



Le Métis

∞ EST. 1871 ∞

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Recently, we celebrated Canada Day – a valuable time to reflect on the role of the Red River Métis as Canada's partner in Confederation and the only Indigenous People to be the founders of a province. More than 150 years later, the Red River Métis have a vibrant culture and a strong government with a ratified modern-day Treaty with Canada. We have a bright future ahead of us, thanks to the will and guidance of our Citizens. I hope the Canada Day long weekend was a chance for you to enjoy time with your families.

Over the holiday, I reflected on the renewed government-to-government relationship we have with Canada and what this means for reconciliation with Red River Métis. It has been two years since we signed our *Manitoba Métis Self-Government and Implementation Agreement* which helped start the incredible momentum we are experiencing today. While the road to true reconciliation is not straightforward, I am proud of what we have achieved. More than ever, we are partnering with Canada to deliver essential programs and services to better the lives of Red River Métis Citizens.

For example, on July 4, the MMF was proud to host a joint funding announcement with Canada at 335 Main Street, the future home of the Red River Métis

National Culture and Heritage Centre. Together, we announced more than \$12.68 million in funding from Prairies Economic Development Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada. The MMF is contributing an additional \$2 million to Métis Economic and Community Development, bringing the total investment to more than \$14 million. This funding will help support the success of Red River Métis entrepreneurs, farmers, ranchers, and producers. Almost one million dollars of this funding will help create the Red River Métis National Culture and Heritage Centre.

When complete, our Centre will be a place for us to tell our history as the Flower Beadwork People, Otipemisiwak, Michif, and the people of the Red River Cart and the Red River Jig. Visitors will learn that the Red River Métis are the people of the Buffalo Hunt, who wrote the Laws of the Prairie. Taking ownership of our identity, honouring our past, and celebrating our success is an important responsibility all Citizens share. There will be many opportunities to do this across our Homeland all summer.

From July 14–16, the MMF will mark Ste. Madeleine Days on the site of the former village in western Manitoba. This important event celebrates the culture and resilience of the Red River Métis families who were forced from their community when 35 homes, the store, and school were burned to the ground by the government to make way for more pastureland for settler farmers. Attending events like Ste. Madeleine Days and others across our Homeland are important ways to gather with our families and friends to celebrate and be proud of who we are, while commemorating the strength of our Ancestors who endured so much hardship.

Like all Red River Métis celebrations, Ste. Madeleine Days includes music, dancing, food, and many talented Red River Métis artisans selling their work at a variety of different booths. You can visit mmf.mb.ca to view the events calendar and find information on how to get there. I always look forward to seeing the many families and friends gathering to enjoy this time together and I especially look forward to visiting with Citizens. I will also be spending time with our Elders across our Regions. Paying visits to their homes and sharing many important moments in their company is an honour I look forward to.

In addition to these visits, I will be travelling across Manitoba to attend Regional Meetings this summer. The Northwest Regional meeting will be held on Saturday, August 12 and the Southwest Regional meeting on August 13. At Regional Meetings, elected members of each Local provide feedback and vote on resolutions that help to guide the work of the Regions and the work of our government. The meetings are also an opportunity for your Red River Métis government to hear about the hard work and success of each Local. Never forget that our Locals are the heartbeat of our grassroots and the core of our democracy.

The momentum from events like Ste. Madeleine Days and our Regional Meetings will build as we approach our Annual General Assembly (AGA) held at Assiniboia Downs from September 15–17. Each year, the AGA reflects our commitment to our democratic traditions that have existed since the Buffalo Hunt when we wrote the Laws of the Prairie. Please watch the MMF website and our social media channels for more information on participating in our AGA this September.

Thank you, as always, for the faith you put in my leadership as your President. 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. ∞



RED RIVER MÉTIS ECE II STUDENT GRADUATES WITH HONOURS



Caitlin-Sierra Fedoriw successfully completed her Early Childhood Education II certificate program at the Northern Lights Institute of Trades and Technology.

Red River Métis Citizen Caitlin-Sierra Fedoriw is fulfilling her lifelong passion for working with children by pursuing a career as an ECE II.

Fedoriw recently graduated from the Early Childhood Education(ECE)II program offered by the Northern Lights Institute of Trades and Technology through the Louis Riel Vocational College. The educator has achieved academic excellence in her program and will be graduating with honours this year. She aspires to make a meaningful contribution to the community of Swan River by utilizing her education to serve in their local daycare services.

