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204-984-9480

Iri@Irilearn.ca

103-150 Henry Avenue  
Winnipeg Manitoba

# MÉTIS MOMENTS



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



# Greetings on behalf of the Louis Riel Institute Board of Directors

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As spring returns, we are reminded of this season's powerful message of renewal, growth, and new beginnings. For the Red River Métis, springtime reflects the importance of planting seeds for the future while staying deeply rooted in our culture, values, and relationships. It is a time when gardens are planted, families and friends gather, and communities come together to share knowledge, stories, and hope for the seasons ahead.

We are pleased to share meaningful progress across Louis Riel Institute. This spring marks the formation of the Red River Métis Circle of Educators, a culturally rooted teacher support network and resource hub

We have also revived efforts to properly catalogue and house the Louis Riel Institute Archives and Special Collections, which include historical documentation of Louis Riel Institute and the Manitoba Métis Federation, recorded Michif language samples, and family history materials generously donated by Red River Métis families, ensuring these invaluable resources are preserved for generations to come. Our cultural programming department continues to thrive and is working at full capacity to deliver high-quality, authentic experiences that celebrate and highlight Red River Métis culture and history. In addition, we are excited to welcome a newly appointed Adult Learning Centre Director, whose fresh ideas and leadership are already helping us better serve Red River Métis citizens and lifelong learners.

As the days grow longer and new life emerges all around us, we extend our best wishes to you and your families. We encourage you to visit [www.louisrielinstitute.ca](http://www.louisrielinstitute.ca) to learn more about our programs and services, and to stay connected as we continue to grow together.

With gratitude and optimism,

Minister JoAnne Remillard  
Chair, Louis Riel Institute  
Minister of Provincial Education, Manitoba Métis Federation

# Red River Métis Circle of Educators



Red River Métis  
Circle of Educators



**Are you a Red River Métis Teacher in Manitoba?  
Or studying to become one?**

**Be a part of the Red River Métis Circle of Educators!**

**Offering:**

Teacher Networking Events  
Professional Development Opportunities  
Cultural Workshops & Presentations  
Red River Métis K-12 Teaching Resources

**Sign up here!**



**[circleofeducators@lrilearn.ca](mailto:circleofeducators@lrilearn.ca)**



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Rideau Hall  
Foundation**

# Introducing Our Red River Métis Circle of Educators

The Red River Métis Circle of Educators is guided by a dedicated Advisory Committee made up of Red River Métis educators from across Manitoba. This group brings lived experience, professional expertise, and cultural knowledge to help shape the direction of the project—advising on professional learning priorities, curriculum implementation resources, and supports for Michif language revitalization. Grounded in Red River Métis perspectives, the Advisory Committee ensures that the work of the Circle reflects the needs, strengths, and voices of Red River Métis educators, while supporting their leadership in classrooms and school communities across the province.



**DONNA BARKER**  
Teaching Principal, Barrows Junction School, Frontier School Division



**JACQUELINE MISKOBINESHIIKWE BERCIER CARTER**  
Cultural Proficiency Lead Coordinator, Lord Selkirk School Division and Chairperson, Promoting Aboriginal Student Success



**REID BOUVIER**  
Indigenous Learning Coach, Hanover School Division



**MELISSA MUIR**  
Teacher, Indigenous Student Center, Lord Selkirk School Division



**SERGE CARRIÈRE**  
Divisional Coordinator, Indigenous Education, Division Scolaire Franco-Manitobaine



**SEAN OLIVER**  
Indigenous Education Support Teacher, Louis Riel School Division



**DR. WAYNE DAVIES**  
Director of Student Teaching, University of Winnipeg and Director of Adult Learning Centre, Louis Riel Institute



**ROB RIEL**  
Assistant Superintendent of Indigenous Education, Winnipeg School Division



**DR. LINDY PHELPS HENDERSON**  
Instructor, University of Winnipeg, Keewatin-Patricia District School Board



**APRIL WATERS**  
Divisional Administrator of Indigenous Education & Community Support, St. James-Assiniboia School Division



