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# MÉTIS MOMENTS



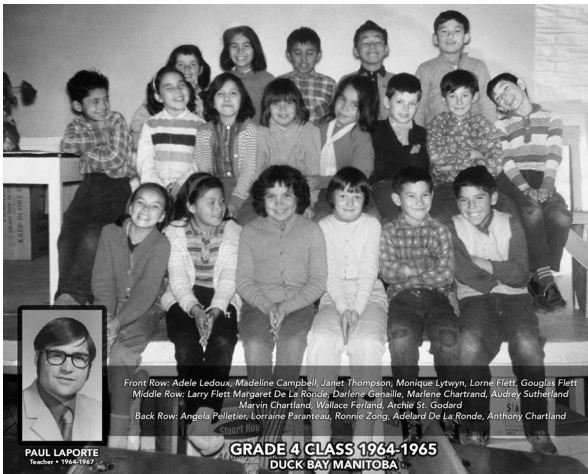
**LOUIS RIEL INSTITUTE**  
Knowledge • Culture • Heritage



# Highlight: Donation by Mr. Paul LaPorte



I am pleased to donate this Red River Cart to the MMF on behalf of the Duck Bay Grade 4 class of 1964. I was their teacher for three years and a fellow learner at 18 years old, rather than an authority figure. They taught me to be an adult with a burning desire to stand up for justice and equality over the next 40 years of my career and life. The children were like my family to me, and I felt like their protective big brother. In the spirit of truth and reconciliation, on this 60th anniversary, I have reconnected with 11 former students so far, to share 30 photographs, memories and stories from our time together.



This class photo from 1964 will be available to everyone who wants it for free. I have 30 more photos to share as well. My goal is to find these students and offer them all the photos. Please contact me directly for the rest of the photos: 204-452-8235

Paul La Porte

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to Mr. Paul LaPorte for his generous donation of the Red River cart, which will be used by LRI for cultural training and educational purposes.

Mr. LaPorte is truly an inspiration to all educators. His passion for education, his dedication to helping individuals grow, and his tireless work for the betterment of our communities shine through in everything he does. Mr. LaPorte, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you have done and continue to do for our people. Your efforts are deeply appreciated, and your legacy will forever inspire future generations.

Louis Riel Institute

# THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

## *The Battle of Batoche (May 9-12, 1885): The Last Stand of the Red River Métis Resistance*



The Battle of Batoche, fought from May 9 to 12, 1885, was the final confrontation of the Northwest Resistance, a pivotal event in Red River Métis and Canadian history. The battle saw the forces of Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont fighting against the Canadian government in an attempt to protect Métis land, culture, and rights.

Throughout the late 19th century, the Métis faced increasing marginalization as Canadian settlement expanded westward. The promises made to them after the Red River Resistance (1869-1870) were largely unfulfilled, leading to frustration among the Métis people. In 1884, Riel returned from exile to help the Métis in Saskatchewan draft a petition demanding land rights and self-governance. However, the Canadian government ignored their appeals, leading to armed conflict.

### The Battle Begins

On May 9, 1885, government forces, led by Major-General Frederick Middleton, advanced on Batoche, the stronghold of the Red River Métis resistance. The Métis, numbering about 250 fighters, were heavily outnumbered by Middleton's force of 900 troops. Despite this disadvantage, Gabriel Dumont, a skilled military strategist, used guerrilla tactics to slow the government's advance.

For four days, the Red River Métis defended Batoche, utilizing rifle pits and engaging in close combat. However, they faced severe shortages of ammunition, forcing them to use makeshift projectiles. By May 12, exhausted and outgunned, the Métis resistance collapsed. The Canadian troops stormed Batoche, bringing an end to the battle.

The fall of Batoche marked the end of the Northwest Resistance. Louis Riel surrendered on May 15, 1885, was tried for treason, and executed later that year. Gabriel Dumont fled to the United States but later returned to Canada.

The battle had lasting consequences for the Red River Métis people. It resulted in increased government control over the prairies and further displacement of Indigenous and Métis communities. However, Batoche remains a symbol of Red River Métis resilience and the ongoing fight for recognition and self-determination.

Today, Batoche National Historic Site stands as a tribute to the courage of the Red River Métis who fought to preserve their culture and way of life.

# LRI ARCHIVES

Step into the past through our curated gallery of historic artifacts from the Louis Riel Institute Archives. This collection showcases beautifully preserved traditional Métis clothing and garments, each piece telling a unique story of identity, craftsmanship, and cultural pride. From intricately beaded garments to hand-embroidered pieces, these artifacts reflect the rich heritage and enduring spirit of the Red River Métis.

