

RED RIVER MÉTIS ECONOMIC INSIGHT

FALL 2026 EDITION

RED RIVER MÉTIS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

*Calling all Red River
Métis entrepreneurs*

FIRST TIME HOME PURCHASE PROGRAM QUESTIONS ANSWERED

*Important information
about the First Time
Home Purchase Program*

RED RIVER MÉTIS OLYMPICS

*Where friendly
competition meets
meaningful connection*

SMART MONEY SKILLS WORKSHOPS

*4-week lunch & learn
workshop series*

ARTISAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP INITIATIVE

*helping Red River Métis
entrepreneurs and businesses
build the capacity,
connections, and tools needed
to pursue them.*

THE MMF ACQUIRES THE FORMER
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL PROPERTIES

BUILDING ON OUR LEGACY



MMF ACQUIRES FORMER NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL PROPERTIES

➤➤➤ MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION ANNOUNCES ACQUISITION OF FORMER NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL CANADA PROPERTIES ON CORNER OF ELLICE AND BALMORAL



MMF Cabinet Members joined the Mayor of Winnipeg and leaders from Manitoba's research community to celebrate the acquisition of the former National Research Council Canada properties. Pictured (left to right): MMF Minister JoAnne Remillard; MMF Minister Mona Buors; MMF Minister Andrew Carrier; Andrea Ladouceur, president, Bioscience Association of Manitoba; Mayor Scott Gillingham; Elder Linda St. Cyr-Saric; MMF President David Chartrand; Dr. Jitendra Paliwal, vice-president, research and innovation, University of Winnipeg; and MMF Minister David Beaudin.

Manitoba's research community just gained significant room to grow thanks to the Manitoba Métis Federation's (MMF) acquisition of the former National Research Council Canada buildings announced on July 10 - located at 435 and 445 Ellice Avenue.

"I hope that this facility will be one of the places that will be renowned for finding and developing some of the best solutions we are about to face in the future," said MMF President David Chartrand.

During his remarks, President Chartrand addressed the growing concerns brought on by climate change and his hopes that the buildings could be a "potential hub for future researchers."

"You have fires in the North, you've got floods happening in the south, damage happening everywhere costing millions of dollars," he said. "We have to do something. We have to make change."

"I hope this facility becomes a place renowned for developing solutions to the challenges of our future. We have to make change."

-President David Chartrand

Speakers in attendance included Scott Gillingham, Mayor of Winnipeg; Andrea Ladouceur, CEO and president of the Bioscience Association of Manitoba; and Dr. Jitendra Paliwal, vice-president of research and innovation at the University of Winnipeg.

Mayor Gillingham acknowledged the magnitude of the event, not just for the MMF, but for the city of Winnipeg as well.

"It is certainly a great day once again for our downtown," he said of the 70 research laboratories that have the potential to support new research, innovation, and collaboration. "The skill and the range of the Manitoba Métis Federation's investment in Winnipeg, and certainly in our downtown, is truly something remarkable and is something that I certainly, as mayor, appreciate."

The mayor also acknowledged the National Government of the Red River Métis as "one of the most important partners" in the revitalization of downtown Winnipeg.

"This acquisition is also another clear indication of confidence in downtown Winnipeg," said the mayor.

Following the mayor's remarks, Ladouceur acknowledged this acquisition's potential to increase lab space in Manitoba. She shared that currently less than one-third of Manitoba's lab space exists within institutions, but a research facility of this capacity can create a space where partners can make research discoveries at their own rate while having the freedom to explore research as they see fit.

"What we're able to do in partnership with the MMF is go to the market and promote this wonderful asset and say, 'Manitoba is open for business, the MMF is the partner to work with,'" said Ladouceur.

Dr. Jitendra Paliwal is very familiar with this building's infrastructure, having worked in the facility at the start of his career in the early 2000s.



"I've seen this building go through multiple phases, and multiple incarnations, and it is truly remarkable how the technologies and the research that have come out of this building have actually impacted our lives - not just here in Winnipeg, not just here in Manitoba, but across Canada," said Paliwal. "I am excited here as the Manitoba Métis Federation gives this infrastructure a second lease of life."

