



Le Métis

∞ EST. 1871 ∞

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



his deep knowledge of our culture and community are a profound loss to us all.

Frances Chartrand, Vice-President, Northwest Region

As the days grow longer and the warmer weather arrives, our Region will continue to celebrate, reconnect, and share in the rich traditions that make us who we are. The Northwest Region is a busy, active part of our Nation, and there is always lots to share about our events and initiatives.

In January, the Northwest Métis Council hosted our annual Local Leadership Executive Meeting. Local Executives from the Northwest Region gathered to learn about the programs and services offered by the Northwest Métis Council and the MMF, meet staff members from each department, and hear presentations from the Louis Riel Capital Corporation and from Minister Judy Mayer on our Constitution, Rights, and Governance. Each Local shared their event calendars, helping to create a draft calendar to keep everyone in the Region informed about upcoming activities.

The Northwest Métis Council Office celebrated Louis Riel Day on February 17 at the Métis Community Centre in Dauphin. Red River Métis Citizens, families, and Youth were treated to a live band, fiddling music, square dancers, square dancing groups, a cribbage tournament, and a cultural activity table. Attendees also enjoyed a light lunch of hot dogs, chips, and drinks. Hundreds gathered to celebrate this joyous day and are already looking forward to next year's event.

Also in February, the Region's staff helped celebrated I Love to Read Month by visiting numerous communities across the Northwest Region. Our Elders continue to be the heart of our Nation, once again showing the value of their wisdom and knowledge during I Love to Read Month, where they shared stories with Youth at schools and child care centres across the Region.

The Northwest Métis Council recently began a 33-month systemic change project, Empowering Women to Create Change. This project aims to form a Women's Council to give voice to marginalized Red River Métis women, support positive engagement, and advocate for changes to address educational barriers.

On March 9, an information session was held at the Métis Community Hall in Dauphin. Women from Northwest Region Locals attended and offered their voices, experiences, perspectives, and ideas on ways the Women's Council could best serve

and meet the needs of Red River Métis women. Nominations were received for the Women's Council, which will develop a mentor/mentee system and implement referral pathways in the near future.

Looking ahead, we are excited to support our Red River Métis Youth through summer employment programs. These opportunities, offered in partnership with local organizations and affiliates, help students gain valuable work experience while earning an income for their future studies. Our Region's Summer Student Employment Program and Community Summer Employment Program have consistently provided young people with meaningful career-building experiences. Additionally, with support from our federal and provincial partners, programs such as Canada Summer Jobs and Urban/Hometown Green Team will create even more employment opportunities in the Northwest.

I encourage Red River Métis Citizens to consider visiting our Region this year, to check out one or more of our events - we'd love to host you!

Conclusion

Your Red River Métis Government never stops the important work of upholding our democratic traditions, celebrating our culture, and advancing our Nation. We have accomplished a great deal in the last decade, and now stand firm in a Nation-to-Nation, Government-to-Government relationship with Canada.

We are now in a federal election cycle, and much of the focus of this campaign is on Trump's attacks against our country, and his statements about trying to make Canada the 51st state. The Red River Métis Government remains united with our fellow Manitobans and Canadians, and will never allow this to happen. We will always stand in defense of Canada, and we will ensure Trump never gets our country. This tariff war Trump has provoked will no doubt affect industry at large as well as individuals, so we need to be supportive of our Canadian and Red River Métis businesses, and continually find ways to help each other as we deal with the realities of fighting this trade war.

Voting in the upcoming federal election is imperative. We must all participate and do our part to get out to vote. Please encourage your friends and family to vote. The decisions we make when we vote are not just about ourselves or our personal politics. They are about our towns and villages, our community, our families, and our Nation.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With winter slowly giving way to spring in all Regions, the geese are starting to return to their summer homes in our communities across the Homeland. This is the season when our Red River Métis Harvesters will be out again, looking to have a successful spring harvest and savour traditional meals of wild game.

I encourage everyone to be safe and be careful of the lakes, rivers, and ponds as the ice melts and footing becomes dangerous. As always, it's important to follow the Laws of the Harvest, seek permission if you are harvesting on private lands, and share the bounty of your harvest with vulnerable members of the community.

In this edition of my President's message, I have invited the Southwest and Northwest Regions to share their recent activities.

