

RED RIVER MÉTIS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

E-NEWSLETTER



RRMBA Members, have you had a chance to check out our professional business services?

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
at erica.fenner@mmf.mb.ca

Financial Services Manager - Michelle Syntak
at michelle.syntak@mmf.mb.ca

Special Member Rates!
Digital Media Marketing and Bookkeeping Services



**RRMBA Lunch & Learn
Series: Efficiency Manitoba**



Introducing the RRMBA Lunch & Learn Series and the Expansion of the RRMBA Business Mixers

Originally when the RRMBA was being conceived and then launched through the Summer and into the Fall of 2024, the plan as to start offering a Lunch & Learn series to members along with continuing to host RRMBA Business Mixers in all the MMF Regions throughout Manitoba. These smaller events are in part a response to the 2024 Probe Research Survey results that showed the high level of interest among Red River Métis entrepreneurs in networking events and opportunities and activities that add value to their business.

The first RRMBA event was the Métis Business Excellence Awards, May 2024 which was followed by the MMF Business Expo in December 2024. The inaugural RRMBA Business Mixer was held in Brandon, October 2024 and then in January 2025, a series of smaller events began rolling out each month and will continue until the end of June 2025.

Recap of RRMBA Events in Q4 (January 2025 - March 2025)

Jan. 10/25 - Northwest Regional RRMBA Member Mixer - Obsolete Brew Pub, Dauphin

At the invitation of NW Regional VP Frances Chartrand, the RRMBA hosted their second regional Mixer for Business Association members and Red River Métis entrepreneurs mainly from the NW region. Shaun Hampton and John Coutris from RRMBA. Natalie Kulczycki from LRCC, and Kenzie Kallusky from MMF regional Economic Development Officer hosted Red River Métis entrepreneurs.





Feb. 6/25 – RRMBA Lunch & Learn – PrairiesCan, Business Scale-up Program (BSP), Winnipeg

Joe Keszi from Prairies Can, which is part of Prairies Economic Development Canada, presented on the Business Scale-up and Productivity Program (BSP) and how it can benefit your business if there is a fit with the eligibility and criteria. The presentation was in front of in-person and virtual attendees

Prairies Economic Development Canada (PrairiesCan) is the department that diversifies the economy across the Canadian Prairies. PrairiesCan leads in building a strong, competitive Canadian economy by supporting business, innovation and community economic development unique to Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Feb. 27/25 – From Handshake to Signature – Meetings with Meaning, The Next Phase, Winnipeg

As a follow-up to the 2024 MMF Business Expo that took place in Winnipeg, Dec. 3 and 4, 2024, the Red River Métis Business Development Corp and Métis Economic Development Corporation organized a procurement focused event to capitalize on and further the connections and business relationships that were fostered at the 2024 Expo. In discussions with attendees during the December Business Expo and afterwards we heard overwhelming interest in continuing to bring Buyers and Sellers together again, to respond to this demand in a timely manner.

Invitations were extended to the “Buyers”, businesses, government departments and crown corporations and as well to the “Sellers”, Red River Métis entrepreneurs, that attended the 2024 Expo. To wrap up Phase Two of Meetings with Meaning, there was a networking event at the Devil May Care Brew Co where the featured product, Brat Cat Mead, was a Métis owned and operated business. Thank you to Stephanie Barten, for helping to organize that.

Brat Cat Mead www.bratcatmead.com/





Mar. 20/25 – RRMBA Lunch & Learn with MNP – SR&ED Tax Credit Program and Property Tax Team, Winnipeg

Thanks to the close partnership between the MMF and MNP, RRMBA members benefited from a dual presentation on the SR&ED tax credit that is administered by CRA and an overview on the Property Tax Services division.

Mar. 26/25 – Dealing with the Impact of Tariffs as Red River Métis Business Owner, Winnipeg

The potential impact of tariffs on Red River Métis owned businesses, their supply networks and customers were an acute interest to us as the RRMBA and MECD as Affiliates of the MMF. Together we organized a meeting with business owners both in person and virtually and facilitated a discussion that centered around five questions that gauged the potential impact of tariffs and responses. It was an opportunity for Red River Métis entrepreneurs to come together collectively and share strategies and resources that they had tried or heard about and at the same time realizing they weren't alone as they faced the unknown. It was a great example of the power of connectivity.

Feb. 28/25 Thompson Regional RRMBA Mixer and Mar. 1/25 Thompson Regional Meeting, Thompson

It was the first time the RRMBA held an event in the Thompson Region that coincided with the MMF Regional Meeting. This was also the third RRMBA Mixer.