As of now, the acquisition of this property into the MMF's lands and properties portfolio brings its total commercial office space to over one million square feet.

"We're also looking at other investments right now. We're not stopping here," said the President.

"Manitoba is open for business, the MMF is the partner to work with."

***-Andrea Ladouceur, President & CEO,
Bioscience Association of Manitoba***



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of
Métis Employment

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WHY JOIN THE RED RIVER MÉTIS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION?

>>> FROM EXCLUSIVE MEMBER PERKS TO EXCITING EVENTS & MORE!

As we recently celebrated the two-year anniversary of the Red River Métis Business Association (RRMBA) on October 1, 2026, it gives us pause to consider what it means to have a Business Association and how it brings value to Red River Métis entrepreneurs.

Networking is central to so much of what the RRMBA is and it transpires at all of our events. It continues on after the events where connections have been made and solidified member to member, between members and other Manitoba Métis Federation departments and affiliates, and between members and outside organizations such as Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries.

RED RIVER MÉTIS BUSINESS EXPO

At the most recent RRM Business Expo in April 2026, networking was on full display from the start of the event, beginning with a networking reception the evening before and continuing through to the final stage the following afternoon: the B2B meetings.

These meetings connect Red River Métis businesses with external organizations seeking partnership opportunities, often to help meet procurement requirements.

- 111 Red River Métis businesses in attendance
- Over 300 attendees
- Over 240 B2B meetings scheduled

RRMBA EVENTS

Events vary in size and scope. At the top of the scale are the Signature Events, which are the RRM Business Excellence Awards and the RRM Business Expo. On the other end are the smaller events, like the Lunch & Learns, Innovation at Dawn and Regional Business Mixers. The common thread that runs through all of the events is networking and making connections that lead to opportunity.

Red River Métis BUSINESS EXPO

2026
APRIL 23
8:00AM - 5:00PM



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**BORING
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HERE.**



**RRMBDC
WEBSITE DESIGN
& DEVELOPMENT**

A strong website does more than look good. It should make it easy for people to understand who you are, find what they need, and take the next step.

Using AI for your Marketing?

KEEP THESE TIPS IN MIND

AI can be a powerful tool for business owners. It can help generate ideas, save time and provide a starting point when you're staring at a blank screen.

But there's a big difference between using AI as a marketing tool and letting AI do your marketing for you.

Here are a few things to keep in mind.

1.

DON'T LET AI BUILD YOUR ENTIRE BRAND

Your logo and visual identity should distinguish your business—not make it blend in.

AI-generated logos can look impressive at first glance, but they often rely on familiar visual patterns and concepts. Without proper creative development, businesses can end up with branding that feels generic or looks remarkably similar to what is being generated for others.

Your brand should reflect your business, your audience and what makes you different.

TIP: Use AI for inspiration or brainstorming, but have your final brand professionally developed and refined.

Up to 78% of consumers feel AI makes ads look less authentic, and roughly 63% are less inclined to buy from brands that rely on AI-generated advertising.

Source: Marketing Brew

2.

DON'T REPLACE REAL PHOTOS WITH AI WHEN YOU HAVE THE REAL THING

If you're a contractor, show your projects. If you make products, show your products. If you're a service provider, introduce the people providing the service.

Customers increasingly encounter AI-generated imagery online, and overly artificial content can make it harder for them to understand what your business actually offers.

TIP: Prioritize authentic photography and video. Your phone and a real moment from your business can sometimes be more valuable than a perfectly generated image.

3.

NEVER COPY AND PASTE WITHOUT REVIEWING

AI doesn't automatically know your business, customers or personality. It can also produce information that sounds convincing but is inaccurate.

Before publishing AI-assisted content, ask yourself: **Does this sound like us? Is it accurate? Would I actually say this to a customer?**

If the answer is no, keep editing.

4.

USE AI TO BRAINSTORM-NOT TO MAKE EVERY DECISION

This is where AI can be extremely useful.

Stuck on what to post next month? Ask for ideas. Planning a campaign? Use AI to explore different approaches. Trying to understand your target audience? Use it to develop questions and considerations for your strategy.

AI can help you get from "I don't know where to start" to "Now I have something to work with."

The important part is that a human still decides what happens next.

