



# Le Métis

EST. 1871

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the second reading of our Treaty underway in Canada's Parliament, I have recorded a message to Citizens about the pride I feel about the progress we're making, as well as sharing my thoughts on some of the falsehoods that are being expressed about what our Treaty is and what it does. For those of you who prefer to read, I have put the words of my video message into written form below. If you want to see the video, you can go to the MMF YouTube page.

*Hello to my Métis Red River Citizens. Let me tell you a quick snapshot of what occurred in Parliament. As most of you know by now, the second reading of our Treaty was introduced in Parliament. It was a very proud day for myself and, of course, the thousands upon thousands that wrote pride in the response and big hearts in their emojis and so forth, sending to ourselves and our government that it's a proud day for our historic Red River Métis.*

*This Treaty we're talking about was promised in 1870. It was promised in the negotiations of the Manitoba Act that John A. Macdonald said, "I'm treating with the half-breeds." And a Treaty was supposed to be established, but that did not happen. The Treaty actually was met with not negotiators with our people, it was met with military against our people. And our people were chased off our land and left to roam and try to exist somewhere in the prairies. But you look at when we got into Parliament and I got to hear Minister Alty read the actual Treaty, I tell you, if you could see the glow of a light in anybody, I would've been shining as bright as the sun could show.*

*I was so proud to sit there and listen to the history of our people, the history of the promise made, and that we are trying to now find a correction to that history that was robbed from us. And we paid a price after that. Let's never forget that in 1870, disbursement of our people became homeless, landless, and road allowance people. We were left to try to rebuild, and no matter where we ended up, we seemed to have lost our ability to live and grow as a people, farm, develop economically. All that was taken from our future generations, and we are left to be, again, a people with no home and no land.*

*And so this Treaty was more historical in the context of principle than anything, but it means so much to us. I watched in quiet pride in the sense of listening to every word. I was so proud of the Bloc Québécois when they read the history of the connection of Riel and the French-speaking Métis Citizens we have. And Riel, of course, spoke at least five languages. But French was one of the languages he was professed to be very fluent in speaking.*

*And when you look there, Bloc Québécois spoke of a history that the research they had done and that Riel actually formulated, they believe, the Quebecism of fighting for culture and language, and that Riel really instituted that belief after his murder in which is now Regina, Saskatchewan.*

*Remember, it was not part of Manitoba. It was still part of Northwest Territories where Riel was murdered, and it's now called Regina, Saskatchewan. It was called Regina then but was not part of Canada. He was executed for fighting for our people and our rights, and that we belong in Canada, and we helped build this country and went to war for it in 1816. In 1870, again, we formed the province of Manitoba. In 1885, they murdered him. When you look at it, they thought they'd silence us forever and that we would just fade away. The living entity of the Métis were called different people – the Flower Beadwork People because of our beadwork, that you see always have prairie flowers. And we were called, of course, Canadian-born, half-breed, and Bois- Brûlés. Different names given till Métis was formulated in the tone and language by Riel.*

*The problem, sometimes, lies with that language, Métis. In French translation it means mixed blood, but we're not just a mixed-blood people. You're not Métis because you're mixed blood. You're Métis because of a history of a family and a community. When you look at what happened in Parliament, we've been working so long on this file, I'm talking years and years – decades. And we finally convinced the Government of Canada to do the right thing, correct the wrong of what they did in 1870, and show the pathway to the future of reconciliation, making it right. That way, we can move ahead from there and build a united Canada together.*

*Then I saw the conservatives rising one after another and using the complaints of First Nations. They say they've got a lot of calls from First Nations opposing the rights of the Métis and their Treaty, saying that their treaties must be completed before we can even talk about ours. Of course, as you know, in 1871 was the first numbered Treaty established here, and let's not forget who did that. Riel and his provisional government, when they negotiated the Manitoba Act into confederation.*

*One of the principal positions they had raised with the Government of Canada that they wanted, was Riel demanding that the First Nations (at the time were called Indians), have treaties established for them. So that's why Treaty 1 comes in 1871 after the Manitoba Act that Riel negotiated, and becomes likely the only Indigenous government in the world to negotiate and create a province in its country.*

