



October 2023



Issue #1

Culture and Heritage Newsletter



On the Medicine Walk at Elders & Youth Gathering 2023

Welcome all Youth, Citizens and Elders to the first issue of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) Culture and Heritage Department newsletter. We are dedicated to creating opportunities for Red River Métis Citizens to come together and celebrate our vibrant culture and heritage. We are also focused on creating tools that can be used in the education and growth of Red River Métis culture, heritage, and pride. The Culture and Heritage Department and Minister Alfred Anderson are seeing many new projects become a reality, and we will update you on our progress in future issues of this newsletter—stay tuned!

Coming Events:

The Annual General Assembly, Louis Riel Commemoration Celebration and Santa Claus Parade are coming up! (pg. 2)

Métis Music Van

Take an inside-look at the Métis Music Van and its origin! (pg. 4)

Past Events:

We take a look back through pictures of National Indigenous People’s Day, Ste. Madeleine Days, Elders & Youth Gathering and more. (pg. 5)

Elder Spotlight

Elder Greg Balmer discusses the importance of culture and heritage in our first Elder Spotlight. (pg. 6)

Contact Us:

cultureandheritage@mmf.mb.ca



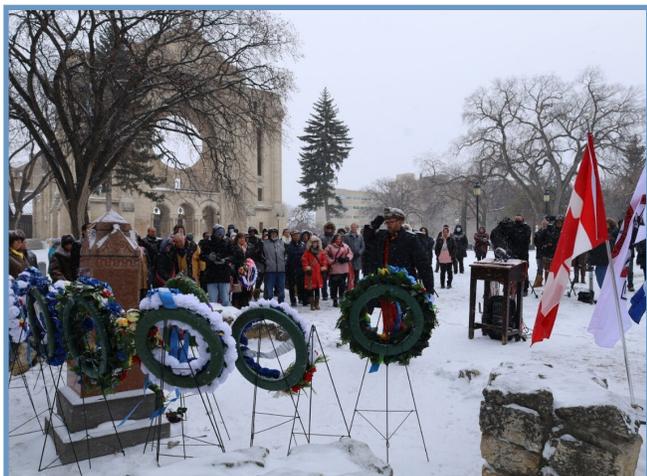


CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Annual General Assembly

Oct 13-15th, Assiniboia Downs

The Annual General Assembly celebrates the MMF accomplishments of the past year, as well as providing Citizens the opportunity to take part in the direction of the MMF. We look forward to seeing you there!



Louis Riel Commemoration Ceremony

***Nov 16th, Louis Riel Gravesite,
St. Boniface Cathedral***

Join us commemorating Louis Riel and remembering his achievements on Louis Riel Commemoration Day on November 16th, the day his execution took place 138 years ago.

Santa Claus Parade

Nov 18th, Portage Ave Winnipeg

Keep an eye out for the Métis Music Van at the Santa Claus Parade with the other MMF vehicles! We will see you there with our Red River Métis pride.



Photo: CBC Santa Claus Parade





Minister's Message

I, Minister Alfred Anderson, the Vice-President of the Interlake Region and the Minister of Culture & Heritage in our Red River Métis Government am on a mission to instill pride amongst Red River Métis Citizens and put a smile on your face!

I created the Métis Music Van in 2020 and travelled across the Interlake, Southeast and Winnipeg regions to promote the Red River Métis culture and music. I have been recognized for my contributions to the community with the Métis Music Van and was awarded a Selkirk Biz Business Excellence Award and a Community Leadership Award from Promoting Aboriginal Student Success (P.A.S.S). The Métis Music Van can be seen on a life-size mural on Robinson & Main Street in Selkirk, MB.

I enjoy watching the Métis community flourish and this inspires me to spread the Métis culture and heritage even further. Despite all the challenges, I have found a way to connect with the Métis community using the Métis Music Van.



Minister Anderson with "The Beat Goes On" mural in Selkirk





Métis Music Van

During the Covid-19 restrictions in 2020, Minister Anderson created the Métis Music Van so he could continue to spread Red River Métis music and culture through the Interlake and Winnipeg regions. Since people couldn't attend events, he decided to bring Red River Métis music to the people.

Minister Anderson converted his old 1998 P30 Chevy Van into the Métis Music Van. The upgrade included cutting holes in the side of the van for speakers, installing an Inverter to power



everything, and covering it with Métis flags and memorabilia. He cruises up and down the streets playing fiddle music from local Red River Métis artists and handing out infinity flags, engaging and educating the public on Red River Métis culture.



Minister Anderson visits daycares, schools and Elders at senior residences. Be on the lookout for the Métis Music Van visiting your community and spreading the Red River Métis culture and heritage through music. If you are interested in booking the Métis Music Van for any events such as parades,

festivals, fairs, schools, and special celebrations throughout the province please contact cultureandheritage@mmf.mb.ca.



"The Beat Goes On" Mural in Selkirk, MB, featuring the Métis Music Van in the center of the mural (Interlake Art Board)





Look Back at Past Events!



Keep an eye out for the **Culture & Heritage Booth** at local events!

