



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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As Citizens know, the election cycle for leadership of our Red River Métis Government is well underway. While there are some who have been acclaimed to their roles, all but one Region will see Citizens go to the polls and cast their votes for the people they wish to see as their leaders. I congratulate Denise Thomas, Andrew Carrier, Judy Mayer, and Frances Chartrand on being acclaimed as Vice-Presidents for their respective Regions, and Southeast Regional Executive Officers Shawn Nault and Marielle Gauthier for also being acclaimed.

It is a powerful testament to the confidence of the people when their current leadership is acclaimed. Each one of these individuals has earned their acclamation by their hard work, dedication, and focus on the well-being of the Red River Métis in their Regions. But it's also important in a healthy democracy that individuals who feel a passion for serving the people feel free to put their names forward and run for election. It is not always easy to stand in front of Citizens and ask for their vote – it takes courage, and I offer my sincere respect for everyone who is running in this election. Your Red River Métis Government makes decisions informed by the will of the people, both during and after elections. I look forward to election day on June 23, when the elected officials you select will be announced, and we can put our attention to the work of advancing our Nation.

I also want to thank Citizens for allowing me to serve as your President for a ninth term. It is my fourth time being acclaimed, and I am both honoured and humbled by your confidence in my leadership. Leading the Nation has been my life's work, and while we have made great advancements together in the last three decades, I have not yet finished what I want to accomplish for our people.

I am grateful that so many Locals have extended an invitation to me to speak at their candidate forums. I have already been in St. Eustache and Russell, and will also be going to others in the coming weeks, including our northern Regions. I know it matters to Citizens to see their president in their community, and I thank each one for their warm hospitality. While I have been acclaimed, I always appreciate the opportunity to come and see Citizens in the Regions, and I'm excited to share my vision for the next four years.

My vision remains clear – we must secure what the Red River Métis have built over the past three decades. My heart remains dedicated to the Nation, and I am determined to finish the work I started. I will protect our government, our institutions, our economy, our culture, and our rights, making sure there is a strong legacy for future generations.

Elders and seniors will remember the commitments I made in those early days. My presidency has always been guided by three core pillars: education, economic strength, and the brand and reputation of our government. These priorities have not changed, but it's important for Citizens to know how we will advance these priorities and pillars in the next four years.

Central to this work is making sure Canada fulfills its unkept promises to the Red River Métis. My top priority is to complete and ratify our modern Treaty – a Treaty that secures our place in Canada's Confederation, and affirms our right to govern ourselves. There is no doubt in my mind that this will be accomplished quickly, and I look forward to celebrating this milestone with Citizens.

I will also continue to advance our land claim, restoring the head start owed to our children by Canada. This was supposed to be finished before the previous Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, left office. Regardless of who leads Canada, I will continue to advance our land claim settlement, as I know this will go a long way to ensuring that our Red River Métis Government has the resources it needs to support and uplift our Citizens for generations to come.

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Along with the priorities of Treaty and land claim, securing our economic future for both our Citizens and our Government is always on my mind, and informs the decisions and agreements I pursue for Citizens. Strong families are the foundation of a strong Nation, and our focus remains on supporting Citizens at every stage of life. Securing the financial well-being of our Citizens is why investments in education and housing are so critical – they are pathways to economic well-being for our people.

Through Early Learning and Child Care, we are grounding our children in culture, supporting parents' ability to work, and creating meaningful employment. We will also continue to expand supports for home ownership and repair, increase access to bursaries and employment and training opportunities, and strengthen opportunities for entrepreneurs through targeted financing and business supports, including in procurement and major project development.

At the same time, we are building a government that is financially strong and can endure any

changes in the political winds of Canada and the world. Strategic investments – including in renewable energy like wind power – are nation-building milestones that will generate jobs, strengthen financial security, and expand our economic footprint across Manitoba. We will continue to build partnerships with Indigenous governments and both industry and international allies for other economic investments that will benefit our Citizens and our government.

I will also continue to defend our Section 35 rights and our place in the constitution. This includes harvesting and natural resource protection and development, responsibilities we share with our First Nations relatives. Our way of life, and our connection to land and water are not only cultural – they are constitutional. Defending harvesting rights, advancing shared stewardship of lands and resources, and investing in land-based learning for our Youth are critical to preserving our identity. As Citizens know, our identity is tied to the land and to rights, but it is also tied to our Ancestors and the fights they had to preserve our existence as a distinct Indigenous Nation.

