



Le Métis

∞ EST. 1871 ∞

YOUR RED RIVER MÉTIS GOVERNMENT'S 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone enjoyed a festive New Year and got the chance to spend time with loved ones laughing, playing games, and sharing memories together. I'm sure that some of our Citizens celebrated the New Year with a piece of bannock and a bowl of boulettes, and others brought in 2025 with feasts of wild meat and a chance to hear live music in their homes. For me, I was so honoured to have my son-in-law fry moose meat and onions outside on a burner for our Christmas dinner. It brought me so many memories of my mom and my family growing up, when we depended on wild meat for our food.

These are important traditions to remember and to keep, as they are part of what makes us strong as a Nation, and reminds all Canadians that we are the true and only historic Red River Métis, with a strong and continued connection to our history, culture, and community.

There can be no doubt that it is our strength as a collective, and our steadfast faith in ourselves that have allowed us to persevere through the many challenges of our history. It has also allowed us to build on our strengths and make incredible advancements that our Ancestors could have never imagined.

Because of our strength, we also know that we will not be brought down by anyone. Jealousy is an ugly thing, and has no place in our culture, and I believe it is the same for First Nations and Inuit traditions. But it found its way into our community as a modern by-product of colonial teachings. I can assure you, we will continue to show that our success is not

blocking anyone else's success. As always, we stand ready to partner with those who would like to work with us, and believe strongly that when one of us succeeds, we create doorways and pathways for all to succeed.

For those who chose to fight us instead, we will settle our issues on any battleground that we are called into, including in the courts and the public eye. Your Red River Métis Government stands by its work and its record, and has the evidence to back up our statements and positions. I am ready to stand up and speak the truth. Anyone who challenges us will be defeated by the simple facts we all know and understand about our history and our identity. The MMF will always have the backs of our people.

We will continue with the vision set forth by our historic leaders like Louis Riel and we will not let anything hold us back or take away from that vision. We have waited too long and worked too hard to get where we are today, and united as Red River Métis people, we feel we will never be defeated. We have proven over centuries of our history that we will not sit on the sidelines while our people are under attack. This strength made us known to our friends and enemies in the past, and there are extensive records documenting interactions with our military might and united presence. We have shed blood and we have defended those who needed our support, whether it's fighting to defend and support our cousins, the First Nations, or going overseas to defend people we did not know, or standing in defense of our country and what it stands for. We have proven over and over again that we will stand for things that are just and right.

I will continue to update you all on the progress we make in establishing truth and advancing the Red River Métis on these important fronts.

While these are important priorities, we would not have advanced as far as we have if we couldn't put our focus on multiple areas. One area of focus in particular is the joint vision of Premier Kinew's government and the Red River Métis Government in the development of the partnership on wind power. Through this partnership, we have created the Red River Métis Power Corporation. I cannot speak enough on the importance of this opportunity, and the legacy it will leave for future generations of Red River Métis.

Another area of focus is procurement. We have talked a lot about procurement over the last few years, because this is an important way to engage our business community and ensure that we take advantage of the opportunities that should have

been available to us as a federally-recognized distinct people in Canada.

The challenges within the federal procurement policy have now shown what we have been fighting against for so long, and why we fight against it. We know that others have tried to steal our identity and get away with it, and through the procurement process, they have shown that they're also willing to steal the economic opportunities from that system. We must stand together to make sure we hold these people accountable for their theft, including our identity, our culture, our beadwork, our flag, our heroes, and our relatives. By stealing these things they've taken a shortcut to stealing the opportunities that the procurement process makes available. We will continue to hold provincial and federal governments, as well as industries, accountable for the procurement process. Clearly, procurement is a model that has shown itself to be effective when implemented correctly, and is one of the most successful ways of driving economic reconciliation. It does not cost one additional dollar to implement – the procurement would take place whether or not there is a set aside amount for Indigenous businesses – but they must ensure due diligence so that those set-asides go to the right people and stand with us as we take on these opportunities.

No government in this country should ever use the excuse of past identity theft to abandon Indigenous set-asides in procurement or put undue political pressure on the process, because procurement truly is one of the best methods to restore the head start to our people that was promised to us many years ago.

Of course, we will never lose sight of the fact that we cannot succeed as a Nation without ensuring that all our Citizens have the opportunity to succeed. This is the work of generations, and while our progress has accelerated, the effect on Citizens will only become clearer with each generation. Our youngest Citizens now receive quality, culturally focused pre-school education that teaches and celebrates our heritage, setting them up for life with a strong sense of pride in being Red River Métis.

Our Youth then move into school age with opportunities offered through your Red River Métis Government for sports, land-based training, jigging and fiddle lessons, beading and crafting, as well as summer jobs and internships to help them focus on their future.