*When you look at all that, and then hear these conservatives all standing up one after another saying that the First Nations have called them, contacted them, opposing that the Treaty be recognized and saying it be abandoned and left –*

*well, I was boiling inside. The bright light started having stains of blood because I was so angry. I was furious in there.*

*And NDP was buckling back and forth about their position. There's only a few NDP left in Parliament, but Leah Gazan had a right to speak, and I saw some of the documents she was going to speak on. She did change it after because I did make it very clear, "You will speak against our Treaty, I will knock in every house in your riding, and I will go and tell the people and campaign like hell that you betrayed us, the NDP lied to us, and that you said you were supporting this, and now all of a sudden you're changing position." At the end, she clearly didn't go 100% against it. She said, "I support it. However..." There's the however. If you support it, how come there's a however? And so she's saying that, well, First Nations are concerned. Well, that amazes me.*

*But what is more insulting in many ways is you got the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) and the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), which have a complete vindictive nature against the MMF because we left the Métis National Council and we beat them in court. They are now opposing the Treaty. Ontario should never have a treaty. I believe Alberta should have a treaty because they're part of our Homeland, and so should the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan. What's unbelievable is that MNA one day is going to go out before Parliament and try to introduce their treaty. You're going to fight your own fellow Métis? In fact, if we get the Treaty, it makes it easier for you to get your treaty. In fact, it opens the door for you to get your treaty. Maybe your treaty will be even better and further ahead than ours.*

*But instead of that, the conservatives said they're being contacted by the MNA, MNO, and he said the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S). But let me share something with our Citizens. We got a letter immediately from Glen McCallum, the President of MN-S, upon the entrance of us in Parliament. I even saw him over there, and after the decision and discussion of the second reading of the Treaty, he congratulated us and said, "We too will be coming. So, we want to commend the MMF for what you've done and how far you've taken it."*

*And yet a Conservative MP inside Parliament said the MN-S contacted him. So I talked to CBC, and hopefully they'll follow through on that because how can you be saying this in Parliament and yet MN-S is saying, "No, I never did. We support you."*

*So there are people looking at this Treaty to fight against Métis people so we don't get ahead. It is unbelievable. It is embarrassing to watch your cousins next door try to mislead their Citizens by saying, "we're protecting your treaty." We're protecting our Treaty. We don't impact any treaty. We don't have an effect on any treaty. This is not about Section 35 rights. It's not about hunting rights. It's about the right to govern ourselves. We do not effect in any fashion, any other treaty rightsholders. It's clearly spelled out in our Treaty.*

*The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) under Cindy Woodhouse as the National Chief has sent out a press release that they want this entire MMF Treaty scrapped and thrown to the side, saying that we are trying to create a hierarchy of rights. Just for our Citizens to understand, what they're saying is that we're trying as Métis to become*

greater with rights-bearing recognition than First Nations. That is absolutely a lie, 100% a lie. There is no hierarchy of rights anywhere. If you want to look at what Cindy Woodhouse is saying, she's saying that our treaties should have greater rights than the Métis, and we should be dealt with first before we deal with the Métis Treaty. She's the one actually advancing a hierarchy of rights. And in law, there is no such thing as one right having better or stronger rights than the next.

Métis rights do not trump First Nations rights. First Nations rights do not trump our rights. That's why it's clearly spelled in the Treaty. But people are now using this as a tool to advance and fight us. It's nothing new to us as Métis. I've been President going on 30 years, and I'll say this loud and clear. Nothing has ever been given to us. Nothing. As the Métis, every ounce of advancement we've made, we have fought for. We've had to fight for anything we've gotten in this country.

For funding that comes from Canada, let's understand this. That's our tax dollars. We pay billions and billions of dollars tax every year. All we're doing is getting a piece back of our taxes,

which we're entitled to receive. It's not charity, it's not a handout. It's taxes that are issued to us.

When you start looking at the premise of this Treaty, we're going to get there. Trust me, we'll get this Treaty done. We have a majority Liberal government now. They support it strongly. It will be passed eventually. The Conservatives can try to hold it up as long as they can, and what's saddening for me is they're using the Indigenous People now as their tool to go against something they don't support personally.

