



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is the time of year where we reflect on the events of the previous year and begin working toward the next. I know that I have given thought to the work of last year, which included our wholehearted support for all who were affected by the worst wildfire season in Manitoba's recent history. It also included some terrible losses, like our friend and Cabinet colleague John Fleury, and music legend Al Desjarlais, among others.

The year also began and ended with a legal battle. At long last, the multi-year Métis National Council's (MNC) politically motivated and vengeful case against the MMF and Clement Chartier was heard by the courts. The case was always driven by Margaret Froh and Audrey Poitras, who clearly showed the court through their testimony that they had a political agenda. The end of the year saw it dismissed by the court, with the judge stating that the witnesses were "evasive" and gave evidence that was "not very helpful," "not logical," and, at times, "clearly wrong."

While it appears that the MNC is appealing the decision, there is not a doubt in my mind that the appeal will also be dismissed. These individuals continue to spend millions and millions of dollars in court costs – money that was intended for programs and services to benefit our people – which is something I do not understand and cannot respect. This appeal process will likely take place over the course of 2026, and I will keep you updated on the proceedings. However, given that they admitted in their own testimony that they did not have evidence to prove their accusations, I don't expect the decision to be reversed.

While 2025 was a year that saw challenges and sadness, it also offered history-making moments. Our pride, culture, and heart for the province we brought into Canada was on full display during the Grey Cup Festival, which we were proud to sponsor. We had the largest assembly in our history, and Citizens voted in favour of calling it a National Assembly in future years, which only reflects the truth. This may seem small, but every step away from the corporate language we were forced into all those years ago is a step toward governmental language, and an accurate reflection of who we are. 2025 also saw, for the first time, a sitting Prime Minister come to Louis Riel's gravesite to honour our historic leader and remember his judicially sanctioned murder at the hands of John A. Macdonald.

Reflecting on the previous year and considering the

future is important for everyone. Even the Prime Minister of Canada clearly spent time reflecting on the past year as he considered the challenges and opportunities ahead in 2026. We spoke just before the beginning of the holiday season, and during our conversation, he stated that he was honoured to participate in our commemoration ceremony for Louis Riel. It's good to know that he understood how meaningful it was for him to be there – not just for our people, but for himself and for all Canadians. As I told him, he will be remembered by our people for generations for the respect he paid to Riel.

He thanked me for working with him to advance our relationship with Canada, and for sharing his vision for empowered Indigenous Nations, each successful in our own right, and able to make decisions in the best interests of our people. He asked me for an open dialogue on the Major Projects Office and the Indigenous Advisory Council but was particularly interested in the announcement of Manitoba's Crown Indigenous Corporation as developed by Manitoba's Premier, Wab Kinew. The Prime Minister sees it as a model for a major economic breakthrough for Indigenous Peoples, and wants to see it work.

The Prime Minister clearly sees what I see, and what the Premier sees – that all of these things moving forward together, including the advancement of the Port of Churchill, represent a major opportunity for Manitoba to move from a "have not" province to a "have" province, where Indigenous Nations are the architects of their own economic advancement. This would be a change that would forever alter the Canadian landscape and secure a bright future for generations to come, and I'm proud that our Nation will play a key role in it.

Prime Minister Carney also indicated that he wants a face-to-face, bilateral meeting with the MMF and instructed his team to get a date in the diary. He understands that moving our treaty towards legislation is essential to advancing the Red River Métis relationship with his government and committed to making it a priority for his government, which was music to my ears. We've had too many delays on this legislation, and I expect 2026 to put an end to our century and a half long wait.

Along with our treaty, the Prime Minister also committed to following up on Bill C-92, *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*. This landmark 2019 Canadian law has been in the headlines, largely focused on the First Nations component of it, but there is no doubt that funding should be allocated to us as well. The Prime Minister understands and applauds the intent of the bill, which is to directly fund our own Child and Family Services model to do important work that can actually keep kids out of the foster system and provide greater supports for families at risk. Our Child and Family Services model went through a challenging year in 2025 because of the lack of funding and has had to make difficult choices to remain operational and focused on the kids. With funding unlocked from the federal government through Bill C-92, 2026 could be a revolutionary year to the benefit of our children and families.

