

# RED RIVER MÉTIS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

**E-NEWSLETTER**

Volume 2 - Issue 1



**RRM  
BDC**



## Support the Growth of the Red River Métis Business Association

Three cheers for those of you who have signed up as inaugural Members of the Red River Métis Business Association. It's been a pleasure getting to know you at our events, over email, or on the phone—learning more about your business and figuring out ways we can connect you with other Members and services within the MMF.

We're still in active growth mode as we approach one year since officially launching the membership drive in September 2025, so please share your experience with other Red River Métis entrepreneurs and encourage them to join the Association or check out our website.

**Become a Member of the  
Business Association!**

[Click here to register](#)





**Red River Métis Business Association Members, have you had a chance to check out our professional business services and **Group Benefits Plan**?**

As a member of the Red River Métis Business Association, you can access our in-house marketing or bookkeeping services at a special members rate. If you would like more information, go to our website or contact Erica or Michelle to arrange an appointment.

**Marketing Services Manager** - Erica Fenner:  
[erica.fenner@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:erica.fenner@mmf.mb.ca)

**Financial Services Manager** - Michelle Syntak: [michelle.syntak@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:michelle.syntak@mmf.mb.ca)

Members also have access to the RRMBA **Group Benefits Plan**, offered through Canada Life.

To learn more about the program, contact:

**RRMBA Manager** - Shaun Hampton:  
[shaun.hampton@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:shaun.hampton@mmf.mb.ca)

[Click here to learn more](#)

MEMBER CATEGORIES	RATES
Artisans, Fishers, Trappers	\$100
Developing Entrepreneurs	\$100
*Youth Entrepreneurs	\$300
**New Business Start-ups	\$300
1-5 F/T Employees	\$500
6-15 F/T Employees	\$750
16-20 F/T Employees	\$850
21+ F/T Employees	\$1,000

\*Youth Entrepreneurs – under 30  
\*\*New Business – operational 24 months or less

**Ask us about our member exclusive rates on:**

Digital Marketing Services

Bookkeeping Services

# RRMBA LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

## APRIL - JUNE

The first session of the RRMBA Lunch & Learn series launched on February 6, 2025, and by the end of June, we had hosted six in total. Stay tuned for a whole new slate starting in Fall 2025.



### Recap of RRMBA Lunch & Learn Events in Q1 (April 2025 to June 2025)

**April 9/25 - Métis Employment & Training (MET)**  
200 Main Event Centre (Winnipeg)

Métis Employment & Training (MET) presented on the Targeted Wage Subsidy Program (TWS)—an initiative that supports sustainable employment by combining on-the-job training with wage subsidies. The program helps Red River Métis job seekers gain valuable work experience while supporting employers with recruitment and training costs.

During the presentation, MET staff also shared information about summer employment opportunities and how they can assist businesses with HR and recruitment support.

Plans are already in motion for continued collaboration with MET to build on the strong connections made this past Spring.

Learn more: [Métis Employment & Training](#)

**April 24/25 L&L - EFFICIENCY MANITOBA**  
200 Main Event Centre (Winnipeg)

Efficiency Manitoba presented to RRMBA Members about the Indigenous Small Business Program, available to Métis-owned businesses registered on the Red River Métis Business Directory.

Eligible applicants receive direct install upgrades, a lighting assessment, and the applicable lighting retrofits. Similar to the Small Business Program, this initiative offers both basic and premium upgrade options—and for majority Métis-owned businesses, both tiers are 100% covered.

Learn more: [Home – Efficiency Manitoba](#)





### June 11/25 – BGIS & Procurement Opportunities 200 Main Event Centre (Winnipeg)

BGIS has over 25 years of experience delivering a full range of innovative consulting, management, and service solutions for real estate owners and occupiers. With a strong engineering and technical background and a deep commitment to client service, BGIS protects both tangible and intangible assets—including staff, infrastructure, client reputations, brands, and core business operations.

Chris Hans, Indigenous Engagement Manager for the Pacific & Western Regions, presented on procurement opportunities related to the contracts BGIS manages on behalf of the Federal Government. His presentation also opened the door to broader engagement with BGIS and the many corporations they serve across Canada through their property services.

Stay tuned for continued engagement opportunities with BGIS in 2025 and 2026.

**Learn more:** [BGIS | Integrated Facility Management Services](#)

### May 22/25 – RRMBA Benefits Program, presented by Linda Branconnier (Priority Financial)

#### 200 Main Event Centre (Winnipeg)

Linda Branconnier presented on the RRMBA Group Benefits Program, followed by a Q&A where she addressed a wide range of Member questions tailored to their unique business situations. Linda has been offering expert guidance on employee benefits to the MMF for over twenty years.

