



Le Métis

∞ EST. 1871 ∞

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This week, we are continuing to share our updates from the Regions. I have always made communication with Citizens a key foundation of my presidency, and sharing what's happening in other Regions is another way to keep our Citizens informed. For this edition of my message, I am pleased to share updates from the Interlake Region and the Thompson Region.

I truly enjoy when Regions and Locals provide updates on their priorities and vision moving forward. Let me now turn it over to Alfred Anderson and Julyda Lagimodiere.

Alfred Anderson, Vice-President, Interlake Region

Spring is in the air, and Citizens in our Region are starting to turn their minds toward spring and summer, when a number of cherished annual events happen in celebration of our Red River Métis culture and heritage, like Selkirk Indigenous Peoples Day, Métis Days in St. Laurent, and the annual Elder and Youth gathering. Of course, there are other community events in the Region where we are represented, in large part due to our strong Locals, like Quarry Days in Stonewall, Ericksdale Creamery Days, the Lundar Fair, and the Gimli Ice Festival.

We are proud of our ability to host important annual events that draw Citizens from other Regions in southern Manitoba, as well as representing our Red River Métis Government at community events.

We cannot say enough about the dedication and enthusiasm of the 13 mighty Locals of our Region.

It's clear in the Interlake that our Locals are active and strong, and truly form the backbone of our Regional governance structure.

We saw that strength and enthusiasm on display at our recent Regional meeting in Stonewall, which was proudly hosted by the Stonewall Local, with support from Warren and Stony Mountain Locals, which are both brand new Locals to our Region. During our meeting, the Region also acknowledged five of our outstanding Citizens with King Charles III Coronation Medals. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the individuals selected by Jack Park, Mona Buors, and myself: Marceline Bruce, David Lavallee, Linda Lamoureux, Keith Ginther and Randy Mason.

The outstanding work of representation and community support undertaken by our Locals is not only visible in our cultural events and Regional meetings, but also in the fact that many civic offices in the Interlake that now proudly fly our Red River Métis flag. These flags acknowledge our presence in communities across the Region, and prove what we've always known, which is that the Red River Métis are a strong presence in the Interlake.

The Métis Music Van originates in the Interlake Region, and the sights and sounds of it have delighted school children for many years. The van and its strong representation of our culture is one of the reasons why our presence in the Region's communities is so evident to all. Sharing our music gives our children an opportunity to show their pride in being Red River Métis, and tell other students about the meaning and significance of the music. We are beginning to take our Métis Music Van to other Regions to raise awareness about Red River Métis pride and culture.

All events in our Region are important, as they provide opportunities for our community to gather and talk with friends and family, keeping vital connections strong. This connection is even more important for our senior and Elder community. That's why members of our executive, like Jack Park, Mona Buors, and myself attend as many community events as possible to lend our support. One example is a monthly gathering at the St. Laurent recreation centre, called the senior's birthday club. Along with bingo, this free event offers lunch and 10-minute sessions on various topics of interest to our seniors and Elders. We know that feeling connected and having social interactions are important ways to keep our seniors and Elders healthy.

We extend our special regards to the Elders and Youth of the Interlake, whose active participation

in our activities makes our Region strong. We will never lose sight of the fact that our Elders worked hard and made sacrifices to make our advancements possible, and that our Youth must be supported and encouraged to carry us into the future. On behalf of all the executive team of our Region – myself, Jack Park, and Mona Buors – we send condolences to all families in our Region who have lost loved ones. I ask all to send a special prayer to the family of Regional staff member Roland "Mushroom" Bruce, who we recently lost.

Julyda Lagimodiere, Vice-President, Thompson Region

At the beginning of March we held our Regional Meeting, gathering our Locals from across the Thompson Region, from Thompson itself to the recently formed Gillam Local, and in between. We were happy to update our Citizens and Local leaders about our activities and provide some information about our future direction.

Citizens know that the development of our local food security greenhouse is underway. Food security is important for all of our Citizens, no matter where they live and work. However, we know that the cost of fresh produce in the North is always higher than in the South, and food security must be put in the context of food affordability. That's why I'm excited about the greenhouse and what it can offer our Citizens – fruit and vegetables when in season, along with an opportunity to renew focus on food preservation of the greenhouse's yield for winter months.

