



# Le Métis

∞ EST. 1871 ∞

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



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last week, I was proud to witness the celebration of our entrepreneurial spirit at the first ever Red River Métis Business Excellence Awards. As our Citizens know, we are retaking our place as an economic engine of the West through initiatives within our Red River Métis Government, but also through the innovation, hard work, and drive of our business-minded Citizens. The gala dinner was well attended by Red River Métis business owners, Red River Métis officials from the province, and our own Cabinet, as well as community members, friends, and family who came out to celebrate the award nominees and recipients. Red River Métis pride was clearly on display as we honoured and celebrated the entrepreneurs and business owners of our community.

I congratulate the award winners, who were celebrated warmly for their accomplishments, including tears of joy and pride from many in the audience. Curtis, Kelsey, Andréanne, and Casandra all worked hard to grow their businesses and their accomplishments are worth celebrating along with all nominees across the five categories. I also want to extend my personal congratulations and thanks to Bob Penwarden, who received recognition through the President's Lifetime Achievement Award, for his dedication to the economic advancement of our Nation. Each nominee and recipient were carefully and thoughtfully selected by other members of the business community, and I thank the members of the selection committee for their work to highlight these individuals.

These individuals are representative of our diverse, optimistic, and growing business community. We now have 700 verified Red River Métis owned and operated businesses in our directory. Of these, the majority are in construction, with traditional economies as the next largest category, and other businesses engaged in retail, tourism and hospitality, professional services, and in manufacturing and transportation. Some might be surprised to learn that less than half of our Red River Métis businesses operate out of Winnipeg, but this is proof that we are not only investing in businesses located in the heart of our Homeland, we are also actively supporting businesses where our Citizens live and work, including Beyond Borders.

If you haven't already registered your business, now is the time to register. It doesn't matter if your business is big or small, traditional or modern – being on the registry can lead to opportunities. This includes the potential for engagement in procurement for other levels of government, which can lead to contract opportunities and future business successes.

There is no doubt that we have the most credible FNIM (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) business directory in the country – in part because our Citizen registry is a gold standard, making our Red River Métis business directory equally strong. In short, we know who our people are, and we know who our business owners and entrepreneurs are. The federal and provincial governments need to clear the path for FNIM governments to lead the way in vetting who is eligible for FNIM set asides in their procurement policies. This way, all Canadians can be confident that anyone benefitting from procurement policies that create space for FNIM businesses to succeed actually benefit the intended Nations.

Just as self-identification as First Nations, Inuit or Red River Métis is not enough for individuals and groups, it equally cannot be enough for businesses looking to take advantage of set-asides in the federal government procurement process. The federal business directory must shift to primarily engage with legitimate FNIM governments and rights holders such as MMF and its proud affiliate, the Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC). This, like any process that relies on self-identification, is doomed to fail. Having organizations that do not carefully vet who they promote, or those that have reason to muddy the waters about who qualifies as FNIM and who doesn't, create far too many opportunities for identity fraud, which results in taking away opportunities from legitimate rightsholders. Organizations that use self-

identification to steal opportunities from legitimate FNIM rightsholders are shameful, and should not be allowed to profit from this theft. For example, the federal Indigenous Business Directory is deeply flawed in terms of who is included, which has been acknowledged by the Minister responsible for it, Patty Hajdu. Your Red River Métis Government is advocating for direct engagement with recognized FNIM governments, such as the MMF. It is only through these full-scale transformational changes to the federal procurement process that there can be any confidence that the identified businesses belong to the Nations they claim.

Remember, these opportunities are set aside for FNIM businesses because of the historic disadvantages we have experienced. It is because of the injustices perpetrated on our peoples by past Canadian governments. It is because we have been marginalized and are only now beginning to gain strength. As the National Government of the Red River Métis, we know we are best positioned to confirm who our Red River Métis business owners are. Like our business owners, we are ready to work with Canada to ensure contracts are awarded to confirmed Red River Métis businesses.

As Citizens, I encourage you to support our businesses wherever possible, either by purchasing goods from our Red River Métis Marketplace, or sourcing service providers from our business directory. This way, you can be confident that the businesses you work with, or the service providers you engage with, are Red River Métis. Time after time, it has been shown that businesses have greater success when they are supported and frequented by their community. When our businesses succeed, they can employ other Red River Métis Citizens, and share the prosperity. It is a win for all.

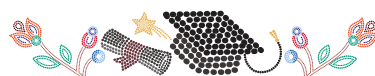
We will continue to add to the supports we offer our Red River Métis business owners and entrepreneurs, in addition to equity financing, opportunities through our procurement process, and the establishment of the Red River Métis Business Development Corporation and the Red River Métis Business Association.

To our business community, I want you to know that it was my privilege as your President to celebrate you last week. I look forward to next year's gala and the opportunity to honour you again.

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.

Meeqwetch,  
President David Chartrand, LL.D. hon. O.M. ∞





## MCFCS DEDICATES FAMILY ROOMS TO LONG-TIME MINISTER AND BOARD MEMBER

Families at the Métis Child, Family and Community Services (MCFCS) office in Winnipeg will now have two newly named family rooms to visit.