Thanks to the strong relationship between the MMF and Canada Life, the RRMBA is proud to offer an exclusive Group Benefits Program for its Members.

The Red River Métis Business Association Group Benefits Plan is designed to support both your employees' well-being and the health of your business. The plan is ideal for businesses with 1–50 employees—and uniquely, it includes coverage options for businesses with as little as 1–2 lives. If you would like to learn how to get a quote for your business, contact Shaun Hampton at [shaun.hampton@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:shaun.hampton@mmf.mb.ca)

**Learn more:** [Group Benefits | Red River Métis Business Development Corporation](#)



# RRRMBA REGIONAL BUSINESS MIXERS

## APRIL - JUNE

The RRMBA Regional Business Mixer was first introduced in October 2024 in Brandon, prior to the MMF Southwest Regional AGM. It has always been our intention to hold additional Mixers in every MMF Region, and by the end of June, we have been in almost every MMF region. The RRMBA Mixers are proudly co-hosted with Louis Riel Capital Corporation and Métis Economic Community Development.

### Recap of RRMBA Regional Business Mixers in Q1 (April 2025 to June 2025)

#### June 5/25 - RRMBA Winnipeg Region Business Mixer Thirsty Lion Tavern 525 Dale Blvd. Winnipeg

The Thirsty Lion was the site of the first RRMBA Mixer in the Winnipeg Region. Given the size of the region, this will likely be one of three or four Mixers to take place in Winnipeg over the coming months.

This event also marked an exciting milestone—it was the first RRMBA Mixer hosted in a Red River Métis-owned and operated establishment. Whenever possible, we prioritize venues owned by Red River Métis entrepreneurs, and we were fortunate that the Thirsty Lion could accommodate the June 5 event.

It was our largest RRMBA Mixer to date, with over thirty-five Members in attendance. Minister David Beaudin joined us to bring greetings and show support.

Special thanks to our co-hosting partners: Natalie Kulczycki from LRCC and Dean Mason, MMF Economic Development Officer for the Winnipeg Region.

[The Thirsty Lion | Website](#)



#### June 19/25 RRMBA Interlake Region Business Mixer Interlake Brewing Co. 72-1<sup>st</sup> Ave. Gimli

The trend of hosting Mixers in Red River Métis-owned establishments continued two weeks later with our first event in the Interlake Region, held in Gimli at the picturesque Interlake Brewing Co. Perfectly situated on First Avenue with a spectacular view of the vast expanse of Lake Winnipeg, the event took place on the rooftop patio—which only three months earlier had a curling sheet on it. (Continued on next page)





As an added bonus, one of our Members, Louise Anderson Photo + Media, captured fantastic photos of the event throughout the evening.

Proprietors Graeme and Kristin McLean were on hand to share their entrepreneurial journey and walk us through a delicious lineup of appetizers—the highlight being the Pickerel Cheek Ceviche.

The event was well attended by Members from across the Interlake Region, and Minister Jack Park joined us to spend time with regional members and staff. My co-hosts for the evening were Gary Peric from LRCC and Donna Austfjord, MMF Economic Development Officer for the Interlake Region.

[Interlake Brewing Co | Website](#)



# NEW FEATURE

## THE RRMBA TRADING POST

As part of our ongoing efforts to market you—the Members—to your peers and beyond, we're always looking for new ways to spotlight your business and highlight how your work can benefit fellow Members.

We're excited to introduce a new feature launching in this first e-newsletter of the 2025–26 fiscal year: **The Trading Post**. This section offers Members the opportunity to share advice, resources, and insights that can help support other businesses and entrepreneurs in our community. If you're interested in contributing, please feel free to reach out with your ideas.

Thank you to Troy McLennan and his team at HUB Technology Solutions—RRMBA Members since 2024—for being our inaugural contributor to the RRMBA Trading Post. We invite you to take a moment to explore their submission on:

### CYBERSECURITY MATTERS: PROTECTING SMALL & MEDIUM BUSINESSES WITH HUB TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

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#### Businesses Are Big Targets

In today's world, cyber threats are not just a big-business problem. Small and medium-sized organizations are being targeted more than ever, and often, they are not prepared. That's why cybersecurity has become essential for every business, no matter the size. From protecting client information to avoiding costly downtime, strong cybersecurity is no longer a luxury; it's a necessity.

HUB understands these challenges and is helping businesses and organizations across Manitoba stay informed and protected.

#### Simple, Strong, and Personalized Protection

Cybersecurity is about being prepared, not just reacting when something goes wrong. By understanding how your business works and where risks might be, you can make smart choices that really help by starting with simple but powerful steps like keeping software updated, securing networks, and using basic monitoring tools. These simple actions are often the best way to protect your business from growing cyber threats.

