

# Le Métis

EST. 1871

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last week, we continued to demonstrate the strength and unity of your Red River Métis Government. Tuesday, July 14 was the day your new Cabinet was sworn in, witnessed by the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, the Honourable Anita Neville, P.C., O.M.

It is the role of the Lieutenant-Governor to represent the Crown at a provincial level, and preside over the swearing-in of newly elected governments, including the provincial government and your own government, the MMF. Her role in swearing in our Cabinet reaffirms our place as a government in this country, and adds to the sense of pride each elected official feels as they repeat their oath of office.

After being sworn in, the newly elected Cabinet assembled to meet the following day. For some, it was the very first time, and you could see them begin to understand the scope and scale of our activities as the Red River Métis Government. However, every elected official, new or returning, was anxious to learn about how the portfolios would be distributed.

The decision about which portfolio to allocate to each elected official isn't random. It requires a lot of thought and planning, and considers each individual's strengths, expertise, and comfort with making decisions that must intelligently oversee millions and millions of dollars within their portfolios.

As your President, I have a duty to oversee the government as a whole. I also carry portfolio responsibilities of my own, both as Minister of **Economic Development and Land Claims**.

**Anita Campbell** remains the Minister of **Finance** and **Human Resources**, as well as the Minister Responsible for **Information Technology** and **Communications**. She has provided steady leadership on the major Finance and Human Resources files for many years, while supporting the service delivery departments of Information Technology and Communications. Minister Campbell brings decades of experience and

expertise to leadership and service delivery oversight, and has consistently demonstrated her strengths in this capacity. We look to her to continue overseeing our unprecedented growth in the coming term.

**Jack Park** remains Minister of **Energy & Infrastructure** and takes on a new responsibility as Minister of **Lands & Properties**. Minister Park has grown Métis N4 – an MMF-affiliated diversified project management construction corporation – into a major success, supported by his strong economic development background. The affiliate has also demonstrated his ability to branch into property management, making the new Lands and Properties portfolio a natural fit for his oversight. We look forward to having him spearhead our growing Lands and Properties portfolio.

**Mona Buors** remains our Minister of **Métis Child & Family Services**. She has brought a wealth of knowledge, wisdom, and heart to the CFS portfolio. These qualities are essential when helping our kids and their families through the struggles and challenges in each family's healing journey. There is no doubt in my mind that she is the right person to continue overseeing this portfolio, particularly as someone who dedicated her professional life to educating children.

**Clint Webb** is your newly elected representative for the Interlake Region. Associate Minister Webb's enthusiasm for engaging Youth in sport and other mentorship opportunities was clear during his platform presentations. As a result, he has been given the role of Associate Minister of **Sports & Youth**, working with Minister Richard Genaille. We look forward to seeing him engage with our Youth in the coming years and help this important portfolio continue to advance.

**Frances Chartrand** remains the Minister of two massive portfolios: **Early Learning & Child Care** and **Health & Wellness**. Both have seen incredible growth under her leadership, proving her strength in taking large-scale ideas and turning them into reality. There is no doubt she will continue to advance these portfolios with her strong work ethic, ability to operationalize, and her focus on results.

**Peter Fleming** has become the Minister of **Housing**. He has demonstrated strong leadership through his previous portfolio of Natural Resources. Taking on the complexity of his new department's budgets, programs, and services is well within his capable grasp. I am confident his adaptability will be evident as he begins to speak on a national stage about the housing needs of our Citizens from north to south.

**Richard Genaille** remains Minister of **Sports & Youth** and becomes the Associate Minister of **Education**. Minister Genaille has ably demonstrated his care and compassion for Youth, listening to their concerns and speaking up for their needs. It is a natural fit to bring his extensive knowledge of our Youth to the education portfolio, working with Minister Remillard. Youth are always a top priority of your Red River Métis Government, and we have the greatest faith in Minister Genaille's focus on this work.

**Denise Thomas** remains Minister of **Sixties Scoop**, Minister of **Engagement & Consultation**, and Associate Minister of **Land Claims**. With 40 years of experience as an elected official of the MMF, Minister Thomas has an impressive track record. She has been a long-time advocate for Sixties Scoop survivors and has shown strong

leadership in the Engagement & Consultation file. Minister Thomas is also deeply passionate about resolving the historic wrongs of our Nation and finally settling the Land Claim, a journey she has been part of every step of the way. There could be no other selection as my Associate Minister on this file, which is a priority of our government this term.

