



LOUIS RIEL INSTITUTE
Knowledge • Culture • Heritage

Louis Riel Institute (LRI) Annual Report 2025-26

MMF Affiliate

Minister JoAnne Remillard, LRI Chair
Associate Minister Richard Genaille

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Mission, Vision, and Mandate

LRI Mission Statement

As the Educational Authority for the Manitoba Métis Federation, the Louis Riel Institute promotes, builds capacity and supports the heritage and history of the Red River Métis through efficient, effective, culturally sensitive programs and activities.

LRI Mandate

The Louis Riel Institute is the Red River Métis educational and cultural institute that will promote the advancement of education and training for the Red River Métis; and foster an understanding and appreciation of the culture, heritage and history of Manitoba and the Red River Métis for the benefit of all Manitobans.

LRI Vision

As the Educational Authority for the Manitoba Métis Federation, the Louis Riel Institute serves to empower the Red River Métis Community made of up skilled and proud Métis citizens, families and communities.

Message from the Chair



The 2025-2026 year was a period of continued growth, innovation, and meaningful impact for the Louis Riel Institute (LRI). Guided by our commitment to educational excellence, lifelong learning, and the preservation of Red River Métis history, culture, and language, we strengthened our ability to serve the evolving needs of Red River Métis Citizens across Manitoba. Through strategic planning and operational excellence, we continued to build programs and services that support learners, families, educators, and communities.

Our work reflects a holistic approach to education, culture, and community engagement. Through adult education, post-secondary supports, cultural programming, language revitalization, and community-based learning opportunities, we remain dedicated to ensuring that Red River Métis knowledge, traditions, and perspectives are accessible, valued, and carried forward by future generations.

This year, the Louis Riel Bursary Program provided critical support to post-secondary students by awarding 868 bursaries and distributing nearly \$1 million in financial assistance. With 1,609 applications received from students attending seven post-secondary institutions, the program continues to demonstrate both the growing demand for educational funding and our commitment to student success.

Significant progress was also made within our Research, Archives, and Special Collections. Approximately 400 archival boxes underwent intellectual and physical arrangement, improving the organization and accessibility of previously undocumented materials. Staff catalogued and processed 78 rare books, 132 artifacts, and 941 reference books, while ongoing enhancements to preservation standards, digitization practices, and emergency preparedness measures strengthened the long-term protection of these invaluable collections.

The Institute's Cultural Programming Department experienced another highly successful year, delivering 134 workshops, tours, presentations, and community events that engaged 7,372 participants across Manitoba. Nearly half of all participants, 3,563 individuals, were Red River Métis. Programming focused on traditional cultural practices and community engagement, including jigging, beading, finger weaving, and presentations at MMF community events. At Riel House National Historic Site, educational outreach continued through 12 organized school visits involving 405 participants, in addition to welcoming numerous visitors from the general public.

A major achievement during the year was the launch of the Red River Métis Circle of Educators, supported through the Rideau Hall Foundation's Indigenous Teacher Education initiative. The project established a province-wide network of 181 Red River Métis K-12 educators and brought together an expert consultant team to guide its development. By fostering collaboration among educators, Knowledge Keepers, Michif speakers, school divisions, community organizations, and the MMF Michif Language Department, the initiative created new opportunities for professional learning and for advancing Red River Métis perspectives in Manitoba classrooms.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend my sincere appreciation to the management team, staff, educators, partners, and community members whose dedication and commitment contributed to another successful year. Their efforts have strengthened both the Institute's programs and its organizational foundation. Together, we are helping to build a stronger future for Red River Métis education, culture, and heritage, ensuring that future generations can learn from, connect with, and celebrate the enduring legacy of the Red River Métis.

Minister JoAnne Remillard, Louis Riel Institute Chair

2025-2026 Board of Directors

Minister JoAnne Remillard (Chair)

Former Associate Minister Joan Ledoux (past board member)

Associate Minister Marielle Gauthier (Secretary and Treasurer)

Minister Peter Fleming

Minister Mona Buors

Shirley Langan

Cathy Fidierchuk

Lea Clarke



Research, Archives, and Special Collections

Throughout 2025–2026, the Louis Riel Institute continued to strengthen the preservation, organization, and accessibility of its Research, Archives, and Special Collections. These efforts are essential to safeguarding materials that document and preserve Red River Métis history, culture, and knowledge for future generations.

