

OF SELF-GOVERNMENT



Otipemisiwak Métis Government

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24



Table of Contents

Presidential Greeting	2
Dignitary Greetings	3
Weaving the Threads of Self-Government	7
Otipemisiwak Métis Government Swearing-In Ceremony	8
Citizens' Council & Cabinet of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government	
Citizens' Council Annual Report	12
Citizens' Council	16
The Cabinet of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government: Introduction	18
Cabinet Reports	20
Citizens' Representatives	42
District Captains of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government	48
Appointed Officers & Judicial Tribunal of the Otipemisiwak Métis Governm	ent
Appointed Officers of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government	52
Chair of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government	54
Judicial Tribunal of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government	55
Department Reports	
Children and Family Services	60
Consultation	70
Environment and Climate Change	77
Harvesting	93
Health	96
Intergovernmental Relations	103
Justice	108
Métis Identification and Registry Systems	110
Self-Government	112
Youth Programs and Services	118
Affiliate Reports	
Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc	124
Métis Crossing	128
Métis Nation Holdings	131
Métis Urban & Capital Housing	135
Rupertsland Institute	137
Métis Education Foundation	140
The True Canadians Initiative	143
Meeting Minutes (2022/2023)	146

Message from the President



Provincial President Andrea Sandmaier

Dear Citizens,

I am honoured to deliver the 2024 presidential greetings. This year we are celebrating two momentous occasions that honour both our history and our future – this is our 96th year gathering together as a Nation, previously in our Annual General Assemblies, and now for our inaugural Otipemisiwak Métis Government Citizens' Gathering under our newly ratified Constitution. We have a long and storied history of hard work and determination for our Nation, and we have a bright future ahead. This past year has been a historic one, as we began the transition into the next chapter of our journey towards self-government and self-determination as Métis people in Alberta.

Serving as your President during this transformative period has been an honour and a privilege. Together, we have continued to build the foundation for a government that truly represents and serves the needs of our Métis Citizens.

Over the past year, we have strived to enhance the service delivery to our Citizens. Our government is currently developing a recovery continuum grounded in best-practices, Métis culture and values, and centered on Citizen voices and priorities. This includes acute stabilization, transitional housing, and wrap-around supports to help Citizens build the recovery capital needed to thrive. We also started construction on the inaugural Métis Child Care Centre in Edmonton. This Métis-specific Centre will be dedicated to delivering programming deeply rooted in Métis culture and community where our Citizens will have access to landbased learning, and culturally-safe, high-quality child care. A place where they are surrounded by culture, language, and traditions. Additionally, we have continued to expand the Family Reunification Program and other Early Learning and Child Care programs.

This year we were also excited to announce the completion and opening of our solar project, Salay Prayzaan, which means "A Gift from the Sun" in Michif. This Solar Farm is a groundbreaking renewable energy project which highlights not only our government's continued commitment to sustainable energy and community development, but also the deep history our people hold with the environment.

Our Otipemisiwak Métis Government initiatives have helped to preserve and promote Métis culture and heritage, while fostering a renewed sense of pride and identity among our Citizens. I look forward to the continuous possibilities that lie ahead, guided by our shared values of unity, integrity, and inclusivity.

While we have made many achievements and advancements over the last 12 months that we can be collectively proud of, I recognize that there is still more to do. Our journey is far from over, and the path ahead will require continued resilience and hard work. Myself, along with our entire Otipemisiwak Métis Government, remain committed to leading with integrity, transparency, and a commitment to the well-being of our people.

As we embark on this next year, we will continue down the path of self-government and work tirelessly to ensure that even 96 years from now, our descendants will still be celebrating our self-determination as Métis people in Alberta.

Thank you for your trust, support, and commitment to our shared vision.

In solidarity and with gratitude,

Andrea Sandmaier President Otipemisiwak Métis Government



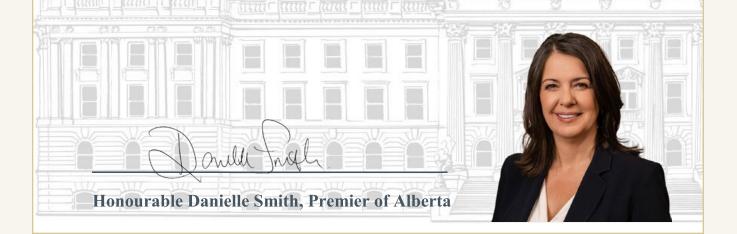
MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF ALBERTA

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, congratulations on an eventful year.

Active since 1928, your storied organization has had a long and co-operative relationship with Alberta's government. Alberta is home to more than 127,000 Métis people, and we recognize that your strong leadership is a benefit not only to your more than 68,000 members, but also to all people living in this province.

Our government is dedicated to a path of reconciliation and shared prosperity, and we are committed to working together as partners with Métis people towards these common goals. I look forward to continuing to build this relationship with you.

Best wishes for a productive and enjoyable gathering.





Message from His Worship Mayor Amarjeet Sohi



On behalf of the City of Edmonton, I would like to congratulate all members of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government for a historic 2023. The ratification of your Constitution, as well as the success of your election, are both major achievements. Generations have worked towards this moment where the Métis have a path towards self-government and nation-to-nation relationships with the Crown.

Edmonton is proud to be home to the provincial headquarters of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, as well as to the Fort Edmonton and Edmonton Whitemud Métis Districts. We remain committed to our 2013 Memorandum of Understanding that guides our governments to work together on issues of mutual interest, like housing, as well as the promotion of culture through the annual Métis Week celebrations. Our city becomes even more vibrant through the music, songs, dancing, language and stories that continue to connect our city and the Metis people since the days of the fur trade.

I look forward to witnessing the growth of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government as it continues to build a foundation for future generations.

A. Sohi

Amarjeet Sohi MAYOR, CITY OF EDMONTON







Tansi!

What an incredible time to be Métis, both here in Alberta and across the Homeland. I am so appreciative to have the privilege in sharing greetings from the Métis National Council to the first Annual Citizens' Gathering hosted by the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. For 96 years, your Métis Government has worked incredibly hard to serve the needs, priorities and rights of Métis within Alberta, and I must commend them on their incredible work.

This first Citizens' Gathering marks a significant milestone, not only for Alberta, but for all Métis across the Homeland. This success will undoubtedly contribute greatly to the future success of the Métis Nation, in pursuits of self-government and self-determination. I want to thank you all for the amazing work that has been done to move to this point, and I look forward to seeing what the future holds.

On a more personal note, as many of you know, I will not be running for re-election as MNC President in September. Alongside your Otipemisiwak Métis Government, we have worked hard to restore the MNC to a place of respect, of transparency, and of accountability. I am so proud of this work and know that the MNC will continue to serve Métis Governments and citizens well into the future. I want to thank each and every one of you for the incredible welcome I have always received when visiting Alberta and am so grateful for your support over the last 3 years.

Marsii,

President Cassidy Caron





Taanishi,

On behalf of Métis Nation British Columbia, I want to extend my heartfelt greetings to the delegates of the first Annual Citizens' Gathering under the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's (OMG) newly ratified constitution. Your government continues to inspire the Citizens and Métis governments across the homeland, with more than 95 years committed to the democratic process. Your work to achieve this new constitution not only marks a significant milestone in your province, it marks a significant milestone for all Métis people as we seek self-governance and empowerment for our respective Citizens.

MNBC supports each Governing Member as they pursue their own path towards selfdetermination. Despite the challenges we face, we all rise together when we achieve successes like the OMG's new constitution. These successes create a way forward for others to follow and we applaud your determination to get to this significant point in our shared history. As your closest neighbour, we will continue to support you along this path and look forward to see what the future holds.

It is my sincere hope that you have a productive and successful assembly. Together we are a proud Nation. We are stronger because of your hard work, and we join you in celebrating your achievements and the impact they have for all of us.

Maarsi,

Lissa Dawn Smith President Métis Nation British Columbia





OF SELF-GOVERNMENT

Long ago, our ancestors started weaving a sash. The first threads woven were their hopes and dreams for our Nation. Their deft hands weaved these threads until they passed the loom to the next generation. These threads were made of resilience and determination to be recognized as a rightsbearing people. With each generation, the threads tell the story of where we come from and where we are going.

Today our sash is made of the many people who built the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, pulling and wrapping these threads together to make our Nation stronger and our voices louder.

For our inaugural Citizens' Gathering, what better way to start this new tradition than to acknowledge the work that brought us to this moment through this year's theme, "Weaving the Threads of Self-Government."

To commemorate this historic event, we will be weaving the "Sash of Self-Governance" during the Citizens' Gathering, and every Citizen who registered will be represented as a thread. This sash is a physical reminder that we are stronger when we come together.

Every part of this sash was chosen deliberately for what it represents, a Nation tightly woven together making history. Beyond the threads, the colours have specific meanings to further commemorate this historic event. Red represents the heart and history of our people.

- Yellow is for the ways we've grown from the fur trade to who we are now.
- Green shows the growth ahead, as we continue to move our Nation forward.

Blue and white represent the Métis Flag. White also represents our leadership and staff, and blue for our Citizens, who tie all of these colours and our Nation together as Otipemisiwak, the people who govern themselves.



On October 15, 2023, Alberta Métis made history with the swearing-in of the first Otipemisiwak Métis Government. President Andrea Sandmaier, members of the Citizens' Council, and District Captains took the oath of office before hundreds of Métis Citizens following the largest leadership vote in the Métis Nation of Alberta's (MNA) history, and according to MNA research, the largest leadership vote ever held for an Indigenous government in Canada.

This was a monumental milestone in our continued journey to Métis self-government.





OTIPEMISIWAK MÉTIS GOVERNMENT SWEARING-IN CEREMONY





Citizens' Council & Cabinet of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government

Citizens' Council Annual Report



We are pleased to present this report from the first Citizens' Council elected under our Constitution. The Citizens' Council is the legislative body of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. This means that the Citizens' Council has the exclusive power to enact laws on aspects related to its inherent jurisdiction and the rights of the Métis Nation within Alberta and all matters falling within the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's purpose, goals, and responsibilities.

As Citizens' Council, it is our collective duty to uphold, implement, and advance the purpose, goals, and responsibilities of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution. We are committed to serving and representing you as we continue to navigate the responsibilities and opportunities that come with selfgovernance.

ABOUT THE CITIZENS' COUNCIL

Citizens' Council is comprised of the President, the Women's Representative, the Youth Representative, and a Citizens' Representative for each of the 22 Métis Districts. This structure ensures that all regions and demographics within our Nation have a clear voice in our government and that Citizens' Council reflects the diversity and unique needs and perspectives of the Citizens it serves. For reference, see the chart on page 11 for our Districts listed by name and number.

Our authority to govern and transition the Otipemisiwak Métis Government has been mandated by our community. In the historic ratification of our Constitution, 97% of voters were in favour, and it was the largest selfgovernment vote in the history of any Indigenous government in Canada. The 2023 election further confirmed your trust in our government's leadership and direction, but there is still much more to be done.

ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

Since taking office in October of 2023, the Citizens' Council has been actively engaged in a number of initiatives to strengthen and advance our government and fulfill the promises of our Constitution. Here is a summary of our activities to date:

- **Meetings:** We have convened 10 Citizens' Council meetings, ensuring regular and consistent governance and decision-making on behalf of our Citizens.
- **Committees:** Several committees have been established to address specific areas of concern and opportunity. These include:
 - **District Relations & Transition Sub-Committee** of **Cabinet:** This committee of Cabinet was established to support the work of the Self-Government Department regarding District-level transitions. Committee members work with the Self-Government Department to engage with Local leadership and Métis Citizens in each community.

Through planning sessions, the committee was tasked with discussing the transition process and assisting each community in finding a transition path that best meets their unique needs.

• Members:

- President Andrea Sandmaier (chairperson & ex-officio member)
- Provincial Secretary Jason Ekeberg (Northern Alberta)
- Provincial Secretary Lisa Wolfe (Central Alberta)
- Provincial Secretary Joe Chodzicki (Southern Alberta)

Officers and Judicial Tribunal Members
 Nomination Committee of Citizens' Council:
 The Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution requires Citizens' Council to appoint a series of Officers, and a Judicial Tribunal within the Judicial Branch. Those Officer and Judicial Tribunal appointments include the Ombudsman, Auditor General, Chair, and the Judicial Tribunal.

Through a resolution by the Citizens' Council on September 16, 2023, the Officers & Judicial Tribunal Committee was established for the purposes of nominating candidates for the Officer and Judicial Tribunal Members positions for appointment by Citizens' Council as set out in the relevant Acts.

Administration supported the committee in developing a nomination process that prioritized equity, fairness, and accountability. In order to prioritize these values, each application was redacted by Administration to exclude names and identifiable information, and conflict of interest procedures were diligently followed to ensure strict compliance with the Code of Ethics Act. A merit-based rubric was developed as an initial assessment tool, which included qualifications needed for each position, which aimed to centre Métis knowledge, community involvement, and lived experiences. The final nominations were presented on behalf of the committee to the Citizens' Council for appointment, ensuring accountability at all levels.

- Members: To ensure regional representation and diversity, the Nomination Committee is comprised of Representatives from each of the Métis Territories.
 - President Andrea Sandmaier (chairperson & ex-officio member)
 - Citizens' Representative Barry Dibb

- Citizens' Representative Joseph Tremblay
- · Citizens' Representative Nancy Cardinal
- Citizens' Representative Aura Leddy
- Provincial Secretary Jason Chernow

Legislative Proposal Assessment Committee
of Citizens' Council: As the legislative body of
the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, Citizens'
Council is empowered to enact amendments and
new legislation in Otipemisiwak Métis Government
Law; s. 49–53 of the Self-Government Act currently
lay out a process of three formal readings of
bills for such enactments. In order to facilitate
the effective implementation of new legislation,
it is necessary for a process to be adopted that
prioritizes and assesses proposed legislation prior
to the formal readings, ensuring that the volume
of active proposals is maintained at a level the
Otipemisiwak Métis Government has the capacity
to support.

Through a resolution by the Citizens' Council on March 20, 2024, the Legislative Proposal Assessment Committee was established for the purpose of reviewing legislative proposals submitted by Representatives. Its role is to assess the feasibility and legal compliance of proposed legislation and make recommendations to Citizens' Council on whether they should be drafted into bills, in accordance with the Constitution. The committee plays a crucial role in ensuring that proposed legislation aligns with the objectives and priorities of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

- Members:
 - President Andrea Sandmaier (chairperson & ex-officio member)
 - Provincial Secretary Tai Amy Grauman
 - Provincial Secretary Rebecca Lavallee
 - Provincial Secretary Jason Chernow
 - Citizens' Representative Sarah Wolfe
 - Provincial Secretary Bobbi Paul-Alook
 - Provincial Secretary Brooke Bramfield
 - Provincial Secretary Grant Lacombe
- Emergency Management Committee of Citizens' Council: The Emergency Management Committee is a standing committee that deals with matters related to Emergency Management and making recommendations to the Citizens' Council, in accordance with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Laws, regulations, and policy.

The committee's role is to engage in a range of activities and initiatives within Emergency Management, with the goal of protecting the well-being and resilience of the Citizens and communities of the Métis Nation within Alberta.

• Members:

- Provincial Secretary Jason Chernow (chairperson)
- President Andrea Sandmaier (exofficio member)
- Citizens' Representative Darryl Campbell
- Citizens' Representative Joseph Tremblay
- Citizens' Representative Nancy Cardinal
- Provincial Secretary Bobbi Paul-Alook
- Provincial Secretary Lisa Wolfe
- Artifact Repatriation Committee of Cabinet: On June 10, 2024, Cabinet established the Artifact Reparation Committee of Cabinet for the purposes of supporting the development of a Métis artifact reparation framework. While it is still in the early stages, the committee's scope could include: providing and validating recommendations to museums, and other entities, on the development of their repatriation frameworks/policies; overseeing the development of internal Otipemisiwak Métis Government frameworks, policies, and processes related to the repatriation of artifacts; and providing oversight to the repatriation process.
 - Members:
 - President Andrea Sandmaier (chairperson & ex-officio member)
 - Secretary Grant Lacombe
 - Secretary Karen Collins
- **Officers Appointed:** Officers have been appointed to oversee critical functions within our government as set out in the Constitution. The first appointed Officers of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government are:
 - Chair: Garrett Tomlinson
 - Auditor General: Ruben Jeffery
 - Ombudsman: Phillip Werth
- Judicial Tribunal: The Constitution compels our government to develop a Judicial Branch and the structures within it to transition from the former Métis Judiciary Council model. The Judicial Tribunal is the judicial decision-making body of the Otipemisiwak Government. The Judicial Tribunal has the authority to decide and prescribe the resolution of disputes

regarding citizenship, election of leadership, validity, application, and interpretation of Otipemisiwak Métis Government law and regulations, and the actions, inactions, or decisions of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and its Institutions. As such, the Judicial Tribunal plays a crucial role in ensuring that the principles of justice are upheld and that our new Otipemisiwak Métis Government remains transparent and accountable.

- The Judicial Tribunal is the first of those bodies to be appointed by Council. The Judicial Tribunal consists of:
 - Chairperson: Lionel Chartrand
 - Peace River Métis Territory Member: Shea Taylor
 - Battle River Métis Territory Member: John Phillips
 - North Saskatchewan River Métis Territory Member: Arlan Delisle
 - Lesser Slave Lake Métis Territory Member: Corinne Willier
 - Lower Athabasca River Métis Territory Member: Janis Cunningham

Council of Elders and Knowledge Keepers: The Constitution states that the Citizens' Council must appoint a council of Elders and Knowledge Keepers from among the Citizens to provide advice and support. A meeting will be held this Fall to determine in greater detail the structure and appointment process for this council. The wisdom of Métis Elders and Knowledge Keepers is essential to the long-term success of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, and the Citizens' Council intends to create this council in a manner that meets the needs of our Citizens and is consistent with Métis cultural values.

Finally, we want to thank all Citizens for your continued involvement and support of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. This government is by the people, for the people, and without your participation and dedication, we would not be able to deliver the results that so many people count on.

Together, we are building a future that honours our past and paves the way for generations of Métis to come. Thank you for your trust and commitment.

Sincerely,

The Citizens' Council Otipemisiwak Métis Government

Constituency	Name of Office and Elected Official
All Citizens	President – Andrea Sandmaier
Citizens who are Women	Women's Representative – Tai Amy Grauman
Citizens who are Youth, aged 16 to 29	Youth Representative – Rebecca Lavallee
Citizens of Foothills Métis District (1)	Citizens' Representative – Darryl Campbell
Citizens of Medicine Hat Métis District (2)	Citizens' Representative – Catherine Schnell
Citizens of Red Deer Métis District (3)	Citizens' Representative – Joseph Chodzicki
Citizens of Rocky View Métis District (4)	Citizens' Representative – Lisa San Filippo
Citizens of Calgary Nose Hill Métis District (5)	Citizens' Representative – Nelson Lussier
Citizens of Calgary Elbow Métis District (6)	Citizens' Representative – Jason Chernow
Citizens of Jasper House Métis District (7)	Citizens' Representative – Kaila Mitchell
Citizens of Lac Ste. Anne Métis District (8)	Citizens' Representative – Lisa Wolfe
Citizens of Fort Edmonton Métis District (9)	Citizens' Representative – Sarah Wolfe
Citizens of Edmonton Whitemud Métis District (10)	Citizens' Representative – Aura Leddy
Citizens of St. Albert Métis District (11)	Citizens' Representative – Alfred L'Hirondelle
Citizens of St. Paul-Cold Lake Métis District (12)	Citizens' Representative – Karen Collins (KC)
Citizens of Grande Prairie Métis District (13)	Citizens' Representative – Shannon Dunfield
Citizens of Peace River Métis District (14)	Citizens' Representative – Barry Dibb
Citizens of Fort Vermilion Métis District (15)	Citizens' Representative – Bobbi Paul-Alook
Citizens of Fort Chipewyan Métis District (16)	Citizens' Representative – Judy Ann Cardinal
Citizens of Fort McMurray Métis District (17)	Citizens' Representative – Brooke Bramfield
Citizens of Conklin Métis District (18)	Citizens' Representative – Valerie Quintal
Citizens of Lac La Biche Métis District (19)	Citizens' Representative – Jason Ekeberg
Citizens of Athabasca Landing Métis District (20)	Citizens' Representative – Joseph Tremblay
Citizens of Lesser Slave Lake Métis District (21)	Citizens' Representative – Grant Lacombe
Citizens of Wabasca-Desmarais Métis District (22)	Citizens' Representative – Nancy Cardinal

Districts listed by name and number:

Citizens' Council



Tai Amy Grauman Women's Representative



Andrea Sandmaier President



Rebecca Lavallee Youth Representative



Darryl Campbell Foothills



Catherine Schnell Medicine Hat



Joseph Chodzicki Red Deer



Lisa San Filippo Rocky View



Nelson Lussier Calgary Nose Hill



Jason Chernow Calgary Elbow



Kaila Mitchell Jasper House



Lisa Wolfe Lac Ste. Anne



Sarah Wolfe Fort Edmonton



Aurora (Aura) Leddy Edmonton Whitemud



Alfred L'Hirondelle St. Albert



Karen (KC) Collins St. Paul-Cold Lake



Shannon Dunfield Grande Prairie



Barry Dibb Peace River



Bobbi Paul-Alook Fort Vermilion



Judy Ann Cardinal Fort Chipewyan



Brooke Bramfield Fort McMurray



Valerie Quintal Conklin



Jason Ekeberg Lac La Biche



Joseph Noel Tremblay Athabasca Landing



Grant Lacombe Lesser Slave Lake



Nancy Cardinal Wabasca-Desmarais

The Cabinet of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government: Introduction

The Cabinet of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government operates as a part of the Citizens' Council branch of government and is comprised of the President and 14 appointed members, each holding the title of Provincial Secretary. Provincial Secretaries are individually responsible for a portfolio regarding specific matters, issues, departments, or institutions based on a mandate letter from the President; in the interest of open and transparent governance, these mandates are publicly available online to Citizens.

As set out in the Constitution and Self-Government Act, Cabinet has the power to exercise all executive authority required to oversee the operations of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and implement Otipemisiwak Métis Government Laws, except in relation to matters assigned to District Councils. Provincial Secretaries are accountable to the President and Citizens' Council and are tasked with fulfilling their responsibilities in a way that is consistent with the Constitution, Otipemisiwak Métis Government Laws, direction received from the Citizens' Council, and the proposals of the Citizens' Gathering. The Cabinet has the authority to implement regulations and the responsibility to pursue initiatives that reflect Métis cultural values and traditions: address the needs of our Citizens and communities; and uphold the purpose, goals, and responsibilities of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

Following the historic September 2023 General Election, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government is proud to introduce its first Cabinet, appointed by President Andrea Sandmaier. Along with the following Citizens' Representatives, President Sandmaier forms the first Cabinet of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.



President Andrea Sandmaier

In addition to her role as President, President Andrea Sandmaier holds a portfolio as a Cabinet member and serves as the chairperson of Cabinet. This portfolio includes supporting the work of the Executive, Self-Government, Intergovernmental Relations, Consultation, and Justice departments.



Jason Ekeberg Secretary of the Treasury



Tai Amy Grauman Secretary for the Advancement of Women & Girls



Shannon Dunfield Secretary of Records



Rebecca Lavallee Secretary of Youth & Sport



Grant Lacombe Secretary of Harvesting & Culture



Valerie Quintal Secretary of Housing & Infrastructure



Kaila Mitchell Secretary of Mental Health & Addictions



Bobbi Paul-Alook Secretary of Health & Seniors



Joseph Chodzicki Secretary of Citizenship & Registry



Brooke Bramfield Secretary of Children & Family Services



Lisa Wolfe Secretary of Education, Training, Language & Veterans Affairs



Lisa San Filippo Secretary of Tourism & Economic Development



Jason Chernow Secretary of Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Management



Karen (KC) Collins Secretary of Metis Settlements & First Nation Relations

Citizens have a vital role in shaping the future of our Nation. It is a priority for all Cabinet members to actively engage with the Citizens and communities of the Métis Nation within Alberta. The ability to make meaningful change as a government is directly linked to our ability to be responsive to the needs and ambitions of our Citizens in keeping with the Métis tradition of kapikiskwanaw, meaning "we will talk." It is our obligation as the Cabinet of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government to create an atmosphere that fosters community and shared responsibility. Citizens are encouraged to continue to reach out to members of the Cabinet concerning their distinct portfolio areas and to participate actively in the governance of our Nation.

President



Andrea Sandmaier

Provincial Secretary of Consultation, Intergovernmental Relations, Justice, and Self-Government

President Andrea Sandmaier is a proud Métis woman, wife, and mother of three boys. She is from Cold Lake, and her ancestral roots originate from the Red River settlement. She has ties to Batoche, Duck Lake, and St. Paul de Métis. For more than 15 years, Andrea specialized in mortgage finance, finding solutions that worked best for people and their families. Andrea served as the Vice President of Region Two for five years. Using her financial background, she served as the Treasurer for Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) finances on the Executive Committee. She also served on the MNA Children's Authority Committee and was on the board of the Bonnyville Indian and Métis Rehabilitation Centre.

MANDATE OF THE PRESIDENT

President Andrea Sandmaier is responsible for providing overall leadership and upholding the purpose, goals, and responsibilities of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. The President is also tasked with serving as the chief spokesperson for the Métis Nation within Alberta, delivering a President's Report at every Citizens' Gathering, leading discussions within the Citizens' Council, and striving to achieve consensus.

ROLE AS CABINET CHAIRPERSON

As the Chairperson of Cabinet, the President carries the responsibility for ensuring that notices of Cabinet meetings are prepared and issued, selecting and mandating Provincial Secretaries from the Citizens' Council to key portfolio areas important to the Nation, while operationally only voting as required to break a tie in Cabinet meetings.

PROVINCIAL PORTFOLIO AREAS

In addition to being Chairperson of Cabinet, the President serves as the Provincial Secretary of Consultation, Intergovernmental Relations, Justice, and Self-Government. In this role they play a pivotal role in collaborating and working with various departments to ensure cohesive and effective governance. Through her mandate, President Sandmaier will work closely with each department to address key priorities and advance the interests of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

Self-Government Department:

As the Provincial Secretary of Self-Government, President Sandmaier is responsible for leading efforts to establish a nation-to-nation, government-to-government agreement with the Crown, protected by Canada's Constitution, to guide future relationships with Canada and other governments. The President will oversee consultations with Citizens and communities on the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Treaty, leading to its ratification vote. This secretarial portfolio also includes negotiating longterm Fiscal Financing and Tax Treatment Agreements with Canada to support self-government sustainability. Additionally, in this role, President Sandmaier continues to oversee the implementation of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution and internal self-government processes.

Consultation Department:

As the Provincial Secretary of Consultation, President Sandmaier is responsible for building and maintaining relationships with industry, government, internal stakeholders, and other parties that support and advance meaningful Crown consultation and accommodation with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government through its designated self-government structures. Her role includes updating the MNA-Canada Consultation Agreement to align with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution, particularly regarding the roles of District Councils in Crown consultation processes. Additionally, President Sandmaier will work to ensure that consultation and accommodation processes conducted at the District level are conducted in a manner that protects Métis rights, minimizes adverse impacts, provides appropriate accommodation measures, and facilitates meaningful Citizen participation.

Intergovernmental Relations Department:

As the Provincial Secretary of Intergovernmental Relations, President Sandmaier works to establish and maintain positive nation-to-nation relationships with other governments across Canada. In this role, President Sandmaier is tasked with creating protocols, arrangements, and agreements to advance governmentto-government relationships for the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and the Métis Nation within Alberta. She actively participates in the Métis National Council as a member of the Board of Governors and support meetings of the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism. This involvement ensures that the distinct voice of the Métis Nation within Alberta is heard on national and international stages, protecting our rights, interests, and claims. Furthermore, she will continue to work towards the advancement of legal claims related to Métis scrip and the protection of harvesting rights and their extension to southern Alberta, as well as the development of an improved relationship with the Government of Alberta as part of Intergovernmental Relations.

Justice Department:

As the Provincial Secretary of Justice, President Sandmaier ensures that the Otipemisiwak Métis Government secures sustainable long-term funding to develop and maintain the Justice Department and its programs. As Secretary of this portfolio, her responsibilities include supporting the development of an Otipemisiwak Métis Government Justice Strategy to address systemic racism, barriers, and unique challenges faced by Métis Citizens across the justice system. President Sandmaier works to ensure that the Métis Nation within Alberta is meaningfully involved in the justice system and advocates for fair and culturally safe treatment free from racism. President Sandmaier has been collaborating with multiple Secretaries and departments to advance justice-related goals for the Métis Nation within Alberta.

Treasury



Jason Ekeberg

Provincial Secretary of the Treasury

Lac La Biche Métis District 19 – Citizens' Representative

Secretary Jason Ekeberg was born and raised in Lac la Biche and is a descendant of the Pruden and Cardinal families. Prior to his election, Secretary Ekeberg worked numerous jobs within the oil and gas sector of Alberta; he continues to help operate and maintain a family farm and has his own business, which employs a large population of Indigenous people. Growing up in Lac la Biche and having a strong connection to the land, Secretary Ekeberg has farmed for his entire life and harvests off the land through hunting, fishing, and trapping.

In his role as Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary Ekeberg ensures that all expenses are in line with Otipemisiwak Métis Government law and policies. He provides oversight of Otipemisiwak Métis Government spending and clear and concise financial reporting that is understandable and accessible to all Citizens.

MANDATE

The Provincial Secretary of the Treasury helps provide fair and accountable governance through responsible oversight of Otipemisiwak Métis Government expenses and clear financial reporting to Citizens. Secretary Ekeberg must cause to be kept full and accurate accounts of all receipts, disbursements, and books of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. He must also review all expenses of Representatives related to the performance of their duties on Citizens' Council and cause to be deposited all monies and other valuables of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government into the chartered banks or other financial institutions as designated by Citizens' Council.

Records



Shannon Dunfield

Provincial Secretary of Records

Grande Prairie Métis District 13 – Citizens' Representative

Secretary Shannon Dunfield is originally from Kelly Lake Métis Chartered Community but has lived in Grande Prairie and the surrounding area for over 30 years. Her Métis heritage is on both sides of the family, with maternal ancestry from the Gladue/Whitford families and paternal ancestry from the Belcourt/Gauthier families. Shannon has a master's degree and has worked in the Education, Health, Sport, and not-for-profit sectors for the past 30 years. Shannon is a proud mom of two amazing kids, Tutchone and Takoda, and has been married to her husband Ken for the past 25 years.

In her role as Secretary of Records, Secretary Dunfield collaborates across portfolios to ensure that records are considered within all relevant policies and initiatives of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. She leads the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's efforts to maintain accurate and up-to-date records through the Public Registry that are accessible to all Citizens.

MANDATE

The Provincial Secretary of Records must maintain the quality of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's records and the accessibility of its Public Registry. In addition to securing funding to expand record capacity and services, the Secretary of Records enables Citizen access to the Public Registry by causing relevant electronic and print documents to be publicly accessible as required under Otipemisiwak Métis Government Law. Secretary Dunfield has been working with multiple departments to operationalize her mandate.

Advancement of Women and Girls



Tai Amy Grauman

Provincial Secretary for the Advancement of Women & Girls

Women's Representative

Secretary Tai Amy Grauman is a Métis woman from Ardrossan, Alberta, with ancestral ties to St. Paul, Alberta, and Winter, Saskatchewan. For the past 8 years, she has been an actress, writer, director, and producer in theatre and has worked across the country. Recently, she was the first Indigenous woman to graduate with a Master of Fine Arts from the Department of Drama at the University of Alberta. Her work as an artist focused on stories of the Callihoo women who came before her and their love stories.

In her role as Secretary for the Advancement of Women & Girls, Secretary Grauman collaborates across portfolios to ensure that the Otipemisiwak Métis Government considers the needs and advancement of women and girls within all its policies and initiatives. Her team continues to advocate for immediate action from all levels of government to end racism and violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people. Secretary Grauman also works with her provincial and federal counterparts to help end the ongoing national crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

MANDATE

The Provincial Secretary for the Advancement of Women & Girls ensures that the Otipemisiwak Métis Government understands the needs, experiences, and ambitions of Métis women and girls. As Secretary, her responsibilities include securing sustainable program funding for and highlighting the stories of Métis women and girls, and working across governments to help Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people live in safety. Secretary Grauman has been collaborating with multiple Secretaries and departments to support Métis women and girls. ■

As the first elected Provincial Women's Representative, it has been a big year of learning. We have accomplished a lot, but also there is still more to be done. On behalf of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, we started two annual events, the Michif Women's Annual Gathering and the Red Dress Day event. This year also had lots of challenges accessing gender equity funding.

MICHIF WOMEN'S ANNUAL GATHERING

The Michif Women's Annual Gathering was a massive success and will run again next year. The event ran at the Double Tree Hotel in Edmonton from March 8-10, 2024 and hosted 250 Métis women from across the province.





This year's theme was "Kakawanatakihk Acimina Keepers of our Stories." The event was filled with cultural workshops and speakers such as Marilyn Dumont, Lorna Dancey, Bailey Oster, Paulette Dahlseide, and Beatrice Demetrius. On Saturday night, Cassandra Vreeling played a full 90s country set at the dance. The event was a huge success and we are looking forward to hosting again next year on International Women's Day to celebrate Métis women from across the province.



RED DRESS DAY

The first Red Dress Day on May 3, 2024 was an important and impactful event. This will be an annual event that prioritizes the memory of our missing and murdered Métis women within Alberta on Red Dress Day. The event was held at the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Youth Building in Edmonton and hosted about 50 people. There was a moment of silence, and Kari Thomason, Leslie Ross, Dolores Gladue, and Ash Ortiz Pequin all shared their stories of their lost loved ones. They were all incredibly generous in sharing their vulnerable experiences. My hope is to grow this event in the upcoming years and continue to remember and learn from our missing and murdered Métis women.

FISHING DAY

On June 1, 2024, we hosted a "Women's Fishing Day" for 15 Métis women. This event was held in collaboration with the Harvesting Team. This was a day-long event at Pigeon Lake Provincial Park. We did not catch a single fish, but we had a great time learning how to fish. The Harvesting Team brought an extensive fishing kit for each of the women who participated so that they could all go fishing on their own. After we were done fishing, Harvesting Manager Craig Letendre and his team hosted a cookout right on the beach, where they fried fish that



Craig caught the day before and made french fries. Personally, I was so blown away by the Harvesting Team and the fishing and cooking operation they ran while we visited and shared stories. We hope to host this event again!