Explore the artistry, resilience, and traditions woven into every thread.





The Louis Riel Institute (LRI) plays an important role in supporting a greater understanding and appreciation of the culture, heritage, and history of the Red River Métis. Strong community relations have led to the accumulation of many valuable records and collections connected to the Métis Nation.

Our physical and digital holdings include items related to Métis history, culture, and languages. We are increasing our capacity to responsibly care for our collections, facilitate community access, and ensure cultural protocols are upheld.

If you or your organization have any questions regarding research or resources related to Métis history and culture, do not hesitate to contact us at:

[lriculture@rilearn.ca](mailto:lriculture@rilearn.ca)

# LRI STAFF SPOTLIGHT

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Aaron Allarie

Student Support – Adult Learning Centre



## **What led you to your current role at Louis Riel institute?**

A few things led me here, but the most important factor was my family. Having family members who have worked for the MMF, including my uncle, older brother, and most notably my grandfather Brian Cyr, who was a beloved Metis Elder and Veteran. This job has also rerouted me to my Metis heritage where I now focus on assisting our Metis citizens on helping them obtain their education.

## **What do you enjoy most about your job?**

My main enjoyment originates from seeing our students taking that first step to try to improve their education. The initial outreach may be terrifying to some, so that first step is actually a great accomplishment within itself. Seeing those students graduate alongside their families has been a wonderful experience.

## **What has been your most memorable moment at the Louis Riel Institute so far?**

Overall, my experience here has been memorable. We try and treat our staff as a family so it's been an enjoyment coming into work each day.

## **What's one thing you're currently learning or want to learn?**

One thing that I am currently learning is how to be the best father that I can be. Each day is a learning curve and I have been fully focused on this new chapter of my life. I also want to obtain my Human Resource Management Certificate so I have enrolled into RRC and will be doing self paced courses starting this March.

## **Tell us about a skill or hobby you have outside of work.**

In 2021 I caught the Tour De France on TV and have been addicted to Road Cycling since. A few hours early in the morning has been a great way to start the day. Quite the expensive hobby though.

## **What's your favorite movie or book and why?**

For movies, it depends on what mood I'm feeling. I would have to say "What's eating Gilbert Grape" with Johnny Depp & Leonardo DiCaprio. Leo's role in that film at such a young age was outstanding.

I read the Tattooist of Auschwitz a few years back – It's a true story about a prisoner at Auschwitz in 1942, who fell in love with a girl he was tattooing at the concentration camp. Also, one of my favourites is The Count of Monte Cristo.

# Louis Riel Vocational College – A New Chapter of Growth and Opportunity

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We are thrilled to share exciting updates from Louis Riel Vocational College (LRVC). As we continue to build on our legacy of excellence, we are expanding our programs and services to better serve our community.

At LRVC, we offer a variety of high-quality programs designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their chosen fields. Our course offerings include:

- Health Care Aide
- Health Care Aide Bridging
- Health Care Aide Challenge
- Indigenous-Focused Early Learning Childhood Educator
- Education Assistant
- Medical Office Assistant
- Employment Counsellor
- Business Accounting

In addition to these key programs, we proudly offer more than 200 workshops in diverse fields, ensuring that there is something for every learner. Whether you are looking to gain new skills, advance in your career, or switch to a new profession, LRVC provides flexible learning opportunities that are tailored to your needs.

Our dedicated team is committed to walking with you every step of the way in your educational journey. Our instructors are available for support and assistance—even outside of class hours. This personalized attention sets us apart from other institutions and ensures that you receive the guidance you need to succeed.

At LRVC, we understand the challenges that come with balancing education, work, and personal commitments. That's why we offer flexible schedules and individualized support to help you thrive in your studies and beyond. Our goal is not only to provide education but also to foster a community where students can feel empowered, supported, and ready to take on the future with confidence.

For more information visit our website [www.lrvc.ca](http://www.lrvc.ca) or contact us at [admissions@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:admissions@mmf.mb.ca).

We look forward to working with you to achieve your academic goals!



**LOUIS RIEL**  
**VOCATIONAL COLLEGE**

*Knowledge • Culture • Heritage*

# Cultural Programing

## Riel House

Hello everyone! We're excited to announce that the Riel House will soon be reopening with a range of engaging activities and interactive tours. This historic site, where Louis Riel's family once lived, offers a unique opportunity to step into the past and explore the life of one of Canada's most significant figures. Our knowledgeable guides will share fascinating stories about Louis Riel and his legacy, bringing his history to life. Don't miss out on visiting this iconic location at 330 River Rd, Winnipeg, MB R2M 3Z8 – we can't wait to welcome you back.



