



Le Métis

∞ EST. 1871 ∞

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Over the past few weeks, your Red River Métis Government has made several important advancements on behalf of our Citizens. We have successfully demonstrated that the Red River Métis remain strong and resilient, ready to stand up for our rightful place in Canada's Confederation.

Government-to-government relationship with Canada

As Citizens know, Bill C-5, *the One Canadian Economy Act*, has the potential to transform the Canadian economy. The measures it introduces can provide the tools and investment resources needed to continue building Manitoba, the western provinces, and indeed, the country as a whole. Canada stands at a crossroads. Shifting global trade markets and an emerging political landscape are creating radically different partners and allies. We are leaving behind the relative stability enjoyed by previous generations and must respond to these changes with agility and confidence.

Indigenous leaders, governments, and organizations across the country have greeted Bill C-5 with a wide range of reactions – from mistrust to open arms.

The Red River Métis are no strangers to major projects. In recent years, we have worked with SkyAlyne in support of the Future Aircrew Training program, collaborated with Enbridge and Manitoba Hydro on workforce participation, and are currently developing wind energy projects. We are actively building higher-density affordable housing and constructing a high-efficiency, high-yield carbon-

offset project that will see us grow 160 million trees over the coming decades. We are also major players in the revitalization of downtown Winnipeg. We see the opportunities Bill C-5 can bring to our Citizens and to the province we brought into Canada.

Even as supporters of Bill C-5, aware of the opportunities it represents, we have insisted on building from a relationship of mutual trust and respect with Canada. That is why we took the principled stand of refusing to participate in Canada's summit with the Métis on Bill C-5. Quite simply, we could not undermine the mandate you gave your Red River Métis Government to break from the Métis National Council (MNC) for its illegitimate support of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), built as it is on Indigenous identity fraud. Nor could we tolerate being in a room with the MNC – which has no legitimate platform to exist, with only one founding member remaining, and the MNO holding the reins.

Shortly after we publicly announced our decision not to attend the summit, we received a response from Canada. Both Rebecca Alty, Canada's Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, and Mandy Gull-Masty, Minister of Indigenous Services Canada, appeared at our Cabinet Retreat to hear our priorities and plans.

Immediately following the conversation with the Ministers, I spoke with Prime Minister Mark Carney. I outlined our reasons for not attending the summit and reiterated our support for Bill C-5. That conversation was incredibly valuable, as it helped him better understand who we are and why we took such a principled stand.

As I told both the Ministers and Prime Minister Carney, the Red River Métis must ensure this Bill will not disregard our Section 35 rights, reverse the advancements made toward our Treaty, or negate the hard-fought progress on the Land Claim.

Passing our Treaty into law through legislation is a critical step in our long-standing journey, beginning with our initial Treaty found in the Manitoba Act, which created the postage stamp province. Settling our Land Claim will finally heal the "ongoing rift in the national fabric" and provide our people with the tools to be strong contributors to the new Canadian economy.

I know some Citizens initially had questions about our decision not to attend the summit – concerned that our Nation would be misrepresented by the pretenders and the illegitimate MNC. However, I hope Citizens now understand that our stance demonstrated our integrity to the Government of Canada and allowed us to have a bilateral

conversation about our needs and priorities. We were able to share our message more effectively outside of the summit than we would have if we had compromised our integrity by sitting with those we know to be illegitimate.

We will continue bilateral conversations with Canada and the Prime Minister in the coming weeks. Of course, I will keep Citizens updated on our progress. For now, I know all will be relieved to hear that Canada has already shared its intention to introduce our Treaty legislation in the fall session – drawing to a close the multi-year effort to have our inherent rights recognized by Canada.

Working toward economic well-being with our First Nations relatives

Following our progress with Canada came another important and historic agreement with our First Nations relatives, through a memorandum of understanding with the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO).

Signed at The Forks – a traditional gathering place for Indigenous Nations – the agreement sets out a five-year framework for cooperation between SCO and MMF. Together, we will work to ensure that First Nations and Red River Métis voices are respected and included in the design, approval, and implementation of nation-building projects proposed by the Canadian and Manitoba governments and supported by federal legislation, such as Bill C-5.

It has been many years since the Red River Métis and our First Nations relatives have come together in solidarity. I commend Grand Chief Jerry Daniels and his executive for their vision – a vision I have waited early thirty years to see in First Nations leadership.

This agreement clearly shows that the Red River Métis are respected by our First Nations relatives as a distinct Nation – just as we were in the past. Just one example of our past relationship with our First Nations relatives comes from the Bill of Rights brought forth by Louis Riel and his provisional government in 1869: "That treaties be included and ratified between the Dominion Government and the several tribes of Indians in the territory..." There are many more examples of our historic relationship, but all demonstrate that we worked together and protected one another in the past, as we will again.

