing events that created concerns about the presence of racism and intolerance and prompted serious questions about the well-being of children in the Mountain View School Division.

I was very glad to learn that Manitoba's Education and Early Learning Minister, Nello Altomare, intervened in the school division, through the creation of an oversight panel that includes the Vice-President of the Region, Frances Chartrand. I know the panel will have a lot of work to do to rebuild trust, and I'm confident they will do the necessary work to get us to good recommendations on how to move forward. We've worked too hard for too long to create safe spaces in schools for our Youth, and we can't stop now. This school division, like all divisions, must move forward in a manner that reflects tolerance for, and acceptance of, an inclusive community, where all students and staff are valued and safe.

However, this series of events highlights the importance of the public school system as a safe place for Youth to grow and learn, and a place where they see themselves reflected in the education they receive. It is for our Youth that we continue to fight to educate all about our history. It is for them that we fight against thieves who want to steal our history and steal our justice for themselves – justice that was hard earned through years of advocacy and legal battles, and the sacrifices of our Ancestors, trailblazers and former leaders. Justice that we still fight to attain, that we pursue tirelessly for the Youth of our Nation and the generations to come.

For them, we are relentless in our demand that systems, policies, processes, and legislation no longer use self-identification as the standard by which individuals are given opportunities like involvement in procurement from other levels

of government, recognition in academia, and awards in the entertainment industry. We must clearly transmit the message that the only eligible individuals are those with clear evidence that the Nation they claim is in fact the Nation that claims them in return. There is no other acceptable standard.

Our culture belongs to us, and with it the history of our struggles and hardships. Because of these things, only we have the right to say who is Red River Métis. This is our inheritance, and the price for it was paid by the spilled blood of our Ancestors. It is our honour and privilege to continue to build on this legacy, ensuring we leave a stronger Nation for our Youth and future generations to inherit.

I know that our Citizens are passionate about defending our identity, and that each and every one of you has had to spend time educating others about our unique history, culture, and way of life. I also know it can sometimes be tiring to keep explaining these things over months and years. However, I encourage all Citizens to stand with me and continue doing this important work, even if it isn't always easy.

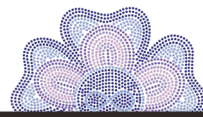
It is my dream and my vision for the future that there will come a day when we no longer have to explain who we are to Canadians or any other levels of government. I can foresee a day when we no longer need to fight against those who would diminish or steal our identity. We are fortunate right now, in that we have partners in the civic, municipal, and provincial government who understand our unique identity, as well as partners like the Chiefs of Ontario and the Innu Nation who understand not only who we are, but why we must continue fighting.

I stand in solidarity with you all this National Indigenous Peoples Day, as I stand with all legitimate FNIM governments and organizations. As we reflect on our successes and consider the work ahead of us, we must never forget that everything we do is for the future of our Nation, and the Youth who will inherit it from us. Never forget: **WE ARE PROUD TO BE RED RIVER MÉTIS**. I look forward to seeing us, as an Indigenous people, celebrate the day and our true culture and identity.

Until we meet again, I offer my prayers to all our families, Citizens, friends, and neighbours, and my deepest condolences to those who have been caused to grieve.

Meeqwetch,

President David Chartrand, LL.D. hon. O.M. ∞



RED RIVER MÉTIS ROOFER'S CAREER PIVOT LEADS TO PASSION

Brianne Pearase's life took a transformative turn when she decided to pursue her passion for occupational health and safety with the support of the Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Métis Employment and Training (MET) Department.

During high school, the Red River Métis Citizen was interested in the automotive industry, which helped lead her to where she is today.

"I took power mechanics with the hope that I would end up in the automotive industry, but I found out I had some allergies to solvents and oils, so it wasn't going to be a career path for me anymore," she said.

Pearase met her husband while working in the office of an automotive shop.

"We have two children together," she said. "I was a stay-at-home mom for 17 years, which was wonderful because I was immersed in my children's lives every day. And it was beneficial to them and for me."

With her children all grown up, Pearase decided to re-enter the workforce. She ended up working as a receptionist for a commercial production company, where she learned more about workplace safety. With her interests piqued, the Red River Métis Citizen decided to reach out to the MMF to see what kind of training they could help her access so she could earn a Health and Safety Professional (HSP) designation.

"I met a beautiful, wonderful woman: Gloria, my MET counsellor. We had never met in person. We just talked on the phone all through COVID. We worked together to try and find a program they could help me with," she said. "(Gloria and MET) believed in me."

The MMF's MET Department operates through funds provided by the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Agreement with Canada. The initiative links employment and training programming to current and future labour market demands and ensures that Indigenous people can fully participate in employment and economic opportunities.



Red River Métis Citizen Brianne Pearase received support from the MMF's MET Department to pursue her occupational health and safety training.

While obtaining her HSP, Pearase also accepted a full-time position at Transcona Roofing, a Red River Métis-owned business.

"It's an incredible blessing to work here and have landed here amongst all these people. Rich (Marchetti, president and owner of Transcona Roofing) is an amazing person. He believes in all of us, and I always come back to the quote, 'believe in yourself, believe in Métis.' Rich believes in all of us. He is willing to pour into us if we're going to pour into ourselves," she said. "(My coworkers) are my second family. It's a pleasure to get up and come here every day and work amongst these people. We are encouraged to be striving for further education, further training."

As safety coordinator for the roofing contractor, Pearase's responsibilities include creating safety policies, reviewing procedures, and liaising with contractors. She said her favourite part of the job is outside of the office.

