



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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Economic development advancements

As President of the MMF and as Minister Responsible for Economic Development, I take the long-term financial security of your Red River Métis National Government very seriously. You have given me the responsibility for driving the economic initiatives that will allow your government to deliver and expand on the programs and services that support the well-being of Red River Métis Citizens.

In March of 2023, the MMF completed an Economic Impact study of MMF core operations and programming. It covered a four-year period from 2018-2019 to 2021-2022. The MMF generated a total economic impact of \$479.1 million, which does not include the work of our affiliates.

To give you a sense of what these numbers mean for Canadians, for every job created at the MMF, another job is created within the Canadian economy. Each dollar the MMF spends on direct activities generates between \$2 and \$2.50 within the general economy.

Through your Red River Métis Government, you own well over 160 properties, with an assessed value of nearly \$65 million, in over 30 municipalities. These

properties include Citizen housing, commercial developments, spaces to deliver programs and services, governance offices, child care facilities, and more.

The investments I mention here do not even account for the economic supports we provide to Citizens through education and home-buying programs, or the support we've been able to deliver to Red River Métis entrepreneurs. We estimate that there are over 1,000 Red River Métis businesses in Manitoba, with another estimated 1,500 in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Our entrepreneurs are the backbone of the Red River Métis economy just as they were in the historic Northwest before the birth of Canada. We continue to invest in initiatives that support our Nation's entrepreneurial spirit. For example, during the height of the pandemic, the MMF and its affiliates provided financial support to over 900 Red River Métis entrepreneurs and businesses.

The Louis Riel Capital Corporation continues to provide support to Red River Métis-owned businesses. I encourage every entrepreneur to visit our business directory found on the LRCC website so that you too can use Red River Métis-owned businesses. This model of supporting community-based businesses works and allows each Citizen to do their part to contribute to our Nation's economic strength and well-being.

In addition to this, the Government of Canada and the MMF jointly announced funding of \$4 million from Canada and \$2 million provided by the MMF for Métis Economic and Community Development. This funding will deliver distinct, results-driven, and location-based Red River Métis economic and community development activities, including business advisory services, community engagement activities, sectoral expertise, and pathfinding opportunities for Red River Métis businesses and entrepreneurs.

We have been hard at work setting up a business development support model for our entrepreneurs, including Youth and those interested in becoming entrepreneurs. There are now eight Economic and Community Development Officers in place. Our goal with this support model is to place an emphasis on increasing Red River Métis participation in the

economy through entrepreneurship development, business growth, and labour market participation. These officers will deliver economic initiatives for Citizens and act as leads in various sectors of the economy.

The return on Canada's investment in your Red River Métis government is significant. For example, the MMF alone generated more than \$65 million in tax revenue between 2018 and 2022. This shows that funding investments bring a significant rate of return for the Canadian economy – largely thanks to hardworking Red River Métis Citizens. The revenue generated allows us to reinvest in programs and services in healthcare, early childhood education, and our first-time homebuyers' program – all of which focus on the well-being of Citizens.

There are additional Red River Métis economic strategies being developed that we look forward to communicating with you about in the next six months. Just like our people's interest in entrepreneurship, our investments into economic development span a wide range of areas, including traditional economies (trapping and artisanship); commercial fishing; forestry; mining and critical minerals; agriculture; tourism and hospitality; manufacturing/aerospace and defence; and creative industries (film, music, and digital media).

Investing in Traditional Economies

Revitalizing traditional economies, where our people have historically been active economic drivers, remains a priority for us. Many Citizens are already familiar with our work in creating the Red River Métis Fur Company. In the first eight months, more than \$125,000 was spent on 2,350 furs bought from 73 Red River Métis trappers. The intention is to supply furs to Red River Métis artists for leatherwork and other artistic endeavours and to sell more furs on the open market. Sustainable harvesting of fur is not only good for the economy, but it also keeps ecosystems in balance, so that we avoid the destruction that can come from an overabundance of one animal or another in our environment.

Our artists and artisans are already seeing the benefit of our efforts to revive the artisanal beading and crafting work. The MMF has bought over \$220,000 in products from over 70 Red River

Métis artists, including beadworks, leatherworks, paintings, woodworks, designer clothing, etc. We have already sold over \$100,000 of their products through our affiliate retail company and other pop-up markets throughout 2022-23.

Commercial fishing practices have been handed down from generation to generation within many Red River Métis families. Through our Traditional Economies Ministry, led by Minister Darrel Ferland, we are developing a commercial fisheries strategy.

By championing a “lake to plate” approach to a fisheries strategy, we are staying consistent with our holistic view of all our economic endeavours. This allows us to see the bigger picture when looking for new opportunities or exploring new markets.