NEW DAWN UPDATE

New Dawn is currently in discussion with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government to see how Métis women's governance within the Otipemisiwak Métis Government can be imagined.

Here are updates from the New Dawn Representatives:

Paulette Dahlseide (formerly Region 2):

In our region, New Dawn St. Paul-Cold Lake District 12 (formerly Region 2) has continued their partnership with the Alberta Rural Mental Health Network towards supporting the mental health and wellness of Métis women and families in our area. Through the grant supports, ongoing training, and community event planning that this relationship affords, our regional wellness committee of dedicated volunteers continues to grow and work for the health and well-being of our Nation.

Lorelei Lanz (formerly Region 3):

As the elected representative for New Dawn Métis Women in Region 3 (southern Alberta), the impact and activities in our region has been enhanced thanks to my New Dawn Region 3 committee. Committee members are Pat Aaker, Amy Barton, Julie Goasdoue Handrahan, Andrea Louise, and Troy Stooke. Pat assisted the Health Department in



coordinating activities and wellness sessions for one of their Dental Clinics. We hosted Bead 'n' Bannock events, teaching women to bead a traditional Métis flower. We had Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls events in both Calgary and Medicine Hat. We do monthly women's gatherings and have introduced women to natural teas, cultural teachings, and the immense value in connecting and sharing. We assisted the Local with their kids' Christmas party, providing a variety of activities and crafts, including dot art ornaments. A couple of our committee members have been doing critical work related to death conversations and medical assistance in dying.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF LISA MARIE BOURQUE

This year, we lost a dear friend, Métis matriarch, and one of our beloved New Dawn Representatives, Lisa Marie Bourque. She was a passionate advocate for Métis women in her region and across the province. She was loved by many, and she will be missed dearly.





OPENING NIGHT OF ANDREA MENARD'S "RUBABOO" AT THE CITADEL THEATRE

On February 15, 2024, a group of 60 Métis women gathered to attend the opening night of Andrea Menard's "Rubaboo" at the Citadel Theatre. The show celebrates Métis women's stories across the Homeland through song and storytelling. It was a great night and I hope to plan more opportunities for our community to engage with the arts such as this.

MEETING WITH LEADERS, REPRESENTATIVES AND MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STATUS OF WOMEN

On July 23, 2024, I attended a federal, provincial, territorial, and Indigenous meeting as part of a Métis National Council delegation of women's leaders from the Métis Nation to advocate and promote the well-being of Métis women in Alberta and across the Homeland. Our main priority was ensuring that the Métis voice was at the forefront of conversations, showcase Métis women's leadership, and advocate for capacity funding to help develop Métis women's programs and services within Alberta.

Youth & Sport



Rebecca Lavallee

Provincial Secretary of Youth & Sport Youth Representative

Secretary Rebecca Lavallee was born in Lac La Biche and was raised deeply immersed in her Métis culture and community. Starting as a summer student with the Métis Nation of Alberta, Secretary Lavallee gained valuable insights into Métis governance and the importance of her voice as a Métis youth. She believes it is crucial to amplify youth voices in the Métis community, especially in governance. Youth are often told they are the leaders of the future, which is true, but they are also leaders right now, actively engaging and shaping the present.

Secretary Lavallee believes it is important that Métis youth are given the opportunity to stand alongside their Elders and mentors, advocating for policies that respect our sovereignty and protect our communities. Youth hold a wealth of knowledge, with ideas, perspectives, and experiences that everyone would benefit from hearing. Nurturing Métis youth leadership today and recognizing their powerful voices, unique perspectives, and the impact they have in shaping the future will secure a stronger, more resilient future for the Métis Nation. As the Provincial Youth Representative, Secretary Lavallee is dedicated to providing Métis youth with the platforms to make their voices heard and to contribute their unique perspectives to critical discussions.

MANDATE

The Provincial Secretary of Youth & Sport is mandated to ensure that all policies and programs of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government are responsive to the needs of Métis youth and reflective of Métis traditions and values in youth development. The Secretary of Youth & Sport must also support all Citizens in accessing sports regardless of age, gender, or ability, as sport is a powerful way to connect Métis Citizens to their community and culture while improving health and wellness. Secretary Lavallee has been working with the Youth Programs and Services Department to carry out this mandate.

Citizenship & Registry



Joseph Chodzicki

Provincial Secretary of Citizenship & Registry Red Deer Métis District 3 – Citizens' Representative

Secretary Joe Chodzicki was born and raised in High Prairie and has Métis lineage from his mother Margaret Laboucan to Erasmus-Nooseky from White Fish. Secretary Chodzicki is a proud Métis man and has served the MNA in many roles—as a volunteer Local Vice-President and President, twice as Region Vice-President, and now as Citizens' Representative of the Red Deer Métis District. Secretary Chodzicki lives in Red Deer and is a father to Robert and Crystal, and a Mooshum to Alexis, Hailey, and Scarlett. He recently retired after 12 years with the City of Red Deer Transportation Department. Secretary Chodzicki believes that together we can build a strong and respected Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

Secretary Chodzicki works diligently to ensure that the integrity of the national definition of Métis is maintained. He is working to improve policies and procedures for the identification of Métis Citizens and Harvesters.

Additionally, Secretary Chodzicki is raising awareness among Citizens, and individuals eligible to become Citizens, about the work undertaken by the Métis Registry and Identification Department to identify Métis rightsholders from Alberta Métis communities. This includes highlighting significant Citizenship milestones, such as recognizing the 70,000th, 80,000th, and other notable Registered Citizens.

MANDATE

The Provincial Secretary of Citizenship & Registry works to ensure that all Métis people who reside in Alberta may exercise their fundamental right to citizenship in the Métis Nation within Alberta. To this end, Secretary Chodzicki is tasked with securing sustainable funding to add to citizenship and registry capacity and supporting processes that assist Métis people who meet the requirements to become Citizens. His work entails collaboration with Métis Identification & Registry Systems (the Registry Department), the Provincial Secretary of Harvesting & Culture, and the Provincial Secretary of Children & Family Services.

Health & Seniors



Bobbi Paul-Alook

Provincial Secretary of Health & Seniors Fort Vermilion Métis

District 15 – Citizens' Representative

Secretary Bobbi Paul-Alook is a mother of five and grandmother of two. She currently lives in rural High Level and is proud to say that Fort Vermilion-the oldest Métis community in Alberta-is her home community, and home to many generations of her ancestors that made their way westward during the fur trade in the mid-1800s. Her Métis lineage contains several family names including Mercredi, Lambert, Lizotte, and Clarke. Prior to being elected to this role, she served in the volunteer role of President of Fort Vermilion Métis Local #74 since 2019. She has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and has worked in the healthcare field for 20 years in various settings including hospitals, community, management, and education. In recent years, she has furthered her education in the areas of Law, Health, and Emergency Management. Secretary Paul-Alook is incredibly grateful to the Creator for allowing her to stumble onto this path five years ago, a path of finding pride, purpose, and strength in herself, her history, and

her culture and to use it in a way that is helpful to others. She is committed to representing all Métis Citizens with integrity and honesty, advocating on their behalf with passion and determination, and to representing the North with pride and dedication.

Secretary Paul-Alook is working to improve Citizens' access to high-quality, culturally safe care that is free from racism and designed and delivered in a manner that respects their unique healthcare needs. She has been collaborating across portfolios to ensure that all Otipemisiwak Métis Government policies and services are culturally informed, inclusive, and reflect a holistic definition of health and well-being that embodies Métis traditions, values, and needs across all social determinants of health. To support seniors, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Department of Health announced a new Métis seniors' lodge in April, as part of the Affordable Housing Investment Program in partnership with the City of Edmonton.

MANDATE

The Provincial Secretary of Health & Seniors is responsible for ensuring that all Citizens can enjoy their full rights to health and well-being. This entails working independently and alongside provincial and federal government counterparts to provide high-quality and culturally safe healthcare to Citizens. In addition, the Secretary of Health & Seniors collaborates with other Provincial Secretaries to make sure the Otipemisiwak Métis Government looks after the needs and priorities of Métis seniors in areas such as health, housing, education, and culture. Secretary Paul-Alook has been working with the Department of Health to meet the needs of Citizens under her mandate.

Housing & Infrastructure



Valerie Quintal

Provincial Secretary of Housing & Infrastructure

Conklin Métis District 18 – Citizens' Representative

Secretary Valerie Quintal is from Conklin, Alberta, and is of Métis background. Her father's family names are Quintal and Boostrum, while her mother's family names are Cardinal and Bourgue. Her ancestors trapped, hunted, harvested, and were all proud Métis people. Secretary Quintal was raised in Conklin by Andrew and Margaret Quintal. Her father worked for the Northern Alberta Railway and trapped and hunted. Her mother worked as a teacher's aide for the Northland School Division; both her parents carried on the Cree language and traditions. Secretary Quintal was employed by the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo for 25 years as a Water Plant Operator, then took early retirement. She then became an Assistant Manager for Quintal Contracting Ltd., which is her mother's business. Secretary Quintal is very involved in her community and various organizations, providing valuable support to ensure the needs and concerns of our Métis community are met. She is always striving to enhance the socio-economic and cultural well-being of our Nation.

In her role as Provincial Secretary of Housing & Infrastructure, Secretary Quintal has successfully advocated for various initiatives including housing programs led by Conklin Métis Local #193. She is working to support the continued development of transition housing projects that provide a full spectrum of housing, including for our most vulnerable Citizens. Secretary Quintal is also working to ensure Métis priorities are reflected in key provincial and federal government initiatives.

MANDATE

The Provincial Secretary of Housing & Infrastructure works to ensure that Métis Citizens have access to affordable homes where they may live connected to their communities. This involves maximizing investment in and awareness of Métis housing programs so that no Citizen is left behind amidst changing economic conditions. In collaboration with other Provincial Secretaries and levels of government, the Secretary of Housing & Infrastructure supports the development of housing that can meet the needs of all Citizens. Secretary Quintal has been working with the Métis Urban Housing Corporation and the Métis Capital Housing Corporation to achieve her mandate.

Mental Health & Addictions



Kaila Mitchell

Provincial Secretary of Mental Health & Addictions

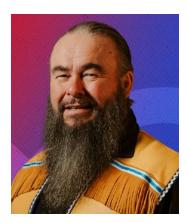
Jasper House Métis District 7 – Citizens' Representative

Secretary Kaila Mitchell was born and raised on a ranch near Marlboro, Alberta. She is a proud two-spirit Métis individual whose paternal heritage originated from Lac Ste. Anne, Jasper House Métis, and the Michel Band. After graduating from Parkland Composite High School, Secretary Mitchell's pursuit of understanding Indigenous narratives took her to Langara College in Vancouver. There she took Aboriginal Studies and learned about the profound effects of intergenerational trauma and the importance of preserving our culture and languages. She has worked at the Alberta Legislature as a Legislative Coordinator and as a Ministerial Assistant to the Minister of Education. Secretary Mitchell is fervently dedicated to building strong intergovernmental relations and ensuring that our Métis traditions and culture grow and thrive. Secretary Mitchell is working with the Government of Alberta to build Healing Waters: a secure, Métis-led and recovery-focused healthcare facility that will combine traditional Métis and Western healthcare near the banks of the North Saskatchewan River. The Department of Health is also working to develop and implement a Métisled recovery continuum that improves outcomes for Citizens facing challenges with substance use.

MANDATE

The Provincial Secretary of Mental Health & Addictions helps provide Citizens with access to culturally safe mental health care and addictions services free from racism. These services also must be timely and contextappropriate, with care options that reflect individual and population health needs. To achieve these objectives, Secretary Mitchell is tasked with helping to develop a Métis-led recovery continuum and build the Healing Waters facility. As part of these projects, Secretary Mitchell has been collaborating with the Department of Health and the Provincial Secretary of Housing and Infrastructure.

Harvesting & Culture



Grant Lacombe

Provincial Secretary of Harvesting & Culture Lesser Slave Lake Métis District 21 – Citizens' Representative

Secretary Grant Lacombe lives in Canyon Creek with his wife of 23 years, Tammy. He has lived in the Slave Lake area since 1978 and worked in the Oil and Gas sector for 35 years, spending the last five of those years with Northern Lakes College in Slave Lake. He is the great-great-grandson of Laurent and Elenor Garneau and has been involved with his Métis heritage his whole life, thanks to his parents Norman and Myrtle Lacombe. Past President of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Stan Daniels, was very influential in Secretary Lacombe's early years. Secretary Lacombe is known for always finishing any job he starts to the best of his ability. A dedicated hunter, fisher, and gatherer of plants and medicines, Secretary Lacombe appreciates those who harvest with him, and he honours the Creator for the gifts of the land. He enjoys sharing harvests with Elders he knows and those he has yet to meet, and he teaches his kids the same values of respect and reciprocity. He is very proud to represent his family and the Lesser Slave Lake Métis District in the new Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

Secretary Lacombe collaborates across portfolios to ensure that Métis harvesting and culture are considered within all policies and initiatives of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government in ways that embody Métis traditions, values, and the needs of all Citizens and identified Métis harvesters. He promotes educational opportunities for Métis Citizens related to harvesting, culture, conservation, and safety.

MANDATE

As Provincial Secretary of Harvesting & Culture, Secretary Lacombe's mandate is to safeguard and advance the Métis Nation within Alberta's right to harvest, in alignment with Métis customs and traditions. This involves engaging with Citizens to understand their needs, securing sustainable funding for programs, and ensuring that internal and external government policies support and meet the needs of Métis harvesters and all Citizens. Secretary Lacombe has been working with the Harvesting Team and collaborating across cabinet to accomplish his mandate.

Children & Family Services



Brooke Bramfield

Provincial Secretary of Children & Family Services

Fort McMurray Métis District 17 – Citizens' Representative

Secretary Brooke Bramfield is a proud member of the Callihoo family and has called Fort McMurray home since 2013. Secretary Bramfield is experienced in communications, government relations, grant writing, and has also worked for the McMurray Métis. She is inspired by Métis Elders and Youth, especially their stories and shared experiences, and has always been a strong advocate for children and families.

As Secretary of Children & Family Services, Secretary Bramfield is working towards securing long-term funding to continue supporting and expanding the Children and Family Services programs. Over the past year, she has hosted Reclaiming Our Children: Act C-92 Citizen Engagement Sessions to help inform the development of a model of care for Métis children and families. In the winter of 2024, a Métis Child Care Centre will be opened in the Griesbach neighbourhood in Edmonton, accommodating up to 72 children.

MANDATE

The mandate of the Provincial Secretary of Children & Family Services is to advance the well-being of Métis families by ensuring Métis children grow up in caring environments that nurture their distinctive culture. Secretary Bramfield is tasked with enhancing Métis early learning and childcare programs and implementing the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's jurisdictional control over children and family services through Canada's Bill C-92, An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families. Secretary Bramfield has been collaborating with the Children and Family Services Department to support Métis families. ■

Education, Training, Language & Veterans Affairs



Lisa Wolfe

Provincial Secretary of Education, Training, Language & Veterans Affairs

Lac Ste. Anne Métis District 8 – Citizens' Representative

Secretary Lisa Wolfe grew up in Lac La Biche Alberta and now resides in Alberta Beach, which lies within the Lac Ste. Anne Métis District. Her Métis heritage is from the Cardinal, Ladouceur, Burke, McDonald, Desjarlais, and Auger families. Her family stretches back to the Lac la Biche Mission. Secretary Wolfe is a past member of the Board of Governors for the Rupertsland Institute and is a retired Edmonton Police Officer who began her service in 1995. She has served on many Indigenous boards and committees over the years. Secretary Wolfe is sincere and passionate about working for the new Otipemisiwak Métis Government in Alberta in the Lac Ste. Anne Métis District. Secretary Wolfe and her team work to ensure that the Rupertsland Institute achieves its vision of "a skilled, knowledgeable, and self-reliant Métis Nation" and continues its mission "to enhance the self-sufficiency and well-being of Alberta Métis through quality education, training and research." She also supports the development of a strategy to preserve and grow knowledge of our traditional languages and guarantee that the Otipemisiwak Métis Government meaningfully participates in the implementation of the federal legislation related to the Indigenous Languages Act.

In addition, Secretary Wolfe was a past member of the Royal Canadian Air Force and has the rank of Lieutenant based in Edmonton. She also holds the portfolio for Veterans Affairs and advocates for further recognition of Métis Veterans and their contributions in provincial, federal and international commemorative events, all while growing the Métis Veteran's Monument at Métis Crossing. She is currently working on building the Alberta Métis Veteran's Council, which includes modern-day veterans and polices services. In her spare time, Secretary Wolfe enjoys traditional Métis beading, which has been passed down generation-to-generation through her family.

MANDATE

The Provincial Secretary of Education, Training, Language & Veterans Affairs works to increase educational and training opportunities for Métis Citizens, advance the right of Métis Citizens to speak their traditional languages, and support the wellbeing of Métis Veterans. In pursuit of these objectives, Secretary Wolfe works to secure sustainable program funding; spread awareness of education, training, language, and Veterans services; and advocate for her portfolio in relevant provincial and federal government initiatives. Secretary Wolfe collaborates with the Rupertsland Institute and several different departments within the Otipemisiwak Métis Government to carry out her mandate.

Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Management



Jason Chernow

Provincial Secretary of Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Management

Calgary Elbow Métis District 6 – Citizens' Representative

Secretary Jason Chernow descends from proud Métis roots; his family names include Jobin, Courtreille, Dumas, and Ferguson, to name just a few. He is a Métis entrepreneur and has a long background in youth services. Secretary Chernow is dedicated to using his skills and experiences to bring tradition and culture into our modern lifestyles.

Secretary Chernow advocates for and supports the planning and implementation of Métis-specific emergency management programming and capacity that engages Citizens and delivers economic benefits to the community. As part of this effort, Secretary Chernow chairs the Citizens' Council's Emergency Management Committee, which coordinated with local responders to provide relief during the partial evacuation of Fort McMurray in May. He recently announced the grand opening of the Salay Prayzaan Solar Farm, a landmark achievement in sustainable energy and community collaboration. This 4.86-megawatt solar farm is situated in Métis Crossing, Alberta's premier Métis cultural interpretive destination. Salay Prayzaan is a collaborative effort involving the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, the Town of Smoky Lake, Smoky Lake County, and industry partners, including the Métis-owned company Carvel Electric.

MANDATE

The Provincial Secretary of Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Management is responsible for helping Métis live as stewards of the environment. Secretary Chernow is tasked with working collaboratively across portfolios to help the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and its institutions reduce the environmental and climate impacts of their operations while continuing to deliver economic benefits to the Métis Nation. Secretary Chernow must also work to build Métis-specific emergency management capacity in cases where a community may require assistance. The Secretary of Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Management has been working with the Environment and Climate Change Department to achieve their mission.

Tourism & Economic Development



Lisa San Filippo

Provincial Secretary of Tourism & Economic Development

Rocky View Métis District 4 – Citizens' Representative

Secretary Lisa San Filippo is a natural connector, relationship builder, and a seasoned keynote speaker on topics such as authenticity, trust, and creating ethical spaces. Over the past 10 years, she worked for the consulting firm PwC as their Indigenous Inclusion Network Chair, developing the firm's Truth and Reconciliation Plan and policies. Secretary San Filippo also worked as Sales Enablement Programs Leader, where she led PwC's flagship sales and relationship methodology training of more than 1,000 business consultants. As part of this training, she helped consultants grow their skills in conversational intelligence and build trust through ethical spaces and issue framing, all to drive sustainable change with their clients. Secretary San Filippo is a Certified Core Strengths Facilitator, Certified Scrum Master and is currently a graduate student at the University of Calgary working on her Master of Education specializing in Reconciliation. Secretary San Filippo is also a consultant on truth and

reconciliation strategies, Indigenous culture, relationship acumen, and account management. She is a proud Métis Citizen, born and raised in the Red River territory, and has settled and lived in Okotoks for the last 20 years. She has five beautiful children and one son-in-law, ages from 15-25 and has two angel babies.

Reciprocity is a foundation of Secretary San Filippo's values, and she is honoured to give back to the Nation. She is working to advance the economic well-being of the Métis Nation within Alberta and its Citizens and communities. With a passion for entrepreneurship, she supports and advocates for Métis entrepreneurs and their role in economic reconciliation. She also supports the work of Métis Crossing to further grow and enhance tourism opportunities for both Métis Citizens and all Albertans.

MANDATE

The Provincial Secretary of Tourism & Economic Development must help provide social and economic supports for Métis Citizens and advance their right to engage in innovation, economic development, trade, and commerce. Secretary San Filippo is tasked with securing sustainable funding for relevant initiatives, engaging with Citizens to determine their needs and priorities regarding tourism and economic development, and working to see that key provincial and federal government initiatives fulfill the needs of the Métis Nation within Alberta. Secretary San Filippo has been collaborating with Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc., the Alberta Métis Investment Corporation, and Métis Crossing to fulfill her mandate.

Metis Settlement & First Nation Relations



Karen (KC) Collins

Provincial Secretary of Metis Settlement & First Nation Relations

St. Paul-Cold Lake Métis District 12 – Citizens' Representative

Secretary Karen Collins is from Elizabeth Metis Settlement. Her grandfather, Kwaswepicikan Albert Collins, came from Montana, held land at St. Paul des Métis, lived at Wolf Lake Colony, and settled to raise a second family on Elizabeth Metis Settlement. Secretary Collins has worked for and with Indigenous organizations, commissions, and governments, including her 16 years of service on the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Provincial Council and work on the MNA's Constitution Commission. This enabled her to connect with many people from various Aboriginal nations from coast to coast to coast, gathering numerous lifelong teachings and traditions. As a mother of two sons, Usini and Owen, Secretary Collins firmly believes that we learn from those who have gone before us, and it is our responsibility to use that knowledge and pass those teachings on to our children and others for them to make things better.

Secretary Collins is working to foster, maintain, and develop relationships with Metis Settlements and First Nations in Alberta and across Canada on behalf of the Métis Nation within Alberta. She is also working in collaboration with colleagues to identify areas of shared interest between the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, Metis Settlements, and First Nations.

MANDATE

The Provincial Secretary of Metis Settlements and First Nations Relations is mandated to build and preserve relationships with Metis Settlements and First Nations. To ensure the strength of these relationships, Secretary Collins is further tasked with supporting District Captains and Citizens' Representatives in cultivating relationships with First Nations and Metis Settlements in the Districts they represent. As part of her mandate, Secretary Collins has been working with the Registrar to identify the total number of Citizens residing on Metis Settlements.

With the election of the inaugural Citizens' Council of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, the Constitution allows for the creation of a Cabinet, with Provincial Secretaries taking on specific roles. Karen Collins, the Citizens' Representative for St. Paul-Cold Lake Métis District 12, was mandated with the Metis Settlement & First Nation Relations portfolio. Secretary Collins is currently supported by two Otipemisiwak Métis Government employees, Wyatt Telford from Intergovernmental Relations, and Katie Suvanto from Self-Government. There are 45 First Nations in Alberta. As of 2021, Alberta is home to 13% of all Status First Nations in Canada, not including non-Status organizations and bands, such as Papaschase, and Michel Band. The Metis Settlements General Council consists of eight Metis Settlements and over 5,000 members.

Relationships are fundamental to Indigenous ways of knowing and being. Building relationships, reviving kinship networks and forgotten treaties are all methods to continue to decolonize and revitalize our strength as an Indigenous government. With the mandate of First Nation and Metis Settlement Relations, there were a number of priorities given to Secretary Collins. While work has started on this portfolio, it is important to acknowledge the lack of capacity and funding for this important work.

PRIORITIES AND REPORTING

Mandated priorities from the President:

- Support the work of Administration to secure sustainable long-term funding to build our Metis Settlement and First Nation Relations capacity.
- Foster, maintain, and develop relationships with Metis Settlements and First Nations, both in Alberta and across Canada.

- Identify areas for potential collaboration with Metis Settlements and First Nations, including economic opportunities.
- Work in collaboration with fellow Provincial Secretaries to identify areas of shared interest between the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and Metis Settlements and First Nations.
- Support District Captains and Citizens' Representatives in cultivating relationships with Metis Settlements and First Nations within the Districts they represent.
- Support the President in maintaining relationships with Metis Settlements and First Nations as part of continued efforts to pass self-government legislation.
- Work with the Registrar to identify the total number of Citizens currently residing on Metis Settlements.

Funding for Indigenous Relations as an Indigenous government is hard to come by and outside the scope of most grant funds. Securing long-term sustainable funding will likely have to come from some level of core operational funds or governance funds, as a carveout or set-aside. In the past fiscal year, there have been meetings with the Metis Settlements General Council, individual Metis Settlements, and with First Nations. Areas for potential collaboration still need to be created and identified for shared interest with other Indigenous Nations.



Participants following the fiddler at the Eagle Release at Métis Crossing, April 11, 2024.

Collaboration is ongoing with other Provincial Secretaries in areas of shared interest between the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and other Indigenous Nations. Currently, there are five District Captains elected, and they have little support. The First Nation and Metis Settlement Team will continue to encourage Citizens' Representatives and District Captains to engage with local Settlements and First Nations in their Districts. Letters of introduction requesting initial meetings were sent out in March to Alberta First Nations Chiefs. The Metis Settlement and First Nation Team will be ready to support the District Captains to build these relations within the Districts they represent.

EVENTS/MEETINGS

- Release of Tina the Eagle at Métis Crossing: Thursday April 11, 2024. The Otipemisiwak Métis Government held an Eagle Release at Métis Crossing. The event was composed of introductions, an educational session regarding raptor rehabilitation, an Eagle Release Ceremony, as well as closing remarks and a community celebration. This event brought together local Métis and First Nations to celebrate this Eagle Release.
- Meet and Greet between Driftpile First Nation Chief Dwayne Laboucan and Otipemisiwak Métis Government Secretary Grant Lacombe.

- Meeting with the Metis Settlements General Council executive.
- Attended former Chief of Saddle Lake Terry Cardinal's funeral.

SUMMARY

While there has been work accomplished in this area, it is apparent that greater funding and capacity are needed to take on this work, in a good way. Relationship building is a key pillar of Indigenous ways of knowing and being. Secretary Collins and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government will continue to advance relationship building to ensure that we work as Indigenous Nations to support each other.



Elder Philip Campiou holds Tina, a rehabilitated eagle, that was released at Métis Crossing.

Citizens' Representatives

EF	
	2
1	
	NE

Foothills Métis District 1

Darryl W. Campbell serves as the Foothills Métis District Citizens' Representative, dedicated to being a voice for the community and addressing its needs and aspirations. With a commitment to integrity and compassion, Representative Campbell focuses on enhancing collective well-being and preserving the rich cultural heritage of the Métis people. Always approachable and open to dialogue, he encourages community members to share their ideas and concerns, aiming to build a stronger, united future for the Foothills District.



Medicine Hat Métis District 2

Catherine (Cathy) Schnell was born and raised in Medicine Hat; she is married to her husband, Randy, and has three children and nine grandchildren. Growing up in this community has shaped her values and deepened her commitment to the progress of Métis Citizens.

Her Métis ancestors include Vernon Johnson, May Flora Bray, Jemima McKay, Caroline Cook, Catherine Sinclair, and Nahovway (Margaret) Norton. She has fond memories of Métis crafting circles with her family, making leather medicine bags, beaded bracelets, earrings, dream catchers, and wool Métis mitts.

Representative Schnell has had several careers over the years, including telephone operator, machine operator at the local foundry, running a drapery business with her mother, Adele Johnson, secretary at the Medicine Hat College, judicial clerk at the Court of Queen's Bench, registered massage therapist, and Equine Canada Western riding coach. Representative Schnell volunteers on several boards; she is Treasurer for the Miywasin Friendship Centre, Administrative Director of the Dunmore Equestrian Society, and Director of the Cypress County Community Foundation for Southeastern Alberta.

Representative Schnell inherited her love of horses from her grandmother Flora who homesteaded and ranched just outside of Medicine Hat. Representative Schnell and her husband have lived on an acreage in Cypress County where she has loved teaching riding lessons, reining and raising quarter horses, and watching her grandchildren compete in rodeo.



Calgary Nose Hill Métis District 5

Representative **Nelson Lussier** was born and raised in St. Louis, Saskatchewan, a Métis and French community along the South Saskatchewan River about 30 kilometres northeast of Batoche. His roots reach back to St. Boniface, Manitoba, to his great, great grandfather Maxime Lepine, a Métis leader. Representative Lussier's grandfather Mederic Zepherin McDougall was a founder of the Métis Society of Saskatchewan; from the 1930s on, Mederic worked to organize the Métis communities of St. Louis, Batoche, and St. Laurent, and he received the Order of Canada in 1986 for his work.

Representative Lussier moved to Calgary in 1989 and ran a successful small business in the financial service industry for eight years, then developed a thriving construction company that he operated for the following 25 years. He has played an active role in his community, volunteering for community sports and social events. As a member of these communities, he has always been available and willing to lend a hand when called upon. His experience has provided him with leadership and management skills that he looks forward to bringing to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.



Fort Edmonton Métis District 9

Sarah Wolfe is a young Métis woman who comes from the Cardinal and Ladouceur families from Fort Smith and Lac La Biche. Recently, Representative Wolfe graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Political Science.

For the past 15 years, she has been an avid participant in the Métis community through performance. Representative Wolfe is a professional singer and has performed at the Salute to Excellence at the Winspear, the Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards, Métis Fest, and Métis General Assemblies. She has sung for events hosted by the Métis Nation of Alberta, Rupertsland Institute, the City of Edmonton, the Government of Alberta, and Edmonton Public Schools, as well as many others.

Through making moccasins and beading, Representative Wolfe practices the traditions taught to her by her grandmother. Her next goal is to become fluent in Michif and learn how to weave a sash. She has a passion for her Métis community and is proud to serve the Citizens of Fort Edmonton Métis District.



Edmonton Whitemud Métis District 10

Aura Leddy is a proud two-spirit Métis person whose family comes from the St. Albert and Lac Ste. Anne areas, but she has always called Edmonton her home. Representative Leddy has worked in community, schools, and interpretative sites, passionately sharing Métis stories and experiences. This work has not only been a career but a true passion for Representative Leddy, as it has allowed her to connect with Métis history and culture on a profound, personal level.

As the Citizens' Representative for Edmonton Whitemud Métis District, Representative Leddy is committed to building a strong, interconnected community where every voice is heard and valued. She believes that together Citizens can create a brighter future where Métis culture flourishes and our community stands strong and united. Her door is always open for Citizens to reach out with their thoughts, concerns, or ideas.



St. Albert Métis District 11

Alfred L'Hirondelle has his roots in St. Albert, from his great-grandfather's river lot, but also has strong community ties to East Prairie Metis Settlement, where he spent much of his youth. For the past 35 years, Alfred has involved himself in the community, from the Edson Friendship Centre and Alberta Native Friendship Centre Association to his work as the President of St. Albert Métis Local #1904 and Region 4 President. In these roles Representative L'Hirondelle has had the honour of witnessing firsthand the strength and determination of the Métis people.

Representative L'Hirondelle is committed to advocating for Métis rights, celebrating shared heritage, and building a future where every voice is heard and valued. He vows to serve you with integrity, transparency, and unwavering dedication, and he looks forward to engaging with the Citizens of the St. Albert Métis District as the Nation charts its path forward.



Peace River Métis District 14

Barry Dibb was raised in Eureka River, Alberta. He attended school in Montagneuse Valley, Worsley, and Hines Creek, Alberta. In 1976, he married his wife, Cindy, then moved to the Fairview area to ranch and raise two children. His lineage includes the Basnett and Whiteford families, which trace back to Grande-Clairiere, Manitoba.

Professionally, Representative Dibb worked in construction and drilling rigs, owned a slashing company, and ranched. For over 11 years, he worked in various roles within the Métis Nation of Alberta. He was the Vice-President of Region 6 and past President and Vice-President of Fairview Local. Representative Dibb is dedicated to providing strong, honest, and accountable leadership to his family, the Peace River Métis District, and our Métis Nation.



Fort Chipewyan Métis District 16

Judy Ann Cardinal is the Citizens' Representative for the Fort Chipewyan Métis District. Raised in Bigpoint and educated in Fort Chipewyan, she learned crucial survival skills and the value of hard work and self-expression from her parents. Representative Cardinal serves as a community educator at the Fort Chipewyan community high school and is dedicated to empowering and guiding the community's youth. She is also a passionate advocate for drug and harm reduction and raising awareness about murdered and missing Indigenous people.

Representative Cardinal is proud to be a voice for the Citizens of Fort Chipewyan Métis District within the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. She carries out her responsibilities as a Citizens' Representative to enhance the collective well-being of the Métis Nation and preserve its rich cultural heritage.



Athabasca Landing Métis District 20

Joseph Noel Tremblay serves as the Citizens' Representative for Athabasca Landing Métis District. With Métis roots tracing back to the Tremblay, Cardinal, Bruneau, and Courteorille families in the Lac La Biche area, Representative Tremblay's heritage is deeply connected to traditional Métis ways of life such as harvesting, gathering, trapping, hunting, and fishing, as well as working for Northern Alberta Railways.

He has a 40-year career in the oil and gas industry, is self-employed as a home building contractor, and is a longtime Boilermaker member. His passion lies in advocating for Métis Citizens and advancing the rights and self-determination of the Métis Nation within Alberta.



Wabasca-Desmarais Métis District 22

Nancy Cardinal is a family-oriented mother of five and grandmother of 13, with a business and administration background. She is originally from Calling Lake but has called Wabasca-Desmarais home since July of 2023. She is dedicated to fundraising and volunteering and is a fluent Cree speaker. Representative Cardinal is a committed Métis community advocate for the Northern region, bridging gaps and ensuring accessible resources for the people while being an advocate for their needs. When Representative Cardinal has free time, she loves spending time with her large family.

Representative Cardinal envisions a future where the Wabasca-Desmarais Métis District thrives through strong connections between members of community and pride in the generations of Métis who have come before. By being an advocate, spokesperson, and partner to Citizens, Representative Cardinal looks forward to building a future where Métis children can grow, prosper, and cherish their cultural legacy.



July 10, 2024 at Métis Crossing: The Citizens' Council of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government enact "Bill 2024-01, An Act to amend the District Boundaries Act."



District Captains of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government

District Captains of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government

As Captains once ensured the success of the Buffalo Hunt for the benefit of all in Métis communities, District Captains now work to ensure that the Otipemisiwak Métis Government serves all Citizens within their District.

District-level self-determination is a key value in the Constitution. District Captains will be in charge of administering the business of District Councils: they will manage District Council schedules, preside over Council meetings, and present a report on the operations and finances of the Council at each of their annual District Gatherings, among other responsibilities. They will also perform duties as determined by their District Council or assigned to them under Otipemisiwak Métis Government Law.

