







# **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS**





# RED RIVER MÉTIS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

>>> WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN!

The goal of the Red River Métis Business Association (RRMBA) is to support Red River Métis business owners and entrepreneurs by providing them with networking opportunities, personal development and learning, and professional services like business bookkepping, digital marketing, and group benefits. This creates an environment for Members to enhance their skills and network at these events and initiatives that encourage and support connectivity.

The benefits of RRMBA membership include:

- Professional Business Services digital marketing & social media, bookkeeping services, and group benefits provided at competitive market rates.
- RRMBA Events Red River Métis Business Excellence Awards to be held November 27, 2025 and the Red River Métis Business Expo to be held early 2026.
- Discounted event pricing for Business Association Members events and workshops such as the Lunch & Learn Series and events.
- Networking opportunities with other Red River Métis entrepreneurs and networking.

TO REGISTER FOR THE ASSOCIATION, VISIT: HTTPS://MEMBERS.RRMBDC.CA/ATLAS/FORMS/PROSPECT/2



# **LAUNCH OF THE RRMBA LUNCH & LEARN SERIES**

## >>> ENHANCING SKILLS AND CREATING CONNECTIVITY

In February 2025 the first RRMBA Lunch & Learn was held at 200 Main in Winnipeg, where we hosted Joe Keszi from Prairies Can to present on the Business Scale-up and Productivity (BSP). Since then, there have been three more RRMBA Lunch & Learns (see 2025 Events) and two more scheduled in May and June.

## > RRMBA REGIONAL AFTER **BUSINESS MIXERS AND OTHER EVENTS**

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 opportunities and activities that add value to their business.

The first RRMBDC event was the Métis Business Excellence Awards, May 2024 which was followed by the Red River Métis 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.



### > CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025

#### January 2025

• RRMBA Business Mixer - Northwest Region, Lac du Bonnet

#### February 2025

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

#### **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 & Métis Economic Community Development Officers (MECD) Facilitated Discussion on the Impact of Tariffs, Wpg

#### **April 2025**

- RRMBA Lunch & Learn Series Métis Employment and Training (MET) Presentation on Wage Subsidies for Business, Wpg
- RRMBA Lunch & Learn Series Efficiency MB, Wpg

#### May 2025

• May 22 - RRMBA Lunch & Learn Series -RRMBA Benefits Program Through Canada Life, Wpg

#### 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





# **JOIN TODAY!**

# **BECOME A MEMBER** OF THE RED RIVER **MÉTIS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

Receive exclusive business services designed to help you succeed! The Red River Métis Business Association offers expert support in digital media marketing, bookkeeping, and group benefits, along with valuable networking opportunities and business resources.



## **Digital Media Marketing**

Three tailored packages to boost your online presence, engage your audience and drive business growth - whether you need basic support or a full-scale strategy, we have the right solution.

#### **Group Health Benefits**

Exclusive Benefits tailored for businesses with 1-25 employees.

### Bookkeeping

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#### Service & Support

Digital Media Marketing, Bookkeeping, and Group Health Benefits, plus exclusive networking and events - join today and unlock the benefits!

## Why Join:

- Networking Events
- Economic Development Departments
- Special Member Pricing for Business Services
- Access to events and workshops, such as:
  - Business Expo
  - Business Excellence Awards
  - Lunch & Learn Workshops

Contact Us Today!











# RED RIVER MÉTIS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION GROUP BENEFITS

>>> TAKE CARE OF YOUR TEAM WITH THE RRMBA GROUP BENEFITS PLAN

Supporting your employees' well-being is key to building a strong, successful business. The Red River Métis Business Association (RRMBA) Group Benefits Plan is designed specifically for small to mid-sized businesses, offering flexible, comprehensive coverage—even for businesses with just 1-2 employees.

Available exclusively to Red River Métis Business Association members, this plan offers no industry restrictions, and no medical evidence required, making it easy to provide life insurance, prescription medication coverage, dental insurance, and more.

