



Le Métis

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As Red River Métis we have a rich history of entrepreneurship, business, and trade. From the days of our buffalo hunts to pemmican trading across our Homeland and beyond, we have been leaders and active partners in the economy.

Reflecting our strong work ethic, business sense, and persistence, the MMF has been steadily growing our business directory of verified Red River Métis owned and operated businesses, which now represents 750 Red River Métis businesses and entrepreneurs. They are all registered with our proud affiliate, the Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC), and can be found by searching the LRCC Business Directory online: online-directory.lrcc.mb.ca/.

Each business on our directory is verified for majority ownership and validated with our Central Registry Office to confirm the owner's Citizenship with the MMF. Our process assures anyone using our directory that they are buying goods and services from a Red River Métis business owner or entrepreneur.

Federal procurement

In August of 2021, the Government of Canada declared a mandate that all federal departments and agencies were required to purchase at least five per cent of their goods and services from Indigenous businesses.

We have been working with Canada to raise awareness among our businesses and

entrepreneurs of this mandate. However, in order for a contract to be counted as part of the five per cent, the business needs to be registered on the federal government's Indigenous Business Directory.

Anyone who has tried to join the federal directory knows that it can be a difficult task just to register. Winning a federal contract can be virtually impossible without great effort.

The federal directory has also come under major scrutiny over the past year, as it has become clear that there are non-Indigenous business owners that are self-declaring indigeneity and getting contracts under the program. This is yet another instance where identity fraud is having a direct negative impact on our people, as well as hardworking First Nations and Inuit business owners and entrepreneurs.

Earlier this year, I commended Indigenous Services Canada Minister Patty Hajdu on initiating a review of their procurement policies. Since then, we have been working with federal administrators to advocate for the use of our own registry of Red River Métis businesses to form part of the authorized directory for federal procurement. Over the coming months we expect to hear of advances on this that will open fair opportunities for federal contracts for our business owners and entrepreneurs, which will only serve to support greater integrity in the federal program.

Provincial procurement

Manitoba also has the opportunity to improve Indigenous procurement, which would ensure even greater participation of our businesses in our provincial economy. This comes at no extra cost to the provincial government, and provides a stronger platform for our entrepreneurs and business owners to showcase their top-notch offerings and expertise. By strengthening their procurement process, Manitoba is able to target and partner with Indigenous businesses for quality goods and services – something that benefits all involved.

As part of the Premier's Business and Jobs Council, I have been working with Manitoba's business leaders and others to advance a strong recommendation that Manitoba introduce an Indigenous procurement with a system that ensures those they do business with are exactly who they say they are.

As with the federal government, we will strongly advocate that our Red River Métis business directory be the recognized source for provincial procurement officers and others responsible for

contracts in the Government of Manitoba who are seeking to do business with Red River Métis business owners and entrepreneurs.

MMF procurement

The MMF's own procurement approach has proven what strong leadership and a verifiable directory look like. In 2021, our Cabinet approved the Métis Equitable Participation Policy (MEPP), which outlined the approach that our staff, departments, and affiliates are to take in procurement. Specifically, we use our own purchasing power for goods and services, as well as contracting in major capital projects, to increase Red River Métis business and entrepreneur participation.

The MEPP was first applied to the energy retrofit project at our National Office at 150 Henry Avenue in Winnipeg. The General Contractor for the \$11.5-million project was Red River Métis-owned NRG Management, and 17 of 22 sub-contractors for the project were also Red River Métis-owned.

MEPP continues to be applied to our Métis N4 Construction-led major capital projects. In the few cases where the general contractor has not been Red River Métis-owned, we have worked closely with them to ensure maximum Red River Métis business and Citizen or employee participation.

Through our affiliate ESGS Inc., which carries out the majority of the MMF's procurement, efforts are made to find, work with, and buy from Red River Métis-owned businesses and entrepreneurs. We know this can make a big difference for businesses, and we do business with our own community with a deep sense of pride at our growing strength.

