



Le Métis

∞ EST. 1871 ∞

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm so proud that the hard work and dedication of Minister Mona Buors and her team, along with our legal team, has finally paid off with victory for Red River Métis children who are or were in care with our agencies, who were robbed of their rightful Children's Special Allowance. Last week, the Court of King's Bench approved a settlement for the Lafontaine Class Action, which was the case your Red River Métis Government brought on behalf of the children in our care. Very soon, Manitoba will pay out \$84.8 million to children who were in our care between 2005 and 2019.

It's been a long fight, but we never gave up. We promised that every dollar that was unfairly taken from these kids would be returned to them. Now we can begin to honour that promise.

We're also going to set up extra programs to help these kids succeed, like financial guidance, so they can make the most of their settlement and plan for their future.

I want to extend my praise and admiration for Rene and Mary, our representative plaintiffs, for their courage, wisdom, and perseverance as they represented all class members and advocated tirelessly for what is right.

Helping our Youth grow and succeed is always a strong focus of your Red River Métis Government. That's why we offer so many programs and development opportunities geared to them.

Summer Employment Program

I'm also proud of our Summer Employment Program, which helps young Red River Métis people find jobs and get valuable work experience. This summer, we invested \$3.5 million and helped 393 students find meaningful and well-paid summer employment.

We're also working with the Infinity Women Secretariat (IWS) to create more opportunities for young Red River Métis women as they work and earn a good wage each summer. This year, 57 young women were offered jobs through the IWS program. Empowering women is important to us as a matriarchal Nation, and we're going to keep making sure Red River Métis women have every opportunity to reach their full potential.

I want to thank all the students who participated in the program, especially those who worked for our government. It's great to see so many young people interested in working with us. I hope to see many of you join us full-time when you graduate.

And to all our Youth, remember, there are still plenty of jobs available even after summer ends. This includes any young people who want to help clean sidewalks and driveways for Elders in their communities.

Post-Secondary Education

There can be no doubt that education is important for our community. It helps us grow, create opportunities, and build a better future for everyone. We've been working hard to make sure Red River Métis students have the chance to get a good education, which helps set them up for a secure future.

This year, we've made it even easier for Red River Métis students to get financial support for their education. We've streamlined the application process for the Post-Secondary Education Support Program and the Louis Riel Bursary, which are really great programs that can help you pay for your education.

To apply, simply fill out the MMF's Post-Secondary Education Support Program application form, which you can find on our website: <https://www.mmfeducation.ca/>.

The Louis Riel Bursary Fund is now worth almost \$30 million, and last year, we gave out close to a million dollars in bursaries.

I really encourage all Red River Métis students to take advantage of these opportunities. Education is not just about learning – it's about understanding

our history and culture, and knowing who we are. That's why we make sure that educating our students about Red River Métis culture and history remains part of our funding model – it helps our Youth learn about our rich heritage and keeps them anchored in our traditions.

One of those traditions is harvesting, and it's been a topic of much public discussion in recent weeks.

Harvesting rights

Being connected to the land is a big part of who we are as Red River Métis people. That's why we're working hard to make sure everyone has the chance to enjoy our traditional harvesting practices.

We know it's getting harder to find places like Crown Lands to harvest wild meat, so your Red River Métis Government has been buying land that Harvesters can use to exercise their rights. We have two properties in the Northwest and one in the Southwest, and they are open to all Red River Métis Harvesters who apply and are selected.

Here are a few important things to remember:

- You can only use the land on dates you've scheduled in advance.
- You are responsible for leaving the sites clean and ready for the next group of Harvesters.
- You need a valid CTF Harvesting Sticker for the 24/25 year.
- You must have an MMF-issued tag for the animal you are harvesting.
- You need to follow the Laws of the Harvest.

Remember that our laws also encourage sharing your harvest with Elders and vulnerable members of our community.

This is the first year we've offered the opportunity to harvest on our land, and Harvesters have been very active at each location. I'm proud to say that all the available time slots for this first year were filled, and I am hearing positive reports that those who use the land are treating it with respect. I look forward to offering this program to even more Harvesters in the coming years.