Attract and retain top talent while giving your team the financial security they deserve. Get started today with a free quote!

## Visit: rrmbdc.ca/group-benefits



## LOOKING AHEAD >>>

As part of the MMF's Economic Development portfolio, RRMBDC envisions a future where Red River Métis businesses are leaders in innovation, prosperity, and community-building—driving a self-sustaining Métis economy rooted in culture, collaboration, and resilience. Red River Métis majority owned and controlled businesses will leverage our services which will evolve over time based on the future needs of those small to medium-sized businesses.

Join the Red River Métis Business Association today by visiting: https://members.rrmbdc.ca/atlas/forms/prospect/2 Contact Information

Contact one of our staff and have a conversation about all the value add benefits available to Red River Métis entrepreneurs and businesses.

Shaun Hampton

Manager, Red River Métis Business Association Email: shaun.hampton@mmf.mb.ca or Direct: (204) 227-9483

Red River Métis Business Development Corporation 2100-333 Main Street | Winnipeg, MB | R3C 4E2 Email rrmbdc@mmf.mb.ca or call: (204) 589-0772







# RED RIVER MÉTIS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

>>> DISCOVER MORE: ACCESS RED RIVER MÉTIS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO STAY IN THE KNOW

# SCAN AND BE CONNECTED WITH RRMBDC!

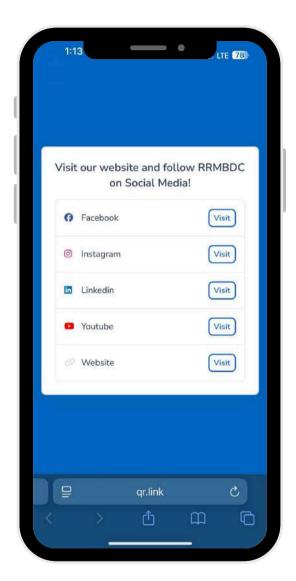
Scan the QR Code to unlock full access to everything RRMBDC has to offer.

From our Business Association to comprehensive details on RRMBDC Services, latest news and events, and much more!.

You'll also find our contact information to easily get in touch with us. While there, don't forget to sign up for our mailing list to stay informed on exciting updates, opportunities, and events.



STAY IN THE LOOP AND GROW WITH US!













# BRINGING YOUR IDEAS TO LIFE

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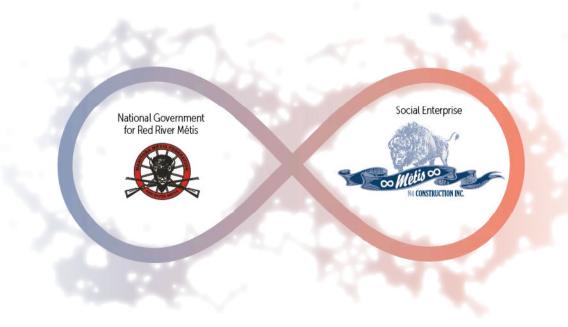
Capital construction projects are an economic force fueling opportunities for Red River Métis labour and trades. We target Red River Métis labour participation at a minimum of 28% on all our projects and have achieved as high as 70% on projects in the Métis N4 portfolio. We are always looking for skilled Red River Métis companies to bid on our competitively tendered projects and are actively seeking skilled Red River Métis workers to match with our partners in industry.

In September 2024 we led the first MMF Construction Industry event targeting post-secondary students in search of internships, apprenticeships and employment. With MMF Métis Employment and Training as our trusted partner, we have assisted many individuals in landing their first career placement through the strength of reputation and relationships.

In May 2025 we will be engaging with the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists to strengthen opportunities for Red River Métis post-secondary students to find their place in these respected professions. Red River Métis professionals are highly sought after on consulting teams for capital projects.