Then they go through training or post-secondary education, supported financially by the MMF. As they move into their adult lives, they can take

advantage of the first-time homebuyer's program, gain access to supports for their entrepreneurial dreams, get a job with incredible benefits with their Red River Métis Government, or get involved as a Local leader or a member of a committee or board. For every age and stage of our Citizens' lives, there are programs and services, community engagement opportunities, celebrations, meetings, and activities for you to participate in. We are proud to be able to offer these to you, and many of our investments, from real estate purchases to business developments, are to ensure that these programs and services will always be available to you.

These investments mean we are also able to support the members of our community who have seen injustice. Citizens will remember that 2024 saw our fight to get Child Special Allowance funds returned to children who were in our care or remain in our care. Those cheques are rolling out now, and I hope to see many of these young people take advantage of the funds to pursue their dreams and invest in their futures. However, there is still work to be done on this front, and I fully anticipate that we will have more good news to share in 2025, thanks to a positive relationship with the Government of Manitoba.

We have also begun the process of providing some measure of peace and justice to our Sixties Scoop Survivors, who deserve to see some compensation

for the life-long consequences they faced after being stolen from their community and sold to other jurisdictions. The Sixties Scoop *Bridge to Justice Fund* comes from our own business revenues, and we set aside \$2-million dollars for this fund, to acknowledge the harm and pain of our survivors, while we continue to pursue this acknowledgement from other governments. I know there is no amount of compensation that could truly take away the pain of what was done, but my Cabinet and I remain committed to ensuring our survivors are recognized.

Of course, this year will offer more opportunities to support Red River Métis businesses and entrepreneurs. We will continue to work with the Government of Canada on the recognition of our Business Directory, which now highlights over 780 Red River Métis businesses and entrepreneurs. We will also continue to advocate for the establishment of distinctions-based procurement targets here in the province we brought into Canada's confederation, as well as enhancing the MMF's own procurement from Red River Métis businesses and entrepreneurs.

Building on our economic development achievements of last year, 2025 will see us open the third MEDOCare Pharmacy location in Selkirk this spring, as well as the continued evolution of Lake Manitoba Resort, including the opening of our RV Park there this summer. I also expect that the Red

River Métis Marketplace and Rapid City Memorials will continue to help us expand our economic success.

In the coming months, we will also be making important announcements related to our commitment to downtown Winnipeg, and the results of our call out to others to join us in revitalizing downtown as the key economic centre it represents for Red River Métis and all Manitobans.

As always, your wisdom, strength, and guidance are in my heart and on my mind as I look into another year of opportunities for our people. Thank you for your trust and confidence in me. I am honoured to be your leader and recommit myself to the important work you have given me.

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. My heart is with the friends, family, and community of our lost loved ones. I ask my people to send prayers to our families and help those who are grieving. I will keep you all in my prayers, as always.

Meeqwetch,

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

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

THE MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION IS THRILLED TO SHARE ALL OUR EXCITING ACCOMPLISHMENTS MADE IN 2024!



The signing of the Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty is a historic event, 154 years in the making, and it ensures that the next generations of Red River Métis will always be proud of who they are.

It is safe to say that 2024 was another momentous year for the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF). We achieved significant milestones over the course of the year that reflected our commitment to building a vibrant and sustainable future for all Red River Métis Citizens. Here are some of the highlights!

TREATY

It was a historic triumph for the National Government of the Red River Métis, as we signed the first-of-its-kind Self-Government Treaty with Canada.

MMF President, David Chartrand; Chief of Staff, Al Benoit; Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Canada, the Honourable Gary Anandasangaree; and St. Boniface - St. Vital M.P., the Honourable Dan Vandal signed the Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty, which builds on the Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement between Canada and the Red River Métis, which was signed in 2021.

This co-developed Treaty recognizes our inherent right to self-government and law-making powers over our own citizenship, elections, and other operations.

Self-government treaties reaffirm Indigenous Peoples' right to self-government and self-determination. These co-developed agreements justly recognize the right of Indigenous Peoples to organize and govern themselves and to pass laws that apply to their citizens in a way that meets their needs, goals, and traditions.

Now that the Treaty is signed by the parties, the next step is to introduce federal legislation to bring it into effect. Once in effect, this governance Treaty will receive constitutional protection. It will also be the first Self-Government Treaty concluded with a Métis Government in Canada. This is a historic

event, 154 years in the making, and it ensures that the next generations of Red River Métis will always be proud of who they are.