5. **WATCH OUT FOR THE "AI VOICE"**

You've probably seen it already.

Every caption is perfectly structured. Everything is "elevated," "game-changing" or "more than just" something. The sentences sound polished—but somehow don't sound like anyone in particular.

When every business uses similar tools with similar prompts, messaging can quickly begin to sound the same.

TIP: Add your personality back in. Use the words your customers actually hear when they speak with you.

6. **DON'T CONFUSE MORE CONTENT WITH BETTER MARKETING**

AI makes it possible to create a lot of content very quickly. That doesn't necessarily make the content effective.

Ten generic posts aren't automatically more valuable than three strategic posts created for a specific audience and purpose.

Before creating something, ask:

Who is this for? What do we want them to know, feel or do after seeing it?

That's marketing strategy—and AI can't make those decisions for your business without meaningful human direction.

NEED HELP WITH YOUR MARKETING?

AI can be a great tool, but great marketing still needs strategy, creativity and a human touch.

The RRBDC Marketing team can help with branding, websites, social media, graphic design, strategy, video production and promotional materials—all tailored to your business.

Ready to strengthen your marketing? Connect with the RRBDC Marketing team today to get started.

7. **PROTECT WHAT MAKES YOUR BUSINESS DIFFERENT**

Your experience, relationships, employees, customers, story and reputation are things your competitors can't simply duplicate.

Those should be visible in your marketing.

The more your marketing reflects the real people and stories behind your business, the harder it becomes for someone else to look exactly like you.

8. **LET AI BE THE ASSISTANT**

AI is excellent at helping with the first 20% of many marketing tasks: generating possibilities, organizing thoughts, exploring ideas and getting past the blank page.

The remaining work requires something technology can't fully replace: judgment, experience, creativity and an understanding of the people you're trying to reach.

Just make sure your customers can still see you.

THE TAKEAWAY - USE AI TO GENERATE IDEAS, NOT YOUR IDENTITY.

Let it help you brainstorm, organize and explore.

Let it help you brainstorm, organize and explore. Then apply your own expertise, personality and understanding of your customers to turn those ideas into marketing that actually represents your business.



RED RIVER MÉTIS OLYMPICS

»»» **WHERE FRIENDLY COMPETITION MEETS
MEANINGFUL CONNECTION**

The first annual RRM Olympics, held in July 2026 at Kildonan Park in Winnipeg, brought RRMBA members together for an informal afternoon of fun and connection. Burgers, hot dogs and outdoor games were on the agenda, with staff from RRM BDC, LRCC and MECD joining a diverse group of Business Association members.

Throughout the afternoon, plenty of laughs were shared, along with both casual and meaningful conversations. The event created opportunities for business owners to connect with one another and with Economic Development service providers in a relaxed setting. And, of course, congratulations to the inaugural RRM Olympics champion, Matt Meder of Green Key Builders—well done, champ!



ONE ON ONE WITH THE RED RIVER MÉTIS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

**>>> INTERVIEW WITH SHAUN HAMPTON,
MANAGER, RED RIVER MÉTIS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

Q: WHY SHOULD I JOIN THE RRMBA?

A: When you join the RRMBA, you're connecting your business to a larger community. You'll have access to valuable services, member pricing for our events, opportunities to network with other Red River Métis businesses and industry leaders, and greater exposure to procurement and business opportunities

Q: FOR THOSE BUSINESSES THAT ARE ALREADY MEMBERS OF THE RRMBA, WHAT REASON WOULD THEY GIVE FOR STAYING?

A: Our members tell us they stay because of the connections, support and sense of community they've found through the RRMBA. They're building relationships with other Red River Métis entrepreneurs and industry partners, accessing valuable workshops and business supports, and benefiting from services like group insurance—all while being part of an Association that reflects Red River Métis values and supports their growth.

Q: WHO CAN BECOME AN RRMBA MEMBER, AND HOW DO THEY JOIN?

A: Majority Red River Metis owned businesses (> 51% ownership) confirmed through Manitoba Métis Federation citizenship. Signing up by visiting www.rmbdc.ca and complete the online form. RRMBA membership is valid for one year.



Q: DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE STORY ABOUT A BUSINESS BENEFITING FROM RRMBA MEMBERSHIP?