Preservation remained an important priority throughout the year. Significant work was undertaken to rehouse archival materials from non-archival containers into archival-quality folders and boxes. This work helps protect historically significant materials from deterioration and supports their long-term preservation.

Environmental monitoring also continued throughout the year, with regular attention to temperature, humidity, and overall storage conditions. A dehumidifier was used as required to support appropriate environmental conditions within collection areas.

To further strengthen LRI's approach to collection management and preservation, work continued on several key policies and procedures, including the Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response Plan, Digitization Standards and Procedures, and Preservation Guidelines.

Significant progress was made in organizing and documenting LRI's archival holdings. Staff completed the top-level intellectual and physical arrangement of approximately 400 archival boxes, transforming a largely undocumented collection into a more organized, identifiable, and manageable resource.

Detailed cataloguing and processing also continued throughout the year, resulting in:

- **78 rare books catalogued and processed**
- **132 artifacts catalogued and processed**
- **941 reference books catalogued and processed**

Together, these accomplishments represent an important step toward improving access to LRI's collections while ensuring that valuable Red River Métis historical and cultural materials are appropriately preserved, documented, and managed for generations to come.



Cultural Programming

The LRI Cultural Programming (CP) department continued to deliver programming in multiple formats to meet the needs of different audiences. Workshops and presentations were adapted for schools, libraries, community organizations, public events, conferences, government departments and partner organizations. This flexibility allowed the department to continue serving both small group learning environments and large community gatherings.

Programming included Red River Métis history and culture presentations, jigging workshops and demonstrations, beading, finger weaving and sash workshops, pointillism, spoon workshops, bus tours, river tours (in Partnership with Winnipeg Waterways), information booths at various events, and a day of children's programming at the Manitoba Métis Federation Annual General Assembly.

Workshops, Events and Activities

The CP department delivered 134 workshops, tours, presentations and events throughout the 2025-2026 programming year, reaching 7,372 program participants, nearly half of whom (3,563) were Red River Métis. Jigging, beading, finger weaving and presentations at MMF community events were the most popular areas of program delivery.



Table 1: Number of cultural program activities by type, 2025-2026 program year

Program / Activity Type	Sessions Delivered
Jigging Workshops	29
Beading Workshops	23
Finger Weaving & Sash Workshops	22
MMF Community Events	17
Pointillism Workshops	10
Waterways & LRI Tours	10
Métis History & Culture Presentations	8
Bus Tours	6
Riel House School Programs	5
Spoon Workshops	4
Total	134



Riel House National Historic Site

Riel House National Historic Site continued to be an important cultural and educational space for the Louis Riel Institute. The site supported school programs, guided interpretation, public visits, historical learning and hands-on cultural activities.

Spring programming included organized school and community bookings with activities such as bannock making, butter making, River Lot education, finger weaving, jigging demonstrations and guided house tours.

- **12 School bookings**
- **405 School community participants**
- **2,600 Revenue**
- **32 Non booked visitors**

Cultural Programming Cost Recovery

The LRI Cultural Programming department operates on a cost-recovery basis when delivering workshops, presentations, tours, and cultural activities for corporate, school, government, and community clients. Fees are charged to cover a portion of the costs associated with program development, materials, instructor and facilitator time, travel, and administration. This cost-recovery model helps ensure the sustainability of programming while allowing LRI to continue offering high-quality, culturally authentic Red River Métis learning experiences to diverse audiences. Revenue generated through client bookings supports the ongoing delivery and enhancement of cultural programming, enabling LRI to expand access to workshops, presentations, tours, and educational activities while maintaining affordability for participants and organizations. In the 2025-2026 fiscal year, cultural programming cost recoveries totalled \$48,068.50.