Prime Minister Carney also indicated he would follow up on housing dollars. This is crucial funding for us as we continue to build places to live for our elders and Seniors, like the beautiful apartment building in Selkirk, and a similar shovel-ready project on Henderson Highway, the former Roxy Lanes site. Your Red River Métis Government also has other housing projects in development, which will complement our tremendously successful

First Time Home Purchasers Program, which has allowed over 1400 families to move to a home of their own, building a financial legacy for the next generation.

As you can see, the conversation between the Prime Minister and I covered a number of key priorities for us, and significantly advanced our nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship. The Prime Minister's last comment to me was "2026 is a big year for us." I believe him to be a man of his word, and a smart man who recognizes the strength of the Manitoba Métis Federation, and the resilience of the Red River Métis, which is why I believe he is correct.

There is no doubt that this coming year will be one that ushers in a new era for our people, where self-determination, wise investments, new developments and long-promised funding will bring opportunity and renewed optimism to our people. We are already working toward a Cabinet-to-Cabinet meeting with Manitoba to discuss areas of shared interest. There will be a number of initiatives, challenges, and opportunities covered on the agenda, but major topics of conversation will be a discussion on revenue sharing opportunities, developing a Red River Métis-specific economic strategy, and of course, our move into the renewable energy sector through the Red River Métis Power Corporation.

Also in early January, we will be announcing our selected partner for the 200-megawatt wind power initiative that the corporation has been working on for over a year, which saw many international companies seeking us out as partners. The fact that we are the final decision makers and majority owners makes this initiative so different from the past, when we would have to pitch our abilities to companies – this time, they had to pitch themselves to us.

Until the business of the 2026 begins, I hope you all enjoyed the holidays with your families and friends. I know that family and community traditions are part of the fabric of our Nation, and that this time of rest and reflection is important. The Red River Métis are a hardworking people, enterprising and entrepreneurial, so many of us find it challenging to take this time to rest and relax. But it is necessary to renew ourselves so that we can bring our strength and work ethic to new opportunities.

Just like our individual Citizens, the holidays are a time of rest and reflection for your government. We will be back at our work in early 2026, putting the pieces in place to advance ourselves toward our rightful place in Canada's confederation. I do not do this work alone. Your dedicated and hardworking elected officials representing all the Regions and our Citizens Beyond Borders play a pivotal role in making our dreams a reality, as do our dedicated staff. I thank each and every person who contributes to our success and makes your Red River Métis Government second to none in this country.

Let's have a tremendous new year full of success and historic advancements. Your Cabinet and I look forward to doing this work on your behalf, and guided by your will, as always.

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. ∞



Join MMF Spotlight in celebrating another successful year for the National Government of the Red River Métis.

In 2025, the National Government of the Red River Métis continued its commitment to building a vibrant and sustainable future for all Red River Métis Citizens. Looking back on the year, the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) has worked to give every Citizen a sense of pride in the progress we have made as Red River Métis and celebrate the milestones we've reached over the past year.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2025 was an exciting year of economic growth across the Homeland, with newly announced national agreements, expanding property investments, and the ongoing development of our Red River Métis Business Directory.



On February 28, the MMF signed an unprecedented royalty agreement with PADCOM – demonstrating their industry leadership and respect for the MMF and the Red River Métis, including our right to self-determination and self-government.

On February 28, the MMF signed an unprecedented royalty agreement with Potash and Agri Development Corporation of Manitoba (PADCOM). The agreement, a unique and leading agreement in Canada, reflects PADCOM's recognition of the MMF as the National Government of the Red River Métis and demonstrates their industry leadership and respect for the MMF and the Red River Métis, including our right to self-determination and self-government.