The historic September 2023 General Election introduced the following District Captains of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government:

- Amber Boyd, Rocky View Métis District 4
- · Carmen Lasanté, Calgary Elbow Métis District 6
- Bernard (Bernie) Poitras, St. Paul-Cold Lake Métis
 District 12
- Brian Ladouceur, Athabasca Landing Métis District 20
- Regan Auger, Wabasca-Desmarais Métis District 22

There are currently five District Captains in the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. As the Métis Nation within Alberta is still transitioning to the new selfgovernment structure outlined under the Constitution, these District Captains are from Districts that did not have active Métis Locals prior to the 2023 Otipemisiwak Métis Government Elections.

The Self-Government Department has been leading the ongoing District level transition. District Transition is a long process, it involves many steps, and the process will look different for each District. Depending on the District, the process to fully establish District Councils roughly includes amending model bylaws, Citizens' Council resolving the amended bylaws in principle, submitting new Bylaws to the Alberta registrar, holding a Special meeting, and conducting elections for District Captains where there is none, and District Councillors.

To help continue to progress District-level transition, significant work and a number of meetings have been held in the last year. This included the creation of a Transition Plan, Transition Committee, and the establishment of a District Relations & Transition Sub-Committee of Cabinet (DRTC). The significant work done includes ongoing Transition Meetings and Information Sessions, District Captain Meetings, and Citizen Information Sessions.

Great progress has been made on District Transition while also being mindful and allowing significant time to ensure the process is done in a good way, informed by the knowledge and work done by Citizens and communities. As fall and winter approach, further progress is anticipated through upcoming District Captains and District Councillors elections.



Rocky View Métis District 4

Amber Boyd lives with her family in Cochrane, Alberta. Her family names include Cariou, Beaulieu, Hamelin, Gariepy, and Vandal. As an Executive Director, she led a national charity supporting Indigenous students but has also worked in other senior executive and board of director roles. She is a writer and artist, and her upcoming book, "Blood, Bannock, and Beads," has been purchased by Greystone Books and has an anticipated publication date for some time in late 2024 or early 2025. Captain Boyd holds a Creative Writing Certificate from the University of Calgary Faculty of Continuing Education and is currently attending the University of British Columbia, working towards a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing.



Calgary Elbow Métis District 6

Carmen Lasanté was born and raised in Brooks, Alberta with Métis ancestry through the Leveille family. Her background is in rural irrigation and political campaigning. She is learning more about her Métis heritage and wants to share that opportunity with other Citizens who did not grow up grounded in a Métis lifestyle. This is a deeply personal experience that she is excited to share with others.



St. Paul-Cold Lake Métis District 12

Bernard (Bernie) Poitras is from Elk Point, Alberta, growing up north of Elk Point at a beautiful place known as Moose Mountain. His grandfather was in Louis Riel's provisional government, and great-grandfather Laurent Garneau was a Captain who served with Riel. He worked in the oil patch in all aspects for 40 years. He has been involved in announcing rodeos and CPCA chuckwagon races for 30 years. He is a member of Toastmasters International.



Athabasca Landing Métis District 20

Brian Ladouceur is Métis from the Lac La Biche Mission and moved to Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement where he married and raised a family. As a young boy, he along with his late brother Earl advocated for Métis rights. This sparked a lifelong passion not just for learning Métis history, but for affirming and furthering Métis rights. Being one of the first Indigenous contractors in Northern Alberta made Captain Ladouceur aware of the need for Indigenous representation within the gas and oilfield industry, leading him to become one of the founding members of ROABA (Resource One Aboriginal Business Association). He is currently part of the Operational Framework Task Team in conjunction with the University of Calgary, the University of Alberta, the federal and provincial governments, and Indigenous communities for the creation of the Indigenous Community-Based Oil Sands Monitoring Program. Captain Ladouceur is inspired everyday by Métis leaders who came before us and is honoured to continue our journey for furthering our Métis people.



Wabasca-Desmarais Métis District 22

Regan Auger is from Wabasca and his connection to his Métis heritage stems from his father, William Auger. For several years, Captain Auger was a Youth Worker, creating and overseeing programs aimed at fostering youth well-being. His experience extends to education, working as an Education Assistant and Substitute Teacher, gaining insights into the unique needs of young learners. Captain Auger spent the last two seasons coaching minor hockey. He finds the time spent on the ice, teaching and guiding young athletes immensely rewarding. His experience in coaching various sports over the years has not only enriched his life but also allowed him to make a lasting impact on our youth.



Appointed Officers & Judicial Tribunal of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government

Appointed Officers of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government



Chief Electoral Officer of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government

Del Graff was first appointed as Chief Electoral Officer by Provincial Council to serve in the largest Ratification in history of our Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution in November 2022, and to oversee the Special General Assembly Meeting in May 2023.

In September 2023, Chief Del Graff served as Chief Electoral Officer in the historical General Election that formed our Otipemisiwak Métis Government. In his role, Chief Del Graff was responsible for providing guidance and supervision to ensure fair and impartial voting procedures, compliance with Métis Nation of Alberta bylaws, and the highest levels of integrity throughout the process.

Chief Del Graff has an impressive track record in public service. For over a decade, he served as the Child and Youth Advocate, an Independent Officer of the Alberta Legislature. In this role, he represented the rights, interests, and viewpoints of vulnerable young people across Alberta. Before becoming the Child and Youth Advocate, Chief Del Graff worked for 30 years in the field of addictions and child and family development. He has a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Victoria and a Master of Social Work from the University of Calgary specializing in management, communities, and policy.

He and his wife Veronica are Métis Citizens. Together they raised three children and have two grandchildren.

Chief Del Graff continues to serve as the Chief Electoral Officer for the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.



Auditor General of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government

Ruben Jeffery was appointed in 2023 by the Citizens' Council to serve as the Auditor General of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. The Auditor General must cause a consolidated and audited financial statement on the operations of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government to be prepared annually; the Auditor General must ensure that this annual statement is available to all Citizens.

Ruben CPA CA (Partner, Kingston Ross Pasnak LLP) is a proud Citizen of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and considers it one of the professional honours of his career to serve as its Auditor General. Ruben is a recognized thought leader in the unique financial and accounting issues that face Métis governments, entities, and members. He has gained his vast experience over a 30-year career as a Chartered Public Accountant, during which he has served as key adviser for a wide spectrum of clients, including Métis, First Nation, private enterprise, and not-for-profit entities. His clients appreciate Ruben's candor, honesty, and expertise. Ruben's experience includes acting as engagement partner for Métis Nation of Alberta for over 20 years. He has also worked closely with several Regional councils and Provincial Council members.

Ruben and his family have lived in St. Albert for over 40 years. He has invested a significant amount of his time in volunteering over many years, including as a coach with local minor hockey, soccer, and baseball teams, and as a member on a variety of not-for-profit Boards of Directors.

Ruben Jeffery was appointed as Auditor General for a four-year term at the November 20, 2023 meeting of the Citizens' Council. As the audit period does not occur until the conclusion of the previous fiscal year, no other significant activity occurred within the 2023-2024 fiscal year.



Ombudsman of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government

Phillip Werth was appointed by the Citizens' Council in 2023 to serve as the Ombudsman of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. The Ombudsman is an armslength officer of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and oversees investigating complaints, mediating disputes, and making recommendations to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and its Institutions regarding the resolution of complaints.

Phil is a descendant of the Red River at Winnipeg, Manitoba. Many of his relatives worked in the fur industry in Western Canada dating back to the 1700s. He was born in Uranium City, Saskatchewan, spending his youth in Saskatchewan. He graduated from university with a Bachelor's degree in education and taught at Red Earth Cree Nation in northern Saskatchewan.

In 1997, Phil moved to Edmonton to join the police service, where he retired in 2022. During this time, he was able to help those in the community in need, and worked on criminal investigations, file preparation, and court proceedings.

Phil currently lives in Sherwood Park with his wife Careyann and two children. Hockey has always been a big part of his life with playing, coaching, and being involved with his son's teams. He was fortunate enough to be involved with the Métis Nation of Alberta's hockey program which has been an exceptional experience for him and his family. Phil has also enjoyed fishing and hunting his whole life and enjoys passing the culture to others.

Phillip Werth was appointed as Ombudsman for a four-year term at the November 20, 2023 meeting of the Citizens' Council. No other significant activity occurred within the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Chair of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government



Garrett Tomlinson

Garrett Tomlinson was appointed by the Citizens' Council as Chair of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government in the Fall of 2023. The Chair is an officer of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government defined by the Constitution, who is responsible for presiding over all Citizens' Council meetings and Citizens' Gatherings, while remaining neutral and impartial in their decision-making.

Garrett Tomlinson has served Indigenous governments as a communications and governance consultant for nearly 20 years. In addition to six years with the Métis Nation of Alberta developing the Consultation Department, the Self-Government Department, and overseeing Transition and the historic ratification of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution in 2022, Garrett is also an experienced parliamentarian and public speaker. Following the Alberta municipal elections in 2013, Garrett became the youngest serving Chief Elected Official of any municipality in the province at the time, presiding as Reeve of Northern Sunrise County. He has served as both a member or Chairperson on more than a dozen corporate boards, government commissions, committees, regulatory tribunals, and other bodies. Additionally, Garrett has regularly guest lectured on Indigenous laws and legal orders at leading universities and law faculties across Canada over the last decade, and provided evidence as an expert witness before multiple levels of Canadian courts. Garrett is also a published author both in op eds in the Canadian press and academic journals. More recently, he co-authored the peer reviewed article titled: "Beyond Appropriate Norms: Cultural Safety with Indigenous People in Canadian Neuropsychology."

SUMMARY OF CHAIR DUTIES:

The Chair's primary role is to maintain neutrality and impartiality while presiding over all Council meetings and Citizens' Gatherings. They ensure that these meetings are effectively planned, orderly, and efficient in addressing matters. The Chair is also responsible for making procedural decisions, such as maintaining order and expelling disruptive individuals if necessary. Additionally, the Chair prepares and issues meeting notices, compiles necessary documentation, and reports on Citizens' Gatherings to the Citizens' Council. They also oversee legislative processes and voting procedures, including the ability to call for and participate in secret ballots.

Judicial Tribunal of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government

The Judicial Tribunal is the judicial decision-making body of the Otipemisiwak Government. The Judicial Tribunal has the authority to decide and prescribe the resolution of disputes regarding citizenship, election of leadership, validity, application, and interpretation of Otipemisiwak Métis Government law and regulations, and the actions, inactions, or decisions of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and its Institutions. As such, the Judicial Tribunal plays a crucial role in ensuring that the principles of justice are upheld and that our new Otipemisiwak Métis Government remains transparent and accountable.

Four of the six required Judicial Tribunal members were appointed at the November 20, 2023 meeting of the Citizens' Council:

- Lionel Chartrand Chairperson (four-year term)
- Arlan Delisle North Saskatchewan River Territory (four-year term)
- Shea Taylor Peace River Territory (four-year term)
- John Phillips Battle River Territory (two-year term)

The two remaining Judicial Tribunal members were appointed at the May 29, 2024 meeting of the Citizens' Council:

- Corinne Willier Lesser Slave Lake Territory (two-year term)
- Janis Cunningham Lower Athabasca River Territory (two-year term)

The first meeting of the Judicial Tribunal was held shortly after the end of the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Additional meetings are planned in the upcoming year to develop accountable and fair processes of the Judicial Tribunal.

Judicial Tribunal Chairperson

Lionel Chartrand was appointed by the Citizens' Council in winter 2023 to serve as the chairperson of the Judicial Tribunal of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. As the chairperson, Lionel oversees the Judicial Tribunal's processes, ensures proper application of the rules of procedure, and may assign duties to other Judicial Tribunal members. Lionel is a Métis lawyer living in and carrying on a law practice in Edmonton, Alberta. He was raised in the Manitoba fishing village of St. Laurent to a family of 14, moving to Winnipeg at age 9, where he ultimately took his Bachelor of Arts degree and Bachelor of Laws degree at the University of Manitoba. Mr. Chartrand was called to the Manitoba bar in June 1985. In 2008, Mr. Chartrand accepted a position as a senior Crown Prosecutor for Alberta Justice and was called to the Alberta bar in July 2008.

Lionel initially practiced in a variety of legal areas, including civil litigation, child welfare, family law, Indigenous law and took Métis rights cases to the Supreme Court of Canada in the 1990s and 2000s, securing hunting and fishing rights for Métis in Manitoba. He was lead counsel on the Métis rights cases of *R v. McPherson and Christie, R v. Blais, R v St. Goddard, and R v Coutu.*

Lionel has performed decades of community service work, especially for Métis organizations, including friendship centres. He held many positions in the legal field, including the chair of the Indigenous overincarceration committee of the Criminal Trial Lawyers' Association in Alberta. He has also written law journal articles and been interviewed by media speaking on several legal topics.

Judicial Tribunal Member – North Saskatchewan River Territory

Arlan Delisle was appointed by the Citizens' Council in winter 2023 to serve as a member of the Judicial Tribunal on behalf of North Saskatchewan River Territory.

Arlan is a practicing lawyer and university professor. He has a law degree from Dalhousie University and a Master's in Law from York University. As a lawyer, Arlan has worked in private practice as in-house legal counsel. Before becoming a lawyer, Arlan worked in the trades as an electrician. Arlan currently teaches in the School of Business at MacEwan University and is researching issues based on Call to Action 92 – Business and Reconciliation.

Arlan was raised in west-central Alberta and loves to be in the woods or on the water. He now resides west of



President Andrea Sandmaier (centre) stands with the Judicial Tribunal of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. From left to right: Shea Taylor (Peace River Territory), John Phillips (Battle River Territory), President Sandmaier, Chairperson Lionel Chartrand, and Arlan Delisle (North Saskatchewan River Territory).

Edmonton with his wife and two teenage kids. He also enjoys playing music, weaving, and recently became a blackbelt in Taekwondo.

Judicial Tribunal Member – Peace River Territory

Shea Taylor was appointed by the Citizens' Council in winter 2023 to serve as a member of the Judicial Tribunal on behalf of Peace River Territory.

Shea graduated from the RCMP Depot in 2007. He began his career in law enforcement with his first posting being on the Bigstone Cree Nation's Calling Lake First Nation Reserve. Shea was involved in the community and connected with the Chief, Council, students, and school officials.

Over his 16-year career, Shea honed his skills and expertise in both person's crimes and financial crimes investigations. This wealth of experience is the cornerstone to upholding justice and ensuring the safety and well-being of the community.

Beyond his investigative abilities, Shea remains dedicated to public service, as he continues to serve the Citizens of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government by ensuring that integrity and accountability are an integral part of our society.

Judicial Tribunal Member – Battle River Territory

John Phillips was appointed by the Citizens' Council in winter 2023 to serve as a member of the Judicial Tribunal on behalf of Battle River Territory.

Born in Churchill, Manitoba, John graduated from law school at the University of Manitoba, having obtained both his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Law degree in five years. John has been a practising lawyer for 47 years, obtaining a wide range of experience from working for a large natural gas company doing oil and gas and securities law, to working in private practice as a courtroom lawyer, involved in cases including first-degree murder jury trials. John is on King's Counsel.

John has always been active with community activities and sports, including marathon runs, scuba and skydiving. He played football during high school and university and climbed Kilimanjaro a few years ago. John lived in England and Germany as a child and has travelled extensively throughout the world. He has done language courses in French, German, Spanish, Russian and Japanese.

John was an officer in the Canadian Army reserves and has held many leadership positions, such as Chairman of Vertigo Mystery Theatre, Chairman of the Alberta Law Enforcement Review Board, National President of the Canadian Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (CACOLE), Aboriginal Co-Chair for Calgary and Area Child and Family Services.

Judicial Tribunal Member – Lesser Slave Lake Territory

Corinne Willier was appointed by the Citizens' Council in spring 2024 to serve as a member of the Judicial Tribunal on behalf of Lesser Slave Lake Territory.

Corinne is a retired Métis woman from Slave Lake. She has over 38 years of service working in different capacities for the Alberta Government. Her ability to selfmanage and her strong sense of determination led her to achieve her longest tenure with Alberta Parks (30 years) where she performed senior administrative duties. Corinne's capacity to address and lead Program Management in the Northwest Region included contract

governance, asset inventory, disposition management, fleet administration, and occupational health and safety initiatives.

Her enthusiasm for community involvement has led Corinne to take on many roles throughout her lifetime. They include Daycare Board Director, Minor Hockey Treasurer and Coordinator, Student Japanese Exchange Program Member, Heart and Stroke Canvasser, Elections Canada Returning Officer, Spruce Point Park Association Board Director, Hospital Auxiliary Member, Vice President, President and currently Memorial Fund Coordinator, MNA Region 5 Local #19 active member and most recently Lesser Slave Lake Métis District Community Garden Committee member. Corinne's diverse skill set and capabilities to contribute effectively have motivated her desire to serve the Otipemisiwak Métis Government in this meaningful capacity as Judicial Tribunal Member for Lesser Slave Lake Territory.

Judicial Tribunal Member – Lower Athabasca River Territory

Janis Cunningham was appointed by the Citizens' Council in spring 2024 to serve as a member of the Judicial Tribunal on behalf of Lower Athabasca River Territory.

Janis is currently completing her Bachelor of Education through the University of Calgary and plans to pursue



President Andrea Sandmaier (centre) stands with the remaining Judicial Tribunal members appointed at the May 29, 2024 meeting of the Citizens' Council. From left to right: Janis Cunningham (Lower Athabasca River Territory), President Sandmaier, and Corinne Willier (Lesser Slave Lake Territory).

Graduate Studies. In 2021, Janis was inducted into the Scholars Academy Program designed for students who demonstrate high leadership potential, determination, and compassion to the community. During her time with the University of Calgary she has worked as a Research Assistant on various projects where she continues to develop her abilities to extract and analyze data, build partnerships, and improve processes and procedures. She has also had the privilege of working and volunteering in various capacities with organizations such as Rupertsland Institute, Rupertsland Center for Métis Research, University of Alberta Faculty of Native Studies, and McMurray Métis.

Born to parents who worked in Law Enforcement and Education, Janis has an inherent passion for life-long learning, problem-solving, and conflict resolution. As a Citizen of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and member to one of the eight Metis Settlements, she recognizes and continues to learn about the unique and complex governance structures of the Métis people within Alberta. Janis values family, community, and reciprocity. She aspires to be a leader and advocate for the inclusion, advancement, and autonomy of Indigenous voices.

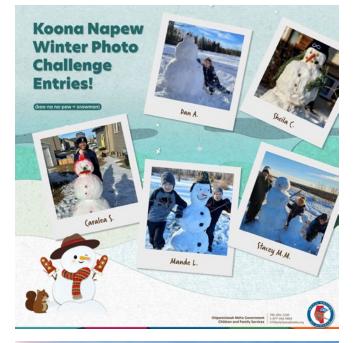


Department Reports

Children and Family Services

The Otipemisiwak Métis Government's Children and Family Services Department (CFS) is dedicated to the well-being of Métis children and families. By incorporating Métis culture and traditional knowledge into its programs and services, CFS aims to strengthen family bonds, reconnect individuals with the land, and enhance Métis cultural identity. Communityled initiatives emphasize inclusivity and provide a supportive environment for learning, personal growth, and cultural revitalization. CFS' dedication to the specific needs and priorities of Métis children and families is reflected in the thoughtful design and delivery of impactful programs. By prioritizing community involvement, CFS acknowledges the invaluable contributions of cultural knowledge and lived experiences, ensuring these initiatives are relevant and responsive to the unique circumstances of Métis children and families.







PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Early Learning Programming

CFS has a dedicated team that develops and implements multifaceted programming for Métis early learners (ages 0 to 11) across Alberta, informed by ongoing community engagement and centered on Métis values and perspectives.

Social Media Engagement

- Family Snowman Challenge.
- Orange Shirt Day Activity.
- Métis Week Printable Activity and Instruction Video: Mini Métis Week Colouring Book Video Tutorial.
- Christmas Greetings from Métis Santa Video: Greetings From Santa Claus.

Community Event Activities

- Trading Post Games.
- Voyageur Games (Stilt Walking, Stump Tug-of-War, Axe Throwing, Bow and Arrow).
- Family Lawn Games.
- Traditional Plant Walks.
- Beading Activities.
- Crafts.
- Jigging Workshops.

Special Projects

 Audio and video recording of a Métis-child rendition of the Métis National Anthem.



- Métis Cultural Awareness Training developed and delivered to partners.
- Audio and video recordings of Métis-style children's music to include in our resource library and future programming.





Nurturing Connections Family Gathering

The inaugural "Nurturing Connections: Métis Family Gathering" was held from October 13 to 15, 2023, at Delta Hotels Edmonton South Conference Centre. The gathering aimed to enhance the well-being

of Métis children and families by creating a safe space for meaningful connections and cultural family-friendly activities. Knowledge Holders, Elders, professionals, and families collaborated to share cultural knowledge and best practices.



Testimonials

- We loved staying in the hotel and getting to swim and not make meals. Doing all the traditional activities was wonderful. We had so much fun and learned a lot. The whole weekend was honestly absolutely amazing."
 Jodi
- This was an incredible event and we were so happy we were able to be a part of it. Love that my children are growing up so connected to their heritage. " Amanda









- My kids embrace their Métis heritage and are very proud of who they are. A lot of that is because of events like these that help us celebrate who we are. The staff are always so amazing." – Nicole
- **66** Thank you for this amazing program! I am so grateful for the opportunity. My daughters and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and learned so many different things. My daughter proudly identifies as Métis and told me she loves being Métis. My grandmother would have loved to have seen and heard all about her great-granddaughter's experience. It really touched my heart to see all the children gathered and participating in cultural activities." Cara
- I would absolutely support this event as a yearly program for all families to try and participate in. I highly recommend doing this yearly, we enjoyed it so very much." – Jennifer





MÉTIS FAMILY MEET-UPS

Christmas Party

The Métis Family Christmas Party on December 9, 2023, at Métis Crossing, hosted over 300 people. Activities included visits and photos with Métis Santa, storytelling, cookie decorating, crafts, carolling, a bonfire, skating, tobogganing, and a warm lunch.

Fur Trader Frenzy

During Métis Week in November, the "Métis Family Meet-Up: Fur Trader Frenzy" took place at River Lot 11 in Edmonton for an outdoor celebration and an opportunity to play the Fur Trader Game together in this historic space. Families enjoyed games, Métis music, stew, bannock, and trading post activities where they were strengthening connections over Métis culture and history.

CONNECTING THROUGH CULTURE FAMILY RETREATS

Summer and Winter Family Retreats at Métis Crossing united over 50 Métis families through cultural activities led by Knowledge Holders, focusing on reclaiming the foundations that have always promoted healthy living in our communities, fostering a strong cultural identity and community belonging.







Testimonials

This was not only a highlight of our summer but year. We were able to connect with other families and learn about our culture. We left feeling connected and supported to our culture. The instructor for hide tanning took time with my daughter and gave her a tool to do it at home. We are so thankful."



The retreat was amazing. It will never be forgotten. The staff and everyone that work so hard to prepare for this. They outdid themselves. Just a bunch of awesome people. Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to come. We all had an amazing time. Met so many different families where we are keeping in contact with."

As an adult who was adopted and raised without more than a cursory knowledge of Métis history, this event was very meaningful and I am eternally grateful for the experience for myself and my children. Thank you."

This experience has contributed to our children's sense of pride in being Métis. Upon our return, three of our children have created school projects to share cultural knowledge with their peers. My daughter has made a Capote, my son created a detailed timeline of Métis history, and my youngest daughter has created a Native Plants presentation." – Joshua Hill



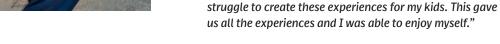
FROSTY REELS FAMILY CAMPS

The Frosty Reels Family Camp, in partnership with the Harvesting Team, offered cultural experiences and ice fishing lessons to 128 family members over four weekends. Attendees stayed in charming log cabins, enjoyed hearty home-cooked meals, and had the unique

opportunity to learn ice fishing techniques from Métis harvesters and Knowledge Holders whose families have fished in the region for generations. By participating in these Métis traditions as a community, families develop a sense of self-sufficiency and take ownership of their own well-being.







Testimonials

Everything. Beyond impressive."

66 As a single parent with two small children, I sometimes

– Jamie Yaremko



I enjoyed this time with my children so much! We did not have devices and they didn't complain. We were able to spend quality time together and pivot back to family connection without all the outside distractions of home. I think this is a really wonderful way to teach Métis culture while at the same time strengthening family connections." – Sherri Easterbrook



GEAR UP FOR SCHOOL

The Gear Up for School program provided 4,000 school supply kits to Métis families, enhancing school readiness for early learners from preschool through Grade 6, equipping early learners with the tools they need for a successful educational journey. Received feedback highlighted the positive impact on financial stress and community connection during the back-to-school season.

Testimonials

- **66** Everything was fantastic, we're so grateful."
- My children absolutely loved the Métis water bottles, hoodies, and orange hoodies. It made them feel so proud of their heritage when they wore it on Orange Shirt Day."
- **The contents of the kit were exactly what we needed,** were not low quality, and attractive to the eye. The backpacks this year were better quality than the last 3 years. 10/10 rating."

OSKAYA AYAMICHIKEWAK (YOUNG READERS)

In partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, this program delivers monthly books to Métis children from birth to their fifth birthday, fostering a love of reading and family connections. This year, 295 Métis children registered to receive books through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library for a total of 921 active participants in the program, and a total of 801 graduates from the program. Additionally, the team has worked to expand the Oskaya Ayamichikewak (Young Readers) program by planning Métis-centred supplemental book mailouts for the coming year. We've also been building out the Borrow a Book and Michif Mobile Library programs, which encourage family connections, Métis perspectives, and a love of reading for Métis early learners attending inperson events and gatherings.



NANTOONA MICHIF PIMATISIWIN AT HOME



Seasonal mailouts provided Métis families with cultural information and activities, fostering family connections and cultural learning. This past year, the Early Years team released the following mailouts as part of this program:

- Herb Gardening Kit Mailout: 951 kits sent to Métis early learners.
- Christmas Family Mailout: 875 kits sent to Métis early learners.





FESTIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

In November 2023, this mailout initiative provided resources, connection strategies, cultural information, and a \$200 Walmart gift card to support Métis families during the holiday season. This mailout aimed to encourage families to spend quality time together by offering accessible, inclusive, and strengths-based strategies and tips for connecting loved ones during the holiday season. It also provided information on traditional Métis holiday celebrations and craft activities to support Métis early learners. The Festive Family Support Program supported 1,216 Métis families.

Testimonials

My family was a very fortunate recipient of your Festive Family Support Package. Thank you again for helping Métis families over the holidays." – Chéne

MÉTIS FAMILY RESOURCE PROGRAM (MFRP)

The Métis Family Resource Program (MFRP), in partnership with Alberta Children and Family Services, supports Métis children, youth, and families by promoting cultural connections and community ties. The program offers culturally-



sensitive wellness approaches, family plans, advocacy, and community referrals. MFRP also aids with citizenship applications and accessing original birth documents for adopted individuals. The MFRP team includes two full-time Métis Family Resource Workers (MFRW) and one Métis Family Resource Adoptions Specialist (MFRAS) as of January 2024.

- This year, MFRWs supported 185 children (132 families) involved with Alberta Children and Family Services.
- MFRWs serve as direct contacts for advocacy, referrals, cultural planning, and registration.
- 16 regional Meaningful Involvement Meetings led to connecting 130 children to MFRWs, with 55 self-referred.
- 66 citizenship applications processed; 11 in progress.
- 77 cultural plans completed or updated.
- MFRAS supports 86 citizenship applications for adopted individuals; 7 approved this fiscal year.



 98 Alberta Children and Family Services Caseworkers completed Métis

cultural awareness training via 5 sessions (3 virtual, 2 in-person).

- 36 staff from the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate received training.
- Networking with community agencies like Alberta Coalition for Trafficking and Alberta Foster & Kinship Association for future referrals and collaboration.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES NAVIGATION

The Supports and Services Navigation (SSN) program provides crucial navigation support to Métis Albertans, helping them access the programs and services best



The SSN program saw a significant increase in inquiries, doubling the number from last year. This surge led to the recruitment of an additional team member in August 2023. Between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024, the SSN team addressed 2,271 unique inquiries, averaging 190 per month. The most frequent inquiries were related to healthcare (25%), financial support (25%), housing (11%), general support (9%), education (6%), and legal issues (5%).

Common outbound referrals included Métis Capital Housing's Reaching Home Program, Alberta Works' Emergency Financial Assistance Program, Blue Cross Non-Group Coverage, Rupertsland Institute, Native Counselling Services, and Alberta Health Services Indigenous Wellness Core. The Benevolence Fund processed 96 applications with 159 inquiries made about the fund within the year.

FASD BRIDGING CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

Rooted in Métis culture and traditional values, this person-centred program serves Métis Albertans of all ages with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). We facilitate connections to Métis culture and community, FASD networks, assessments, and various services to meet the goals of the individual and their family.

FASD BRIDGING FUTURES PROGRAM: MÉTIS YOUTH WITH FASD TRANSITIONING TO ADULTHOOD

This program is designed for Métis youth (ages 15-25) who are diagnosed with or may have FASD. The youth and their caregivers are provided with support as they plan their transition to adulthood. The FASD Bridging Futures Guidebook helps the family prepare by goal setting, determining the youth's strengths and needs, ensuring a connection to culture and culturally appropriate resources, and connection to appropriate FASD supports and services.

THE FASD MÉTIS CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING

The FASD Métis Cultural Awareness Training is an experiential and interactive Métis cultural training that includes the history of Métis peoples, the opportunity to learn about Métis culture, upbringing, and values,

and reflection on Métis peoples' experiences with colonization. Our goal is to help FASD Networks and service providers recognize and support the importance of cultural identity when working with Citizens of our Métis communities.

FASD CAREGIVER CONNECT NIGHTS

Walking alongside Métis families to improve outcomes for their loved ones with FASD by providing an opportunity for caregivers to gather and build community, reducing the common isolation and stress that caregivers face. Providing connection to Métis culture and traditional values is integral to family well-being and resilience. FASD Caregiver Connect Nights were hosted online as a safe space for parents and caregivers to share their experiences, talk about hard things, and learn more about FASD.

NAVIGATING FASD WEBINARS

Want to make a positive difference in the lives of those with FASD? Join our online sessions as we explore various aspects of FASD. We share valuable insights, practical strategies, and resources to gain a better understanding of how to engage loved ones with FASD.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

In partnership with MP Psychology, our Community Information Sessions covered a variety of topics that address common challenges like co-parenting through divorce, internet safety and screen time, cultural identity and well-being, etc. These sessions are hosted online and are available for anyone to join.

MÉTIS MINGLE

The Children and Family Services Department and MP Psychology aimed to bring together Métis families and Knowledge Holders to strengthen family bonds and create lasting memories, while engaging in a variety of workshops to enhance their connection to community and personal well-being. These workshops included yoga, beading, mindfulness, sensory activities, Lego masters, and creative kids.

ACT C-92 UPDATE

Act C-92, enacted on January 1, 2020, is the first federal legislation addressing Indigenous children in Canada, affirming their inherent right to self-government, including jurisdiction over child and family services.

Otipemisiwak Métis Government Key Agreements

- Provincial Framework Agreement: February 1, 2017
- Advancing Reconciliation Framework Agreement: November 16, 2017
- Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement: June 27, 2019
- Métis Nation within Alberta Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement: February 24, 2023

Key Resolutions

- Provincial Council Resolution: December 6, 2019, supporting the Act.
- 93rd Annual General Assembly Resolution: August 21, 2021, for exercising child and family services jurisdiction under the Act.
- Informing Métis Citizens
- Developed an educational video series to inform Citizens about Act C-92.
- Videos by former and current Métis Nation within Alberta leaders and advisory committee members. Accessible at albertametis.com/Act-C-92
- "Reclaiming Our Children" Booklet: Provides history, developments, roles, opportunities, and next steps under the Act.

Information Sharing

• Active participation in Métis Nation within Alberta -Alberta Government Sub-table discussions.

Developing an Otipemisiwak Métis Government Child and Family Services Model

- Children and Family Services Advisory Committee: Exploring a Métis-specific model of care and capacity needs.
- Environmental Scans: Reviewed Indigenous child and family service laws at various levels.
- Community Meetings: Held 14 engagement sessions to gather feedback for a Métis-specific model. The report is available online.

Development and Adoption of an Otipemisiwak Métis Government Child and Family Services Law

- Notice of Intent: Sent preliminary notice to exercise jurisdiction under section 20(1) of Act C-92 in September 2023.
- Community Feedback: Gathered to develop a Métis-led model of care and strengthen cultural connections. Findings include:
 - Support for Métis governance in children and family services.
 - Importance of culturally-relevant services and teachings.
 - Need for safety, support, and voice for children and families in the system.
 - Emphasis on respite, mental health, and addiction support.

For future updates and more information on Act C-92, please visit albertametis.com/Act-C-92

FAMILY REUNIFICATION PROGRAM (FRP)

In October 2023, the Family Reunification Program (FRP) transitioned from Métis Capital Housing Corporation (MCHC) to the Children and Family Services Department, enhancing its specialized, therapeutic approach to supporting Indigenous families. This transition streamlined recruitment and operations, prioritized 24/7 support with increased human resources, and reaffirmed the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's commitment to these families. FRP staff receive direct guidance, mentorship, and training on delivering culturally-responsive services, equipping them with the necessary skills to deliver culturally responsive, wrap-around services to Indigenous families. Enhanced staff training aligns with evidence-based practices and Indigenous traditions.

A unique Family Preservation and Reunification Response Model focuses on understanding cultural experiences and intergenerational trauma. The holistic, therapeutic approach addresses barriers such as reduced parenting capacity, past traumas, and cultural disconnection, while respecting cultural differences among First Nations, Métis, and Inuit families. This individualized support fosters better outcomes and with faster reunifications, saves costs, and provides a supportive environment for rebuilding family units.

The program has strengthened its network with various organizations, improving access to cross-program services through the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.



On-site programming now emphasizes psychosocial support, experiential learning, skill-building, and guided support, leading to improved outcomes and stronger family relationships.

Notable accomplishments include four successful graduations by October 2024, engaging on-site activities, and the development of a vibrant community where families support each other. Examples of communitybuilding within the program include families hosting shared meals, participating in harvests, attending community events, enjoying regular BBQs and backyard gatherings, celebrating holidays together, hosting movie nights in the common area, playing sports at the park, and offering mutual support during times of stress or sorrow. Additionally, the program fosters a sense of pride and belonging, with sensory rooms and creative arts studios enhancing the therapeutic environment.