Don't forget, in partnership with the province, we have agreed on a limited number of harvesting tags for the MMF's Annual Moose Conservation Harvesting in the Duck and Porcupine Mountains. All Harvesters had an opportunity to apply for a tag for moose harvest during the program, which begins on September 12, 2024, and runs until January 15, 2025.



Conservation and the sustainability of wildlife populations remain important goals of this program. As always, Harvesters for the moose conservation initiative were selected by a lottery-style draw for parties with a designated Captain of the Hunt, along with two or more other party members, up to a total of six.

It's important to remember and respect the laws that guide our traditional harvesting practices. These laws aren't just rules – they are a part of our culture. They help us protect the land and its resources for future generations to come. If you plan to harvest this year, make sure you know and understand our laws.

There is no doubt that our community remains strong as we continue to gain momentum toward a brighter future. Your Red River Métis Government will continue to fight for justice while we protect our heritage and give our Youth the tools they need to succeed.

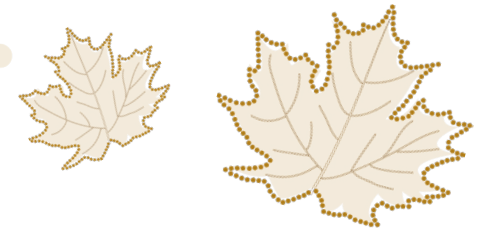
Rest assured, we will keep working hard to create a brighter future for all Red River Métis, working on new programs and strengthening our current initiatives.

I send my well wishes to Citizens who are honouring our traditions by harvesting from our Homeland to feed family and community. Stay safe and remember – your Red River Métis Government has your back.

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. ∞



ROOTED IN CULTURE: INDIGENOUS FARMING PRACTICES GROW THANKS TO THE MMF



The MMF has partnered with the University of Manitoba to explore the application of the Three Sisters Planting method in modern agricultural systems.

Recent studies in the National Homeland of the Red River Métis are highlighting the benefits of incorporating Indigenous farming techniques into current farming practices.

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) has partnered with the University of Manitoba to explore the application of the Three Sisters Planting method into modern agricultural systems, which is in the final year of a two-year research project.

The Three Sisters Planting method is an Indigenous farming practice used for thousands of years. In this project, researchers planted sweet corn, climbing beans, and summer squash together. The sweet corn acts as the “older sister,” providing support through its stalk for the climbing bean, which provides nitrogen for the soil supply, and the squash then acts as a canopy to keep the surrounding soil moist and reduce weeds, thus creating a mutually beneficial environment.

Dr. Ying Chen, Professor and Associate Head (Graduate Program) in the University of Manitoba's Biosystems Engineering Department, worked closely with the MMF while overseeing this research project.

“The MMF provided funding and technical support. I'm very grateful and I want to acknowledge their help on my project,” she said. “Hopefully this will be a long-term relationship with me as a researcher or with other researchers in the faculty of agriculture.”

Red River Métis Citizen Hannah Mooney has been working on the project as a research student.

“My role on this job is to facilitate some of the fieldwork and lab work, which includes preparing the land, managing the land like weeding, planting, and harvesting, and then also collecting samples mainly around the soil and the plants, then doing analysis back in the lab to figure out how efficient

the different systems are and how well they're growing,” she said.

Throughout her academic pursuits, Mooney has received support from the MMF and collaborated with the Métis Employment and Training's (MET) Summer Student Employment Program to secure her current position.

“I've been involved with the MMF for four years, and they've supported me through school, helping take off some of the financial burden of my tuition, which has been helpful,” said the Citizen. “With the MET program, they made this job possible for me. It wasn't a position that was going to happen without their support, so I'm grateful to be given this opportunity to learn more, gain more skills, and get to work on this great project.”



Through the help of the MMF's MET program, Red River Métis Citizen Hannah Mooney has been able to work on this project as a research student. Left to right: Dr. Ying Chen, Professor and Associate Head (Graduate Program) in the University of Manitoba's Biosystems Engineering Department; Mooney.