So let's call the situation what it should be. Conservatives, speak out on your own. You're against it, you're against it. But don't use First Nations or other Métis groups as your tool to fight against the Treaty. We will advance this. We got the support of the Bloc Québécois strong, 100 per cent strong behind us. We got NDP, who made a promise on this issue. They better deliver on that promise. And we got the Green Party supporting us, and we've got all the Liberals. The only ones that could be opposed to this are Conservatives. And let's not forget who did it all. Who took away our Treaty? John A. Macdonald. Who was he? Conservative. Who killed our

leader? John A. Macdonald. So unfortunately, maybe that's what they're trying to protect. But we will hold them accountable, trust me.

We're this close to getting our Treaty, and we are going to get it one way or another. At the end of the day, with or without any government, we've always governed ourselves, and we'll always continue to govern ourselves. We are truly the Red River Métis historic Nation that existed for over 400 years and will continue to exist as a people. We will fight like hell to make sure we get our fair share and justice in a country we helped build. So don't ever think that we won't get our Treaty. We will get it sooner than later.

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. Q.M. ∞

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**I'VE BEEN PRESIDENT GOING ON 30 YEARS, AND I'LL SAY THIS LOUD AND CLEAR. NOTHING HAS EVER BEEN GIVEN TO US. NOTHING. AS THE MÉTIS, EVERY OUNCE OF ADVANCEMENT WE'VE MADE, WE HAVE FOUGHT FOR. WE'VE HAD TO FIGHT FOR ANYTHING WE'VE GOTTEN IN THIS COUNTRY. - MMF PRESIDENT DAVID CHARTRAND**

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## NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US: RED RIVER MÉTIS ARTIST SHARES HER CULTURE IN INDIA

*Rooted in the Homeland, Shannon Tara Kalić carried Red River Métis culture to India's Bharat Tribes Fest 2026*

Humble and immensely talented, Red River Métis artisan Shannon Tara Kalić has taken the world by storm. With roots planted right here in the heart of the Homeland, she has branched out all the way to New Delhi, India to attend the Bharat Tribes Fest 2026 this past March.

Kalić's artistic momentum has been years in the making. Recently, she has had a lot on her plate – having been a participant in the Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Artist and Artisan Entrepreneurship Initiative, she spent five months learning various skills to assist her in the business world.

"The Manitoba Métis Federation has helped me a lot in becoming the beadwork artist I am today," said Kalić. "I do not come from a business background, so [the Artist and Artisan Entrepreneurship Initiative] was incredibly helpful."

She also took the opportunity to attend part of the three-day Red River Métis Artist and Artisan Workshop event following participation in the initiative. Days after connecting with other like-minded artisans at the event, the Citizen was boarding a plane to India.

"Attending the Artist and Artisan Gallery event and then a couple days later flying to India and going to the Bharat Tribes Fest was a whirlwind," said Kalić. "I would do it again in a heartbeat."

Her participation in the Bharat Tribes Fest 2026 came after she was nominated by the MMF, and subsequently selected by the High Commission of India.

"Wow... to be nominated by the Manitoba Métis Federation and Global Affairs Canada to go to the Bharat Tribes Fest in India [is] such an honour... I cannot thank the MMF enough," she said. "It helps me to keep going, to know that my artwork is being loved and enjoyed and sharing messages, particularly about and for the Métis people."

Showcasing her beadwork, Kalić spent her trip representing the Red River Métis as she took part in important conversations, noting that she loved making connections while she was there.

"Being able to share our artwork and finding similarities... that was beautiful and mind-blowing," said the Citizen.

As part of her trip, she was also invited to attend a special event hosted by the High Commission of Canada and India, Global Affairs Canada, and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs of the Government of India. The gathering brought together Indigenous artists and representatives from both countries.

"I sat in a panel with people from the Government of Canada, the Government of India, [and] different folks involved in tribal artistry in India," she said. "We were able to come together and talk about tribal artwork in India... and then the Canadian perspective about how Indigenous Peoples can work together."

The artisan carries a sentiment with her wherever she goes – "Nothing about us without us" – which she was able to share with others during her trip.

"That means whenever we have conversations about Indigenous People, the lands here in Canada, we need to have Indigenous voices at the table," Kalić said. "I was able to speak about that at this table in India and really make sure that there's always tribal voices at the table."



