



MÉTIS EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL REPORT

to the Community

2022-23

**KIRSTEN LAMOUCHE**

Internal Métis Scholar Award Recipient  
Early Learning and Child Care Diploma  
Northern Lakes College



Canada





# About Métis Education Foundation

Established in 1991 by the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) was incorporated as a non-profit charitable foundation with the goal of improving education outcomes for Alberta Métis.

In 2006, the MNA and the Rupertsland Institute predecessor (the Labour Market Development Unit Program – LMD) began to capitalize the MEF and started the process of negotiating Métis endowments with post-secondary institutions across Alberta with funds derived from the National Aboriginal Labour Market Development Program.

Today, MEF holds an endowment portfolio with an approximate market value of **\$30 million dollars**, and supports **20 post-secondary** and **two MEF internal endowments**.





# Directors of the Métis Education Foundation

MEF is governed with a four-member Board of Directors that is made up of the Executive Committee of MNA Provincial Council.

The Board meets as needed and generally at least once every quarter to consider matters placed before it by RLI such as new or changes to endowment agreements, reports from post-secondary institutions on the endowments, proposed amendments to these agreements where appropriate, and any other business that may arise.



Audrey  
POITRAS

MNA Provincial President  
MEF Board of Director



Dan  
CARDINAL

MNA Vice President  
MEF Board of Director



Carol  
RIDSDALE

President, Region 6  
MNA Executive Secretary  
MEF Board of Director



Andrea  
SANDMAIER

Vice President, Region 2  
MEF Board of Director



# Hear from the Students

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I am very appreciative of your support towards my education as this award has lightened my financial burden allowing me to focus on the most important aspect of school - learning, without the added stress of finances. I have almost finished my first year at SAIT in the Library Information Technology program and can report that my academics are off to a first rate start. My plan is to continue with the program, graduating in 2021, and attaining my career goal as a Library Technician. Thanks to your assistance I am one step closer to that goal.

– **Gabriel Tetreault**  
SAIT, Library Information Technology Program  
Métis Education Foundation Scholar Award

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Studying architecture at the University of Calgary has been one of the most difficult and rewarding journeys of my career. On one hand, I have been fortunate enough to have the guidance of amazing architects and professors as I worked on projects addressing housing affordability, accessibility, and most recently, designing an Indigenous gathering place. On the other hand, the program has been ultra intense, and I haven't been able to work much through school. I would like to thank the Métis Education Foundation for their kindness and generosity, I wouldn't be where I am today without your support!

– **Steven Lamothe**  
University of Calgary, School of Architecture  
Métis Education Foundation Scholar Award

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This Métis Scholar Award has helped me dramatically as it allows me to focus on my studies with fewer financial concerns. Being a veterinarian has always been a dream of mine, though it is not without cost. While I am incredibly thankful for the wonderful opportunities post-secondary education has provided me with, the tuition continues to rise each year. This award helped me focus less of my attention on financial restrictions and more on my education. I hope to work with Indigenous communities in the future, expanding on how veterinary medicine and Indigenous ways of knowing can work together to strengthen the field.

– **Kat Fleury**  
University of Calgary, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine  
Métis Scholar Undergraduate Award

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My experiences at the University of Calgary throughout my Undergraduate Degree and more recently my Graduate Studies have both been excellent. Being a recipient of the Métis Education Foundation Award allowed me to focus my efforts on my studies. This award allowed me to be less concerned about my financial needs throughout the program and focus on being immersed in my education. I am honoured to have been chosen as a recipient and am grateful for what the financial support has allowed me to accomplish - the completion of my Master of Social Work.

– **Tyler Ledwos**  
University of Calgary, Faculty of Social Work  
Métis Education Foundation Scholar Award

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# Internal Métis Scholar Awards

The Métis Education Foundation Métis Scholar Awards are derived from two internally held endowments that support Métis citizens studying outside Canada, pursuing unique athletic or artistic opportunities, and Early Learning and Child Care Programs. These endowments also support citizens who are studying at Canadian Institutions that do not have endowment partnerships with the Métis Education Foundation.

## Internal Métis Scholar Award Recipients

**Breanne Major**

**Brendan Hamilton**

**KayLee Sharon Eileen Oulette**

**Shelly Anne Mercredi**

**Edmund Grant Major**

**Jonah Merlin Shane Kurylowich**

**Joel Gamache**

**Kathryn Rae Frank**

**Alicia Marie Anderson**

**Nickolas Seal**

**Alexandra Agnita Dolhan**

**Tianna Darlene Tenney**

**Crystal Shaw**

**Talia Mimura**

**Alicia Marie Anderson**

**Cheyenne Hall**

**Amy Valenzuel**

**Dominique Marie Natasha Maure**

**Kirsten Lamouche**

**Kendell Diana-Marie Boucher**

**Megan Christa Hulbert**

**Ree Sernes**

**Cassidy Mae Baughman (Sinclair)**

**Isabella McDonald**

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Bow Valley College is grateful and proud to partner with the Métis Education Foundation who provide critical financial support to ensure that Métis students in Calgary and across Alberta can access a life-changing education. We know that education is the greatest agent of social change and Bow Valley College is committed to ensuring that education remains accessible and attainable for all Albertans.

Since 2015, the Métis Education Foundation has given over \$260,000 to Bow Valley College and have supported 23 unique students with over 30 awards and scholarships. The impact of this funding is tremendous and goes a long way to stabilize communities by ensuring that students have access to the supports they need to complete their studies, graduate and change their lives.