Our Region has also been given the opportunity to develop an Indigenous Cultural Centre for the benefit of First Nations, Inuit, and Red River Métis people who live and visit here. We are happy to undertake this work and look forward to offering a beautiful space that could not only be used for meetings and public events, but also for private and important life events like weddings. I look forward to celebrating the grand opening of this event space in the future, and to finding the right name for it, in consultation with our Citizens.

As with other Northern Regions, we know that Citizens in Thompson are worried about protection of their harvesting rights. That's why we continue to share information about our new relationship with the province, resulting in all harvesting charges being dropped against our Harvesters. This new relationship with the province is important for more than just harvesting rights. Manitoba has truly recognized the MMF as an Indigenous government, which is unlocking new opportunities for us, including the creation of wind power capacity and exploring new mining partnerships which will



benefit all Citizens in all Regions. I look forward to continuing to share more information with Citizens in our Region.

Unlike in southern Regions, where there is good understanding of the presence of the Red River Métis, our Region must still educate individuals and institutions about our history, particularly here in Manitoba, the province we brought into Canada's Confederation. Some colonial institutions – like the Frontier School Division and school board – still have important reconciliation work to do to understand who we are and how much of a role we've played even in the formation of the city of Thompson itself, instead of asserting that they know more than we do about our history. Our educational work has already yielded positive relationships with the city of Thompson itself, as

well as other municipalities in our Region. The Thompson Regional executive team, staff, and I will never stop this important educational work and maintaining our strength and presence here in the most northern Region of our National Red River Métis Government.

Conclusion

I hope Citizens are enjoying these updates from our Regions. These reports show that our Regions are engaged in a wide variety of activities, and that each has its own challenges and opportunities. That's what makes our unity so impressive and meaningful. Nothing brings together the North, South, urban, and the rural in the same way that our shared identity does. No matter where we live, when we come together in places like our Annual

General Assembly, we are all Red River Métis together. That is the gift of our Nationhood, given to us by Louis Riel and our Ancestors, and it's one I'm grateful for, every single day. 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. ∞

FROM COURTROOM TO COMMUNITY: RED RIVER MÉTIS LAWYER AWARDED KING CHARLES III CORONATION MEDAL

VICTORIA S.B. PERRIE WAS HONOURED FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO HER COMMUNITY



On February 18, friends, family, and colleagues came together at the Manitoba Club to celebrate Perrie being awarded with the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

Victoria S.B. Perrie is a queer Red River Métis Citizen and an accomplished lawyer with her own practice, Perrie Law. She's heavily involved in performance arts, and has added children's book author to her list of accomplishments; she is publishing her book *Daanis the Judge* with Pemmican Publications in 2025.

Alongside 300,000 fellow exceptional Canadians, Perrie was selected to receive the King Charles III Coronation Medal. Perrie was awarded the medal at Government House in Winnipeg before joining the reception celebrating her achievement at the Manitoba Club.

"I got a phone call from Senator McPhedran who asked if I would accept her nomination... after doing a deep dive I thought, 'what an honour to join the

past recipients of this medal,'" she said. "It's really nice for somebody else to be seeing what I'm doing out of the corner of their eye and be interested to support me in that way and show appreciation for it. And to give it a platform."

On the night of the reception, Perrie delivered a speech explaining how achievements are never won alone, but instead won as a community.

"It's the whole community that has brought you up and brought you to that point," she said. "As soon as I heard about this nomination, I had to do some real reflecting on the community that brought me here... I really thought about all the giants who came before me and how I'm standing on all their shoulders to receive this award. Without all the knowledge that they shared with me, I wouldn't be here today."

The Red River Métis Citizen acknowledged that this award is especially significant because of a historical absence of Indigenous representation in the justice system, as historically, Red River Métis and Indigenous People weren't permitted in these spaces.

