Le Métis
EST. 1871
YOUR RED RIVER MÉTIS GOVERNMENT'S BI-WEEKLY NEWS.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Each November, our Nation has the opportunity to reflect on the deeds of our Ancestors and family members. On November 8, we mark Indigenous Veterans Day. On November 11, we observe Remembrance Day, and on November 16 we remember Louis Riel. These days may appear on the calendar as separate occasions, but for us, they are all part of our story – the story of a people who have always stood up to defend our principles. While the reasons we fought have evolved over time, we have never wavered in our defence of democracy, freedom, our Homeland, and our future.

The courage of our people is a thread that runs throughout our history – from our own battles against being controlled by Canada in the Red River and Northwest Resistance, through to the World Wars, and to defence and peacekeeping missions today – we have always stood guard for our principles. This is part of the soul of our Nation, and it must be honoured and cherished.

Our Citizens know about the 1816 Victory at Frog Plain, where our new Nation was born and where our Red River Métis flag was first unfurled, making it the oldest patriotic flag in Canada and one of the oldest in North America. Many also know about the Sayer trial of 1849, where our Ancestors helped break the Hudson's Bay Company trade monopoly. After the court case, Louis Riel Sr. declared that "Le commerce est libre," to the crowd of Red River Métis waiting outside the courthouse. There can be no doubt that the deeds of Louis Riel Sr. inspired his son, and put him on a path that forever changed our Nation.

In 1869, when Canada moved to take control of the Northwest without speaking to the people who lived there, it was Louis Riel and our people who answered. Under Riel's leadership, the Red River Métis formed the National Committee and then the Provisional Government, and we negotiated the terms that created Manitoba and brought it into Confederation.

We also fought at Duck Lake, Fish Creek, and the Battle of Batoche in the Northwest Resistance of 1885. There, Red River Métis men and women held out against Canadian forces, grimly ignoring their hunger and the bitterly cold spring weather, making bullets out of everything they could find. At that time, our people stood shoulder to shoulder with the Cree and Dakota people and defended our right to freely exist in our shared lands. We equally honour Chief Poundmaker, Chief Big Bear, Chief One Arrow, and Chief Whitecap, for their courage and for standing with the Red River Métis.

Our history as fighters for our own Nation shows that we have always been loyal allies, and dangerous foes. That has not changed – a fierce strength still beats in the hearts of each one of us. So, when we honour Louis Riel on the anniversary of his execution, we are also honouring all those who stood with him in defence of our Homeland and our people, while renewing our commitment to our Nation.

Our sense of duty to one another connects our Ancestors who stood with Louis Riel to our family members who served and became Veterans. Riel's duty was to his people and our Homeland. Our Veterans' duty was to Canada and to democracy, and generations of our people answered the call to serve.

Our Veterans wore the uniform of Canada while remaining Red River Métis in their hearts. Coming home to a country that did not recognize or honour their identity was another scar that many had to bear. Still, they returned to their families, and they carried on, never losing their pride in being Red River Métis. But they never forgot how they were treated.

That memory drove them to play a pivotal role in the creation of the Manitoba Métis Federation in 1967. They knew that the only way we could achieve our rightful place in Canada's Confederation was by organizing and standing united.

Since that time, our people have fought legal and political struggles in the courts, and in the houses of government. I know our Citizens today continue to stand ready to defend something larger than themselves – our Nation. No matter where the battle is, the spirit is the same – a willingness to put others ahead of ourselves.

That quality remains part of our identity today. In every generation, Red River Métis women and men have held the Nation together, in service and at home. We honour their sacrifices and their strength.

Remembrance is more than ceremony. It is also a responsibility. When we gather at memorials, lay wreaths, and share stories, we pass on to our Youth the understanding that they come from a Nation of courage. The Nation that created Manitoba in 1870 is the same Nation that has sent its sons and daughters to serve, and is the Nation that continues to stand strong today.

Let us honour those who came before us by living with the same pride, unity and determination they showed. Let us continue to uphold the principles that make us who we are. Riel's struggle and our Veterans' service are part of one story of a proud people, and we carry that story forward. We are the Red River Métis, and we will continue to stand for our Nation.

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.

> "OUR HISTORY AS FIGHTERS FOR OUR OWN NATION SHOWS THAT WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LOYAL ALLIES, AND DANGEROUS FOES. THAT HAS NOT CHANGED – A FIERCE STRENGTH STILL BEATS IN THE HEARTS OF EACH ONE OF US."
> - MMF PRESIDENT DAVID CHARTRAND

29 YEARS OF SERVICE: RED RIVER MÉTIS POLICE OFFICER RECOGNIZED BY GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA

Grant Patrick Goulet receives recognition as a Member of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces

After dedicating 29 years to keeping communities safer, Red River Métis police officer Grant Patrick Goulet, M.O.M., received the prestigious recognition as a Member of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces this past spring.



Red River Métis Winnipeg police officer Grant Patrick Goulet, M.O.M. shakes hands with Governor General Mary Simon after receiving the Order of Merit of the Police Forces at Rideau Hall.

The honour was bestowed at Rideau Hall by Governor General Mary Simon, with formal royal assent from His Majesty King Charles III.

"The Order of Merit of Police Forces is not just a one-time thing, not just you did something terrific on one event or one project… it's contributions over your career lifespan," said Goulet. "How you've done things to connect policing communities, your own community, your personal community, everyone around you, building bridges between the community and making contributions that can even affect laws, enforcement, legislation."

