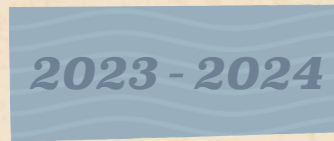




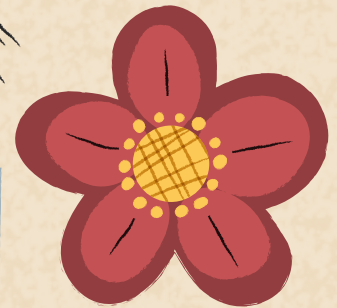
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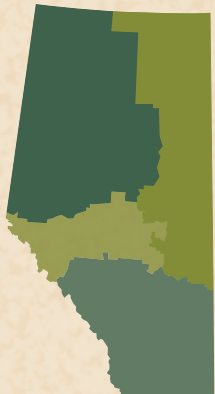


2023 - 2024



Annual Report

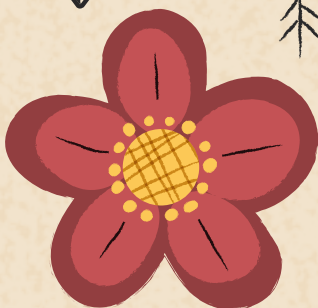
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Central



Rupert's Land
Institute
Métis Centre of Excellence



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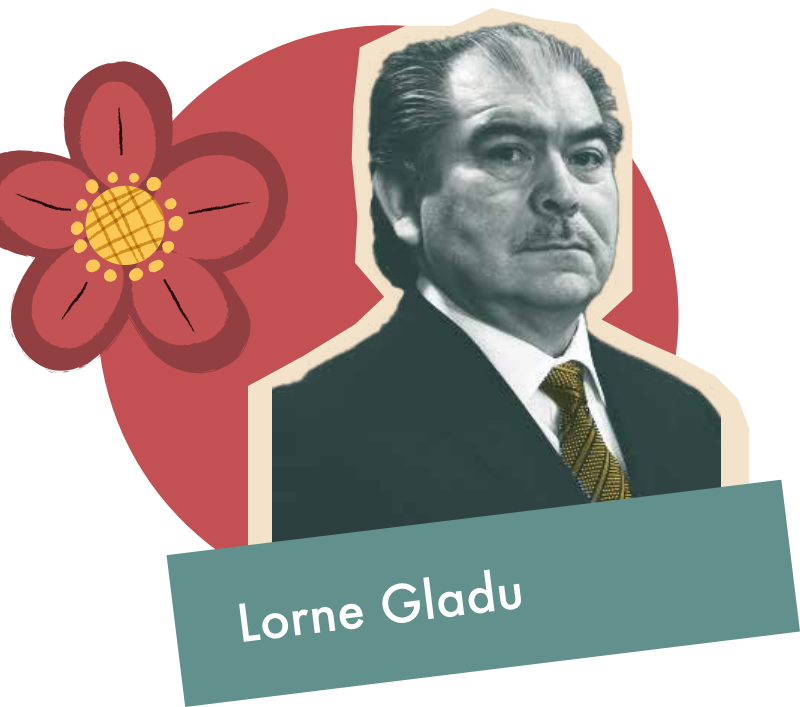


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Message from the Executive Chair



new CEO. I carried the dual role as RLI Board Chair, and as interim CEO to RLI administration.

As a former staff of the MNA and the founding CEO of RLI, I have proudly served the Métis Nation for more than 25 years. The opportunity to step into the role and serve as Executive Chair offered me the great privilege of continuing to support the advancement of Métis people, and to help guide the organization through the developmental and transitional stages of self-government under the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

To have senior administrative changes at RLI in mid-fiscal year had a profound impact on our staff and the structural design of METI-Services. As such, I want to take a moment to express my deep pride in Rupertsland Institute's incredible team, and the unwavering commitment each team member brings to deliver the mandates in education, training, and lifelong learning.

Together, we have strived to elevate the impact of our work in the community, while ensuring that those we serve receive the highest quality support under the Rupertsland Centre for METI-Services. This commitment is the cornerstone of our organization, and I am truly grateful for the passion and professionalism each member of our team brings to our shared vision.