Under the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's CFS Department, the Family Reunification Program has made significant strides in supporting Indigenous families through specialized, culturally-responsive services. The focus on holistic support, enhanced staff training, and community building has led to positive outcomes, reinforcing the program's commitment to preserving and reconnecting Indigenous families.

Consultation

This year was one of growth and change for the Consultation Department. We have remained focused on engaging in the consultation process with government and industry on projects that had the potential to impact Métis rights, claims, and interests, while expanding the scope of our grant-funded programs and adapting our processes to support the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's Constitution. In addition to our core consultation activities, the department continued to advance key initiatives related to aquatic habitat restoration and terrestrial cumulative effects, securing new opportunities to gather knowledge on Métis rights-practices and advancing the recognition of Métis rights in federal regulatory processes.

PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION DEPARTMENT

The Consultation Department exists to protect and advance the collectively-held constitutional rights, claims, and interests asserted by the Otipemisiwak Métis Government as the representative and governing body of the Métis within Alberta. That is to say that when the Crown contemplates conduct that has the potential to negatively impact Métis Citizens, the Consultation Department works to understand those impacts and develop ways to mitigate or avoid them and, where impacts are unavoidable, negotiate accommodation measures aimed at offsetting them. This process is carried out in accordance with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution, and relevant domestic and international legislation, regulation, agreements, and case law.

While the term "consultation" can be used in many contexts, our department specifically works on Crown consultation, a process essential to ensuring that current and future generations will continue to be able to engage in cultural practices and activities.

WHAT IS THE "DUTY TO CONSULT"?

The "duty to consult" is a duty imposed on the Crown that requires it to consult Aboriginal peoples on any action it plans to take that may impact Aboriginal or treaty rights. As the Métis do not yet have any treaty rights, consultation with the Métis deals exclusively with Aboriginal rights, which are recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. This is why you may see the phrase "Métis s.35 rights" used in documents or legal filings related to consultation with the Métis.

The duty to consult can also be delegated to industry by the Crown. For example, if the Crown wishes to grant a permit to a company to construct a new pipeline, it may delegate the duty-to-consult requirements onto that company. That company would then be responsible for

McGregor Lake Engagement Survey

Help us protect the shoreline and our Métis rights at McGregor Lake.



consulting with any Indigenous community whose proven or claimed Aboriginal, or treaty rights may be impacted by the construction of that pipeline.

The level of consultation required is situational and scaled. Proven rights have more weight than rights that are claimed or asserted but not proven, and strong claims have more weight than weak claims. Likewise, the extent of the expected or potential impact on these rights can change how much consultation is required with Indigenous communities.

If an Indigenous community has a weak claim for an Aboriginal right and the project is unlikely to have any substantial or lasting impacts, the duty to consult may only require the Indigenous communities be notified; if an Indigenous community has a proven right or strong claim and the project is likely to produce substantial and lasting impacts, the duty to consult may require the consent of these potentially-affected Indigenous communities to pursue the project. However, these are both extreme examples and most consultation falls somewhere in the middle. In most cases, impacts are mitigated (e.g. altering how or where a project is constructed to avoid or minimize impacts) or accommodated (negotiating ways to offset unavoidable impacts, e.g. setting aside land for protection or reclamation, or developing programs that benefit affected rights holders).

The Consultation Department supports the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's end of the duty to consult, in coordination with our Métis governance structures. We consider what negative impacts a project may have and how those impacts can be mitigated, and work with industry and government to implement those mitigations. When mitigation is not possible, the Consultation Department collaborates with leaders and rights holders to propose accommodations to ease the burden of those impacts on Métis Citizens.

A crucial component of the consultation process is engaging with Métis Citizens to learn about how and where they exercise their rights, so the severity of potential impacts can be better understood. Citizens provide our department with the knowledge that is the foundation of effective consultation with government and industry, on behalf of the collective Métis community.

PRIORITIES: TRANSITION

As the Otipemisiwak Métis Government continues its self-government journey, the Consultation Department is adapting its processes to better serve the new governance structure. Changes thus far have included changing the scope of Consultation Coordinator activities to correspond with the new Territory boundaries, redesigning the notification system used to receive and distribute consultation notices, and developing a suite of service modules to offer to Districts undertaking a consultation project in their area.

So why are we changing? The 2023 General Election resulted in the formation of the first Otipemisiwak Métis Government and saw 22 Citizen Representatives and 5 District Captains elected to office across the province. This election served as the coming into force of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and its Constitution, which contains two key sections regarding consultation, driving these changes within our Department. They are:

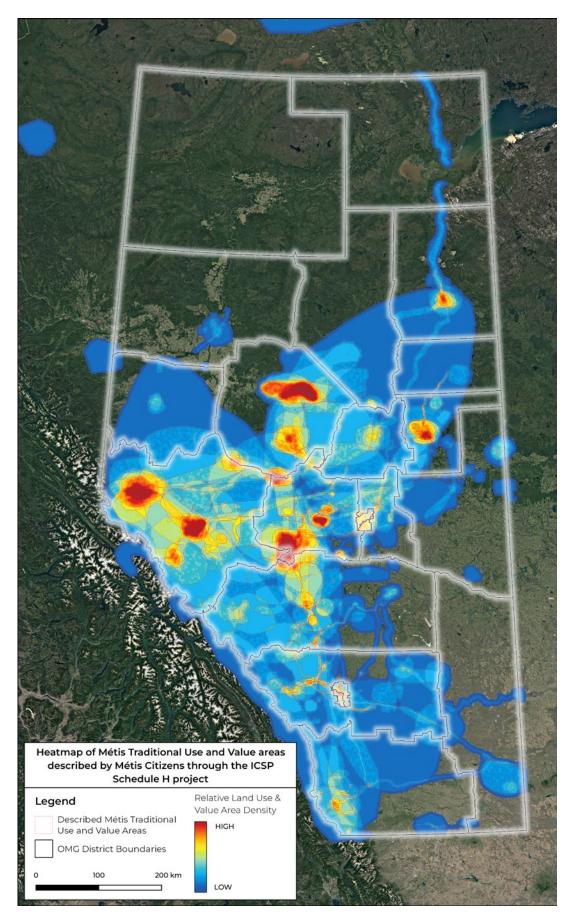
- **Section 15.7(c):** The authority and responsibility of District Councils extends to the conduct of consultation and accommodation with the Crown, industry, and other Indigenous groups on behalf of the Citizens residing in the District regarding their rights, claims, and interests.
- Section 15.8: The District Councils of each Territory shall establish procedures to coordinate their work in conducting consultations in relation to the rights, claims, and interests collectively held by the Métis community of the Territory they represent with the Crown, industry, and other Indigenous groups.

What this means for the Consultation Department is that we are reshaping our operations to best support District Councils in the Crown consultation process, and growing our capacity so we can provide that same level of support to new District Councils as they are elected.

The Consultation Department looks forward to continuing to navigate the transition process and is excited to continue playing a role in this historic shift to self-government.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Right: Métis Traditional Use hotspots in southern and central Alberta



PRIORITIES: DATA SYSTEMS

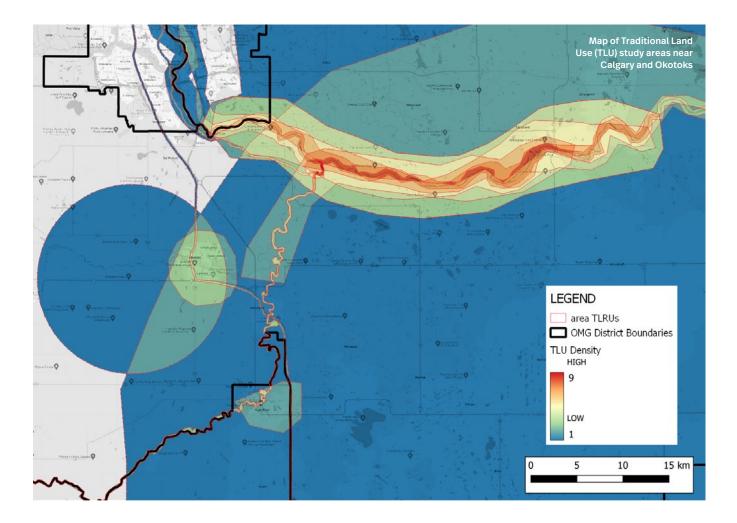
Over the past year, the Consultation Department has significantly enhanced its technical capacity, notably in the ongoing implementation of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Through consolidation of multiple internal datasets and creating consistent opportunities for staff skill development, the department has been able to successfully implement new processes to assess potential rights impacts and visualize Traditional Use areas.

These advancements would not have been possible without the data collection initiatives we have conducted in the past, and the programs we are currently undertaking, specifically the Terrestrial Cumulative Effects Initiative and the Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project. These programs allow the Consultation Department to collect and analyze information on a variety of topics that relate to the way our Citizens experience and practice culture and exercise their rights.

PRIORITIES: RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Relationship building is another key area of focus for the department, as strong relationships with environmental non-government organizations, industry proponents, federal and provincial regulators, and other stakeholders support the Crown consultation process. Relationship building leads to more opportunities for collaboration, including the co-development of new programs, initiatives, and strategies that directly or indirectly support the protection and advancement of Métis rights in Alberta.

This year we continued to strengthen our relationship with Parks Canada and the City of Edmonton through our National Urban Parks initiative, made new connections with regional watershed alliances through our Aquatic Habitat Restoration Program, participated in advisory committees with the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER), the Canada Energy Regulator (CER), and Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC), and contributed to research studies though the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER).





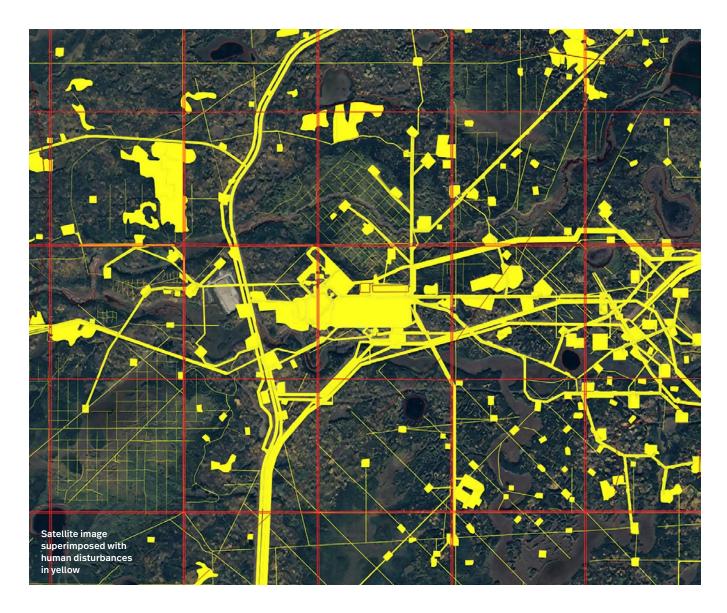
Winter wildfire observed on a TLU near Grande Prairie (Photo by Walter Andreeff)

Terrestrial Cumulative Effects Initiative

Under the Government of Canada's Terrestrial Cumulative Effects Initiative, the Consultation Department has continued developing ways to understand cumulative effects, how those effects impact the lives and rights of Métis Citizens, and the ways in which those impacts can be mitigated.

Cumulative effects are defined as the combination of changes (environmental or otherwise) that occur due to past, present, or future human activity. These changes in turn affect ecosystems and/or human wellbeing in a given area.

The first phase of the Terrestrial Cumulative Effects Initiative relied heavily on Citizen engagement and allowed the Consultation Department to increase its understanding of how Indigenous Knowledge can contextualize and be integrated into western environmental science. It also



provided us with first-hand feedback on the types of information, tools, and resources Métis Citizens need to better understand and evaluate cumulative effects generally and on a project-specific basis.

This provided valuable insight into how Métis Citizens experience cumulative effects, and how cultural activities and the exercise of rights can be impacted by environmental changes over time. These engagements informed our current phase of the project with respect to the information, data, and research Métis communities are looking for in order to better understand and respond to cumulative impacts.

The activities for the Terrestrial Cumulative Effects project in 2023-2024 consisted of conducting research and gathering the types of datasets Métis Citizens requested in the first phase of the project, identifying gaps in western science models of cumulative impacts, and developing an internal catalogue of resources that can be used to better understand cumulative effects.

We drew upon data available from the Government of Canada's Open Science and Data Platform, the Climate Atlas of Canada, and the Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects. Through this process, 55 primary research sources and studies on cumulative effects were identified across eight themes:

Land	 Climate

Air	

Biodiversity

• Health

Society

and Culture

Water
 Economy
 and Industry

There is still much work to be done to address cumulative effects, and the Consultation Department is excited to advance the next steps for this project which include:

- Creating plain-language materials that increase the accessibility of existing research, studies, and other resources to Métis Citizens.
- Developing processes that apply a Métis lens to western science indicators of cumulative effects so that resource development projects and other anthropogenic disturbances can be assessed in a way that is meaningful to Métis in Alberta.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of these processes and resources in collaboration with Métis Citizens, Knowledge Holders, and decision makers.

Aquatic Habitat Restoration Fund Project

Under the Aquatic Habitat Restoration Fund (AHRF) initiative, the Consultation Department has continued relationship building, collaborating with key community members, and undertaking preliminary research to support aquatic habitat restoration at Pigeon Lake.



Pigeon Lake was identified as a priority ecosystem by Métis Citizens in Phase 1 of the AHRF project and, using research conducted by the Consultation Department in 2022 on Pigeon Lake, the department successfully launched Phase 2 of the project. This phase of the project will establish a baseline understanding of Pigeon Lake in terms of Métis history and Traditional Use and assess the lake's current condition while monitoring key indicators and factors contributing to algae blooms.

The overall goal is to identify opportunities to improve conditions of the lake and associated ecosystem so that the lake can continue to support Métis traditional uses such as harvesting and fishing. This program will ensure the department has the proper background and data to protect Pigeon Lake from future environmental threats and enable us to utilize the Crown consultation process to address impacts that may result from planned resource, agricultural, or other development projects around the lake.

The department will begin water sampling at Pigeon Lake in the summer of 2024 so that we can analyze these water samples and determine the intensity of contaminants, such as cyanobacteria or contributors to cyanobacteria (i.e. heightened phosphorus levels), that in accumulation contribute to the potential for human or environmental harm in and around the lake. These activities will be conducted in collaboration with community members and planned to coincide with other Métis events at the lake, maximizing community involvement and creating opportunities for intergenerational transfer of knowledge.

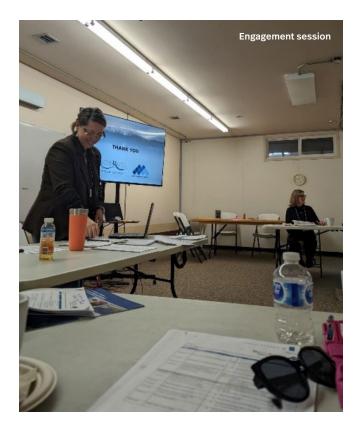
We are eager to assess each restoration activity as we pursue them so that we may apply successful techniques to other lakes across the province in the future.

National Urban Parks Project

Over the past year, the Consultation Department has continued working with Parks Canada and the City of Edmonton on their initiative to establish an urban national park in the Edmonton area. In the previous year, we heard from Métis Citizens about their interests, priorities, and concerns about establishing an urban national park within the city, which has informed the research initiatives we are undertaking in relation the project, as well as our approach to the various committees and working groups associating with the planning phase of the park.

Key activities this year have included participating in the National Urban Park Partners Table and working to jointly develop a "terms of relationship" that would outline the roles and responsibilities of the partners, how we work together and share information, and guide the planning process for the potential park. The terms of relationship will also lay the groundwork for discussions on potential co-management of the park.

Under this project, the Consultation Department has also completed background research on recurring concepts shared by Métis Citizens regarding their vision for an urban park, such as how Métis knowledge will be effectively incorporated into both the management of the park and the experience of each person who visits the park, the inclusion of information and signage in the park chronicling the rich Métis histories that exist in the river valley, and establishing a Métis-led stewardship program.



Moving forward, the Consultation Department will be hosting community engagements, such as table tops and group meetings, to determine how Métis knowledge and experiences can most effectively and meaningfully be incorporated into the park itself and how the Otipemisiwak Métis Government can most effectively and meaningfully continue to be involved in the project, including in the management of the park.

CONCLUSION AND WHAT'S NEXT

The Consultation Department is excited to continue our work on aquatic habitat restoration and cumulative effects, exploring new ways to integrate research in these and other areas to improve outcomes in the Crown consultation process. As we evolve as a department, rising to meet the needs of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, we look forward to expanding our portfolio of ongoing programs and service modules, growing our capacity to be responsive to emerging impacts to Métis rights, claims, and interests.

Part of this growth will include building staff capacity to action the various Crown consultation notifications received across the province each year, and to conduct the foundational research that strengthens the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's position in the Crown consultation process. We will also seek to fill gaps in our knowledge base, such as by conducting Traditional Land Use Studies (TLUS) in unstudied areas or undertaking research to better understand the experiences of Métis women, ensuring that those experiences are represented in the Crown consultation process.

We eagerly anticipate starting a number of new initiatives in the 2024-2025 year, including research into railroad safety and the intersection of Métis harvesting rights with the Canada railroad network, the development of a web portal to provide Métis Citizens a way to report environmental concerns they observe in and around aquatic ecosystems, and a study on monarch butterfly migration patterns that could result in an early indicator for environmental changes on the land.

Environment and Climate Change

The Otipemisiwak Métis Government of the Métis Nation within Alberta's Environment and Climate Change (ECC) Department is dedicated to reducing environmental impacts, safeguarding the traditional practices and culture of Métis Citizens, and ensuring the resilience of future generations to our changing environment and climate. The ECC Department continues to advance environmental monitoring efforts under the Askîy Community-Based Environmental Monitoring Initiative. Ongoing monitoring projects assess the health, distribution, and abundance of cultural keystone species and traditionally harvested plants, fish, and wildlife. As part of our conservation efforts, the ECC Department continues to acquire land for a network of Otipemisiwak Métis Government-led Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs). The Native Bee Conservation Program has entered its third consecutive year, offering Citizens tools to aid in bee conservation.

Significant progress has been made under the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's Climate Change Action Plan. As of December 2023, the 4.86 megawatt AC community generation solar project, Salay Prayzaan (Michif for "a gift from the sun"), is fully operational. The



ECC Department continues to seek resources to expand its solar microgeneration capacity and achieve significant fossil fuel energy reductions at both Otipemisiwak Métis Government and Affiliate facilities.

The ECC Department continues to host events and programs to share information and Traditional Knowledge with Métis Citizens. The ECC Speaker Spotlight Program has entered its second year, while the Traditional Plant Walks have continued for its fourth year. Additionally, the ECC Department continues to engage with Citizens on environmental and climate change concerns and priorities and to advocate for these priorities locally, nationally, and internationally.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST YEAR

- Completed Salay Prayzaan (Métis Crossing Solar Project) and is fully operational as of December 2023, producing electricity equivalent to powering 1,200 Alberta homes
- 3,500+ Citizens engaged through Environment and Climate Change events
- Secured 1,283 acres of land for conservation
- Over 600 Community Monitoring Forms submitted for fish and berry health monitoring, setting a new record

Renewable Energy Initiative

The renewable energy initiative includes solar installations at Otipemisiwak Métis Government and Affiliate buildings and sites that work to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions while providing cost and energy savings. This initiative includes two components: Microgeneration Solar, small-scale solar sized to meet the energy needs of the site, and Community Solar, the grid-connected Salay Prayzaan solar farm at Métis Crossing.

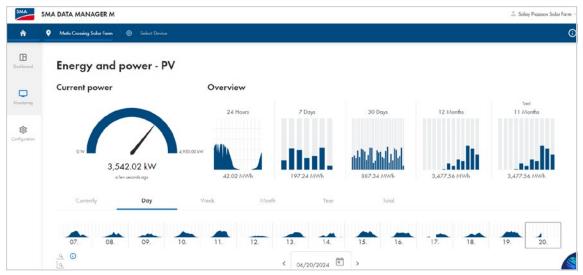
SALAY PRAYZAAN (MÉTIS CROSSING SOLAR PROJECT)

The Métis Crossing Solar Project (MCSP) is an Otipemisiwak Métis Government-owned communitygeneration solar project located at Métis Crossing. The name "Salay Prayzaan," meaning "a gift from the sun" in Michif, was chosen from naming suggestions received from Métis Citizens. Salay Prayzaan is a collaboration between the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, the Town of Smoky Lake, and Smoky Lake County. The solar farm has been designed to fit in with the ongoing development of Métis Crossing and is a key initiative



President Andrea Sandmaier and dignitaries at the opening ceremony and ribbon cutting celebration for the Salay Prayzaan at Métis Crossing solar project held on June 21, 2024. Photo credit: Emma Grant





Left: Power Production at Salay Prayzaan. This dashboard shows realtime and historical power production at the Salay Prayzaan site as of June 20, 2024.

under the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Climate Change Action Plan. Salay Prayzaan serves as a model for collaboration and partnership while respecting Métis governance, simultaneously uplifting the community partners, and upholding Métis traditional values.

The 4.86 megawatt AC solar facility will reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, generating economic and community benefits for the community partners. It will result in emissions reductions of approximately 4,700 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year, equivalent to powering 1,200 Alberta homes. The project will contribute to the Town of Smoky Lake and Smoky Lake County through tax revenue, local economic activity, and contributions to a local community development fund.

Construction of the solar project began in the fall of 2022 and was fully operational as of December 8, 2023.



SOLAR RETROFITS AT MÉTIS NATION BUILDINGS

The current microgeneration solar portfolio has a capacity of 457 kilowatts DC at 36 sites across Alberta, including Otipemisiwak Métis Government and Affiliate offices, housing units, a campground, and others. In 2023 the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's microgeneration solar sites produced 394,000 kWh of electricity resulting in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of 205 tonnes CO2e (carbon dioxide equivalent); this is the equivalent of planting 3,400 trees, removing 60 vehicles from the road, or powering 55 Alberta homes.

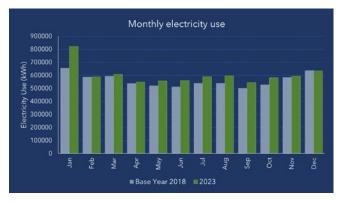
The Otipemisiwak Métis Government is seeking to expand the current portfolio of microgeneration solar systems to offset the carbon emissions of the government and Affiliate's growing portfolio of buildings. In 2024, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government partnered with an Alternative Energy capstone project team from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT). The students created a tool that can be used to evaluate Métis Housing sites for their potential to be retrofitted with a solar photovoltaic system, considering the financial impact, solar energy potential, and structural factors such as the condition of the roof.

Future work:

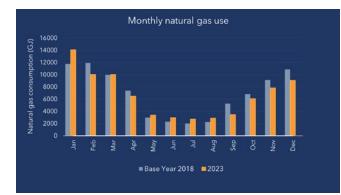
- Utilize the tool created by the NAIT Bachelor of Technology capstone team to identify ideal locations for the expansion of the microgeneration initiative.
- Continue to look for funding and finance mechanisms to expand this initiative to additional sites.

Energy Efficiency and Energy Management Initiative

Reducing energy use at Otipemisiwak Métis Government facilities is an effective way to reduce carbon emissions. The Otipemisiwak Métis Government has implemented an energy management system using in-house and industrystandard tools to effectively monitor energy consumption at Otipemisiwak Métis Government and Affiliate sites. The ongoing tracking of utilities (electricity and natural gas usage) allows us to track the progress of completed projects and implement further energy efficiency and energy conservation measures to reduce energy usage and provide cost savings.



An overview of 2018 and 2023 electricity use from the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and Affiliate Greenhouse Gas Inventory.



An overview of 2018 and 2023 natural gas use from the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and Affiliates' Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

In 2023, the tracked Otipemisiwak Métis Government and Affiliate buildings used 105,470 GJ of energy, compared to 107,300 GJ of energy in 2018 when tracking began. This is a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of 410 tonnes CO2e.

Note: The GHG emissions are calculated based on the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and are unverified. Calculated using the Alberta Carbon Emissions Factor Handbook (Version 1.0 and 3.1).

The Otipemisiwak Métis Government worked closely with Métis Capital Housing Corporation and Métis Urban Housing Corporation to complete a comprehensive energy efficiency review of the Métis Nation within Alberta's housing portfolio. Working with an expert organization, the project reviewed the state of energy efficiency and identified opportunities to increase the energy efficiency of the Métis Housing portfolio. The project will accelerate our ability to take climate action and ensure our staff have the knowledge and skills needed to drive sustainable change from within our community.

Future Work:

- Continue to work with funders to secure new opportunities to make Otipemisiwak Métis Government and Affiliate buildings more energy-efficient and climate-resilient through retrofits.
- Roll out of the Energy Efficiency Retrofits Program in collaboration with Métis Capital Housing Corporation, allowing Citizens to access funding to complete energy efficiency retrofits on their homes.
- Include water usage tracking in our inventory to monitor and recommend water-saving initiatives.

Askîy Community-Based Environmental Monitoring Initiative

The Askîy (Cree for "Earth" or "land") Initiative aims to undertake environmental monitoring using methods that braid Métis Traditional Knowledge with Western science.



This initiative was developed from Citizen engagements to understand concerns related to environment and climate change. Environmental monitoring began in March 2020 with many projects continuing annually. Environmental monitoring projects currently focus on examining the health, distribution, and abundance of cultural keystone species and traditionally harvested plants, fish, and wildlife.

ASKÎY GUARDIANS GATHERING

In 2023, the ECC Department held Askîy Guardians Gatherings to share information about the Askîy Initiative, promote opportunities for Citizens to get involved in ECC environmental monitoring projects, and provide a space to learn from Knowledge Holders and harvesters. Three Askîy Guardians Gatherings have been held; a summer event at Pigeon Lake and two winter events at Lesser Slave Lake and Lac La Biche. The summer event at Pigeon Lake offered shoreline fishing, fish filleting demonstrations, guided plant identification walks, and traditional beading instruction. The winter activities took Citizens onto the ice to fish, watch a traditional gill net be set and pulled, and see filleting demonstrations. Indoors, attendees could learn about ECC programs, enjoy food, and try their hand at beading.

Project Highlights:

• Combined, 205 people attended the three Askîy Guardians Gatherings, with several having since completed community monitoring forms and cited the gatherings as where they learned about the program.

Future Work:

 More Askîy Guardians Gatherings will be planned, with emphasis on winter gatherings and selecting locations across the province so all Métis Citizens can attend.

ASKÎY RE-ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

In early 2023, the ECC Department hosted 12 inperson engagement sessions across the province and launched an online survey to understand how the Askîy Initiative was being received by Citizens and how it could be expanded and improved. Additionally, the ECC Department asked Citizens to share their experiences of environmental changes and concerns and how this could be incorporated into the Askîy Initiative. In total, 639 participants joined the conversation.

Analysis of the responses showed that the topics of most concern were water quality, water levels, and water supply, and issues related to climate change and extreme weather, such as health and safety, loss of wildlife and plants, and economic impacts. When asked about changes Citizens have experienced, over 50% of respondents cited changes in the land, including increased pollution, loss of land access and habitat, and the impacts of deforestation. The feedback received has shown a desire for more opportunities for learning and Citizen involvement, especially those related to Traditional Knowledge sharing.

Future Work:

- Create an in-depth public report on the results of Askîy Re-Engagements.
- Create more opportunities for Citizens to participate in berry, wildlife, and water quality monitoring.

Plant Projects

BERRY HEALTH MONITORING

To address Citizens' concerns regarding plant health and changes in abundance, the ECC Department launched the Berry Health Monitoring project in 2020. Based on community feedback, 36 berry harvesting sites were selected for annual monitoring. Berry productivity, plant health, site species composition, and site characteristics such as canopy cover are assessed annually.

Project Highlights:

- In 2023:
 - Trail cameras were added to three berry monitoring sites to help understand wildlife utilization of the plants.
 - 1,392 plants were counted, consisting of eight different berry species. The most counted species were saskatoons (32%), blueberries (23%), and raspberries (15%).
 - Raspberries and blueberries were the most productive species monitored. Over 50% of raspberry flowers developed into fruit!
 - Berries ripened earlier than in previous years, potentially due to an early spring and warm temperatures.
- Numerous different wildlife species visit our berry monitoring sites, including moose, ruffed grouse, red fox, coyotes, white tailed deer, and black bears. One black bear even tried to attack a trail camera.

Future Work:

• Continue to track plant health and productivity of plants. Plant health trends will be evaluated and compared to local climate conditions to identify factors that may be affecting the productivity and health of these invaluable plants.



Berry Health Monitoring: A white-tailed deer captured by the trail camera at the berry monitoring site in the northwest of Bruderheim recreation area.

• Monitoring activities will expand on wildlife cameras to help understand different factors impacting berry health, including localized weather conditions and snow accumulation over the winter.

COMMUNITY BERRY HEALTH MONITORING

In the summer of 2023, the Berry Health Community Monitoring Forms were launched to support the ongoing



Community Berry Health Monitoring: A young Citizen out berry picking. Photo credit: Neika Courtorielle

Berry Health Monitoring Program. The forms aim to collect the community's harvesting experiences on the land and gain a clearer perspective of berry health across the province and how both the harvest and harvesters might be impacted by climate change and industrial and recreational activities. Two forms were launched in summer 2023: one that asked Citizens to report on their berry harvest trips themselves, and a second to report on the health of the plants they were harvesting from.

Project Highlights:

- Citizens submitted 192 monitoring forms, including 165 Berry Harvesting Trip reports and 27 Berry Health report forms.
- Citizens reported harvesting in approximately 93 different communities across the province, ranging from as far north as Fort Chipewyan and High Level to as far south as the Rocky Mountain foothills and Cypress Hills. Most harvesters travelled less than 200 km to visit their berry-picking sites.
- July and August were the most popular months for berry picking, with saskatoons being the most targeted and harvested species.
- Generally, people were satisfied with their berrypicking experiences and harvested enough berries to meet their needs.

Future Work:

- Relaunch the updated Berry Trip form in July 2024 to allow Citizens to continue to share their harvesting experiences and berry health observations.
- Conduct an in-depth analysis of the results and compile into an interactive public report.

TRADITIONAL PLANT WALKS

In the summer of 2023, 11 in-person Traditional Plant Walks were hosted across Alberta to facilitate the transfer of Métis Traditional Knowledge and engage with Citizens on traditional plant harvesting practices. At each event, participants learned about traditional plants and their uses from a Métis Knowledge Keeper through a combination of storytelling, cultural activities, and a guided plant walk.

Project Highlights:

- 2023 walks were held at the following locations:
 - Rainbow Valley Ravine (Whitemud Creek) in Edmonton
 - Peace River Wilderness Park in Peace River
 - Saskatoon Island Provincial Park in Grande Prairie

- Slave Lake Provincial Park in Slave Lake
- Fish Creek Provincial Park in Calgary
- McKenzie Trails Park in Red Deer
- Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park in Lac La Biche
- Moose Lake Provincial Park in Bonnyville
- 162 people participated in the 11 plant walk events.
- Participants learned how to identify and respectfully harvest a variety of plant species living where the plant walk was held.

Future Work:

• Traditional Plant Walks continued in spring 2024, with six walks being held, and another series is planned for spring 2025.



Fish Projects

FISH HEALTH COMMUNITY MONITOR PROGRAM

The Fish Health Community Monitor program has been running since August 2021 and aims to collect waterway and waterbody specific information to help detect changes to fish populations and health. The program invites Citizens to act as Askîy Guardians by using online reporting forms to collect information regarding fishing activities, the size and health of fish caught, and the palatability of fish kept for food. Seasonal prize draws were held to thank Citizens who participated in the program.

Project Highlights:

• 402 reports were submitted in 2022-2023 by 202 community members. This included 231 Fishing Trip reports, 77 Fish Health Measurement reports, and 94 Fish Palatability reports.

Future Work:

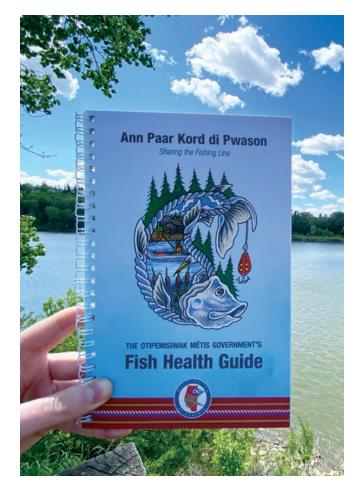
• Conduct an in-depth analysis of the community reporting data and create an interactive public report to share the results with the community. This data will also be used to inform future environmental monitoring and conservation work.

Forms were closed for the spring spawning season and were updated when the program was relaunched in

June 2024 to continue accepting reports from Citizens throughout the year and offer seasonal prize draws.

FISH HEALTH GUIDE: ANN PAAR KORD DI PWASON (SHARING THE FISHING LINE)

In the fall of 2022, a series of one-on-one interviews were conducted with Métis harvesters and Knowledge Holders to understand the connection between Métis people and fishing. Interviews explored the fish health indicators used by Métis harvesters to document and preserve Traditional Knowledge. In fall 2023, the interview results were compiled into a Fish Health Guide and a Métis artist created visual illustrations to accompany the text. The content of the Fish Health Guide and plans for an illustrated guidebook were reviewed with some of the harvesters who participated in the initial interviews. A Michif title was developed in collaboration with the new Otipemisiwak Métis Government Language Revitalization



Fish Health Guide: Ann Paar Kord di Pwason (Sharing the Fishing Line): The Otipemisiwak Métis Government's Fish Health Guide is now being distributed to Citizens. Photo credit: Ali Greenslade

team. Copies of The Otipemisiwak Métis Government's Fish Health Guide: Ann Paar Kord Di Pwason (Sharing the Fishing Line) are now available at the Provincial Office for Citizens and will be handed out at ECC booths and events.

Project Highlights:

- Conducted 18 in-depth interviews with Métis harvesters.
- The most common fish health indicators amongst interview participants were compiled into a Fish Health Guide.
- The Fish Health Guide is now printed and currently being shared with Citizens.

LAKE FISH MONITORING

In January and February 2024, the ECC Department conducted fish health monitoring while ice-fishing, and focused on sampling fish from four lakes across Alberta. A team of Métis harvesters, Métis youth, and Otipemisiwak Métis Government staff travelled to each lake and fished using an overnight set gill net. Sampled fish were measured, weighed, and examined for health indicators. Tissue samples from a selection of each species were collected for mercury and other toxicology testing.