INDIGENOUS IDENTITY FRAUD

The MMF has been clear in its opposition to the rampant Indigenous identity fraud that has been taking place across Canada, with a goal of ensuring everything possible is being done to protect our Red River Métis culture. Indigenous identity fraud is an attempt to misappropriate or misrepresent Indigenous identity by individuals or groups who do not have legitimate connections to Indigenous communities, often for the sake of personal gain, financial advantage, or exploitation of Indigenous rights and resources.



The MMF co-hosted a two-day identity fraud summit, marking an unprecedented gathering of Red River Métis, First Nations, and Inuit leadership from across Canada who share concerns about the wholesale theft of their ancestors, heritage, language, and culture.

In May, alongside the Chiefs of Ontario (COO), the MMF co-hosted a two-day identity fraud summit. The event marked an unprecedented gathering of Red River Métis, First Nations, and Inuit leadership from across Canada who share concerns about the wholesale theft of their ancestors, heritage, language, and culture.

At the summit, the delegation passed a support resolution in which Red River Métis and First Nations leadership denounced Métis Nation Ontario (MNO) and their false claims to Métis identity and assertions in First Nations ancestral and treaty territories. Those in attendance also unanimously adopted a declaration condemning any person or group falsely claiming Indigenous identity for financial gain, academic recognition, or any other purpose. The declaration further stated that such actions are unacceptable and contribute to the ongoing marginalization of authentic First Nations, Inuit, and Red River Métis voices and experiences. On the last day of the summit, delegates unanimously signed a second resolution denouncing the illegitimate identity claims of the NunatuKavut Community Council, which fraudulently claims to be the representative Indigenous organization for approximately 6,000 Inuit of south and central Labrador.

The MMF will continue to defend against the inclusion of “new historic” MNO communities in our Nation. This includes opposition to Bill C-53, an act threatening to reward identity theft committed by thousands of self-interested, like-minded individuals who have banded together under the MNO banner to assert rights, benefits, and an identity that does not belong to them.

President Chartrand took time to address Indigenous identity theft at the Standing Senate Committee on Indigenous Peoples on May 7.

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 2024 Annual General Assembly (AGA) was a jam-packed three-day event filled with Red River Métis pride, groundbreaking announcements, and democracy, as around 4,000 Citizens attended, with many more connecting via Zoom and at satellite locations in Vancouver, Toronto, and Ottawa.

All eyes were on MMF President David Chartrand during his State of the Nation Address, in which an investment of \$2-million for the Red River Métis Sixties Scoop Bridge to Justice Fund was announced. The investment will be used to provide each eligible living Sixties Scoop Survivor an advance payment of up to \$5,000, while the MMF continues to pursue the existing lawsuit between the MMF and the Government of Canada.



Around 4,000 Citizens attended the 2024 Annual General Assembly in person, which was packed with Red River Métis pride, groundbreaking announcements, and democracy.

President Chartrand also publicly announced the newly formed Red River Métis Power Corporation. Through the corporation, the MMF plans to develop and operate high-quality alternative energy infrastructure, including wind farms, to generate sustainable, clean electricity to serve the growing energy needs of residential, commercial, and industrial users. The Red River Métis Power Corporation plans to prepare for up to 300 Megawatts of wind energy production in Manitoba.

During President Chartrand’s address, a new partnership was announced with the Government of Canada to re-connect Red River Métis families divided by the border between what is now Canada and the United States. Immigration, Refugees

and Citizenship Canada announced temporary measures to reunite Indigenous families separated by this border. This is an important first step towards the implementation of UNDRIP Article 36 and addressing the long-standing Jay Treaty issue. The Jay Treaty was signed between the United States of America and Great Britain in 1794 and included a provision for free passage by First Nations Peoples across the Canada-U.S. border. Through the program, an applicant can show they are part of our community by using their MMF Citizenship card, which, for this purpose, is equivalent to membership in a Federally Recognized Tribe in the United States.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In 2024, the National Government of the Red River Métis acquired new properties and expanded business interests, enriching the economic interests of the Red River Métis.



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The MMF hosted a grand opening for the newly constructed Lake Manitoba Resort on July 11. The resort showcased its exciting features: a new Clubhouse restaurant, a Pro Shop, and a redeveloped 9-hole golf course. The redeveloped golf course includes a new irrigation system, new greens and aprons, re-established tee boxes, and well-designed fairways.

On July 18, the MMF announced another major investment in downtown Winnipeg, with the acquisition of 333 Main Street, with 191 and 179 Pioneer Avenue. That announcement brought our downtown footprint to 11 properties, and has also brought over 550 employees downtown. The expansion into downtown also aligns with the City of Winnipeg’s plans to re-open the Portage and Main intersection to foot traffic. What is now called Winnipeg is the birthplace of our Nation and the Heart of the Homeland, and the MMF remains committed to supporting its vitality and wellbeing.