"That's where I'm communicating and building relationships with my crew members. I go out and I do inspections. When I'm out there on the roof climbing ladders, I got my hard hat and work boots on, that's where I enjoy it the most," she said. "You're building relationships with these team members. It's not just about the physical safety. When you build relationships like that, it's also striving for mental wellness too."

Pearase is one of many Citizens working on the MMF's Red River Métis National Heritage Centre at Portage and Main. Set to open in 2026, the heritage centre will showcase the history of the Red River Métis, highlighting the rich heritage and contributions of the Métis people to the development of our province. The Citizen felt a sense of pride when she first heard that Transcona Roofing would be working on the site.

"I knew I would get to come here, being in the safety position that I'm in. I spend half my time in the office and half in the field. So, I was like 'oh, I get to see the progress of it, not just the roofing part, but everything else that's going on,'" she said. "With all the buildings the MMF has been acquiring lately, it's exciting to be a part of it."

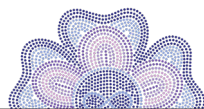
The Red River Métis Citizen's hard work and dedication was recognized after winning the Construction Safety Award of Merit. The award was presented by the Construction Safety Association of Manitoba and given to her at the annual Safetys Gala in November 2023. The gala is intended to celebrate individuals and businesses committed to workplace safety in Manitoba. Pearase noted you have to be nominated to receive this award.

"There were two nominations that came in from my colleagues," she said. "I also learned other colleagues inquired and said, 'hey, we should

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nominate Brianne.' It was heartwarming to know so many people wanted to make sure I was recognized, and people were willing to take the time to write those nominations."

In honour of her accomplishments, Pearase's daughter surprised her with a gift before the award ceremony.

"When my daughter learned I was going to be the recipient, she made me a ribbon skirt specifically for this event," she said. "Being able to have my name called and walk across to receive this award in my ribbon skirt as a proud Métis woman was exhilarating."

Aside from the award, Pearase is honoured to go to work every day and do what she loves.

"I care about our crews (that) are out in the field. I want them to go home safely to their loved ones. It's kind of the mom in me, and I think that's why I love this job so much is because I care so much about everybody, and I'm able to make a difference in their lives and make sure they work here in a healthy environment and stay healthy and safe, so it's rewarding," she said.

Pearase knows a career change later in life can be a daunting experience, and offered advice to those considering making the change.

"You just have to dig deep and go for it," she said. "If you're not happy in what you're doing, you need to shift something, even if it's scary. People have found their way to their passions and are living better lives because of it. We're happy, and that's when we can give back to the community even more because we are ourselves, we are whole. If it seems scary, you probably need to do it."

For Pearase, being proud of her Red River Métis heritage means learning more about her culture, including attending the recent Infinity Women Secretariat wellness weekend.

"I like staying connected with my Red River Métis, and learning about these things is all about community. I'm thankful that our Red River Métis Government shares a lot of information through social media, emails, and through *Le Metis*," she said.

The Citizen remains connected to her community by engaging with prominent Red River Métis individuals through social media.

"Following other Métis entrepreneurs is a great way (to build community), because they're sharing their experiences on their social media platforms," she said. "After all, we are allowed to be proud, we are allowed to use our voices to share these shining moments that we have, our accomplishments, and what we're learning."

Pearase graduated in 2023 at the age of 43, proving that you can pursue post-secondary education at any age.

"Being recognized was huge. I got all dolled up. I didn't have a grad dress, but I had my ribbon skirt, and I think that was better," she said. "We pulled up and saw all those faces from our Métis community. Celebrating myself and all the other grads was quite overwhelming."

WINNIPEG GOLDEYES MÉTIS NIGHT A HIT



On June 15, Red River Métis Youth and their families enjoyed an evening of fun at the ballpark for the Winnipeg Goldeyes Baseball Club's Métis Night! Red River Métis spirit was in full swing, and families were treated to a musical performance by Juno-nominated band the Red River Ramblers, with special guest Red River Métis fiddler Michael Audette!

RED RIVER MÉTIS MUSIC LEGEND RECEIVES HONOURARY STREET NAMING

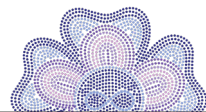


The Manitoba Métis Federation congratulates Ray St. Germain, Red River Métis music legend and Canadian icon, on the honorary renaming of St. Michael Road in St. Vital to Big Sky Country Way. The street, where his childhood home is located, was renamed after his national network television show *Big Sky Country*, to honour his contributions to the music entertainment industry. *Big Sky Country* ran for 13 years, and brought pride to the Red River Métis people, as St. Germain became a nationally and internationally recognized Red River Métis celebrity. On June 7, the new street name was unveiled in front of St. Germain and his family, along with many longtime fans and fellow Red River Métis Citizens.



DISCOUNT SEA BEARS TICKETS FOR MMF CITIZENS!





NATIONAL INDIGENOUS Peoples Day AT SELKIRK JUNE 21, 2024

mmf.mb.ca



Energy Infrastructure & Resource Management

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL Day Camps



Red River Métis youth will participate in a variety of land-based games and activities that highlight the natural ecosystem, while learning about the impacts of climate change.

- No cost to attend
- Lunch and snacks provided
- Open to RRM Youth
- 12-17 years of age

INTERLAKE REGION	SELKIRK	JULY 9-11
	THE PAS	JULY 16-18
	WINNIPEG	JULY 23-25
SOUTHEAST	ST. MALO	JULY 30 to AUGUST 1
SOUTHWEST	BRANDON	AUGUST 6-8
PAINT LAKE	THOMPSON	AUGUST 13-15
NORTHWEST	WINNIPEGOSIS	AUGUST 20-22

More information and to register, please contact melt@mmf.mb.ca