We are always open for business to meet with Red River Métis trades and individuals seeking opportunities provided by Métis Capital projects on behalf of the National Government of the Red River Métis. FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON
MÉTIS N4
CONSTRUCTION,
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

**METISN4CONSTRUCTION.CA** 



# **JOIN US! ON AIR AND ONLINE**

>>> FOR ALL THE LATEST RED RIVER MÉTIS NEWS AND EVENTS



# KEEPING YOU INFORMED!

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR
MAILING LIST, VISIT
MMF.MB.CA, AND SIGN
UP TODAY!





# LOUIS RIEL CAPITAL is Riel CORPORATION

Founded in 1992 by the economic development initiatives of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), LouisRiel Capital Corporation (LRCC) offers funding programs to empower Red River Métis individuals andbusinesses by providing accessible, innovative, and sustainable financial solutions, fostering economic growth, self-sufficiency, and long-term prosperity within the Manitoba Métis community. Throughcommercial loans, personal loans, and targeted grant programs, we strive to strengthen the entrepreneurial spirit, support community development, and create opportunities for Red River Métis people to thrive in allaspects of life.

#### PROGRAMS OFFERED

## **LRCC Grant and Loan Program**

- · Louis Riel Capital Corporation provides financing support to Red River Métis entrepreneurs headquartered in Manitoba. Our business grant and loan program is designed to finance start-ups, expand, or acquire businesses in Manitoba.
- Entrepreneurs must contribute a minimum of 10% of the total project costs.
- LRCC grants cover up to 30% of eligible project costs.
- · A minimum loan must account for 40% of the total project costs.
- This program offers a comprehensive financial solution to help Red River Métis entrepreneurs build and grow successful businesses.

### **LRCC Small Business Loan**

- · Louis Riel Capital Corporation offers four small business loan programs designed to support Red River Métis owned business looking to access funding of \$30,000.00 and under.
- Our Youth Entrepreneurship Programs is available to Red River Métis entrepreneurs between the ages of 18-29.
- · LRCC offers small business loan catering to our Red River Métis Commercial Fishers and Trappers.

#### Métis Women Entrepreneurship (MWE) **Program**

- · Métis Women Entrepreneurship (MWE) offers a holistic program uniquely tailored to support and empower Red River Métis women entrepreneurs.
- MWE provides commercial financing to help Red River Métis women start or expand a business in Manitoba up to \$30,000.00.
- · MWE Mentorship Program offers guidance and expertise of experienced mentors and industry professions over a six month period.
- Gain valuable insights and connections through the MWE workshops and networking events dedicated to Red River Métis women in business.

## Red River Métis Personal Loan Program

- · Louis Riel Capital Corporation offer a personal loan program to Red River Métis citizens for up to \$40,000.00. The loan is intended for the purchase of consumer goods such as vehicles, home renovations and debt consolidations.
- Applicants must demonstrate their ability to repay the loan with proof of income and may require collateral to secure the loan.

## >>> DELIVERED BY LRCC ON BEHALF OF THE MMF



Launched in February 2019, the MMF's First Time Home Purchase Program (FTHPP) addresses the housing needs, priorities, and challenges of the Red River Métis, making homeownership a reality for Red River Métis Citizens who have never owned a home before.

The program provides funding for down payments on the purchase of a home, up to a maximum of 5% of the purchase price, with a cap of \$18,000, plus purchase closing costs of 1.5% of the purchase price, up to a cap of \$2,500.

#### **Eligibility**

Applicant(s) residing in Manitoba for a minimum of six months;

- Must provide proof of Métis citizenship with their application; ie. MMF Métis Citizenship Card or a letter from the MMF CRO department confirming the applicant's Métis Citizenship Card is in the process of being issued.
- Must be 18 years of age or older.
- Must be able to qualify for and obtain a mortgage from a mainstream or known financial institution. LRCC or the MMF reserves the right to review the terms and conditions of any first place mortgage financing.
- Priority will be given to those who are currently residing in social housing, and families escaping situations of abuse or violence.
- The forgivable loan amount must be registered on the title in second position at the applicants cost.
- The home being purchased must be for the applicant's primary residence.
- Applicant must not have ever owned a home.
- Applicants must not have ownership in any real estate (including land) with a market value of morethan \$30,000.
- Family/Household taxable income as stated from the CRA Notice of Assessments must be below\$100,000.
- Applicants must have current combined liquid assets of less than \$60,000.

