



# Le Métis

∞ EST. 1871 ∞

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



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is always such a joy to gather at our Annual General Assembly. It is a highlight of my year, seeing how happy our people are to get together, reuniting with friends and family, listening to our music, and sharing in our Red River Métis hospitality. It's what fuels me, and gives me the energy and drive to continue to do the work that our Citizens depend on.

Along with our regular business of updating our Citizens on our progress in each portfolio, introducing important constitutional updates and advancing our government, our three-day agenda is also full of entertainment, games, and fun. Our trade show was absolutely stuffed with booths, and Citizens were packed in the aisles, learning more about what our departments and affiliates offer, as well as introducing themselves to Red River Métis-owned businesses. The Red River Festival offered fun for the family, with friendly competitions in laughing, jigging, and moose and duck calling. I congratulate all who participated in the competitions, and hope everyone enjoyed Friday night's first ever Monster Bingo as much as I did.

This year's assembly was so well attended that our Red River Métis Marketplace and Mini AGA were moved outside to tents, alongside our citizenship bus, our Mobile Métis Clinic, our mobile classroom, and our tree-planting trailer. With more than 4,000 in-person attendees, we were a formidable

presence, taking over the entire Assiniboia Downs. We also offered satellite locations to our Beyond Borders Citizens in Toronto, Ottawa, and Vancouver, as well as a satellite location in the Thompson Region for those who could not attend in person.

There can be no doubt that interest in our advancements continues to grow among our Citizens, while at the same time interest in reclaiming heritage and community are growing, as can be seen in the thousands of citizenship applications we continue to receive.

Our growing strength and presence were acknowledged with the powerful words of Premier-designate Wab Kinew, who has faithfully attended many of our past AGAs to listen and learn. This year, he showed his deep and nuanced understanding of our people in his remarks, after being greeted by a roaring crowd, clearly showing our faith in him. He touched all our hearts when he indicated that one of his first acts as Premier would be to introduce legislation recognizing Louis Riel as our province's first Premier. He also committed to righting the historic wrong done in Ste. Madeleine, when a thriving Red River Métis town was burned down to make room for cattle pasture. He told the entire Assembly that he would work to return that land to our people, and I have high confidence that he will do what he promised. It's no surprise that he received several standing ovations during his presentation, because he said words that we have been waiting decades and decades to hear.

Not only did he speak in Saulteaux and repeat my mother's wise advice to me that we should never forget where we come from, but he also added this comment:

"Louis Riel and the Métis Nation are the reason why Manitoba is part of Canada. I want you to know that I understand that, that I revere that, and that I will never forget that."

I was also happy that Canada's Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Gary Anandasangaree came to our Assembly. As he is new to his portfolio, it was important for him to see the sheer size and unity of our democracy in action, and to understand how focused and determined we are to continue our advancement. It's unfortunate that Canada has stated that they have not completed their consultation, which has now delayed the signing of the treaty. However, the message that came from the Minister is that this will get done, which went a long way to reassuring the people in attendance. This commitment was further assured by the Prime Minister himself, directly to my office.

I also extend my thanks to: Minister Dan Vandal; Parliamentary Secretary Terry Duguid, MP; Mayor Scott Gillingham; and the Honourable Anita Neville, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba. I was also happy to see Member of Parliament for Winnipeg South Centre Ben Carr in attendance, following in the footsteps of his late father, Jim Carr, who was always pleased to attend our Assembly.

I extend my thanks and welcome to President Dave Lamouche of the Métis Settlements General Council and RCMP Superintendent Scott McMurphy, and thank Archbishop Gagnon, who delivered our opening prayer and who has continued to carry the message of steadfast friendship for our Nation from the Catholic Church since the Holy Father's apology.

It's worth remembering that the Annual General Assembly is coordinated and executed through the tireless efforts of our staff, many of whom are Citizens themselves. It's not just one weekend of effort – the AGA takes months to plan and organize. Everyone who works the AGA takes pride in creating an exciting and seamless event, where Citizens feel cared for and supported. I thank each and every person who contributes their energy and enthusiasm to making this event possible, including my wife, Glorian, who has ably led the team to many successful AGAs. I was so encouraged by the work of so many of the MMF team, working in partnership. Side by side, they worked hard and took on our fourth Assembly in two years, with this being the biggest assembly to date. This was truly an event that put the full test on for all staff, along with Glorian, who our Cabinet has consistently entrusted with leading these efforts. I know their hard work was appreciated by the Assembly. I want to state again that as your President and on behalf of Cabinet, and all the Red River Métis people of this province and beyond borders – from here to wherever you are – I say thank you, thank you, thank you, to all the people who made this a success. I thank the Locals and their delegates, and the general delegates, who came out and gave their views, listened to the business of the Red River Métis, and participated in our important democratic traditions. Your will is always our guide, and I thank you for taking the time to help us continue our important work.

