



# Le Métis

∞ EST. 1871 ∞

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Recently, we have launched two court cases related to the Sixties Scoop. With so many of our families affected by this era of forced separation, I know there are very few Citizens who aren't familiar with this dark chapter in Canada's history.

The Sixties Scoop was the practice of taking Indigenous – First Nations, Métis and Inuit – children from homes and communities, to be sold to non-Indigenous people in Canada and the United States. In those homes, many of our children experienced abuse and violence, treated little better than unpaid labourers for those who purchased them.

While there were some children who were more fortunate, raised in families who cared for them, the stories of Sixties Scoop survivors suggest that these are the minority, not the majority. Even those who were raised in loving homes were still removed from their identity, which was a loss for each individual, but also a loss felt deeply by our community.

Our Citizens know that children are precious to our community, a feeling shared by other Indigenous Nations in Canada. Each and every loss weakened the fabric of families, causing heartbreak that never healed. Some of our mothers, including mine, did not speak English. How could mothers with no education, no English language skills, and little money fight back against a system that was taking their precious children away?

Some of our seniors and Elders of today still recall being taught to run and hide in the bushes when the black vans or other unrecognized vehicles came to their communities. It was a message that was relentlessly drummed into their minds by their parents and other community leaders. It's a fear some still carry to this day, which they can recall with perfect clarity. This is especially true for those who lost siblings to this horrific system.

I have seen the receipts for the sale of these children with my own eyes. They were a commodity to be acquired, put in a catalogue for potential buyers to look over, and then eventually sold. I use this language about buying and selling very deliberately, because this is the true light in which these actions must be seen. For too long, this was treated as normal, as though the unrecognized vehicles or black vans and the

people who drove them were doing this as a kindness to the children and their families. Can you imagine that the very poverty we'd be driven into because of the Reign of Terror, the loss of land, and the ensuing marginalization of our people were treated as valid reasons to take away our precious children?

These are cold realities, and ones that cannot be dismissed or treated lightly. These are open wounds that remain in our community to this day, with those who survived still trying to reconnect with their families and identities. Many were lost to us forever, either because they passed on from this world before they could be reclaimed or were so damaged by the trauma of their experiences that they have no will or means to find their way home to our people.

The Kimelman report, published in 1985, said the Sixties Scoop was "cultural genocide." It continued to say that "in 1982, no one, except the Indian and Métis people, really believed the reality – that Native children were routinely being shipped to adoption homes in the United States and to other provinces in Canada."

It said that these largely non-Indigenous Manitoban child welfare administrators and social workers saw each individual case as an exception, not a rule. None looked at the data, which showed that 25 per cent of all children placed for adoption were placed outside of Manitoba, nor that virtually all those children were Indigenous. What this should tell you is that each and every person who was part of that system played a role in this attempt to end our cultures and break our communities.

As if this was not sufficient pain and harm for a lifetime, it's clear that Manitoba and Canada have not yet accepted their responsibility for this damage. It's clear that once again, the experience of our people, the Red River Métis, is not recognized by the province we brought into Confederation, nor the country we helped build. In 2017, the Government of Canada entered into a settlement in a class proceeding relating to the Sixties Scoop, and acknowledged its role in perpetrating the Sixties Scoop and the harms it caused to First Nations. However, no level of government has acknowledged the harms visited upon the Red River Métis through the Sixties Scoop. They continue to resist their constitutional obligations to our people.

It's for these reasons that we have launched a pair of lawsuits related to the Sixties Scoop. The first is a class action against Manitoba on behalf of Red River Métis survivors, who are represented by Albert Beck. This is a lawsuit that seeks justice for the individuals who were taken, which considers their loss of connection to their family, culture, language, and community.

The second lawsuit has been launched against both Manitoba and Canada on behalf of our Nation as a whole, for the harms we suffered as a collectivity and the damage that was done to our community when these children were taken from us. If not for our own resilience and determination, these losses could have broken our community. We cannot allow these attempts at cultural genocide to go unaddressed.