A: One of my favourite examples started at one of our networking events, where we introduced two members who we felt could support each other. One was preparing to open two new restaurant locations and needed a reliable general contractor. That introduction turned into a successful working relationship, both locations opened within the year, and even more partnerships grew from that initial connection. It's a great example of what can happen when we bring the right businesses together.

**TO JOIN THE
ASSOCIATION, VISIT
OUR WEBSITE AT
RRMBDC.CA**



FROM HANDSHAKES TO SIGNATURES

➤➤➤ INTERNAL OPPORTUNITIES

One of our favourite stories about networking, connecting and finding opportunity goes back to an event we ran in February 2025: Handshakes to Signatures. Entrepreneur Darren Gentes was trying to find a construction company that could take on the necessary renovations he needed completed before he opened up two **Jimmy John's** locations in Winnipeg. Since the two business owners were at our Handshakes to Signatures event, we knew he needed to have a conversation with Matt Meder, owner of **Green Key Builders** and **Legacy Nation Contracting**. Introductions were made, handshakes took place and signatures solidified the agreement. Matt and his crew took on both locations, Ellice and Broadway, and completed the projects to the satisfaction of Darren and Jimmy John's. Mission accomplished.

“A conversation becomes a connection. A connection becomes an opportunity. And a handshake becomes a signature.”

Both Darren and Matt are longtime Red River Métis business owners and RRMBA members, so bringing them together was easy. We know them well and we could speak to their high levels of expertise, professionalism and entrepreneurship.



➤➤➤ EXTERNAL OPPORTUNITIES

Another story that exemplifies the networking-to-connection-to-opportunity chain is about the Circle of Knowledge Medicine Garden that is now out front at the MBLL Head Office at 1555 Buffalo Place in Winnipeg. As a result of connections made at the 2026 RRM Business Expo, Jeff Wiebe and Shelley Cooke with MBLL collaborated with two Red River Métis-owned businesses, Kastes Custom Landscapes and Creative Print All to create a “Circle of Knowledge” medicine garden.

Evan Kastes' landscaping company designed and constructed a circular patio and garden and Creative Print All, owned and operated by Glen Davies, created and produced the sign. Both businesses are members of the RRMBA and regular participants at our events like the RRM Business Expo.

RRMBA is about networking and connections and out of those efforts and interactions comes opportunity within the Red River Métis Business Community, opportunity within the MMF and opportunity with external partners. And in the midst of all these transactions, there is the opportunity to get to know each other better and have some fun while doing that.



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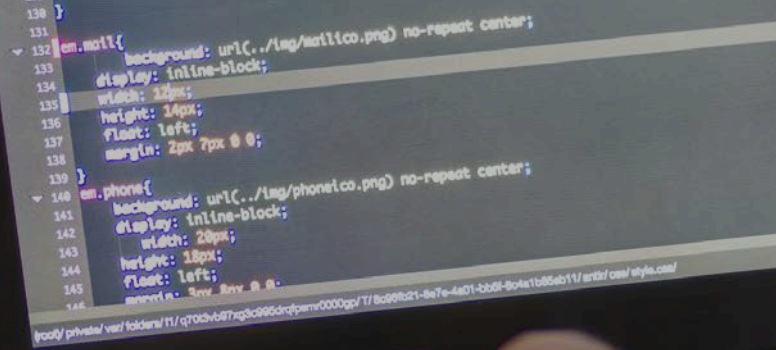


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- ✓ Housing – improved through HELP and Rapid Services
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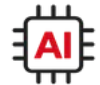
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MORE THAN JUST BOOKKEEPING

Written by Michelle Syntak, CPB

REDUCING RISK AND MAINTAINING COMPLIANCE

Accurate bookkeeping helps ensure transactions are properly recorded for GST, PST, and other government reporting requirements while keeping businesses prepared for CRA reviews or audits. Expenses such as meals and entertainment, advertising, automobile costs, and professional fees can receive additional scrutiny. Proper documentation and accurate records help support these claims and keep financial information organized and audit-ready.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE MATTERS

Our team members are accounting software certified and hold Certified Professional Bookkeeper designations or are actively working toward professional accreditation. Through ongoing education and industry best practices, we are committed to providing accurate, reliable, and professional service.