Project Highlights:

- Fishing surveys were held at Christine Lake, Lesser Slave Lake, Moose Lake, and Calling Lake.
- 2024 was a record year for catches, with more than 500 fish caught, including Lake Whitefish, Walleye, Northern Pike, and Burbot. Whenever possible, any live fish caught were released.
- 95 samples were sent for toxicology testing. Results are still pending.



Ice Fishing Surveys: The 2024 ice-fishing team, including staff, harvesters, and youth.

Future Work:

• Plan another round of lake fish monitoring for the upcoming ice fishing season (January – March 2025). Based on Citizen concerns and the responses from the community monitoring reports, new lakes may be targeted for investigation.

ASKÎY YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

As part of the Lake Fish Monitoring conducted in January and February 2024, the ECC Department invited three Métis youth to participate in a week of monitoring. Throughout the week, youth learned scientific monitoring techniques from staff, as well as Traditional Knowledge from harvesters, including how to set a gill net and assess fish health.

Future Work:

• Plan another round of lake fish monitoring for Winter 2025. The Askîy Youth Guardians involvement will run in conjunction with the monitoring work.



The Askîy Youth Guardian ice fishing team follows the jigger as it travels under the ice during a traditional Métis gill net set. Photo credit: Beth Blanchette

Wildlife Projects

IHUNTER ABHUNTLOG

In October 2022, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government officially joined the ABHuntLog project as a partner and added the option for a respondent to identify as a "Métis Harvester". ABHuntLog is an in-app survey in the iHunter mobile app, developed by the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA), the University of Alberta (U of A), and Inside Outside Studios. This in-app survey allows users to share information about their hunting success and observations. ABHuntLog provides users with a dashboard that summarizes their submitted data such as days scouting, days hunting, number of animals harvested, and total distance travelled. Collected data can be used to assess population trends of harvested species across Alberta and wildlife management. All data is anonymous and summarized at the Wildlife Management Unit level. The Otipemisiwak Métis Government retains ownership of all survey data submitted by this user group and uses the data to support monitoring activities, examine the economic value of harvesting activities, and document areas where Citizens exercise their Section 35 rights.

Project Highlights:

- Of 1,463 total respondents in 2023, 85 individuals identified as a Métis Harvester, accounting for 95 total hunting trips.
- Majority of the trips were reported throughout the Foothills (35%), Northern Boreal (32%), and Parkland (28%) regions of Alberta.

Future Work:

- The ECC Department will continue to encourage Citizens to participate in ABHuntLog during the upcoming fall hunting season.
- Data collected during the fall 2023 and 2024 hunting seasons will be analyzed and shared with Citizens.

MIGRATORY BIRD HARVESTING SURVEY

With funding support from the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), the ECC Department completed its annual Migratory Bird Harvesting survey for the 2023 harvesting season. The primary purpose of this survey was to collect harvest data from Métis harvesters in Alberta to share with CWS to inform migratory bird conservation.

Project Highlights:

- 400 Citizens participated in the survey for the 2022 harvest season.
 - 3,310 birds consisting of 24 bird species were reported to have been harvested across Alberta.
 - The most common migratory bird species harvested were Canada Goose (1,022), Snow Goose (899), and Mallard (681).

Future Work:

• The ECC Department will run a survey next winter to examine migratory bird harvests for the 2024 harvest season.



MIGRATORY BIRDS HARVESTING SURVEY

PRIZES TO BE WON!



The Migratory Bird Harvesting Survey was advertised using this image (above) on social media.

COMMUNITY BIRD WALKS

In 2023, the ECC Department hosted three Community Bird Walks around the province. Observing birds in their habitats encourages Citizens to practice stewardship through Citizen science. Engaging as a community provides opportunities to share knowledge and appreciation for the land.

Project Highlights:

- Partnering with local guides, Community Bird Walks were hosted in Tofield, High River, and Slave Lake.
- In total, the Community Bird Walks successfully engaged 24 people, with positive comments and feedback received.

Future Work:

• Based on the success of the 2023 bird walks, walks were held in spring 2024 and there are plans to continue the program into 2025.

Environmental Conservation Initiative

The Environmental Conservation Initiative aims to undertake action to protect the lands, waters, and air Métis Citizens rely on across Alberta. Projects undertaken through this initiative will work in synergy with the ECC Askîy Initiative to address environmental concerns and provide opportunities for Citizens to connect with the land and become involved in land stewardship.

INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS (IPCA) PROJECT

The ECC Department continued their work to establish a network of Métis-led Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) in Alberta to meet the core values Citizens identified through IPCA engagements in late 2020, starting with a pilot IPCA near Edmonton to serve as a model to inform efforts to establish IPCAs throughout the province.

Project Highlights:

- In May 2023, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government purchased 158 acres of land in Lamont County from Ducks Unlimited Canada to establish a pilot IPCA.
- Throughout 2023, staff conducted a baseline inventory of the pilot IPCA's natural features and species.



Species-at-Risk on pilot IPCA: These three federallylisted Species-at-Risk were found on the pilot Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area. Left: Gypsy Cuckoo Bumblebee (Bombus bohemicus). Top right: Yellow-banded Bumblebee (Bombus terricola). Bottom right: Barn Swallow (Hirundo rustica). Photo credit: Jordan York, Tiffani Harrison





Wildlife from trail cameras pilot IPCA: Species captured by wildlife cameras on the pilot Métis-led Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA). Top left: Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis). Top right: Mule Deer buck (Odocoileus hemionus). Bottom left: Moose (Alces alces). Bottom right: Coyote (Canis latrans).



- Three federally-listed Species-At-Risk, barn swallows and two bumblebee species, were found on the pilot IPCA!
- In the spring of 2024, over 400 Citizens participated in a survey to share names and programming suggestions for the pilot IPCA.

• In December 2023, 1,125 acres of land near Métis Crossing were purchased in collaboration with Métis Crossing to support bison grazing and native grassland restoration.

Future Work:

- Officially announce the name of the pilot IPCA, and open the site for public access.
- Through funding from the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk program, support three years of bumblebee surveys, the installation of a barn swallow nesting structure, and the installation of interpretative signage and a seating area on the pilot IPCA.
- Continue to evaluate potential lands to expand the IPCA network, explore partnerships, and work to create opportunities for Citizens to participate in land stewardship and conservation programs.

NATIVE BEE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The Native Bee Conservation Program provides Citizens with tools to support the conservation of Alberta's native bees. This program offers Native Bee Conservation Kits, which contain a bee nesting box, native wildflower seeds, and pollinator-focused educational materials provided by the Edmonton & Area Land Trust. By setting up bee nesting boxes and planting native wildflowers, Citizens provide food and shelter for Alberta's native bees. This program was continued in the spring of 2024, providing 250 Native Bee Conservation Kits to Citizens.

Project Highlights:

- In 2023:
 - Over 250 Citizens reported back in the fall, more than double the number of Citizens who reported back in 2022.
 - 63% of Citizens reported bees were using their flowers
 - 77% of Citizens reported bees were using their nesting box (up from 48% in 2022!)
 - Citizens provided an average of 4.4/5 rating of their experience with this program (with 1 = poor, 5 = excellent)
 - 87.6% of Citizens reported they planned to continue participating in the program
- In 2024:
 - Over 650 Citizens registered for the 2024 Native Bee Conservation Kit giveaway.

• 250 Citizens across Alberta were provided with Native Bee Conservation Kits.

Future work:

• Look for opportunities to offer this program next year and continue to evaluate how the program can be improved and expanded upon.



CONSERVATION LAND ACCESS DASHBOARD (CLAD)



In the summer of 2023, the ECC Department launched the Conservation Land Access Dashboard (CLAD). This interactive dashboard provides Citizens with an easy-to-navigate tool to identify

publicly accessible conservation sites across Alberta. The dashboard allows Citizens to view the land-use activities permitted on each site, such as traditional plant gathering, hunting, fishing, camping, and horseback riding. The ECC Department developed the dashboard to highlight existing land access opportunities in Alberta as they work to increase land access through the establishment of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.

The Conservation Land Access Dashboard (CLAD)

Access CLAD to easily find sites that allow: camping, traditional plant gathering, hunting, fishing, ATV, and horseback riding.



Project Highlights:

- CLAD highlights 1,055 publicly accessible conservation sites across Alberta from a large swath of organizations (e.g., Alberta Conservation Association, Nature Conservancy Canada, Parks Canada, Alberta Parks, etc.).
- CLAD has been visited over 3,170 times (as of June 13, 2024) since its release.

Future Work:

- Update CLAD to include:
 - Snowmobiling as a new land use activity.
 - Re-organization of displayed data to allow for a better user experience.
 - Updates to current sites and additions or removals of new or closed/retired conservation sites.
- Continue to raise awareness of this tool for Citizen use.

PARKS CANADA ENGAGEMENTS

Métis Citizens carry deep cultural ties to lands and waters across the Homeland, including lands where federallyadministered National Parks and National Historic Sites have been established. With funding provided by Parks Canada's Protected Areas Establishment and Conservation Directorate, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government is committed to investigating Citizens' relationships and connections to Parks Canadaadministered sites in Alberta, including gaining a better understanding of how Citizens continue to use these important places.

Project Highlights:

- In early May 2023, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government launched a Parks Canada Engagement Survey to help better understand Métis Citizens' historic, current, and future uses of Parks Canadaadministered sites in Alberta.
- The Parks Canada Engagement Survey received 1,232 responses, which are currently being analyzed.

Future Work:

- Complete data analysis and create an in-depth public report on the results of Parks Canada Survey Engagements.
- Use survey results to provide feedback and suggestions to Parks Canada on how to work with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government to meet Métis Citizens' ecological and cultural priorities in National Parks and National Historic Sites throughout the province.
- Collaborate with Parks Canada to create opportunities to advance Métis Citizens' access, interest, and meaningful involvement in Parks Canadaadministered places.

PARKS CANADA ENGAGEMENT

Take Our Survey

Share your Métis perspective and help enhance your next Parks Canada adventure for a chance to win!

Prizes:

- $\infty\,$ One of ten \$100 prepaid Visa cards
- ∞ One grand prize of a \$250 Mountain Equipment Company gift card

Survey Closes May 22 11:59 PM



Engagement & Policy

ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS:

In the past year, our team engaged over 3,800 Citizens through in-person and online events, information-sharing initiatives, and various programs. Citizen engagement and feedback continue to drive program planning and delivery as well as inform policy and decision-making.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

The Environment and Climate Change Speaker Spotlight is an ongoing initiative that invites Métis community members and industry professionals to talk about environmental stewardship, sustainability, and climate action from a Métis lens.

Since late 2022, 11 virtual sessions have been completed, covering topics including food security, emergency preparedness, cultural burning, native bee conservation, and more! Over 500 attendees have tuned into sessions, with 89% agreeing that the spotlight helped increase their knowledge of the topic and 90% agreeing that they felt more empowered to make sustainable actions and choices following the session.

Each Speaker Spotlight session has been recorded and can be found on albertametis.com. Stay tuned to the bi-weekly newsletter and social media for upcoming sessions!

Future Work:

• Continue collecting feedback and tailor upcoming sessions to incorporate Citizen feedback and concerns.





ECC Speaker Spotlight: Keep an eye out for this banner advertising the next online session!

ENERGY & CLIMATE ENGAGEMENTS

The ECC Department continues to engage with Citizens on relevant topics to ensure that Métis voices are included and advocated for in policy and programming. In March 2024, seven in-person sessions were held, along with three virtual sessions and an online survey to engage with Métis Citizens on thoughts and concerns regarding the energy sector in Alberta. Participants were asked about their connection to the energy sector, their perspectives on renewable energy development, and how the Otipemisiwak Métis Government can support Métis families and energy workers. These sessions were held in partnership with Iron & Earth and succeeded in connecting with 277 Citizens. (See Session Map Graphic on page 91)

PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY

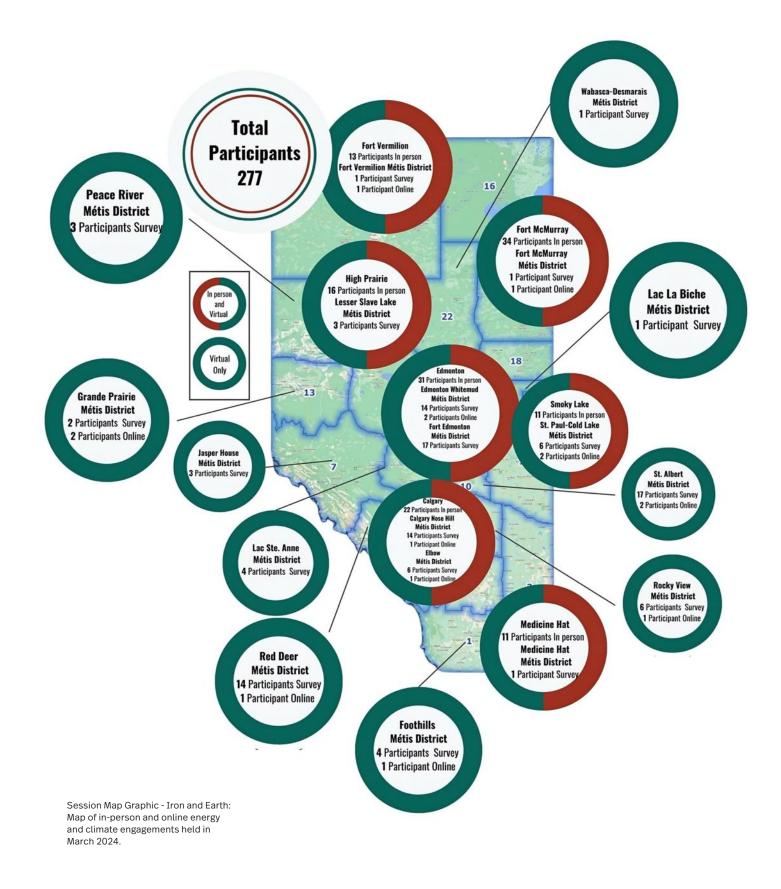
The Environment and Climate Change engagement team continues to provide information and resources to help inform Citizens in making eco-conscious decisions. Over the last year, sustainability tips were shared in the biweekly newsletter, along with grants and opportunities to help promote environmental stewardship. Through quarterly collaboration with Affiliates, at the ECC Climate Table, the ECC Department shares funding streams as well as ideas about opportunities to work together to make the Otipemisiwak Métis Government more environmentally sustainable. Staff also provide materials and resources at Otipemisiwak Métis Government events, through department booths and participation.

POLICY & ADVOCACY

The ECC Department continuously engages with other governments, organizations, and Indigenous peoples both locally, nationally, and internationally on topics related to nature conservation and climate change. Members of the ECC Department can be found attending table meetings, sharing information about Métis environment and climate programs and leadership on panels, providing feedback to external partners on climate and environment policy, and much more. The ECC Engagement and Policy team actively advocates for Métis voices in these conversations and strives to bring Métis perspectives to the table in all environment and climate change spaces.

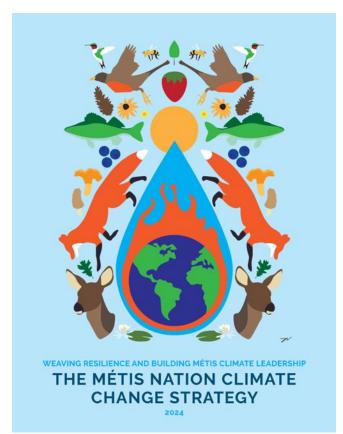
Project Highlights:

• ECC staff attended two Goose Moon Table Meetings (formerly the Canada-Métis Nation Table on Clean Growth and Climate Change) to build relationships,



share information about joint policy development, and identify Métis-specific considerations for designing programs and funding.

• ECC staff were actively involved in the writing and development of the Métis Nation Climate Change Strategy, released in April 2024.



Future work:

- Program development will continue to evolve in line with Citizen needs, with an upcoming focus on understanding how climate change is affecting Citizens, tackling emergency preparedness, hosting engagements on species at risk, and creating and sharing resources with a Métis lens.
- As we work on outward-facing sustainability, we are also working to reduce our environmental footprint internally with initiatives and capacity support for the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and Affiliates.
- The Engagement and Policy team continues to learn, grow, and better understand how to advocate for and support Citizens through policy and practice. We will continue bringing community voices to spaces where conversations can be had regarding how to best move forward in supporting Métis-led environmental stewardship and climate action.

CONCLUSION AND WHAT'S NEXT

The ECC Department remains committed to investigating and monitoring Citizens' environmental concerns under the Askîy Initiative. Ongoing monitoring efforts will establish baseline data crucial for detecting environmental changes and trends. We remain dedicated to securing lands for environmental conservation and empowering Citizens to actively participate in land stewardship while upholding cultural traditions.

The ECC Department will continue to build upon the initiatives under the Climate Change Action Plan to undertake climate change initiatives and programs aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing Métis engagement and awareness of climate change, and fostering capacity-building and economic opportunities for Métis Citizens. We continue to work on behalf of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and its Affiliates to fulfill the mandate from Citizens to act on climate change.

The ECC Department will continue engaging with Citizens to listen to their concerns and seek feedback to guide the development of new projects and programs and advocate for policies that reflect Citizen needs. One of the main priorities of the ECC Department is to continue advocating for and working towards securing funding to support emergency management planning and programming.

The ECC Department is committed to empowering Citizens with the knowledge, tools, and opportunities to embrace sustainable living, reduce their carbon footprint, engage in environmental conservation, and raise awareness about environmental issues and potential impacts.

We encourage Citizens to reach out and provide any comments, questions, or ideas to our team at environment@metis.org or climate@metis.org.

Harvesting

The Harvesting team has placed continued focus on creating an efficient card process to ensure we are sending out approved Harvesting cards quickly to qualified harvesters, with an average turnaround time of approximately 6-8 weeks. We have assisted in updating Alberta RELM accounts for our Citizens, so they can print off their domestic fishing licence (DFL). In addition, we have facilitated another round of the Harvester Relief Support (HRS) Program, which benefited Otipemisiwak Métis Government-approved harvesters by assisting with costs surrounding harvesting.

HARVESTING APPLICATIONS

The first Harvester applications were accepted on September 1, 2019. To date, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government has over 13,500 approved harvesters. In 2023, the Harvesting Department received a total of 3,895 harvesting applications, which averages to approximately 324 harvester applications per month.

The Harvesting Department is continually updating Citizens' Alberta RELM accounts. During this process, an Otipemisiwak Métis Government Harvester's status is changed on their Alberta RELM account to "Recognized Métis Harvester." This means that harvesters no longer need to go to the Alberta Fish and Wildlife office to get their account updated, as this can be completed by the Harvesting Department.

HARVESTER RELIEF SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Harvester Relief Support Program was extremely successful in 2023. The program provided approved harvesters with a maximum \$200 reimbursement for many of their harvesting needs, such as ammunition, butchering costs, deep freezers, fishing equipment etc. In total, we were able to assist 550 approved harvesters.

ASKÎY YOUTH FISH MONITORING

Once again, this past winter, the Harvesting Department worked alongside the Environment team for the Askîv Fish Health study. Gill nets were set at four different lakes across Alberta: Christina Lake, Lesser Slave Lake, Moose Lake, and Calling Lake. The Environment team also held another essay contest whereby Métis university students could submit an essay that spoke about their Métis connections and what it would mean for them to take part in the fish study. Four Métis students were chosen to join the project and learn all about setting gill nets along with all other aspects of fishing. The project was a huge success, helping the Otipemisiwak Métis Government collect valuable samples and data pertaining to the provincial lakes and overall fish health. The Environment team was able to secure funding to have the fish sent and tested for a variety of different toxins, such as mercury.

FAMILY CAMPS

In the spring, our Harvesting team assisted the Children and Family Services Department in facilitating the Frosty Reels Family Camp. This year, the camps were held at Camp Maskepetoon on the north shore of Pigeon Lake and ran on multiple weekends; we were able to add one more weekend this year for a total of five weekends.

Camp Maskepetoon has 11 cabins, and this year we were able to facilitate approximately 50 families to come out and stay in a cabin for the weekend and enjoy the incredible outdoors. Each family member who attended received an ice-fishing rod and reel, ice fishing bucket, and lures, as well as a filleting kit for each family. In addition, they were able to fish Pigeon Lake on Saturday and try out their new rods on the ice. Families were also able to see and learn how a gill net was traditionally set through the ice using the "Prairie Jigger," which was originally designed by Métis fishermen in the early 1900s. In addition, everyone was treated to a fresh fish-and-chips feast right out on the ice.

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize all the Knowledge Holders

and Harvesters who helped with the fish study and the family camps. Your knowledge and assistance are much appreciated!

Harvesting

Manager Craig

Frosty Reels Family Camp

Letendre teaching

participants how to tie their lures.

CONCLUSION AND WHAT'S NEXT

In the upcoming fiscal year, we are looking into facilitating more Ladies' New Dawn Fishing Days within the Districts/ Territories. The Harvesting team is also looking to organize and take out a group of approved harvesters on the land to do land-based learning such as animal tracking, and observing what the animals are eating, such as willow tips.

The Harvesting team is also looking to build a reporting system for approved harvesters to report what they have harvested, such as animals, birds, and fish. This information will be kept by the Otipemisiwak Métis Government for conservation purposes. Métis have always been conservation minded; not hunting in the spring when the animals are calving, as well as not shooting cows so as not to disturb the reproductive cycle of the animals.

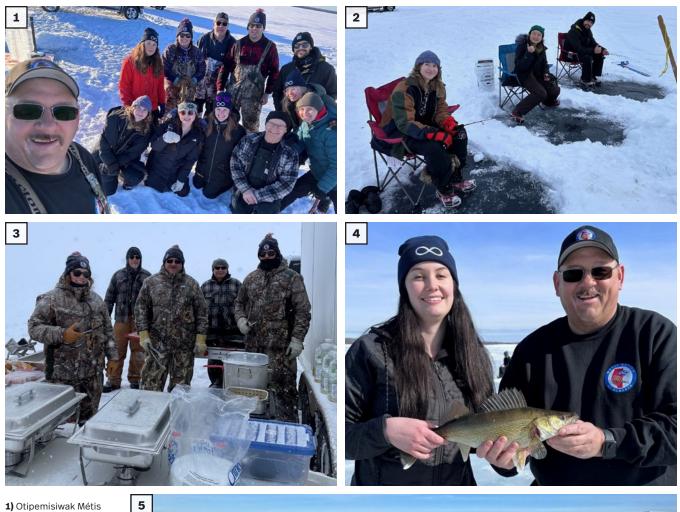
The Otipemisiwak Métis Government continues to advocate for harvesting in southern Alberta and will continue to pressure the Alberta government to move forward with a southern harvesting area.

For all Harvesting information, please visit our website: albertametis.com/harvesting



Golden brown fresh fish on the menu, cooked in our cast-iron frying pans right out on the ice. Let's feast!





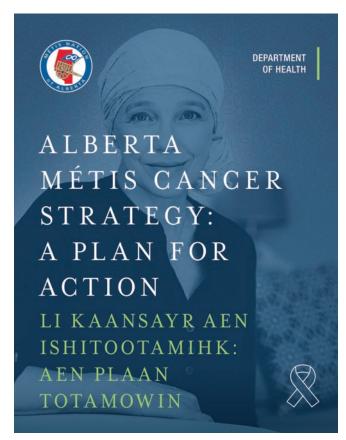
- Otipemisiwak Métis Government fishing team, including harvesters, staff, and students.
- 2) Students, Ashlee Kusick, Alice Hartley, and Brendan Struthers enjoying a little ice fishing.
- 3) The cooking must go on, even if it is -30°C and snowing with 40 km/h winds.
- 4) Brooke Bramfield, Secretary of Children and Family Services, joined us at one of the Pigeon Lake family camps and reeled in this beauty!
- **5)** Family camp participants out on Pigeon Lake with the day's catch.



Health

The Otipemisiwak Métis Government Health Department works to advance the health and wellness priorities of Métis Albertans through four key activities: engagement, programs and services, relationships, and advocacy. Our work is structured around two core pillars: Health Research and Community Wellness. In the Health Research Pillar, we work to gather and share the health and wellness priorities of Métis Albertans in meaningful ways. Over the past year, we have worked on projects across three focus areas: Cancer, Children's Health, and Long-Term and Continuing Care. In the Community Wellness Pillar, we work to develop, implement, and evaluate self-determined programs and services that advance the health and wellness priorities of Métis Albertans. Throughout the last year, our programs and services have worked towards two main objectives: to facilitate access to care and to promote healing and recovery.

Health Research Pillar



CANCER

The Health Department received continued funding from the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) to implement the

Alberta Métis Cancer Strategy from 2023 to 2027. To advance our commitment, we held community gatherings in Edmonton and Calgary and completed telephone interviews in January and February 2024. With 31 Métis Albertans



engaged, we sought to better understand their experiences accessing cancer screening programs in Alberta. The goal of these engagement sessions is to ultimately improve access to cancer screening and facilitate early detection of cancer when it is most treatable.

In partnership with Cancer Care Alberta (CCA), we uploaded the Métis Cancer Care Course to the Alberta Health Services learning platform (MyLearningLink) in January 2024. The course provides an overview of Métis people and culture, approaches to health and well-being, and cancer care experiences. The course is available for healthcare providers working in cancer care to increase cultural safety within the healthcare system.

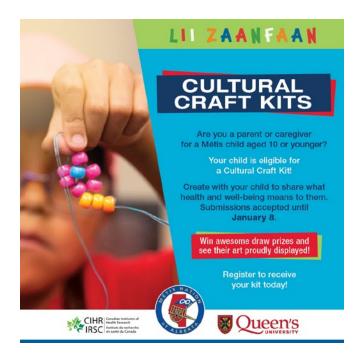
We are excited to announce that the *Creation of a Métis-Specific Instrument for Cancer Screening: A Scoping Review of Cancer-Screening Programs and Instruments* is now available in the Journal of Current Oncology. This publication is part of our cancer screening collaboration with the University of Calgary, Alberta Health Services, and Alberta Health. We launched a survey in 2022 that examined cancer

screening rates among Métis Albertans and investigated facilitators and barriers to cancer screening. This publication provides an overview of the methods used in developing the survey questionnaire.



CHILDREN'S HEALTH

The Lii Zaanfaan ("The Children") Project focuses on the health and well-being of Métis children aged 10 and younger in Alberta. This collaborative effort between the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, the University of



Alberta, and Queen's University aims to understand the determinants of health impacting the health and wellbeing of Métis children and facilitate supportive actions and interventions.

This year, we completed a population-based retrospective birth cohort study that examined 451,131 children born between April 1, 2006, and March 31, 2016, including 4,991 Métis children. Key findings revealed significant health disparities: 10% of Métis newborns faced severe health challenges, with a neonatal mortality rate of 2.9 per 1,000 live births. Neurodevelopmental disorders had an incidence rate of 4.8 per 1,000 personyears, and 14% of children were diagnosed with complex chronic conditions. Métis children had a 40% higher rate of emergency visits and a 16% increase in hospitalizations compared to non-Métis children.

This year, we also launched a cross-sectional survey for caregivers of Métis children who are 10 years old or younger. The survey received over 1,400 responses and analysis is ongoing.

To understand the cultural context of health from the perspectives of Métis children, we distributed Cultural Craft Kits with culturally-relevant activities to engage children. The data from the art projects will help us gain insight into what is important to health and wellbeing from the perspectives of Métis children in Alberta. We mailed 60 kits this year and continue to distribute additional kits to Métis children across Alberta.

LONG-TERM AND CONTINUING CARE

The Health Department received funding from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to engage Métis Albertans about long-term and continuing care (LTCC). This project aims to co-develop distinctions-based policy options for the federal LTCC framework to address the LTCC needs of Métis Albertans.

We leveraged the 2023 Annual General Assembly (AGA) to engage Métis Albertans about LTCC and their experiences accessing LTCC services. This engagement identified 11 themes related to location, facilities and spaces, food, staff, programming, culture, community connections, values, aging in place, learning and navigating healthcare, and costs and finances. Findings from this engagement informed the development of a province-wide online survey to validate and expand on the information collected at the AGA. We launched the online survey in October 2023 and received 972 responses. We also completed 15 oneon-one interviews with LTCC healthcare providers.

Preliminary results from the survey identified that cost was a significant challenge for nearly half of all respondents

who had accessed LTCC for themselves or a loved one. The importance of remaining at home was consistent regardless of whether respondents lived in cities, towns, or rural/remote areas. Over two-thirds of respondents felt that providing Métis navigators or advocates for those exploring LTCC options and sharing information through our government's communication platforms would assist Métis Albertans in understanding how to access the supports they need. The resulting priorities from the survey findings informed a priority-setting community gathering, followed by report-back activities to community members and ISC planned for Summer 2024.

Community Wellness Pillar

COMMUNITY WELLNESS ADVOCATE PROGRAM

The Community Wellness Advocate (CWA) Program aims to increase access to mental wellness supports among Métis Albertans. Over the past year, the CWA Program received enquiries from more than 470 Métis Albertans, many of whom made more than one enquiry. During these interactions, the program provided 519 referrals. Of these, 250 referrals were for mental health services or addictions support, including the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Wellness Program, which provided



413 Citizens with 12 hours of free counselling through Homewood Health over the past year. In our evaluation of the CWA Program, Métis Albertans overwhelmingly reported having a positive experience when connecting with the Community Wellness Advocate, with 93% of people agreeing that the Community Wellness Advocate was kind, polite, and culturally safe, and nearly 90% reporting that they would use the CWA Program again.

The learnings from our program evaluation also reinforced that connections with family, friends, community, culture, and nature are central to Métis Albertans' mental health and well-being. In response, we hosted several opportunities for Métis Albertans to gather and share over the past year. Between August and October 2023, we hosted three Land-Based Healing Retreats for a total of 81 people, including one retreat for Survivors of Residential Schools. In November 2023 and February 2024, we hosted a series of Virtual Wellness Circles facilitated by the Weaving Wellness Centre. The first series focused on the emotional, physical, spiritual, and mental dimensions of self through a culturally-enriched Métis lens. In contrast, the second delved into various facets of Métis heritage, including dot art and plant knowledge. We also hosted weekly Yoga and Meditation Sessions and a class where participants were taught various traditional Métis crafts by Métis Knowledge Holder Krista Leddy, including beading and finger weaving.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR MENTAL WELLNESS PROGRAM

The Financial Support for Mental Wellness Program enrolled 231 Citizens, including 45 children who were enrolled by a parent or guardian. This program provided Citizens with funding to access counselling support with a service provider of their choice. Over the past year, we have continued to receive enrollment enquiries long after the program has reached capacity, demonstrating that many Citizens have already invested time and money into building a relationship with a specific counsellor and the importance of these relationships. In addition, this highlights the high demand for this program.

Over the past year, Citizens were able to access more than 1,500 counselling sessions through this program. The vast majority of service providers were Registered or Provisional Psychologists, though Métis Albertans also chose to see Registered Clinical Social Workers and Certified Canadian Counsellors. In our evaluation of this program, both Citizens and their service providers overwhelmingly reported having a positive experience with the Financial Support for Mental Wellness Program: 97% of Citizens agreed that the Community Wellness Advocate, who handled enrollment, was kind, polite, and culturally safe, and almost 92% of service providers agreed that the Community Wellness Advocate was easy to work with. This is reinforced by the fact that nearly 98% of Citizens plan to re-enroll in the program, while 100% of service providers confirmed that they would participate in the program again.

DENTAL PROGRAM

The Otipemisiwak Métis Government Dental Program is made possible through a partnership with the University of Alberta School of Dentistry and provides Citizens with access to low-cost and free dental care services.

The Emergency Adult Dental Program provides Citizens aged 18+ with access to subsidized dental care for emergency extractions and root canals. Between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024, 124 Citizens were referred to receive dental care through this program.

The Youth Dental Program provides free dental services to Métis youth between the ages of 3 to 16. Services include dental exams, cleanings, fillings, and extractions. Between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024, 67 Citizens were referred to receive dental care through this program.

We also hosted three Dental Clinics in communities across Alberta, including Cold Lake (April 2023), Medicine Hat (November 2023), and Red Deer (February 2024). These dental clinics are made possible through our partnership with Access for All Dentistry at the University of Alberta, a student-led initiative that provides free dental and dental hygiene care to underserved communities. These clinics provide free dental care to Citizens, as well as opportunities to connect to community and culture. Over the past year, 1,915 dental care treatments, valued at over \$155,000, were provided free of cost to 289 Citizens (see Table 1).

Learn more about our Red Deer Dental Clinic in an interview with Secretary of Health and Seniors, Bobbi Paul-Alook by scanning the QR code.







MEDICAL TRAVEL PROGRAM

The Medical Travel Program is available to Otipemisiwak Métis Government Citizens travelling more than 100 kilometres within Alberta to attend a medical appointment. The Medical Travel Program aims to alleviate the financial burden associated with medical travel and ease the strain on individuals and families navigating the complexities of medical treatment.

The Medical Travel Program, launched on October 1, 2023, combines two previous successful programs: the Medically Necessary Accommodations Program and the Cancer Transportation Program. These programs, utilized extensively by Citizens over the years, highlighted the need for expanded services beyond Edmonton and mileage reimbursement for medical appointments unrelated to cancer.

In response to these concerns, the Medical Travel Program expanded its accommodations from the city of

Table 1: Summary of Dental Clinics

Dental Clinic	Number of Citizens	Number of Treatments Provided	Value of Treatments Provided
Red Deer (February 2024)	104	583	\$41,432
Medicine Hat (November 2023)	101	813	\$72,213
Cold Lake (April 2023)	84	519	\$42,018
Total	289	1,915	\$155,663

Edmonton to four other major cities throughout Alberta (Grande Prairie, Fort McMurray, Calgary, and Lethbridge). Cities were chosen to ensure equitable access to healthcare services for Citizens residing in remote or rural areas and throughout Alberta. Appointments eligible for mileage reimbursement also expanded from cancerrelated appointments to include other forms of medical appointments.

During this period, the Medical Travel Program facilitated 356 accommodation reservations for Citizens and processed 604 applications for mileage reimbursements, supporting Citizens in attending 1,060 medical appointments.

These remarkable figures highlight the tangible impact the Medical Travel Program has had on Citizens' lives, providing reassurance that they can afford the necessary travel for medical care. The program's impact extends across various medical needs, from families accessing vital preventative care like medical and dental appointments to individuals receiving critical lifesustaining treatments. Moreover, it has provided crucial support during unexpected medical emergencies for numerous families.

The tables below highlight the growth of this program over the past four years.