*The Citizen was honoured to represent the Red River Métis in New Delhi, India.*

The Citizen has worked hard to get to where she is today – and she wasn't always connected with her Red River Métis culture. Her connection came through her artistry when she began participating in virtual beading workshops during the COVID-19 lockdown.

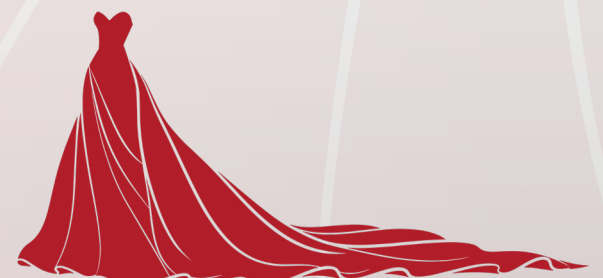
"Of course, we couldn't gather in person, so we gathered virtually and had a lot of time," she said. "I started beading every moment of every day, it seemed. It really took off after that. By January 2021, I had started my business... eventually, after a couple of years, I got to one of my favourite creations – my beaded hats."

Now featured in the Red River Métis Marketplace, the Citizen's business, Waabishki Miigwan Creations – known for selling beaded hats, earrings, ornaments, and more – has flourished into a successful and well-recognized venture.

Kalić's path continues to evolve as she opens new doors. Like many Red River Métis artisans, her work is shaped by boundless experience and connection.

"Beading is a very common [tradition] that many of us find, and I was able to connect with different Indigenous groups and organizations," she said. "After years of learning and growing and reflection, I'm now a very proud Red River Métis woman."

The power of connection and opportunity remains central to the creative and entrepreneurial paths of Red River Métis Citizens. If you are interested in the ways the MMF can help grow and support your business, visit the Red River Métis Business Development Corporation website at [rrmbdc.ca](http://rrmbdc.ca) and make sure to stay tuned into the MMF's events page.



## RED RIVER MÉTIS POWER PLAYS: STUDENT-ATHLETES CELEBRATE BCIHL CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

*Aiden Corbett and Jesiah Bennett helped the Vancouver Island Mariners clinch the victory*

Two Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) Citizens helped the Vancouver Island Mariners secure the British Columbia Intercollegiate Hockey League (BCIHL) championship last month. For Red River Métis student-athletes Aiden Corbett and Jesiah Bennett, the tournament was a culmination of the work the team put in all year.

“It was really special,” said Bennett. “It was obviously a lot of hard work that was put into it. And we were up at 6 a.m. for practice every day throughout the first two semesters. So, a lot of work going into it, and it just felt good to get rewarded with a championship at the end of it.”

Corbett’s victory at the tournament – held March 5-8 in New Westminster, B.C., a suburb of Metro Vancouver – was the highlight of his hockey career so far.

“It was pretty cool winning in Vancouver, and then it’s just a different experience compared to junior for sure playing university hockey,” he said. “We had a really good season, a great group of guys, and we just came together and felt really good at the end to win the championship.”

Joining the Vancouver Island Mariners together is fitting for the Red River Métis student-athletes, who have known each other since the third grade.

“We went to elementary school together for a year, and then we kind of split apart, but then we got back together playing hockey,” said Corbett.

“We were really young, and we just stuck together since then, so it’s been a pretty cool journey for the both of us.”

Corbett committed to the Vancouver Island University (VIU) team first, and recommended Bennett try to join as well.

“Last summer we were both looking at schools – where we wanted to go and what we wanted to do. And then [Aiden] told me about this program that he was really interested in here at VIU,” Bennett said. “I said, ‘do you think they’re looking for other guys? Do you think they’d want to have me?’ So, he gave me a contact for the general manager. And then I sent my information. He took a look at me and figured I was good enough to play on the team.”

From AAA to the Manitoba Junior Hockey League (MJHL), both Corbett and Bennett played on several junior teams before entering the university level. Originally from Winnipeg, living away from home was not new for the Red River Métis student-athletes now based in Nanaimo.

