



Le Métis

EST. 1871



We recently marked the celebration of Easter with friends and family. This is also the end of Lent, and for those who observed it, this means the time of devotions and reflections is at an end. Denying ourselves the things we enjoy is not easy, but I know those who undertook Lent received strength and peace, and gained a new appreciation for the things we didn't allow ourselves for 40 days. Whether you observed Lent or not, I hope you all had a peaceful and joyous Easter and are excited about the renewed energy that comes with spring.

Continuing to consult with our Citizens

We are well into our consultation with Citizens about our modern-day Treaty. The response we have received from attendees has been wholehearted and enthusiastic. It's clear that our Citizens understand the importance of the Treaty as a framework for the future and a way to forever secure our place in Canada's Confederation.

It is powerful to see all the people who have been moved to tears by this historic moment. Many Citizens have shared with me that they are thinking about their relatives who have passed on, those patriots who fought so hard for this time to arrive. I am proud that our meetings are allowing our Citizens to renew their sense of pride in our progress as a people and honour the memories of the patriots who came before us. Our people are dreaming of a bright future again, and understand that we are building a legacy that will ensure we will never again be Canada's forgotten people.

While this dream is a patriotic one, it is also a practical one. There are programs and services needed by our Citizens, and your Red River Métis Government is in the best position to design and deliver supports that meet your needs. While we continue to advocate for more funding for all Citizens, we continue to build on our existing supports for Citizens. We have many new child

care centres opening, housing programs underway, mobile health clinics coming to our communities, and many more initiatives. We are also getting close to opening our Dauphin pharmacy and I look forward to the official grand opening of this facility.

I also want to remind our Citizens that filling your prescriptions at our pharmacies helps us provide medications to seniors and Elders. All the proceeds of our pharmacies are and will continue to be dedicated to programs and services, and as we continue to open more pharmacies, our ability to expand on programs also grows.

Our Treaty and our Land Claim

Even as we are travelling to meet with our Citizens to discuss our Treaty, we are also continuing to advance our agenda with the federal government. This is the way we continue to make progress toward our goals, by continuing our efforts on multiple fronts. That's why we met with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Minister Marc Miller on March 20: to speak about the settlement of our historic Land Claim and finally close the dark chapter on Canada's history.

During our meeting, the Prime Minister reaffirmed his continued commitment, first made in front of our 2013 AGA and repeated continuously since then, that he intends to settle our Land Claim by the end of his current term.

The promise made to our People in 1870 was broken and we know that the promise made by this government will not be broken.

Spring harvest and renewal

With spring coming, I know many harvesters are watching the skies, looking for the returning duck and geese. This is not only a sign that spring weather is on its way, it's also a signal for the spring harvest. There's nothing that beats the taste of spring ducks and geese, and I look forward to enjoying it.

Citizen Harvesters have shared with me their concerns about Avian influenza, or "bird flu," affecting the ducks and geese coming back to our Homeland. Citizens should know that the risk of you or your loved ones getting bird flu from wild meat is extremely low, and the viruses that produce it usually do not infect humans. However, it is always wise to take precautions to avoid any issues. Make sure you wash your hands and work surface thoroughly after you've cleaned your harvest, and cook it well before eating.

Still, Red River Métis Harvesters can take precautions while handling game meat by avoiding birds that appear sick, and making sure that the meat is thoroughly cooked before it's enjoyed. We will continue to monitor the effects of avian influenza on the wildlife population in Manitoba, and provide you with the best and most current guidance available.

President's Message

I extend my best wishes to those Citizens who will honour our traditions by harvesting from our Homeland this season. As always, it's vital that Citizens follow our harvesting laws, including making sure you have your harvesting card and remembering to share the bounty of your harvest with Elders and vulnerable members of our community. Abiding by our harvesting laws and sharing with the community are important parts of how we honour our Ancestors and keep our culture and traditions alive. As you undertake the spring harvest, stay safe and remember – your Red River Métis Government has your back.

Until we meet, I offer my prayers to all our 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. ∞



MMF introduces historic funding for Red River Métis agriculture producers across our National Homeland



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David Beaudin, Minister of Agriculture for the MMF, speaks at the opening ceremonies of Manitoba Ag Days in January 2023.

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) is taking applications for the newly developed Red River Métis On-Farm Climate Action Program.

The program's \$4.8 million is funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Agricultural Climate Solutions – On-Farm Climate Action Fund.