OPIOID RECOVERY WRAP-AROUND SUPPORT PROGRAM

Shakiwayniwayhk, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Opioid Recovery Wrap-Around Support Program (ORWASP), provides tailored financial and wrap-around support to eligible Citizens post-residential addiction treatment. Our goal is to mitigate the risk of relapse among participants and ensure a seamless transition to life in the community.

From April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, Shakiwayniwayhk has significantly expanded both the level and duration of services provided to Citizens. We now offer financial support of up to \$20,000 for 12 months, compared to \$15,000 for nine months.

In the past year, we have welcomed a total of 19 participants to this program. Main participant focus include prioritizing financial support for rent, cell phone and utility bills, and groceries, with additional expenditures covering wellness expenses such as family recreation, household appliances, educational upgrading fees, insurance, and overdue bills. Participants also receive referrals to culturally-safe resources, including mental health and medical professionals. Our collaborations with Métis Housing and Simon House Recovery Centre facilitate housing and treatment

Table 2: Summary of Medical Travel Accommodations

Fiscal Year	Number of Citizens Provided with Short-term Accommodations	Number of Citizens Provided with Long-term Accommodations
April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024	573	43
April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023	260	30
April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022	111	26
April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021	30	2

Table 3: Summary of Medical Travel Mileage Reimbursements

Fiscal Year	Number of Citizens Provided with Mileage Reimbursements	Number of Appointments Citizens Attended
April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024	604	1,060
April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023	66	553
April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022	40	331
April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021	6	17



connections. We also partner with Weaving Wellness Centre and MC College to maximize self-care and wellness opportunities available to participants. Participants are also invited to join our weekly Connections in Recovery Peer Support Group. Two out of 19 participants have successfully completed the program and live independently, embracing a recovery-oriented lifestyle.

TOBACCO REDUCTION PROGRAM

Our Tobacco Reduction Program is a multidimensional health promotion initiative that offers Citizens aged 18+ various support options to help them reduce or quit their commercial tobacco use.

Our QuitCore Group Program is a six-week (12-hour) virtual program. The sessions focus on a variety of topics including nicotine dependence, reduction techniques, nutrition, physical activity, and stress management, and provide participants with numerous resources, tools, and tips. Graduates receive a "QuitKit" and are eligible to receive a \$500 Alberta Blue Cross benefits card that can be used to access nicotine replacement therapies (NRTs). QuitCore graduates and their families are also invited to join a QuitRetreat at Métis Crossing to gather for a weekend of celebration and connection with community, culture, and the land. Over the past year, we hosted four QuitCore Group Programs and 25 Citizens graduated from the program. We also hosted two QuitRetreats for 21 QuitCore graduates and their family members.



Our ChangeCore Peer Support Group is a weekly peer-led commercial tobacco peer support group. ChangeCore is led by QuitCore Graduates and provides a space for Citizens on a tobacco reduction journey to connect and support each other. Over the past year, 22 Citizens joined our ChangeCore Peer Support Group.

"I think the support group is a very positive and powerful tool to help with not smoking and keeping smoke-free! Sharing with others who come from the same culture as oneself is a big positive!"

- ChangeCore Peer Support Group participant

Our NRT Program is a condensed three-week virtual program offered to Citizens who are looking to access NRTs to support their commercial tobacco reduction goals without committing to the full six-week QuitCore Group Program. Over the past year, we supported an additional 25 Citizens to access NRTs through this program.

RECOVERY CONTINUUM

Albertans experiencing addiction and mental challenges deserve to be supported in their pursuit of recovery. In partnership with Alberta Mental Health and Addictions, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government is looking forward to the development of an integrated, easily accessible, and community-based recovery community.

Currently in the planning stages, Healing Waters Recovery Community is based on the belief that recovery is possible and that Métis Albertans should be supported and face as few barriers as possible in their pursuit of recovery.





Located in Smoky Lake, Alberta, a landscape full of Métis history, this world-class facility will combine Métis culture, community, and values with best practices in Western recovery medicine. Focused on supporting Albertans, Healing Waters concentrates on developing recovery capital – the internal and external resources that a person can draw on to maintain their pursuit of recovery. Identified as a key priority by Métis Citizens, the Health Department is excited to work collaboratively with the province on this incredible initiative. Initial planning and engagements have only just begun. We look forward to sharing more as this project unfolds.

CONCLUSION AND WHAT'S NEXT

Over the next year, we will continue working towards a vision of health in which all Métis Albertans are happy and healthy, grounded in their cultures and languages, and thriving as individuals and as members of their families and communities.

In our Health Research Pillar, we will complete the final component of our Lii Zaanfaan Project, which will include gatherings with Métis families in Alberta. We will also launch our Quality of Care for Métis in Alberta Emergency Departments Project. This project aims to set the foundation for systemic changes in the healthcare system and to improve emergency department experiences for Métis Albertans through a rigorous investigation of racism and experiences of healthcare delivery.

In our Community Wellness Pillar, we aim to expand our Opioid Recovery Wrap-Around Support Program to offer broadened support to more Citizens in recovery, irrespective of their substance use history or treatment of choice. In response to the high prevalence of vaping among youth under 18, we also aim to expand our Tobacco Reduction Program to offer a Youth Nicotine Prevention Program. Finally, we look forward to the intense work developing the infrastructure and programming to open Healing Waters, the very first Métisled recovery community in the province.

Intergovernmental Relations

Over the past year, the Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Department of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government has experienced significant growth, welcoming nine new staff members, including six full-time employees, one part-time employee, and two summer students. This expansion includes the addition of a Manager of Languages, who will oversee language revitalization programs across the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, and an Executive Director who will oversee the work being done by kisîhtoskâtonaw: Otipemisiwak Métis Government Art Collective.



The IGR team at the Jasper All Staff Conference. In photo: Mike Parks, Joseph Atkinson, Wyatt Telford, Alyssa Szewczyk, Carly Kutnikoff, Hussein Hussein, Nakkhalinh Painchaud. Not present: Tyler Fetch, Bailey Hartwig, Gabriel Marchand, Cassidy Brown, Morgan Sapkos, Elena Mecuri.

Despite this period of rapid growth, the IGR Department has continued to provide support to other departments within the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. Our efforts have continued to be focused on ensuring that the rights and recognition of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government are maintained, advanced, and clearly communicated. Furthermore, the IGR Department, alongside all departments within the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, has dedicated itself to educating the public about our identity, our activities, and the importance of the Métis. Reflecting on the past year, we take pride in our achievements and reaffirm our commitment to advancing the rights and recognition of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. Our growth and accomplishments highlight our dedication to serving Métis community and enhancing the understanding of Métis people.

FEDERAL RELATIONSHIPS

Over the past year, the IGR team has continued to support the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism with Canada, working to identify joint priorities, co-develop policy, and monitor progress in advancing reconciliation between the Métis Nation and the Government of Canada. We have successfully secured funding to address key priorities, including economic development, health, justice, and policing. What we have secured is just a start, as it is not what we need to properly address the needs of Citizens, but initial investments allow us to build new capacity and knowledge where we need it. This approach will continue to be instrumental in securing resources for other priorities of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

In February 2024, leaders from the Métis National Council (MNC), Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), Métis Nation– Saskatchewan (MN-S), Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC), and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government convened with representatives from the Government of Canada to develop a set of guiding principles for codevelopment. These principles will form the foundation for ongoing progress and include a commitment to recognition and reconciliation, which necessitates hard work, shifts in perspectives, procedural changes, actions, compromise, and good faith. At this meeting, Canada announced a contribution of \$500,000 to support capacity building for the co-development of a federal elementary and secondary education policy for the Métis Nation.

We have also been working nationally through the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism, outlined in the Métis Nation Accord. Through this process we have worked to advance the shared priorities of the Métis Nation, which are codeveloped by the four Métis governments of the MNC. In the past year, we focused on making inroads in the priority areas of elementary and secondary education, emergency management, economic development, and health. This does not mean we are not thinking about how we can address other emergent needs of Métis Citizens in Alberta, but that we are focusing efforts in these four areas for this year.

To this end, we were able to make some progress on emergency management and economic development, but there is still more to be done to try to build the programs, supports, and policies that we need in all of the priority areas in the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

UNDRIP

Since June 21, 2021, when the United Nations Declaration Act (also known as "UNDA") received Royal Assent, the Government of Canada and Indigenous peoples have been working together to implement the Declaration. This legislation mandates Canada to take measures ensuring federal laws are consistent with the Declaration, table annual progress reports, and develop an action plan for its implementation. The UNDA Action Plan was tabled in Parliament on June 21, 2023, and includes 181 measures reflecting the priorities of Indigenous peoples across Canada, with a distinction-based section for the Métis. This comprehensive plan is intended to contribute significantly to achieving the objectives of the UN Declaration and will continue to evolve as it guides future efforts.

The IGR team, in collaboration with the Justice Department of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and the MNC, alongside other governing members, has been actively engaged with Justice Canada through the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism to ensure meaningful implementation of UNDA. These meetings involve reviewing annual reports and ensuring the consistency of laws with the Declaration. Additionally, a working group has been established to develop rolling draft amendments to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

We also attend MNC bi-weekly internal meetings regarding UNDRIP and UNDA to ensure that the action

plan is broad enough in scope to allow for specific actions as we move into the implementation phase. Essentially, we are working to ensure that the Action Plan is being implemented as promised. Furthermore, these meetings ensure ongoing alignment with the evolving needs and priorities of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, helping to ensure that our efforts are comprehensive and effectively support the advancement of our Citizen's rights and well-being.

We encourage all Citizens to review the Action Plan to get a sense of the scope of this task. The Declaration touches on all facets of our lives and Canada has committed to ensuring its laws align with it. Implementation of UNDA will require ongoing dialogue between Canada and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government to fully implement given the scope of the commitment made by Canada.

LANGUAGES

The IGR Department dedicated significant efforts to language revitalization in 2023-24, focusing on capacity building, and external community engagement.

In Fall 2023, a Language Revitalization Manager was hired to lead these initiatives. Under their guidance, a dedicated committee attended the Michif Language Conference in October 2023, fostering connections and gaining valuable insights.

Throughout Fall and Winter 2023, the team developed a comprehensive action plan based on the language agreement. This plan included community and institutional programs in collaboration with the Rupertsland Institute and a Michif documentation strategy. Two significant multi-year projects were launched, set to be completed by Winter 2025. These projects include the creation of a Michif Cookbook with corresponding Michif cooking lessons available on YouTube, and live "Kitchen Nights" where participants can cook alongside a Michif Knowledge Keeper. These interactive sessions will be held across the province, promoting cultural exchange and language learning.

In Winter and Spring 2024, job postings for two Michif Language Coordinators were widely circulated. By March 2024, a Senior Coordinator was hired, followed by a Junior Coordinator in April 2024, strengthening the team's capacity to execute the action plan.

In Spring 2024, we finalized the workplan and associated funding support for the Rupertsland Institute. This collaboration marks a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to preserving and revitalizing the Michif language and culture. Through these strategic efforts, we continue to support and enhance the linguistic heritage of the Métis Nation within Alberta, ensuring its vitality for future generations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

With the passage of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Action Plan in June 2023, through a renewed Nation-to-Nation relationship grounded in the recognition of Indigenous rights, the Government of Canada aims to address economic barriers for Indigenous individuals and businesses. As highlighted in UNDA Shared Priority 74, this involves building on the work of the National Indigenous Economic Development Board Report and the National Indigenous Economic Strategy, among other strategic frameworks. These efforts seek to mitigate the lasting negative impacts of colonial policies that have created inequitable standards of development between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities across Canada.

Budget 2023 proposes allocating \$5 million in the 2023-24 fiscal year to Indigenous Services Canada to support the co-development of an economic reconciliation framework. This framework, developed in collaboration with Indigenous communities and businesses, will clarify the roles of federal and Indigenous organizations in advancing economic reconciliation, ensuring that the distinct needs and interests of Indigenous peoples are respected and reflected. The Otipemisiwak Métis Government will be engaged with Canada to ensure that our needs are being heard and are included in the framework.

In February 2024, members of the IGR team attended a National Economic Reconciliation Forum held in Richmond, BC. The forum was a two-day discussion of economic development and economic reconciliation in a Métis Nation context. The Otipemisiwak Métis Government brought members of the kisîhtoskâtonaw: Otipemisiwak Métis Government Art Collective to highlight the ways in which we view economic development in the Métis Nation. While we fully support and promote traditional forms of economic development, we have also put focus and resources into promoting cultural economic development. This is a major shift in the ways governments view economic development, and we want to highlight and promote the work we do to support our artists in making their dreams a reality, just as we work to support entrepreneurs in other fields. In the end, it was apparent that we have some work to do in defining what economic development means to us, but we are on a good path towards that end.

We have also been working with Indigenous Services Canada to find ways to improve procurement access for federal projects. The Government of Canada has committed to ensuring that 5% of all procurement contracts will be set aside for Indigenous people. This means that Indigenous-owned businesses and professionals have improved chances to be awarded contracts from the federal government. In 2023, Canada spent \$4.6 billion in procurement contracts. That makes their target for Indigenous procurement around \$230 million. This is a big opportunity for our businesses. IGR has been working with Canada to build a series of procurement events to bring our businesses together with Canada's procurement officials and hopefully make the process a bit easier, and to also get input from our businesses as to how the process could be improved. Look forward to hearing more in the very near future as we look to host events in the fall. You can also stop by the tradeshow at the IGR booth to find out more.



Above: Members of the Intergovernmental Relations team at the Economic Reconciliation Forum in Richmond, BC, February 28-29, 2024. Left to right: Hussein Hussein, Alyssa Szewczyk, Joseph Atkinson, Tyler Fetch, Wyatt Telford.

While our Economic Development/Industry Relations team shrunk dramatically in the past years, we have continued to actively seek opportunities to develop relationships with willing partners throughout Alberta. Notable companies with which the Otipemisiwak Métis Government has relationship agreements include:

- AKSIS Edmonton's Indigenous Business & Professional Association
- Arnett & Burgess Oilfield Construction
- Avid Energy Services and Apex Well Servicing
- Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)
- Cascade Projects
- Crescent Point Energy
- EPCOR
- Flint Energy A division of ClearStream
- G.N.S. Industrial Trailer Services LTD.
- Single Source Project Management Inc.
- Wilcia Management Inc.
- H2Safety Services Inc.
- Indigenous Incubator Inc.

MÉTIS WORKS

The Otipemisiwak Métis Government maintains a growing database of verified Métis-owned businesses, initially focused on oil and gas but now expanded to include other business types, such as catering and consulting. This database is accessible to industry and others seeking to hire verified Indigenous businesses, further supporting economic development within the Métis community.

In our efforts to enhance database connectivity with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and the Indigenous Business Directory (IBD), we have engaged in collaborative discussions with the Government of Canada Business Directory. Our goal is to establish a seamless integration between Alberta Métis Works and IBD. While a final decision on the connection method is pending, we are considering the implementation of a locator/ indicator/ profile number that both databases can utilize to identify business registered with Alberta Métis Works. This would allow IBD to verify Métis businesses through Métis Works and not require our businesses to register on two databases or Canada to send verification requests to us. Verification can be one step and quickly completed.

Additionally, as stated above, we are planning events and workshops in collaboration with ISC and Procurement Assistance Canada (PAC) to be held in Fall 2024. The agenda is being developed and will feature presentations from ISC and Alberta Métis Works, detailing the process for approval as a Métis business and how to access procurement opportunities.

PROVINCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

The Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) team is dedicated to advancing the framework agreement between the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and the Government of Alberta. This agreement has led to the establishment of sub-tables for Health and Children and Family Services, and we aim to create similar tables to address other Otipemisiwak Métis Government priorities. Starting in March 2024, the IGR team has initiated monthly meetings to discuss ongoing Otipemisiwak Métis Government priorities. These meetings include reviewing and reporting on the annual progress of the Framework Agreement and conducting joint reviews with the Government of Alberta.

Our efforts are focused on maintaining and strengthening these relationships by educating Alberta's representatives on our key initiatives and the progress we have made internally. To facilitate this, we have developed several resources, to aid the Government of Alberta to better understand the inner workings and processes of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. The Framework Agreement is set to expire in 2027. While that seems far off, the negotiation of a new agreement can take time, and we are not interested in allowing this key relationship agreement with Alberta to expire without a new agreement to start immediately. We have begun conversations with Alberta to set a process for the renewal, or update, of the existing framework agreement.

Through these efforts, we aim to build and sustain relationships and create inroads that will support the Otipemisiwak Métis Government in advancing our goals. Our collaborative approach ensures that the Government of Alberta is well-informed about our values and achievements, fostering a partnership that benefits all Otipemisiwak Métis Government Citizens. As we continue to work together, we are committed to moving forward with a shared vision for the future, grounded in mutual respect and a commitment to the well-being of our community.

KISÎHTOSKÂTONAW: OTIPEMISIWAK MÉTIS GOVERNMENT ART COLLECTIVE



In the past year, we have hired three staff to support the kisîhtoskâtonaw: Otipemisiwak Métis Government Art Collective, including one full-time, two part-time, and two artist consultants. The team has been working with a skilled consultant to learn what they need to know to be successful in running our collective and have also worked to draft bylaws outlining objectives to advance Métis arts across all genres, aiming to elevate Métis cultural heritage through artistic expression. The collective supports artists through communal networks, nurturing connections, and promoting reciprocal responsibility, empowering them to reclaim and expand their Métis identity. Through capacity-building initiatives, mentorship, and overcoming access barriers, the collective creates a sustainable environment for Métis arts.

Since its establishment in 2021, the Bi-Annual Métis Markets, hosted by the collective, have become signature events, showcasing 40 to 50 artists compared to 2023





where we were only able to have 20 to 25 artists, reflecting the increasing recognition of Métis artistry, and the growth of the collective. Beyond visual arts, the markets began to feature live performances and demonstrations, fostering community cohesion and Métis pride. These no-cost events empower artists to share their stores and connect with their culture, enriching the cultural landscape.

In early 2024, the collective hosted its first weaving program, which works to further preserve Métis heritage through learning about the history and meaning behind sashes and the process for weaving them. Ten Citizens enrolled, each receiving a loom and guided by knowledgeable community members. This project is ongoing and aims to produce at least 10 sashes per participant by 2025, re-establishing sash weaving as a livelihood.

In choosing the name, we collaborated with Cree and Michif speakers to find a name that would reflect what the collective is about. "kisîhtoskâtonaw" was selected, as it means "We support one another, hold one another up, encourage one another." This name encapsulated the collective's spirit of mutual support and unity. In collaboration with Rivet Construction and Reimagine, we brought kisîhtoskâtonaw to life, creating a vibrant space in Edmonton's Renaissance Tower. This meticulously designed space supports Métis artists with areas for events, artwork display, and essential facilities. This space is set to have its grand opening in August 2024 which will be a celebration of all involved with Elders, elected officials, and collaborators in attendance.

CONCLUSION AND WHAT'S NEXT

The 2023-24 period has been transformative for the Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Department of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. With nine new staff members, including roles focused on language programs and artists, we have grown the scope of the work we do quite substantially. Our commitment to advancing the rights and recognition of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government has been evident through our continued support of the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism with Canada, securing significant funding for economic development, education, health, justice, and policing. Collaborative efforts with federal and provincial partners have resulted in guiding principles for future cooperation and new funding to support federal education policy codevelopment.

In alignment with the UNDRIP, we have worked closely with Justice Canada to ensure federal laws are consistent with the Declaration, developing draft amendments and maintaining a comprehensive action plan. The kisîhtoskâtonaw collective has seen remarkable growth, highlighted by the upcoming grand opening of a new space in Edmonton and the launch of heritage-preserving programs. Our economic development initiatives have led to fruitful partnerships, including those with Indigenous Incubator Inc. and various industry leaders, supporting Métis entrepreneurs and exploring equity opportunities in significant projects.

Looking ahead, we anticipate further integration of Alberta Métis Works with national business directories, and upcoming collaborative events with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Procurement Assistance Canada (PAC) to enhance economic opportunities for our Citizens. Reflecting on our accomplishments, we are proud of the strides made in serving Métis Citizens and look forward to continued progress in advancing the well-being and recognition of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

Justice

In August 2023, the Justice Department was officially created. This was in response to a resolution put forward by a Métis Citizen and passed at the 2021 Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Annual General Assembly directing the MNA to develop a justice strategy to support its Citizens and Métis Albertans with navigating the justice system. Since then, it has been both an exciting and challenging time for the Justice Department as we are building the department bottom up. Through our community engagements in 2022 and 2023, we heard that the Métis Justice Strategy must be reflective of the diverse needs of Métis Albertans across the province and that services and programs must be Métis culturally specific.

The mandate of the Justice Department is to provide information and support to Métis Albertans who may have questions, or are involved with, the criminal justice system.

Our focus is on advocacy and partnerships:

- Advocating and advancing the rights and well-being of Métis Albertans
- Collaborating, building, and maintaining partnerships to promote the needs and priorities of Métis Albertans involved with the criminal justice system

The Justice Department currently has three staff, consisting of a Director, Métis Justice Advocate, and Métis Justice Supports and Services Navigator. Through grant funding, we will be hiring a Métis Justice Coordinator and Justice Policy Analyst to assist with Métis justice initiatives, which includes specific program planning, design, development, and implementation such as the Métis Court Work Program, Restorative Justice, Diversion (youth and adult), and reintegration.

DEPARTMENT PROJECTS

One of the first projects we undertook was the creation of a video (documentary) titled, *Finding Justice: Métis families' experiences with the Criminal Justice System*. Seven family members shared their experiences with the criminal justice system after experiencing a family tragedy. This documentary highlights the injustices they experienced and continue to experience to this day, as the matter is still ongoing in the courts. The documentary was entered and accepted at the following film festivals: Dreamspeakers International Indigenous Film Festival (May 2024) and the Calgary Justice Film Festival (November 2024).

Our second project was hosting a one-day Victims and Survivors of Crime event in 2024. The Power of Collaboration: Mamawi Petohtewak (Cree for "Coming Together"). The primary objective of the event was to bring together Métis Albertans and bring awareness to the issues facing victims and survivors of crime and the services and laws in place to help them and their families. The event was a success, and it was the first time the MNA/Otipemisiwak Métis Government hosted an event of this nature.

Our third initiative is the monthly "online" Justice Series Educational presentations for Métis Albertans. Our first presentation was in April 2024 and was on Records Suspensions (formerly called Pardons), followed by the Parole Board Hearing Process and Victim Services Canada in May.

The Justice Department continues to collaborate and build strong working relationships with community agencies, all three levels of government, and municipal police agencies including the RCMP.







PETITION LAUNCHED

On May 23, 2024, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government launched a petition advocating for significant reforms to the Parole Board of Canada (PBC). This initiative was sparked by the tragic event in 2020, where Maurice Cardinal and his nephew, Jacob Samsom, were needlessly shot and killed by Anthony Bilodeau while exercising their harvesting rights. Notably, Anthony's father, Roger Bilodeau, was granted day parole by the PBC in February of this year.

Blake Desjarlais, the Member of Parliament for Edmonton Griesbach, is the sponsor of our petition. The Métis Nation within Alberta calls for transformative changes to the PBC's case hearing procedures. Specifically, we urge that the PBC implements cultural training for its board members and ensures that the victim's community is involved in hearings, particularly when the victim is Indigenous and their Indigeneity may have been a factor in the offense. As of late-July, the petition has garnered nearly 2,000 signatures.

Add your voice to the call for justice by signing the petition today:



CONCLUSION AND WHAT'S NEXT

We will continue working with, advocating for, and providing supports to Métis Albertans when navigating the criminal justice system and develop programming that is Métis culturally specific.

Our priorities for 2024 include:

- Development and implementation of the Métis Justice Strategy.
- Program and resource development, which includes the development of a Métis Court Work Program.
- Advancing justice initiatives such as court systems, restorative justice, and diversion (youth and adult).
- Development and implementation of the Métis Cultural Reintegration Program in all six federal correctional institutions in Alberta. (Note: an application was submitted in April, however we have not received any word at the time of drafting this report).

Métis Identification & Registry Systems

The Registry Department is committed to maintaining its integrity for identifying Métis in Alberta, while providing consistent support and service to its Citizens and Otipemisiwak Métis Government applicants. Our Registry team received a total of 7,437 new applications through all application channels – in person, registry session, email, and mail. We issued citizenship to over 8,000 applicants, which is the largest single year citizenship increase for the Otipemisiwak Métis Government/ Métis Nation of Alberta. Total citizenship reached 67,940 by March 31, 2024.

The Otipemisiwak Métis Government Citizenship Act section 11 states, "The Otipemisiwak Métis Government must employee a Citizen ordinarily resident in Alberta to serve as the Registrar." On October 16, 2023, the Citizens' Council adopted by motion the endorsement of Shawn McKay, Director of Métis Identification and Registry Systems as the Registrar of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

Registry Session attendance throughout Alberta continues to show that this is an important service that is provided to our community. Over the course of the fiscal year, we planned and facilitated 96 sessions, and took in 1,621 applications, which account for 22% of our total applications for the year.

Our extended hours intake at Provincial Office in Edmonton is something that we have continued in 2024, which has allowed applicants more flexibility to meet our team in a one-on-one setting for any questions they have about the application process, outside of normal office hours. Applying in person at our Provincial Office remains the most popular means to apply, with 3,076 applicants, or 41%, walking through our doors.

Citizen verification remains our focus as we strengthen the integrity of the citizenship database. Our Registry team is involved with all verifications for Otipemisiwak

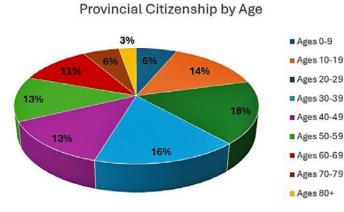


Métis Government departmental programming and provides ongoing support to Rupertsland, MétisWorks, and Métis Housing for their initiatives. Through the verification process, for programs such as the Parks Canada Parks Pass, we were able to confirm and/ or update the addresses for 17,706 individuals during the 2023/2024 year. This includes address updates provided to the Registry team during the electoral voting process. As Citizens were transitioned in our database from Regions to Districts, we ensured individuals were correctly identified based on the district map and were eligible to vote for the corresponding district.

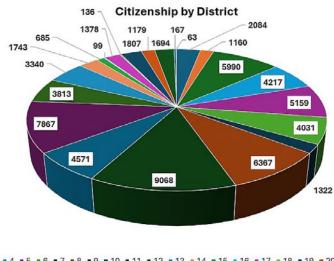
Our continued efforts in establishing connections with correctional centres to identify Métis residents in the

facilities are ongoing. We have had the opportunity to send Registry team members to the Edmonton Institution to assist residents with the application process and have additional trips on our summer calendar for other correctional visits at both the provincial and federal level. We are using these opportunities to educate and inform Parole Officers and Indigenous Liaisons at institutions about the citizenship process.

We look forward to continuing to serve our applicants and Citizens in the province at both a local and district level. We will continue to promote, identify, and register Otipemisiwak Métis Government Citizens. Our ongoing focus remains to be to reduce the application timeframe and increase citizenship year over year.



Provincial Citizenship by Age			
Ages	Number of Citizens		
Ages 0-9	4326		
Ages 10-19	9828		
Ages 20-29	11880		
Ages 30-39	11099		
Ages 40-49	9005		
Ages 50-59	8524		
Ages 60-69	7567		
Ages 70-79	3833		
Ages 80+	1878		
TOTAL	AL 67940		



Citizenship by District			
Districts	Number of Citizens		
1	2084		
2	1160		
3	5990		
4	4217		
5	5159		
6	4031		
7	1322		
8	6367		
9	9068		
10	4571		
11	7867		
12	3813		
13	3340		
14	1743		
15	685		
16	99		
17	1378		
18	136		
19	1807		
20	1179		
21	1694		
22	167		
N/A	63		
TOTAL	67940		

■1 ■2 ■3 ■4 ■5 ■6 ■7 ■8 ■9 ■10 ■11 ■12 ■13 ■14 ■15 ■16 ■17 ■18 ■19 ■20 ■21 ■22 ■N/A

Self-Government

"Over the generations, we have consistently and repeatedly fought for and exercised our right of selfgovernment within the North-West, from the governance of the buffalo hunt, to the Victory of Frog Plain, to the creation of provisional governments in 1869/70 and 1885, through to our political organization in what is now Alberta that led to the creation of L'Association des Métis d'Alberta et les Territoires du Nord-Ouest, the Métis Association of Alberta, and the Métis Nation of Alberta Association." (Declaration of Self-Determination and Self-Government, Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution 2022)

Following in the footsteps of our ancestors, the next step in the journey to self-governance is implementing our Otipemisiwak Métis Government, and seeing to the fair, responsible, transparent, and accountable implementation of our Constitution.

The primary function of the Self-Government Department is to provide overall administrative and political support to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, supporting self-governance through the implementation of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government as envisioned in our Constitution. This includes supporting the larger transition to this new government structure as well as specific self-government transitions such as the transition of Locals and Regions to District Councils, the transition of affiliates to Institutions, the implementation and operationalizing of the Constitution and legislative responsibilities, and supporting and onboarding Officers, Judicial Tribunal members, and Citizens' Council. Our department plays a distinct role in the implementation and development of our Métis Government within Alberta, balancing new systems and process to better represent our government while respecting and centering Métis traditions, perspectives, and values.

To action this work, the Self-Government Department is comprised of a

- Governance & Policy Unit.
- District Transition Team.
- Regulatory Affairs Team.
- Government Relations Team.
- Strategic Communications & Public Affairs Unit.
- and, currently, the Office of the Chair.



Self-Government staff at Métis Fest, Métis Crossing. June 22, 2024. Left to right: **Maren Jensen-Joyce**, Manager of Governance & Policy; **Lina Chhom**, Policy Analyst; **Sam Channell**, Policy Analyst.



Self-Government staff at Lethbridge Citizen Information Session, February 28, 2024. Hanna Sutherland, Policy Analyst; Nicole Shepherd, Manager of Transition.



Transition meeting in Wabasca, May 11, 2024. Left to right: Del Graff, Chief Electoral Officer; Nancy Cardinal, Citizens' Representative for Wabasca-Desmarais Métis District; Regan Auger, District Captain for Wabasca-Desmarais Métis District; Nicole Shepherd, Manager of Transition.



Fort Edmonton Métis District Citizen Information Session in Edmonton, June 3, 2024. On the panel: Nicole Shepherd, Manager of Transition; Del Graff, Chief Electoral Officer; Sarah Wolfe, Citizens' Representative for Fort Edmonton Métis District; Lisa Wolfe, Citizens' Representative for Lac Ste. Anne Métis District and Secretary of Education, Training, Language & Veterans Affairs.

TRANSITION

Broadly, transition is the process to support selfdetermination and self-government for the Métis Nation within Alberta.

Transition involves **many steps and is an ongoing process for years to come**. In recent years, the Nation has taken great strides towards achieving the dreams of our ancestors. The Self-Government Department has assisted in supporting the following:

- ✓ Passing the Constitution in November 2022.
- ✓ Electing our first Otipemisiwak Métis Government in September 2023.

Ongoing: Negotiating agreements with Canada to strengthen and protect our rights.

Ongoing: Passing laws to support our transition to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

Ongoing: Implementing our Constitution (e.g. onboarding Elected Officials, Officers, Judicial Tribunal, Legislative Compliance, Administration Transition, Operations of Citizens' Council and Cabinet, Operation and establishment of the branches of Government, etc.)

Ongoing: Transitioning Locals to District Councils.

To help continue to progress transition, there has been significant work and a number of meetings held in the last year:

• The Transition Plan, Transition Committee, District Relations & Transition Sub-Committee of Cabinet (DRTC) was established.

Transition Meetings and Information Sessions throughout the province:

- Transition Local Meetings that have occurred: 67 Meetings.
- District Captain Meetings: 13 Meetings.
- Citizen Information Sessions: 23 Meetings.

ACTS OF THE OTIPEMISIWAK MÉTIS GOVERNMENT

From summer to early fall of 2023, our department ensured that Provincial Council, after careful consideration of consultation and feedback gathered from our Citizens, was able to pass several significant acts and one crucial regulation, marking a pivotal moment in governance. These laws were developed by the Laws Group with assistance by the Self-Government



Department and other relevant Otipemisiwak Métis Government departments as required. The members of the Laws Group included lawyers and subject matter experts with a wide range of knowledge and skillsets required to develop laws, policies, and other documents. The Self-Government Department is responsible for ensuring these laws are followed and complied with in all government branches.

The **Elections and Referenda Act** establishes the framework for conducting elections and referenda, ensuring fair and transparent processes. Complementing this is the Campaign Finance Regulation, which sets guidelines for the financial conduct of campaigns, promoting integrity and accountability. The Otipemisiwak Métis Government Self-Government Act signifies a major step towards self-governance, by outlining the roles and responsibilities of the Citizens' Council, the Cabinet, the Citizens' Gathering, and the Chair, as well as the establishment and maintenance of a Public Registry. Alongside it, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Code of Ethics Act provides an essential ethical framework for officials, ensuring they uphold the highest standards of conduct while acknowledging and considering Métis traditions. The establishment of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government **Ombudsman Act** introduces an independent body to address grievances, enhancing oversight and

public trust. Judicial functions are reinforced by the Otipemisiwak Métis Government **Judicial Branch Act**, which delineates the judicial system within our Métis government. Financial governance is strengthened



January 24, 2024. Citizens' Council Meeting and Workshop: Roles Responsibilities and Communicating as a Government. Left to right: Aura Leddy, Citizens' Representative for Edmonton Whitemud Métis District; Jason Chernow, Citizens' Representative for Calgary Elbow Métis District and Secretary of Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Management; Catherine Schnell, Citizens' Representative for Medicine Hat Métis District; Joe Chodzicki, Citizens' Representative for Red Deer Métis District and Secretary of Citizenship & Registry.



January 24, 2024. Citizens' Council Meeting and Workshop: Roles Responsibilities and Communicating as a Government. Left to right: Nelson Lussier, Citizens' Representative for Calgary Nose Hill Métis District; Barry Dibb, Citizens' Representative for Peace River Métis District; President Andrea Sandmaier; Lisa San Filippo, Citizens' Representative for Rocky View Métis District and Secretary of Economic Development & Tourism; Sarah Wolfe, Citizens' Representative for Fort Edmonton Métis District.

through the Otipemisiwak Métis Government **Financial Management Act**, promoting sound financial practices, ensuring our government can meet its goal to operate in a transparent and fiscally responsible manner. The Otipemisiwak Métis Government **District Councils Act** provides the procedures for the establishment, operation, and dissolution of District Councils and outlines the duties of District Councillors. The Otipemisiwak Métis Government **District Boundaries Act** organizes the geographical structure of the government and outlines the process for changing boundary lines or District names. Lastly, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government **Citizenship Act** defines the criteria and process for Métis citizenship, solidifying the identity and membership of our community.