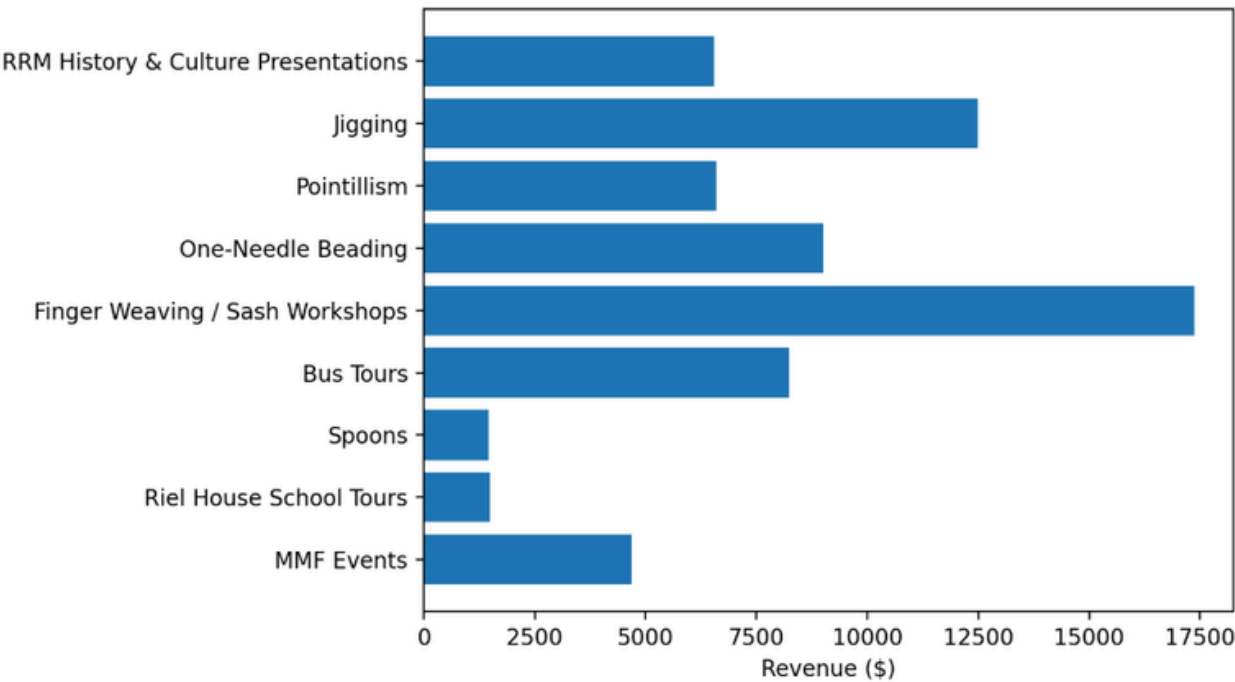


Figure 1: Cultural programming cost recovery revenue by activity type



Post-Secondary Education Support Program

Every year, Louis Riel Institute provides a course in Red River Métis Culture and History to Red River Métis students receiving financial support through Manitoba Métis Federation's Post-Secondary Education Support Program. The cost to deliver the program (\$109 per student) is paid by Manitoba Métis Federation. In the 2025-2026 fiscal year, LRI provided this training to 2075 students, resulting in revenues of \$226,175.



Adult Learning Centre

The Louis Riel Institute Adult Learning Centre (ALC) is a non-traditional high school for adults. There are three streams that students can attend: High School Diploma, Mature Student Diploma, or Post Diploma Upgrading. During the 2025–2026 school year, the ALC continued to support student success through its asynchronous online learning model, delivered via the Brightspace Learning Management System and strengthened by ongoing instructor support. Through Brightspace, students accessed course content, assignments, and learning resources while progressing at their own pace. To ensure students remained engaged and successful, teachers provided timely assistance and feedback through a variety of communication methods, including email, phone calls, virtual meetings, and online messaging platforms. This combination of flexible online learning and accessible teacher support helped promote student engagement, achievement, and success.

In the 2025-2026 academic year, the LRI Adult Learning Centre served 96 unique students, 25% (24) of whom were Red River Métis. Among the 110 total enrolments, 64% (71) were enrolled in the Post-Diploma Upgrading stream, 34% (37) in the Mature Student Diploma stream, and 2% (2) in the High School Diploma stream.