After dedicating nearly three decades of his life to serving his community, the Red River Métis officer was overwhelmed by the recognition.

"When you get to a point where you're formally [acknowledged at] a formal ceremony… it was euphoric," said Goulet. "[Governor General Mary Simon] gave a speech, and I really have to say, [she's a] genuine person. You can see it in her emotions and her eyes, you can see she has a deep respect and love for policing."

Goulet joined the Winnipeg Police Service in 1997 after working in business administration and then real estate.

"I didn't [want] to sit down for 30 or 40 years for a career behind a desk. I had too much energy for that," said Goulet. "I had a stepbrother who was a police officer… I went on a few ride-alongs with them [and] I'm going, 'wow, every day is different. It's really unique.' I even went and looked at some court cases to see how the officers testify in court, and it really, really interested me. So, I ended up applying and getting in."

The Red River Métis officer's career started in general patrol in an area with prevalent street gangs.

"When I first got into policing, like very first in uniform, I was in the East District," he said. "Between every call that I could, if there was ever a slow time, you just cruise certain areas. I got to know the areas, and I would go and [gang members] could be walking on the sidewalk, and I would get out of the car and I'd talk to them… I did thousands of those interactions over five years, so I really built [a] knowledge base."

With a passion to protect his community and an unrelenting effort to learn about gangs in the city, Goulet went on to accomplish incredible police work – including groundbreaking milestones.

"I became an expert in two disciplines; I'm pretty proud of that actually. And it took a lot of work – big self-initiative, self-funding too," said Goulet, who achieved a Court Expert Witness designation in the discipline of Indigenous street gangs before achieving a second designation as a national expert witness in Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs.

Goulet was also the only Western Canadian officer elected to the board of directors for the International Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigators Association.

"I built bridges across Canada with the national strategy to combat motorcycle gangs… I have friends that are motorcycle gang officers from all over the world now and we all share information," he said. "I built bridging between all the police services."

Throughout his career, Goulet has cared first and foremost about community – a quality he links back to his Red River Métis values.

"Métis leadership kind of runs on a set of rules: protection of the community… respect of your community… I definitely carry that forward," he said. "It's a natural transition to policing by taking the approach of going in with respect for your community, respect for diversity, respect for others, and a really empathetic approach for everybody's socioeconomic [status] and different lifestyles that are out there."

Even with all these accomplishments, something that brings the Red River Métis officer the most pride is mentoring his fellow members of the force. Goulet encourages Red River Métis Youth interested in joining the Winnipeg Police Service to contact him directly at **ggoulet@winnipegpolice.ca.**

Know a Red River Métis Citizen with an exceptional story to share? ***Contact communications@mmf.mb.ca*** *to see their story on our Citizen Spotlight page.*



Goulet is a proud Red River Métis leader in his community. He strives to follow in the footsteps of his great-great grandfather Pierre Delorme, the first Indigenous Member of Parliament.

SHOP RED RIVER MÉTIS: MEET MURRY PRUDER



You can be as young as 2 and as old as 100 and Murry Pruder will still teach you how to make pottery. Operating out of his home studio, Murcat Clay, Pruder provides a fun and safe space to create without judgment, where he teaches his students to be kind to themselves during the creation process.

With an "if you like it, that's what matters" attitude, this Red River Métis artisan is bringing a teaching style to the Thompson Region that will have you wanting to learn, create, and craft. You can learn more about this Red River Métis business by visiting his Facebook page, or checking out the LRCC Business Directory.

HELP BRING OUR CHILDREN'S SPIRIT HOME



The Manitoba Métis Federation invites Red River Métis Residential School Survivors, their families, and community members to share their knowledge through Pekeywaytahihnan Nutr Zanfaan Leur Zisprii: We are Bringing Our Children's Spirit Home.

This community knowledge and research initiative seeks to safely identify, honour, and remember Red River Métis children who attended Residential Schools. If you have knowledge to share, we welcome your participation.

Contact our team toll-free at 1-877-595-2194, by phone at 204-586-8474, or by email at info.ssrs@mmf.mb.ca. You can learn more at mmfsixtiesscoop.ca/research-project.



Building mutual respect and strengthening relationships for generations to come.

TC Energy

"It is symbolic that when you stand inside our new heritage centre at the corner of Portage and Main and look through the doors, you are facing Northwest into our Homeland. This is the corner where all roads westward began."

— President David Chartrand



number TEN architectural group

Winnipeg - Victoria



WORKING TOGETHER TO SAVE ENERGY

We have offers and incentives for Red River Métis Citizens to make energy efficiency upgrades in their homes and businesses.

Learn more at efficiencyMB.ca/MEEO.

EFFICIENCY MANITOBA | Good energy, together

THANK YOU
BRONZE SPONSOR

M BUILDS

2026 MMF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
RECOGNIZING OUR PLACE IN HISTORY

THANK YOU
BRONZE SPONSOR

Gallagher
Insurance | Risk Management | Consulting

2026 MMF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
RECOGNIZING OUR PLACE IN HISTORY

THANK YOU
BRONZE SPONSOR

ENBRIDGE
Life Takes Energy®

2026 MMF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
RECOGNIZING OUR PLACE IN HISTORY