**Minister Judy Mayer (left), who previously served as Minister of Métis Child and Family Services, was honoured at a room naming ceremony.**

MCFCS recently hosted a room naming ceremony to honour two Red River Métis Citizens and their contributions to the agency: Loretta Boulard, who served as board chairperson and a board member from 2013 to 2016; and Minister Judy Mayer, who served as Minister of Métis Child and Family Services, the system that governs the MCFCS agency, for 12 years.

"She led the change for us, grew the organization, and took us through lots of growth. We wanted to honour her for her contribution," Scott Maksymyk, MCFCS Executive Director, said of Minister Mayer. "(Loretta Boulard) passed away in 2018. It was inspiring to hear the stories at the room naming ceremony about the impact she had on people, how hard she worked, and her dedication toward the system."

Minister Mayer said she is very humbled and honoured to have a family room named after her as the previous Minister of Métis Child and Family Services, the system that governs the MCFCS agency.

"I would like to acknowledge my predecessors, Chairs Rosemarie McPherson and Lisa Bone. "Most importantly, I thank our Citizens and families who supported and trusted me as their Minister," she said. "I thank President David Chartrand, who appointed me as the Minister and our Cabinet, who supported me while Minister for their guidance and advice."

Métis Child, Family and Community Services strives to empower families and the community to share the responsibility for protecting our children and Youth. The Métis CFS Authority is a non-profit organization responsible for the administration and provision of child and family services by the agencies under its jurisdiction: the Métis Child, Family and Community Services Agency and the Michif Child and Family Services Agency. MCFCS is committed to ensuring all children and Youth receive safe and nurturing care that will enhance their development and well-being. The ceremony was an opportunity to celebrate the legacy and hard work of those who have made significant contributions to MCFCS.

"It was a time to reflect and think about all of their contributions (and) to thank Minister Mayer in person and share stories about her, what she has done, and how meaningful that work has been," Maksymyk said. "Loretta Boulard's family came out to talk about their mom, grandmother, and sister, sharing stories of how she has impacted people personally and how she has impacted this entire system to the extent that we are still feeling the changes they have made while still trying to honour the legacy and work we do now".

Minister Mayer noted for our agencies to be the success they are, people need to acknowledge our Agency Boards and staff, from the start until now.

"There have been many changes, and going forward with our present Minister, Mona Buors, it will only get stronger as Métis families have always opened their homes and hearts to those in need," said Minister Mayer. "Both family rooms reaffirm our commitment to those entrusted to our care. Once you are in our family, you are always in our family."

Speakers at the event included Minister Mona Buors, President David Chartrand, and MCFCS Chairperson Shirley Langan. Maksymyk said MCFCS hopes to hold more ceremonies like this in the future.

"We've got some new buildings coming up. We already have some people in mind that we would like to see also honoured," he said. "As people go into those rooms, they can learn a little bit about the legacy of the people who those rooms are named after and about our system and history as well."

The Executive Director added it was great to see the laughter, stories, and tears as participants reminisced about things that had happened.

"President Chartrand was there, and he gave a very touching speech. It was nice to hear the personal stories behind them, not the business side or strategy of what they did, but really who they were as people, how hard they worked and how they fought hard to make families," he said. "It brought a

personal touch, not just their work as a Minister or a board member, but how they were as people."

The family rooms are utilized for families, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and anybody who wants to come in and have contact with their kids who might be in the care of the agency.



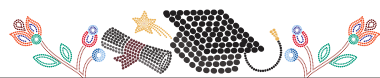
**Red River Métis Citizen Loretta Boulard was honoured after serving as a board chairperson and board member for MCFCS from 2013 to 2016.**

"They can have an opportunity to see them and chat. We put couches in there, and it's like our own living room experience," said Maksymyk. "You could watch a movie if you want, you can hang out, there are board games, colouring, and all sorts of activities you can do. It's an opportunity to come and be together as a family."

MCFCS' mission statement speaks to how family and community is the cornerstone of the Red River Métis Nation and is built upon love, respect, honour, strength, and heritage.

"Those family rooms are going to be vital to that idea of families coming together and community coming to work together around the children, and then to honour the many Métis people who have come together and worked so hard to develop this system to grow with, so that we can continue to honour families and put families at the forefront," Maksymyk said.





# THE SOBR MARKET POURS FOR THE GROWING NON-ALCOHOLIC CROWD



Shane (right) and Jessie Halliburton (left) established The Sobr Market's digital storefront in 2022, which has since expanded to two physical stores located in Winnipeg and Toronto.

Whether it's for personal reasons, health concerns, or simply taste preferences, people are looking for alternatives to alcohol. Wanting to meet this demand, Red River Métis Citizen Shane Halliburton and his wife Jessie opened Winnipeg's first non-alcoholic bottle shop, The Sobr Market.

Shane first began exploring non-alcoholic alternatives out of personal interest.

