



**Energy,
Infrastructure &
Resource Management**

Winnipeg Annual Regional Meeting

**ENERGY, INFRASTRUCTURE
AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**
Department Report

The Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) **Energy, Infrastructure and Resource Management (EIRM) Department** advances Red River Métis rights, interests, and leadership in the stewardship of lands, waters, natural resources, and infrastructure across the National Homeland. Established to address the growing impacts of climate change, environmental pressures, and industrial development, EIRM ensures that Red River Métis voices are represented in decisions that shape our future.

The Department is led by six ministerial portfolios:



which work collaboratively to protect Red River Métis rights, strengthen environmental stewardship, support sustainable development, and create opportunities for Citizens.

Through its programs, partnerships, monitoring, consultations, and policy work, EIRM empowers Red River Métis Citizens to play a meaningful role in caring for the National Homeland while advancing economic opportunities, cultural practices, and community resilience for future generations.



AGRICULTURE

MINISTER DAVID BEAUDIN

2025-2026 HIGHLIGHTS



Food Security Initiative + Riel House Garden

The 2025 growing season marked the first harvest from the MMF's Food Security Greenhouses in Winnipeg, complementing the long-standing gardens at Riel House National Historic Site

- ∞ **Thousands of pounds** of fresh produce harvested.
- ∞ **258 vegetable shares** distributed to Red River Métis Citizens through the MMF's Winnipeg Regional Office.
- ∞ Completion of the **Riel House Healing Garden**, featuring a handcrafted bison bench by a Red River Métis artisan, along with fruit trees and shrubs that will provide food and enjoyment for years to come.



At-Home Garden Project

To help Citizens grow their own food, the Agriculture Portfolio distributed **279 locally built garden boxes**, constructed by Red River Métis contractors and provided through the MMF's Winnipeg Regional Office.



Bison

The MMF continued to support traditional food security through its bison herd.

- ∞ **10 bison** were harvested, producing more than **3,500 lbs** of meat.
- ∞ In Winnipeg Region, **93 Elders** received bison meat, providing more than **200 traditional meals** for Citizens and their families.



Workshops/Training Opportunities

Throughout the year, Citizens had opportunities to build food knowledge and reconnect with traditional practices through workshops, including:

- ∞ Traditional food preparation and preservation (including pemmican making and canning)
- ∞ Reimagining Red River Métis Foods workshop
- ∞ Province-wide online Food Handler Certification training



Red River Métis Farmers' Market Day

The third annual Red River Métis Farmers' Market Day brought Citizens together to celebrate Red River Métis entrepreneurship, food, and culture through local vendors, live entertainment, jigging, and hands-on demonstrations.

Looking Ahead (2026-2027):

The Agriculture Portfolio will continue to strengthen food security and traditional food systems by:

- ∞ Expanding harvests from the food security greenhouses and Riel House gardens.
- ∞ Upgrading food security greenhouse infrastructure with solar power, remote monitoring, and composting systems.
- ∞ Creating new education, training, and economic opportunities for Red River Métis farmers, ranchers, harvesters, and Citizens interested in food production and traditional horticulture.

For more information regarding the work of the Agriculture Portfolio, including support for agricultural producers, please visit the Agriculture Portfolio webpage: <https://www.mmf.mb.ca/agriculture>

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

MINISTER DAVID BEAUDIN

2025-2026 HIGHLIGHTS



RED RIVER MÉTIS STEWARDS OF THE HOMELAND

The **Red River Métis Stewards of the Homeland Program** continued to engage Red River Métis Citizens through hands-on environmental stewardship, land-based learning, and climate initiatives across the MMF's Winnipeg Region. Key activities included:

- ∞ Aquatic Monitoring Training and Red River Métis Culture Day.
- ∞ A Traditional Food Production, Preparation and Preservation Workshop in partnership with the Agriculture Portfolio.
- ∞ Habitat restoration, environmental monitoring, and traditional harvesting education for Winnipeg Region Citizens.