I know our Sixties Scoop Survivors need to see these lawsuits happen. We asked Jocelyne, who is a survivor, what her feelings are about the launch of the lawsuits. She talked about the fact that it's been a long wait to have her experiences

– and those of other Red River Métis Survivors – heard and recognized, and how the ongoing lack of acknowledgement has been like a smack in the face. For her, any dollars that come out of the lawsuit won't change the pain of a life spent trying to figure out who she is and where she belongs, but she stresses that the recognition and acknowledgement mean a lot. She said, "I'm like a broken cup with lots of cracks in it, but I keep trying to keep myself together. It's a heavy feeling I've carried through my entire life, and it affected my children greatly."

Her biggest worry is that the lifetime of stress and loss will start to affect survivors physically as they get older, and that they won't see justice while they're living.

She also stated that too many of our survivors were given no guidance, support, or love, and lacked even the basic life skills that would have allowed them to stand strong on their own. This is a heartbreaking reality for far too many of them and is part of why their childhood experiences still have an impact on them to this day.

Brien, another survivor, still lives a life marked by the trauma and loss of his childhood. When he speaks about it, he talks about how many years were taken from him, and the culture, language and community he would have had if he'd been left with his family. He talks about the debilitating anxiety attacks he suffers from, and his reluctance to be around people. He adds, "so what is the appropriate response to my life experience, having my life destroyed? I've wanted justice for a long time. I want to have forgiveness in my heart, but right now I don't. I'm tired of being someone who doesn't count. We were just as destroyed as First Nations and Inuit children. There needs to be full reconciliation for our people."

One of the things that is consistent with Red River Métis Sixties Scoop Survivors is how important it is for them to feel seen and heard. Their stories have been ignored in the Canadian legal framework for too long, with their stories disregarded. It is for them – for their stories, for their rights to be recognized, acknowledged and heard – that the MMF has launched these lawsuits. Through their experiences, they have earned the right to see justice done and to have their voices uplifted.

In spite of the harms of history, as well as the harms still happening today through the child welfare system, we are a resilient people. We have survived every attempt to erase our existence. We have stood together and demanded justice. We have refused to disappear or become blended with the rest of the Canada population. We are Otipemisiwak – the people who own ourselves – and we will never give up our existence.

It is our strength, our unity, and our shared purpose that have allowed us to survive every attack on our Nation. Your strength and determination as individuals and as a community inspire me every day. I am honoured to be your leader. I am guided by your will and your experiences, which you have shared with me over my years as your President. I have sat with you, listened to you, and shed tears with you. I have made promises to you, which I will do everything in my power to keep. I will continue to pursue justice for all of our people.

I thank you for your faith in me and I can assure you that my faith in you remains as solid as bedrock. Together, we will continue to advance our cause until there are none who stand against us.





For now, our attention turns to celebrating the holidays with our loved ones, including those we reclaimed from the Sixties Scoop. For all our survivors, know that your Nation is behind you, and that we honour your presence in our community. On behalf of your Red River Métis Government, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

I encourage everyone to remember the people in your community who might be alone or struggling during this time. Give them a call, drop by with a plate of food, or invite them to your table – it can make all the difference in that person's life.

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. ∞*

## BUILDING BELONGING: RED RIVER MÉTIS CITIZEN AWARDED FOR YEARS OF DEDICATION TO HOUSING COOPERATIVE

### *Red River Métis Citizen granted Cooperative Merit Award by the Manitoba Cooperative Association*

For 33 years, Linda Campbell has dedicated her time, care, and passion to her housing co-op – work that earned her the Cooperative Merit Award from the Manitoba Cooperative Association in October this year.

Campbell has been a member of her co-op for over 33 years. During a time in her life when she was looking for stability, affordability, and a place to call her own, she found co-op housing at Willow Park East and has stayed there ever since.

"I found out that Willow Park East Co-op had a number of Métis in it... that was very welcoming for me. That's why I stayed there, because I had the security of a community," she said. "We're deemed [an] Indigenous co-op... If you have a certain percentage of [Indigenous] people in your co-op, you're classified as that."

