



Le Métis

EST. 1871

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Anyone who has had a chance to see the corner of Portage and Main in recent weeks will be aware that something important is happening. The iconic street corner is taking on a very different look, a look that will forever change the way people see and think about our downtown.

Section by section, frame by frame, chain by chain, bead by bead, the corner of Portage and Main is being given a makeover, Red River Métis style. This corner was once called "Banker's Row," and was the financial heart and soul of Canada's expansion westward at the turn of the 20th Century.

The building that will house our Red River Métis National Heritage Centre was formerly the Bank of Montreal's western flagship building. Along with the Bank of Montreal, there were no less than 20 financial institutions in the area, including the Union Bank of Canada, the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and the Bank of Toronto. Banker's Row signalled to the world that Western Canada was open for business.

It won't be lost on our Citizens that the expansionist dream that was demonstrated by Banker's Row did not include our Nation, in spite of the role we once held as the "economic engine of the West." This was an entirely colonial space, dedicated to the rapid growth of the city as a grain and rail capital. Given how marginalized our people

were at the time, living on road allowance, or in faraway communities like Ste. Madeleine or on the fringes in places like Rooster Town, we certainly had little wealth remaining to us to participate in that booming economy.

While many Winnipeggers, Manitobans, and visitors will see a new art installation there, and maybe appreciate the artistic beauty of it, our Citizens will understand that this display, and our Heritage Centre, are more than that. Our Heritage Centre holding pride of place in what was once a location that represented the dispossession of our Ancestors is a powerful statement. It is a testament to our resilience, our continued presence, and our strong sense of pride in the province we brought into Canada's Confederation. Let there be no doubt that this artistic message is clear: The Red River Métis are here, in the heart of our Homeland, and we are stronger than ever.

Without doubt, this is the largest display of our artwork found anywhere in Canada, at 85 feet wide and 32 feet high, and will be one of the largest public displays of artwork in Winnipeg. Aside from the statement made by the art installation's presence, there are deeper meanings to be found in the materials used to create it. There are 750,000 individual chain links that come together to create 14 kilometres of chains.

The chains in this display are there for a purpose. On October 11, 1869, Canadian surveyors were standing on Red River Métis-owned land, against the clearly stated objections of our Ancestors, showing that Canada had absolutely no intention of recognizing our existing land rights.

Standing on the surveyor's chain was an act that not only brought Louis Riel to prominence in our politics, it was the act that made public our Red River Resistance, and drew many to our flag to fight for our rights. The chains that now hang in front of our Heritage Centre are not only a reminder of Louis Riel, but they are also a reminder of the courage and heart of all our Ancestors who stood to fight for our existence.

The beadwork design on the chains is a product of the mastery of Jennine Krauchi, who, along with a long record of producing beautiful pieces that are in museums and art galleries or are heirlooms within families, has helped to bring about a revival of our traditional artform through her dedication to sharing it.

Through her vision, this installation at our future Heritage Centre includes hallmarks of our

traditional beading style – like mouse tracks in the snow, the five-petal flower that represents our Elders and our families and traditional berries, along with a tribute to Red River Métis women and our maternal Nation, through a flower with an infinity symbol centre over a traditional wild rose. For me, personally, when I see the vibrant purple colours dotting the beadwork display, I think of my mother. Purple was her favourite colour, and it will always hold a special place in my heart whenever I see it.

The beadwork also displays roots in a vibrant red, to show the earth we stand on as well as our Nation's birthplace and foundation, and flower buds that represent renewal and return. Jennine's design also takes inspiration from the building itself, incorporating pinecones and rosettes. It is exactly this kind of vision and artistic sense that not only contributes to the reflection of our culture and history, but also the reclamation of the building.

Not only did we put a great deal of thought into this display, but we also spent a lot of time and energy making sure these chains would be able to withstand the twin tests of time and weather, particularly at Portage and Main, the windiest corner in Canada. In many ways, this art display is like our beadwork itself, in that it looks delicate, but it is stronger than any pressure that can be put on it. Taking it one step further, it's also a symbol of our Nation, which at times in the past may have seemed fragile, but has proven itself to be strong and able to face any headwinds.

It is exciting to see this display taking shape. I look forward to seeing how it looks over the course of time – lit up at night, during Christmas, at sunset, and surrounded by people – it will become a stunning display that draws people's eyes and attention. The excitement the installation creates for our people is just a taste of what it will feel like when our Heritage Centre opens next spring. It is our mark in the heart of Manitoba's downtown, showing our presence in the past and securing our presence in the future.

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. ∞

“

**LET THERE BE NO DOUBT THAT THIS ARTISTIC MESSAGE IS CLEAR: THE RED RIVER MÉTIS
ARE HERE, IN THE HEART OF OUR HOMELAND, AND WE ARE STRONGER THAN EVER.**

- MMF PRESIDENT DAVID CHARTRAND

”



“CULTURE SAVES LIVES”: MONICA CYR SHARES INSIGHTS ON CULTURE, LEADERSHIP, AND HEALTH CARE

Red River Métis Citizen becomes inaugural CEO of Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre

For Monica Cyr, Winnipeg’s North End is more than a place she knows well – it is home. That lifelong connection to her community has shaped her approach to health care, which is why she has dedicated her life to focusing on culturally grounded care.

“Working for Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre (AHWC) of Winnipeg has really felt like home because this is my community. These are my people, and I really love the work here,” she said.

The centre, located at 181 Higgins Avenue, is nestled between Winnipeg’s three largest shelters and offers 14 programs that “specifically align with the social determinants of health across the lifespan.”

The Red River Métis Citizen expressed how exceptionally proud she is of the work being done at AHWC, highlighting the organization as the only Indigenous-led community health agency in the province – a distinction that reflects the unique needs of the community it serves.