The program provides Red River Métis agriculture producers across our National Homeland with non-repayable cost-shared funding of up to \$75,000.

David Beaudin, Minister of Agriculture for the MMF, said the funding helps producers adopt and implement Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs).

"This program will help them with those practices and encourages applicants to include components of their traditional knowledge and practices into their action plan when applying for funding," he said. "This tackles some of the new (ways of farming), but also some of the traditional farming we do. So, this money will go a long way."

Management practices that reduce or eliminate environmental risks and impacts are considered BMPs. There are three categories of funding Red River Métis producers can apply to: Nitrogen Management BMPs, Cover Cropping BMPs, and Rotational Grazing BMPs.

The On-Farm Climate Action Fund aims to reduce the impacts associated with inefficient applications of fertilizers and leaving cropland bare, which exposes the soil to wind and water erosion.

"We should look beyond the benefits to the agricultural line itself, but also include the benefits to the surrounding and adjacent lands and waters, such as minimizing fertilizer runoff into our waterways," said Minister Beaudin.

He hopes the action fund provides a sense of self-gain for agriculture producers and puts them in a position to become leaders for the Red River Métis farmers and ranchers of tomorrow.

The MMF's Agriculture Portfolio describes the On-Farm Climate Action Fund as history in the making, because this is one of the first programs offered to Red River Métis Citizens beyond borders.

"This is segueing right into our treaty and our rights as Red River Métis Citizens. No matter where we live, the Manitoba Métis Federation has their back," said Minister Beaudin. "We're getting out of the gate first. Agriculture and food are important, but so is providing opportunities for our Red River Métis farmers and ranchers, no matter where they live."

The Red River Métis have depended on the land, waters, and resources of our National Homeland for generations to support our families.

"We've always been hunter-gatherers as a Red River Métis Nation. We've always done the buffalo hunt. Now the hunt is different, but the principles are the same," he said. "We're hunting for food and sustenance for our families, but while we do this, we also grow our food."

Minister Beaudin added that in the winter, many Citizens rely on pickling and preserving practices from a fall harvest, and he is happy the MMF keeps producing at the agricultural level.

"With increasing climate uncertainty, we must be aware of our farming practices," he said. "Perhaps we have to make some adjustments, and (it) takes time to document and monitor. That includes (monitoring and documenting) water tables and soil conditions."

With Earth Day around the corner on April 22, Minister Beaudin believes more needs to be done, as statistics show the climate is changing and the earth is heating up.

"With a warming planet, we need to look at how we sustain our agriculture in a warmer environment. If that means that we have to adapt, the Red River Métis have always adapted, changed, and (remained) innovative," he said. "Perhaps we're going to look at bringing back more of our three sisters planting techniques instead of rows and rows of corn."

Minister Beaudin hopes others including the Government of Manitoba will take notice of the MMF's Agriculture Portfolio with this new stream of funding available to Red River Métis agricultural producers and will then want to support the MMF in our plans to support more of our Red River Métis Citizens with additional agricultural and food security programming.

"I think we have a lot of opportunity to be world leaders in agriculture, even though we're small and don't have million-dollar combines," he said. "But we certainly have the knowledge, technique, and willpower to make (agriculture) sustainable."



Red River Métis On-Farm Climate Action Program

Applicants must:

- ∞ Be a Red River Métis Citizen (18+), currently involved in agricultural production in Canada.
- ∞ Own a minimum share of 50% of the land and provide proof of ownership.
- ∞ Get signed consent from the landowner(s) and provide proof of possession if using rented or Crown land.
- ∞ Demonstrate that their project will introduce new eligible practices or improve their practices.
- ∞ Have the MMF approve costs and activities before incurring expenses.
- ∞ Benefit the land's health and surrounding ecosystem.
- ∞ Include their Red River Métis values and traditions in the application, provided they can explain how they fit within the eligible project activities and costs.

The Red River Métis On-Farm Climate Action Program accepts applications on a first come, first serve basis. Applications and fact sheets are available on the MMF's website at: mmf.mb.ca/on-farm-climate-action-fund.





Red River Métis volunteer bestowed with Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal



Lorraine Kehler was awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal for dedication to her community.

Red River Métis Citizen Lorraine Kehler received a Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal for her countless hours giving back and volunteering within her community.

Kehler felt honoured and was surprised to be one of 1,000 Manitobans selected to receive the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal.