Later in the year, the Red River Métis Business Directory was recognized by the Government of Canada as a source of verified Indigenous businesses. On August 20, MMF President David Chartrand and the Honourable Mandy Gull-Masty, Minister of Indigenous Services, made a joint announcement recognizing the directory as the first verified source for Red River Métis-owned businesses. The directory now hosts over 900 confirmed Red River Métis businesses across the Homeland.

#### AGA

With record-breaking attendance in the MMF's 2025 Annual General Assembly (AGA), Red River Métis Citizens from across the Homeland and Beyond Borders came together with integrity in their identity and an excitement to see how the MMF has grown since the previous AGA.

President Chartrand made several key announcements throughout the weekend, including updates on the Red River Métis Power Corporation and the MMF's growing partnership with PADCOM.

First announced in 2024, the Red River Métis Power Corporation is currently in the process of selecting a partner for a \$450-million project that will produce 200 megawatts of power – enough to light up Brandon, The Pas, Portage la Prairie, and several smaller communities across the province.

During the AGA, President Chartrand announced the exploration of a \$20-million investment in potash mining with PADCOM. The investment

will support the company's continued growth and contribute to the development of a second mining venture. The MMF will hold a 10 per cent stake in the second mine, with the project expected to generate millions in revenue.



Citizens from near and far came together at the 2025 AGA to participate in democracy and see how the MMF has grown since last year.

#### GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT – CANADA

The National Government of the Red River Métis understands the vitality of self-determination and the right to self-government. A government-to-government relationship with Canada is a priority for the MMF, ensuring Red River Métis issues remain a priority at the highest level of government.

2025 was a major year for the Government of Canada and, therefore, the Red River Métis Government's relationship with Canada. Beginning in January with the resignation of former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, 2025 marked a federal election year for Canada.

As practiced during previous elections, the MMF created a list of questions to ask each political party, posting party responses to the MMF website to empower Red River Métis Citizens to make an informed vote.



On January 9, Canada met with the MMF to announce the investment of \$15.3 million into Michif language revitalization over the next five years.

In true government-to-government nature, President David Chartrand spoke to the Government of Canada about Bill C-5, the One Canadian Economy Act, on June 16 – stating that the National Government of the Red River Métis is ready to actively participate in Canada's economic advancement as part of strengthening our sovereignty.

In August, an invitation was extended to the MMF by the federal government to attend the Canada-Métis Summit with the Government of Canada on Bill C-5, the One Canadian Economy Act. However, due to the inclusion of non-rightsholders at the summit, the MMF was unable to participate.

A highlight of our year was Mark Carney, the Prime Minister of Canada, attended the MMF's annual Louis Riel Commemoration on November 16, 2025 to pay his respects and honour the first Premier of Manitoba, marking the first time in history that a sitting Prime Minister has attended this event.

#### GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT – MANITOBA

As part of our ongoing commitment to strengthening government-to-government relations, the MMF has been working closely with the Province of Manitoba to ensure Red River Métis needs remain central in key discussions.



The MMF and Province of Manitoba continued nurturing our growing partnership in 2025 – united in the shared goal of advancing our province together. Pictured (left to right): MLA Robert Loiselle, IWS Spokeswoman Anita Campbell, MLA Bernadette Smith, and MLA Billie Cross.

On behalf of the National Government of the Red River Métis, President Chartrand attended Premier Wab Kinew's U.S. Trade Council meeting on March 6 to discuss Manitoba's response to U.S. tariffs. Attendees stood in solidarity, affirming that the people of Manitoba, along with its government and industries, are united and ready to work together for the benefit of our province and country.

#### INTER-NATION AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Each year, the National Government of the Red River Métis continues to build and strengthen inter-nation and international relationships with governments around the world.