Business Association Members are also eligible for a complimentary 30-minute review of their bookkeeping processes and systems, including recommendations to help improve efficiency and accuracy.

WHY PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE MATTERS

Many business owners think bookkeeping is simply entering receipts, paying bills, and reconciling bank accounts. While those tasks are important, professional bookkeeping offers much more than recordkeeping alone.

A professional bookkeeper brings years of experience, technical knowledge, and practical insight that help business owners make informed decisions, stay compliant, and build a stronger financial foundation.

»»» BEYOND DATA ENTRY

Recording financial transactions is just one part of effective bookkeeping. The real value comes from understanding how transactions should be treated, where they should be recorded, and how they impact financial reporting and tax compliance. Professional bookkeepers use their expertise to properly classify transactions, maintain accurate records, and ensure financial statements provide a clear and reliable picture of business performance.

MORE THAN A BOOKKEEPER

Professional bookkeepers can also serve as trusted advisors, helping businesses navigate financial decisions, improve accounting systems, and prepare for growth.

Services can be tailored to businesses of all sizes and may include:

- Transaction recording and account reconciliation
- Accounts payable and receivable
- Government remittances
- Financial reporting
- Audit assistance
- Advisory services and accounting system reviews

THE BOTTOM LINE

Behind every successful business is reliable financial information. Great bookkeeping isn't simply about balancing the books—it's about providing the financial foundation and confidence business owners need to focus on running and growing their business.

Interested in learning more? Contact us to book a complimentary, no-obligation consultation about your bookkeeping needs.

**VISIT RRMBDC.CA/BOOKKEEPING
FOR MORE INFO**



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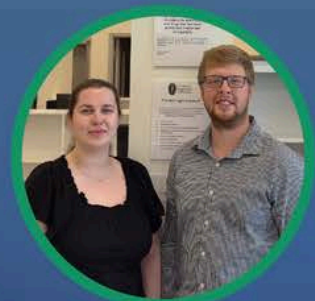
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We are honoured to stand alongside the Manitoba Métis Federation and its citizens in the shared pursuit of prosperity, cultural preservation, and community empowerment. Our commitment to the Métis people of Manitoba runs deep, rooted in respect, guided by partnership, and driven by a vision of meaningful progress for generations to come.



ECONOMIC GROWTH

Creating jobs, training the next generation, and investing in Métis-owned businesses and trades.



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Across Canada, the need for transitional housing continues to grow. Mezzo's innovative approach delivers high quality, energy efficient homes that can be transported and installed almost anywhere, creating supportive communities where people can begin their next chapter.



A Scalable Solution to Canada's Housing Crisis

Mezzo Homes partners with Indigenous communities to deliver transitional housing where it is needed most.

Communities provide the land and services and Mezzo manages the design, manufacturing, delivery and installation of the homes.

Thoughtfully Designed for People

- Mezzo Homes are fully furnished, move in ready homes designed for comfort, dignity and long term durability.
- Each Mezzo community includes 10 homes arranged around a shared central building, which can serve as a gathering space, counselling centre, or hub for community programming.

Learn more about Mezzo Communities:

www.mezzohomes.ca



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**LOOKING TO LAUNCH, GROW OR ACQUIRE A BUSINESS?
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FINANCING OPTIONS.**

Louis Riel Capital Corporation offers a variety of financing programs designed to support Red River Métis entrepreneurs at different stages of their business journey and across a wide range of industries.

Find an option that may fit your business needs:

- **Business Grant & Loan Program:** Financing for larger-scale business needs.
- **Professional Grant & Loan Program:** Support for professionals looking to launch or grow their own practice.
- **Small Business Grant & Loan Program:** Designed for side hustles, smaller businesses and entrepreneurs looking to get started.
- **Métis Women Entrepreneurship Program:** Support for majority women-owned Red River Métis businesses.
- **Youth Entrepreneurship Program:** Financing for Red River Métis entrepreneurs aged 29 and under.
- **Métis Fishers & Trappers Program:** Tailored financing to support the unique needs of these traditional economies.

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Whether you're taking your first step or your next big step, our team is here to help you find the right financing option for your business.