All Otipemisiwak Métis Government legislation and regulation can be found at our Registry of Laws page: https://albertametis.com/governance/registry-of-laws/

ELECTED OFFICIALS

In September 2023, the first Otipemisiwak Métis Government Citizens' Council and five District Captains were elected. The Self-Government Department assists in ensuring the proper checks and balances exist through policy, procedure, and the implementation of Otipemisiwak Métis Government Law for fair, transparent, and accountable governance.

Meetings of the Citizens' Council, Cabinet, and District Captains

The Self-Government Department provides administrative support to run the meetings of Citizens' Council as well as Cabinet, including meeting logistics, sending out notices, creating agendas, compiling and organizing necessary documents, conducting research and drafting briefing notes or other documentation to ensure informed decision-making for all 25 members of Council and 15 members of Cabinet.

Our department has also worked to establish the pathways and processes to operationalize the Citizens' Council's duties, roles, and responsibilities as outlined in Otipemisiwak Métis Government Law. As of July 2024, the Citizens' Council has held nine meetings, with a minimum of 12 required annually by the Self-Government Act. There have been five Cabinet meetings held so far, with more scheduled approximately once a month.

The Self-Government Department has held several workshops and educational sessions for Elected Officials this year, including an onboarding session and workshops for Citizens' Council and District Captains, and a Rights Workshop for Citizens' Council. These onboarding sessions covered topics such as roles and responsibilities, communicating as a government, and an overview of the laws and the legal framework.

This year the Self-Government Department is proud to have facilitated the establishment and operations of Committees of the Citizens' Council and Cabinet. This included ensuring necessary compliance to Otipemisiwak Métis Government Law, assisting in developing the Terms of Reference for committees, and administrative and operational support as needed.



District Captain Onboarding meeting June 24, 2024. Left to right: Shelly Gervais; Carmen Lasanté; Sam Channell; Katie Suvanto; Leigh Jardine; Regan Auger; Bernie Poitras; Amber Boyd.

The Self-Government Department supported the establishment and operations of the following committees this year:

Committees of Citizens' Council:

- Officers and Judicial Tribunal Members Nomination
 Committee
- Legislative Proposal Assessment Committee
- Emergency Management Committee

Committees of Cabinet:

- District Relations & Transition Sub-Committee
 of Cabinet
- Artifact Repatriation Committee of Cabinet

OFFICERS AND JUDICIAL TRIBUNAL

The Self-Government Department has played a crucial role in supporting the administration of the Citizens' Council's nomination and appointment processes for Officers and Judicial Tribunal members. The department remains dedicated to the ongoing establishment and operationalization of the Offices of the Officers and the Judicial Branch.

Officers

Chair of Citizens' Council and Citizens' Gatherings:

Currently, the Chair of the Citizens' Council also serves as the Senior Director of Self-Government. This dual role ensures expert oversight and comprehensive knowledge in all matters pertaining to self-government.



May 31, 2024, Onboarding meeting and swearing-in of the Auditor General. Left to right: Aaron Barner, Senior Executive Officer of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government; Ruben Jeffery, Auditor General of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

Auditor General:

The Auditor General has been successfully onboarded and sworn in, bringing significant expertise to the role.

Ombudsman (Upcoming):

Establishing the Office of the Ombudsman is one of our top priorities for the upcoming year. We are excited to commence this critical initiative, which will enhance our governance and oversight capabilities.

Judicial Tribunal

The Judicial Tribunal is the judicial decision-making body of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. In its decision-making, the Judicial Tribunal must uphold the Constitution, Otipemisiwak Métis Government Law, and Métis customs, traditions, and values. The Judicial Tribunal must also make decisions and perform their duties independently from political influence. To support the Judicial Tribunal this year, the Self-Government Department has:

- Supported the nomination and appointment process for the Judicial Tribunal Chairperson and five Members appointed by Citizens' Council.
- Led a materials and mandate review undertaken by members, focusing on the Registry of Laws prior to swearing-in.
- Coordinated and conducted a swearing-in ceremony, onboarding and introduction session held April 4, 2024, with continued support from the Self-Government Department to establish the Tribunal operations.



Judicial Tribunal meeting, after taking the Oath of Office April 4, 2024. Left to right: Shea Taylor, Judicial Tribunal Member, Peace River Territory; John Phillips, Judicial Tribunal Member, Battle River Territory; President Andrea Sandmaier; Lionel Chartrand, Judicial Tribunal Chairperson; Arlan Delisle, Judicial Tribunal Member, North Saskatchewan River Territory. Absent (because positions were not appointed at the time of this meeting): Corinne Willier, Judicial Tribunal Member, Lesser Slave Lake Territory; Janis Cunningham, Judicial Tribunal Member, Lower Athabasca River Territory.



Judicial Tribunal meeting April 4, 2024. Left to right: Dakotah Bailey, Self-Government Coordinator; Garrett Tomlinson, Senior Director of Self-Government; Maren Jensen-Joyce, Manager of Governance & Policy; Carmen Hatfield, Regulatory Affairs Officer; President Andrea Sandmaier; Arlan Delisle, Judicial Tribunal Member, North Saskatchewan River Territory; Lionel Chartrand, Judicial Tribunal Chairperson; John Phillips, Judicial Tribunal Member, Battle River Territory; Shea Taylor, Judicial Tribunal Member, Peace River Territory.

CONCLUSION

Our priorities for the upcoming year include continuing the transition of Métis Nation of Alberta Locals to Otipemisiwak Métis Government Districts, meeting Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution legislative obligations, Fiscal Financing Agreement (FFA) negotiations with Canada, and supporting the operations and establishment of the offices of the Officers and Judicial Tribunal.

The Self-Government Department remains dedicated to developing and strengthening our governance structures. We are committed to ensuring a smooth, effective, and inclusive transition to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, engaging with our Citizens to ensure their voices are heard and respected in all aspects of governance.

We will also focus on implementing the Fiscal Financing Agreement (FFA) with Canada, securing financial resources to support our self-governance initiatives. Negotiating a fair agreement that recognizes the rights and aspirations of the Métis Nation within Alberta is crucial. Establishing the Office of the Ombudsman is another major priority, providing an independent body to address grievances and enhance accountability and transparency within our government. We are excited to continue with this critical initiative.

Supporting the Judicial Tribunal in upholding the Constitution, Otipemisiwak Métis Government Law, and Métis customs, traditions, and values remains essential. We will ensure the Tribunal can carry out its duties effectively and independently.

We will also work on reviewing and updating existing laws which will ensure their relevance and effectiveness, and identifying gaps that pave the way for supporting necessary legislation in the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

Looking forward, we are filled with optimism and determination as we embark on this new chapter of self-governance. Our journey is far from over, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to building a strong, vibrant, and self-sufficient Métis government that reflects the values and aspirations of our people. Together, we will continue to honour the legacy of our ancestors and create a brighter future for generations to come.

Youth Programs and Services

The Youth Programs and Services Department is steadfast in its commitment to addressing the distinct needs and challenges of Métis youth aged 12-29 across Alberta. This dynamic generation is deeply passionate about exploring their Métis culture, understanding the history, and cultivating a profound sense of pride in their identity. At the heart of our mission lies the imperative to actively engage youth in critical decisionmaking processes, leveraging their fresh perspectives and innovative ideas. Our ongoing efforts focus on fostering strong connections between youth and their community, ensuring they remain deeply rooted in their culture.

The following report details a comprehensive overview of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's efforts to address the needs of Métis youth in Alberta. Throughout the fiscal year of 2023/24, the Youth Programs and Services team has provided support to youth and families. With a range of initiatives, we have endeavoured to preserve, establish, and enrich their bonds with Métis culture and identity. We invite you to explore our achievements, challenges, and future aspirations as we continue to advocate for and support Métis youth.

Alberta Métis Fest:

The 6th Annual Alberta Métis Fest was held at Métis Crossing on June 21 and 22, 2024 and celebrated its most successful turnout yet, drawing enthusiastic crowds. The Youth Programs and Services team created an event that treated attendees to a vibrant Métis Jamboree full of Métis performers from across the province, the highly attended Jigging Competition, Living Fiddle Legends Hour, a spectacular dance performance from the Kikino Northern Lites Jigging Troupe, cultural activities, Voyageur Games, Bingo, and much more. Alberta Métis Fest highlights the resilience and vibrancy of Métis culture, offering a dynamic blend of modern and traditional activities for all ages.





Métis 2SLGBTQIA+ Gathering:

In partnership with the Rupertsland Institute (RLI) and the Edmonton Two Spirit Society, we hosted a Métis-specific 2SLGBTQIA+ Gathering on April 11 and 12, 2024. This historic event marked the inaugural gathering of its kind, held at the Edmonton Expo Centre with a livestreaming option aimed at creating an inclusive space to foster open dialogue, learning, belonging, and community building within our diverse community. The gathering celebrated queer joy through a series of informative keynotes and workshop, cultural activities, and a charity drag show to establish a 2SLGBTQIA+ endowment under the Métis Education Foundation.

Miyooayaan Wellness Summit:

On October 14, 2023, the Youth Programs and Services Department hosted the first Miyooayaan Wellness Summit in Edmonton. This event was for Métis youth across Alberta to gather in a safe and inclusive space while learning about overall wellness. Through connection to culture, Métis youth felt engaged and connected through participation in conversations and various wellness workshops that focused on their mental health and self-care. In addition, the youth attendees had access to additional mental health and wellness resources through various departments, affiliates, and external community partners.

Youth & Seniors Gathering:

The 8th Annual Youth & Seniors Gathering took place at the River Cree Resort and Casino on February 23–25, 2024. This gathering is an opportunity for Métis youth aged 12-29 and seniors aged 60+ to share knowledge and teachings, listen to inspiring keynote speakers, partake in cultural workshops, and create connections and belonging within the community. This is an annual event attended by over 400 Métis Citizens that was created as a space to promote mentorship and knowledge-sharing opportunities between youth and seniors.

The theme of this year's event was "Rooted in History, Growth for Tomorrow," with a community icebreaker activity that provided questions for youth and seniors to ask one another.

Sports & Recreation Grant:

Athletic activities are vital to the health and wellness of Métis youth. Low-income Métis youth are often unable to participate in sports and recreation activities due to financial barriers that may exist: these barriers include: registration, equipment, and travel expenses. To ease the financial struggle of many Métis families and ensure Métis youth have increased opportunities to participate in sport and recreation activities, the Youth Programs & Services Department launched the Sports and Recreation Grant. This grant provides Métis youth from across Alberta with the opportunity to participate in sport and recreation activities without worrying about the financial barriers that often accompany them. The program closed in September 2023 and received over 2,400 applications. Stay tuned, as the 6th round of the Sports & Recreation grant will be opening this fall!

Youth Building Grand Opening:

In November 2023, during Métis Week, we held a grand opening celebration for the Otipemisiwak Métis



Government Youth Building! With this location, the Youth Programs and Services team eliminated the added step of location when program planning within the Central Region. The building has been designed to be a culturally-enriching environment, equipped with a jigging studio, kitchen, library, classroom, open hangout space, and more.

DISTRICT PROGRAMMING:

In the past year, the department has been fortunate enough to expand programming and offer more frequent programs for Métis youth within Alberta.

Cultural Enrichment

The Youth Programs and Services Department's cultural enrichment programming is developed and implemented across the province to allow youth opportunities to learn and practice cultural skills, giving youth a strong sense of self-identity. In the past year, the department has offered new cultural workshops. The Youth department has continued to offer popular cultural programs that have been successfully ran for years. Beading workshops are one of the most popular, and through collaboration with amazing facilitators, coordinators have began offering beading programs that go beyond simple templates. Some of the new beadwork programs offered include hats, ties, moccasins, poppies, and more.

Language revitalization and preservation is of utmost importance to the Youth Department. This past year, Michif lessons were offered to youth Citizens. To ensure a broader access to the lessons, they were held virtually, recorded, and uploaded to Youtube. Youth across the province jigged and fiddled their way through the past year. In Calgary, the youth jigging troupe continued their success, attending Mount Royal University's Convocation, among other events. In Edmonton, youth have been meeting weekly for fiddle lessons with talented fiddle player Brianna Lizotte. This summer, the youth's fiddle and jigging skills will be on full display when the department takes a delegation to "Back to Batoche" to show off their pride and take part in a weekend of festivities.

Additionally, some of the cultural programming offered within the past year includes moss bag workshops, beaded hoop earrings, ribbon skirt making, beading workshops, finger weaving, jigging lessons, drop-in fiddling lessons, capote making, Michif lessons, and more.

Life-Skills

The Youth Programs and Services Department's life-skills programming is created to fill the gaps that youth Citizens have identified, setting them up for success in their dayto-day life.

One new program offered was a tenant empowerment course. This course was created in partnership with the Bissell Centre to learn information and answer questions about home safety, applications, landlords, and financial empowerment.

The Acimowin book club has been a hit with youth Citizens. Each month, participants sign up and receive a new book by an Indigenous author and meet at the Youth Building or on Zoom at the end of the month to discuss the book. Homework drop-in sessions have been hosted bi-weekly on Tuesdays at the Youth Building, encouraging youth to join a safe space to study, work on their assignments, and prepare for exams. The Youth Department also held professional development sessions to give youth job search skills, answer employment questions, and connect youth with professionals and resources. Youth also developed career goals, wrote resumes, and did mock interviews during these professional sessions.

Mental health and overall wellness are at the forefront of life-skills programming. Two examples of this in action during the past year include a mental health workshop where youth gained knowledge on coping strategies, addressing negative thinking, breathing exercises, and grounding themselves and their values. Wellness drop-in sessions are also hosted at the Youth Building to provide a location for youth to come when they are feeling overwhelmed, stressed, or just want a place to go hang out and have some light-hearted fun.

TENANT EMPOWERMENT COURSE

Are you renting or thinking about renting? Do you have questions about home safety, applications, landlords, or financial empowerment?

DATE: April 24th, 2024 TIME: 6:00-9:00 PM LOCATION: Youth Building 11821 123 Street NW Edmonton, AB T5L 0G7

Métis youth ages **12-29** are welcome to register through the online form!

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Programs and Services Department offers weekly youth groups in Northern, Southern, and Central Alberta to provide youth Citizens a safe space to gather, create long-lasting friendships within their community, and most importantly, have fun. Youth groups are often shaped around the season or if there is holiday coming up. For example, during December, we did an ugly Christmas sweater-making night, and on Halloween we held a movie and cookie decorating night. A critical piece of the Youth Building and all district programing that takes place across the province is inclusivity. The Youth Department wants all youth to feel comfortable and supported when attending a workshop or youth group night. The department prioritizes to make all promotional material, messaging, and general communications reflect this goal.



......

CONCLUSION AND WHAT'S NEXT

The Youth Programs and Services Department is extremely excited for another action-packed year of programming for Métis youth. The Youth Programs and Services Department is expanding province-wide virtual programming for youth who have difficulty getting transportation to and from programs or live in a district where programs are not currently offered. Our recently created Virtual Youth Coordinator position will run cultural, life-skills, and community building programs through an online setting where all youth need is a stable Wi-Fi connection. In addition, we will be expanding our online resources to youth through more pre-recorded videos of beading lessons, Michif lessons, mail-out kits and cooking classes.

The Youth Programs and Services team has begun planning our next Miyooayaan Wellness Summit, Alberta Métis Fest, Youth & Seniors Gathering, and Youth Summer Camps. The Sports & Recreation Grant aimed to support Métis youth participating in a sport and/or recreation activity will be re-opening in Fall 2024. We will continue to engage Métis youth in Alberta to identity key priorities from youth.

For the future, we are aiming to further connections with Métis youth through the development and implementation of youth-specific programming, engaging events, and cultural initiatives to provide connection and belonging to the community, culture and other Métis youth across Alberta. Youth can look forward to the Youth Programs and Services Department continuing to provide quality programming specifically for Métis youth within Alberta.



Affiliate Reports

Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc.

Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. (AMDI) was created in 1984 under a federal government contribution agreement with Native Economic Development Program, an initiative promoted by Industry, Science and Technology. The total committed funds for the creation of AMDI was \$8.8 million.

In 1988, AMDI commenced operations by providing commercial financial services and business management advisory services to Métis entrepreneurs throughout Alberta. Under the original Federal Government Contribution Agreement, \$800,000 was expensed on the initial start-up costs while the capital pool of \$8 million was disbursed in stages. Since inception, we have reinvested our capital at least 12 times, maintaining a strong portfolio (value). This has positioned us with the ability to leverage our portfolio if we require additional loan capital. AMDI has lent out over \$100 million since 1988 and helped in the creation of over 1,400 Métis-owned businesses throughout the province of Alberta while maintaining our capital base of \$8 million. By remaining committed to the growth of Métis business and prosperity in Alberta, AMDI has become an intergenerational service provider as the children (now adults) of clients we assisted long ago now approach AMDI as their parents once did. We are proud of what AMDI has accomplished in this respect. We have supported Métis entrepreneurship through all their successes, difficulties, and uncertainties. We remain relevant to Métis people, shedding the notion of just being a lender of last resort - we imagine it is what the framers had envisioned. The purpose of AMDI has always been to assist Métis men and women of Alberta in developing economic opportunities through entrepreneurship. It is our hope that our clients, past and present, pass on their experience with us to other Métis entrepreneurs considering the first steps to becoming owners of their own businesses.





REPORT ON OPERATIONS

Between April 2023 to March 2024, AMDI approved \$5.5 million in funding assistance for new and existing businesses. This represents a slight increase in yearover-year loan growth, which has been accelerating since coming out of the COVID crisis. There is an additional \$3.8 million in loan application work carried into the new year across 34 different projects for assessment. Some of the projects we developed throughout the province include restaurants, construction, doctor offices, farming, law offices, and oil and gas industry projects. The volume of applications continues to increase.

The Otipemisiwak Métis Government assisted in providing emergency COVID relief short-term lending aimed at businesses impacted by the lockdowns. We are happy to report that as of year-end there is only one loan outstanding, which will be completed this summer. This was a well-received program that assisted many community members with little risk but great reward during a very uncertain time.

As in past years, most of the new loan applicants took advantage of the Métis Entrepreneurs Assistance Program (MEAP), as the non-repayable contribution substantially reduced the debt-servicing costs of acquiring assets required for the business' operations. Loans to businesses included, but were not limited to, construction, retail, agriculture, professional, oil and gas, and service-based businesses, as well as some tourism and transport. The service and trades sector continues to dominate this year's lending. We are also seeing robust growth in the professional sector of the economy, providing AMDI with a solid base of portfolio diversification where we are not at risk with any one overweighted industry.

AMDI's Métis Women's Micro Business (MWMB) loan portfolio is over \$1 million this year. The loan demand has arrived from the Métis Entrepreneurship Workshops. The Métis Women's Micro Business Workshops, hosted annually by the Rupertsland Institute (RLI), represent a strong component of what we do that enhances our portfolio's low-risk profile. RLI has provided funds in the past to the MWMB program for the non-repayable portion of funding to the business. In general, total loan demand was relatively evenly distributed across industries such as esthetics, real estate, psychology, and travel. The service industry remains our strongest sector in the Women's program.

Through organic growth, we have maintained but also grew our capital, all without losing focus on the needs of our clients. It's been a durable model of success, profitability, and we stand out as one of the best performing Indigenous financial institutions across Canada.

THE PEOPLE THAT MAKE IT HAPPEN

This year has been a year of change when we look at AMDI. In March 2023, Michael Ivy moved on to other endeavours and Ken Balcom announced his retirement after 31 years in the organization.

Carol Sales has accepted the position of General Manager and Jacqueline Laboucane is taking over the responsibilities of Pinnacle Business Solutions. Sally Bidin continues to provide loan expertise for the organization and has been here for over 25 years. Cindy Castelletti manages the office and finances and has been with the organization for 30 years. AMDI has a total of 10 staff that have been with the organization from 30 years to 1 month in duration, supporting a wide range of needs for Métis clients. It is the stability and commitment of the staff that has allowed our leadership transition to move smoothly and with very little unexpected challenges, and their support is invaluable to the other staff members. The staff understand the company's commitment and how they fit in when we support our clients and are happy to discuss ideas with new entrepreneurs.

Our offices underwent renovations this year, which created an upgraded kitchen and a boardroom, as well as repainted some offices. The clean lines in the new spaces are modern and comfortable for the staff and clients and we are grateful for the much needed improvements.

PINNACLE BUSINESS SERVICES LTD.

Pinnacle Business Services Ltd. provides applicants an opportunity to access government programs through Indigenous Services Canada and loan financing from AMDI. Pinnacle's role is to provide professional services to AMDI clients by developing detailed business plans. The primary role of the Pinnacle business consultant is to assist Métis clients in assessing their opportunities, including identifying areas of weakness and exposure to risk, and what may be required to mitigate such risk. Pinnacle Business Services supports clients in evaluating whether their business opportunities have a reasonable chance of becoming successful business ventures. We offer support to ensure the client is fully aware of the responsibilities that come with running a business or growing a business by assuming debt and a Métis Entrepreneurs Assistance Program (MEAP) grant.

The follow-up work to evaluating an opportunity is developing a plan of execution that demonstrates the client's opportunity and the plan's implementation. Pinnacle aids clients in formalizing their opportunities and executing plans. The business plan becomes the presentation document to financiers that demonstrates the integrity of the client's proposal, including an assessment on commercial viability, capital cost and financing requirements, and the client's ability to competitively deliver the product or service.



Mike Ivy (left) and Ken Balcom perform for the last time in the AMDI lunchroom at Mike's going-away party.

During the 2023-24 fiscal year, Pinnacle Business Services Ltd. submitted 40 business plans to AMDI on behalf of client applications. At the end of the year, 16 business plans had been screened and awaited completion. Some of these outstanding plans were cancelled due to client circumstances. The demand remains for Pinnacle to produce business plans in a timely fashion to assist the Métis community of Alberta.

Aftercare is another component of services that Pinnacle provides, ensuring clients have accounting and bookkeeping systems in place. Pinnacle completes corporate income tax returns, GST filing, and payroll for identified clients. During the year under review, Pinnacle provided aftercare services to 31 clients; 23 clients had assistance under the MEAP grant for aftercare, and 8 clients paid for Pinnacle's services.

On average, Pinnacle receives 2-3 requests per week from the Métis community, ranging from general inquiries to tax questions, information on the business planning process, or advice on how to approach an idea.

Consulting services were completed for these industries throughout the year:

Trades:

- Home Construction & Renovations
- Concrete Projects
- Plumbing & Heating: Journeyman red seal plumbers
- Long Haul Trucking & Shotgun Services
- Oil & Gas Service Providers: Journeyman welders and mechanics
- HVAC Services
- Mechanics

Health Care:

- Physiotherapy
- Dental Hygiene
- · Mental Health Care: Psychologists
- Pharmacy
- Medical Doctor: Sports Injury Specialization

Beauty:

- Shampoo and Conditioner Manufacturer
- Hair Salons

Miscellaneous:

- Chicken Catching Business
- Woodworking Design
- Technology: App Creation

CLOSING REMARKS

It was overall a steady year for AMDI, with loan growth maintaining its portfolio of just under \$8 million. AMDI continues to demonstrate its durability by consistently showing a net income and steadily increasing retained earnings. It provides an affirmation in our assessments of the strength of Métis entrepreneurship. Our priorities for the upcoming year include looking for new opportunities to create better client service and to create deeper connections with our Affiliates and the community.

The staff of AMDI have established a very efficient office driven by a commitment to client service and care. It is their contributions throughout the year that drive our success. In addition, the Board of Directors' commitment and contributions to the governance of AMDI play an integral role in the growth and future of the Métis community.

It is our hope the Métis people of Alberta will understand our commitment to positioning AMDI as the preferred lender of choice among increasingly repeat Métis businesses. We will remain a reliable source of financial and business support to all Métis entrepreneurs.



Métis Crossing

As we reflect on the reporting year of April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024, we realize how much has been accomplished. Métis Crossing stood as a "Beacon of Hope" for many people during the COVID-19 pandemic. It allowed our community to gather in small groups in a safe place, even when we could not gather elsewhere. Our Nation and the Board of Directors took the bold step to continue building the vision of Métis Crossing during this time while most other cultural and hospitality operations were closing their doors.

As reported last year, construction of the new Lodge at Métis Crossing was completed in February 2022. Our leadership continued their development strategy to create an Indigenous destination and gathering place like no other – we are seeing this vision realized now. In November 2023, Métis Crossing was featured on the front cover of **Travel and Leisure** magazine, and in December 2023, the same publisher identified Métis Crossing as one of the **Top 50 Places in the World to Visit**. It is our warm and rich Métis culture, our historic land base, our authentic buildings and experiences, and the support of our entrepreneurial spirit and hard work that have allowed us to achieve these milestones.

PURPOSE

As an affiliate of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, Métis Crossing is led by a Board of Directors who provide the vision and governance oversight to ensure Métis Crossing achieves the goals set out by our people.

In November 2023, the Board of Directors gathered for a strategic retreat and updated the Vision, Mission, and Goals for Métis Crossing.

Current Board of Directors:

- Audrey Poitras, Chairperson
- Andrea Sandmaier, Director
- Lisa San Filippo, Director
- Andy Popko, Director
- Art Cunningham, Elder and Director

Vision:

Métis Crossing is a place of inspiration, sharing the warmth and strength of our rich and distinct Métis culture, offering legendary experiences that elevate the spirit and enrich lives.

Mission:

Métis Crossing is a major initiative of the Métis Nation within Alberta. It is a signature destination of Métis cultural sharing, education, gathering and business development.

Goals:

- To share and celebrate the Métis story with all people.
- To be a gathering place.
- To be financially self-sustainable.
- To minimize capital debt.

The goals have remained consistent since the early ancestors and dreamers told us that they wanted a place to call their own. They wanted a Métis home to share with the world for generations. They knew we would need to create a business model that would allow for significant revenue generation to sustain our Place.

In addition to the vision, mission, and goals, the Board of Directors approved a set of Métis Crossing Principles within which our Board and our team now operate. These principles are a contemporary adaptation of the Laws of the Buffalo Hunt:

At Métis Crossing, we acknowledge and honour the spirit and teachings of the Métis Buffalo Hunt as a guide for the way we operate, collaborate and respect others. Its success was deeply intertwined with our survival, livelihood, entrepreneurialism, and identity. Métis laws surrounding the Buffalo Hunt were practical, regenerative, and rooted in a profound respect for the land, the animals and our community.

The Laws resonate with us as fundamental principles for working as individual team members to achieve the collective success of Métis Crossing and the Métis Nation within Alberta. The harmony between kaa-tipeyimishoyaahk and wahkotowin speaks to us of reciprocity, consent, interdependence, egalitarianism, patience and accountability.

Each law and consequence are adapted to our modern operational setting.

2023-2024 — INITIATIVES AND GROWTH

Métis Crossing has now completed two full years of fourseason operation and continues to progress on many initiatives including:

- Destination Development
- Experience Development
- Business Development
- · Land and buffalo purchase

DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT

Destination development is a primary focus of attention. Smoky Lake County has never been a "destination" for travellers from Alberta, and certainly not from abroad. Métis Crossing has been working with many government and tourism sector organizations to grow the awareness and demand of visitors for Indigenous Tourism in the Edmonton region and then Smoky Lake. This work includes significant participation in industry events such as conferences, tradeshows, and policy development. We have contributed to Canada's Tourism Strategy, "A World of Opportunity." In fact, Métis Crossing was specifically named as a model for appropriate Indigenous Tourism development within the document.

Other important work happens at the provincial level through our engagement with the Tourism Industry Association of Alberta. More locally, we contributed to Explore Edmonton's Regenerative Tourism and Indigenous Tourism Strategy development. This involvement ensures that Métis Crossing is always top of mind for these industry organizations as they build out their supports and marketing. We also work closely with YEG, the Edmonton International Airport to support their work to get international visitors into Alberta, and then transferred out to Métis Crossing.

EXPERIENCE DEVELOPMENT

The next developmental priority was experience development – to create meaningful experiences that draw people to Métis Crossing to stay longer and spend more. This year, the work has focused on building partnerships for multi-day itineraries. The first of note is our partnership with the University of Alberta's Faculty of Native Studies to implement their Indigenous Peoples of Canada professional development course at Métis Crossing as a 4 day / 3-night executive training retreat. We have woven our signature experiences and Indigenous culinary expertise around their curriculum to create a deep dive into Métis contributions to Canada.



The second major itinerary that we prepared for launch in May 2024 was, "Beaver, Bison and People, our Promise to Wahkotowin." This itinerary brought together Métis operators, Talking Rock Tours, Jasper Tours, and collaborators from Elk Island National Park, to develop a 3 day / 2-night package focused on the natural and cultural relevance of beaver and bison to the development of our Métis Nation and Canada. Both experiences were completed for launch in early 2024.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Building on the success of these first two initiatives is our business development. This work was focused on three main areas including day visitors, group visitors, and the travel trade. Day visitors include both Métis and non-Métis visitors that come for a single day to enjoy a meal, an experience, or simply wander the trails to connect with the land. We implemented a full marketing strategy to raise awareness for this local market that included social media, website development, paid print and radio advertising. Métis Crossing worked closely with Travel Alberta to build out and launch a new website this year geared to more cultural authenticity and ease of visitor engagement.

Our second focus was group bookings. This past year, the Métis Nation within Alberta and its Affiliates were able to spend \$1.2 million at our facility hosting training, strategy, and public events, which kept that money circulating through our community rather than leaking out to other private corporations. We have also become a leading destination for corporate and public board retreats. Feedback has told us that Métis Crossing is an ideal size, location, and experience for their priorities. By 2027, we anticipate that group bookings, other than the Métis Nation within Alberta and Affiliates, will provide 30% of our revenue.

Finally, we have invested significant work into developing the travel trade portion of our business. This work happens alongside our industry partners like Indigenous Tourism Alberta, Explore Edmonton, Travel Alberta, and Destination Canada to build demand and relationships with tour operators who market our destination around the world. We have built contracts with operators from Germany, the Netherlands, the UK, France, Japan, and Korea. Our relevance on the world stage is growing and paving the path for financial self-sustainability, and increases our economic impact regionally.

Some key financial measures from 2023-2024:

- Métis Crossing spend on local suppliers, contractors, artisans was greater than \$545,000.
- Métis Crossing spend on Métis suppliers, contractors, artisans was greater than \$145,000.

- Spend by the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and Affiliates at Métis Crossing was greater than \$1,200,000.
- Number of Métis people who attended Métis Crossing was greater than 2,000.

LAND AND BUFFALO PURCHASE

Métis Crossing also worked closely with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's Environment and Climate team to coordinate and secure the purchase of over 1,100 acres of land as well as a bison herd. This land surrounds the existing core of Métis Crossing and was partially funded by the federal Nature Smart Climate Solutions program. Our commitment to this program is to re-establish bison as the keystone species on this land base. We will mimic natural grazing habits of the herd to restore the northern prairie grasslands as they would have existed prior to the intensive agricultural practices this land has known for the past 150 years.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Métis Crossing team has grown to over 60 people including full time, part-time, and casual employees. We are now the largest employer in the region, creating meaningful lifelong job and career opportunities for people. We honour the teachings of our ancestors who shared stories from one generation to the next.

We appreciate the contributions and meaningful partnerships that have been built with our corporate and public donors who share the vision of Métis Crossing and see the contributions that we can make to their corporate goals as well. These have included Prairies Canada, Travel Alberta, Cenovus, and Pembina. We continue to work together towards economic reconciliation.

In the coming year, we anticipate continued growth in all areas. Of particular note for 2024-2025 is continued infrastructure growth. The potable water treatment plant will be commissioned; and the wastewater treatment plant design has received approval from Alberta Environment so that procurement and construction can begin on this facility. Both have been designed to ensure minimal impact on our land and improve operational efficiencies.

Finally, to encourage guests to stay longer and engage more deeply with the natural spaces around Métis Crossing, we are adding additional sky-watching facilities this year along with a small spa building. Design continues to enlarge this area to a boreal retreat using traditional plants and treatments from our grandparents.

Métis Crossing is committed to grow in a responsible manner, ensuring our ancestors and our grandchildren will have a Métis place of pride.

Métis Nation Holdings

In 1997, the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) took an inactive but current company, called Métis Nation Productions, and renamed it Métis Nation Holdings Ltd. The MNA holds 100% of the shares. This entity holds title to the MNA/Otipemisiwak Métis **Government Provincial Office property** on Kingsway Avenue and 50% of the Inglewood Centre property on 111 Avenue in Edmonton. The Inglewood property is held in partnership with Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. The holding company allows for arms-length lease transactions and limited liability. The Board of Directors for Métis Nation Holdings is the same as the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Executive.





DELIA GRAY BUILDING, PROVINCIAL OFFICE, 11738 KINGSWAY AVENUE, EDMONTON

In January 1997, the building that the Métis Nation leased on St. Albert Trail was sold. Shortly after taking possession, the new owner proposed doubling the rent, which drew grave concern from the MNA.

In response, the MNA Provincial Council issued direction to explore the purchase of our own building. It was reasoned that purchasing our own building would create program stability, would meet the office needs of the MNA and have potential for gain. The parameters of the purchase were that ownership should cost no more than the proposed lease and no MNA program funds could be used in the purchase.

After several months of research, a deal was concluded on the purchase of the building on Kingsway Avenue, now occupied by the Provincial Office. The MNA acquired the building by assuming the existing mortgage without having to make a down payment. The MNA now holds clear title to the Delia Gray Building after paying off the mortgage in September of 2004. In 2021-2022 a full roof repair was completed. A 63.2-DC KW solar panel microgeneration unit was installed during the summer of 2021. An energy efficiency retrofit throughout the Delia Gray building was finished in the Fall of 2022. Through the efforts of the Environment and Climate Change Department, successful applications were submitted, allowing these repairs, retrofit, and the array to go ahead at a favourable cost to the Métis Nation. We look forward to a decreased operation and maintenance cost for the building.

The years 2022-23 saw the upgrade of the Executive Office, as no significant improvements had been done since the building was purchased in 1997. Flooring, paint, ceiling, and reception-area upgrade were all completed. As well, HR Department additions dictated that a multiperson office needed to be built to accommodate that growth.

In 2023-2024, more internal upgrades to common areas were undertaken: floor on stairs, reception desk, small meeting room on main floor; renovation, paint, flooring and cabinets in upstairs copy room were all completed. There was also the addition of a Wellness Room.