#### Eligible types of homes

- Newly constructed homes with new home warranty proceeding as a turnkey purchase from a builder(deposits
  on new builds will not be funded and must be completed within a reasonable timeframe at the discretion of
  MMF FTHPP funder:
- · Resale market homes, single family, side by side, townhouses, condominiums, multi-unit;
- Ready to Move Homes (RTMs) on permanent foundations;
- Conversions from non-residential use, that feature a new home warranty;
- Mobile homes on owned land, on a permanent foundation anchored to the property and acceptable to a financial institution for mortgage financing purposes;
- The home purchase price is to be governed by the applicants income and down-payment relevant to mortgage and debt payments.
- Maximum home purchase price \$600,000.



# **OUR IMPACT IN ACTION**

## >>> WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY

I want to give a huge shoutout to LRCC for being an incredible partner throughout my entrepreneurial

Fifteen years ago, I was overjoyed to secure my first Kid City location at 801 Century Street—the first step in turning my dream of opening up an Indoor Play Center into reality. From the very beginning, LRCC was there to support me, and now, 15 years later, as I embark on an exciting expansion, they are right by my side once again.

I can't thank LRCC enough for being such a valuable ally and for continuously supporting me and my small local business! Thank you - Deena Caplette, Founder, Kid City



## >>> A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP - A Salute to Our Former CEO



After years of dedicated leadership, we announce the retirement of Paul Paradis as his time at the Louis Riel Capital Corporation comes to a close. Paul has been a driving force behind our mission to empower Métis entrepreneurs, and we are deeply grateful for his wisdom, his service and support.

During his 19 years with LRCC, Paul has helped shape the future Métis entrepreneurship, the Louis Riel Capital Corporation and the Red River Métis community. His leadership has left a lasting impact, and we thank him for his unwavering commitment.

As we celebrate Paul's legacy, we also look ahead to a bright future for LRCC with another professional Red River Métis successor, Tyler McKay.

We invite our community to join us in celebrating Paul's achievements and wishing him all the best in retirement.





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# RED RIVER MÉTIS ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (MECD)

## >>> MECD OFFICERS ARE IN THE REGIONS READY TO HELP!

The Métis Economic & Community Development (MECD) team is responsible for implementing distinctions-based economic and community development initiatives for the Red River Métis. MECD is dedicated to supporting Red River Métis business owners and entrepreneurs by promoting their presence, participation, and success across all sectors of the economy. MECD provides direct and meaningful supports to Red River Métis business owners and entrepreneurs through networking opportunities, promotional assistance, procurement opportunities, and guidance in navigating the complexities of business planning and funding applications. Each MECD Officer is designated as a sector lead, responsible for developing a sector-specific strategy in agriculture, tourism, mining, and other sectors. These strategies identify needs and interests within the Red River Métis community and outline ways to support Red River Métis businesses in establishing, maintaining, or expanding their operations.

#### 2024-2025 Impact at a Glance

- 79 new businesses added to the Manitoba Métis Federation Business Registry
- 58 Business Navigation sessions delivered
- 73 Businesses received advisory services
- 45 businesses created, maintained, or expanded
- 10 workshops delivered with 350+ participants in partnership with IWS and LRCC

#### RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Building on the success of the 2024 Red River Métis Business Expo, MECD participated in the Meetings with Meaning follow-up event on February 27, 2025. MECD Officers worked closely with Red River Métis businesses, facilitating connections with industry and government buyers and supporting new business opportunities. The impact of this event was felt by many, including Matthew Meder of Green Key Builders, who shared his appreciation:

" ... [I] wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for the "Meetings with Meaning" event on February 27th in Winnipeg. The experience was truly exceptional from start to finish ... [Team] efforts, along with the entire MECD team and RRMBDC, created an environment that fostered meaningful connections and valuable networking opportunities."