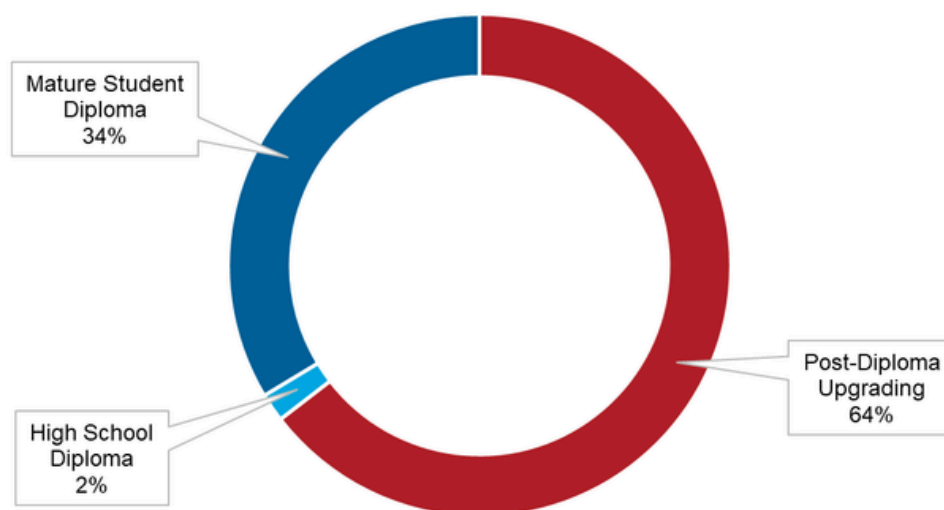


Figure 2: Percentage of total Adult Learning Centre Enrollments by Stream

Top courses by number of enrolments included ELA Transactional Focus 40S (24 enrolments), Chemistry 30S (18 enrolments), and Essential Math 40S (17 enrolments).

In total, there were 44 course completions.

Louis Riel Bursary

In the 2025/2026 academic year, the Louis Riel Bursary continued to provide meaningful support to Red River Métis students pursuing post-secondary education. A total of 1,609 applications were received from students across seven institutions, resulting in 868 bursaries awarded and \$993,690 in total funding disbursed. LRI bursaries reflect an ongoing commitment to supporting the educational success of Red River Métis students and citizens.

Table 2: Number and total value of bursaries awarded, grouped by administering institution, 2025-2026 academic year

Administering Institution	# of applicants	# of bursaries awarded	Total amount awarded
Assiniboine College	21	12	\$40,000
Brandon University	78	46	\$128,000
Red River College Polytech	121	42	\$42,000
Université de Saint-Boniface	95	42	\$100,800
University of Manitoba	1007	613	\$443,300
University College of the North	14	9	\$39,400
University of Winnipeg	323	131	\$200,190
TOTAL	1659	895	\$993,690.00

Red River Métis Circle of Educators

In summer 2025, the Louis Riel Institute (LRI) received funding through the Rideau Hall Foundation's Indigenous Teacher Education Program to establish the Red River Métis Circle of Educators and develop educational resources grounded in Red River Métis language, culture, and worldview. Since its formal launch in February 2026, the project has focused on connecting Red River Métis educators across Manitoba, strengthening partnerships, and creating opportunities for culturally grounded professional learning and collaboration.

Early engagement has been strong. By the end of March 2026, 181 Red River Métis educators from across Manitoba had joined the network, representing urban, rural, northern, and francophone communities. To guide the project's development, LRI established an 11-member Project Consultant Team of Red River Métis education professionals, whose input helped shape programming, networking opportunities, and professional learning initiatives.

The project team collaborated with Red River Métis educators to develop an intensive professional development course designed to deepen participating teachers' understanding of Red River Métis history and culture, and to strengthen their confidence and capacity to integrate this knowledge into classroom practice. Through the course, participants will create curriculum-aligned, classroom-ready K-12 learning resources grounded in Red River Métis perspectives. The first cohort of participants is scheduled to begin in September 2026.

