



Le Métis

∞ EST. 1871 ∞

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's official, your Red River Métis Government elections are underway! Voting day is June 23 across our Nation. Mark your calendars and get ready to exercise your right to vote for your representatives across the Regions and for the position of President. The future of our government is once again in your hands.

Your Red River Métis Cabinet gathered earlier this week to take the necessary steps to start our election cycle. I reminded them that this may be the last time this exact group of elected officials gathers. It's important to take a moment to reflect on what we've accomplished together, and to recognize and acknowledge the work of each individual. All of your elected officials have put countless hours into growing and advancing our government. We could not have made the advancements that we have without each of their contributions.

I hope Citizens will join me in paying respect and extending thanks to all our elected officials, regardless of whether or not they run, or if they run successfully.

Of course, the work of the government will go on during this election cycle, with Ministers continuing to conduct our business, supported by senior staff of the departments.

Your role in this election is of great importance. Your voice matters and your vote is needed. While Red River Métis votes and voices are important in civic, provincial, and federal elections, they become doubly important when it comes to the election of officials for your own Nation's government. When you vote in our election, you are ensuring the ongoing strength of your Red River Métis Government, and the strength of our Nation.

I also encourage Elders and seniors to take the time to talk about the importance of voting with Youth around you, especially if they've just gotten old enough to vote. Talk to your family about our rich democratic history, and how participating in our election process connects our people to a long line of Ancestors who have worked together to make decisions for our Nation. Help them understand that the only way their voice is heard is to vote.

Not only is voting your right as a Citizen, it's also your responsibility. Since long before Canada became what it is today, the Red River Métis have been practicing our own form of democracy, with our own laws and our own structures. These are not just democratic structures, they are the foundations of our Nation – foundations which have allowed us to demonstrate our unity, advance our cause, and keep the flame of our Nationhood alive, even during the dark times.

The great buffalo hunts of our Ancestors took skill, bravery, and a degree of coordination that many visitors to our Homeland found fascinating. The internal communication amongst participants, the work that was shared by all family members, and even the engagement of the parish priests who joined the mobile villages that supported the hunts – these things didn't happen by accident. They were deliberate, and a strong demonstration of what unity, shared purpose, and well-made democratic structures could produce.

The 1870 Convention of 40 was also a demonstration of our dedication to democracy. Representatives – nearly all Red River Métis – from English-speaking and French-speaking parishes from in and around the Red River Settlement gathered to debate and discuss the ideas that formed the basis of our provisional government, which eventually led to the creation of Manitoba. These individuals were sent by the residents of the parishes to speak on their behalf. They stood for many days in the cold of late January and early February, with the temperature averaging

-29 °C. I can't think of a more powerful testament to our devotion to democracy than our Ancestors standing in the cold for days on end to discuss a democratic way forward.

You can also look to our Veterans, who chose to volunteer by the thousands to stand in defence of democracy in countries that did not know them. Even in World War I and II, when our Veterans returned from battle, they were told to go back to their traplines, living on the margins of society, where Canada tried to keep us. But these Veterans remembered our history and understood the importance of our traditions. Their early advocacy and documentation of our history were important parts of how the Manitoba Métis Federation came to be in 1967. They banded together to advance our cause, knowing that our democracy was just as important as the democracy they fought for overseas.

All of this shows without a doubt that democracy is in our blood, plain and simple. It's a value we believe in, and we practice it at the grassroots level within our Locals, as well as at the regional and national level of our government.

For all who stand for election, I wish you all the best in your efforts. It is an act of courage and strength to put your name forward for any elected position, and I know Citizens who choose to run do not do so lightly. The debates, ideas, and discussions that take place as a result of multiple candidates running for office often produce great ideas and new considerations that help us advance our democratic practices.

Whether by advance polls, mail-in ballot, or on election day at the polling stations across the Regions, I encourage each and every Citizen to take the time to vote. For those who wish to learn more about our Red River Métis election process, visit mmfelections.com, or call 204-927-8345. Keep checking back to find polling stations near you, or other important election information.

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.