Red River Métis Business Expo

Coming in December, we will once again be hosting the Red River Métis Business Expo. This year's event is a two-day gathering, with the first day focused on sharing, learning, and networking. The second day will include a full day of "Meetings that Matter," where Red River Métis businesses owners and entrepreneurs will have 20-minute one-on-one meetings with representatives from governments, corporations, companies, and non-profit entities.

The event will be an opportunity for our businesses and entrepreneurs to showcase their businesses and themselves to buyers, and to hear directly about the buyers' criteria and what they need. It will also be a time for us to connect once again with each other to share challenges and excitement.

More information on the Business Expo will be available shortly. If you don't already, make sure to follow the MMF online, including the social media



accounts of the MMF and our affiliate, the Red River Métis Business Development Corporation, for upcoming related announcements. You can also reach out directly at rrmbdc@mmf.mb.ca.

At our spring Business Excellence Gala earlier this year, it was obvious that our business community is as strong as it has ever been and as positive as it was coming out of the pandemic. Your Red River Métis Government will continue to advocate for your businesses and our collective economic interests, and together we will continue the momentum.

I commend all of our entrepreneurs and business owners. You create jobs and deliver valuable goods and services that are important to our everyday

lives, and the lives of all Manitobans and Canadians. I invite everyone to buy from and support our Red River Métis businesses, many of which are listed on our directory.

I'm proud to share that the trade show for our Annual General Assembly, happening at the Assiniboia Downs from October 18-20, is sold out. Citizens should stop by and see all the services and products that are available from our business community, and meet our proud business owners and entrepreneurs.

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. ∞

RED RIVER MÉTIS CITIZEN DIGS INTO HER CULTURE THROUGH FORAGING



Erica Lindell connects with her Red River Métis culture through her business, Mossy Birch Homestead.

Some of Lindell's earliest memories come from foraging, harvesting, and trapping with her family.

"I grew up on the trapline (in Eriksdale) with my parents and learned about gardening from a very young age. I remember at the age of four, helping my dad with the harvesting, being in the trapping shack with him and learning what we could eat (from the land). We did a lot of Saskatoon (berry) picking, and a lot of morel mushrooms, usually in the spring. (I) grew up with that as my background, and then we moved (and) lost a little bit of (that knowledge) due to being in the city."

Living in Winnipeg left the Red River Métis Citizen feeling disconnected from her culture.

"For many years our lifestyle was relying on the land, the relationship with the land, earthing and grounding, and not being able to do that was hurting my soul," she said. "So, when we moved back out to the country, my partner let me go wild and I got to rekindle (my) relationship with the land."

Since moving to Seddons Corner, sustainable harvesting and foraging have been an active part of the Citizen's life.

"Eighty per cent of what we eat comes from the garden or what we harvest or forage. It's become our lifestyle and it's something that we don't even think about anymore," she said.

One aspect Lindell has appreciated about her business is the ability to connect with other Red River Métis Citizens through her occupation.

"I don't advertise that I am Red River Métis, and I

would say 90 per cent of my clients are Métis. So, it's quite interesting how we find each other," she said. "I find everybody's going through that process of reconnecting and figuring out (their) relationship with the land and rekindling what we've lost through the generations and passing it down to our children."

The Red River Métis forager encourages her clients to bring their children in hopes of passing on her knowledge of foraging.

"I never charge for kids, so the more kids, the better, because I am a firm believer that knowledge should be passed down, because we've lost it," she said. "Having the people there to encourage those kids and to bring that (aspect of our culture) back into our lives is super important, because that's how we relied on many things for a long time. That's a huge cornerstone of what Métis culture is: the connection with the land and using the resources that we have."

Lindell understands her business goes beyond initial introductions to foraging and sees it as an opportunity to help others reconnect with the land.

"I've always told people: the day that my business is done is the day people no longer need me. That means we've educated enough people and we've done our job as herbalists or as people teaching about the land and about how to utilize the land," she said.

