



Le Métis

∞ EST. 1871 ∞

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was recently in The Pas to attend their regional meeting, as well as a ribbon cutting for six new seniors' homes in what is rapidly growing into a Red River Métis neighbourhood. Newly named Mayer Way as a sign of respect for the Mayer family and their dedication to sports excellence, residents of the street will have a chance to live near friends and relatives, and enjoy opportunities to connect Elders with Youth to pass on our traditions and oral history. Housing remains a concern for our people in the northern parts of our Homeland, but we continue to find new ways to build and repair Citizen homes.

Where we have positive relationships with municipal governments, the potential for initiatives and builds that benefit all residents continues to grow, like we have with The Pas Mayor Andre Murphy and their Council. I always appreciate my time in the North, and thank Vice-President Judy Mayer and her team for their warm Red River Métis hospitality. I also thank the local Citizens who came to me with questions, concerns, feedback, and thanks. It's important to us to hear your thoughts and find opportunities to expand our support across every region, including those in the North. I look forward to coming up again in the near future.

In the meantime, down south, Lake Manitoba Resort's golf course had a busy week, with several firsts taking place under the guidance of resident golf pro and Lake Manitoba Resort General Manager Chris Brown. I have heard rave reviews from a

number of Citizens about how Chris keeps a well-maintained course and runs a professional, high-quality tournament.

For example, during the recent **Million Dollar Par 3 Shoot Out**, which took place on August 17, 2024, the course saw a 169-yard hole-in-one on 10, giving Lundar-based Red River Métis Citizen Barry Chartrand a prize of \$30,000. Members of my team spoke with Barry, who was surprised and pleased by his hole-in-one and the financial windfall. He also talked about how he and his fellow Lundar-based Red River Métis were really excited about the golf course at Lake Manitoba Resort. I know it also brings pride to our people in St. Laurent.

The event was sponsored by Métis N4 Construction, and it's a style of tournament that is still gaining attention in Canada. While no one won the million dollars this time around, I can bet that the Resort will see a lot more teams expressing interest in next year's tournament.

Your Red River Métis Government and its proud affiliates are already making good use of the course to host premier events, while attracting competitive players from all walks of life, including the business and fundraising communities.

Hot on the heels of the **Million Dollar Par 3 Shoot Out**, the course played host to the first-ever Michif Manor Fundraising Tournament. This sold-out tournament took place on Wednesday, hosted by our own Housing Department.

Michif Manor, a culturally focused home away from home, is well under way. It will give a warm and welcoming place to stay for our families who must travel to Winnipeg for medical care. The facility, located near the Health Sciences Centre, will offer 12 private units with their own washrooms, as well as two communal kitchens, a dining room, a workout room, a games room for children, indoor and outdoor seating areas, laundry facilities, and a cultural/resource room.

Expected to be operational in the fall of 2024, Michif Manor will offer educational programs, workshops, and resource centres, as well as the tools and knowledge necessary to navigate the health care system effectively. By fostering a sense of belonging, resilience, and community, we can enhance the overall well-being of Métis Citizens accessing medical care.

With this Michif Manor Fundraising Tournament, we raised a total of \$30,000. The proceeds of this successful fundraiser will be added to the \$10,000 donation from CN Rail, which was announced

on Indigenous Peoples Day – what we call Métis Day – at Selkirk Park. This \$40,000 will assist with operational costs to make sure this meets the needs of our Citizens, ensuring the cost of the accommodations can be offered at a fee that will be affordable for all who need it.

I look forward to the continued hard work of fundraisers as we establish a fund to ensure sustainable financial support for our vulnerable community members at Michif Manor.

I am so proud that both of these tournaments were sold out well in advance, and in such high demand that there were people arriving on the same day hoping to get in. For those who signed up too late, there are still more tournaments before the golf season comes to a close, so make sure you call the pro shop to find out more about them before they're sold out, too.

It's clear that we have a winning combination at Lake Manitoba Resort. We have a solid General Manager who works hard to create unique experiences on a fun and challenging course, and a location that is hard to match, in the beautiful and historic St. Laurent. I look forward to spending time on the course, conducting business and competing in tournaments, followed by heading back to the clubhouse for an Indigenous-inspired meal cooked by a Red Seal chef.

I'm also looking forward to the campground adjacent to the golf course being full of beach-loving campers and golf enthusiasts. Sites are leased annually and include direct water and sewer hook-ups. You can even leave your camper at your site over the winter. All you have to do is select your campsite and get ready for a beautiful summer.