This is in sharp contrast to what is happening in Ontario, where the Chiefs of Ontario stand firmly against the identity theft being pushed by the MNO. They have repeatedly stated – and proved – that those the MNO claims to represent are not



legitimate, nor are they rooted in a shared history like ours with First Nations, including the Cree, Assiniboiné, and Saulteaux in what is now Manitoba.

All these advancements and partnerships send a clear signal to the rest of Canada: when First Nations, Inuit, and Métis come together, we can support the success of all Canadians as we transform our economy and create new global partnerships. Manitoba is emerging as a trailblazer for Indigenous engagement under Bill C-5 and for nation-building. Premier Wab Kinew has shown the value of his deep understanding of First Nations and Red River Métis traditions – creating meaningful relationships and paving the way for open, transparent engagement.

But make no mistake – the agreement between the MMF and SCO was a result of purely Indigenous-to-Indigenous dialogue and development. It is a recognition that we are stronger together. While there may be challenges ahead, there can be no doubt that the MMF and SCO are resolute in our determination to work together to advance our Citizens and bring economic benefit to all by being proactive in the decision-making process for nation-building projects.

As with developments involving the Government of Canada, I will ensure Citizens are kept informed of all announcements and initiatives that help advance both Canada and the Red River Métis advance ourselves. We are in challenging times – with ongoing threats from the South and the risk

of economic recession. But with wise leadership, strong integrity, and a collaborative mindset, we will usher in a new era of economic well-being for all Canadians – including 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. ∞

RED RIVER MÉTIS YOUTH IN THE END ZONE: MANITOBA TAKES GOLD IN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

FOOTBALL MANITOBA AND WINNIPEG FOOTBALL CLUB SUPPORT YOUNG INDIGENOUS ATHLETES IN 2025 U18 INDIGENOUS CUP



The 2025 U18 Indigenous Cup opted for a 9-player format, making room for more Indigenous Youth to hit the field, build their skills, show off their talent, and proudly represent their nations.

It was a proud moment for Team Manitoba at the U18 Indigenous Cup Championship when Indigenous Manitoban youth brought home gold. The final game took place at the St. Vital Mustangs Field at Maple Grove on July 6.

The U18 Indigenous Cup, a national football championship dedicated to high-level Indigenous football players, has been growing since its inception three years ago. This year, the championship featured over 100 Indigenous athletes throughout four teams – Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba, and Northwest Ontario – who competed from June 30 to July 6.

Russel Wallace, coach of the Manitoba team and a Red River Métis Citizen, has been following the tournament since its formation.

“It started with Alberta and Saskatchewan kind of just playing a one-off and then Manitoba came into it in its second year... now, we are four teams with Northern Ontario. We’re all seeing it become more popular,” said Wallace. “We came back to Manitoba, and we had talked [about how] do we get involved? We have such a high population of Indigenous citizens in Manitoba, so we need to get involved in this game.”

Cost is often a major barrier for Indigenous youth pursuing football, so support from the Winnipeg Football Club (owners of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers) and Football Manitoba helped ease those financial burdens – opening the door to greater participation in the U18 Indigenous Cup.

“Football is one of those sports that does have a high price tag attached to it... the equipment is super expensive and not every school [or] every area has the opportunity for someone to participate in football,” said Wallace. “I understand that there are financial barriers, but there are resources right there, don’t let that shut the door on your football career.”

The support from Football Manitoba and the Winnipeg Football Club is recognized and appreciated by the Red River Métis athletes themselves, such as Dale Turcotte III, 17-year-old offensive lineman on the Manitoba team.

“The U18 Indigenous Cup here in Manitoba was all paid for by the Bombers and other sponsors, so we don’t have to spend money to play. It’s just that barrier that a lot of families and players face... being here with the Indigenous team that doesn’t cost anything really helps,” said Turcotte.

Red River Métis player Colten Roberts, 16-year-old running back, shared Turcotte’s sentiments.

“Indigenous people might not get the same opportunities [because] they might not have enough money [or] get discriminated against... So, I think it’s important that there’s something like this where it’s free and there’s lots of inclusivity. Indigenous people [can] all just come together as one, I think that’s just really important,” said Roberts.

The Manitoba athletes have been training for months for this high-level tournament through a variety of camps and events, preparing themselves for the championship. One event included a showcase to attract the attention of college teams,



opening up future opportunities for the talented players.

"You can get recruited to universities... You get to sort of move forward on the path," said Josh Gill, a 17-year-old offensive lineman, and Red River Métis Citizen.