As Citizens know, one of the things we do at the Annual General Assembly is introduce resolutions for debate and voting. On Sunday, Citizens, Local representatives, and general delegates heard the introduction of a resolution to remove prayer at all Red River Métis gatherings. The motion was strongly opposed, and many Local leaders immediately stood up and spoke from the floor. They talked about how important prayer is to our



ceremonies and events. It is fundamental to our community and our culture. I was so moved by those who stood up for our traditional ways, and the heart they put into their remarks. I also stood up and spoke against the resolution, because I could see how many Elders and seniors were hurt that this could even be a discussion. There were tears on many faces in the room, and I know many in our Cabinet were busy during the debate and discussion, comforting those who were struggling with the hurt it caused.

The good news is that the resolution was overwhelmingly voted down by Citizens, who also understood the importance of prayer, and connecting ourselves to our history and the ways of our Ancestors. But let me be clear – I said it at our gathering and I say it now – there will never be at time that your Cabinet and I will let a resolution like this pass. For as long as I am President, prayers

and ceremony will remain a part of our gatherings. This is fundamental to who we are and where we come from. We may come from different beliefs and denominations, but the act of prayer brings us together, unites our focus, and reminds us that there is something greater than us that guides our steps.

One of the other resolutions that saw spirited debate was around funding for Locals. During my State of the Nation, I shared that the MMF will be increasing local capacity grant funds that are available to our Locals from \$5,000 to \$10,000, which was strongly applauded by the Local delegates and executives. However, there was more discussion about funding for Locals on Sunday, with a resolution brought to the floor asking for Local executives to be given salaries. After much discussion, Citizens defeated the resolution with a strong majority. I thank our Locals for their wisdom,

and their thoughtful and respectful approach to the lively discussion, as well as providing us with the wise decision to keep local, grassroots leadership as independent volunteer positions.

Until we gather again, I send my well wishes to Citizens who are honouring our traditions by harvesting from our Homeland to feed family and community. Stay safe and remember – your Red River Métis Government has your back.

I also 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. Q.M. ∞*

## RECORD TURNOUT: MMF AGA 2023 FILLED WITH PROMISES, INVESTMENTS, AND UNVEILINGS



Hearts were filled with Red River Métis pride as over 4,000 Citizens packed the Assiniboia Downs in Winnipeg for the MMF's AGA on October 13-15, 2023.

It was standing room only as David Chartrand, Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) President, took to the stage when over 4,000 Red River Métis Citizens packed the Assiniboia Downs in Winnipeg for the MMF's Annual General Assembly (AGA) on October 13-15, 2023.

The AGA brought Citizens from across the Homeland and Beyond Borders together, with many more tuning in through satellite locations in Vancouver, Toronto, and Ottawa, as well as Thompson.

During President Chartrand's State of the Nation Address on Saturday, he took the time to recognize

the large investments the MMF has made, and revealed that the total land mass we now own in downtown Winnipeg alone is the size of 10 football fields by acreage and square footage.

"Imagine what else you have in Dauphin, Swan River, and Brandon. We're putting big investments into The Pas and on and on," said President Chartrand. "So, maybe my words 25-27 years ago, 'I'm going to buy it acre by acre, building by building,' is coming to reality. We're going to buy our land back. But I hope first a (land claims) settlement will happen."

During the President's Address, he announced further investment into MMF Locals, doubling the current amount of funding distributed.

"We're going to increase that funding to \$10,000 for every Local," said President Chartrand to a hearty applause. "I know what it means to you. To many, it's not much, but to you, I know every penny means something because you're doing something in your villages, and I'm going to make it easier for you to apply to and get."

Anita Neville, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba; Dan Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs; Terry Duguid, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister; Wab Kinew, Premier-Elect; Scott Gillingham, Winnipeg Mayor; Scott McMurchy, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superintendent; Dave Lamouche, President of Métis Settlements General Council;





*Premier-Elect Wab Kinew took to the podium to deliver one of his first public speeches since he was chosen to lead the province.*

and Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations were all in attendance and delivered remarks during the opening ceremony.

President Chartrand also sent a direct message to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau after it was announced that the signing of the Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty would be pushed back, with the hope of it getting signed before the end of December.

"We are looking for results, not appeasement. But we will keep the faith," said President Chartrand to Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, after his speech.

At the end of his State of the Nation Address, President Chartrand unveiled artwork that will adorn the outside of the Red River Métis National Heritage Centre.

"These are chains that are going to roll from the top down, and they're going to carry our Red River flowers, a culture that is ours," he said. "It's going to be one of the most spectacular buildings in the city."