President David Chartrand, LL.D. hon. O.M. ∞

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**WHEN YOU VOTE IN OUR ELECTION, YOU ARE ENSURING THE ONGOING STRENGTH
OF YOUR RED RIVER MÉTIS GOVERNMENT, AND THE STRENGTH OF OUR NATION.**

- MMF PRESIDENT DAVID CHARTRAND

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BEYOND A (COPPER) PIPE DREAM: CELEBRATING RED RIVER MÉTIS ARTISTRY

Artist connects with his Red River Métis identity through wolf willow art

On a journey to further his connection with his Red River Métis identity, Doug Pople has spent the last two years making historically inspired jewelry.

“The opportunity to do art and to share the art’s history, it’s huge for me. It just fills my heart,” he said, explaining his desire to bring Red River Métis artwork into the community.

After reading an article about the significance of the wolf willow and its importance to the Red River Métis, Pople took it as a sign of reconnection.

“I thought, ‘you know what, this is going to be a little bit of my Métis culture that I can take back.’ So, I went for a walk in the bush, and I don’t know if it was just serendipity at work or what it was, but there was a plethora of wolf willows,” said the artisan. “[At the time], I didn’t take anything to put them in, so I came back with bulging pant pockets and coat pockets... I took them home, processed them... from there I made everyone in the family necklaces.”

Later, Pople expanded his creative endeavours beyond his family; the Red River Métis artisan now participates in a wide range of events that showcase his art and connect him with other artists in the community.

“I had a chance to go to the St. Norbert Market for the Métis Heritage Day back [on] February 7, and I didn’t really sell that much,” he said. “But if I’d been paid on the amount of history I was able to share, the history of the wolf willow, the Métis... there was so much discussion about that.”

A shrub commonly found throughout the prairies, the wolf willow is prevalent in Red River Métis culture – known for its uses in decorative arts, food, and medicine.

Along with harvesting wolf willow, the Red River Métis artisan sustainably sources other materials for his creative pieces.

“I like to be able to repurpose stuff,” he said. “So like the broken glass I find in a ditch, I can tumble that and turn it into [hanging ornaments] and to get the old copper pipe... it doesn’t matter if it’s corroded, whatever, it doesn’t matter the length of it because I can use it for a variety of things... there’s a lot of stuff that normally would just be scrap that I can turn into, I guess, a piece of art.”

Pople’s family history continues to inspire his creative passions. His grandmother could not fully embrace her Red River Métis identity after losing her husband in a hunting accident in 1934 – her circumstances made it difficult to live in “settler communities” as a single mother. Following her passing in 1995, the family went on a journey of reconnection with their Red River Métis roots.

“Now, Grandma is with me in my heart every time I am giving a Métis presentation or out on the land harvesting wolf willow,” he said. “I’m reclaiming my ‘Métis-ness’ one wolf willow at a time.”

Embracing his Red River Métis heritage has furthered Pople’s connection to the land, a relationship that he is incredibly grateful for.



Doug Pople began exploring his Red River Métis identity after reading an article about the significance of wolf willow (a shrub common in the prairies) to his community.

“As (Red River Métis) people, we’re always being told, well, ‘get back out on the land, it’s good for you.’ And a lot of us don’t have access to the land,” he said. “I do have that access, so I don’t take it for granted.”

The Red River Métis artisan has figured out a way to bring the peace he feels out on the land into his city life through art.

“I can go home tonight and start working on a piece... I’m just there by myself and it’s calm. It’s quiet, regardless of what’s around me,” he explained. “It’s safer than needlepoint and cheaper than therapy.”

Bringing his passions from the Southwest Region to Manitoba’s capital, Pople was encouraged to reach out to the Red River Métis Marketplace.

“They’ve helped me move some of my stuff, but also, they’ve given me confidence,” he said. “Like I was saying, I’m apprehensive about calling it art, but they’ve helped reinforce that this is something that’s desirable by people,” he said.

You can also catch Pople at a variety of markets throughout the summer across the Homeland.

“I’ve got to say, I’ve been to non-Indigenous markets, but I very much like going to the Indigenous ones. I’ve been to [the St. Norbert Métis Days] three times now and I went to the Truth and Reconciliation week one (market) here in Brandon last year,” he said. “I like being with other Indigenous vendors.”