**HEATHER LAMBERT**  
Divisional Indigenous Ways of Life Teacher, Michif Support Teacher, Winnipeg School Division

# AI Workshop - Exploring the World of AI

AGE 17-29

Red River  
Métis Youth  
Tech Leaders:

## Exploring the World of AI

Your Practical Guide  
to the Future

- AI in your daily life and work
- Demystifying the technology
- Ethics and practical safety
- Prompt engineering tips

VIRTUAL EVENT

**Apr 11, 2pm or Apr 17, 6pm**



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Future Foundation

# Louis Riel Day at The Forks

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Celebrating Louis Riel Day at The Forks with the Louis Riel Institute!  
The day was filled with vibrant cultural displays, energetic jigging that kept everyone on their feet, and the intricate art of finger weaving.  
A powerful tribute to Red River Métis heritage and a wonderful way to honour Louis Riel's legacy.



# LRI - Events Highlights



Minister Remillard had a wonderful time celebrating "I Love to Read Month" at Prairie Rose School



Red River Métis Circle of Educators Advisory Committee Gathering



Beading Workshop at St John Library



The Louis Riel Institute was honoured to participate in the MMF Four-Pillar Consultation



Dave and Marj Lavallee were interviewed at U Radio. This interview was part of LRI's current Michif Language grant project.

# Louis Riel Adult Centre

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## DID YOU KNOW?

At Louis Riel Adult Learning Centre We offer high school courses online to adult students ?

### COURSES WE OFFER:

- Essential Mathematics 40S
- Applied Mathematics 40S
- Chemistry 30S
- Chemistry 40S
- ELA: Comprehensive Focus 40S
- ELA: Transactional Focus 40S
- Life/Work Transitioning 40S
- Physical Education 40F
- Psychology 40S
- Credit For Employment 45G
- Physics 40S

CONTACT US : [lrilc@lrilearn.ca](mailto:lrilc@lrilearn.ca)

# LRI - Cultural Programming

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## Riel House



Hello everyone!

We're excited to announce the upcoming reopening of Riel House, with engaging activities and interactive tours. This historic site, offers a unique chance to step back in time and explore the life and legacy of one of Canada's most important figures—the Métis leader and founder of Manitoba.

Our knowledgeable guides will share captivating stories about Louis Riel, Métis culture, and the events that shaped our history, bringing the past vividly to life.

**- School tours: May 18 to June 26**

**- Open to the public: July 2 to August 28**

Don't miss this opportunity to visit this iconic location at 330 River Rd, Winnipeg, MB R2M 3Z8. We can't wait to welcome you!

For the latest details, check the official Parks Canada or Louis Riel Institute websites. See you soon!

## Bus Tours

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

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:**

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@lrilearn.ca](mailto:lriculture@lrilearn.ca).

# LRI Staff Spotlight

Bronwyn Bryan - Head Archivist and Michif Language Project Manager



I believe that heritage plays a vital role in society. It documents the past, fosters learning, and can serve as a powerful tool for building community, belonging, and social change. My work focuses on preserving heritage and making it accessible to others. I began my path in heritage preservation by completing a Bachelor's degree in Archaeology, followed by a Master's degree in Museum Studies from the University of Toronto. Along the way, I have held a variety of roles across heritage institutions.

I joined the Louis Riel Institute in April 2025 as Archivist of the Louis Riel Institute Archives and Special Collection and Michif Project Manager. Since then, I have been reorganizing and recataloguing the archival collection, with the goal of opening it to the public.

My favourite part of the job is interacting with the public and I can't wait to do this more once the collection is fully available to the public. In the meantime, I enjoy responding to research questions and facilitating new donations to the collection.

As Michif Project Manager, I also support the preservation of existing Michif materials, the creation and gathering of new materials, the development of educational resources to support Michif language learning.

Outside of work, I enjoy spinning yarn, horseback riding, reading, and spending time with my four pet rats.