LARRY DESMEULES BUILDING, 11922 – 121 A STREET, EDMONTON

On May 1, 1999, Métis Nation Holdings completed the purchase of the building occupied by Métis Urban Housing Corporation (MUHC). This purchase was prompted by the proposed sale of the building by the previous owners. Due to the foresight of the MUHC Board, the MNA was provided the right of first refusal. The building was financed through the assumption of a mortgage and a loan to Métis Nation Holdings from the Royal Bank. Once again, no MNA program funding was used in the purchase. Lease payments cover all costs associated with the building. This was a requirement put down by the MNA Board. The building had a clear title as of May of 2009. The remainder of the old office space has been converted to file storage. A 10,000 sq. ft office tower addition was completed in April 2012. In 2013, the warehouse was upgraded and insulated with a sprinkler system added. During 2013 – 2014, the sale of the Larry Desmeules building to Métis Capital Housing Corporation was completed. This action was consistent with the MNA mandate of assisting affiliates wherever possible to achieve stability in program delivery.



INGLEWOOD BUILDING, 12304 – 111 AVENUE, EDMONTON

On November 1, 1999, Métis Nation Holdings completed the purchase of the Inglewood Building.

Tenants in the building include: Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc., Pinnacle Business Services, Rupertsland Institute, Métis Centre of Applied Learning, Alberta Family and Social Services, Mother Earth Essentials, Métis Veterans Society, and the Elections Office. The building mortgage was paid out and a clear title obtained in September 2010. Property management of the building, previously contracted out, has now been assumed by Métis Nation Holdings and Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. with each holding 50% of the shares in the building.

In 2021-22, a full roof repair was completed on the Inglewood building in preparation for installation of a solar panel array that was finished in July of 2022. Once again, successful Environment and Climate Change Department applications allowed these projects to go ahead and should result in decreased operating and energy costs. Tenant improvements in 2021-22 were undertaken in conjunction with lease renewals for Rupertsland and Mother Earth Essentials. Repairs to sidewalks and parking ramp were completed. Major upgrades to the parkade first floor surface were part of an ongoing preventative maintenance program.

The years 2022-23 saw the development of Rupertsland Centre for Applied Learning on the main floor. Renovation included demising walls for training rooms and more offices, completing paint, ceiling tiles, updating kitchen and student lounge, and some new flooring.

In 2023-2024 the Apeetogosan boardroom was refreshed, the former City Police shower room was converted into a staff lounge, and the former main floor Elections space was converted into the Chief Electoral Office.



NEKINAN, 4607 – 52 AVENUE, SMOKY LAKE

In 2019-2020, the Smoky Lake Continuing Care Centre was acquired through a lease arrangement made possible through the cooperation of Alberta Health Services and the Town of Smoky Lake. It has been renamed Nekinan (Our Home). This 11,000 sq. ft, 20-bed facility has undergone extensive renovations during the 2020-21 fiscal year to repurpose this building into a residence for Métis Crossing staff, instructors, students, and Program Resource people. This included complete roof repair with skylights, complete kitchen renovation, repurposed laundry room, complete repair and paint throughout building, replacement of all plumbing fixtures, new shower rooms, state-of-the-art fob security system with cameras, upgraded LED light fixtures, new bedroom furniture, upgraded common area with air conditioning, and new sidewalks and steps.

The 2021-22 fiscal year saw replacement of all windows, new flooring throughout, and construction of private washrooms for all guest suites. Air conditioning was added for the common area and kitchen. Exterior painting was undertaken. Significant upgrades to landscaping were completed. In 2022-23, we began the complete replacement of the boiler system. The pneumatic control system is being replaced with a digital system.

A detached 4,000 sq. ft former nurses residence was renamed Kapesowin (Lodge). It had acted as a storage facility while an assessment of future use was conducted. The building was determined to be worthy of repair. In 2020-21, a complete roof repair was undertaken in preparation for adding six to eight more residential rooms. The years 2022-23 saw a complete interior renovation upgrade including electrical, plumbing, furnace, ondemand water heating, insulation, new subfloor, framing, drywall, paint of demising walls, new doors, new windows, kitchen, and fixturing of three washrooms.

The years 2023-2024 witnessed the land title transfer from the Town of Smoky Lake. Numerous upgrades to the property included two decks and a disability ramp for Kapesowin. A men's health retreat resulted in the assembly of a gazebo and an equipment shed for the Nekinan yard. Pads for both were constructed. Initial demolition and conversion of a washroom into a disability washroom and shower facility in Nekinan were begun. Complete replacement of the aging boiler and control system were undertaken. Replacement of Rooftop AC unit was completed.



MÉTIS YOUTH BUILDING, 11821 – 123 STREET, EDMONTON

In December 2022, Holdings assisted the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's Youth Department to purchase an 11,000 sq ft three-story office building to house the Youth Department and host youth programming. Complete renovation of the building occurred between late December and the middle of March 2023. This included a remodeled main floor to accommodate youth programs including a gathering centre, dance studio, kitchen, computer learning area, and meeting rooms. Additional renovations included paint, LED lighting throughout the building, some flooring, some electrical, kitchen upgrades, new furnaces and AC, on-demand water heating with circulating pump, fire panel, security system, and cameras.

The years 2023-2024 saw further security upgrades including cameras and fob entry with secure buzz-in public entry, new AC unit on the roof, and further kitchen ventilation upgrades.



OTHER ACTIVITY

While not owned by Métis Nation Holdings, the company has invested considerable time and effort assisting in the purchase of the Region 1 building; the purchase and renovation of the Region 2 building including a complete roof repair, major sidewalk upgrading and solar array as a result of a successful application by the Environment and Climate Change Department during 2020-21; the purchase of a Local building in Region 3; the purchase of the Region 4 building; the purchase and complete renovation of the Region 5 building; the purchase and initial development of Métis Crossing; involvement in certain Métis Capital Housing projects; as well as renovations connected with Rupertsland and some of its Métis Education centres.

Just prior to the 2019-2020 fiscal year, through a contribution from Métis Nation Holdings Ltd., 160 acres of land adjacent to the Métis Crossing property was acquired, allowing for increased options for programming.

In July of 2022, Métis Nation Holdings built a traditional Métis Trappers Cabin to commemorate Pope Francis' visit to Lac Ste. Anne within a timeline of two weeks. The cabin will be left in place to symbolize a Métis presence and assist with programming at the Lac Ste. Anne Pilgrimage site.

This past year, Holdings was involved in negotiations to acquire title to the land occupied by the Elders Caring Shelter, previously leased from the City of Grande Prairie, and title has now been transferred.

Métis Urban & Capital Housing

Métis Housing offers subsidized and affordable housing to low-income Indigenous people in Alberta. Our subsidized housing program, administered by Métis Urban Housing Corporation (MUHC), offers accommodations where rent equals 25% of the family income. Métis Capital Housing Corporation (MCHC) administers an affordable housing program where rents are based on 20% below market rent. Even though we have a waitlist for both programs, these housing programs are ongoing, and we accept applications all year.

In 2023-2024, we had 1,288 housing applications on our subsidized housing waitlist, 419 of which were for Métis households. The highest demand was for three-bedroom homes, followed by two-bedroom homes and then one-bedroom homes. Although there is a demand for four-bedroom homes, that need is only reflected in larger cities like Edmonton and Calgary.

On the affordable housing portfolio side, we had 348 applications on our waitlist, 155 of which were from Métis households. This waitlist reflects demand for one-bedroom homes, followed by two- and threebedroom homes.

There is a growing need for senior and student housing across all regions in Alberta.

The occupancy rate in MUHC remained at 80%, whereas MCHC achieved an occupancy rate of 91%. At year-end, 69 subsidized homes were vacant and under renovation, 21 were being rebuilt, and nine were ready for move-in. On the other hand, 22 affordable homes were under renovation, and nine were move-in ready.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- Affordable Indigenous Housing Project, Griesbach, Edmonton, AB
 - 127 affordable suites for women and children ranging from one bedroom to four bedrooms.
 - 50 suites dedicated to women and children fleeing from domestic violence.
 - 42 barrier-free, accessible suites.
 - Space for an Early Learning Childhood Centre.
 - The building will meet the minimum energy efficiency standards, i.e., a 15% reduction in consumption of energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as per National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings (NECB) 2017.
- Affordable Indigenous Housing Project, Peace River, AB
 - Will provide 11 affordable suites, ranging from one to four bedrooms, including two barrierfree suites.
 - The building will meet the minimum energy efficiency standards, i.e., a 25% reduction in consumption of energy and GHG emissions as per NECB 2017.
- · Seniors' Lodge, Edmonton, AB
 - 36 affordable suites for seniors over the age of 65.
 - On-site services include meals, home care, laundry, and cleaning.

- Alberta-wide Infill Development Project
 - 21 old homes are being rebuilt and converted into 36 new subsidized homes that will become rentready in Fall 2024.
 - These properties are located throughout Alberta:
 - Edmonton 5 properties
 - Calgary 7 properties
 - Red Deer, Grande Prairie, Slave Lake, Lac La Biche – 1 property in each location
 - Cold Lake 2 properties
 - Peace River 3 properties
- Phase II Family Reunification Program, Bonnyville, AB
- Marlboro Housing, AB
 - MCHC acquired 41 acres of land from the Marlboro Housing Authority in early 2024. Currently, MCHC is assessing the condition of these homes and the land parcel for future planning.

HOME PROGRAMS

- Rental Supplement Program and Student Rental Supplement Program:
 - To date, MCHC has supported 934 eligible Métis families with rental supplement programs.

- Down Payment Assistance Program:
 - To date, MCHC has supported 481 eligible Métis families in becoming homeowners.
- Home Repairs Assistance Program:
 - To date, MCHC has supported 708 eligible Métis families to complete home repairs. This information excluded applications being received and processed for the current round, which opened on April 8, 2024.
- Mortgage Assistance Program:
 - MCHC has supported 25 eligible Métis families to meet their home mortgage obligations. This program remained least popular amongst all other home programs but still was able to meet the needs of Métis families dealing with home debt issues.

REACHING HOME PROGRAM

Reaching Home Program remained committed to supporting Métis people who are homeless or are on the verge of being homeless. This program supported families with emergency housing, housing set-up costs, housing placement, referrals and prevention support, food security, and more. To date, we have supported 396 Métis people with various supports and services to reduce homelessness exhibited in Métis communities.



Rupertsland Institute

Rupertsland Institute (RLI) was established in 2010 as an affiliate of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government with mandates in Education, Training, and Research. Our mandates are performed out of 10 offices located across the province, a head office in Edmonton, and two mobile units travelling to rural areas throughout Alberta.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Rupertsland Métis Post-Secondary Funding Program is dedicated to empowering Métis students to achieve their academic and career goals through financial support. This program aims to enhance educational opportunities and increase the number of Métis students pursuing post-secondary education.

Metric	Number of Citizens
Citizens received post-secondary education funding	819
Citizens received Métis Student Services Supports	143
Citizens enrolled in a certificate, degree, or diploma program	196
Citizens graduated with a certificate, diploma, or degree	216

MÉTIS TRAINING TO EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Funded under the Indigenous Skills & Employment Training agreement, the Métis Training to Employment Program assists Métis individuals in improving their skills through training, preparing for, finding, and keeping employment.

Programs Offered:

- Certificate Programs: Funding for up to 52 weeks in length.
- Technical Training: Funding for four years of a trade.
- Employment Supports Program: Assists individuals with a job offer by funding necessary tools, Personal Protection Equipment, or training.
- Diploma Programs: Funding support through all years based on full-time enrollment.
- Online Application Portal: All programs offered by Rupertsland Institute can now be applied for online, making it easier for all Alberta Métis Citizens to access funding or job assistance, regardless of location.
- Mobile Employment Centres: Rupertsland Institute operates three mobile employment centres, providing services to those in remote locations. Monthly schedules are posted and updated on our website.
- Training Projects: Offered by reputable contractors, projects created provide marketable skills and certification in targeted areas of the labour market.

Additional Impacts in the Central region:

- RLI supported 7 businesses to hire summer students.
- 24 youth found rewarding positions.

Métis Training to Employment Program Impact

Region	Citizens Received Funding	Citizens Employed/ Self-Employed	Citizens Returned to School	Citizens Entered Summer Student Placements	Citizens Received Training Assistance
Northeast	249	142	54	15	156
South	296	242	52	N/A	N/A
Central	387	342	50	N/A	N/A
Northwest	146	357	36	N/A	N/A

RUPERTSLAND APPRENTICESHIP SERVICE PROGRAM

- 35 small- and medium-sized businesses sponsored new, first-year apprentices.
- 54 applicants found a sponsor and began their firstyear apprenticeship in 16 different trades.
- · These apprentices consisted of:
 - 22 Métis
 - 20 First Nations
 - 11 Women (both Indigenous and non-Indigenous)
- In total, \$560,000 was paid out to employers through the Apprenticeship Services Program.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training:
 - Our training served three cohorts for a total of 75 participants.
 - 15 in-person
 - 60 virtual

RUPERTSLAND CENTRE FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING (RCTL)

Key Initiatives and Events:

- Early Learning Education Childcare Training (ELECT)
 - Métis-centric training for early learning educators, with 23 receiving certificates.
 - NorQuest Day Home Early Learning Cultural Component: Partnership with NorQuest College to integrate Métis culture into day homes.
 - Professional Development: Provided Métis-centric training to over 75 early learning educators.
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
 - Engagement sessions with over 190 Residential School survivors and Métis community members to promote intergenerational healing and reconciliation.
 - Métis Crossing School Event: Hosted students to learn about the impacts of Residential

2023-2024	Métis	First Nation	Inuit	Non-Indigenous	Total Visitors
Central	155	76	0	285	516
Northwest	747	92	0	589	1,428
Northeast	356	52	0	177	585
South	176	8	0	61	245
TOTAL:			2,774		

Visitors hosted by Rupertsland Mobile Services

Schools, resulting in a nomination for a Truth & Reconciliation award.

- Michif Language Programs
 - Michif Course Launch: Virtual, self-led courses in Northern and Heritage Michif, developed with Michif speakers and Elders.
 - Michif in the Classroom: Pilot program teaching 46 K-12 educators introductory Michif to integrate into classrooms.
- K-12 Education
 - Métis K-12 Needs Assessment: Assessment to understand and improve Métis education in Alberta schools.
 - Alberta Curriculum Response: Providing feedback to ensure Métis perspectives are reflected in the curriculum.
 - Tutoring Services: Support for over 200 Métis students through EduLearn.
 - RECC Room: 16 Virtual field trips and over 17,962 students and teachers reached.
- Professional Development, Courses and Conferences
 - Hosted over 80 professional learning opportunities, reaching over 1,300 educators.
 - 130 Educators completed Foundational Knowledge Themes Course.
- National Indigenous Education for Reconciliation
 Network Gathering (NIERNG)
 - Hosted a national gathering to share resources and strategies for reconciliation in education.
- Métis Education Service Agreements (MESAs)
 - Agreements with Prairie Land and Livingstone Range School Divisions to provide resources, cultural support, and professional development.
- Kiskinohamâkan Youth Program
 - Cultural workshops led by Métis Youth Knowledge Holders for students, involving activities like jigging and dot art.
- Métis Access to Post-Secondary Program (MAPS)
 - Support for high school to post-secondary transition, assisting 84 students with workshops and resources.

MÉTIS STUDENT SERVICES

Métis Student Services is dedicated to supporting Métis students in their educational journey. The program provides a range of services aimed at enhancing academic success, promoting cultural awareness, and ensuring financial support for Métis students at various educational levels.

NorQuest Student Centre

The inaugural Métis Student Services (MSS) Centre launched in November 2023 at NorQuest College, Edmonton, marking the first-ever student centre for Métis students on a post-secondary campus.

Shakamohta

Shakamohta, meaning "connect" in Heritage Michif, is a podcast by the Rupertsland Métis Student Association. Since June 2023, it has featured interviews on topics like music, the North American Indigenous Games, and fashion.

Internship Program

The Rupertsland Métis Student Internship Program offers Métis students meaningful work experiences and opportunities to engage deeply with the Métis community, supporting project-specific needs and gaining practical workplace experience.

Student and Alumni Association

The Rupertsland Métis Student and Alumni Association (RMSA) supports Métis students and alumni, fostering cultural connections, community ties, and professional development. RMSA welcomed 2,114 new members, growing this community to over 7,000 Citizens.

Student Services Projects Under Development

En Roo: A digital platform facilitating communication and resource sharing among Métis students and alumni. It offers easy navigation for browsing scholarships, resources, and events.

Ambassador Program: Volunteer opportunities for Métis students and alumni to represent Rupertsland Institute, gaining team experience and fostering community connections.

Mentorship Program: In collaboration with Indspire, this program provides Rupertsland students and alumni access to mentors and comprehensive support, strengthening Métis culture and community.

Métis Education Foundation

Established in 1991 by the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) was incorporated as a nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to enhancing educational outcomes for Alberta Métis. By collaborating with the MNA and leveraging the capabilities of the Labour Market Development Unit Program (LMD), MEF has significantly grown to support Métis students across Alberta.

FOUNDATION GROWTH AND IMPACT

In 2006, the strategic collaboration between the MNA and what is now known as Rupertsland Institute began capitalizing MEF, initiating negotiations for Métis endowments with post-secondary institutions throughout Alberta. These efforts were supported by funds from the National Aboriginal Labour Market Development Program.

Currently, MEF boasts an endowment portfolio valued at approximately \$33 million. This portfolio includes investments in 20 post-secondary institutions and two internally managed endowments, demonstrating our commitment to fostering educational opportunities for the Métis community.

GOVERNANCE

The MEF is governed by the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, reflecting our deep-rooted commitment to the Métis Nation within Alberta. The Board of Directors meets quarterly, or as needed, to review and approve changes to endowment agreements, receive reports from post-secondary institutions, and discuss strategic adjustments to enhance our educational initiatives.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Andrea Sandmaier President, Otipemisiwak Métis Government
- **Shannon Dunfield** Secretary of Records, Otipemisiwak Métis Government
- Jason Ekeberg Secretary of the Treasury, Otipemisiwak Métis Government

MÉTIS SCHOLAR AWARDS

A cornerstone of our foundation's impact is the Métis Scholar Awards. The awards disburse proceeds from the endowment investments managed by each postsecondary partner, ensuring that funds directly support Métis students' educational aspirations. Since the inception of MEF, more than \$10 million have been distributed through over 2,400 Métis Scholar Awards. This year alone, we disbursed \$833,998 to 181 deserving Métis Scholars.

Additionally, there are two MEF-managed endowments, supporting Métis Citizens pursuing educational opportunities abroad, engaging in unique athletic or artistic endeavours, and participating in Early Learning and Child Care Programs.

CONCLUSION

As we look forward to the future, the Métis Education Foundation remains dedicated to expanding educational opportunities and fostering academic excellence among Métis students. We are proud of our accomplishments and grateful for the continued support from our community and educational partners.

Endowment	Original Date Established	MEF-RLI Contribution	Partner and Third-Party Contribution	Endowment Amount	2024 Supplements	2022–2023 Market Value with 2w024 Supplement
MacEwan University	2008	\$1,750,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$2,750,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$4,112,639.35
University of Alberta **	2008	\$3,324,570.17	\$501,000.00	\$3,825,570.17	\$175,000.00	\$8,118,255.31
NorQuest College	2008	\$625,000.00	\$375,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$1,125,000.00
NAIT	2009	\$1,300,000.00	\$1,070,000.00	\$2,370,000.00	\$175,000.00	\$4,036,808.31
Portage College	2009	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$1,326,926.50
Northwestern Polytechnic*, **	2011	\$250,000.00	\$96,000.00	\$346,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$477,764.68
University of Calgary	2012	\$1,500,000.00	\$750,000.00	\$2,250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$3,651,797.00
Mount Royal University	2012	\$250,000.00	\$250,075.00	\$500,075.00	\$125,000.00	\$880,706.55
University of Lethbridge	2012	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$1,439,575.68
Lethbridge College	2013	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$615,091.53
Athabasca University	2014	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$798,289.69
Northern Lakes College	2015	\$375,000.00	\$125,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$575,000.00
Lakeland College **	2015	\$417,600.00	\$50,000.00	\$467,600.00	\$75,000.00	\$587,118.14
Bow Valley College **	2015	\$260,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$460,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$610,885.14
MEF Endowment Trust Fund	2015	\$2,000,198.78	-	\$2,000,198.78	\$1,500,000.00	\$4,080,775.00
Medicine Hat College	2018	\$170,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$275,000.00
SAIT **	2018	\$500,000.00	\$334,759.19	\$834,759.19	\$175,000.00	\$1,175,598.88
Concordia University **	2018	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$347,700.00
ELCC Endowment Trust Fund	2020	\$1,400,061.06	~	\$1,400,061.06	\$75,000.00	\$1,751,532.00
Keyano College	2021	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$125,000.00	\$1,166,076.53
Red Deer University	2021	\$250,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$325,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$472,001.20
Olds College	2021	\$250,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$350,000.00	\$0.00	\$379,500.33
Indspire	2024	1,500,000			\$1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00
Kings University	2024	500,000			\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
TOTAL MARKET V	ALUE:				\$5,725,000.00	\$40,004,041.82

2022–2023 Métis Scholar Award Endowment

Current collection year (2023/2024) presents 1-year lagged contribution amounts, endowment amounts, and market values (2022/2023).

* Formerly Grande Prairie Regional College ** Missing some contribution amounts in MSAD prior to 2022/2023

2022–2023 Métis Scholar Award Disbursements

2023-2024	Métis	First Nation
MacEwan University	63,000.00	16
University of Alberta	227,500.00	29
NorQuest College	47,500.00	10
NAIT	90,500.00	23
Portage College	21,000.00	7
Northwestern Polytechnic *	2,500.00	1
University of Calgary	115,000.00	18
Mount Royal University	25,200.00	8
University of Lethbridge	54,228.00	10
Lethbridge College	14,000.00	4
Athabasca University	2,500.00	1
Northern Lakes College	11,500.00	7
Lakeland College	19,500.00	7
Bow Valley College	18,500.00	6
MEF Endowment Trust Fund	70,000.00	14
Medicine Hat College	6,000.00	3
SAIT	6,000.00	2
Concordia University	5,000.00	2
ELCC Endowment Trust Fund	29,570.00	10
Keyano College **	-	-
Red Deer University	5,000.00	3
Olds College **	-	-
	833,998.00	181

Current collection year (2023/2024) presents 1-year lagged information (2022/2023).

* Formerly Grande Prairie Regional College

** No awards will be distributed until the 2023/2024 school year, as outlined in initial endowment agreement.

The True Canadians Initiative

CELEBRATING MÉTIS HERITAGE AND EDUCATION

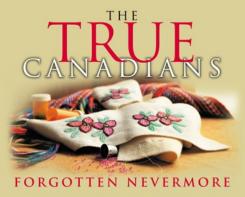
The True Canadians initiative, comprising both a podcast and a companion book, stands as a testament to the resilience, culture, and contributions of the Métis people in Canada. Inspired by the book of the same name, our mission is to educate, inspire, and promote a deeper understanding of Métis history and identity nationwide.

The True Canadians podcast emerged from the overwhelming demand during the national tour promoting the book. It serves as an engaging platform to delve into the stories and experiences of Métis leaders, artists, and innovators. Each episode explores their pivotal roles in shaping Canada's history and their ongoing efforts in community building and reconciliation. With over a dozen episodes available online and a special series addressing misconceptions about Métis identity, the podcast aims to correct historical narratives and celebrate Métis achievements.

Original music by Métis fiddler Alex Kusturok and opening remarks from the late Métis leader Jim Sinclair at the 1987 Meech Lake negotiations lend a distinctive cultural and historical backdrop to each episode. The podcast is accessible on major platforms including Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google, and Amazon, ensuring broad reach and engagement across diverse audiences.

Published by the Métis Nation of Alberta, The True Canadians: Forgotten Nevermore serves as an authoritative companion to the podcast. Overall, The True Canadians podcast and book celebrate Métis heritage and foster understanding and reconciliation, making significant strides towards recognizing and honouring our enduring contributions to Canada.

The True Canadians book is making significant strides in educational settings. Distribution efforts are underway to reach Alberta's junior and senior high schools, and expansion efforts with partners like Historica Canada and the Rupertsland Institute aim to introduce this essential resource to classrooms nationwide. This initiative underscores our commitment to fostering a



BY PATRICIA RUSSELL AND DAVID WYLYNKO

comprehensive understanding of Métis culture and history among future generations of Canadians.

Distributed by Sandhill Book Marketing Ltd., The True Canadians: Forgotten Nevermore has garnered enthusiastic support from booksellers across Canada, achieving high sales and prompting a second print run in 2024. It is available at Chapters, Indigo, Coles stores, and over 300 independent bookstores nationwide. New Citizens of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government can receive a complimentary copy through Provincial Office, further enhancing accessibility.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce the upcoming release of an audiobook version of The True Canadians in Fall 2024, extending our reach to audiences preferring audio formats. This initiative reflects our ongoing commitment to accessibility and inclusivity in sharing Métis history and culture.

In conclusion, The True Canadians initiative continues to celebrate and educate on the enduring legacy of the Métis people. Through our podcast, companion book, and educational outreach efforts, we are proud to contribute to a more accurate and inclusive narrative of Canadian history. We look forward to building on these achievements and furthering our impact in the years to come.

This annual report highlights our dedication to preserving and promoting Métis heritage, ensuring it remains a vibrant part of Canada's cultural tapestry.



Meeting Minutes (2022/2023)



MINUTES OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA 95th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD ON AUGUST 12, 2023 AT THE METIS CROSSING CULTURAL GATHERING CENTRE, SMOKY LAKE, ALBERTA

OPENING CEREMONY

The Opening Ceremonies commenced with a procession of Veterans, MNA Leadership, Elders and Dignitaries, followed by greetings and remarks.

Opening Prayer: Knowledge Keeper Norma Spicer provided the opening prayer.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

President Poitras called the meeting to order at 11:22 a.m.

Establish Quorum: President Poitras reported 620 registered citizens in attendance.

Election of Chair & Vice-Chair – President Poitras opened nominations for Chair.

Carol Ridsdale nominated Lionel Chartrand, seconded by Walter Andreeff. Melanie Omeniho nominated Garrett Tomlinson, seconded by Dan Cardinal.

After three calls no further nominations were made, with a motion to cease nominations for Chair.

Motion #1: Jason Ekeberg moves to cease nominations for Chair, seconded by WalterAndreeff.Motion Carried

Lionel Chartrand accepted the nomination and Garrett Tomlinson declined, therefore Lionel Chartrand was acclaimed as Chair.

President Poitras opened nominations for Vice-Chair.

Andrea Sandmaier nominated Brian Fayant, seconded by Rick Boucher.

After three calls no further nominations were made, with a motion to cease nominations for Vice Chair.

Motion #2: Garrett Tomlinson moves to cease nominations for Vice-Chair, seconded by Pat Acker. Motion Carried

Brian Fayant accepted the nomination and was acclaimed as Vice-Chair.

President Poitras turned the meeting over to the Chair, Lionel Chartrand.

Appointment of Sergeant at Arms – The Chair called for nominations for a Sergeant at Arms.

Donna Sinclair nominated Alex Courtorielle, seconded by Yvette Greyeyes.

95th MNA AGA Meeting Minutes

Page 1 of 6



After three calls no further nominations were made, with a motion to cease nominations for Sergeant at Arms.

Motion #3: Shane Combs moves to cease nominations for Sergeant at Arms, secondedby Paul Bercier.Motion Carried

Alex Courtorielle accepted the nomination and was acclaimed the Sergeant at Arms.

Adoption of Agenda:

Motion #4: Brian Hamelin moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Bev New. Motion Carried

Resolution Committee

The Vice Chair had the Resolutions Committee members identify themselves:

Region 1 – Cheryl Gordon Region 2 – Violet LePratt Region 3 – Paul Bercier Region 4 – Alana Tyler Region 5 – Shane Combs Region 6 – Carmella Mackie

Appointment of Cree Translator – Marlene L'Hirondelle was appointed the Cree Translator.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

President: Audrey Poitras

President Poitras updated the Assembly on the achievements of the Provincial, Regional, Affiliates, MNA staff, volunteers and citizens province-wide over the past year. Detailed information on the activities can be found in the Annual Report and the work aligns with the MNA's enduring mission to pursue the advancement of the socio-economic and cultural well-being of the Metis people of Alberta.

President Poitras concluded her report by speaking about Canada making good on their commitment by introducing legislation in the House of Commons on June 21, 2023 (National Indigenous Peoples Day), Bill c53, *The Recognition of Certain Métis Governments in Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan, Metis Self-Government Act.* This bill provides immediate recognition as a matter of federal law that the Metis Nation within Alberta holds the right to self-determination and self-government. When passed, the bill will give effect to an eventual self-government treaty with Canada which will get us out of the Societies Act and recognize our government in the Canadian Constitution.

Following the report, Citizens were provided the opportunity to ask questions.

Motion #5: Brian Hamelin moves to accept the President's Report, seconded by Karen Collins. Motion Carried

95th MNA AGA Meeting Minutes

Page 2 of 6



Motion #6: Pat Acker moves to break for lunch, seconded by April Acker. Motion Carried

Vice President: Dan Cardinal

Vice President Cardinal provided the Assembly with an overview of his activities, provincially and nationally over the last year. He shared that he is not seeking another term in the upcoming election however will continue working for the Nation at Rupertsland Institute.

Motion #7: Rick Boucher moves to accept the Vice President's Report, seconded by Sylvia Johnson. Motion Carried

Secretary: Carol Ridsdale - 2022 Summary of Motions

Secretary Ridsdale read the motions from the 2022 AGA. Updates on the Ordinary Resolutions were provided as follows:

- Ordinary Resolution #2 Métis Artisans A lot of unofficial work has been done, including consultations with Métis artisans and two markets were held at Kingsway Garden Mall in Edmonton. There will be an office established and a proposal is being developed to formalize the process.
- Ordinary Resolution #3 Métis Harvesting Rights One short meeting was held with the new Premier and another is scheduled for the end of August, where this topic will be brought forward.
- Ordinary Resolution #4 2SLGBTQ+ Inclusion The MNA has undertaken various initiatives to be inclusive and ensure everyone feels safe.
- Ordinary Resolution #6 Addressing the Sorry Legacy of Métis Scrip Since the last AGA, the MNA has hired a historical researcher who has compiled the data and evidence from the archives. The latest self-government agreement signed with Canada states that the MNA is the body they discuss the scrip claim with and preliminary meetings have been held to determine what the process will look like.

Motion #8: Melanie Omeniho moves to accept the Secretary's Report, seconded by Jim Cardinal. Motion Carried

Treasurer: Andrea Sandmaier – Auditor's Report & Financial Statements: March 2022/March 2023

Ruben Jeffery, Auditor with Kingston Ross Pasnak LLP presented the 2022/23 Audit Report. He confirmed that the opinion contained in the Independent Auditor's Report indicates a clean audit and presents fairly in all material respects as at March 31, 2023. He presented an overview of the funding categories, programs and associated expenses.

Citizens were provided an opportunity to ask questions, with the SEO assisting in responding.

95th MNA AGA Meeting Minutes

Page ${\bf 3}$ of ${\bf 6}$



Motion #9: Melanie Omeniho moves to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Colette Poitras. Motion Carried

RESOLUTIONS:

SPECIAL:

The Resolutions Committee met to review the single Special Resolution presented to this Assembly and it was determined to be a valid resolution, which was then read into the record.

Special Resolution #1

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF THE MEMBERS OF

THE MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, with the ratification, adoption, and implementation of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution, the Métis Nation of Alberta's six large administrative regions are to be transitioned to 22 smaller Districts;

AND WHEREAS, under the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution, District Councils are to be established as new District level governance structures, in place of existing Local Councils and Regional Councils;

AND WHEREAS, in order to allow for the transition from existing Local Councils and Regional Councils to new District Councils, as contemplated in the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution, certain amendments are required to the current bylaws of those Local Councils and Regional Councils;

AND WHEREAS, the current bylaws of certain existing Local Councils and Regional Councils require that any amendments to such bylaws must be ratified by the Citizens of the Métis Nation of Alberta at an Annual Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE THE 95th MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLVES AS A SPECIAL RESOLUTION, THAT

- 1. Any amendments to the bylaws of a Local Council or Regional Council that are approved by a special resolution of the members of that Local Council or Regional Council (whether prior to or after the date hereof) are hereby ratified and confirmed, provided that such amendments:
 - (a) are made for the purpose of transitioning such Local Council or Regional Council (including the interests and assets thereof, as applicable) to one or more District Councils that will represent the Citizens formerly represented by such Local Council or Regional Council;

95th MNA AGA Meeting Minutes

Page 4 of 6



- (b) conform to any requirements set out in the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution and any application Otipemisiwak Métis Government laws;
- (c) ensure the ongoing local and/or regional level benefit and control, through the District Councils, of any currently held interests and asses of the Local Council or Regional Council; and
- (d) meet such other requirements as the Citizens' Council may establish to ensure the effective and orderly transition to District Councils, provided such requirements reflect the spirit and intention of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution.
- 2. For purposes of this special resolution, any reference to the Citizens' Council shall be read as reference to the Provincial Council prior to the coming into force of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution.

Moved by: Garrett Tomlinson Seconded by: President Audrey Poitras

RESOLUTION CARRIED WITH 84.4% VOTING IN FAVOR

ORDINARY:

Ordinary Resolution #1 Re: Metis Settlements

WHEREAS the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution reads in Part IV: Alberta Metis Settlements, and;

WHEREAS the many Metis citizens who reside on the Settlements desire to partake in the many programs and services of the Metis Nation of Alberta, and;

WHEREAS there is an opportunity for the Metis within Alberta to begin the relationship to work together.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 95th Annual General Assembly hereby give the direction to the MNA and OMG reach out and begin the process of relationship building.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the spirit and intent is for ensuring that all citizens have access to all services and programs for all MNA citizens.

Moved by Jack Boucher Seconded by Dennis Reid

RESOLUTION CARRIED

95th MNA AGA Meeting Minutes

Page 5 of 6



ADJOURNMENT & CLOSING PRAYER

Closing remarks were provided by President Poitras with a closing prayer by Knowledge Keeper, Norma Spicer.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm on a motion by Murray Stook.

95th MNA AGA Meeting Minutes

Page 6 of 6







Otipemisiwak Métis Government

Provincial Office: Delia Gray Building • 11738 Kingsway Avenue • Edmonton, Alberta 780-455-2200 • 1-877-454-0684 • albertametis.com

