


ISSUE 01
WINTER 2025

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MÉTIS MOMENTS



LOUIS RIEL INSTITUTE
Knowledge • Culture • Heritage





GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

As the Chair of the Louis Riel Institute, I am both proud and honoured to present the inaugural edition of LRI's quarterly newsletter.

This past year at the Louis Riel Institute has been filled with exciting developments and a renewed commitment to the cultural heritage and educational success of Red River Métis Citizens throughout the Homeland. I, along with LRI Vice-Chair, Associate Minister David Beaudin, welcomed a new executive director, Jesse Gair, and LRI director, Louis Liu to guide the organization into the future. They have recruited several new staff members in areas or finance, human resources, policy analysis, communications, and program delivery.

This year our Cultural Programming team delivered workshops and presentations reaching close to 1,000 participants. Since September the Adult Learning Centre has supported 216 students towards achieving post-diploma upgrades and mature student diplomas; our Louis Riel Bursary program will award close to 800 Red River Métis students enrolled in post-secondary education; Louis Riel Vocational College has 214 students enroll in programs; and our Archives and Special Collections will soon be available online.

This is an exciting time to get involved with LRI. Whether you are an adult learner looking to complete or upgrade your high school education or pursue post-secondary studies, or simply seeking an authentic Red River Métis cultural experience, I hope you take the time to see what we have to offer.

Maarsii, and all the best for a Merry Christmas and prosperous new year!



Joan Ledoux

Chair of Louis Riel Institute

MMF Minister of Provincial Education

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MINI AGA



On October 18-20 Louis Riel Institute in conjunction with Manitoba Métis Federation Early Learning and Child Care department put on a gathering for the children attending the MMF Annual General Assembly with their parents. The “Mini-AGA” provided culturally based activities for the children over the three days. The activities fostered a sense of pride in Red River Métis culture, and an interest to explore our history and identity.

During the three days, the children took part in workshops featuring jigging, finger waving, pointillism, beading, scavenger hunt, fort building, Métis bingo, Métis music group, shirt coloring, painting, coloring Métis art, bison hunting game as well as a presentation on sash weaving and a visit by The Manitoba Museum. Every child that attended the Mini-AGA received a backpack of goodies as well as a Mini-AGA t-shirt, provided by Early Learning and Child Care and LRI

The event was well attended by nearly 100 children. Many of the children said that they loved the activities and can't wait to come back next year. Parents told us they were thrilled that there was an event just for children and they were impressed by the quality of the programming.

Some things I liked about the little AGA was that I didn't have to sit at the table and not do anything. I actually got to do activities and got to take it home! For example, the activities we did was finger weaving, embroidery, iron beads, and lots more! I have attended 4 AGAs and 3 little AGAs. This year was even more fun cause my Auntie Cynthia was working for Louis Riel Institute this year. I hope to attend even more.

- Skhyler Knutson, Age 11

PHOTO GALLERY



The Mini AGA is such a wonderful place.

My children look forward every year to the AGA, just so they can partake with the Mini AGA.

They are fully engaged and get to learn new things about our culture. They take pride when they show me all the wonderful things they have created while I'm attending the AGA.

– Casandra



Nevin Boudreau (age 6 years) attended his first mini aga this year and the excitement he had for it was “unbelievable...”

In his own words he said it was so awesome and cool and he loved playing the axe game and doing the mini scavenger hunt. He said he can't wait to go back next year to meet new friends again.

– Kimberly (on Behave of Nevin)



LRI STAFF SPOTLIGHT

GAVIN FORBES - Cultural Programmer



Tanshii Kia, I'm Gavin Forbes and I'm a Cultural Programmer for the Louis Riel Institute. I love fashion and I often overdress for the occasion, especially when it comes to wearing my culture. For a long time I was still in the dark about my people's history and a lot of my culture but as I wanted to learn more, I want to live and breath my culture.

Growing up I didn't fully understand what it meant to be Métis, I knew it was some kind of indigenous group but that was it. Once I was a teenager I learned more and asked more questions, especially as my mother got a lot more educated and dove head first into indigenous culture, bringing me and the rest of my family with her. I absolutely fell in love with the art and the clothing, then I discovered the music and dance at the Métis pavilion at the annual Folklorama and I knew I had to learn this awesome dance. So, I signed up for jigging lessons and the rest is history.

Then I saw a job posting for Cultural Programmer at the Louis Riel Institute, and I knew it was the job for me.

Here at LRI I got to learn more about my people's culture and history than schools ever cared to teach, everyday I'm learning something new and I get to stay healthy by practicing my jigging. I feel overjoyed when I get the opportunity to perform my jigging or pass my knowledge traditionally in an indigenous way. I know my ancestors are proud of me for my work on decolonization.



LRI Adult Learning Centre

The Louis Riel Institute Adult Learning Centre is committed to assisting learners in the completion of their Mature Student High School Diploma or upgrading in order to gain admission to post-secondary institutions. Our program is open to all students 19 years of age or older who reside in Manitoba and are:

1. Looking to graduate with a Mature Student Diploma.
2. Looking to upgrade courses for Post-Secondary as a Post Diploma Upgrading student.