On August 9th, we opened up a second MEDO Pharmacy in Dauphin. This pharmacy offers a full range of services, including free delivery to Dauphin and surrounding communities, and features our Red River Métis Marketplace.

We also joined the ownership of Yoga Public to announce the reopening of Canada's largest yoga studio at 280 Fort Street, an MMF-owned building in downtown Winnipeg. When it first opened its studio in 2012, Yoga Public was and now returns as Canada's largest yoga playground, spanning over 16,000 square feet with a sleek, modern design that maintains the warmth and community that Yoga Public is known for.

MÉTIS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

2024 marked significant milestones in the MMF's ongoing efforts to address historical wrongs and support children in care through our affiliate, Métis Child and Family Services Authority – along with agencies Métis Child, Family and Community Services (MCFCS) and Michif Child and Family Services.



2024 marked significant milestones in the MMF's ongoing efforts to address historical wrongs and support children in care through our Métis Child and Family Service affiliates.

In March, the provincial government announced it agreed in principle to pay \$530 million to children in care over Manitoba's actions and policies relating to the administration of Children's Special Allowances (CSA) from Child and Family Services agencies between 2005 and 2019.

In September, the settlement for the Red River Métis Child and Family Services class action – also known as the Lafontaine Class Action – was approved by the Court. Manitoba paid \$84.8 million to settle the Lafontaine Class Action. The settlement is an incredible achievement for children in the care of Métis Child and Family Services Authority agencies who were deprived of the benefit of the federal CSA because of Manitoba's unlawful actions.

During the Métis Child and Family Services report at the AGA, the Lafontaine Class Action lawsuit was celebrated. Plaintiffs Rene LaFontaine and Red River Métis Citizen Mary Derendorf attended the AGA and received \$5,000 honorariums for their efforts as representative plaintiffs in the lawsuit. The settlement cheques have already started to go out to members of the class action, with many more to be distributed in 2025.

MCFCS hosted a room naming ceremony to honour two Red River Métis Citizens and their contributions to the agency: Loretta Boulard, who served as board chairperson and a board member from 2013 to 2016, and Minister Judy Mayer, who served as Minister of Métis Child and Family Services, the system that governs the MCFCS agency, for 12 years.

GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT – MANITOBA

This past year, February 19 marked the first Louis Riel Day following the official acknowledgement of his role as Manitoba's first Premier. The holiday was full of celebration and reconciliation as the MMF, in partnership with the Government of Manitoba, hosted a day full of activities honouring Louis Riel. Over 250 Red River Métis Citizens, Cabinet members, MLAs, and supporters stood by Riel's gravesite to celebrate the passing of the Louis Riel Act. Premier Wab Kinew, President David Chartrand, Minister Denise Thomas, and President Chartrand's granddaughter, Martha Chartrand, placed a copy of the Act on Riel's grave.



In February, we celebrated the first Louis Riel Day following the official acknowledgement from the provincial government of his role as Manitoba's first Premier.

On July 18, we joined the Manitoba Government for a first-ever historic Government-to-Government joint cabinet meeting to discuss issues of importance to our Government and Red River Métis Citizens.

On July 19, the National Government of the Red River Métis, along with the Government of Manitoba, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will, among other things, commence negotiations to immediately transfer approximately 100 acres of Manitoba Crown Land to the MMF, where the Red River Métis community of Ste. Madeleine once stood. The only remaining landmark today is the Ste. Madeleine cemetery, which is visited annually by thousands of Red River Métis Citizens during Ste. Madeleine Métis Days. The event is held on the site of the former village near the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border and commemorates the large, thriving Red River Métis community that was burned down in the 1930s to make way for cattle pasture. The MOU was signed by MMF President David Chartrand and Manitoba's Premier Wab Kinew.

Late in July, MMF representatives joined a Manitoba delegation visiting Houston, Texas, alongside Bernadette Smith, Manitoba's Housing, Addictions, and Homelessness Minister, to learn about the municipality's successful strategy to address homelessness through coordination and collaboration. Partners who accompanied the delegation will work to tackle homelessness across various sectors in the province, bringing valuable expertise, ideas, and success stories from previous projects that have come before.

On the municipal side of things, the MMF, the City of Selkirk, and the Rural Municipality of St. Andrews also signed an MOU. The agreement will enhance collaboration and cooperation in the hopes of providing lasting benefits through business opportunities, job creation, tax revenues, and service fees, as well as infrastructure and other improvements. The agreement sets out the vision for a partnership to, among other things, extend the City of Selkirk water and wastewater services to MMF-owned lands in the RM of St. Andrews north of the city. The provision of these services will facilitate the development and delivery of MMF Government programs and services to our Citizens.

GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT – CANADA

In November, we were proud to see The Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty make its way through Canada's ratification process, be introduced to the House of Commons, and passed, solidifying its place in legislation and the Constitution of Canada. Now that the implementation legislation has passed, the Red River Métis Government and our Nation will be enshrined in our country's constitution through this modern-day treaty.



The partnership between the National Government of the Red River Métis and the Government of Canada continues to grow with the signing of the Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty.

INTER-NATION AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The MMF continued to advance relationships and trade both Inter-Nationally and Internationally, building close relationships with governments and Indigenous partners around the world.



The MMF continued building close relationships with governments and Indigenous partners around the world during 2024.

Clem Chartier, MMF Ambassador of Inter-Nation and International Relations, continued to connect with leaders worldwide to foster these relationships including UN Meetings, the 54th session of the Organization of American States General Assembly, and the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP).

From April 15-18, Ambassador Chartier attended the 23rd annual session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York representing the National Government of the Red River Métis. During the forum, he made an intervention addressing the rampant Indigenous identity fraud taking place in Canada, and the lack of action by the federal and some provincial governments in correcting the issue. Chartier also stated that there are some court cases in Labrador and Ontario initiated by First Nations challenging the fraudulent identification of organizations claiming to represent Indigenous peoples, Inuit and Métis respectively.

Ambassador Chartier also attended the XVIII International Seminar on Canadian Studies, and delivered a keynote speech on the first day of the SECAN conference, entitled "Indigenous Identity Theft/Fraud Running Wild in Canada."

HOUSING AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

The MMF continues to innovate and expand housing options across Manitoba. Through its Housing and Property Management Department, the MMF is constantly seeking new opportunities and partnerships to enhance our efforts along the housing spectrum.

President David Chartrand and Minister of Housing and Property Management Will Goodon attended Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's housing announcement in May. A \$1.5 billion Canada Rental Protection Fund was unveiled to protect affordable housing and create thousands of new affordable apartments.

In August, we achieved a major milestone by assisting 1,000 families as they buy their own homes through our First Time Home Purchase Program (FTHPP). We celebrated the 1,000th purchase at the home of Meghan Young and Joshua Boucher, both Citizens of the MMF, who applied for the FTHPP. So far, the FTHPP has created over a quarter of a billion dollars in economic benefits in Manitoba and has created nearly 460 jobs in five years.



Through the MMF's Housing and Property Management Department, we are constantly seeking new opportunities and partnerships to enhance our efforts along the housing spectrum.

Your National Government of the Red River Métis held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for six new seniors' homes in The Pas as part of a \$10.3 million housing and community investment for Red River Métis Citizens living in the area. Homes in The Pas include a duplex on Bignell Avenue, built with the Affordable Housing Initiative, with a two-bedroom on one side and a three-bedroom on the other.

The MMF further advanced with previously announced builds such as Michif Manor – temporary lodging for Red River Métis Citizens travelling into Winnipeg for medical treatments, a six-storey development in Selkirk, and Mazoun Infinitii Pakoshayimooohk/Infinity House of Hope – a new facility to help Red River Métis Youth transition out of care from Métis Child and Family Services.

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE

In early 2024, the MMF's Early Learning and Child Care Department (ELCC) hosted a Red River Métis Child Care Conference, where early learning and child care stakeholders engaged in Red River Métis-focused child care professional development. The event featured keynote speakers and workshops teaching land-based education building relationships, mental wellness and inclusion, and more.



The MMF's Early Learning and Child Care Department continued to expand our child care centres to nurture Red River Métis Citizens.

In August, the MMF held the grand opening of the Louis Riel Child Care Centre, a 40-space centre designed to serve infant and preschool children, which provides quality, culturally-focused programming for young Red River Métis in the area, creating employment opportunities and allowing parents to get back to their workplaces.

ELCC's Licensed Home Child Care Program continued to flourish throughout the year, opening two home child care centres in the Southeast and Southwest Regions. The department is experiencing an influx of interested Red River Métis Citizens who want to open their own home child care centres, a trend they hope to see continue.

EDUCATION

The MMF knows that our Red River Métis Youth are the future, so we're striving to close the post-secondary education attainment gaps for Red River Métis students through a wide range of supports.



Your National Government of the Red River Métis is striving to close the post-secondary education attainment gaps for Red River Métis students through a wide range of supports.

With our Post-Secondary Education Support Program (PSESP), students get up to \$5,000 for each year of their education. Since the inception of the PSESP in 2019, we have funded nearly 5,000 students with a total investment of over \$21 million.