#### Support That Understands Your Needs

As a proud 100% Indigenous- owned company, HUB cares about the success and safety of local businesses. Their work is helping small and medium-sized organizations protect what matters most: their data, clients, and reputation.

With the right support and practical solutions, small and medium-sized organizations can build stronger digital foundations and feel more confident in a connected world. It's about making thoughtful, sustainable changes that keep your operations safe today, and into the future.



TECHNOLOGY  
SOLUTIONS



# Manitoba Summer - R&R Ideas

We know extended time off is a rare luxury for self-employed business owners, so we'll spare you the lecture on work-life balance. However, if you do find some time for you and your loved ones, consider exploring what some of our Business Association Members have to offer in the Tourism & Hospitality sectors:

## Hanitoba Pottery (Hannah Pruder)

If you are in the Thompson area, why not try a pottery class or purchase a handmade piece of pottery  
[@hanitobapottery | Instagram](#)

## La Brasserie Nonsuch Brewing Co. Ltd (Matthew Sabourin)

If you have not experienced the Tap Room and patio and tasted the award-winning beers at Nonsuch, what better time than this summer?

[Nonsuch Brewing Co | Website](#)

## Play World Fun Rentals (Mitch Kennedy)

If you are having an outdoor event or festival and need some entertainment for the kids

[Playworld Fun Rentals | Website](#)

## Stop Sign Concessions Ltd O/A The Churro Shop (Tara & Jacko Garcia)

Be on the lookout for Stop Sign Concessions at events in Winnipeg and surrounding areas this summer and if you are having an event and need a food truck, contact Tara and Jacko.

[The Churro Stop | Website](#)

## Pita Pit (Darren Gentes & Matt Gentes)

For a quick bite or catering backyard events this summer, contact one of the three Pita Pit locations:

[Winnipeg Ellice | Pita Pit Restaurants](#)

[Winnipeg- Regent | Pita Pit Restaurants](#)

[Winnipeg Sterling | Pita Pit Restaurants](#)

## Powder Princess Spa & Boutique (Tanya Grimolfson)

Give yourself a real break this summer and treat yourself to some spa time

[The Powder Princess | Website](#)

## Wonderful Winnipeg City Tours (Carolyn Preston)

Take a guides tour of Winnipeg and sites and landmarks  
[Wonderful Winnipeg City Tours | Facebook](#)

## Big Chill Mobile Coolers & Freezer Rentals (Danielle Erickson)

Running an outdoor event and need to keep things chill?

[Big Chill Mobile | Website](#)

## Barala Kennels (Matthew Figur)

Need accommodation for your furry loved one if you can't take them with you?

[Barala Kennels | Website](#)

## Mossy Birch Homestead (Erica Lindell)

For something a little different—have you ever tried foraging in the forest?

[Mossy Birch Homestead | Website](#)

## Hello Taxi (Paul Trudeau)

If you're ever in the Steinbach area this summer and need a lift

[Hello Taxi | Website](#)

## Louise Anderson Photo + Media (Louise Anderson)

If you are having an even this summer and need a photographer

[Louise Anderson Photo + Media | Website](#)

# RRM BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

## MONTHLY MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS



Going strong since February, the RRMBA has been featuring two Red River Métis Business Association Members each month on the RRMBCDC website. It's a great way to learn more about your fellow Members, their businesses, and how you can connect and support one another.

If you haven't had a chance to check it out yet, we encourage you to take a look—past monthly features are still available at the link!

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS



### APRIL SPOTLIGHTS

#### **Mossy Birch Homestead**

<https://www.mossybirchhomestead.ca/>

#### **Playworld Fun Rentals**

<https://playworldfunrentals.com/>

### MAY SPOTLIGHTS

#### **Green key Builders**

<http://www.greenkeybuilders.com>

#### **Legacy Nation Contracting**

<http://www.legacyncl.com/>

#### **MedeChan**

<http://www.medechan.com/>

### JUNE SPOTLIGHTS

#### **Heal and Toes Reflexology**

<http://www.healandtoes.ca/>

#### **NEAR EV Recharge Ltd**

<http://www.nearevrecharge.ca/>



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SEPT 2025 - JUNE 2026

### 2024–25 Event Recap & What's Next

Between October 2024 and June 2025, the RRMBA offered a variety of learning and networking opportunities—fourteen in total—to our Membership. Here's what that looked like:

- (6) Lunch & Learns
- (5) Business Mixers
- (3) Special / Unique Events

In addition, we helped organize and deliver the first annual RRM Business Gala in May 2024, as well as the two-day Business Expo in December 2024.

We're now busy planning a new slate of events—big and small—beginning this Fall, including the second annual RRM Business Gala (more on that below).

Input from our Membership is always appreciated and valued. Looking back at what we've offered so far, we know we'll be continuing with the Regional Business Mixers and the Lunch & Learn series. We have a few updates in the works for both, and we'd love to hear from you.