As you review our annual report to the community, you will see some of the groundbreaking work accomplished by our Education Team to support educators and K-12 initiatives, as well as the work completed by our student interns under Métis Student Services. These initiatives combined with RLI's support for those seeking training or post-secondary

schooling, show our continued commitment to excellence and the objective to bring the best possible services to Métis citizens under the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

Through the years, RLI has successfully aligned or re-aligned its services to be more effective and responsive to the community. Our strategic adjustments not only enhanced program offerings, but ensured we remained agile in meeting the diverse challenges faced by those we serve. Further, our senior management team has made significant efforts to strengthen our internal controls and have positioned ourselves to continue improving and expanding upon the past successes as we navigate into the future of RLI. This foundational work is critical in maintaining the trust of our stakeholders and ensuring that we operate with utmost integrity.

Additionally, our dedication to rigorous business planning has set new policy standards for our organization. Through thoughtful analyses and strategic foresight, we have laid the groundwork for sustainable growth and impactful service delivery as we transition to Métis self-government.

The significant work that has been completed with the RLI Board of Governors to enhance the Board policies and CEO oversight is phenomenal to say the least. Clear and conscientious strategies, workflows, and communication channels will further enhance the integral work completed by the RLI Board, positioning us at a strategic advantage to enhance the Board's vital contributions. Further, we have a 2024-25 Business Plan that will bring changes to RLI – changes that will impact Métis citizens for years to come.

In closing, I want to thank my colleagues around the RLI Board table for being so supportive. All that we do at RLI would not be possible without good leadership in governance, dedicated regional teams, and a fabulous senior management team. I look forward to continuing to witness RLI's commitment to excellence in the future.

Sincerely,

Lorne Gladu
Executive Chair – RLI Board of Governors

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the past President of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), Audrey Poitras, for her years of dedicated service as Chair of the Rupertsland Institute (RLI) Board of Governors. I also want to thank our former colleague, Mark McCallum, for his service as a Board of Governor, and for his role as the CEO of RLI from 2021-2023.

In May 2023, I was appointed by the MNA Provincial Council to serve as Chair for the RLI Board of Governors. And with the departure of Mark McCallum in September 2023, I was invited to support the MNA and RLI as the Executive Chair of RLI, and to lead the recruitment process towards a

Rupertsland Board of Governors Welcomes New CEO



We are delighted to introduce Tavia Laliberte as the new CEO of Rupertsland Institute (RLI). Tavia brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to the educational and cultural advancement of the Métis Nation. Her appointment marks a significant milestone for RLI, and we are confident that under her leadership, we will continue to thrive and expand our impact.

Tavia's impressive career spans over two decades, with a strong focus on Indigenous higher education and organizational leadership. She holds a Master of Business Administration and is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Business Administration. Her professional journey includes pivotal roles at the Gabriel Dumont Institute, the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT), and North West College, where

she has consistently demonstrated her ability to develop strategic partnerships, enhance program offerings, and lead transformative initiatives.

As CEO, Tavia is focused on strengthening RLI's operations, transforming our service delivery model, and enhancing our brand. She is committed to working collaboratively with staff, stakeholders, and the Métis community to maximize our impact and explore new opportunities for growth. Her leadership style is characterized by a deep respect for Métis pedagogy, languages, and customs, ensuring that our programs remain relevant and responsive to the needs of our community.

Tavia looks forward to meeting Otipemisiwak Métis Government stakeholders, learning from community experiences, and hearing about successes and opportunities for growth. Together, we will build on RLI's strong foundation and continue to advance our mission of providing quality education and training that supports a skilled, knowledgeable, and self-reliant Métis Nation.

Please join us in welcoming Tavia Laliberte to the RLI family.