MELT

The MELT program continued to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards through land-based learning and climate education. Highlights included:

- ∞ **Regional Environmental Day Camps** featuring canoeing, fishing, water quality testing, wildlife, identification, and climate education.
- ∞ Farm and ranch tours showcasing climate-smart agriculture and environmental stewardship.
- ∞ **The Mini Climate Symposium** at FortWhyte Alive.
- ∞ **The Red River Métis On the Ice event**, connecting Youth with Elders and Knowledge Holders while exploring climate change through a Red River Métis perspective.



Citizen Science in Action

Red River Métis Citizen Scientists continued to monitor and protect the environment through the Métis Community-Based Climate Monitoring Program. Key activities included:

- ∞ Water quality, wetland, winter, and weather monitoring.
- ∞ Bird counts, nature walks, environmental workshops, and other citizen science activities.
- ∞ Continued operation of the Weather Keeper Program, providing locally collected weather and climate data.



Building Climate Resilience

The Portfolio helped strengthen community preparedness for extreme weather and environmental emergencies by:

- ∞ Delivering six Personal Preparedness webinars focused on seasonal hazards.
- ∞ Providing emergency preparedness starter kits to participants.
- ∞ Hosting a three-day Spring Break program that combined environmental education with personal safety training for Red River Métis Youth.



Protecting Red River Métis Knowledge

The MMF continued conducting Métis Knowledge Land Use and Occupancy Study (MKLUOS) interviews, documenting historical and present-day land use to support consultation, environmental planning, and the protection of Red River Métis rights.

Looking Ahead (2026-2027):

The Environment & Climate Change Portfolio will continue to:

- ∞ Deliver land-based stewardship programming through the Stewards of the Homeland and MELT programs.
- ∞ Expand emergency preparedness education and update Regional Emergency Plans.
- ∞ Support Citizen Scientists through ongoing climate monitoring and training opportunities.
- ∞ Continue conducting MKLUOS interviews across the National Homeland.



ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE

MINISTER JACK PARK

2025-2026 HIGHLIGHTS



Environmental & Heritage Monitoring

Red River Métis environmental monitors, construction monitors, and heritage specialists were deployed on projects throughout the Winnipeg Region to help protect culturally and environmentally significant areas. Key projects included:

- ∞ CentrePort Canada development
- ∞ Winnipeg Airports Authority Airport Area West Industrial Expansion
- ∞ Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure projects



Working with Manitoba Hydro

The MMF continued to strengthen its partnership with Manitoba Hydro through the **Revitalization Agreement Working Group**, advancing priorities that support Red River Métis Citizens. This work included:

- ∞ Advocating for Red River Métis rights and interests on Hydro projects.
- ∞ Creating opportunities for Citizen employment and Red River Métis business procurement.
- ∞ Studying long-term impacts to waterways through the Coordinated Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP).
- ∞ Reviewing contaminated sites and mitigation plans in the Winnipeg Region.
- ∞ Representing the MMF on Manitoba Hydro's **Technical Advisory Committee**, helping shape the utility's long-term **Integrated Resource Plan**.



Advancing Energy Efficiency

The MMF continued to represent Red River Métis Citizens on Efficiency Manitoba's **Energy Efficiency Advisory Group**, ensuring provincial energy efficiency programs better reflect the needs and priorities of our Citizens.



Métis Energy Efficiency Offers (MEEO)

Through the MMF's partnership with Efficiency Manitoba, eligible Red River Métis households can access energy-saving upgrades, rebates, and home efficiency improvements that help reduce utility costs while making homes more comfortable and energy efficient. For more information, please reach out to **meeo@mmf.mb.ca** today.

Looking Ahead (2026-2027):

The Energy & Infrastructure Portfolio will continue to:

- ∞ Advocate for Red River Métis rights, claims, and interests on infrastructure and resource development projects.
- ∞ Work with project proponents and regulators to reduce impacts on the National Homeland.
- ∞ Expand opportunities for Red River Métis Citizen employment, procurement, and partnerships.
- ∞ Continue providing technical reviews and recommendations to support informed decision-making and responsible development.

For more information and to review E&I's technical reporting and mitigation recommendations for projects across the National Homeland of the Red River Métis, please visit our webpage here: <https://www.mmf.mb.ca/energy-and-infrastructure>.