As the season starts to slowly change, and we begin preparing for the big game harvest, I remind our Citizens that our section 35 rights are ours, and cannot be taken away by anyone. We have announced our fifth annual Moose Conservation Harvesting Initiative in the Duck and Porcupine Mountains. I'm very pleased with the conversations and the ongoing dialogue between ourselves and the province, as we ensure that we continue to develop a strong strategy for the conservation of moose in the Duck and Porcupine Mountains.

The application process began August 26, 2024, with a deadline to apply of September 9, 2024. The season will begin on September 12, 2024, and close on January 15, 2025.

Remember that we abide by our Laws of the Harvest, as guided by our Elders and the



community. This means we operate with a Captain of the Hunt, and ensure that a portion of our harvest goes to Elders, seniors, and vulnerable community members. As long as we follow our laws,

honour the wisdom of our Ancestors, and continue to be respectful of our shared responsibilities to the land, there can be no doubt that your Red River Métis Government will protect your rights.

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 AUTHOR TACKLES INDIGENOUS IDENTITY FRAUD IN LATEST NOVEL

When it comes to the heavy subject of identity fraud plaguing Indigenous communities, Katherena Vermette tackles it with finesse in her latest novel, *Real Ones*.

The Red River Métis author's newest work follows sisters Lyn and June as they face past trauma after their mother, Renee, is called out for false claims of Indigenous identity. Readers may recognize these characters for their small roles in Vermette's award-winning novel *The Strangers*.

"I wanted to explore the burden that's left on us and how we, Michif people, are confronted with people pretending to be us, and then suddenly the burden is on us to prove ourselves, so our identity is in question and our peace is disrupted," she said. "In this case, the two sisters who are confronted with their mom stealing their story, I wanted it to be about them, and the impact of it."

Vermette's inspiration for this novel came from her thoughts on Indigenous identity theft and its impact on Indigenous communities past and present.

"As I went in-depth articulating how I was feeling about this, it got me thinking about all the other things we (as Métis people) hold on to and get burdened with through no fault of our own," said the author.

While the sisters were already established in *The Strangers*, the Red River Métis author drew on personal experiences to further develop their characters.

"In one way or another, even when I try to write someone completely not like me, I get in there," she said. "The sisters have the dynamic of me and my brother and how we go back and forth, but Lyn and June also felt like my two selves, this together person in a relationship versus this artistic person, flying free. It was almost like those arguments you have with yourself, and that's where it started."

While creating *Real Ones*, Vermette was able to explore a new structure of writing, with most of the dialogue being based around phone calls taking place between the sisters.

"It felt like a play, a different play on dialogue. The dialogue was carrying a lot of weight here, and it's stripped-down dialogue because normally, you're grounding dialogue in the context of a setting and characters, but for this, it felt more like a script, because it is just them going back and forth," she said. "And it was exploring how far I could go (with this style), because dialogue also has to be relevant. Most of our dialogue is very boring, so in this case, I wanted it to feel like that boring, natural day-to-day dialogue that these two people are having."

The Red River Métis author also delves into a new writing style by incorporating her sense of humour throughout the story.

"I tried to be a little funny," she said. "I tried to use sarcasm for good. As much as fraud and theft are not light topics, I got pretty heavy in my last book, so I wanted Renee to be lighter."

Renee's character underscores the complexities of Indigenous identity fraud: how the issue can go past the individual and have deep, systemic roots.



Katherena Vermette's latest novel, *Real Ones*, follows sisters Lyn and June in facing their past trauma after their mother is called out for false claims of Indigenous identity.



"It's not entirely her fault that she became a successful person. I mean, one, her name was Raven Bearclaw, which is ridiculous. She was a very extreme case, even spray tanning her skin to look more Indigenous, and there are many cases like that where it's obvious, but she was given a pass because of a variety of reasons," said the author. "So, it's not solely her fault, it's the fault of the institutions who supported her and were ignorant, had not educated themselves or empowered themselves enough to be able to see through what she was doing."

Vermette has covered topics in her works that impact Indigenous communities such as generational trauma, identity fraud, and targeted violence, which can be taxing to both the reader and her as a writer. Understanding the sensitivity surrounding these topics, the author makes a mindful effort to ensure there is a balance between what is shared and what can be left to the reader's imagination.