Fighting against those who would steal our identity for their own purposes and gains remains a challenge we must stand firm against. We will not let anyone undermine Red River Métis rights and identity, which includes continuing to support our French-speaking Citizens and advancing the revitalization of the Michif language. Language is as critical to our identity as our traditional practices, our community gatherings, and our extended family connections with each other, and we will continue to be the guardians of our Michif language.

Our future also depends on strong and respectful government-to-government relationships, with a distinctions-based approach at the heart of our dialogue. The Red River Métis must be recognized and treated as an equal government by Canada and Manitoba. We will pursue permanent, structured relationships grounded in mutual respect.

Finally, we will continue to build on the progress we have made. Our record of growth – from expanded office space and child care initiatives to Treaty advancements and major investments – reflects our commitment to delivering results. I will always honour the vision of our Veterans, Elders, and Ancestors, and remain grateful to Citizens for the mandate to continue this work. Together, we will bring the dreams of our Citizens to life, turning aspirations into realities.

The more I share this vision and hear feedback from Citizens, the more excited I get about the work ahead of us this term. We have so many reasons to be optimistic about the future, and I hope our Citizens from Youth to Elder will come away from these meetings with the same sense of excitement and purpose I feel. It is your belief that fuels me – your belief in our Nation, our identity, and the leadership you have chosen. I thank you for believing in me the way I believe in you.

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. ∞

RED RIVER MÉTIS MAKER ENSURES YOUR PETS ARE DRESSED TO IMPRESS

Pam's Place Pet Accessories is your premium pet accessory provider!

A familiar face at the St. Norbert Farmers' Market, Pam St. Godard is spending her retirement crafting cute accessories for your furry friends.

"My husband (Guy St. Godard) is an artist and would attend all these markets. So, I kind of got used to a little bit of the market life," she explained. "When I retired, I always thought, well, maybe I'll join him in his markets just as a partner with him."

But it wasn't an early retirement for this Red River Métis maker; life took a different direction when their son came into their lives – leading her to work longer than she initially anticipated.

"So, those plans changed," she said. "And then when I did retire, because I need to be busy and I love my pets, I thought, 'oh, you know, I'm going to incorporate the two.'"

This led to Pam's Place Pet Accessories: a custom pet accessory business offering everything from collars to bandanas to bowties and more.

Operating as a casual vendor for the St. Norbert Farmers' Market, St. Godard is invited to the weekly market throughout the year to show off her pet wears and connect with other animal lovers.

"I love meeting people because everyone likes to talk about their pets. Everybody loves their pets, right? And it's always a positive interaction," said the Red River Métis maker.

Working with the public as an educator for 40 years, St. Godard has appreciated the transition from educating children to crafting items for the family pet.

"I mean, everybody loves their children, but when they're talking to you as an educator of their child, it's not as carefree," she explained, noting the tension that arises during interactions like parent-teacher interviews and other moments throughout her career. "But when they talk about their puppies and we share pictures of our pets, it [creates] a nice atmosphere. I love it."

The Red River Métis artisan crafts her designs with purpose, taking personal comfort and environmental responsibility into consideration.

"I try to make things that are non-invasive, that are useful," St. Godard shared. "[It has] to be sustainable. So, what I really love about making the flowers (collar attachments) is [that] it uses really small pieces of material... I'm not throwing a lot of scraps away. The collars that I'm working on now, I'm using scraps to do that. Scraps, the leftover pieces that, if I didn't have a project, might end up in the landfill."

Her creations have garnered repeat clients who have provided St. Godard greatly appreciated feedback.

"I love getting feedback because it's a challenge for me when I always say, 'did it work for you?' And they say, 'yes, I'm so happy,'" she said. "It just proves to me that I can do it, do the sewing... the design work[ed], that's really what I'm wanting to hear."



The Red River Métis maker has adopted a sustainable approach to her products to ensure every piece of material is used for one of her many projects rather than ending up in a landfill.

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MY HUSBAND AND I HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE HELP (HOME ENHANCEMENT LOAN PROGRAM) FOR HOUSING BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN IN OUR HOUSE [FOR] OVER 30 YEARS, AND WE WANT TO AGE IN PLACE AND THE MMF WAS VERY HELPFUL IN LETTING US GET TO THAT POINT.

— PAM ST. GODARD

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Following 40 years in the education system, Pam St. Godard is keeping your pets dressed to the nines with her array of pet accessories.

From challenges to excitement and dedication, St. Godard's passion for her business can take over her day-to-day life rather quickly. She tries to avoid sewing in the evening because she "won't return to the real world."