Premier-Elect Wab Kinew took to the podium to deliver one of his first public speeches since he was chosen to lead the province. Kinew promised Red River Métis Citizens that future generations of Manitobans will never forget where they came from.

"That's why when we return to session in the fall, one of the first bills I am going to bring forward is an act to bestow upon Louis Riel (with) the honorary title that reflects who he truly is, which is Manitoba's first Premier," he announced to a standing ovation.

The Premier-Elect also committed to including Métis voices as he forms his upcoming cabinet and acknowledged Ste. Madeleine, an old Métis community burned down in 1939. Hundreds of Citizens were relocated to make way for a community pasture as a priority for Red River Métis people.

"There are gravesites you continue to visit and honour, and there is a history there that we must address," said Kinew. "I want you to know we recognize the importance of Ste. Madeleine, to the Red River Métis Government and you, its Citizens. I look forward to understanding, learning, and working with you on Ste. Madeleine."

During a presentation on Friday, the MMF Sixties Scoop Department presented its Every Red River Métis Child Matters sash to the Red River Métis Residential School and Day School Survivors Advisory Committee. Minister of Residential and Day Schools Andrew Carrier acknowledged those who attended to get historic formal acknowledgment for those Citizens in our community who endured unspeakable life experiences.

"This meaningful ceremony is one of many opportunities to honour our survivors. We aim to ensure that all MMF Citizens, especially our survivors, receive a sash to wear at events such as September 30 for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation," he said.

On Friday evening, Red River Métis Citizens crammed into the Downs to play Monster Bingo. Prizes ranged from \$200-\$10,000. On Saturday night, the MMF hosted a Red River Métis Festival featuring cribbage tournaments, duck and moose calling contests, jiggling, entertainment, and a

pudding eating contest. On Sunday, the MMF announced the results of the MMF Pickler Classic and the silent auction winners, which raised \$36,250 for the Bereavement Fund, with \$20,000 added by Métis N4 Construction for a total of \$56,250.

President Chartrand took the stage alongside the Infinity Women Secretariat Board on Sunday morning to recognize the hard work and dedication of Anita Campbell, Infinity Women Secretariat Spokeswoman and Minister of Finance and Human Resources. Minister Campbell received a beaded blazer from master beadworker Jennine Krauchi and her mother, one of the last to be created.

During the Economic Development Portfolio update, President Chartrand thanked Hussein Abu Hassan from the country of Jordan for his efforts in securing a cross made of rosewood from Jordan for the St. Malo Grotto and for his work in securing COVID-19 vaccines. He presented him with a Red River Métis floral beadwork vest.

At the end of the AGA, Citizens received chickens, potatoes, and honey, courtesy of President Chartrand, Clifford Waldner, and the Bonhomme Hutterite Colony. The MMF thanks staff, Citizens, and Locals for their dedication to making this another historic AGA. In case you missed it, you can view the AGA on the MMF's YouTube channel. Reports, other AGA documents, and photos can be found on the AGA website at [mmfaga.ca](http://mmfaga.ca).

## COMMUNITY PHOTO

Elder Linda St. Cyr-Saric took home first place for the third annual MMF Pickler Classic. Recognizing our history of preserving what we grow on the land, the competition sees Citizens show off their pickling skills. Contestants were judged on crunchiness, tanginess, aroma, overall visual appeal, and creativity. Left to right: MMF President David Chartrand, Elder St. Cyr-Saric, and MMF Media Relations Advisor Kat Patenaude.



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](mailto:communications@mmf.mb.ca) and you may see it in print!



Congratulations to the Manitoba Métis Federation on their 54th Annual General Assembly!



More Information :  
[lrcc.mb.ca](http://lrcc.mb.ca)

LRCC has been supporting the Red River Métis business community since 1992, offering Commercial Loans, Grants, and General Advisory Services. We have since started many more exciting programs, including the Red River Métis Personal Loan Program and the MMF First Time Home Purchase Program, helping hundreds of Red River Métis families purchase their first home!

**OUR SERVICES:**

- Commercial Loan
- Business Grants
- Red River Métis Personal Loan Program and so much more!
- Mentorship / Advisory
- MMF First Time Home Purchase Program

A collage of six images related to aviation and aerospace. Top left: A person in a flight suit in a cockpit. Top middle: A person working on an aircraft engine. Top right: A person wearing a headset looking at a cockpit display. Bottom left: An airport control tower. Bottom middle: A large commercial airplane on a runway. Bottom right: A person working on electronic equipment in a server rack. A large red stylized arrow logo points upwards from the bottom center. Overlaid on the collage is the text "DELIVERING EXCELLENCE, INNOVATING TOGETHER." in large white capital letters, and "WORLD-LEADING AIRCREW TRAINING EXPERTISE. MADE IN CANADA." in smaller white capital letters below it.

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