Board of Governors

2023 - 2024



Lorne Gladu
Executive Chair



Andrea Sandmaier
President of the Otipemisiwak
Métis Government



Richard Piche
Rupertsland Institute Board
of Governors Appointment



Dr. Adam Gaudry
University of Alberta Ex-Officio



Audrey Poitras
RLI Board Appointment



Lisa Wolfe
Otipemisiwak Métis
Government Ex-Officio



Donna Bell
Otipemisiwak Métis
Government Appointment



Dr. Ian Winship
University of Alberta Ex-Officio

The Rupertsland Institute (RLI) Métis Centre of Excellence is governed by a public and private sector Board of Governors comprised of representatives from the Métis business community, University of Alberta, industry and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. The Board of Governors is accountable to its sole shareholder – Métis Nation within Alberta – as represented by the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

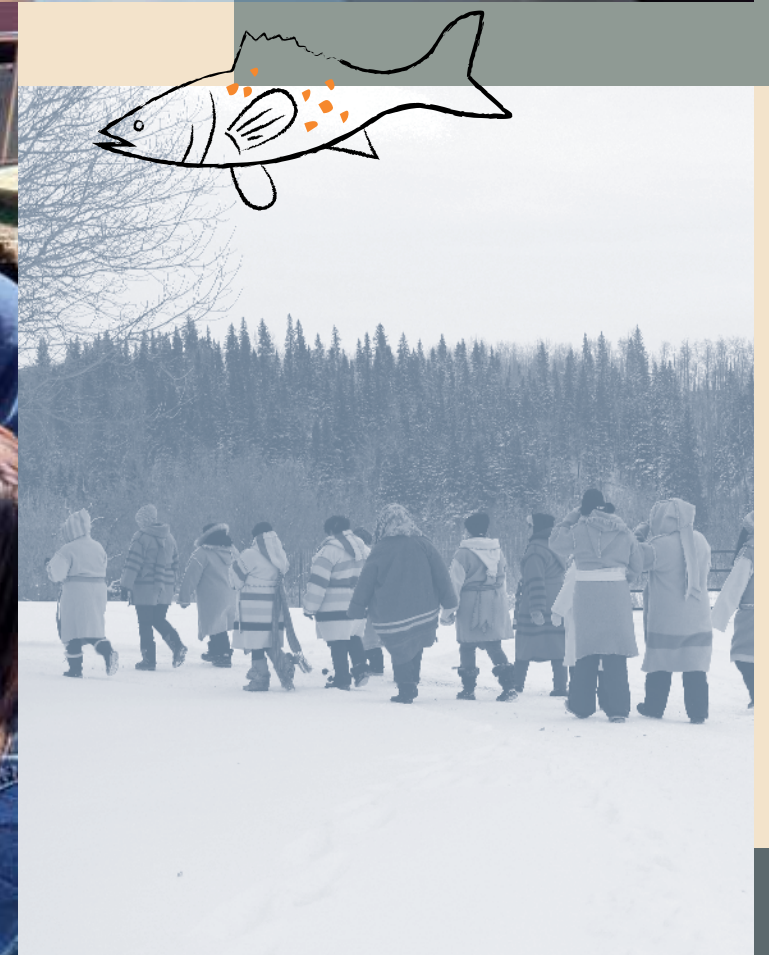
THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS ARE GUIDED BY:

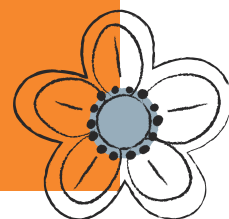
RUPERTSLAND’S VISION:
“A skilled, knowledgeable, and self-reliant Métis Nation.”

RUPERTSLAND MISSION:
“To enhance the self-sufficiency and well-being of Alberta Métis through quality education, training, and research.”



Education





Rupertsland Centre for Teaching and Learning

Rupertsland Centre for Teaching and Learning (RCTL) encompasses Métis Early Learning, K-12 supports, courses, professional learning, Métis Access to Post-Secondary (MAPS), and Michif Language Revitalization. RCTL envisions education in Alberta to include an understanding of Métis foundational knowledge, Métis content, and Métis resources for all learners and educators to access authentically and purposefully.