BEING MÉTIS MYSELF... WE HAVE A RICH HISTORY AND RICH CULTURE, BE PROUD OF THAT. AT A TIME WHEN I WAS GROWING UP, YOU WEREN'T NECESSARILY ABLE TO BE AS PROUD AS YOU ARE TODAY, SO I REALLY APPRECIATE THE WORK THAT THE RED RIVER MÉTIS [HAVE] DONE TO HELP MYSELF BE PROUD TO BE MÉTIS. THAT'S MY FIRST MESSAGE TO OUR ATHLETES WHO ARE INDIGENOUS AND MÉTIS, JUST BE PROUD OF THAT.
— COACH RICHARD WALLACE



Coaches are prioritizing the future of Indigenous youth, aiming to prepare these young athletes to play university-level football.

"[Our coaches] can help guide our players to say, 'hey, if you really want to take it to the next level, this is what you need to do.' And I know when we've traveled to other provinces for tournaments, we've had universities come and watch our players," said Wallace.

Even before being selected to play on the Manitoba team, some players started preparing as far back as a year before registration.

"I ended up being an alternate last year, so I didn't end up playing in the games," said Turcotte. "I wanted to make sure this year I came back stronger, more ready. I'm ready to play [and] represent my province... we're all more than the stereotypes that are brought upon us... we can do something and can be productive and can be successful."

The national championship is an opportunity to not only showcase young Indigenous talent but to inspire pride in young Indigenous players. Red River Métis player Liam Vincent, 17-year-old linebacker felt proud to represent his Nation.

"It uplifts young Métis Youth growing up. It's inspiring as well, being around others going through similar experiences," said Vincent. "There was an opportunity to represent my province... and I wanted to represent all the [Red River] Métis."

The championship is an excellent opportunity for Indigenous athletes and meet peers who have similar lived experiences to them. Young Indigenous athletes from across the province tried out for Manitoba's team.

"At first, I was just like, 'oh, yeah, it's free football'... but as I started getting into it, tryouts, meeting coaches, meeting players who had similar experiences to me, similar backgrounds, you know, I started to bond with them in that way," said Roberts. "It feels like a family."

Embracing culture and feeling pride throughout the U18 Indigenous Cup was an important element for Coach Wallace to teach the young Indigenous athletes.

"Being Métis myself... we have a rich history and rich culture, be proud of that. At a time when I was growing up, you weren't necessarily able to be as proud as you are today, so I really appreciate the work that the Red River Métis [have] done to help myself be proud to be Métis. That's my first message to our athletes who are Indigenous and Métis, just be proud of that," said Wallace.

As the U18 Indigenous Cup continues to grow, so does the pride of our young Red River Métis athletes who are proving that their talent, pride, and determination belong on every field – big and small.

If you're interested in getting involved in Youth-oriented opportunities, look to the Manitoba Métis Federation's Youth Department who help secure the exciting future of the next generation. Reach out at youth@mmf.mb.ca to get involved.

"ICE" WORK UNVEILING OUR NEW BILLBOARD IN THE PAS!



On August 16, the Manitoba Métis Federation travelled to The Pas, Manitoba to showcase our new billboard celebrating Red River Métis hockey player Connor Dewar. This display in the athlete's hometown symbolizes our pride as the Red River Métis Nation in our Youth's successes!



NATION-BUILDING STARTS WITH INDIGENOUS VOICES: MMF AND SCO SIGN LANDMARK AGREEMENT



On Wednesday, August 13, the Manitoba Métis Federation and Southern Chiefs' Organization signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), operating as a five-year framework of cooperation between both parties. This MOU ensures that First Nations and Red River Métis voices are respected and included in the design, approval, and implementation of "Nation-building" projects being proposed by the Manitoba government and supported through federal legislation, such as Bill C-5.

To stay up to date on all current event happening with your Red River Métis Government, visit mmf.mb.ca/news.





FERME FIOLA FARM TOUR

Red River Métis Youth will learn about earth-friendly farming, rotational grazing, and everything you ever wanted to know about sheep.

Red River Métis Youth will also learn and participate in craftmaking with wool from the family farm, seeing firsthand how wool goes from the land to the finished product.



LOCATION
Ste. Geneviève, MB.

DATE
August 27, 2025

AGES
Kindergarten to Grade 12.
Red River Métis Youth under 12 years of age require a parent or Guardian to attend


For more information or to register, please contact Tanner Barlow at tanner.barlow@mmf.mb.ca

Traditional Knowledge Interviews Lake Sturgeon


We're looking for **Red River Métis Citizens** who may have information about the **Southern Hudson Bay – James Bay Population (DU3) of Lake Sturgeon**.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is developing a management plan for this population as it is currently listed as Special Concern on the *Species at Risk Act* and are looking for more information on this population of Lake Sturgeon.

Honoraria will be provided for participating in Traditional Knowledge Interviews



We're looking for **YOU!**



If you would like more information please contact **Erin Wieler**, Conservation Specialist, at erin.wieler@mmf.mb.ca