"I hope that my journey can inspire others who may be facing similar challenges. I want to send a message of hope and resilience, reminding Youth that their circumstances do not define their potential," said Fedoriw. "With determination, support, and a relentless pursuit of their dreams, they can overcome adversity and achieve their goals."

Born and raised in Swan River, the 25-year-old started working with young children at the age of 12, providing her babysitting services to families in her community. By the time she was 15, she spent her summers as a counsellor for the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) Day Camp in Mafeking, Manitoba. The following year, she continued her work with young children as a staff member at the Elbert

Chartrand Friendship Centre Day Camp located in Swan River.

She began her career in childhood education at a regional daycare in Swan River while enrolled in ECE courses at the age of 18. She relocated to Alberta for a short period of time, then later resumed her work as a nanny upon her return to Swan River.

It was during this time that she recognized the need to advance her education, leading to further pursuit of her studies.

"I would say it's never too late to begin your post-secondary journey and to continuously learn and adapt, network, and build relationships, and showcase your projects," Fedoriw said. "Embrace lifelong learning, connect with industry professionals, and let your portfolio and identity speak volumes. Success awaits those who embrace growth and seize every opportunity."

Fedoriw is grateful to the MMF for providing support to pursue her education in the ECE program.

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"I was thankful that with the help of the Manitoba Métis Federation and Métis Employment and Training, my whole tuition, books, and living allowances were paid in full," she said. "The MMF always followed up via monthly email and phone calls to check in and make sure school was going well and to make sure I had the proper support."

In addition to the MMF's assistance, Fedoriw attributes her successes to the incredible support systems she had in place throughout her academic journey.

"I have so many mixed emotions about graduating this year. If you had asked me years ago, I never would have thought I'd successfully graduate from a post-secondary school. Still, it is a bittersweet feeling," she said. "I wouldn't have made it without all of those in my support system, especially my

teacher Cindy. She has always been supportive and goes above and beyond to help. Whether with school or personal life, Cindy is always there and supportive."

Despite encountering multiple health-related obstacles during her academic journey, Fedoriw demonstrated remarkable perseverance, ultimately propelling herself to even greater achievements.

"There were moments when I questioned whether I could continue pursuing my education, let alone graduate with honours. However, I refused to let my circumstances define or limit my potential," she said.

Fedoriw's experience of graduating with honours despite the health challenges she encountered during her academic pursuit has been highly emotional and empowering for the graduate.

"Every time I faced a setback, I reminded myself of my goals and passion for my studies. I knew that my health adversities did not reflect my capabilities or intellect," she said.

Throughout her educational journey, Fedoriw has been enriched with numerous valuable opportunities that have enhanced her understanding of Indigenous-focused early childhood education. In addition to gaining theoretical knowledge related to her field, she had the privilege of applying her newly acquired expertise through diverse educational courses and workshops.

"This achievement has also taught me invaluable life lessons. It has shown me that adversity can catalyze growth and personal development. It has strengthened my ability to persevere, adapt, and find creative solutions to overcome obstacles," said Fedoriw.

From 2016 to 2022, Fedoriw also served as a member of the Northwest Métis Youth Advisory Council.

"During my time on the council I was able to volunteer my time in various communities, learn so much of my Métis culture, and connect with so many other Métis Youth, adults, and Elders (across the Homeland)," she said.

In the future, Fedoriw hopes to make use of the MMF's First Time Home Purchase Program, which will allow her to establish her own home daycare service.



“I WAS BLOWN AWAY:” ALEXANDER DE LA RONDE WINS INDIGENOUS ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD



Red River Métis Citizen Alexander De La Ronde (left) took home the Manitoba Aboriginal Sports and Recreation Council's (MASRC) Male Indigenous Athlete of the Year award.

Lacrosse player Alexander De La Ronde has another award to add to his already impressive collection. The Red River Métis Youth recently took home the Manitoba Aboriginal Sports and Recreation Council's (MASRC) Male Indigenous Athlete of the Year.

The 19-year-old has been involved in the sport for around 15 years and credits his father for introducing him and his siblings to lacrosse.

"(He) played (lacrosse) in Thompson, where he's from. Then, he got my cousin into it, my sister, and then it kept going until he got all of us (brothers) into it," De La Ronde said.

The athlete and his brother Seth would grow up playing lacrosse with the Sidewinders Box Lacrosse Team up to U17.

De La Ronde is a versatile athlete who plays two types of lacrosse: box and field.