Elders and Youth having fun jigging at **National Indigenous Peoples Day** in Selkirk, MB.

Ste. Madeleine Métis Days



Ste. Madeleine Métis Days was three days full of cultural activities, live music, fun games and *lots* of jigging! Thank you to everyone who braved the rain and joined us for the event!

Elders & Youth Gathering



Elders and Youth participated in cultural activities to teach and learn traditional knowledge, while sharing stories along the way!





Elder Spotlight

A message from Greg Balmer, an Interlake Elder:

“ I present myself as a Michif Métis. A Citizen of the Red River Métis Nation. As a youth, I remember participating in fall hunting, picking berries (saskatoons, cranberries) and fishing in the Athabasca River. My mother and aunts spoke “Broken Cree”. In the mid 50s myself and my siblings were part of the 50/60 scoop.



Today, as an Elder I appreciate our culture of wearing the Métis sash at gatherings with songs, dance and stories. The annual Elder and Youth gathering affords an environment of learning and stories. I still fail in bannock making but, will try again.



As I reflect on the past and look forward into the future, I take great pride in the achievements of our leaders. The continuous persistence of our leaders even going back to Louis Riel and as recent as Clement Chartier (1983-) speaking out for Métis lands, rights and freedom followed by our current President David Chartrand. The commitment and sacrifices to make The Treaty (Manitoba Act 1870) provisions binding in a Modern Day Treaty is astounding to say the least.

I conclude to stress to our Citizens to review and learn our history, your heritage and cherish our culture.”

Greg Balmer Elder Selkirk Métis / Interlake





Michif Word Search

Michif is the national language of the Métis people and is on the brink of extinction due to few fluent speakers remaining. Michif emerged in the late 1700s as a combined language of languages of First Nations and French fur traders, and became the distinct language of the Métis between 1820 and 1840. The MMF is taking steps in the preservation and celebration of the language to ensure its continuation for generations.

Can you find the red Michif words in this word search? The English definition for each Michif word is italicized in blue.

N E L L I U O N R U O G D A A
 H W H W U O R U N K A S R N R
 R S S E O O R O A O O R R N B
 R O A E O L O H P E B R T E R
 W N R H O R N W B R U R A O A
 A R R T R T A O N H I O U R Y
 N W P I B S H N A U O Y D O R
 A E B K H R O O W D U I O H O
 K L S O R G I D A A K O H R O
 E R N U R O O R U A R K H O R
 L N B H B N K R R E K U N U N
 R W O K I H K R N G N E O O G
 H R U A S R S A I N A O A R R
 O K R W H E W A H Y W O S A W
 I N A N N R S P E R E S A E I

Bish (*Elk*)

Kanawr (*Duck*)

Radoo (*Muskrat*)

Brayroo (*Badger*)

Noor (*Bear*)

Renawr (*Fox*)

Gournouille (*Frog*)

Pwashon (*Fish*)

Wehtikouhkawn (*Wolverine*)





History Highlight

The Infinity Flag

The Infinity Flag is one of the most recognized symbols for the Red River Métis, and there are two different versions of this flag: red and blue.



The first Métis infinity flag recorded is the red version with the white infinity symbol, described in the Narrative of James Sutherland, Selkirk Papers as “red with a figure of 8 placed horizontally in the middle”. By September 1815, the Red River Métis were flying the red infinity flag in Qu’Appelle, Saskatchewan.

The blue version with the white infinity symbol was flown on June 19th, 1816 at the Victory of Frog Plain by Cuthbert Grant, when he declared “la nouvelle nation” for the first time, asserting Red River Métis rights.

The infinity symbol in the center of the flag stays the same in both versions, and is thought to mean that the Red River Métis will continue to exist forever.



Source: The Northwest is Our Mother (Jean Teillet), President Chartrand’s Message on Victory of Frog Plain





Important Resources

Mental Wellness Support Line

The Manitoba Métis Federation now offers all Red River Métis Citizens a Mental Wellness Support Line that is toll-free. The telephone line provides citizens with access to counsellors and resources. If you are experiencing challenges because of hardships such as financial uncertainty, social isolation, anxiety, depression, addiction issues and family concerns please reach out and contact the MMF Mental Wellness Support Line.

7am to 11pm daily

Mental Health Telephone Service: 1-833-390-1041 Ext. 1



Métis Community Liaison Department

The Métis Community Liaison Department works to support MMF Citizens of all ages with challenges they face in all areas of life. MCLD helps facilitate the Prescription Drug Program, as well as the Senior Eyeglass Program. MCLD also hosts the Memorial Service Financial Support Program, and the MMF Bereavement Fund. There is financial assistance available for medical appointment accommodations, and partial help for ambulance bills.

MCLD is capable of supporting you with all sorts of things, by connecting you to resources inside and outside of the MMF. If you would like to reach out to a Red River Métis Community Liaison Worker please feel free to call **1-(204)-586-8474** or email **mclld@mmf.mb.ca**.





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Please contact us at the above email/phone number if you have any ideas for our next newsletter issue, coming in early January!