We offer a variety of Manitoba high school credits online. Our school runs from September to June every year. We have continuous intake until we reach capacity. Courses are currently asynchronous and self-paced.

For more information on course availability, email Aaron in Student Support at aallarie@lrilearn.ca

Register early, as course selections fill up quickly!

See our next edition for information on our upcoming graduation!

LRVC Vocational College

The Louis Riel Vocational College is your answer to an affordable investment in your future. We offer a unique cultural and educational experience for all our students. Our programs include:

Faculty of Health:

- Health Care Aide
- Health Care Aide Challenge
- Health Care Aide Bridging
- Medical Office Assistant

Faculty of Education:

- Indigenous Focused Early Childhood Educator
- Educational Assistant

Although originally created as an alternative post-secondary option for the Métis people, we are pleased to welcome all students from all backgrounds to experience what we have to offer.

Contact us:

lrvcc@mmf.mb.ca

P: 204-984-9480



PRESENTATIONS

The Louis Riel Institute offers engaging and informative workshops and presentations customized for schools, Locals, or organizations. Participants have the opportunity to see and interact with heritage objects while diving into the rich narrative of the Red River Métis.

To book or for more information, please get in touch with LRI's Cultural Programming team:

- Phone: 204-984-9480
- Email: lriculture@lrilearn.ca

The Buffalo Hunt Presentation

Duration: 1 hour

Participants learn about the Red River Métis buffalo hunts, including organization within the community and family structures, and historical context. The presentation includes fur samples for tactile learning.



Red River Métis History Presentations

Duration: 1 hour or full day

Participants explore Red River Métis history, covering topics such as identity, historical figures, and the economy. Presentation formats include digital presentations and artifact showcases.



WORKSHOPS



Red River Métis Sash Finger Weaving Workshop

Duration: 1.5 hours

This workshop will unravel the significance, history, and weaving techniques of the Red River Métis sash. Participants will learn step-by-step finger weaving and gain an understanding of its cultural importance. Participants leave with a small sash usable as a lanyard, bookmark, or bracelet.



Red River Métis One-Needle Beading Workshop

Duration: 2 hours

Participants explore the art of Red River Métis beadwork, focusing on the one-needle technique. The workshop includes a brief history of Red River Métis beadwork, emphasizing the heritage and cultural significance.



Red River Métis Dot Art (Pointilism) Workshop

Duration: 1.5 hours

Using paint and canvas, participants explore the style of Red River Métis floral art and motifs reflecting the Red River Métis tradition of beadwork. This accessible workshop teaches the technique of creating flower patterns.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

December, 1869

Louis Riel declares a Provisional Government to negotiate with Canada on behalf of the Red River Métis.

December, 1869, is a profoundly significant month for the Red River Métis because it marks the establishment of the first Provisional Government, an act of political self-determination that played a pivotal role in shaping Canadian history.

Under the leadership of Louis Riel, the Métis people asserted their collective rights and took control of their future during a time of uncertainty and upheaval. Earlier that year, Canada had purchased Rupert's Land, a vast territory that included the Red River Settlement, from the Hudson's Bay Company. However, this transfer was conducted without consulting the inhabitants of the land, particularly the Métis, who made up a significant portion of the population in the region.

The Métis were alarmed by the lack of recognition for their land claims, their cultural heritage, and their rights as a distinct people. In response to these challenges, Riel emerged as a leader, uniting the Métis and other residents of the Red River Settlement to resist the imposition of Canadian authority. By forming a Provisional Government, the Métis asserted their sovereignty and demonstrated their ability to govern themselves.

This government was not just a symbolic gesture; it was a practical and strategic effort to negotiate directly with the Canadian government on equal terms. The Provisional Government sought to ensure that the Métis would have their rights, lands, culture and languages protected in the transition of power. They presented a list of rights to Ottawa, outlining the terms under which the Red River Settlement would join Confederation. These rights included guarantees for Métis land ownership, bilingual education, and cultural protections.

The establishment of the Provisional Government also highlights the Métis' commitment to democratic principles. Louis Riel ensured representation for the diverse groups within the Red River community and pursued negotiations rather than conflict. This act of political organization culminated in the Manitoba Act of 1870, which brought the province into Confederation and enshrined key rights for the Métis, including provisions for land and language.

December, 1869, thus stands as a defining moment in Red River Métis history. It represents the courage, unity, and political acumen of the Métis people as they fought for recognition and respect in the face of a rapidly changing political landscape. It also underscores the Red River Métis' pivotal role in the creation of Manitoba and their enduring legacy in the story of Canada.



Did you know that Louis Riel Institute is a registered charity?

Generous donors help make our work possible, preserving Red River Métis culture, language and heritage for future generations, and supporting learners of all ages across Manitoba.

Help support our cause by making a donation today!

DONATE HERE

THANK YOU

www.louisrielinstitute.ca/

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