**Shawn Nault** remains Minister of **Red River Métis Veterans**. Minister Nault is the first Minister of Veterans for our government and has proven the value of having a Veteran lead this file. His deep care for Veterans, understanding of the military history of Canada and the Red River Métis, and personal experience as a Veteran allow him to engage with our Veterans and their families with compassion and understanding. He has navigated the development of this portfolio and the department that supports it with poise and confidence, and there is no doubt the portfolio will continue to thrive under his leadership.

**Marielle Gauthier** becomes our Special Representative of **French Language** and Associate Minister of **Culture, Heritage, and Michif Language**. Listening to our Citizens, it has become clear that we need greater focus and a strong lead to expand French language services, despite receiving no funding to accomplish this work. Special Representative Gauthier not only speaks French, she grew up in the French-speaking community and has deep insight into their needs. She will also continue her good work on the Michif Language portfolio as Associate Minister on the newly expanded file.

**Will Goodon** will remain Minister of **Identity Protection & Inter-Indigenous and International Affairs** and will also become Minister for the newly expanded **Natural Resources, Wildlife, and Traditional Lands** portfolio. Minister Goodon has proven himself a strong speaker and passionate defender of Red River Métis rights, which will be required for both portfolios over the next term. He also has strong collaborative skills, necessary to engage with his fellow Cabinet members, other levels of government, and Indigenous partners to build relationships toward positive outcomes.

A new face to our Cabinet, **Wesley Hannah** will now be the Minister of **Métis Employment and Training**. This is a large and complex portfolio with a significant impact on the lives of our Citizens. Minister Hannah has a wealth of experience on the Local Advisory Committees, and his understanding of the portfolio is exceptional. It was clear from his campaign platform that he is passionate about helping Citizens gain the skills and training needed to enter the workforce or start a business, and to build a lasting legacy for the future.

Although not a new face to our Nation or community, **Barbara Fleury** has become our new Minister of **Culture, Heritage, and Michif**. Throughout her life, Minister Fleury has consistently demonstrated her heart for our community. She breathes Red River Métis culture and language, sharing and teaching everywhere she goes. With the support of her Associate Minister, Marielle Gauthier, I know her dedication to our Nation will result in enormous growth in this newly expanded portfolio.

**Judy Mayer** will remain our Minister of **Constitution, Governance, and Citizenship**. Minister Mayer is hardworking, detailed, and incredibly knowledgeable about her portfolios, and has overseen major constitutional reform in recent years. The amount of behind-the-scenes



work required for these reforms is enormous, and she handles it with grace, grit, and intelligence. I have committed to Citizens that we will reinforce our governance institutions, and there is no doubt Minister Mayer will be able to implement this vision and tackle the challenges ahead. Though we have the strongest registry in our Homeland, we must find ways to reduce wait times and ensure our data always remains ours.

Another new face at the Cabinet table, **Camille Bertholet** becomes our new Minister of **Red River Métis Beyond Borders**. Hearing Minister Bertholet speak on the campaign trail, it was clear she is a practical, down-to-earth person with a positive attitude. These qualities, along with her warmth and care for others, will make a real difference to Citizens who live away from the heart of our Homeland. The portfolio also requires her to interact with every Minister in our government, and the qualities that make her the right person to support our Beyond Borders Citizens will also serve her well with her colleagues.

**Darrel Ferland** remains our Minister of **Traditional Economies**. For Minister Ferland, this is not simply a portfolio – it is a way of life that he preserves and upholds. His insights and lived experience are invaluable contributions to our Cabinet table as we fight to protect what remains of our commercial and traditional way of life.

**Julyda Lagimodiere** remains Minister of **Justice** and Minister of **Pemmican Publications**. There can be no doubt that, under her leadership, the Métis Justice Institute has made great advances, and she is the right person to continue this growth. Minister Lagimodiere has also breathed new life into Pemmican Publications, reviving it from dormancy. I look forward to seeing how this growth continues into the digital era.

**Vincent Mark Parenteau** remains our Minister of **Mining**. Minister Parenteau has been a strong advocate for our Nation and has represented the Red River Métis well as the Minister of Mining.

He has developed an extensive network of industry contacts and understands the opportunities available to us as the world turns its eyes toward Manitoba's critical mineral inventory. Leveraging his knowledge and experience, he will be able to find new strategies to ensure we are fully engaged and developing gold-standard practices for our participation in this part of the economy.