“When you live in a concentration as high as we do of Indigenous representation in this province and in this city, to have one Indigenous-led community health agency is definitely an area of opportunity... there should absolutely be more,” she said. “And we’re not there, and we need to get there.”

For Cyr, culturally grounded care means more than simply acknowledging culture; it means allowing community-defined understandings of culture to shape how health care and social services are delivered.

“It has to be a cornerstone of understanding what culture first of all means, which is defined by our community, and then how that actualizes within real life in the field,” she said. “And so without culture, then we are simply mirroring essentially the other models that currently exist within our health care system and our social services. Culture saves lives. Culture is a gem.”

The Red River Métis CEO acknowledged that “it takes a special kind of leader to do this type of community work,” which is why she is grateful to be surrounded by strong Red River Métis women at AHWC who are committed to inclusive public service.



Monica Cyr has spent the last eight years with the Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre, where she first began as the director of primary care. She recently stepped into the role of CEO after learning from her mentor Della Herrera, a Michif matriarch and former executive director of the centre.

As a proud Red River Métis woman, Cyr said community, family, and the Nation are central in her approach to leadership.

“We have a lot to offer as Métis [Citizens], and specifically we have a lot to offer as Métis women. We have good ideas, we are exceptionally hard workers, our work ethic is impeccable. And so, for me, the legacy is really associated with making sure that... somebody is picking up the work in that good way and moving [it] forward,” she said.

When looking at what she hopes to leave behind as the inaugural CEO of AHWC, the Citizen sees the ongoing work of embedding strong, community-centred leadership within the health sector. For her, that means creating opportunities for emerging leaders to develop their skills and carry that work forward.

“My job as CEO is to love up, support the leaders, so that they in turn are going to love up and support their staff who in turn then do that direct care with our relatives. And it’s truly this passing



of energy and love – that is how I support my leadership,” she said.

Cyr wants to encourage young Red River Métis leaders and researchers to trust themselves and recognize that they are not alone in the journey. She feels connected to the strength of the Red River Métis Community and the sense of belonging and support that comes from it.

“I have never, ever gone into a space where Métis [Citizens] were there, where I didn’t feel completely at home and comfortable. And that can be walking into a room full of strangers,” said Cyr. “There is something about our Nation and the camaraderie spirit that we have amongst one another... we take care of one another.”

The MMF’s Health Department focuses on bringing Red River Métis perspectives to the forefront of the health sector. From research and resources to seminars and engagement opportunities, the department keeps Citizens informed and involved in decisions that affect our health and well-being. To learn more, visit mmf.mb.ca/health-wellness.



With Red River Métis leadership at the heart of AHWC, Cyr enjoys working alongside community members who share her values and passion for improving health care.

100-YEAR-OLD RED RIVER MÉTIS VETERAN RECEIVES CHEQUE OF HONOUR AND RECOGNITION

On August 26, MMF President David Chartrand; Shawn Nault, Minister of Red River Métis Veterans; and Minister Jack Park, a Red River Métis Veteran, were pleased to meet Robert Chapman – a Red River Métis Veteran who is now 100 years old. President Chartrand was pleased to present him with a \$20,000 Recognition Payment for serving in WWII.

Chapman is one of few remaining WWII Veterans still alive to receive a Recognition Payment. Thanks to the Métis Veterans Legacy Program, Chapman is able to access the support, honour, and recognition he, and all WWII Veterans, deserve. For more information about Recognition Payments, please visit metisveterans.ca.



“

I HAVE NEVER, EVER GONE INTO A SPACE WHERE MÉTIS [CITIZENS] WERE THERE, WHERE I DIDN’T FEEL COMPLETELY AT HOME AND COMFORTABLE. AND THAT CAN BE WALKING INTO A ROOM FULL OF STRANGERS. THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT OUR NATION AND THE CAMARADERIE SPIRIT THAT WE HAVE AMONGST ONE ANOTHER... WE TAKE CARE OF ONE ANOTHER. – MONICA CYR, CEO, ABORIGINAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTRE

”

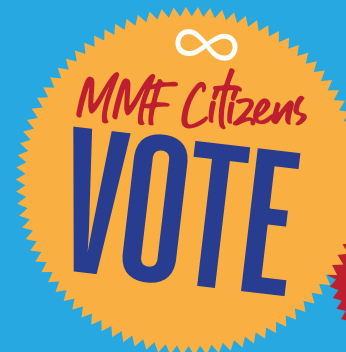
SHOP RED RIVER MÉTIS: PEYTON SMITH

If you’re looking for a lawyer in Dauphin, MB, look no further than Lennan Law. Owned and operated by Red River Métis lawyer Peyton Smith, the law firm is dedicated to providing personal and exceptional service. Smith is driven by community, and it shines through her business. For more information, visit lennanlaw.ca.





2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS



Get informed, Get out to vote.

Election Day: October 28, 2026



Scan here for more information
on Municipal Elections

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS! Community Collaborative Artwork Project Host *Niyaan li Michif (We Are Métis)* workshops for your Region or Local!

The Red River Métis National Heritage Centre invites MMF Locals and Regions across the Homeland to schedule workshops with **Red River Métis artist Tracy Charette Fehr**. Tracy's Community Collaborative Artwork Project, *Nyaan li Michif*, invites Red River Métis Citizens of all ages and abilities to celebrate their stories, ancestors, and communities through art.

Together, we will create a collaborative artwork for La Plas Taanshi kaa-ishipamachihoyaahk: The Red River Métis National Heritage Centre.

Contact us at info@rrmnhc.com or 431-323-1063 for more information, to order art kits, or to host a workshop!

Citizens can also register individually at mmf.mb.ca/community-collaborative-artwork-project.