The Red River Métis student is in her final year of biosystems engineering at the University of Manitoba, where she plans to graduate with an environmental specialization. This project paired her passion for the environment with her interest in Indigenous farming.

"I've always had a love for nature and being outdoors since I was young. I love plants and I like being around plants, so this job called out to me not just in terms of my personal interests, but also in terms of learning more about Indigenous farming," she said. "Growing up in Manitoba, I think it's important to connect with the land (we reside on). This job allowed me to do that while also getting to develop more skills that I've been working on in school."

Participating in this research project has allowed Mooney to collaborate with a diverse group of individuals, enriching her ability to consider various viewpoints within her field. Moreover, this project has also enabled her to examine her field from the unique perspective of her Red River Métis heritage.

"Historically in engineering work, Red River Métis perspectives have been overlooked and neglected," she said. "So I think it's important to incorporate a Métis perspective locally to make our voices heard and make sure that sustainability is being looked at from a holistic and full lens rather than just environmentally or scientifically."

Following graduation, Mooney hopes to explore a career in the engineering consulting industry.

"I like working with people and seeing change happen. I plan to become an engineer in training and work my way up to achieve my professional engineering licence," said the student. "I also hope to incorporate more Red River Métis perspectives in engineering, whether that's working with Red River Métis communities or being able to apply my own knowledge in my work. That's something that I'm passionate about."



COURT VICTORY A HISTORIC MOMENT FOR RED RIVER MÉTIS CHILD WELFARE



On September 5, 2024, the Manitoba Métis Federation, as well as: the Métis Child and Family Services Authority; Métis Child, Family and Community Services; and Michif Child & Family Services announced that 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 will pay \$84,800,000 to settle the Lafontaine Class Action, while approximately \$445,000,000 will be paid to settle two related class actions. The settlement approval hearing was held in the Manitoba Court of King's Bench before the Honourable Justice Huberdeau, who approved the settlement at the end of the hearing.

The settlement is an incredible achievement for children in the care of Métis Child and Family Services Agencies who were deprived the benefit of the federal Children's Special Allowance as a result of Manitoba's unlawful actions. The settlement, under the administration of the Métis Child and Family Services Authority, will prioritize the interests of class members by simplifying the process for collecting their share of the settlement funds and facilitating payments as quickly as possible.

MMF WELCOMES NEW CITIZENS OF ALL AGES!



Did you know there isn't an age limit to register your child as a Red River Métis Citizen?

Meet Beau Friesen, one of the MMF's newest Citizens! This little guy comes from a proud Red River Métis lineage with strong family ties to the MMF. As he grows, he will have access to all the opportunities MMF has to offer Youth, like My Little Métis Box, Mini AGA, conferences, events, activities, and more! Visit mmf.mb.ca/cro-registration to register your child today!

REGISTERED VS. GENERAL DELEGATES: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THIS YEAR'S AGA



Registration is now open for the MMF's Annual General Assembly, taking place October 18-20 at Assiniboia Downs.

Every MMF Local is allocated 10 spots to attend the AGA in person. Citizens who have been selected by their Local Executives to attend this year's AGA have been registered by their Local as Registered Delegates. If you have not been registered by your Local, please go to mmfaga.ca to register yourself as a General Delegate.

Please contact your Local if you have any questions about the selection process for Registered Delegates. We look forward to celebrating with you at this year's AGA!



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

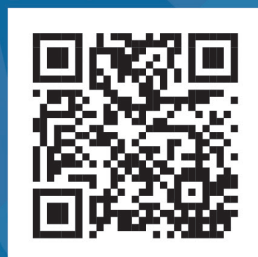
GET DISCOUNTED SEATS WITH YOUR GROUP AT bluebombers.com/ORANGESHIRT24





APPLY ONLINE

The Manitoba Métis Federation's Central Registry Office wants to remind Red River Métis Citizens of our highly secure online Citizenship/Harvester Application Form for new applicants. This will allow you to apply for a Citizenship/Harvester Card in the comfort of your own home, while ensuring the privacy of your information.



Visit our website at **MMF.MB.CA** to apply today!

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