Clément Chartier, MMF Ambassador of Inter-Nation and International Relations, stayed busy connecting with leaders across the globe. From the 18th annual session of the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) in Switzerland to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) meetings in Mexico, the MMF spent 2025 building partnerships and amplifying the Red River Métis voice in global discussions.



Clément Chartier, MMF Ambassador of Inter-Nation and International Relations, spent the year speaking on behalf of your National Government – amplifying Red River Métis voices across the globe!

In February, the MMF launched Local By-Law Consultations – which provided an opportunity to directly engage with Red River Métis Citizens through a collaborative consultation process to gather insights and expertise for the revision of the MMF Local By-Law within the Constitution. This guarantees that the needs and priorities of the Red River Métis are reflected, as well as upholding the principles of democratic governance, transparency, and accountability.

At the end of August, President Chartrand met with the Honourable Willow-Jean Prime, New Zealand Parliament Member responsible for Māori-focused portfolios.

On November 25, the MMF announced the resounding victory in Métis National Council Secretariat Inc. v. Chartier, 2025 ONSC 6150. In a comprehensive decision, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice dismissed all claims advanced by the Métis National Council (MNC) and its remaining members, the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), against MNC's former leadership, including President Chartrand, Clement Chartier, Wenda Watteyne, and the MMF. The Court confirmed that the MMF and President Chartrand, Clement Chartier, and Wenda Watteyne acted honestly, in good faith, and in the best interests of the Métis throughout their leadership of the MNC.

#### COMMUNITY ADVOCATION

During Manitoba's state of emergency in summer 2025, the National Government of the Red River Métis provided extensive support to wildfire evacuees across the province.

Within 24 hours, the MMF opened an evacuation and donation centre located at 406 McGregor Street in Winnipeg – offering supplies, meals, and activities for families who had been displaced due to the wildfires. Working with the Canadian Red Cross, the MMF helped relocate evacuees to safe accommodations and established temporary camps across Manitoba.

As the crisis continued, the MMF expanded its efforts by opening multiple donation sites to manage the influx of support from Citizens, businesses, entrepreneurs, and MMF staff. Additionally, through MEDOCare Pharmacy, the MMF ensured that evacuees had access to essential medications that may have been lost due to the fires.

The MMF spent the year supporting our community through our Pey Key Way Ta Hin (Bring Me Home) initiative, which provides \$10,000 in rewards for information that leads to locating missing individuals. Pey Key Way Ta Hin includes support for the families of all missing and murdered loved ones. Contact your Regional Office for more information.



01-07-2026

2025 in Review

LE MÉTIS, EST. 1871

Advanced Training and Education portfolio, providing programming relevant to Red River Métis Citizens such as healthcare and education. The new name reflects LRC's vision for the future and their dedication to quality and culturally rooted education.



In 2025 the Louis Riel College (LRC) celebrated its largest graduating class yet with approximately 300 students graduating from different faculties.

The MMF also offered millions in education funding throughout 2025. The Post-Secondary Education Support Program provided over \$9.6 million to more than 1,900 students in the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Additionally, the Louis Riel Institute funded over \$1 million in total across 868 bursaries distributed.

Investing in our students' education ensures the success of not only their future, but the future of the Nation.

#### SPORTS AND YOUTH

The MMF continued to provide engaging and culturally enriching opportunities for Youth across the Homeland in 2025.



Hosted by the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Red River Métis, Inuit, and Dene youth came together at the Indigenous Cross-Cultural Camp to learn about each other's cultures through discussions, art, and games.

Your Red River Métis Government designed culturally inspired jerseys for two iconic hockey teams: the Portage Terriers and the Brandon Wheat Kings, with all proceeds from the Brandon Wheat Kings jerseys supporting Red River Métis Youth programs in the Southwest Region.