Don't forget that your Red River Métis-owned Lake Manitoba Resort is opening mid-August. We have made major investments in this campsite and golf course including a new irrigation system, new



greens, and a new, fully stocked Pro Shop. We are accepting applications for our new Phase One Campground, which feature large lots and include full sewer and water hook-ups. Now is an exciting time to make Lake Manitoba Resort your summer camping destination. Sites are leased annually and you can even leave your camper at your site over the winter. All you have to do is select your campsite and get ready for a beautiful summer.

The revenue generated from projects like this are reinvested into Citizens, and the future well-being of our government. The message from our Elders has stayed the same – please create a bright and prosperous future for our Youth.

Celebrating the accomplishments of our Youth

As many of you know, our Youth recently took part in the 10th annual North American Indigenous Games, which took place from July 15-23 in Nova Scotia. Richard Genaille, our Minister of Sports & Youth, was there to honour all our Red River Métis athletes

and cheer them on as they competed for medals. There were over 5,000 athletes, coaches, and team staff from more than 756 Indigenous Nations represented at the games. More than 125 Red River Métis athletes, proudly representing their Homeland, brought home a total of 43 medals in sports like baseball, volleyball, track and field, swimming, wrestling, golf, canoe/kayak, badminton, and more.

I am proud of each of our young Citizens who trained hard and competed with the honour and fighting spirit of the Red River Métis. Make sure you check out the photo spread from the games in this edition of *Le Métis*.

Until we gather, 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. ∞





TELL US WHAT

Ecosystem Integrity

means to you and inform us of species of concern to the Red River Métis.



RED RIVER MÉTIS
STEWARDS
OF THE
HOMELAND

Contact stewards@mmf.mb.ca to learn more about the Red River Métis Stewards of the Homeland Program.



MAKE PLANS FOR AUGUST LONG WEEKEND!

INTERNATIONAL MONARCH MONITORING WEEK IS BACK

From **July 28th to August 6th 2023**, join thousands of Citizen Scientists across Canada, Mexico and the United States and support monarch butterfly conservation.

To take part in this trinational initiative, simply share your monarch and milkweed observations with the Métis Community Based Climate Monitoring Program!

All Red River Métis Citizens who **submit their survey between July 28th to August 6th** will receive honorarium.

If you are interested, please contact the Métis Climate Monitoring Coordinator, Phoenix Combe at phoenix.combe@mmf.mb.ca



Energy Infrastructure & Resource Management



RED RIVER MÉTIS ATHLETES CONQUER 2023 NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES

It was a triumphant showing for Red River Métis athletes at the 2023 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) with 130 Red River Métis athletes making the trek out to Halifax, Nova Scotia, to participate in the 2023 games from July 15-23 under Team Manitoba.

According to the NAIG website, approximately 5,000 athletes, coaches, and team staff from 756 Indigenous Nations competed in 16 sports across 21 venues.

Red River Métis athletes fought hard and came back with a trove of medals. In total, our Youth won 23 gold medals, 15 silver, and five bronze, for a total of 43 medals and 70 individual medallists.

Canoeer/kayaker Luke Enns led all Red River Métis athletes in the medal department, bringing home gold in five of the six events he competed in. Although Enns is proud of all his achievements, his gold medal in the U19 Male Canoe/Kayak MC2 3000m stood out to him because of how hard he trained in preparation for kayaking events.

“That was probably the best medal out of all of them because I got to compete with another person (Robert Spence), and that made it 10 times better,” he said. “We raced beforehand, and I broke a paddle on the first stroke. So, to come back from that and win a gold medal with him was pretty awesome.”

Out of the 25 provinces, territories, and states competing at NAIG, Team Manitoba finished fifth in the final medal standings, with 32 gold, 19 silver, and 18 bronze for a total of 69 medals. With 43 medals, Red River Métis Youth athletes made up more than 60 per cent of Team Manitoba's total medals won at the games.

The Red River Métis Youth competing at the games received support from the Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) Métis Employment and Training (MET) Department, stepping up to the plate with \$195,000 supported under the Believe Program to help cover costs such as registration fees, travel fees, and accommodations for Red River Métis Youth.

Given the costs of participating in any global sporting event like the NAIG, Enns said the financial support from the MMF's MET Youth Programming made all the difference in making his dreams come true.

“Having that support for NAIG made all the difference in my participation,” he said. “I'm super

thankful (the MMF) is supporting me in the sport, because it makes it quite a lot easier to have that opportunity and compete in the sport I love.”

Minister of Sports and Youth Richard Genaille was in attendance at the Opening Ceremony and had the chance to watch a few events. According to Minister Genaille, the games are about so much more than winning.