"I started importing drinks from Europe and the U.S. looking for good-tasting, non-alcoholic options", he said. "Because there's nothing around and it costs a lot of money to bring in like a bottle or two from all these places far away, we quickly realized there must be other people looking."

The Sobr Market established their digital storefront in 2022 and has since expanded to two physical stores equipped with sampling bars located in Winnipeg and Toronto. The Toronto location started as a pop-up in a coffee shop and quickly took off.

"We took over the mezzanine, the second floor of this coffee shop, and turned it into a bottle shop," said Jessie. "The team up there managed it for us

and everything else and now has since grown into a full-blown partnership and bottle shop with the team in Toronto."

The Red River Métis Citizen noted the company's rapid growth demonstrates the need for satisfying, non-alcoholic beverage options.

"The alternatives are necessary only because of how society has deemed the ritual of (having a) drink in hand. We all go out. We all feel it is also necessary in a social aspect. So, a lot of people feel awkward to not have something in their hands," she said. "Often the first question is what can I get you to drink, and traditionally that often means an alcoholic drink."

Understanding the importance of variety, The Sobr Market offers a large range of non-alcoholic beers, wines, and spirits. Shane, who oversees inventory, considers numerous factors when deciding which products to stock, but ultimately, it comes down to one thing.

"We're not just going to stock anything; the whole idea is people trust us to be providing good tasting options because there's lots of bad ones," said

Shane. "So, we want to make sure when people walk into the store or go on the website, they know that we've already curated it, that we already think these will taste good, so that's number one."

The couple has big plans for the business.

"I can't believe how much it's growing and how much has changed. We can't imagine a year ago where we'd be today, so moving forward, we're hoping to see bottle shops in every Canadian city so that everyone has that option to actually go into a store and see the products, pick them up, taste them," Shane said.

Shane and Jessie also look forward to seeing restaurants expanding their selection of non-alcoholic beverages.

"I think that's the biggest thing, really, to break down the stigma and expand these offerings. It's almost becoming more of a social requirement," said Jessie. "That's something that we really want to drive. Providing restaurants, bars, and events the option to be able to have something that their consumers are looking for."

The owners encourage curiosity and hope to see more people experiencing products at their sampling bar.

"You can come in and try the spirits because we know the spirits are a huge investment and there's a lot of skepticism around them," said Jessie. "We encourage people to come in and ask questions. Our teams are fantastic; they're well educated on the products and can help find what works for those coming in."

Visit The Sobr Market at 484 Academy Road in Winnipeg or at [thesobrmarket.com](https://thesobrmarket.com).

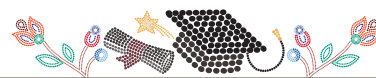


## DISCOUNT SEA BEARS TICKETS FOR MMF CITIZENS!









# MÉTIS MOBILE CLINIC

Our Mobile Clinic is coming to a community near you!

Interlake Region: St. Laurent, Youth Center  
June 7 | 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Southeast Region: St. Malo, Centre Jean Desrosiers  
June 13 | 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Interlake Region: Selkirk, Gordon Howard Senior Center  
June 18 | 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Southeast Region: Richer  
June 19 | 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Winnipeg Region: Liberty Local, Notre Dame Centre  
June 24 | 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Interlake Region: Gimli, 6 Amisk Drive, Pavilion Park  
July 6 | 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Contact [clinicinfo@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:clinicinfo@mmf.mb.ca) or 1-833-390-1041 Ext. 3  
for more information and to register for health services.

## \$1,000 Award

APPLY ONLINE



## The Senator Gerry & Margaret St. Germain Award

For Grade 12 Red River Métis students in  
Manitoba who excel in Math and/or Science.

Through a donation received by Gerry St. Germain and  
matched funding by the Manitoba Métis Federation, the  
Louis Riel Institute is proud to offer the Senator Gerry &  
Margaret St. Germain Award.

Deadline to apply is June 26th: [louisrielsmapply.io](https://louisrielsmapply.io)



[louisrielinstitute.ca](https://louisrielinstitute.ca)  
[lribursaries@lrilearn.ca](mailto:lribursaries@lrilearn.ca)  
[@louisrielinstitute](https://louisrielinstitute)  
©Louis Riel Institute, 2024



Youth  
Programming

## Youth Basketball Clinic

The Youth Department invites Red River Métis youth, **ages 15-18**,  
to join us for this exciting opportunity.

**Sea Bears Game:** Sea Bears Basketball Clinic participants will receive  
one free ticket to attend the National Indigenous People's Day Game.

- Location: Canada Life Centre, 300 Portage Ave, Winnipeg, MB
- Date: June 19, 2024
- Time: 7:00 p.m.

**Sea Bears Basketball Clinic:** Youth participants will have the  
opportunity to learn basketball fundamentals, skills, and drills at the  
Sea Bears Basketball Clinic from elite coaches.

- Location: Canada Life Centre, 300 Portage Ave, Winnipeg, MB
- Date: June 20, 2024
- Time: 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

**Limited Spots Available!**

For more information or to register, please email  
Rudi Hough at [rudi.hough@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:rudi.hough@mmf.mb.ca)