## Bus Tours

### **Birth of the Nation:**

Embark on an unforgettable journey with our exclusive tour, following the captivating story of Cuthbert Grant and Louis Riel, two pivotal figures in the history of the Métis people. This 3-hour guided experience will take you through the heart of Winnipeg and beyond, with a special visit to St. François Xavier, home to one of the most significant historical figures in the birth of the Red River Métis Nation.

### **Birth of the Province:**

Join us on an enriching cultural bus tour that will take you on a historic journey through the founding of our province by Canada's first Indigenous leader. This 3-hour guided tour will lead you through the significant sites once traveled by Louis Riel himself, immersing you in the story of the Red River Métis. As you explore these landmarks, our knowledgeable guide will share the rich history and heritage of the Métis people, offering a deeper understanding of their journey.

Have questions or need more information? Don't hesitate to reach out to us at [lriculture@rilearn.ca](mailto:lriculture@rilearn.ca).

# Student Spotlight

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*Shandi Sinclair,  
2025 graduate of LRI Adult Learning Centre*

## **What inspired you to complete your mature student diploma?**

I am now 35 years old, and I have three children. My children are the reason that I was inspired to complete my mature diploma (high school diploma). I want to be a good influence on them.

## **What was/has been your favourite part of being a student at Louis Riel Institute?**

My favourite part of being a being a student at the Louis Riel Institute is my teacher, Krista Holben. She has been very helpful to find ways to help me understand any assignments I had problems on. Krista has also encouraged me to keep going in the right direction, even when I had doubts of had doubts of continuing. I highly look up to her for how smart, understanding, and encouraging she is.

## **What was/has been your most memorable moment at the Louis Riel Institute?**

The most memorable moment at the Louis Riel Institute is when I was told that I would be graduating at the end of June, and that I have no limits to guests (family) able to come watch me finally graduate.

## **Tell us about an achievement you're particularly proud of.**

An achievement I am proud of is getting a 94% end grade in grade 12 math. I never thought in a million years that I would ever get a grade like that. It was much easier and more comfortable to do my work at home and on my own time and schedule, on my laptop.

## **What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?**

The best piece of advice I have ever gotten was a saying that my grandparents always say / remind me of, at times I need to hear it: "don't live your life looking through the rear-view mirror." Then after reminding me of this saying, they will always follow it with, "It's about looking forward and focusing on the future, rather than looking back and getting stuck living in the past." I think of this piece of advice at random times, when I catch myself living and thinking of negative past events.

## **What's your favorite movie or book and why?**

My favourite Movie is Five Feet Apart. This nis my favourite movie because it is based on a real disease: cystic fibrosis (CF). This movie s focused on a young couple, Stella and Will, who fall in love while receiving treatment for CF. Their love is dangerous though, because coming with 6 feet of others with CF can introduce them to new, fatal bacteria. The movie is romantic, but also very sad.

# In Memoriam :Albert “Brian” Cyr

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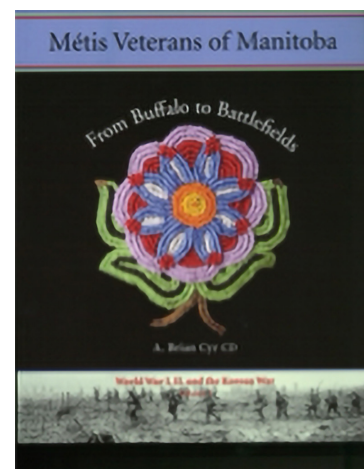
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Albert “Brian” Cyr, passed away peacefully at his home on February 2nd, 2025, at the age of 79. He touched many people as a father, grandfather, brother, friend, mentor, and elder, and shared his life experience, knowledge and love freely with those all around him. He will be truly missed by all.

You can find and purchase his book “Metis Veterans of Manitoba: From Buffalo to Battlefields” located at our LRI office.

“When World War One was declared, volunteers from all areas of the Métis nation came forward to join the Canadian Army. They had to forget the inhumane treatment which other Canadian soldiers had recently inflicted on their fathers and mothers during the dark days of 1870 and 1885. They set aside these sad stories and feelings to fight a common enemy. Germany was waging war against France, a country that the Métis felt a bond with as many of their ancestors had come from there. They were as anxious to visit France as a child would be to visit a grandparent”

Written by: A. Brian Cyr CD  
Price: \$29.95





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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/](http://www.louisrielinstitute.ca/)

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