One of the project's most meaningful outcomes has been the sense of connection, confidence, and cultural pride it has fostered among participants. Many educators joined the Circle while actively exploring their own Red River Métis identity and were seeking opportunities to learn more about their heritage, build relationships with other Red River Métis educators, and bring authentic Red River Métis perspectives into their classrooms.

Feedback throughout the project has demonstrated the value of creating a dedicated community of practice for Red River Métis educators. Participants consistently highlighted the importance of having a network where they can learn from one another, share resources, and strengthen both their cultural knowledge and professional practice.

Key Accomplishments

- Established a network of 181 Red River Métis K-12 educators from across Manitoba.
- Convened a Project Consultant Team consisting of experienced and knowledgeable Red River Métis K-12 educators.
- Strengthened partnerships with Red River Métis Educators, Knowledge Keepers, and Michif Speakers.

Goals and Priorities for the Upcoming Year

- Increase the network to meet or exceed our goal of 250 members.
- Strengthen leadership by expanding the Project Consultation Team and exploring mentorship opportunities.
- Deliver cultural and professional learning events, including a virtual opening gathering of the network (May 2026), and a day of cultural celebration and workshops at Riel House National Historic Site (June 2026).
- Deliver the first cohort of the intensive professional development course in September 2026, building participating teachers' knowledge, confidence, and capacity to meaningfully integrate Red River Métis perspectives into K-12 teaching and learning, while supporting the development of curriculum-aligned classroom resources.
- Evaluate the first phase of the project to assess outcomes to date.
- Continue building partnerships and supports that contribute to long-term Red River Métis teacher retention and program sustainability.



Thank You to Our Funders

We extend our sincere gratitude to all funders whose support makes the Louis Riel Institute's work possible. Your investment in education, culture, language revitalization, and community initiatives helps create meaningful opportunities for Red River Métis Citizens while preserving and celebrating our heritage.

Manitoba Métis Federation

Canadian Heritage (Museums Assistance Program)

Manitoba Advanced Education and Training

Manitoba Sport, Heritage, Culture, and Tourism

Rideau Hall Foundation

Winnipeg Foundation

Thank You to Our Donors

- for investing in the preservation, promotion, and celebration of Red River Metis knowledge, culture, language, and heritage.



LOUIS RIEL INSTITUTE
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Louis Riel College (LRC)
Annual Report 2025-26

Louis Riel College

Mission

Louis Riel College (LRC) promotes educational advancement for the Red River Métis while welcoming diversity through the delivery of programs and services leading to success.

Vision

To deliver quality programs that empower all learners in the pursuit of educational and economic success benefiting family and community.

Values

As a highly regulated institute of post-secondary education, LRC values: Commitment, Community, Diversity, Professionalism, Quality, and Success.

College Overview

Louis Riel College was founded in 2013 under the auspices of a Manitoba Métis Federation affiliate. In 2025, the institution was rebranded as **Louis Riel College (LRC)** to reflect its broader mandate and growing scope as a regulated private post-secondary institution under the Advanced Education and Training portfolio.

What began as a single diploma program in Health Care Aide has grown into a diverse institution offering six diploma programs:

1. Health Care Aide
2. Business Accounting
3. Medical Office Assistant
4. Indigenous Focused Early Childhood Educator (IFECE)
5. Employment Counsellor
6. Educational Assistant
7. Nursing Assistant (2027)

Each program includes a required Red River Métis culture and history component, fostering a strong sense of identity and heritage.

Program Enhancements: Health Care Education

LRC expanded its original Health Care Aide program to include:

- **Health Care Aide Challenge Program:** For experienced individuals seeking to challenge the certification exam with targeted training.
- **Health Care Aide Bridging Program:** Assisting Health Care Aides in meeting Shared Health requirements.
- **Diploma Of Practical Nursing:** Currently working on creating curriculum and finalizing this program for delivery in January 2027.

Student Support and Engagement

LRC offers exceptional student support, including:

- Access to instructors seven days a week (9 a.m. – 10 p.m.) via text, phone, and email
- An online portal for flexible access to training materials
- Personalized guidance for job leads, resume support, and interview preparation

Over 95% students have secured meaningful employment across Manitoba through these initiatives.