**Mildred Dorion** will remain our Associate Minister of **Mining**. The duo of Minister Parenteau and Associate Minister Dorion has proven to be a positive combination. Associate Minister Dorion's diligence, along with her depth of experience in the portfolio, will strengthen the important effort of guiding our Nation deeper into this evolving industry.

**Andrew Carrier** will remain the Minister of **Residential & Day Schools** and take on a newly expanded portfolio as Minister of **Community Resource & Accessibility Services**. Our Citizens advocated for more services for those with mobility challenges and disabilities. Minister Carrier will serve as the first Minister responsible for Accessibility Services, along with his other vital portfolios. He has proven himself a strong advocate for Citizens. His compassion and care for Elders and all Citizens is evident in everything he does, making him uniquely qualified to be the voice for our most vulnerable community members. There is no doubt he will be a great champion for justice, equality, and dignity for our people.

**David Beaudin** will remain our Minister of **Agriculture** and take on a new portfolio as Minister of **Environment & Climate Change**. Minister Beaudin excels at grassroots engagement and understands how Agriculture, Environment, and Climate Change are connected in the lives of our Citizens. His deep understanding of both the growth opportunities and the challenges ahead will be invaluable to these portfolios, as will his drive to learn more and discover new opportunities in each area of responsibility.

**JoAnne Remillard** will remain our Minister of **Education**. This is another large portfolio, with many complexities and relationships with other educational systems, including post-secondary. Minister Remillard has led the file with grace and dedication since taking it on, and applies herself to understanding every detail with great focus. She will also have the support of Richard Genaille as the new Associate Minister. Together, they can ensure Education continues to establish a strong path forward, which will be key in keeping our Youth engaged with our government.

The mandate letters for each Minister and Associate Minister are available on our website under MMF Caucus & Cabinet. As we roll up our sleeves and get back to the work of advancing our Nation, I expect you will become familiar with each Minister and each portfolio. I'm excited about where your Red River Métis Government will go in the future, and I look forward to sharing our advancements with Citizens throughout this next term.

I would also like to extend my sincerest thank you to our colleagues who are no longer at the Cabinet table: Leah LaPlante, former Vice-President of the Southwest Region who managed the Region for decades; Joan Ledoux and Alfred Anderson, who brought their grassroots advocacy to Cabinet; and lastly the late John Fleury, whose presence, guidance, and advice are always missed.

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. ∞*

## A NEW ERA: CELEBRATING THE INAUGURATION OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE RED RIVER MÉTIS



**MMF elected officials, dignitaries, and community members gathered on July 14 to celebrate the newly elected Red River Métis Government.**

The summer heat did not stop the National Government of the Red River Métis from celebrating its democratic process. On July 14, government officials and dignitaries gathered for the Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) inauguration ceremony to witness the swearing in of the new Caucus.

While several Cabinet Members have returned to their elected positions by acclamation, including MMF President David Chartrand who will be serving his ninth term, the Red River Métis Government will also be welcoming new

representatives for the Southwest, Interlake, and The Pas Regions.

The official swearing-in was presided over by the Honourable Anita Neville, P.C., O.M., Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, who spoke to the importance of advancing understanding, healing, and reconciliation while building strong partnerships for a better future and highlighted the significant role the MMF will play in that journey.

"This evening marks an important moment in the life of your Government and of your Nation...

ballots have been cast, votes have been counted, and a new chapter in the history of the Manitoba Métis Federation begins tonight," said the Lieutenant Governor.

Attending dignitaries and community members included the Honourable Renée Cable, Minister of Advanced Education and Training for Manitoba; His Worship Scott Gillingham, Mayor of Winnipeg; RCMP Superintendent Scott McMurphy; and Winnipeg Chief of Police Gene Bowers.



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**I LOOK FORWARD TO ENGAGING WITH BOTH THE RETURNING LEADERS AND NEW ONES, AS WE TAKE ON THE AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY OF SHEPHERDING OUR NATION INTO A BRIGHTER FUTURE. THIS IS THE WORK I HAVE DEDICATED MY LIFE TO ACCOMPLISHING. TOGETHER WITH THIS CAUCUS, THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT WE WILL ACHIEVE GOOD THINGS FOR OUR CITIZENS. – MMF PRESIDENT DAVID CHARTRAND**

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*During his speech, President Chartrand discussed the advancements he hopes to see over this next term – including the Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty being adopted into the Canadian Constitution.*

In his remarks, President Chartrand recognized this as a new era for the Red River Métis – one that he looks forward to leading. He also acknowledged the importance of hearing the perspectives of Citizens, because the government works for the people.