Almost every initiative (excluding Early Learning) is executed through three-year conditional grant funding from the Alberta Education and Advanced Education Ministries and federal departments like Canadian Heritage. Rupertsland Institute strives towards a K-12 Sub-Accord to ensure sustainable funding for Métis students and families.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

MÉTIS COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Over 190 Residential School Survivors, Day School survivors, their families, and Métis Nation community members shared their comments with RLI through our Métis Community Conversations engagement sessions held throughout the province. These insights will contribute to advancing intergenerational healing and reconciliation through education and future events with Rupertsland Institute, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, and our national strategic partners such as Canadian Heritage.

MÉTIS CROSSING SCHOOL EVENT - SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

Rupertsland Institute invited students from Aspenview School Division to gather at Métis Crossing on September 29 to commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Students from grades 4-9 learned about the impacts of residential schools on Métis people by exploring the Métis Memories mural, experiencing the healing art of Métis artist Angela Hall, and learning how to recognize traditional plants through a plant walk.

This event resulted in RLI being nominated for a Truth & Reconciliation award from the Provincial School Board Association.

Métis Languages

MICHIF COURSE LAUNCH - HERITAGE/NORTHERN MICHIF

Rupertsland Institute launched two Michif courses during Métis Week of 2023. These courses were designed and developed with Michif speaker educators Sandra Davenport, Ashley Gagnon-Shaw, and elders Elaine Malbeuf and Norman Fleury. The two courses feature Northern Michif and Heritage Michif. Each course is entirely virtual and self-led, with an online community of support in the Rupertsland Education Community Connections (RECC) Room.

MICHIF IN THE CLASSROOM

Michif in the Classroom was a six-month pilot course running from October 2023 to March 2024. The course involved a virtual group of K-12 educators across Alberta.

Michif Language Holder Susan Sinclair led 46 teachers in learning how to speak, read, and write introductory Michif. These educators are now integrating Michif into their K-12 classrooms across Alberta. RLI's feedback from this pilot was overwhelmingly positive, and we will continue with this initiative next year!

Early Learning

EARLY LEARNING EDUCATION CHILDCARE TRAINING (ELECT)

This Métis-centric program is designed for Métis early learning educators who are in key positions and serve many Métis early learners.

23 Early Learning Educators received ELECT certificates after completing over 200 hours of Métis-specific training. This training included Métis Foundational Knowledge, Michif Language basics, Storytelling, and Land/Cultural-Based experiential learning.

This unique and authentic program was led by Métis community members, Knowledge Holders, Elders, and Métis educators from Rupertsland Institute.

**APPLY OR INQUIRE FOR ELECT YEAR 3
AND ELECT SUMMER INTENSIVE YEAR 2**
Contact earlylearning@rupertsland.org for more information and to apply!

MÉTIS EARLY LEARNING VIDEOS
Check out the Rupertsland Centre for Teaching and Learning YouTube Channel to view all the available Early Learning videos and to learn more about ELECT!



NORQUEST DAYHOME EARLY LEARNING CULTURAL COMPONENT

RLI and NorQuest College partnered to create an educational opportunity for Métis individuals to pursue education as day home providers. RLI's Métis Education Team delivered authentic Métis culture components online, involving Knowledge Holders and the community, to support students in weaving Métis-specific learning into their day homes. **11 students completed this training.**

EARLY LEARNING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITH RLI

RLI provided Métis-centric professional development to over 75 early learning educators and preschool directors. Rupertsland's Métis History and Identity sessions were held for two different partnerships with KPSquared, a Métis-owned, award-winning early learning centre in Fort McMurray, and Aboriginal Headstart at their Early Learning Educators' Conference.



K-12 Education

MÉTIS K-12 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In autumn 2023, RLI began a thorough needs assessment of the K-12 system. The needs assessment examines the current educational landscape in Alberta schools, the provincial curriculum, and current Métis resources on the approved Alberta Education list through a Métis lens.

A team of 14 Métis educators was formed to lead the engagement process with Métis citizens and communities across Alberta.

This upcoming year, we will include a report featuring what we heard from the community and Métis professionals. Our findings will become recommendations for RLI's strategic planning to support better Métis learning in Alberta.

Thank you to Terry Lynn Cook, Jason Bigcharles, and the Northwest Regional Learning Consortium (NRLC) for their partnership on this endeavour.