Box lacrosse is typically played indoors on a smaller, enclosed field, while field lacrosse is played outdoors on a larger area.

"Box lacrosse is more physical, and field allows you to slow everything down, get set, and make sure you have the right guys on," he said. "I'd say box (lacrosse) is a lot faster. I like them the same."

De La Ronde currently plays box lacrosse with the Manitoba Blizzard Junior team in the Rocky Mountain Lacrosse League Jr. B Tier 1 Division.

The athlete has been a part of four provincial teams, including three for box lacrosse and one field lacrosse team.

"I played for the 2022 Canada Games U17 Team Manitoba Box (lacrosse)," he said. "There was only one over-aged (player) allowed (on the team), and I was lucky enough to be chosen for that role."

At the games hosted in Niagara, Ontario, De La Ronde would post a tournament-leading 24 points in seven games, receiving the Team Manitoba MVP and Team Manitoba Offensive Player of the Year.

The Red River Métis athlete continued his incredible 2022 season by being the named the Manitoba Lacrosse Male Athlete of the Year.

"It was a pretty busy year last year," joked De La Ronde.

The lacrosse player is balancing work and taking some courses at the University of Manitoba. He hopes to attend college and continue playing the sport down south.

De La Ronde wanted to extend his knowledge and passion for the game into a clothing line. He formed DelaxBoys with his brothers and cousin during the pandemic with the goal of promoting lacrosse and their love for the game.

The group would get their first batch of clothing made locally, then held photoshoots to promote the brand, and started to sell shirts. De La Ronde said it feels surreal to see people wearing their merchandise.

"To this day, when you show up to a lacrosse rink, you'll probably see at least one DelaxBoys hoodie, crew neck, or T-shirt," he said. "It's cool to see a little kid wearing something you made."

The Red River Métis athlete didn't know he was nominated for the MASRC Male Indigenous Athlete of the Year award until receiving the news at his sister's birthday party.

"We just finished doing presents, and they said: 'hey, we have one more,' and handed me a package of papers. I said, 'Oh, what's this?' And my sister said, 'We nominated you for the MASRC Male Indigenous Athlete of the Year, and these are all the coaches and people that wrote on your behalf.' I was blown away," he said.

The MASRC celebrated De La Ronde and the other major award winners at a ceremony earlier this year.

"It was a beautiful ceremony. A lot of great people were there, and (the ceremony had) a lot of great speakers," he said.

The Red River Métis Citizen felt it was an honour to receive the award and said it was a real eye-opener for himself.

"I thought, 'wow, I won this award out of all the Indigenous (male) athletes in Manitoba, and I was lucky enough to be even nominated (let alone) win,'" he said.

The lacrosse player is grateful for all the support the Manitoba Métis Federation has provided his family.

"They've helped us a lot (by providing) some extra money to help us pay for our sports. With four kids (in our family playing), the numbers add up, especially if they're playing two sports a year for the last 15 years," he said. "It's just a great government."

COMMUNITY PHOTO

On June 21, we hosted a National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration at Selkirk Park! The event was packed with Red River Métis culture including fiddle performances, jigging, finger weaving, kids' activities, and so much more.

"As always, it is important that Canadians remember that this day is celebrated at the summer solstice, when the sun travels its longest path across the sky," said President Chartrand. "This date is truly symbolic of the long pathway our Nation has had to travel to regain our rightful place in Canada's Confederation."



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!



CITIZEN SPOTLIGHT

STORIES HIGHLIGHTING RED RIVER MÉTIS CITIZENS IN THE COMMUNITY, ALONG WITH MMF PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES, PROJECTS, AND EVENTS.

VISIT MMF.MB.CA FOR MORE INFORMATION



Cattle Ranch & Pasture Tour

Date: July 28, 2023
Location: Amaranth MB
Ages: Kindergarten to Grade 12. Youth under 12 years of age require a parent or guardian to attend.

Youth will have the opportunity to experience a cattle ranch and learn about grazing practices, rangeland and pasture management, soils, etc. This ranch manages 5317 acres of land combined between owned, rented and crown land. It has 120 cow/calf pairs, and 70 finishing animals. Youth will be able to enjoy a wagon ride, and lunch will be provided.

Accommodations will be made in Portage La Prairie. The hotel will be the meeting point and a bus will be used to travel to the farm.

For more information or to register, email Amber Chambers at amber.chambers@mmf.mb.ca.



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