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CLIENT SPOTLIGHT: HOLDEN'S HONEY HOLLOW

A CLOSER LOOK AT A BUSINESS DEDICATED TO BEES AND THEIR CRUCIAL ROLE IN POLLINATION, BIODIVERSITY, AND MAINTAINING THE HEALTH OF OUR ECOSYSTEMS.



Holden's Honey Hollow is a business committed to offering high-quality honey and bee-related products, built on creating lasting relationships with customers. Holden was inspired to start his business because of his love for bees and their crucial role in pollination, biodiversity, and maintaining the health of our ecosystems.

Starting a business at just 14 years old, Holden's journey required dedication, hard work, and the ability to overcome numerous challenges along the way. From managing finances to understanding the market, every step was a learning experience that contributed to the growth and success of his venture.

LRCC played an important role in Holden's entrepreneurial journey by providing a grant and loan through the Youth Entrepreneurship Program. This support enabled him to purchase additional equipment, expand his operations, and continue growing his business.

His advice to other Red River Métis entrepreneurs? "Dream it. Believe it. Achieve it. Don't give up, and surround yourself with individuals who inspire you to become the person you want to be." And as Holden says, anyone who thinks they're too small to make a difference has never met a honeybee.

To learn more, visit Holden's Honey Hollow on Facebook, and give them a follow!



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INSIDE LRCC: FIRST TIME HOME PURCHASE PROGRAM QUESTIONS ANSWERED

**>>> INTERVIEW WITH ADAM WISHNOWSKI,
MANAGER, PERSONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Q: WHAT IS THE FIRST TIME HOME PURCHASE PROGRAM?

A: The First Time Home Purchase Program is designed to support Red River Métis Citizens who are purchasing their first home.

Q: WHAT COSTS CAN THE PROGRAM HELP WITH?

A: The program provides assistance with both down payment and closing costs. We provide up to 5% of the purchase price, to a maximum of \$18,000, toward the down payment, plus 1.5% of the purchase price, up to \$2,500, to assist with closing costs.

Q: WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE SUCCESS STORY FROM THE PROGRAM?

A: It's hard to single out just one because every home purchased through this program is a success story. Each one represents someone reaching an important milestone and helps build generational wealth for our Red River Métis Citizens. That's what makes this program so meaningful.

Q: WHAT'S THE FIRST STEP IF SOMEONE IS INTERESTED IN THE PROGRAM?

A: The biggest thing is, talk to us! We're here to help guide you through your home-buying journey. We can walk you through the program guidelines, answer your questions and help you understand what to expect. Just keep us informed and engaged throughout the process — we love helping people achieve homeownership!



Q: WHAT'S ONE OF THE MOST COMMON QUESTIONS YOU HEAR FROM FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS?

A: "Do I need money of my own?" The answer is yes. We only cover a portion of your closing costs, and it's a good idea to have some savings available in case unexpected expenses come up. A good rule of thumb is to have about 3% of the purchase price available for additional closing costs and expenses.

Q: IF YOU COULD GIVE ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO SOMEONE LOOKING TO APPLY FOR THE FIRST TIME HOME PURCHASE PROGRAM, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

A: I'd actually give two pieces of advice! First, work with a realtor who can guide you through the buying process and help you write an offer that puts you in the best possible position. Second, know what you're approved for and make sure you're looking at homes that fit within your budget. It's important to know what you can afford before you start shopping.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FIRST TIME HOME PURCHASE PROGRAM, VISIT LRCC.MB.CA, OR CALL (204) 589-0772

FIVE MYTHS ABOUT CREDIT

➤➤➤ FACT OR FICTION?

MYTH #1: REVIEWING YOUR CREDIT SCORE COULD LOWER IT.

Fact: Checking your own credit score has no impact on your credit. Not only that, regularly checking your credit can be helpful when you're trying to improve your credit score.

MYTH #2: A NEGATIVE CREDIT HISTORY FOLLOWS YOU FOREVER.

Fact: Negative events in your credit history are not permanent. Most negative credit report entries expire after seven years, including missed payments, foreclosures, or repossessions.

MYTH #3: CLOSING OLD CREDIT CARDS IMPROVES YOUR SCORE.