Mar. 11/25 – Southeast Regional RRMBA Mixer, Lac du Bonnet

This event was a collaboration with RRMBA Member Brent Charles and the Lac du Bonnet Local. The fourth RRMBA Mixer was held at the Lac du Bonnet Legion where many MMF events in the Southeast Region have been held. Brent also owns and operates a business in the region, Granite Mountain Stone Design, office locations in Lac du Bonnet and West St. Paul.



RRMBA Events at a Glance – Fall 2024 to Spring 2025

Recap of events and what is still to come

October 2024

·RRMBA Business Mixer – Southwest Region, Brandon

December 2024

·2024 MMF Business Expo – RBC Convention Ctr, Winnipeg

January 2025

·RRMBA Business Mixer – Northwest Region, Lac du Bonnet

February 2025

·RRMBA Lunch & Learn – PrairiesCan, Business Scale-up Program (BSP)
·Special Event – From Handshake to Signature – Meetings with Meaning, The Next Phase
·Special Event – Post Conference Networking Event

March 2025

·RRMBA Business Mixer – Northwest Region, Lac du Bonnet
·RRMBA Lunch & Learn with MNP – SR&ED Tax Credit Program and Property Tax Team
·Special Event – RRMBA & MECD Facilitated Discussion on the Impact of Tariffs

April 2025

·RRMBA Lunch & Learn Series – MET Presentation on Wage Subsidies for Business
·RRMBA Lunch & Learn Series – Efficiency MB



Upcoming events in May & June 2025

May 2025

·May 22 – RRMBA Lunch & Learn Series – RRMBA Benefits Program Through Canada Life
June 2025

June 2025

·June 5 – RRMBA Business Mixer
Winnipeg Region – Thirsty Lion, Wpg
·June 11 – RRMBA Lunch & Learn – BGIS & Procurement Opportunities, Wpg
·June 19 – RRMBA Business Mixer
Interlake Region – Interlake Brew Co, Gimli



What else is new for the RRM Business Association?

Canada Life Group Benefits Program - May 22

As a member of the RRM Business Association you are eligible to apply for group benefits coverage underwritten through Canada Life. This unique coverage is tailored for businesses with 1-25 employees while independently and specifically underwritten for businesses with more than 26 employees. Unique only to the RRM Business Association is group benefits coverage for businesses as small as 1-2 lives which is not available if you were to apply on the open market. Go to the RRM BDC website for information rrmbdc.ca/group-benefits

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

While the Métis Hour x2 is not new what is new is having Red River Métis Entrepreneurs featured and interviewed as part of the program on Saturdays since August 2024, typically twice a month.

Starting on March 22 and running through until the end of August, the theme is Tourism & Hospitality featuring Red River Métis entrepreneurs in those industry sectors. Tune in to NCI at 11am on Saturdays to hear the interviews live.

RRM Business Association Member Spotlights

In February 2025, the RRMBA began featuring two RRM Business Association members each month on the RRM BDC website, a great opportunity to get to know your RRMBA peers and their businesses and get connected. If you haven't checked it out yet, we encourage you to do so, the previous months are still active on the link.

February Spotlights

The Bra Bar & Panterrie - Crystal Adamson
[Bra store in Canada](#) | [Bra Fitting](#) - [The BraBar & Panterrie](#)

Mossy Rock Cattle Co. - Tyler & Joshua Lee
[Facebook](#)
[Mossy Rock Cattle Co. \(@mossyrockcatco\)](#) •
[Instagram photos and videos](#)

March Spotlights

Pop CoLab - Donovan Robinson
[Pop CoLab](#) | [creative team experiences Winnipeg](#) | [1 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, MB, Canada](#)

Lil' Métis Shop in the Prairies - Sabrina Borkessel
[Lil Métis Shop In The Prairies](#)

April Spotlights

Playworld Fun Rentals - Mitch Kennedy
[Playworld Fun Rentals - Home](#)

Mossy Birch Homestead - Erica Lindell
[Foraging, Salves + more](#) | [Mossy Birch Homestead](#) | [Manitoba](#)

Prairie & Northern Partner Network (PNPN)

The PNPN is part of the outreach from Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) to disburse information on procurement opportunities and resources. I joined the Network last Fall and have recently become the co-chair of the PNPN. We meet every two months to get updates on key opportunities, success stories and initiatives related to procurement across the Prairie region. We will also learn about upcoming workshops, resources and best practices from the other members of the network so stay tuned as I will be sharing news that is relevant to the RRMBA.



January 10/25 - Obselete Brew Pub, Dauphin



February 27/25 - From Handshake to Signature - Meetings with Meaning, The Next Phase, Winnipeg

For more information on the RRMBA or anything you have seen in the E-Newsletter, please contact the RRMBA Manager, Shaun Hampton at shaun.hampton@mmf.mb.ca or call 204-227-9483