Richard Genaille, Minister of Sports and Youth, was active at events throughout the Homeland, such as the Grey Cup Festival – proudly co-hosted by your Red River Métis Government. Our Red River Métis pride carried through to Grey Cup Sunday, with President Chartrand taking centre field alongside Prime Minister Mark Carney for the coin toss. During the wildfire crisis in the summer, Home Run

Sports and Gardewine Group Inc. donated over 10 full skids of brand-new clothing and sports gear valued at over \$100,000. The companies requested that leftover items were kept by the MMF's Youth Department to support future camps, activities, and initiatives.

Youth also engaged in hands-on community projects, such as building garden boxes and participating in the Indigenous Cross-Cultural Camp from August 10-15, further strengthening their skills, community connections, and ties to Red River Métis culture.

Along with the Youth Department's events and programming, Métis Employment and Training recruited Youth for the Community Summer Employment Program. The 11-week paid program combines classroom learning, safety training, and hands-on experience to help prepare Youth for their futures.

#### RED RIVER MÉTIS VETERANS

The MMF has been working to recognize, commemorate, and honour Red River Métis Veterans who served to protect not only Red River Métis Citizens, but all of Canada.

In 2025, the Red River Métis Veterans Department (RRMVD) continued their efforts in documenting and archiving Red River Métis history while recognizing Red River Métis Veterans and their sacrifice through the Métis Veterans Legacy Program.

On November 8, 2025, the MMF hosted the annual Indigenous Veterans Day ceremony at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch no. 164 in Lac Du Bonnet, Manitoba. The event honoured the brave Red River Métis soldiers who served and sacrificed for Canada. Additional commemorations took place across the Homeland to honour Red River Métis Veterans who have given their lives for their country.

Throughout the year, the MMF has responded to challenges facing Red River Métis harvesting rights on traditional lands, including the Manitoba Wildlife Federation's call for a total ban on moose harvesting.

The MMF continues to advocate for recognition of Red River Métis traditional harvesting rights under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* in Manitoba. President David Chartrand brought up the issue of Section 35 rights in discussion with the Prime Minister of Canada regarding Bill C-5, ensuring the protection of these rights within the *One Canadian Economy Act*.

#### ENERGY, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

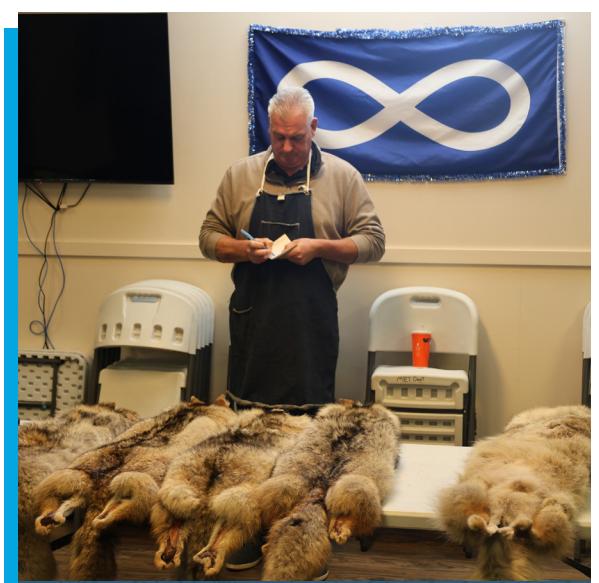
The MMF's Energy, Infrastructure, and Resource Management (EIRM) Department kept busy in 2025. From the Federal Grizzly Bear and Wolverine Management Plan consultations in February to the Winter Preparedness Webinar offered in late fall, EIRM actively participated in the community, making sure Red River Métis traditional values of conservation and sustainability were reflected across the Homeland.

On November 8, the MMF commemorated Red River Métis Veterans during the annual Indigenous Veterans Day ceremony in Lac Du Bonnet, Manitoba. Pictured from left to right is Lac Du Bonnet Mayor Ken Lodge and MMF Minister Andrew Carrier.