A vital part of living in a co-op is contributing your part to the upkeep of the co-op, whether that is cutting grass, shovelling snow, or ensuring smooth operation – which has been Campbell's contribution.

"I'd been there a long time on the board of directors because that's my way of giving back," said the Citizen. "You have to volunteer to give back, and that's what I do... when you pay

forward, you're going to be rewarded in some way in the end, whether it's by a handshake, a hug, or whatever."

Each year, the Association holds the Manitoba Cooperative Awards Banquet, giving well-deserved recognition to five cooperative leaders across the province. On October 15, 2025, Campbell was among them, being recognized not only for her decades of volunteer work, but for the trail she blazed as a Red River Métis woman in the Canadian housing sector.

"I've contributed to living in a co-op and the betterment of the co-op," she shared. "I was given this award to recognize my longevity and dedication – and I'm very humbled by it."

Before receiving the Cooperative Merit Award, the Citizen was encouraged by her peers to join the board of directors for the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada.

"This [was] a difficult thing to do because [there] was no other Indigenous person there. But I did it. I was happy. I learned," said Campbell. "When I was doing some of my speeches in Ottawa, we had to wear a CHF blue sash, and I had my Métis sash over that. That's empowering to a woman... and it's empowering for Métis people."

Campbell's journey has been boundless, but it began with the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), whose support helped her through pivotal moments in her life – including job loss, injury, and finding housing stability as a single mother.

It was through employment at the MMF that Campbell found a passion for helping people and their families through the justice system – where Campbell worked for many years.

"I decided to go to the MMF, and this is one of the reasons why I want to be here doing this [interview]... I owe a lot to David (President David Chartrand) and his programs and the Manitoba Métis Federation, because I applied to go back to school, and I did, and they helped me with that," she explained.

From the MMF to the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada, Campbell believes in contributing to the community for the betterment of all; she hopes to pass this lesson on to the next generation of Red River Métis.

"I want my children, my grandchildren, and my great-grandchildren to know that if they're going to carry on their heritage... they need to do things in life, they need to volunteer, they need to pay forward, and they need to stand up and



*Linda Campbell received a beautiful igloo sculpture placed atop a plaque to represent her Cooperative Merit Award.*





be counted as a Red River Métis Citizen,” said Campbell.

It's Red River Métis Citizens like Linda Campbell who prove that lifelong pride and dedication can lead you to incredible places and experiences.

If you or someone you know has an inspiring Red River Métis story to share, get in touch with MMF Spotlight at [communications@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:communications@mmf.mb.ca).

“  
I WANT MY CHILDREN, MY GRANDCHILDREN, AND MY GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN TO KNOW THAT IF THEY’RE GOING TO CARRY ON THEIR HERITAGE... THEY NEED TO DO THINGS IN LIFE, THEY NEED TO VOLUNTEER, THEY NEED TO PAY FORWARD, AND THEY NEED TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED AS A RED RIVER MÉTIS CITIZEN. – LINDA CAMPBELL  
”

## SHOP RED RIVER MÉTIS: MEET ANDRÉANNE MULAIRE DANDENEAU

Founded in 2005, Red River Métis-owned sustainable fashion brand Anne Mulaire – created by Andréanne Mulaire Dandeneau – embodies the spirit of Red River Métis entrepreneurship.

Operating out of Winnipeg, Anne Mulaire’s designs are produced locally with a focus on zero-waste, while also prioritizing working with Canadian vendors – making products that are 100% Canadian made and owned. The company also prides themselves on their inclusivity, offering sizes from XXS–6X, as well as custom tailoring.

Dandeneau’s leadership in sustainable fashion has earned recognition from the Manitoba Métis Federation for her company’s environmental initiatives – she was the recipient of the 2024 Red River Métis Business Development Corporation’s Sustainable Economy Award!

Visit [annemulaire.ca](http://annemulaire.ca) to learn more about her growing business and see how you can shop Red River Métis!



Shop  
**RED RIVER MÉTIS**  
*this holiday season*

Visit [mmf.mb.ca](http://mmf.mb.ca) to learn more about how to shop Red River Métis.