“They are about the power of an opportunity, the potential of a dream, and the courage to inspire us all. It is within these games that Red River Métis Youth had the opportunity to come together with other Indigenous athletes, learn from each other, empower each other, explore, and strengthen their identity, and **show everyone** – including themselves – just how powerful they can be,” Minister Genaille said. “I congratulate all Red River Métis athletes on their success at NAIG 2023 and for representing our Nation in the best possible way on the world stage.”

GOLD

- ∞ Athletics Javelin 19U Female - Rayna Sanderson
- ∞ Athletics Javelin 16U Female - Jade Pelland
- ∞ Badminton Singles 19U Female - Rylee Normand
- ∞ Badminton Doubles 19U Female - Rylee Normand
- ∞ Badminton Singles 19U Male - Evan Hancock
- ∞ Baseball 19U Mix - Eric Cote, Chris Tetrault, Cody Gunderson, Brett Lucko, Rylan Slatcher, Landon Gudnason, Matthew Thompson, Lincoln Carriere, Logan Dearborn, Mason Hooper, Nixon Carriere, Michael Lindsay, Ryder Duncan
- ∞ Basketball 19U Female - Hope LaRocque, Faith LaRocque, Keara Howden
- ∞ Canoe/Kayak K1 200m 19U Male - Luke Enns
- ∞ Canoe/Kayak- K1 6000m 19U Male Luke Enns
- ∞ Canoe/Kayak K1 3000m 19U Male - Luke Enns
- ∞ Canoe/Kayak K1 1000m 19U Male - Luke Enns
- ∞ Canoe/Kayak MC2 3000m 19U Male - Luke Enns
- ∞ Golf 19U Female - Ashley Garland
- ∞ Softball 16U Female - Chloe Carriere, Paige Powroznik
- ∞ Softball 19U Female - Kaitlyn Davy, Taylor Audette, Hope Ransome, Nevaeh Stinson, Rianne Bass, Finley Folkett, Maddison Dauphinais, Laura Ransome
- ∞ Swimming 200m Individual Medley 14U Female - Brooke Peloquin
- ∞ Swimming 50m Breaststroke 14U Female - Brooke Peloquin
- ∞ Swimming 4x100m Freestyle Relay 16U Male - Hayden Bowman
- ∞ Volleyball 16U Male - Cedric Saurette, Gabriel Beaudin, Hunter Oleschak, Colin Vermette, Logan Barnabe, Owen Giesbrecht
- ∞ Wrestling 66 KG Male - Nikola Coles
- ∞ Wrestling 74 KG Male - Beau Chartrand
- ∞ Wrestling 64 KG Female - Anaka Chartrand
- ∞ Wrestling 52 KG Female- Kaura Coles



2023 NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES

130 Red River Metis athletes participated.

43 medals:

→ **23** gold

→ **15** silver

→ **5** bronze.

→ **61%** of Manitoba's medals won

Most decorated RRM athlete:
Luke Enns with **5** gold medals.

MET funded **\$1,500/** athlete.

SILVER

- ∞ Athletics High Jump 19U Female - Hayley Oleschak
- ∞ Athletics Triple Jump 16U Female - Raina Garland
- ∞ Athletics Long Jump 16U Female - Raina Garland
- ∞ Athletics 4x100m Relay 14U Male - Cashton Barron
- ∞ Athletics 4x400m Relay 14U Male - Cashton Barron
- ∞ Athletics 4x400m Relay 14U Male - Revin Therrien
- ∞ Athletics High Jump 14U Female - Addison Price
- ∞ Badminton Doubles 19U Mix - Rylee Normand, Evan Hancock
- ∞ Swimming 200m Breaststroke 14U Female - Brooke Peloquin
- ∞ Swimming 4x50m Freestyle Relay 14U Female - Brooke Peloquin
- ∞ Swimming 100m Breaststroke 14U Female - Brooke Peloquin
- ∞ Swimming 4x50m Freestyle Relay 14U Female - Isabelle McKechnie
- ∞ Volleyball 19U Male - André Turenne, Nolan Ducharme, Maxime Vermette, Samuel Gurke, Levi Johnston
- ∞ Volleyball 16U Female - Ryann Hay, Macie Urban, Alyssa Cador
- ∞ Wrestling 58 KG Males - Jerin Coles

BRONZE

- ∞ Athletics Shot Put 16U Female- Jade Pelland
- ∞ Athletics 4x100m Relay 14U Female- Addison Price
- ∞ Badminton Singles 16U Female- Kendra Hancock
- ∞ Badminton Doubles 16U Female- Kendra Hancock
- ∞ Golf 16U Male- Payne Wood



130 RED RIVER MÉTIS ATHLETES MADE THE TREK OUT TO HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2023 GAMES FROM JULY 15-23 UNDER TEAM MANITOBA.