MINING

MINISTER VINCENT MARK PARENTEAU | ASSOCIATE MINISTER MILDRED DORION

2025-2026 HIGHLIGHTS



EIRM continued to expand opportunities for Red River Métis Citizens to learn about and participate in Manitoba's mining sector through the **Digging Deeper program**. Work included:

- ∞ Two educational events
- ∞ A guided mine tour
- ∞ Youth programming
- ∞ Environmental monitoring activities that connected Citizens with mining careers and stewardship.



Mining Crown-Indigenous Consultation

The MMF participated in **12 provincial Crown consultation processes** for mineral exploration projects, advocating for Red River Métis rights by identifying potential impacts and recommending appropriate mitigation and accommodation measures.



Mining Industry Engagement

The Mining Portfolio continued to strengthen relationships with mining proponents through early engagement, technical reviews, and environmental monitoring. Key partnerships included:

- ∞ Tanco Mine
- ∞ Hudbay Minerals Inc.
- ∞ Silex Resources
- ∞ Grid Metals Corp.
- ∞ PADCOM

The MMF also continued discussions with Manitoba on the management of orphaned and abandoned mine sites.



Improving Consultation

Work continued on the development of a **Red River Métis Mineral Exploration and Development Protocol Agreement**, incorporating Citizen feedback to establish a more meaningful, distinctions-based consultation process for future mining projects.



Supporting Environmental Research

In partnership with the University of Winnipeg, the MMF launched the **Red River Métis Oil Spill Impact Study and Response Plan**, combining Red River Métis Knowledge with scientific research to strengthen emergency preparedness and environmental protection across the National Homeland.

Looking Ahead (2026-2027):

The Mining Portfolio will continue to:

- ∞ Expand Digging Deeper education and Citizen engagement opportunities.
- ∞ Advocate for Red River Métis rights through Crown consultation and project reviews.
- ∞ Strengthen partnerships with mining proponents through early engagement and environmental monitoring.
- ∞ Finalize and implement the Red River Métis Mineral Exploration and Development Protocol Agreement.
- ∞ Advance the Red River Métis Oil Spill Impact Study and Response Plan, including regional risk assessments and field studies.
- ∞ Continue protecting Red River Métis rights, interests, and environmental stewardship across the National Homeland.

To learn more about current mining initiatives and technical reports, visit the MMF Mining webpage:
<https://www.mmf.mb.ca/mining>



NATURAL RESOURCES, WILDLIFE & TRADITIONAL LANDS

MINISTER WILL GOODON

2025-2026 HIGHLIGHTS



Tree Planting Initiative

The MMF continued to support biodiversity, food security, and environmental stewardship across the Winnipeg Region. Highlights included:

- ∞ **1,477 trees and shrubs** distributed to **63 Red River Métis Citizens** through the 2025 program.
- ∞ **776 trees and shrubs** distributed to **32 Citizens** through the 2026 spring intake.
- ∞ **43 fruit-bearing trees and shrubs** planted at the MMF's Winnipeg Food Security Greenhouse, expanding onsite food production.
- ∞ A **Seed Sharing Circle Workshop** hosted as part of the Seed Collection Network, promoting traditional knowledge and native plant stewardship.



Protecting Species at Risk

The MMF continued advancing Red River Métis leadership in species at risk conservation through community engagement and habitat restoration. Highlights included:

- ∞ Community consultation meetings on proposed Species at Risk listings, including the Mudpuppy, Common Nighthawk, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and American Badger.
- ∞ Construction of an **artificial Chimney Swift tower** in partnership with Métis N4 Construction and the MMF Housing Department to provide critical nesting habitat.
- ∞ A successful nesting season, with a breeding pair raising young in the tower, contributing to the recovery of this endangered species.



