



# Le Métis

∞ EST. 1871 ∞

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



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Canada continues to rapidly advance initiatives and projects that will help our country maintain its resolute stance amidst changing political tides, driven by the evolving relationship with our neighbours in the South. It is heartening to see Canada making these changes, recognizing that we are in an economic war with our former allies in the South. We must all take these developments seriously and do everything we can to support a new economy, with new trade partners.

New trade partners, new trade routes, investments in our industries, and relationships with other Canadian partners – including Indigenous partnerships – these are the ways your Red River Métis Government is actively contributing to the necessary economic transformation that will secure our long-term well-being and strength as a Nation.

These are the reasons why we have been vocally supportive of Bill C-5, Manitoba's Crown-Indigenous Partnership, and other related initiatives. That's why we celebrated the recent announcements from Canada regarding plans to make the Port of Churchill one of the first major projects to receive focus and investment. The employment, entrepreneurial, and infrastructure opportunities that come with this investment cannot be overstated.

Where once our people fled north to remote areas to escape the Reign of Terror brought upon our people in the postage stamp province of Manitoba, these remote regions are now poised to see opportunities come to their doorsteps, creating

economic opportunities to replace our traditional economies that once sustained our families and allowed us to pass on economic wellbeing to future generations.

We also welcomed the recent Major Projects Office announcement, with its first office planned for the West. We see this office, along with others to come, as an opportunity – a single window, a single approver, a red-tape-cutting entity – that will allow our dedicated government staff and leadership to simplify and accelerate the often lengthy, bureaucratic processes involved in engaging with Canada. This will make our shovel-ready initiatives move faster and become reality sooner.

We fully expect that we will not only benefit from these offices streamlining our processes, but that we will also have a voice and a role in the Indigenous Advisory Council, which will oversee and provide feedback on these procedures. This embodies the principle of free, prior, and informed consent – not merely a checkbox but an active, engaged participation in the development process.

Only through this level of engagement can we help shape the systems governing major projects – addressing issues before they develop, and ensuring that the land, environment, and waters of our Homeland are respected and cared for – while advancing opportunities and infrastructure that support our people, no matter where they live.

#### **Build, baby, build – the housing component**

The inspiring words of Prime Minister Carney on the night he was elected to lead Canada were more than just words – they were a call to action for all Canadians, signalling a new path forward. He spoke of using our tax dollars not merely for spending but for investing in key areas, initiatives, and partners ready to work with his government and advance shovel-ready projects quickly. Your Red River Métis Government is one such partner. I've said many times that we have long awaited a partner like this – one who understands that we are an economically driven Nation, once the economic engine of the West, and still driven by that same spirit and drive.

I recently traveled to Toronto with my team to meet with Gregor Robertson, Canada's Minister for Housing and Infrastructure. I was proud to share the many initiatives we have underway, as well as the opportunities that could quickly begin with the right investment from the federal government.

This meeting with Minister Robertson was a vital opportunity to highlight how your Red River Métis Government addresses housing needs across urban, rural, and northern communities – from homeownership to ending homelessness,

and preventing it through transitional housing. We emphasized that our priorities are shaped through extensive consultations, focusing on affordable housing for families and seniors, as well as transitional housing for our most vulnerable Citizens. We also shared our successes, such as the gold-standard First Time Home Purchase Program, which enables Citizens to purchase homes and build futures, and the Home Enhancement Loan Program, which helps Citizens maintain their homes in good condition. We also discussed how we can further play a role in creating new pathways – both to get more Citizens into homes and to develop industry opportunities for building more homes for all Canadians.

I stressed that secure, ongoing, and reliable funding for our housing initiatives is essential. As your President, I always think beyond our immediate needs, looking to long-term planning for the future. That means funding must be delivered in tranches that allow us to think 10 or 20 years ahead.

One of the areas we discussed was the need to increase quality housing stock in the North, for both current residents and newcomers drawn by economic opportunities. I will work with other governments on these options, but I will always remind our partners that there can be no solution for the North that ignores the importance of economic development in the local economy. Manufactured solutions from southern factories, simply shipped north, will not meet that need. I know they understood my message, particularly since it also aligns with Canada's intent to invest, rather than simply spend.

Clearly, the Red River Métis are at the forefront of Indigenous engagement with Canada on these nation-building projects. This is no surprise to our Citizens – we have always been innovators and planners, building for the future, and bringing our entrepreneurial mindset to everything we do. What's important for Citizens to know is that Canada is paying attention to our messages and our plans, and they are responding positively to what we have accomplished, and what we will accomplish. We received high praise from Minister Robertson, as we have with other federal Cabinet Ministers, for solid-self managed portfolio with a good track record of success. His exact words were: "You have your act together."