In the 2023-2024 school season alone, we funded 1,646 students for their schooling, a 37 per cent increase from the year before, to a total investment of over \$6.5 million. Over the 2024 spring and summer sessions, we funded over 250 students at nearly \$800,000 and expect this to put us on pace to support 1,900 students, an investment of approximately \$8 million.

It was a milestone year for the MMF's Métis Employment and Training (MET) Department. On April 25, the MMF celebrated MET's 25th anniversary at the Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg. Over the past 25 years, the MET Department has embraced innovative strategies, built strong community partnerships, and leveraged technology to support its mission. Since 1999, the MET Department has directly impacted over 48,000 Red River Métis – including 16,168 individuals employed and 9,924 individuals returning to school.

YOUTH

The MMF remains unwavering in its commitment to supporting Red River Métis Youth. From the Believe Elite Athletic and Artistic Support Program to the Individual Youth Support Program, we continue to foster growth and creativity for the next generation of Red River Métis artists and athletes and give them the tools and support they need to grow.

In 2024, the MMF held a Youth Hockey Mentorship Camp at the Seven Oaks Arena, where 30 Youth had the opportunity to benefit from the expertise of varying-level hockey players and participate in both on and off-ice activities. The MMF also hosted a Curling Mentorship Camp, instructed by Olympic gold medalist Kerri Einarson. The camp took place at Tyndall Curling Club in January and included curling lessons, entertainment, lunch, and pictures with Einarson.

In addition to our numerous sports camps, fiddle and jigging lessons, moccasin making, and beading workshops were hosted to encourage Youth to expand their cultural knowledge. The department also continued the Community Summer Employment Program, which focuses on developing employability skills to prepare Youth for their futures.



Our Red River Métis Youth are the future, so we're working to create equal opportunities for young Red River Métis Citizens through comprehensive support.

Finally, the MMF hosted its annual Youth and Elders Gathering. The event is intended to promote the cultivation and support between generations, enhancing generational awareness through diverse perspectives, and maintaining the Elders' prominent role within the RRM community. The two-day gathering – hosted at Selkirk Park – included workshops, a historical tour, and entertainment. Elders shared their stories, life experiences, and traditional knowledge, passing on new values and cultural understanding to Youth.

Red River Métis Youth ages 18-30 who were interested in pursuing a career in cooking, food services, or tourism had the opportunity to participate in the Me-yaw-sin Micowin Program in August. The program aimed to help participants build workplace skills and gain practical experience in restaurant kitchens, as well as other areas of food service such as serving, communications, social media promotion, event planning, marketing, and more.

ENERGY, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

In January, we joined the Government of Canada as they launched the Canada Water Agency and invested \$650 million over 10 years in the Freshwater Action Plan to protect and restore water quality and ecosystem health in major watersheds across the country. The MMF has received funding through the EcoAction Community Funding Program to restore and improve aquatic habitats in the Red River Basin, including the restoration of habitat along the Seine River.

The MMF's Energy, Infrastructure, and Resource Management Department (EIRM) opened its first two food security greenhouses, where Red River Métis Citizens will have access to safe and healthy food. To date, the MMF has constructed greenhouses in St. Laurent and at Lake Metigoshe. Each greenhouse site contains two 10-foot by 50-foot greenhouses and exterior community gardens.

In 2024, the MMF broke ground on its new Red River Métis Tree Nursery. With funding from Canada's



From new food security greenhouses to the ongoing construction of the Red River Métis Tree Nursery, the MMF is doing its part for a greener, sustainable future.

2BTrees program, the project is a collaboration between the Manitoba Métis Federation's EIRM Department and Métis N4 Construction. The MMF aims to grow 168 million trees from the nursery over the next 20 years. Once complete and at maximum capacity, the Red River Métis Tree Nursery will provide over 10 million seedlings per year, mitigating climate change and improving habitat and the environment.

The EIRM Department's Agriculture Portfolio, in partnership with Le Marché St. Norbert Farmers' Market, hosted another 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.

The MMF's Agriculture Portfolio also continued to collaborate 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 crop yields and overall plant health.

HARVESTING

The MMF continued working to protect our Citizens' inherent right to harvest and responsibility to adhere to Red River Métis Laws of the Harvest. We are committed to doing our part in conservation and helping increase sustainability, all while enforcing our traditional practices.

The MMF continued its annual Moose Conservation Harvesting Initiative in the Duck and Porcupine Mountains. Citizens entered a lottery to harvest as a Harvesting Party using one Conservation Moose Tag, allowing for the shared harvest of one bull moose.