"I'm conscious of what it does to people who read it, but also to myself, and having to read and write these things all the time and wondering how much of this is necessary, how much is needed for the story, and how much you can bring it into the light

and heal it in some way," she said. "I never want to say something traumatic and just leave it there, I got to make it better somehow, and what I tried to do is talk through the sisters and show how healing those relationships are and how healing those conversations can be."

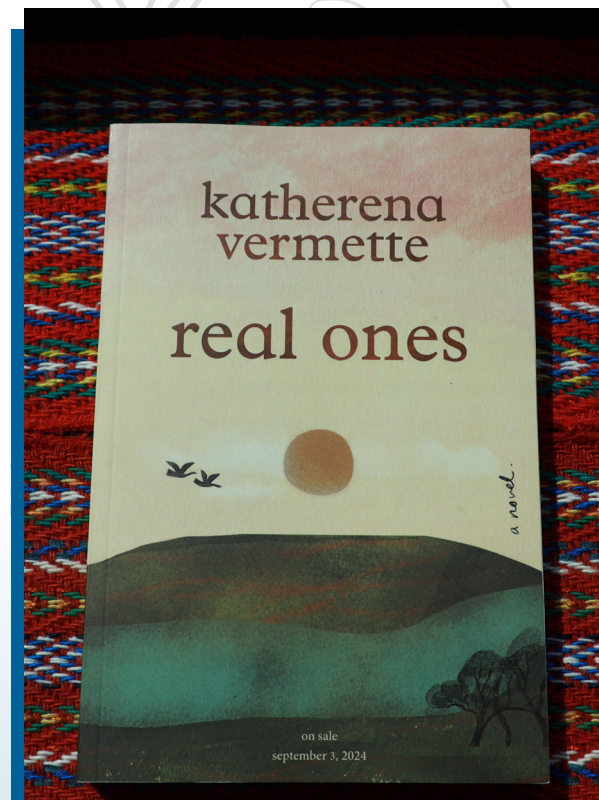
While writing stories that bring Indigenous perspectives to the mainstream, the author is also tackling her new role as senior editor of Simon & Schuster Canada.

"It's been great. It's been a busy summer, and my summers aren't usually busy, so that's different, but it's perfect timing for me to just dive into other projects," she said. "I've done mentorship for a long time. I've also done teaching here and there, so it's very similar and I am approaching (the job) like I approach mentorship. It's really about helping people make the best books they possibly can."

Vermette hopes to continue amplifying underserved voices through her own works and her new editorial role.

"The idea of who we still need to hear from, that's what drives me. I didn't want to be limited to any one thing. I feel like there's still so many people we haven't heard and so many stories that are different than what we've been hearing," she said.

Real Ones will release on September 3, 2024. For more information, visit katherenavermette.com.



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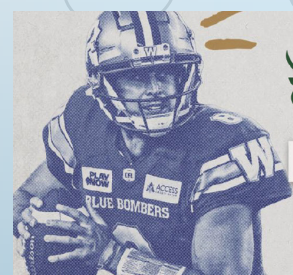
On Wednesday, August 21, your National Red River Métis Government travelled to our very own Lake Manitoba Resort to attend our first annual charity golf tournament in support of Michif Manor. Once complete, Michif Manor will be a home away from home for Red River Métis families from rural and remote areas who need medical care in Winnipeg.

RED RIVER MÉTIS CITIZENS STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY TIES THROUGH REGIONAL MEETINGS



Red River Métis Citizens of The Pas Region gathered on August 24 to discuss important priorities and community concerns within their Region. Regional meetings provide Citizens the chance to build a sense of community, strengthen their cultural ties, and be up to date on topics that will be addressed during the MMF's Annual General Assembly.

Visit www.mmf.mb.ca/regions to get in contact with your Regional office today!



W Friday, September 27th

PRINCESS AUTO PREGAME TAILGATE OPENS AT 5:00 PM

GATES OPEN AT 6:00 PM

ORANGE SHIRT GAME

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION

GET DISCOUNTED SEATS WITH YOUR GROUP AT bluebombers.com/ORANGESHIRT24





WE ARE
**RED
RIVER
MÉTIS**

The MMF AGA
Sponsorship &
Tradeshow
registration is now
open at
mmfaga.ca

FRIENDLY REMINDER

Red River Métis Citizens over the age of 18 that obtained their Citizenship before they turned 18 need to change their Citizenship card from a child card to an adult card.

For more information on this process please feel free to contact our office at 204-586-8474.