Fact: If you close a credit card account while you have outstanding balances on other cards, your overall utilization rate will increase and could hurt your credit scores.

MYTH #4: CARRYING A CREDIT CARD BALANCE BUILDS A CREDIT SCORE.

Fact: Paying off credit card balances in full each month shows responsible account management, prevents interest charges and won't affect your credit mix. Just be sure you make purchases with the card occasionally and pay them off.

MYTH #5: DEBT IS ALWAYS BAD.

Fact: Responsible borrowing can allow you to acquire things you couldn't otherwise afford, like a house, a college education or a car. Which in turn enables you to live a better life and can even gain value over time.



KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

Understanding credit is an important part of making informed financial decisions. Knowing what borrowing options are available to you is just as important.

Louis Riel Capital Corporation offers personal loans to Red River Métis Citizens. Whether you're looking to purchase a vehicle, make home renovations or cover another personal expense, the LRCC Personal Loan Program may be an option worth exploring.

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November 10 — Budgeting & Saving

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November 17 — Registered Plans & Investment Basics

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November 24 — Why Credit Matters

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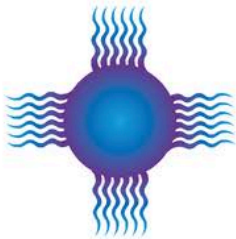
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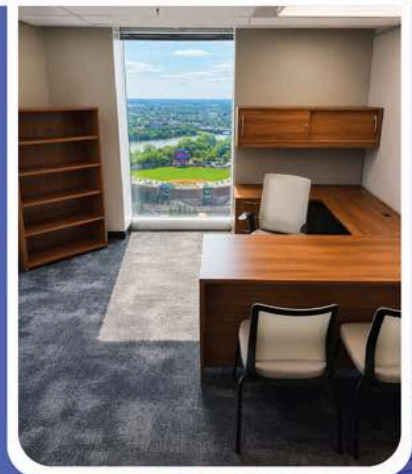


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MMF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RED RIVER MÉTIS BUSINESSES

Building connections, strengthening businesses, and creating new pathways for economic participation



**Economic
Development**

“Creating opportunities in the broader economy while helping Red River Métis businesses build the capacity, connections, and tools needed to pursue them”

The Métis Economic and Community Development (MECD) team continues to strengthen opportunities for Red River Métis entrepreneurs and businesses, with work this quarter focused on procurement, major project participation, responding to emerging business challenges, and supporting entrepreneurship.

A key area of focus has been the Future Aircrew Training (FAcT) Program. MECD is engaging directly with the prime contractor to identify opportunities for Red River Métis businesses and maximize Red River Métis economic participation in the project. Through this work, the team is building connections between project and supply chain needs and the capabilities of Red River Métis businesses that will be well positioned to participate.

This engagement is also part of a broader effort to position Red River Métis businesses for opportunities within Canada’s defence sector. MECD is exploring new ways to help businesses strengthen their readiness, capacity, and connections to pursue defence-related procurement opportunities.

MECD is also working with Manitoba Hydro to identify procurement opportunities for Red River Métis businesses in the Brandon area and throughout the Southwest Region. Through direct engagement with Manitoba Hydro, the team is working to strengthen connections between upcoming procurement needs and Red River Métis businesses with the capacity to provide relevant goods and services.

As businesses navigate a changing Canada–U.S. trade environment, MECD has also been engaging directly with Red River Métis business owners to better understand the impacts of tariffs, counter-tariffs, and ongoing trade uncertainty. Through targeted outreach, the team is gathering information on impacts to contracts, costs, supply chains, and markets. This feedback will help the MMF better understand the challenges facing Red River Métis businesses and identify areas where additional support may be needed.

The Red River Métis Artist and Artisan Entrepreneurship Initiative continues to build momentum with a second cohort of Red River Métis artists and artisans. Through tailored business development support, participants are strengthening their entrepreneurial skills, developing their brands, and building sustainable businesses around their creative practices. This September, eight participating artists and artisans were featured in the Living Lookbook as part of WAG-Qaumajuq’s CRAFTED on the Catwalk, while 14 showcased their work at the NORTH of NORTH Market. These opportunities provided participants with valuable exposure, access to new audiences and markets, and connections within the broader Indigenous and Northern creative economy.