“I started in the WHL (Western Hockey League),” said Bennett. “And then played in the MJHL for a bit before I came to the BCIHL, and learned so much throughout those years of moving away from home and living not quite on your own, but more so on your own. It’s a really good experience to get to play hockey and all the stuff you can learn from it that just applies to your life.”

Bennett has suited up for a number of teams, including the Brandon Wheat Kings, Winkler Flyers, Portage Terriers, Waywayseecappo Wolverines, and Ontario Jr. Reign in California.

Corbett played AA in Swan River and Winnipeg before playing AAA for the Winnipeg Monarchs. He has also suited up for the Central Plains Capitals and the Charleswood Hawks, and spent two years in Red Lake, Ontario with the Red Lake Miners. For his final year of junior hockey, Corbett hit the ice with the Niverville Nighthawks.

Growing up with a mutual love of hockey, the Red River Métis student-athletes are thrilled to now play together as adults.

“[Aiden is] one of my oldest friends,” Bennett said. “And it’s really cool to get to go to university with him, live with him, [and] play on his hockey team, because we haven’t played together since we were probably 10 years old.”

The Red River Métis athletes enrolled at VIU in 2025. Bennett is currently studying business administration with hopes to become a firefighter, while Corbett is majoring in criminology.

“My uncle was an RCMP officer, and [I’ve] taken after him,” said Corbett, adding that he aspires to “become an RCMP officer and move my way up to be a detective.”



*Red River Métis student-athletes Aiden Corbett (left) and Jesiah Bennett (right) celebrated the BCIHL championship on March 5-8 in New Westminster, B.C.*



The National Government of the Red River Métis has supported both student-athletes with a grant for their schooling, which also helped with rent and food expenses.

“It was huge,” Bennett said of the grant. “To not have to worry about paying rent or, you know, just any finances for a little while. [It] definitely made things as a student and as an athlete a lot easier, just less stressful.”

The business administration student urges Red River Métis Youth interested in pursuing hockey to “give it a try.”

“If you don’t try something, you never get to know,” he said. “It’s great to have a community of friends. You instantly make 20, 22 friends as soon as you play on the hockey team. And it’s really special to have those connections through university.”

Are you a Red River Métis post-secondary student like Corbett and Bennett? The MMF provides financial assistance to Red River Métis students enrolled in eligible post-secondary education programs. Visit [mmfeducation.ca](http://mmfeducation.ca) for more information.

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## SUPPORT TO SUCCEED: PRESIDENT CHARTRAND’S MESSAGE AT THE RED RIVER MÉTIS BUSINESS EXPO

At the Red River Métis Business Development Corporation’s (RRMBDC) Red River Métis Business Expo last week, MMF President David Chartrand encouraged Red River Métis business owners to continue fulfilling their dreams.

“It’s great to see such entrepreneurship... great skill, great vision, and really great prosperity,” said President Chartrand. “I’ve never seen a need more than now for us to be together, to stand together, and support each other. It’s always been who we are.”

The event was a powerful gathering inspired by the continued growth of the Red River Métis Business Development Corporation. Visit the RRMBDC’s events page to see what events are on the horizon.



## SHOP RED RIVER MÉTIS: MEET RACHELLE TERRY

Rachelle Terry, along with her husband Brandon, have made their mark on the Interlake Region – providing affordable short-term and long-term accommodations for those interested in making Gimli their home. Their vacation homes make the summer months fun, and the winter months cozy – offering year-round fun.

Planning your next holiday? Visit [rentgimli.com](http://rentgimli.com) to book your next vacation the Red River Métis way!





# 2026 NATIONAL ELECTION



## COMING SOON

Know what Local you're registered with so you're ready to vote or run for office.

*Positions for President, Vice-Presidents, and Regional Executives will be open.*

[mmfelections.com](http://mmfelections.com)



**Help us reimagine traditional Red River Métis foods!**

We understand that some of our Citizens have **different dietary restrictions**, and we want to make sure that everyone can enjoy our traditional foods.

Your Red River Métis Government is committed to **food security**, and **providing education on healthy and sustainable foods**.



We'll take your suggestions and turn them into delicious recipes you can use at home!

Please submit your favourite meal ideas to [foodsecurity@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:foodsecurity@mmf.mb.ca) for a chance to be included in this initiative.