Customized Pre-Employment Programs

LRC implements customized soft skills training and job readiness programming to prepare graduates for the workforce. These programs are tailored and delivered in various formats.

Strategic Partnerships

LRC has forged strong partnerships to enhance programming:

- **MMF's ELCC Department:** Co-developing and delivering the IFECE program
- **Métis Employment and Training (MET):** Supporting IFECE and the Employment Counsellor program
- **Louis Riel Institute (LRI):** Contributing Red River Métis history and culture content
- **Métis Justice Institute:** Collaborating on Elder Abuse and Mediation Training
- **Shared Health:** Supporting the Health Care Aide Bridging Program
- **Swan Valley School Division:** IFECE program delivery
- **Cross Lake First Nation:** Health Care Aide and PD sessions for fall delivery
- **Fairford First Nation:** Spring and fall delivery of Childcare Assistant Certificate (CCA) programs
- **IWS:** Security Guard training
- **Manitoba Government**

Corporate Training & Community Engagement

- Winnipeg Airports Authority
- City of Winnipeg
- Tanco Mine (50 employees trained; 100 more planned)
- Number TEN Architectural Group (25 employees trained)
- MMF Departments (Many departments throughout MMF)
- Academy of Learning (Training around 100 participants per month)
- Peguis First Nation/Fairford First Nation
- Falcon Lake Fire Department
- Bockstael Construction
- Fairford First Nation
- Little Saskatchewan First Nation
- Université de Saint-Boniface
- RCMP
- Parks Canada
- LRCC

Graduate Impact

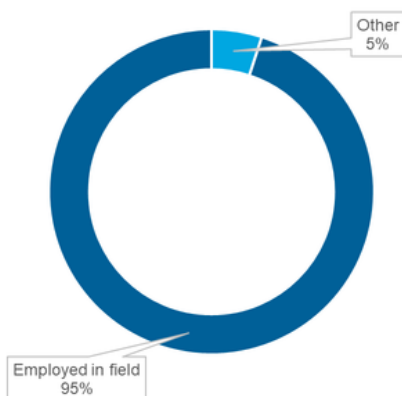
Since inception, over 2235 students have attended LRC

2025 Employment Outcomes for Louis Riel College Graduates

- Health Care Aide: 97% employed in-field (remains the same from previous years)
- IFECE: 95% employed in-field

These statistics underscore LRC's success in preparing students for meaningful careers.

Indigenous Focused Early Childhood Education



Health Care Aide

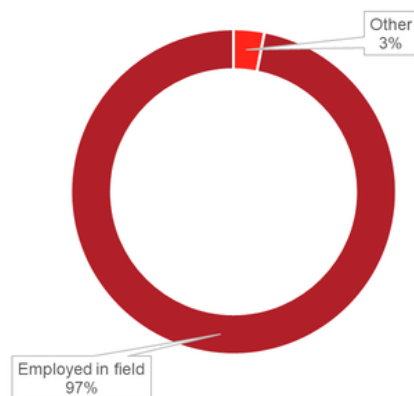


Figure 3: 2025 employment outcomes for Louis Riel College graduates

Diploma in Practical Nursing (DPN) Program

LRC is currently finalizing the details of a formal agreement with Université de Saint-Boniface (USB), through which USB will provide its accredited DPN curriculum to LRC.

LRC will further enhance the DPN curriculum to integrate Red River Métis culture, perspectives, and ways of knowing throughout the learning experience.

Université de Saint-Boniface (USB) has also agreed to a partnership with LRC, combining resources to support LRC through the CLPNM program accreditation process. As part of this collaboration, USB has agreed to lease its state-of-the-art nursing labs to LRC for the delivery of the DPN program, ensuring students have access to high-quality, hands-on learning environments.

These developments represent a significant step forward in LRC's efforts to offer a culturally enriched DPN program, supporting both Indigenous self-determination in education and the delivery of culturally safe health care in Manitoba.

This program is well on its way, and the estimate time of delivery is January 1st, 2027.

New Programs in Research and Development

- MRI Technician
- Legal Assistant
- XRAY Technician
- ECE Emergency Preparedness



Thank you for your support!



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