I will continue to provide you with updates on our successes and advancements with Canada and other partners in the coming weeks. I also look forward to sharing more with you in the coming weeks as we get ready for this year's Annual General Assembly, happening from October 17-19 at the Assiniboia Downs. There can be no doubt that this is the largest Indigenous gathering in







Western Canada. It always brings me great joy to welcome all our Citizens from across the Homeland and Beyond Borders, where I anticipate I'll be able to share even more exciting details of what we're achieving for our Citizens.

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. ∞*

# **"WE BREAK GROUND ON NEW POSSIBILITIES" – INFINITY WOMEN SECRETARIAT ANNOUNCES WOMENS TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROJECT**

On August 28, the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), the National Government of the Red River Métis, in collaboration with Canada and the province of Manitoba, announced the funding and groundbreaking of the Infinity Women Secretariat (IWS) transitional housing project in the Interlake Region.

Led by women, for women, this project will provide accommodations to women who have been displaced due to gender-based violence.

"They stay with us for a maximum of two years. That's the length of time we have to work with them both physically, mentally, emotionally, [and] financially. We want them to leave there whole," said IWS Spokeswoman Anita Campbell. "They can take their family, feel safe, know their path (and) know where they will end up."

According to Spokeswoman Campbell, community care is strongest when it includes cultural support.

"This transitional housing [will] provide that support, that care, that understanding in a cultural setting because we want to share our culture with (those) that come here," she said.

As a collaborative project amongst all levels of government, Spokeswoman Campbell acknowledged how all parties were in agreement when it came to the development of this transitional housing project.

"I mean, we're all on the same page with this project. Why? Because it's for the women, it's for the families, and it's for those communities because nobody wants violence in any place," said Spokeswoman Campbell.

Each level of government was in attendance, with the Honourable Rebecca Chartrand, Federal Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs; the Honourable Nahanni Fontaine, Provincial Minister of Families; the Honourable Bernadette Smith, Provincial Minister of Housing, Addictions, and Homelessness; Frances Chartrand, MMF Minister of Early Learning and Child Care; and Jack Park, MMF Minister of Energy, Infrastructure and Resource Management and Chairman of Métis N4 Construction speaking at the event. Additionally, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg West, Doug Eyolfson, on behalf of The Honourable Gregor Robertson, Minister of Housing and Infrastructure and Minister responsible for Pacific Economic

Development Canada provided a statement at the event via video message.

"It's a step towards something better; a safer, more supportive future for Red River Métis women and families," said Minister Rebecca Chartrand. "This isn't just a ceremony, it's a shift. It's a transitional housing facility that will offer women and families a place to live, to heal, to grow, and to do that right here. It's a place to recover, and to start again after facing violence and hardship."

Minister Bernadette Smith spoke about Manitoba's contribution to the transitional housing project and the importance of providing wrap-around services to community members who are displaced because of domestic violence.

"Our department supported with (\$630,000) and we're going to continue to support the work and transforming lives here in our province," she said. "We're continuing to support people with wrap around services because that's what we know people need. We can't just put people in a home and expect them to do well. We need to put them on a trajectory of support (and) success and this what this is."

This transitional housing project is IWS's second collaboration with the MMF's Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Department – where the newest Little Infinity child care centre will be built. This centre will offer 42 spaces for children residing in the facility.

"We had our first grand opening with Little Infinity (a child care centre located in St. Andrews, Manitoba). Now we're going to have a grand opening here, one of our own child care centres, under Infinity Women and the ELCC Department," said MMF Minister Frances Chartrand. "The Red River Métis government is committing \$4,000,000 to assist with the child care centre that's going to be in the site."

Under the direction of MMF Minister Jack Park, Métis N4 Construction will be taking on this project to ensure the vision for this transitional housing site becomes a reality in the near future.

"It is obviously a pleasure for us to be able to lead this project on behalf of Infinity Women Secretariat. They're great partners to see this come to fruition," said Minister Park. "The beautiful thing about this project, it's a project designed by women for women. I may be a man, but I take my direction from women – believe me, I do."



**All levels of government came together on August 28 to announce the groundbreaking Infinity Women Secretariat transitional housing project.**







The location of the site will remain undisclosed for safety purposes.

“I wanted them to feel safe,” said Spokeswoman Campbell. “Number one is security for us. So, we focused a lot of our attentions on the security around (transitional housing).”

Described as a “community of care,” IWS transitional housing has integrated services and

supports that honour traditional Red River Métis values of kinship, strengthening families, and community in hopes of providing new beginnings for Indigenous women and their children.

In her closing remarks, Spokeswoman Campbell emphasized that this project will go beyond housing, offering new opportunities to those who may have felt limited by their circumstances.

“I just wanted to say that today we don’t just break ground on a building. We break ground on new possibilities, new hope, and new futures for our women and our families,” said the Spokeswoman.