The weekend of August 15-17, RRMVD Minister Shawn Nault attended the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Japan ceremony in Ottawa – held yearly to mark the conclusion of the deadliest war in human history. The Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association brought together 34 descendants and family members to represent and honour the 23 Red River Métis Veterans who fought in Hong Kong.

#### HARVESTING

Ensuring the protection of Red River Métis harvesting rights, the MMF played a leading role in championing for the conservation of traditional Red River Métis land, carrying on long-held traditions.



The Red River Métis Fur Company supports Red River Métis Harvesters by going on fur runs throughout the homeland, purchasing Red River Métis-harvested furs above market value.

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After acquiring the Winnipeg landmark, Roxy Lanes, in 2022, the National Government of the Red River Métis discovered that the site was a confirmed chimney swift residence. In 2025, the MMF dedicated efforts to building and monitoring an artificial chimney to support the endangered bird – a structure that will become a permanent fixture on the property, providing a safe and peaceful home for future generations of chimney swifts.

On November 28, Prairies Economic Development Canada announced an investment of \$540,000 into three Indigenous-led economic projects across Manitoba. The MMF received \$300,000 of the total investment which will go towards increasing job capacity in the environment sector – specifically mining – and will be facilitated by the MMF's Métis Employment & Training Department.

#### RED RIVER MÉTIS CULTURAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

Despite the unfortunate postponing and cancellation of several annual summer events due to the emergency wildfire response, the National Government of the Red River Métis maintained many beloved traditions by hosting some of your favourite culturally focused events and celebrations throughout 2025. Events throughout the year include:

- Climate Symposium
- Infinity Women Secretariat Annual General Assembly
- Louis Riel Day celebrations
- National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebrations
- Brandon Wheat Kings Louis Riel Day Game
- Dauphin Pride Festival
- Red River Métis Market Days
- Michif Manor Golf Tournament
- RRMBDC Business Gala
- Louis Riel College Graduation
- 2025 Grey Cup Festival
- Annual General Assembly

Many more gatherings were hosted by Regions and Locals, bringing Red River Métis Community together through workshops, concerts, and cultural celebrations.



EIRM offers programs to Citizens of all ages to provide land-based knowledge rooted in Red River Métis tradition.



Minister Will Goodon celebrated Louis Riel Day at the Brandon Wheat Kings game wearing the MMF's custom-made and sponsored jerseys.

These events would not have been the same without the joy and dedication of Red River Métis Citizens across the Homeland – so we thank you all for your participation.

#### MMF REMEMBERS

The MMF was saddened by the loss of valued friends of the Red River Métis Community.

In April 2025, the MMF was heartbroken to announce the passing of Minister John Fleury. First elected in 2000, he served the Southwest Region for seven terms with unwavering dedication, and his roots tied back to the historical Ste. Madeleine. He was a loving husband and father known for his humour, kindness, and steady presence. We are lucky to have known him, and will continue to honour our long-standing cabinet member, Veteran, and friend.

Cabinet, staff, and Citizens extend our prayers and sincere condolences to the friends and family of Pope Francis, who was a strong ally and respectful partner in healing to the Red River Métis; Paulette Duguay, former President of *l'Union nationale métisse Saint-Joseph du Manitoba* and fierce advocate for the French language; Nello Altomare, MLA for Transcona and Minister of Education and

Early Childhood Learning for the Government of Manitoba; and Al Desjarlais, beloved Red River Métis musician. We are grateful to have forged connections with each of them.



The MMF remembers those we lost this year. May their spirits rest in peace and their legacies live on.

#### CONCLUSION

2025 was a year of resilience for the Red River Métis. We continued advancing the goals that solidify our place as Canada's Partner in Confederation. Our growing economic portfolio continued to expand, all while keeping our values of community care at the heart of everything we do. As we move forward, we do so with strength and determination, embodying the spirit of the Red River Métis. The MMF remains committed to steady growth year after year, and we look forward to more meaningful progress ahead!