The Southwest Region was originally scheduled to share a message with Citizens this week, but due to the sudden loss of our friend and fellow Southwest Regional executive, John Fleury, the Southwest will provide an update on regional activities at a later date. On behalf of all Cabinet, staff, and Citizens, we extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife Barb, his family and friends, and all who knew and loved him as we did. His gentle humour, his wisdom and



As always, we will provide you with a source of information so you can see what the parties vying to form the next Government of Canada are prepared to do to support the advancement of the Red River Métis.

The party responses to our questions about our priorities will be sent to Citizens and put on our website, and the hardworking Communications

team will be putting out a billboard campaign to encourage your vote. Voting is our responsibility and our right, and we must all do our part to keep Canada the strong, proud, and free country it is today.

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. ∞

LITTLE INFINITY MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE: CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF FIRST IWS CHILD CARE CENTRE

ON MARCH 24, THE MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION CELEBRATED THE GRAND OPENING OF LITTLE INFINITY – AN INFINITY WOMEN SECRETARIAT AFFILIATED CHILD CARE CENTRE.



On March 24, the Manitoba Métis Federation celebrated the grand opening of Little Infinity – an IWS affiliated child care centre. Pictured (left to right): MMF Minister Alfred Anderson, Mayor Joy Sul, RM of St. Andrews; Mayor Debbie Fiebelkorn, RM of St. Clements; MLA Billie Cross, Mayor Larry Johannson, Selkirk; MMF Minister Frances Chartrand, Elder Linda St. Cyr, MMF Minister and IWS Spokeswoman Anita Campbell, IWS Vice Chair Adrienne Carriere, MMF Minister Will Goodon, MMF Minister Jack Park, and Carole Reimer, IWS Board of Director, The Pas Region.

Spring has brought sunshine, flowers, and Little Infinity, the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF)'s newest child care centre.

MMF Cabinet Ministers and local officials came together in celebration of the facility's grand opening on March 24.

"Today was a great event in partnership with Infinity Women Secretariat," said Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Department Minister, Frances

Chartrand. "There's 55 spaces here and it's such an exciting time, so people that are living on the outskirts of the city of Winnipeg can drop off their loved ones here and they can be part of their great big Red River Métis family."

Infinity Women Secretariat (IWS) is a proud MMF affiliate with a mandate to promote, empower, and enhance the well-being of Red River Métis women and girls throughout the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

MMF Minister and IWS Spokeswoman Anita Campbell acknowledged the unique viewpoints that women can offer in projects like the creation of child care facilities.

"It's no different than when somebody asks me 'why do you need a women's group?' We add different value, and we come from a different place when we open up a child care centre that's run and led by women," she said.





Spokeswoman Campbell also emphasized the importance of creating a child care centre that encourages Red River Métis culture, heritage, and the celebration of identity.



WITH OUR WHOLE CHILD PHILOSOPHY, WE ARE FOSTERING GROWTH, INCLUSION, AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION, SO THESE CHILDREN GROW UP NEVER FEELING ALONE AND THEY HAVE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY THAT THEY SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE. WE WANT THE CHILDREN, NO MATTER THE SOCIOECONOMIC BACKGROUND OR ETHNICITY, TO EXPERIENCE THAT SAME FEELING THAT WE HAD AS CHILDREN SITTING AROUND OUR RED RIVER MÉTIS KITCHEN TABLES, EMBRACED BY A LOVING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY.

- IWS SPOKESWOMAN, ANITA CAMPBELL



"With our whole child philosophy, we are fostering growth, inclusion, and community connection, so these children grow up never feeling alone and they have the safety and security that they should always have," she said. "We want the children, no matter the socioeconomic background or ethnicity, to experience that same feeling that we had as children sitting around our Red River Métis kitchen tables, embraced by a loving family and community."

Speakers in attendance included Minister Campbell, who opened and closed the ceremony; Rural Municipality of St. Andrew's mayor, Joy Sul; Manitoba Legislative Assembly (MLA) Member, Billie Cross; MMF Minister of the Interlake Region and Energy, Infrastructure, and Resource Management, Jack Park; MMF Minister of Housing and Project Management, Will Goodon; and ELCC Minister, Frances Chartrand.

During her speech, Mayor Sul thanked the National Government of the Red River Métis in its efforts to create more child care facilities.

"We are all aware of the shortage of daycare facilities and there are not enough thank yous to be given to the MMF and the Infinity Women Secretariat for recognizing that fact and for taking action in such an expedient manner," said the mayor. "We all know seeing and hearing children at play is heartwarming (and) for you to offer a loving,

safe, and educational environment for children to grow, learn, and play is equally heartwarming. It is hard for working parents, as we all know to balance all of their commitments and responsibilities and with the opening of this centre... this will reduce some of their burden."