Due to the increased loss of Crown Land where Red River Métis harvesting rights are protected, the MMF bought land across the Homeland for sustainable harvesting practices for use by Citizens. Applications were opened to harvest on our land, located in the Northwest and Southwest Regions of the province.



The MMF is committed to doing its part in conservation and helping increase sustainability, all while enforcing our traditional practices.

For decades, your Red River Métis Government has advocated for the recognition and affirmation of our traditional harvesting practices under Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 within Manitoba. The MMF is dedicated to building a new, constructive relationship with the provincial government, taking proactive steps to support and defend Harvesters who have been unjustly charged, and have established legal resources to assist and defend Harvesters. Through these efforts, we were recently given notice that the Manitoba government has stayed all MMF-supported Harvesting charges laid against Red River Métis Harvesters in MMF Expansion Areas (GHAs 5, 7, 7A, 26, 17A), as well as moose harvesting charges laid against Harvesters under the MMF's Moose Conservation Harvesting Initiative (GHAs 13, 13A, 18, 18A, 18B, 18C).

ENTREPRENEURS

In May, the MMF hosted the inaugural Red River Métis Business Excellence Awards Gala. Along with celebrating recipients' achievements, the MMF provides equity financing to Red River Métis businesses and entrepreneurs alongside opportunities through our procurement process. The award winners were chosen by a group of their peers in the Red River Métis business community:

- Traditional Economies Award – CM Yard Care & Firewood, Curtis Mayer
- Young Entrepreneur Award – CatEyeStrophic Inc., Kelsey Gillespie
- Sustainable Economy Award – Anne Mulaire, Andreanne Dandeneau
- Infinity Women Spokeswoman's Award – Métis Branded, Casandra Woolever
- President's Lifetime Achievement Award – Bob Penwarden



In 2024, our Red River Métis Business Directory hit a milestone with close to 800 verified Red River Métis owned and operated businesses in our directory.

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The MMF also commended Indigenous Services Minister Patty Hajdu for initiating a review of

procurement policies that determine who can claim to be Indigenous and by what standards they are measured when seeking contracts with the federal government. As the federal government looks to improve its procurement policies, the MMF is ready to work with them, supported by our leading business directory and gold-standard Citizenship verification practice.

COMMUNITY ADVOCATION

In February, we welcomed home Edward Ambrose, a man who was switched at birth and raised without the knowledge of his Red River Métis identity. Ambrose, accompanied by his daughter Eileen and his biological sister Leona, received his Citizenship card from MMF President David Chartrand in a personal meeting on February 13.



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The MMF hosted its first-ever Red River Métis Survivor Symposium, bringing 82 Sixties Scoop and Residential and Day School Survivors together with the hope of reflecting, empowering, and healing from March 8-10, 2024. Participants were encouraged to join in on presentations and workshops, contribute to question-and-answer periods, and hear speeches from MMF President David Chartrand, Sixties Scoop Minister Denise Thomas, and Residential and Day Schools Minister Andrew Carrier. The symposium, themed "Our Nation, Our Families, Ourselves!" offered survivors an opportunity to connect on matters of importance to them, including sharing stories and seeking new ways to heal and build resilience.

Your National Government of the Red River Métis continued its Pey Key Way Ta Hin/Bring Me Home Program, which supports the families once the cases have been solved or loved ones have been located. The MMF continued its Pekiiwetataan nutr zanfaan leur zisprii (We Are Bringing Our Children's Spirit Home) under the federal government's "Residential School Missing Children Community Support Program." This program aims to identify the location of Red River Métis children who went missing while forced to attend Residential School/Day Schools and honour them in a dignified way.

The MMF also continued to advance justice and reconciliation for our Sixties Scoop Survivors, as well as continued to advocate for justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit individuals (MMIWG2S).

RED RIVER MÉTIS VETERANS

In May, your Red River Métis Government held a Commemoration Ceremony at our Home Office in honour of Red River Métis Veteran Private Robert Blanchard, who was killed in action while serving in Hong Kong with the Winnipeg Grenadiers Hong Kong in WWII. His medals of service were donated to the Red River Métis Veterans Department (RRMVD) by the Veteran's niece, Julie Carver.



On November 8, the MMF hosted a heartfelt Indigenous Veterans Day Ceremony at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 65 in Portage la Prairie for the brave Red River Métis men and women who served and sacrificed for Canada's freedom.

The following month, the MMF helped sponsor a delegation representing our Government, Red River Métis Veterans, and Citizens – including Youth and MMF leaders – who toured France for the 80th anniversary of the Juno Beach landing to pay tribute to the remarkable contributions of Red River Métis Veterans on D-Day. Two ceremonies were held 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.