Together, these initiatives reflect MECD’s continued focus on creating opportunities in the broader economy while helping Red River Métis entrepreneurs and businesses build the capacity, connections, and tools needed to pursue them.



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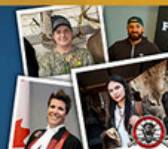


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in the news

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SPOTLIGHT**

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TRADITION & THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP SPIRIT



HONOURING THE TRADITIONS, VALUES, AND CONNECTIONS THAT SHAPE RED RIVER MÉTIS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INSPIRE FUTURE GENERATIONS.

As we head into the fall and winter months, it's important for entrepreneurs and business leaders to celebrate and continue the traditions that connect us to who we are. When you're focused on growing a business, navigating a busy season, or managing day-to-day operations, it can be easy to put family, community and tradition aside. Yet taking the time to reconnect can provide perspective and remind us of why we are building in the first place.

The Red River Métis have long been an entrepreneurial people. Our history is rooted in adaptability, resourcefulness and creating opportunities from the skills, relationships and resources around us. From the fur trade and agriculture to hunting, trapping, commerce and artisan work, Red River Métis people have built livelihoods and businesses that supported families and communities. That entrepreneurial spirit continues today through a growing and diverse Red River Métis business community.

Harvest and family remain important pillars of the Red River Métis way of life, and maintaining those connections to our roots can play an integral part in our business culture. Incorporating our traditions, values and stories into our businesses is part of what makes the Red River Métis business community unique.

It allows customers and clients to experience a sense of pride, family, and ancestral connection within the Red River Métis business community.

For generations, winter has been a time of gathering for the Red River Métis. A season to come together and enjoy the efforts of their hunt and harvest. For many, that spirit of gathering continues today. The fall often comes to life through winter markets and community events, creating opportunities to sell, showcase and share what has been created.

Whether you're Red River Métis or not, we all have our own traditions around the holidays. Traditions may look different from one family or community to another, but that is the beauty of tradition that makes the holiday season special – they keep us connected to what matters most. No matter what this season of life brings, remember to take the time to continue those traditions. It's how we stay connected to our roots, our culture and our ancestors.

For entrepreneurs, those connections can be a reminder that building a successful business is about more than the bottom line. It's about creating a good life for our families, contributing to our communities and building something meaningful for future generations.

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A SUMMER OF GROWTH & COMMUNITY

A SEASON OF GROWTH, CRAFTSMANSHIP AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION.

The summer of 2026 was a busy and meaningful season for **Rapid City Memorials**, marked by expansion, community partnerships and significant projects across Manitoba and beyond.

In May, the company introduced a new discount for Métis Citizens, followed by the June 1 opening of its new Dauphin office. Building on a long-standing presence in the community, the expanded location now includes both a sales representative and a full-time designer to better serve customers.

Rapid City Memorials was also honoured to partner with the Manitoba Métis Federation to create a 60-inch memorial commemorating the historic community of Ste. Madeleine. Installed in August, the monument was unveiled during Ste. Madeleine Métis Days, bringing together families and descendants for a meaningful dedication.

Another significant project is underway with Sioux Valley Dakota First Nation, honouring the missing children and Survivors of the Sioux Valley Residential School. Eight 60-inch name plaques and a 72-inch memorial are being produced at Rapid City Memorials' manufacturing shop and will be installed on custom stands for an unveiling in Brandon later this fall.

The team also began a major restoration project at St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Cemetery in the Jackfish community near Sandy Lake. Work across 114 gravesites includes replacing foundations, removing old grave covers, levelling plots and memorials, hauling topsoil and disposing of old foundations. The renewed grounds are expected to take shape as new grass establishes next spring.

Alongside these projects, the team continued regular installations across a wide service area—from Barrows and Deloraine, Manitoba, to Wolseley, Saskatchewan, and Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba.

This fall, Rapid City Memorials will also connect with customers and communities through booths at IWS and ANA, continuing a year defined by growth, craftsmanship and meaningful community work.

For more information or to inquire about joining our team, please contact Terry Cameron at sales@rcmmb.com or call 204-826-2161.



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