Our students go on to become graduates who work in crucial industries supporting Alberta's diversifying economy, while supporting themselves, their families, and their communities. The Métis Education Foundation has been and will continue to be a great partner in ensuring that Bow Valley College can deliver on its promise to Open Doors and Open Minds for all of our students.

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**Tasneem Rahim**  
Interim Vice-President, External  
Bow Valley College



**Bow Valley  
College**





# Métis

## Scholar Awards

The Métis Scholar Awards program disburses the proceeds of endowment investments from each post-secondary institution and funds individual students through the Métis Scholar Awards. Because the Métis Scholar Awards program is created in partnership with post-secondary institutions, the endowments and awards are administered directly by each post-secondary institution. Since inception, the Métis Education Foundation has awarded more than \$8 million and provided more than 2,000 Métis Scholar Awards.

This year **\$901,850** was awarded to **216 Métis Scholars** at our post secondary partners.





# Endowment Growth

In 2021-2022, three new partnerships were formed adding \$1,875,000 to the endowment portfolio as follows: Keyano College with a \$1,000,000 endowment, Red Deer Polytechnic with a \$525,000 endowment, Olds College with a \$350,000 endowment.

## 2021/2022\* Métis Scholar Award Endowment Chart

Endowment	Original Date Established	2021/22 Annual Targets	2021/22* Awards Disbursed	2021/22* Award Value Disbursed	2022* Market Value
MacEwan University	2008	15	13	51,000	3,997,872
University of Alberta	2008	17	30	210,000	7,943,255
NorQuest College	2008	7	10	44,000	850,000
NAIT	2009	30	44	185,500	3,502,977
Portage College	2009	10	13	39,000	1,278,529
Northwestern Polytechnic	2011	4	4	2,500	405,021
University of Calgary	2012	10	14	93,750	3,351,848
Mount Royal University	2012	8	8	25,200	760,504
University of Lethbridge	2012	5	9	49,400	1,319,662
Lethbridge College	2013	4	4	14,000	531,255
Athabasca University	2014	4	2	5,000	554,225
Northern Lakes College	2015	15	15	13,500	121,756
Lakeland College	2015	8	8	8,000	526,690
Bow Valley College	2015	8	6	15,000	488,889
MEF Endowment Trust Fund	2015	10	26	104,500	2,479,929
Medicine Hat College	2018	4	3	12,000	130,000
SAIT	2018	4	4	12,000	765,097
Concordia University of Edmonton	2018	1	1	2,500	247,500
ELCC Endowment Trust Fund	2020	4	2	15,000	1,618,470
Keyano College**	2022	n/a	0	0	1,000,000
Red Deer Polytechnic**	2022	n/a	0	0	325,000
Olds College**	2022	n/a	0	0	350,000
<b>Total Contributions/Market Value</b>			<b>216</b>	<b>901,850</b>	<b>32,548,479</b>

\* Reporting is lagged 1-year to due to post-secondary fiscal-years ending beyond this reporting period.

\*\* Institutions were newly created and did not have data as of 2021-2022 reporting period.

# Métis Scholar Award Database

The Métis Scholar Award Database (MSAD) is an online repository that holds the Métis Education Foundation's (MEF) post-secondary partner's data.

The MSAD includes operational (student-level) and financial annual reporting information for each post-secondary partner that works with the MEF to distribute the Métis Scholar Award. The MSAD serves to inform the MEF of students that received awards (operational reports) and of the performance of post-secondary partners' endowments in the previous year (financial reports).

From the MSAD's inception in 2017 until 2021, post-secondary partners have submitted their operational and financial reports to the MSAD directly. In that time, some post-secondary partners have fallen behind in their reporting, and consequently, the MSAD is less complete in 2021 than it was in 2017. In 2020, Big River conducted a review of the MSAD and found reporting errors within the financial and operational reports submitted through the MSAD.

Reporting errors were attributed to a lack of familiarity with the MSAD platform and the reporting burden it creates for post-secondary partners. In 2022, Big River Analytics met with post-secondary partners to review their data collection, reporting, and accounting responsibilities, and develop a standardized process for reporting moving forward. The objective of this engagement exercise was to ensure more accurate and timely reporting from year to year. As an outcome of MEF and Big River's engagement with post-secondary partners, the data in the MSAD as of June 2022 is complete and accurate, and the MSAD Reporting Framework has been developed. The MSAD Reporting Framework outlines the process for data collection and includes a guide and toolkit to standardize reporting conditions and improve reporting quality moving forward.





A photograph of a forest with sunlight streaming through the trees, creating a dappled light effect on the ground and foliage. The image is used as a background for the text.

# Looking Forward

In collaboration with the MEF Board of Directors a MEF strategic plan has been developed under the direction of MEF Principal Consultant, and Rupertsland Director of Métis Education Foundation and Post-Secondary Initiatives.

With consultative supports and structure, this plan was brought together, with our MEF partners, including post-secondary institutions, MEF beneficiaries, and the MNA community at large. Consultation and planning activities in this report are reflective of partner and community members whose ideas, priorities, goals, and values informed the character of the MEF strategic plan. Significant insight developing this strategic plan came from the MEF Board of Directors who participated in planning activities, and assisted in providing strategic direction to embrace Otipemisiwak Métis Government, and the possibilities for MEF's continued success as a result. Structured thoughtful planning, reflective of MEF's past and future direction and structure, and a multi-faceted approach to strategic planning are reflected in the strategic plan and MEF is looking forward to the work that in be undertaken as a result of this strategic plan.





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Rupertsland  
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