Red River Métis MLA, Billie Cross, addressed the importance of high quality, identity focused child care programs and their contribution to thriving communities.

"I know the importance of identity. I know the importance of knowing where you came from. To help center where you are and where you're going to go," said the MLA. "And so, I want to offer my congratulations to the Infinity Women's Secretariat on this beautiful, beautiful, newly renovated centre. Today is a testament to your dedication, vision, and commitment to Red River Métis children and families."

The new facility has woven Red River Métis culture into every aspect of their programming, including their choice in toys, music, culturally focused menus, and their newly designed natural play area.

"The benches (and) the slides are all handmade. We wanted to create a similar experience to them playing in their own yards at home, in their Métis communities, so everything had to be natural," said Spokeswoman Campbell.

Little Infinity was a collaboration amongst multiple MMF departments and affiliates, including IWS, ELCC, Energy, Infrastructure and Resource Management, Housing and Property Management, and MMF affiliate, Métis N4 Construction.

"To change this space into something as beautiful as you see here - that is going to change lives. That's going to be so meaningful. Investments like this are going to have our kids be proud of themselves and proud of who they are," said Minister of Housing and Property Management, Will Goodon. "A lot of us didn't have that when we were growing up. We were told to be ashamed of ourselves, to hide, and this is the exact opposite, and this investment is just going to reap rewards."

This new centre provides a space for children to grow and learn in an environment that embraces their culture, identity, and encourages the preservation of the Michif language.

"Our language is forgotten," said Minister Chartrand. "Now we can ensure we incorporate Michif in our study of languages on a day-to-day basis. We can get our Elders to tell the stories of our Ancestors and have them come right into the centre."

The MMF hopes to use artificial intelligence (AI) as a learning tool in early learning and child care.

"We're actually building an AI called Infinity," said Spokeswoman Campbell. "She's growing up really

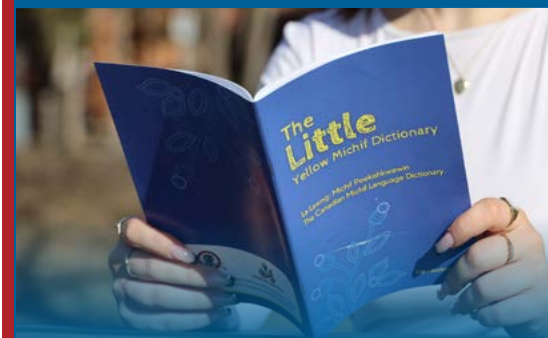
quickly. She knows a lot of words, and we're now at the point where we have to put cohorts together. We're planning on bringing AI to Little Infinity to share some of the Michif language with the children."

The current demand for Red River Métis centered child care facilities is evident as Little Infinity is currently operating at full capacity with a waiting list.

"I'm just so proud that we could have our Red River Métis Citizens that are qualified ECE II and III's working here with our children, working with our families, educating them on our language, our culture, our leadership, who the Manitoba Métis Federation is, who your Red River Métis government is, and working alongside with Infinity Women Secretariat," said Minister Chartrand. "It's fulfilling our dreams of everyone knowing who the Red River Métis (are) and recognizing our culture, our language, and the founders of the great province of Manitoba."

To learn more about Infinity Women Secretariat and their programming, visit infinitywomen.org/.

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN MICHIF?



Michif was once prevalent in Red River Métis communities, but it is now considered an endangered language with fewer than 1000 people speaking fluently. With a renewed cultural resurgence, Michif is making a comeback. The Louis Riel Institute (LRI), an affiliate of the Manitoba Métis Federation, currently offers resources which allow Red River Métis Citizens to expand their knowledge of the beautiful language of Michif.

To learn more about the different language programs and resources offered by LRI, visit [louisrielinstitute.ca!](https://louisrielinstitute.ca/)



FEDERAL ELECTION VOTE

**ADVANCED POLLS:
APRIL 18-21
ELECTION DAY:
APRIL 28**

A large, detailed photograph of a fish, possibly a walleye, in a fishing net. The fish is the central focus, with its scales and fins clearly visible. The background is a soft-focus view of water with ripples.

Conservation Trust Fund (CTF)
stickers for the 2025-2026

HARVESTING SEASON

are now available.

Visit mmf.mb.ca
for more information

The logo of the Manitoba Métis Federation, featuring a bison head in the center, flanked by two crossed rifles. The text "MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION" is written in a red arc above the bison, and "RED RIVER MÉTIS" is written in a red arc below it.