## From LRI's Collections

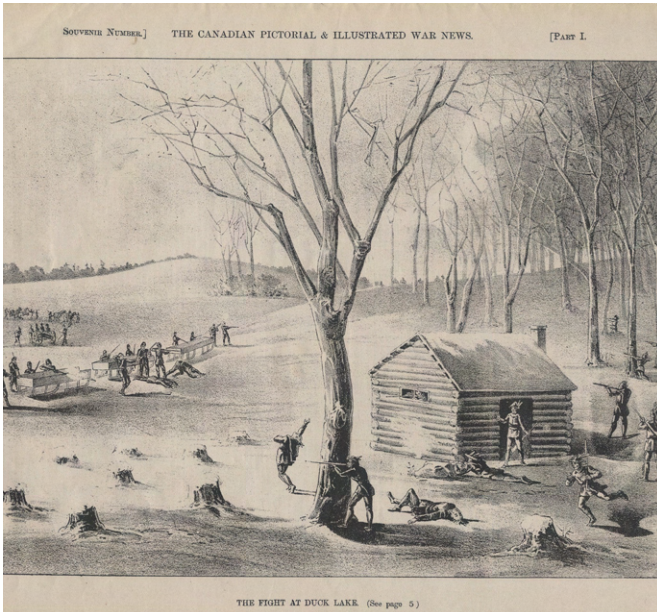


"This box was donated to the Louis Riel Institute Archives and Special Collection in the summer 2025. The box had been in the donor's family for generations since the late 1800s. The donor's ancestor was part of the Wolsey Expedition in 1870, and according to this ancestor the box belonged to Louis Riel and was taken from the Fort during the Expedition."

# This day in History

*The Battle of Duck Lake - March 26, 1885: The first battle of the 1885 Resistance*

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The Battle of Duck Lake on March 26, 1885, was the first battle of the 1885 North-West Resistance. The North-West Resistance was a pivotal conflict between the Métis and the expanding dominion of the Canadian government.

The battle was not an isolated event but the culmination of years of growing frustration and desperation of the Métis. By the 1880s, the traditional way of life for the Métis was being systematically dismantled.

In July 1884, Louis Riel returned from his exile in Montana and tried to begin peaceful negotiations with the Government of Canada.

Tensions escalated by 1885 as Métis leaders recognized that negotiations with the federal government had failed. Riel and other Métis leaders based themselves in Batoche, Saskatchewan and began preparing for armed resistance.

On March 17, Gabriel Dumont, who was the military commander of the Métis, learned that the police intended to arrest him and Riel. Dumont and Riel, and about 60 supporters, responded by ransacking two stores near Batoche, confiscating weapons and ammunition, and seizing two prisoners. On March 19, Riel proclaimed his provisional government and appointed a council of fifteen men, including Dumont.

On March 25, Dumont began preparing for an attack from the NWMP and ransacked a store at Duck Lake for supplies. Early the next morning, NWMP Superintendent Leif Crozier sent a party of 22 police and volunteers to seize the goods and arms Dumont had taken. The NWMP forces encountered Dumont and his men on the Carlton Trail, a Métis cart trail. A confrontation ensued, and the NWMP retreated. Later that day, Crozier led 100 police and special constables out of Fort Carlton to confront Dumont. There was a brief parley between a Cree emissary to the Métis and a policeman, before a scuffle ensued and guns were fired.

The fight was short and decisive. Dumont a brilliant tactician, had prepared an ambush with 300 Métis and Cree fighters. Within thirty minutes, Crozier's force retreated, with 12 killed and 11 wounded. Riel ordered his followers not to shoot at them as they left. The Métis lost five men, including Gabriel Dumont's brother, Isidore Dumont.

The Battle of Duck Lake was a decisive victory for the Métis and demonstrated that the Métis were ready to challenge the federal government. Historian George Stanley wrote, "Dumont's skill as a tactician and his understanding of guerrilla warfare transformed a small band of fighters into a force capable of humbling a government detachment."



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/)

103-150 Henry Avenue  
Winnipeg Manitoba R3B 0J7