MECD Officers have also been on the road, actively engaging with businesses in their Regions. In partnership with the Red River Métis Business Development Corporation (RRMBDC), they recently embarked on events and engagement through the Interlake, meeting with 5 Red River Métis entrepreneurs. They explored program opportunities, business development strategies, expansion plans, and industry-specific challenges. MECD remains committed to supporting Red River Métis businesses and entrepreneurs across Manitoba, helping them navigate MMF and other programs and resources.

# **NEW SERVICE! BUSINESS NAVIGATION SESSIONS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE** REGIONS



## >>> MECD OFFICERS ARE IN THE REGIONS READY TO HELP!

The MECD team is excited to expand its Business Navigation services through the Infinity Women Secretariat into the Regions! Red River Métis entrepreneurs can now book a free 45-minute Business Navigation session available in person or virtually—to help navigate business planning, funding opportunities, and procurement

To book a session, contact your regional MECD Officer today!

## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MECD OFFICERS:

Kristi Perrin: General Manager

Ph: 431-336-5013

Email: kristi.perrin@mmf.mb.ca

Jolanda Kroll: Southwest Region, Agriculture Economic

Sector lead Ph: 204-914-0944

Email: jolanda.kroll@mmf.mb.ca

Kenzie Kallusky: Northwest Region, Forestry Economic

Sector lead Ph: 204-638-9485

Email: kenzie.kallusky@mmf.mb.ca

Dean Mason: Winnipeg Region, Aerospace and Defense,

Manufacturing Economic Sector lead

Ph: 431-293-9158

Email: dean.mason@mmf.mb.ca

Samantha Law: Southeast Region, Tourism and

Hospitality Economic Sector lead

Ph: 204-754-2721

Email: samantha.law@mmf.mb.ca

Hannah Lahonen: The Pas Region, Mining Economic

Sector lead Ph: 204-923-0331

Email: hannah.lahonen@mmf.mb.ca

## HELPING RED RIVER MÉTIS BUSINESSES SUCCEED IN PROCUREMENT

Our Partnerships and Procurement team is strengthening business opportunities by helping Red River Métis businesses navigate public tendering and enhancing their procurement strategies. Over the 2024-2025 fiscal year, our procurement advisory service has supported 12 Red River Métis businesses, delivering 37 hours of one-on-one guidance, including industry-specific MERX searches, tender reviews, and procurement system assessments. This support has led to a new contract for a local supplier! The procurement advisory service has worked with businesses across various sectors, from construction to emergency response, to accommodations. If your business needs assistance with procurement, tendering or supplier strategies, reach out to our team!

If your business is listed in the LRCC business directory and operates primarily in business-to-business markets, you qualify for 3-5 hours of personalized procurement advisory services.

For more information or to register for this service, please email Justine at Justine.backer@mmf.mb.ca

# **RED RIVER MÉTIS POWER CORPORATION**

# >>> EMPOWERING OUR FUTURE

On October 18, 2024 the Manitoba Métis Federation launched the Red River Métis Power Corporation (RRMPC). This latest MMF Affiliate company will advance Red River Métis development of new renewable wind energy to help power our Province, invest in our communities, and build a legacy of sustainable success.

At its core, the RRMPC is a testament to Red River Métis ingenuity and resilience. With intentions to pursue up to 300 Megawatts (MW) in wind energy production on the near term — enough to power a staggering 90,000 homes daily — the MMF and its Power Corporation is not just addressing the energy needs of Manitoba but also carving out a prosperous future for Red River Métis Citizens.

This isn't just about clean energy, it's about creating real, tangible opportunities. Every wind turbine built and every kilowatt generated represents jobs for Red River Métis workers, growth for local businesses, and a ripple effect of economic benefits that will strengthen our communities.