Parks Canada Partnership

The MMF continued working with Parks Canada to ensure Red River Métis rights, interests, and perspectives are reflected in the stewardship of culturally significant places across the National Homeland. Highlights included:

- ∞ Leading the care and maintenance of **Riel House National Historic Site**, supporting seasonal cultural programming, traditional gardens, and summer employment opportunities for Red River Métis Youth.
- ∞ Continuing stewardship efforts at **Victory at Frog Plain National Historic Site**, preserving another important site connected to Red River Métis history.
- ∞ Advancing the MMF's long-term goal of restoring Red River Métis stewardship of culturally significant sites, with continued progress toward the **proposed transfer** of Riel House National Historic Site.
- ∞ Representing Red River Métis interests in the management of six Parks Canada-administered places in Manitoba, while participating in the planning of five proposed protected areas and two Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs).



Greenspace and Natural Corridors Plan Bylaw and Biodiversity Policy

The MMF is contributing to the co-development of the City of Winnipeg's Biodiversity & Greenspace Plan and By-Law to ensure Red River Métis rights and priorities are embedded in urban greenspace planning. MMF priorities include Indigenous-led freshwater monitoring, restoration of wetland ecosystems, cultural land-based learning, protection of sacred spaces, and the reintroduction of native plant species.

Looking Ahead (2026-2027):

The Natural Resources, Wildlife and Traditional Lands Portfolio will continue to:

- ∞ Expand tree planting and habitat restoration initiatives across the National Homeland, including a fall evergreen distribution in September. Citizens interested in participating can contact trees@mmf.mb.ca for more information.
- ∞ Continue monitoring the Chimney Swift tower to track activity, evaluate breeding success, and support the recovery of this endangered species.
- ∞ Advance Red River Métis leadership in species at risk conservation through ongoing research, habitat enhancement, and community engagement.
- ∞ Strengthen partnerships with Parks Canada by continuing to advocate for Red River Métis rights and interests in existing and proposed protected areas, while participating in the co-development of the Greenspace Project and Biodiversity Policy as they move toward finalization.



TRADITIONAL ECONOMIES

MINISTER DARREL FERLAND

2025-2026 HIGHLIGHTS



Commercial Fishing Net Program

The MMF continued to support Red River Métis commercial fishers through the Commercial Fishing Net Program.

- ∞ More than **2,000 commercial fishing nets** were distributed.
- ∞ Over **200 Red River Métis commercial fishers** benefited from the program.



Mapleleaf Mussel Conservation

The MMF continued its research to better understand and protect the endangered Mapleleaf Mussel.

- ∞ eDNA samples were collected from **55 sites** across southern Manitoba by MMF staff and University of Manitoba summer students.
- ∞ Results from the 2025–2026 sampling season will help guide future conservation efforts.



Restoring Aquatic Ecosystems

With support from **Fisheries and Oceans Canada**, the MMF continued identifying waterways across the National Homeland that are priorities for future restoration projects.



Commercial Vessel Safety Training

In partnership with the **Canadian Coast Guard** and the **Western Arctic Marine Training Centre**, the MMF delivered commercial vessel safety training for Red River Métis Citizens, including:

- ∞ Small Domestic Vessel Basic Safety
- ∞ Small Vessel Operator Proficiency



Lake Winnipeg Research

Through funding from the **Canada Water Agency**, Red River Métis summer students participated in sustainable fisheries research and water quality monitoring aboard the **Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium's** research vessel, Namao, helping build knowledge to support the long-term health of Lake Winnipeg.

Looking Ahead (2026-2027):

The Traditional Economies Portfolio will continue to:

- ∞ Monitor water quality and support sustainable fisheries research on Lake Winnipeg.
- ∞ Use the results of the Mapleleaf Mussel study to guide future conservation efforts.
- ∞ Support Red River Métis commercial fishers through training, Traditional Knowledge collection, and water quality monitoring.
- ∞ Work with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to identify and prioritize aquatic habitat restoration projects across the National Homeland.

To learn more visit the MMF Traditional Economies webpage: <https://www.mmf.mb.ca/traditional-economies>

For a full overview of the **Energy, Infrastructure and Resource Management (EIRM) Department's** programs, services, and initiatives, please visit the MMF EIRM webpages at <https://www.mmf.mb.ca>



**Energy,
Infrastructure &
Resource Management**

200 Main Street | Winnipeg, MB, R3C 1A8 | info@mmf.mb.ca