“I attended platform meetings in different Regions during the election for a purpose,” he said. “I wanted the people to know where I plan to take them in the next four years. That’s going to be important for people to know, that I have a vision to where I believe we need to go... I also wanted to hear their opinions and have their voices heard.”

President Chartrand spoke to the confidence he has in Red River Métis Citizens and the choices they have made when selecting their leadership.

“I look forward to engaging with both the returning leaders and new ones, as we take on the awesome responsibility of shepherding our Nation into a brighter future. This is the work I have dedicated my life to accomplishing,” said the President. “Together with this Caucus, there is no doubt in my mind that we will achieve good things for our Citizens. While we will never truly know what we would have accomplished if we’d been allowed to live and govern ourselves as a people from the beginning, today we are clearly advancing the important work of finding our rightful place in Canada’s Confederation.”

Following the inauguration, Ministers were selected for each MMF Department and Portfolio – a responsibility President Chartrand doesn’t take lightly.

“Some of those budgets are \$100 million and more and appointed Ministers are responsible now to do what’s best for our people on what they hear, what they see, and what they believe the policies are guiding them to do... they have responsibility to do the best they can for the betterment of our people,” he said. “I don’t choose these positions lightly. I think about who I’m putting in and why, what skill I believe they have, and what skill I believe we need, and how it’s going to advance our Nation.”

Newly elected to the Southwest Region as a Regional Executive, Minister Wesley Hannah is looking forward to representing his Region at the national level while taking on these new challenges.

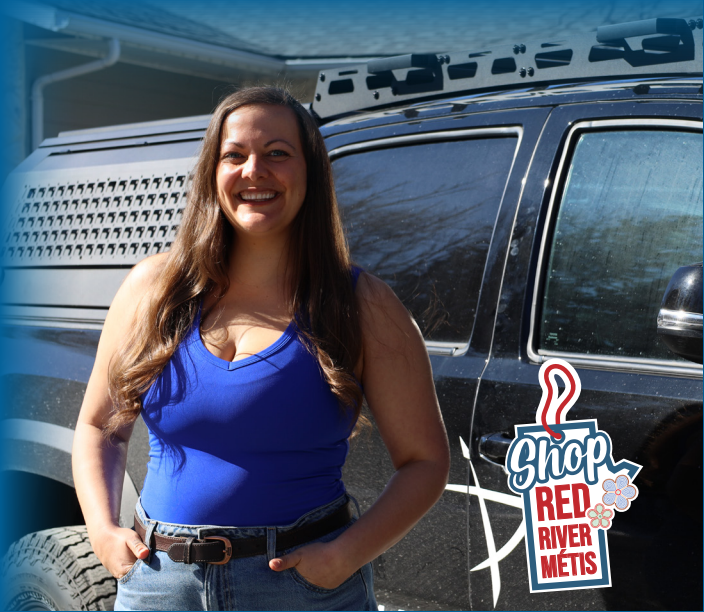
“I am very happy to be involved with this. I have been working with the Local level for many years and now I’m just happy to be getting to that next level and [seeing] what I can learn,” he said.

As the events of the week came to a close and elected officials assumed their new responsibilities, the inauguration and first Cabinet meeting marked the beginning of a new era for the MMF – one that continues its commitment to serving Citizens and advancing the priorities of the National Government of the Red River Métis for years to come.

If you are interested in learning more about the MMF’s Government structure or seeing who is representing your Region, explore the government tab on the MMF’s website.

# SHOP RED RIVER MÉTIS: JULIA HAYES

Red River Métis business owner Julia Hayes is one of the bright faces behind Aerial Innovations. Taking wildfire management to new heights, Aerial Innovations provides precision infrared hotspot detection and mapping to support informed firefighting decisions. Known for its cost-effective and eco-friendly approach, the business helps reduce the need for traditional helicopter-based operations. Integrating Red River Métis identity into her business model is something Hayes does with pride. Learn more about the leaps and bounds she is making through her business at [aerialinnovations.ca](http://aerialinnovations.ca).







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RESCHEDULED TO  
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