The Red River Métis Citizen offers classes ranging from beginner to advanced foraging, "make and take" courses where participants can make their own skincare products, and "forage and feast"

Red River Métis forager Erica Lindell hopes her business, Mossy Birch Homestead, will teach clients how to be self-sufficient while responsibly utilizing what is accessible on the land – a concept she has seen grow in recent years.

"It started as a foraging type of business, teaching people how to identify plants and how to use them either as medicine or (something) edible, and then it kind of blossomed into an herbal skincare line as well," said the Citizen.



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





The Citizen offers a wide range of foraging classes and carries a line of herbal skincare products.

“ I WOULD HOPE THAT EVERYBODY, WHEN IF THEY DO BOOK THE CLASS OR DO COME TO A CLASS, THAT THEY HAVE A REALLY GOOD TIME. IT’S USUALLY FILLED WITH A LOT OF LAUGHTER AND A LOT OF EDUCATION. I ALWAYS INTEND ON MAKING SURE THAT PEOPLE LEAVE FEELING A LITTLE BIT MORE GROUNDED TO THE EARTH AND HAVE THAT EXTRA STEP FOR HEALING AND RECONCILIATION WITH THE LAND.” – ERICA LINDELL, OWNER, MOSSY BIRCH HOMESTEAD

courses where participants can eat what they have foraged from the land.

Lindell hopes to continue connecting others with the land in a fun and positive way.

“I hope when Citizens book the class or do come to a class that they have a really good time. It’s usually filled with a lot of laughter and a lot of education,” she said. “I always intend on making sure people leave feeling a little bit more grounded to the earth and have that extra step for healing and reconciliation with the land.”

In addition to connecting with her culture through foraging, Lindell has been actively involved with the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) for the last 11 years.

“When I got my (Citizenship and Harvester) card, I got my kids’ cards as well, and then just kind of used that for more of the harvesting and fishing rights. Then, I found out that there were programs for wood harvesting, which is great because our house is 100 per cent heated with wood,” she said.

The forager’s involvement expanded into being on the Red River Métis Business Association’s Advisory Group, as well as the board for the tree nursery.

“So, I’m getting more and more (involved with) the MMF, which I think is fantastic. I love seeing everything that’s happening and seeing the momentum that the MMF is building for their Citizens and reclaiming who we are as Citizens.”

To learn more about Mossy Birch Homestead, visit mossybirchhomestead.ca.



WORKING TOGETHER TO SAVE ENERGY, MONEY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

Programs and incentives for Red River Métis Citizens to make energy efficiency upgrades in their homes and businesses.

GET IN TOUCH TO START SAVING
efficiencyMB.ca/metisoffers



CARING FOR OUR ELDER DELEGATES: A FRIENDLY REMINDER FOR THIS YEAR’S AGA



The MMF’s Annual General Assembly will take place on October 18-20 at Assiniboia Downs.

Every MMF Region is allocated three Elder Delegate positions to attend the AGA in person. Those who have been selected as Elder Delegates are provided with accessible services throughout the weekend, including the use of an Elders’ Lounge located on the Assembly’s grounds.

The MMF wants to remind all delegates that only Elders who hold valid Citizenship and have been registered by their Region as an Elder Delegate will have access to these services, including the Elders’ Lounge. If you have any questions, contact your Regional Coordinator directly or visit our FAQ page at mmfaga.ca.



Métis N4 Construction Inc. is a diversified Development & Project Management Corporation wholly owned and operated by the MMF Métis economic development trust.

Métis N4 is proud to lead the development of the Red River Métis National Heritage Centre which will be a significant cultural landmark at Portage and Main in Winnipeg. N4 is actively working towards completion of a 49 unit apartment building in Selkirk, MB scheduled to open in late 2024. Working with Energy and Infrastructure, Métis N4 is leading the development of the MMF Tree Nursery to produce millions of trees for reforestation and sale. We continue to establish significant contracts for construction and labour for the benefit of Métis Citizens.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
WWW.METISN4CONSTRUCTION.CA**