Keep an eye on your inbox for a Member survey coming soon—we're looking for your feedback and topic ideas for the upcoming Lunch & Learn sessions.

### Red River Métis Business Excellence Awards November 27, 2025 – Save the date!

The Manitoba Métis Federation - The National Government of the Red River Métis will host its 2nd Annual Red River Métis Business Excellence Awards on **Thursday November 27, 2025**. This Gala evening is the most prestigious event celebrating Red River Métis entrepreneurs and businesses.

Join us as we celebrate the strength, spirit, and excellence of Red River Métis commerce. For more information, click on the link below:

[Red River Métis Business Gala: More Info](#)

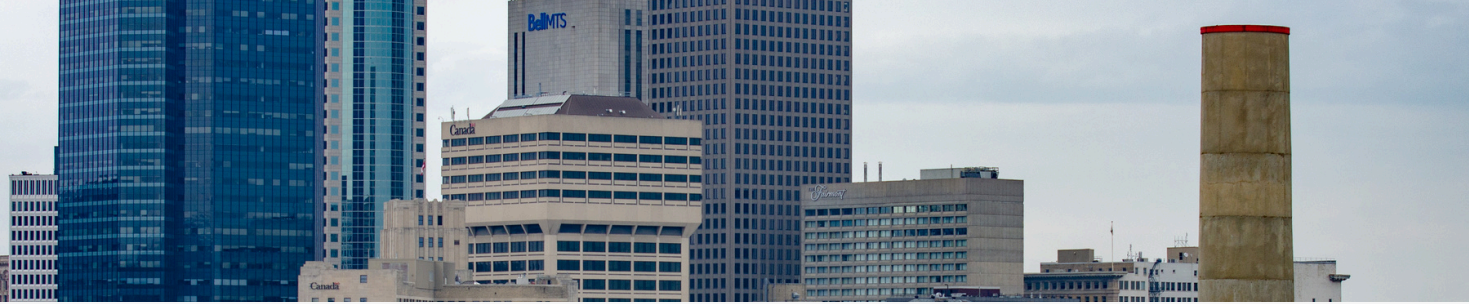


### Call for Nominations

Organized by the Red River Métis Business Association (RRMBA), we are now accepting nominations for majority owned Red River Métis businesses. Entrepreneurs are encouraged to self-nominate during the nomination period. **Nominations are due by August 25.**

**Please note:** All finalists must be present at the Business Awards Gala in Winnipeg on **November 27, 2025**.

[Nomination Form](#)



## For Your Awareness

### **Métis Hour x2 with Naomi Clarke, feat. Red River Métis Entrepreneurs**

While the Métis Hour x2 isn't new, what is new is the exciting addition of Red River Métis entrepreneurs being featured and interviewed as part of the program. Since August 2024, these spotlights have aired twice a month on Saturdays.

From March 22 through the end of August, the show is highlighting Red River Métis entrepreneurs in the Tourism & Hospitality sectors. Be sure to tune in to NCI at 11 a.m. on Saturdays to catch the interviews live!

If you are interested in participating please send an email to [shaun.hampton@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:shaun.hampton@mmf.mb.ca)

### **Prairie & Northern Partner Network (PNPN)**

The Prairie and Northern Procurement Newsletter (PNPN) is part of Public Services and Procurement Canada's (PSPC) outreach efforts to share information on procurement opportunities and resources.

Stay up to date on key opportunities, success stories, and initiatives related to procurement across the Prairie region.

To view the most recent issue and subscribe to the mailing list, click the link below.

[Western PAC - Supplier Newsletter \(July 2025\)](#)



## Introducing the RRMBCD Team

We're excited to introduce some of the team and board members behind the RRMBCD. These individuals are working hard to support Red River Métis entrepreneurs and grow the Red River Métis Business Association.

This photo shows a great mix of long-time leaders and new team members—all dedicated to strengthening our Nation through business, partnerships, and community.

### Board of Directors pictured:

- RRMBCD Co-Chair: Minister David Beaudin
- RRMBCD Director: Minister Peter Fleming
- RRMBCD Director: Elizebeth Palfrey

**Back row (L to R):** Erica Fenner, Elizebeth Palfrey, Minister Peter Fleming, Shaun Hampton, RRMBCD Co-chair Minister David Beaudin, John Coutris

**Front row (L to R):** Sharlene Dubois, Jayce Berthelette, Emma Dutiaume, Carmen Lambert, and Krista Fortin

For more information on the RRMBA or anything featured in this e-newsletter, please contact the RRMBA Manager, Shaun Hampton at [shaun.hampton@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:shaun.hampton@mmf.mb.ca) or call 204-227-9483