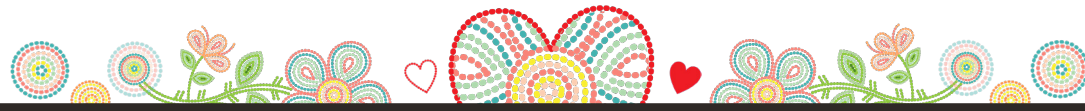
Like Pople, many Citizens find connection to their Red River Métis heritage through creation – whether it be their own crafts or looking to support local artisans. The Red River Métis Marketplace offers a wide selection of hand-crafted goods from artisans across the Homeland and beyond.

If you are interested in supporting Red River Métis artisans, as well as seeing Pople’s copper creations, visit redrivermetismarketplace.ca or come visit in person at 150 Henry Avenue.

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GRANDMA IS WITH ME IN MY HEART EVERY TIME I AM GIVING A MÉTIS PRESENTATION OR OUT ON THE LAND HARVESTING WOLF WILLOW. I’M RECLAIMING MY ‘MÉTIS-NESS’ ONE WOLF WILLOW AT A TIME. – RED RIVER MÉTIS ARTISAN DOUG POPLE

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MY FIRST RED RIVER MÉTIS BEADWORK: CELEBRATE I LOVE TO BEAD MONTH WITH SYDNEY COUTU

Learn the art of Red River Métis beadwork with Sydney Coutu, a Red River Métis beadwork artisan. In a step-by-step video, Coutu demonstrates how to create one of her favourite designs – a simple flat-stitch blueberry. Visit the MMF's YouTube page to watch the video and immerse yourself in the beautiful artwork of the Flower Beadwork People.



SHOP RED RIVER MÉTIS: KENNEDY HARDING

Meet the face behind Macgregor, Manitoba's very own canine and feline grooming shop, Kenny's K9. Kennedy Harding is the proud owner of the grooming business, which has been in operation for over nine years, garnering loyal customers – both human and canine. With pets of her own, Harding is passionate about excellent care for your furry family members. To book a wide range of top-notch pet services, visit kennysk9.com.



Con-GRAD-ulations

Callout

YOUR RED RIVER MÉTIS GRADUATE PICTURE HERE

KINDERGARTEN - GRADE 9
\$50 bookstore gift card

GRADE 10 - POST SECONDARY
\$50 Red River Métis Marketplace gift card

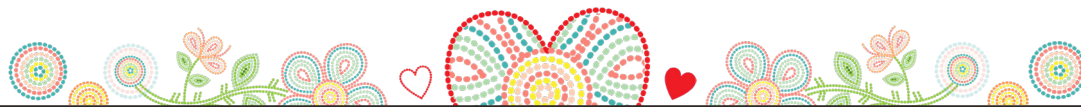


Your Red River Métis Government is proud of the **Red River Métis** graduates who have worked hard to reach the finish line this year. To celebrate, we're giving away 2 gift cards to Citizens who are graduating this year.

Want to enter? DM us a photo of your graduate for a chance to win!

The winners will be selected and contacted on **May 31, 2026**

Disclaimer: This contest is open to Red River Métis Citizens. By entering this contest, you grant permission for your image to be used, reproduced, and shared across all Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) communications, including but not limited to digital, print, and social media.



2026
**NATIONAL
 ELECTION**



NOTICE OF MMF NATIONAL ELECTION

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) National Election will be held on

JUNE 23, 2026

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now open for the positions of President of the MMF, Vice-president and two regional Executive Officers for each of the Seven MMF Regions.

Nomination forms must be submitted by email, mail or fax to the Chief Electoral Officer on or before **MAY 25, 2026 at 5:00P.M.**

CHALLENGES TO NOMINATIONS

Challenges to any nomination as authorized by the MMF Constitution by CEO on or before **JUNE 1, 2026**. Challenges to candidates must be in writing and sent to the Chief Electoral Officer with all supporting documents.

For more information please contact:

mmfelections.com

DAVID N. GRAY

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OR YOUR REGIONAL RETURNING OFFICERS

Winnipeg: Sheila (Kim) Chipman
 Thompson: Agnes Bonnefoy
 Southeast: Rachele Froese
 The Pas: Carole Reimer
 Southwest: Sheila (Kim) Chipman
 Northwest: Vicki Campbell
 Interlake: Barb Lavalley

The MMF is the National Government of the Red River Métis