Visit [infinitywomen.org](http://infinitywomen.org) to stay up-to-date on the latest programs, services, and updates from Infinity Women Secretariat.

# SWEET AS (LOAF AND) HONEY: RED RIVER MÉTIS BUSINESS OWNER CONNECTS CULTURE AT THE DINING TABLE

Much of Dustin Peltier’s journey in the culinary arts has been about bringing people together through food. A Red River Métis chef, business owner, and cheese maker, he has built a career that connects people, culture, and community.

Peltier realized he wanted to start his own business while working as a chef in downtown Winnipeg. When plans for rooftop gardens and apiculture opportunities fell through at his place of work, he leaned into his farm upbringing and love of local food.

“I’m a country kid, I grew up on the farm, and I really am about supporting our farmers and where our food comes from... and grow business,” he said. “We have amazing farms and produce and all of these people do a whole bunch of work.”

Loaf and Honey, Peltier’s catering company, serves private dinners, special events, weddings, and more. From the beginning, he wanted to connect directly with farmers and highlight their work.

“I wanted to be able to find a way to showcase [farmers] more. So, that’s kind of where Loaf and Honey came in – a way that I could connect more personally with the farmers and be able to put them more directly onto the plate without so many other people,” he said.

In Loaf and Honey’s early days, Peltier found ways to bridge the gap between farmers and consumers – one of those ways was through his upscale dinners, which he would sell tickets to. Farmers sat alongside guests at the table, giving people a chance to meet, and closing the gap between farm and fork.

“[Farmers] don’t really talk to some of the people that go to fancier dinners. There’s a disconnect there. So that’s kind of a lot of what Loaf and Honey was doing at the beginning,” said the chef.

At the heart of his craft is a deep connection to his Red River Métis values. To Peltier, the root of his work lies in community – whether it be farmers, food producers, the land, or fellow Red River Métis Citizens, his main focus is about connecting to others and oneself.

The catering company sets itself apart from others by tailoring each menu with a personal touch, crafted with extra time, attention, and creativity.



Red River Métis chef, business owner, and cheese maker Dustin Peltier has built Loaf and Honey into a unique catering company upholding Red River Métis values.

“I don’t have set menus... [I’ll ask] where’s the first date you went on or where was a trip you took? Or what’s something your mom made you as a kid?” said Peltier. “I get these tidbits of information and then I’ll work a menu backwards from there.”

Loaf and Honey is also home to a creamery, where Peltier continues a tradition passed down to him by Trappist monks. Peltier studied under Brother Alberic, who was the last monk in North America to make the traditional Trappist-style cheese.

Now, Peltier is making advancements in his entrepreneurial journey, having just taken over a jerky company last year: Mr. Biltong.

“Biltong is a South African style of jerky; it’s just a lot more tender and flavourful and fun... it’s a healthier version than a lot of stuff,” he said. “We’re finally getting our feet under us.”

The Red River Métis chef credits the Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC) for providing critical support in helping Loaf and Honey grow, and his business was even previously showcased at the

Red River Métis Business Expo.

“The Louis Riel Corporation was how we got our loans to start our cheese company. Without them, we wouldn’t have been able to start the cheese company at all. They’ve been really supportive of us through that – they’ve helped with some marketing and some networking,” he said.

In addition to his catering events, Peltier keeps busy with big community fundraisers. Some of Loaf and Honey’s upcoming events include the Victoria Hospital fundraiser, located at St. Norberts Farmers’ Market, on September 11, and Fort Whyte’s goose flight dinners every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from September 18 to October 18. Stay tuned in to Loaf and Honey’s Instagram and Facebook platforms for more information about future events.

Through resources offered by the LRCC, Red River Métis entrepreneurs like Peltier are able to turn a vision into reality, creating businesses rooted in culture, resilience, and community.







# We need **YOUR** Red River Métis Knowledge!

We want to learn about **Red River Métis** history and land use across our National Homeland

1

Are you  
Red River Métis?  
∞

2

Do you have  
connection to the  
lands or waters  
across the National  
Homeland of the  
Red River Métis?

3

Do you or your  
family have **Red  
River Métis**  
Knowledge you  
are willing to  
share?

Are you knowledgeable on one of the species listed below?



Are there any other Species at Risk  
for which you would like to share  
your Traditional Knowledge?

To schedule a Red River Métis Knowledge Interview,  
please contact **Alexia Hardy** at [alexia.hardy@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:alexia.hardy@mmf.mb.ca) or 431-275-2963

*\*Honarium & travel costs will be provided*

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MELEE  
GALA **IX**



**SEPTEMBER 27, 2025**  
CLUB REGENT EVENT CENTRE, 1425 REGENT AVENUE WEST WINNIPEG, MANITOBA  
DOORS OPEN 5:00 PM • MATCHES START 6:30 PM