"Every time I have a project in my head, it kind of takes a hold of me until I get it done, and I'm happy to see the end of it," she said.

St. Godard's presence is not casual when it comes to the St. Norbert Farmers' Market Métis Days, hosted by the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF).

"I've been a vendor at events organized by the MMF, and my vending experience comes through markets at the St. Norbert Farmers' Market," she said.

Along with attending markets, the Red River Métis artisan shared how her family has benefited from the programs offered by the MMF – particularly around housing and her son's education.

"My husband and I have participated in the HELP (Home Enhancement Loan Program) for housing because we've been in our house [for] over 30 years, and we want to age in place and the MMF was very helpful in letting us get to that point. It's been very beneficial for my son [as well] through education in his university days and in housing," St. Godard said, sharing her gratitude for her Red River Métis Government.

Looking ahead, the Red River Métis artisan hopes to keep the pace she is going and keep building connection with other pet owners.

"I'll just continue doing what I'm doing right now. It's still a new business. I'm still happy to explore new markets and meet people," she said.

Retirement should be the time to enjoy your golden years, and the National Government of the Red River Métis is dedicated to helping our aging community retire with dignity.

Whether it be staying in your own home through the Home Enhancement Loan Program or one of our many 55+ housing options, the MMF is committed to ensuring that you live comfortably for the rest of your life. Visit mmf.mb.ca/housing-property-management to learn more about housing opportunities available to you!

SHOP RED RIVER MÉTIS: BRIANNE ROBLIN

Meet Brianne Roblin, a Red River Métis Citizen whose care for her community shows in her business model. Roblin is the owner of two second-hand reseller businesses in Brandon, Manitoba: Plato's Closet and Once Upon a Child. The entrepreneur wanted to ensure that parents could afford the goods in her stores, which is why she chose to sell gently used items at a great price. She also will purchase customers' gently used items with cash, giving back to her customers and community. Don't miss out – visit platoscloset.com/locations/brandon-mb and onceuponachild.com/locations/brandon-mb to cash in on affordable fashion.



PRIDE WEEKEND REWIND: CELEBRATING THE 2SLGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY THE RED RIVER MÉTIS WAY

This year, Red River Métis Citizens are celebrating 2SLGBTQIA+ Pride out loud! From June 5-7, Pride weekend featured culturally rich activities hosted by the Winnipeg Region Locals: Lii Michif Otipemisiwak 2SLGBTQ+ and Allies Local and the Two-Spirit Michif Local.

The weekend kicked off with a Pride Feast on Friday evening, featuring a catered dinner, Red River Métis handmade prizes, and exceptional entertainment thanks to the Kinew Dancers and the Brandi Vezina Trio. The Honourable Rebecca Alty, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations of Canada, was a special guest at the celebratory dinner.

Saturday saw a host of fun events: breakfast followed by a cultural historical site tour on the Louis Riel Institute bus, lunch accompanied by live music thanks to the talented Morgan Grace, beading with Tamara Cardinal, boat tours, and more. Citizens ended the day with a Youth and Elder feast.

The weekend was capped off on Sunday, which was packed with even more fun activities. After breakfast, Citizens participated in a float decorating rally preceding the Pride March. Lunch was provided afterwards, and the day concluded with beading and dancing, followed by a sharing circle, bringing Pride weekend to a meaningful close for Red River Métis Citizens.



JUNE 23, 2026

NATIONAL ELECTION

MMF National Election Polling information for the
WINNIPEG REGION

ADVANCE POLLS:

Winnipeg: June 13, 19 & 20, 2026: 8:00A.M. - 8:00P.M.
Hampton Inn, 330 York Ave, Winnipeg, MB

Winnipeg Region polling stations on election day - **8:00A.M. - 8:00P.M. JUNE 23, 2026:**

Any Citizen that belongs to a Winnipeg Local can vote at any of these polling stations on Election Day.

Hampton Inn Downtown,
330 York Ave, Winnipeg, MB

St. Louis Centre,
445 Tissot St, Winnipeg, MB

St. Norbert Community Centre,
3450 Pembina Hwy, Winnipeg, MB

Seven Oaks Sportsplex,
725 Kingsbury Avenue, Winnipeg, MB

East End Arena,
517 Pandora Ave E, Winnipeg, MB

Woodhaven Community Club,
200 Glendale Blvd, Winnipeg, MB

Ukrainian Labour Temple,
591 Pritchard Ave, Winnipeg, MB

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Visit **MMFELECTIONS.COM** or scan the
QR code below for more information and what to bring when you vote



The MMF is the National Government of the Red River Métis