On November 8, the MMF hosted a heartfelt Indigenous Veterans Day Ceremony at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 65 in Portage la Prairie for the brave Red River Métis men and women who served and sacrificed for Canada's freedom. 2024 marked the 30th anniversary of the Province of Manitoba's recognition of Indigenous Veterans Day.

A HELPING HAND

The MMF takes great pride in giving back to our Red River Métis Citizens and beyond through our humanitarian efforts and building connections within the community.

In May, your Red River Métis Government and The Pas Region enacted our Emergency Response Plan to support Citizens who were displaced and

affected by wildfires in The Pas Region, particularly those in Cranberry Portage and surrounding areas. We aided Citizens in finding temporary living situations and offered support through The Pas Regional Office, including a pop-up store for needed supplies and assistance to ensure each individual was able to secure food. We mobilized our resources – using the Mobile Health Unit – and prepared camps to receive those displaced by the crisis, and more.



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At our 2024 AGA, the silent auction raised \$36,356 for the Bereavement Fund. To assist RRM families impacted by rising food costs, Citizens received chickens, potatoes, and honey, courtesy of President Chartrand, Clifford Waldner, and the Bon Homme Hutterite Colony.

In December, the MMF kicked off the holiday season by lighting up our 200 Main building. We presented \$50,000 to the Christmas Cheer Board, which has offered food and toys to families in need for over 100 years. The MMF takes pride in the continued support we have extended over the last 20 years to ensure everyone gets to celebrate Christmas.

RED RIVER MÉTIS CULTURAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

This past year, your National Government of the Red River Métis carried on with our beloved annual traditions and hosted many of your favourite events throughout the Homeland. Here are some of the highlights:

- Métis Night with Winnipeg Goldeyes
- MMF's first attendance at the Winnipeg Pride Festival
- Victory at Frog Plain Commemoration
- National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebrations
- Youth and Elder Conference
- Red River Métis Climate Symposium
- Infinity Women Secretariat Annual General Assembly
- A celebration of the Louis Riel Act
- Lighting up the Heart of the Homeland
- MET Gala
- Inaugural Business Gala



This past year, your National Government of the Red River Métis carried on with our beloved annual traditions and hosted many of your favourite events throughout the Homeland.

Many of our Locals also hosted events, from concerts to beading workshops, and everything in between. Livestreams were provided to ensure smooth, seamless events and meetings regardless of geographical location.

Thanks to our Citizens: without your participation, these events would not have been the successes they turned out to be!

MMF REMEMBERS

In May, the MMF congratulated Red River Métis legend and Canadian icon Ray St. Germain on the renaming of his childhood street, St. Michael Road in St. Vital, to Big Sky Country Way. The name celebrates his national network television show, Big Sky Country, which ran for 13 years. The ceremony was held on June 7 and was St. Germain's final performance before his passing on June 25.

As an internationally recognized Red River Métis celebrity, St. Germain's passing was a loss that was felt deeply by all Red River Métis Citizens. Following his passing, the MMF continues to honour his legacy through various tributes throughout the year, most notably at Ste. Madeleine Métis Days and the 2024 AGA.



In 2024, the MMF mourned the loss of Red River Métis trailblazers, staff, and allies.

This year, we were saddened by the loss of Indigenous trailblazers and friends of the Red River Métis community. The MMF's Cabinet, Staff, and Citizens extend our prayers and sincerest condolences to former Chilliwack, B.C., MP Chuck Strahl, AMC Grand Chief Cathy Merrick, Murray Sinclair, Thomas Guiboche – a respected Red River Métis Citizen who called home during the AGA, Marie Ehoussou – a cherished staff member of our Sixties Scoop Department, and Santanna Tates – MMF staff and Vice-Chairperson of the Seven Oaks Métis Council.

The MMF also mourned the loss of friend and ally, Jim Aldridge. Aldridge was a top litigator in the country who devoted his time to studying domestic and international archives regarding the legal arrangement with Canada and the outstanding debt owed to the Red River Métis. He spent significant time helping the MMF secure our victory in the landmark MMF v. Canada land claim in 2013. We were grateful that Aldridge was able to attend the modern-day Treaty signing with Canada and wore a beaded jacket we had gifted him previously for his significant contributions to the Red River Métis.

LOOKING AHEAD



The Red River Métis ended the year with confidence, solidifying our rightful position within Canada's Confederation. Our advancements as a government were showcased through the signing of our treaty, our continued economic development, and the extended services we provide to all Red River Métis Citizens. Looking ahead, we are excited to step into this next chapter of excellence as we remain accountable to you, our Citizens. Stay tuned for more advancements and exciting times to come in the upcoming year!