"Now to have such an honour bestowed upon me, I'm very pleased to be recognized," she said. "I'm really privileged to be able to offer criminal law services as an Indigenous person for other Indigenous People; I love working with my community. I love being able to meet folks where they're at and come to them with a deeper understanding of what it means to be Indigenous."

The award helped Perrie reflect on work she feels especially proud of. One project that immediately came to mind was her collaboration on addressing cross-jurisdictional issues for Nunavut Inuit by developing a concept for southern Inuit legal clinics, in Winnipeg and beyond.

"We held a summit last year to discuss cross-jurisdictional legal issues. We brought together Elders, community folks, organizations, and lawyers to discuss the extent of the issues that folks in Nunavut face when they're coming down for medical travel or for attending school. The report should be published, hopefully, before the end of March," said Perrie.

In addition to Perrie Law, the Citizen is also a co-founder alongside Sunday Queskekapow, a northern 2SLGBTQIA+ consultant, on a new business: Kiwétinohk Consulting.

"We're just (in) our infancy. We're just taking on our first contract right now and so we'll do justice consulting and provide Gladue reports," she said. "Kiwétinohk means north wind. Sunday is from The Pas and with my practice being predominantly in the high arctic, the name comes from us being physically in Winnipeg, and in southern Manitoba, but having these voices that speak specifically to northern Manitoba and the high Arctic. Hopefully (we'll be) able to work with justice organizations and other community organizations who are seeking out that kind of experience."

The award reception was hosted by the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF)'s publishing company, Pemmican Publications. As a Citizen, Perrie is especially appreciative of the support she has received from her Red River Métis Nation.

"It can feel like we're an invisible population sometimes. To (now) be recognized and then have the MMF, through Pemmican Publications, be interested in supporting me in that way. Being able to share with other Métis and have this opportunity to be a role model to folks as they are coming up into the space is very special," said the lawyer.



In addition to Indigenous legal work, advocacy, and participation in the theatrical arts, Perrie is also the author of children's book *Daanis the Judge*, which will be available in a physical copy through Pemmican Publications.

"It follows a young girl, Daanis; she goes to show-and-tell at her class one day, and she brings a

pair of judge's tabs, which is kind of a tie that that judges (and lawyers) will wear," she said. "While she's showing the class the tabs, she tells them about her idol, the Honourable Michelle O'Bonsawin, who is the first Indigenous person ever to be appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada. We learn a little bit about her Honour's life through *Daanis*." The Red River Métis lawyer continues to make

the Red River Métis Nation proud whether it be by exploring new businesses, authoring Indigenous children's literature, or providing legal services to Indigenous People by Indigenous People; Perrie is an excellent example for what Red River Métis Citizens are achieving.

RED RIVER MÉTIS STUDENT ATTENDS GLOBAL INDIGENOUS DIALOGUE EVENT AT ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FESTIVAL



The Red River Métis Business student is one of five Canadians selected to join peers from around the globe in Norway at the International Student Festival in Trondheim (ISFiT).

Matthew Carriere is an Asper Business student, an active member in Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) Youth advisory committees, a community leader, and a proud Red River Métis Citizen. From March 6 to the 24, the Citizen is proud to represent the Red River Métis Nation at the ISFiT Dialogue Project.

We sat down with Carriere before he set off for ISFiT.

"It's based in Trondheim, it's a big dialogue event where I'll be speaking as a panelist to people from all over the world," said the student. "The theme of this year, along with Indigenous rights and Indigenous issues, is power. The power that students and Youth have to affect positive change."

As a panelist, Carriere's goal is to advocate for Red River Métis Citizens through an international scope.

"I think here's a heavy First Nations focus from the outside looking in even within Canada. I want to be a representation for the Red River Métis," he said. "One (panel) is identity. A big thing for me is stolen identity... I'm going to make sure to be clear on who we are. That we're distinct... we have a distinct culture."

Carriere heard about the opportunity from an advisor who encouraged him to apply. He believes his emphasis on economic reconciliation could be what helped him stand out and ultimately be chosen for the opportunity.