"This is another example of the Red River Métis investing in the heart of the Homeland, to the benefit of all who share this land with us," said President Chartrand on the day of the announcement. "The Red River Métis are focused on being a driving force for positive change, both economically and environmentally, and we believe wind power is an important way to secure a stable future for all. Manitobans will be proud of this great partnership between the Government of Manitoba and the Red River Métis Government."





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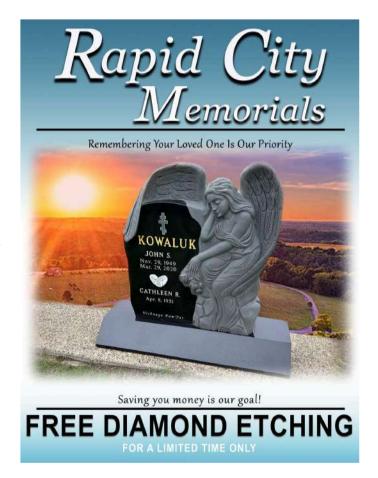
Swan River	Mike Yablonski	204-734-3916
Russell	Rayna Robinson	204-724-0515
Carberry	Carberry Signs	204-834-2700
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With a multi-faceted approach grounded in Métis ways of knowing and relational science, I offer training, consulting, and curriculum development; specializing in cultivating emotionally nourishing environments for organizations, educational spaces, and families.

Curious about what's possible but not sure where to start? A needs assessment is a low-stakes first step to reflect together and co-create a meaningful path forward. I'd love to connect.

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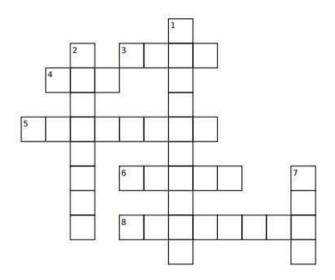






# MÉTIS GAMES >>> PAUSE. PLAY. CELEBRATE OUR CULTURE

## Crossword Puzzle



#### Down:

- 1. The MMF stands for Manitoba Métis \_
- Métis people often identify with this unique culture
- 7. Métis-led capital corporation

#### Across:

- 3. The founder of the Province of Manitoba
- The river associated with the Métis Homeland
- 5. Traditional Métis sash
- 6. Distinct Indigenous Nation in Manitoba
- 8. The MMF supports this type of development

## **RED RIVER MÉTIS WORDSEARCH**

Look for the words listed below.

٧	K	В	F	N	J	F	D	J	Н	Α	R	٧	E	S	T	1	N	G	T
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Moose Beadwork Elk Prairie Riel Métis Tea Berries Taanishi Fur Harvesting Canoe Settlement Moccasins Voyageur Pemmican Fishing





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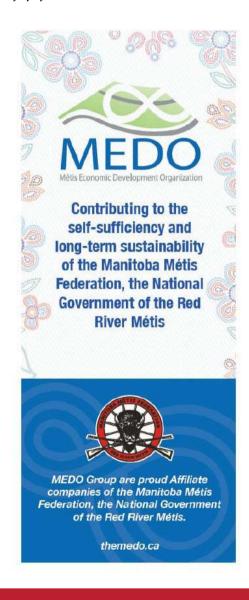
Randy & Onale Thomas

PH: 204-756-2553 waynesbackhoe@gmail.com



# MÉTIS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (MEDO)

>>> AFFILIATE OF THE MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION













Red River Métis Tree Nursery

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# SAVE THE DATE

RED RIVER MÉTIS BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

# AWARDS Jala

# NOVEMBER 27, 2025

Fort Garry Place . 85 Garry Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba

The Manitoba Métis Federation invites you to attend and support the second annual Red River Métis Business Excellence Awards Gala, celebrating our vibrant Red River Métis Business Community.

Details coming soon!





# MMF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

The Economic Development programs & services offered to Red River Métis Citizens are made possible through the economic development initiatives under the leadership of President Chartrand as Minister of Economic Development of the Manitoba Métis Federation.