She often volunteers with the Bear Clan, Elmwood Unity Walking Group, Harvest Manitoba, Koats for Kids, and Rainbow Stage.

The Red River Métis volunteer recently took a hiatus, but looks forward to coming back and making a difference within her chosen organizations.

"My family lost our mom to dementia, and it's been difficult losing her," said Kehler.

She is now teaching students to make ribbon skirts at River Elm School, and is volunteering at the World Police and Fire Games in July.

Last year, the Government of Manitoba announced it would distribute Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medals to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to the Throne. The award is given to individuals who: are a resident of Manitoba or have a link to Manitoba; have contributed to Canada, Manitoba, or a particular region or community; and were alive during the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the throne.

Kehler has been inspired to dedicate her time and energy to her community for quite some time.

"When I was a community support worker with Winnipeg School Division, I connected to some of these valuable organizations for work," she said. "I enjoy supporting these organizations as they are all important to the people and the communities we live in."

Kehler accepted the award from Premier Heather Stefanson, Concordia MLA Matt Wiebe, and Manitoba Lieutenant-Governor Anita Neville.

While her hard work is now paying off with this prestigious award, Kehler had a rough journey to this point.

"I have not had an easy life having to live in care at a young age. (My) parents were transient, (we) lived in poverty, (there was) alcoholism, physical abuse, and no positive role models, to name a few," she said.

Kehler had her children young and knew that she would figure out how to give them a good life.

"I went back to school, worked for (the Winnipeg) School Division for 33 years, volunteered over the years to learn how to be a good role model for my kids and (break) the negative life cycles," she said. "I can give back to community members because I understand what they are going through. My two kids are wonderful, independent people, and (I know) my granddaughters will never go through the hardships that I went through."

The Red River Métis Citizen was denied a connection to her heritage when she was younger but is eager to learn more about her culture and further connect to the community through volunteering.

"I was put in foster homes and not allowed to speak my language – no music, no family bonding, and (I had to) cut my hair really short and (was) made to be ashamed of who I am," she said. "I've only started to learn more about this beautiful community of people over the last 10 years."

Other Red River Métis Citizens who received the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal include: Frances Chartrand, Minister of Health and Early Learning Child Care and Vice-President of the Northwest Region; Elder Barbara Bruce; and Melissa Brown.

Community Photo

Le Métis' Community Photo section invites Red River Métis Citizens to send in photos to be featured in our newsletter. If you have a photo that celebrates the Red River Métis, send it to communications@mmf.mb.ca and you may see it in print!



The Manitoba Métis Federation kicked off our first beyond borders Red River Self-Government Treaty consultation in Ottawa on April 4, 2023!

A huge thank you to all Citizens who joined us for these historic consultations. Visit mmf.mb.ca for more information and to register for upcoming consultations.

Please note, all participants are required to submit their Citizenship number to attend a consultation meeting.



JOIN OUR TEAM



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& Training**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE MMF'S
MÉTIS EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING DEPARTMENT?
WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING APPLICANTS TO JOIN OUR TEAM:**

**FINANCE CLERK, YOUTH PROGRAMMING
(WINNIPEG)**

**PROJECT OFFICER
(WINNIPEG)**

**REGIONAL COORDINATOR
(SOUTHWEST)**

**PROJECT OFFICER, TERM
(SOUTHEAST)**

**REGIONAL YOUTH WORKER
(THOMPSON)**

**The MMF's Regions are busy working hard for our Red River Métis Citizens!
Look out for these upcoming events:**

Southeast Region:

Citizenship Drive:
April 15 from 10am to 4pm
Pat Porter Active Living Centre,
10 Chrysler Gate, Steinbach
204-380-9198
terryvandale@outlook.com

Health and Wellness Mobile Clinic:
April 21 from 10am to 3pm
Céntré Jean Desrosiers,
154 St. Malo Street, St. Malo
Contact Edith Desrosiers at
204-347-5435 to book an appointment

Interlake Region:

Métis Mobile Clinic:
April 28 from 10am to 3pm
St. Laurent Youth Centre, Lot 28,
St. Laurent Drive, St. Laurent
Contact Penny Fleming
at 204-646-2706

Interlake Region Historic Consultation:

May 13 from 9am to 5pm
Memorial Hall,
376 Jemima Street, Selkirk
Please contact Tashina McKay at
204-646-2706 or
tashina.mckay@mmf.mb.ca

**Are you holding an event in your Region?
Email us at communications@mmf.mb.ca**