"There's a panel on Indigenous economics. There's a lot of opportunity for Indigenous People to add to the Canadian economy," said the Citizen. "My focus might be on entrepreneurship, but especially Youth entrepreneurship. Also getting centralized employment training, like what MET (Métis Employment and Training) does here. Getting people into jobs first and foremost, you need people getting experience."

Carriere also emphasized the importance of Nation-to-Nation relations, using the MMF's Treaty signing as an example.

"Not every other country has treaties, and we just signed the Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty, that's another big thing I want to mention. How we're breaking ground as Red River Métis and how it is a Nation-to-Nation relationship. The MMF is our Government. We are the Nation and we're talking with Canada," he said. "I want to be able to show that this is what we're offering to the world."

Carriere has been involved with the MMF's Winnipeg Regional Youth Advisory Committee (RYAC) for six years and Provincial Youth Advisory Committee (PYAC) for a year.

"I went to the St. Norbert meetings all the time... in my first ever meeting, Minister Carrier, Minister Beaudin, and Minister Remillard were there and they had a handmade sash that they gifted to me; it was the very first thing that they did, and they said 'Welcome aboard'. It was very meaningful to me," he said. "It's super important to introduce Youth to the MMF style of governance and give us a voice. Youth have a lot of wisdom."

The Red River Métis Citizen is pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce with a major in international business and management information systems at the

University of Manitoba (UM), where he's active in student groups.

"At the (UM), I was the Co-President of the Métis University Students Association for three years. (Exploring) Métis culture, food and just connecting with Red River Métis people on campus, I really enjoyed that," he said.

The Citizen works with the University of Manitoba Indigenous Commerce Students Board; he runs business mixers to assist fellow students in developing skills and making connections, helping them succeed. Carriere hopes to address and fill the gap in representation for Indigenous mentors in leadership roles in business.

"I strive to be a leader by mentoring younger individuals, helping them secure better opportunities so they can uplift themselves and their communities. That's my focus," he said.

At 23, the Citizen was the youngest director to be elected on to the Manitoba Indigenous Chamber of Commerce.

"I want to bring a Youth and a Red River Métis perspective there. I advocate for us on that board and for Red River Métis businesses. I meet a lot of Red River Métis business owners and entrepreneurs, and I see that there's a future there too. Giving these people the support to be able to bring themselves up and participate in the Canadian economy... they're contributing to that but also the community," said Carriere.

Carriere encourages fellow Youth to get involved and to put themselves out there, like he has.

"You aren't going to grow if you're not uncomfortable... start talking to people, start building that network, reach out to me, reach out to any of your RYAC reps, reach out to any of your PYAC reps. We want you to come out and get involved in the governance, we want you to be the leaders after us because we're going to be passing the torch soon. We're not Youth forever," he said. "Go local level. Talk to us... go to any event, just get involved."

Red River Métis Citizens like Carriere provide an aspirational example for fellow Youth to have the spirit and the confidence in proudly representing the Red River Métis Nation whether it's at a local or an international level.



Winnipeg Region



Red River Métis

Seed sharing circle



Join us for an informative workshop on seed stewardship!

Date: Monday March 31, 2025
Location: 406 McGregor Street,
Winnipeg Manitoba.
Time: 5:30p.m. - 9:30p.m.
**Stay tuned for workshop dates in
your Region!**

For more information or to register,
please contact Community Projects
Specialist **Tanner Barlow** at
tanner.barlow@mmf.mb.ca or by
phone at **431-668-3671**.

RED RIVER MÉTIS
OIL SPILL MAPPING
Community Engagement Meeting

The MMF is inviting you to attend a Community Engagement Meeting to participate in mapping aquatic areas that are of cultural and ecological importance and have the potential to be impacted by oil spills.

DATES

∞ **Winnipeg** - March 25 | ∞ **Brandon** - May 22 | ∞ **Thompson** - TBD
Virtual option available

We encourage you to attend the meeting that is close to or in your Region!

Travel and accommodations will be arranged, and a meal will be served.

Each **Red River Métis Citizen** will receive an honorarium specific to their participation.

If you are interested in attending or if you have any additional questions, please contact Tanner Barlow by email at **tanner.barlow@mmf.mb.ca** or by phone at **431-668-3671**.