ALBERTA CURRICULUM RESPONSE

Rupertsland Institute is recognized as a key education stakeholder and sits on many education action and advisory committees. Through these roles, RLI engaged with and provided feedback on the current social studies curriculum drafts. Much work remains to ensure an accurate Métis perspective is reflected throughout the curriculum.

TUTORING

RLI provides tutoring services for Métis students through EduLearn, focusing on supporting Métis students from K-12.

Over 200 Métis students accessed tutoring services.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONFERENCES

The Rupertsland Centre for Teaching and Learning (RCTL) facilitated over 80 professional learning opportunities for school divisions across the province and conferences such as the College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) Annual and Indigenous Gatherings, Supporting Indigenous Language Revitalization (SILR), and the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) conferences.

RCTL presented nationally at ULEAD and Indspire and reached over 1,300 educators last year.



NATIONAL INDIGENOUS EDUCATION FOR RECONCILIATION NETWORK GATHERING - NIERNG

NIERNG is a gathering where many educators, associations, community members, and learning centres convene to share resources and strategies for advancing reconciliation. This year, NIERNG was hosted by Rupertsland Institute at Métis Crossing for the 2023 Gathering. Métis Nation of British Columbia and Métis Nation of Ontario were our honoured guests.

KISKINOHAMÂKAN YOUTH PROGRAM

The Kiskinohamâkan Youth Program was a cultural workshop program facilitated by two Métis Youth Knowledge Holders, Alexa Lizotte and Logan Beauchamp, who led Métis cultural experiences for youth in Northern Gateway Schools. They invited two additional Métis Youth Knowledge Keepers, Brianna Lizotte and Cory Poitras, to join them in sharing and celebrating Métis culture. 1059 students at three schools in Whitecourt (Central Elementary School, Percy Baxter Middle School, and Pat Hardy Elementary School) were invited to learn Métis jigging, create Métis-inspired dot art, finger weave, and spend meaningful time with the Métis Knowledge Holders.

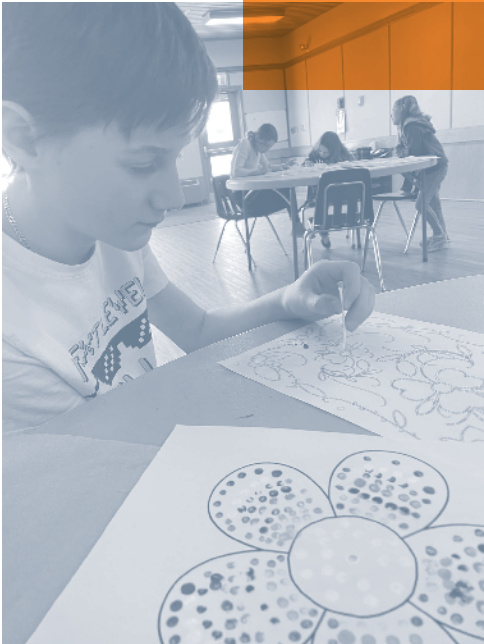


MAPS

The Métis Access to Post-Secondary program (MAPS) supports the transition from high school to post-secondary studies by providing tutoring, technology support, and career-related resources. Events and resources are designed to support Métis high school students toward career and educational success.

MAPS supported 84 students this year by collaborating with the MNA Youth Centre, Braided Journeys, and the Red Willow Committee (St. Albert Métis Local).

The workshops focused on topics including job search, resume writing, interview skills, community building, and assistance accessing funding.



Post-Secondary Education

Rupertsland Institute's Post-Secondary Education (PSE) program significantly increases access to post-secondary education for Métis Albertans. Through supporting Métis Albertans to access university-level education, this program is crucial in supporting Métis students throughout their educational journeys, addressing barriers, and providing essential resources to ensure success.

The Rupertsland Post Secondary program offers financial assistance alleviating financial burdens that often deter individuals from pursuing higher education, making it more accessible and achievable. By providing financial aid, the program encourages enrollment and enables Métis Albertans to focus on their studies without the added stress of financial insecurity.

Further, students funded by the Post-Secondary Education program are supported through their educational journey by a Métis Advisor who ensures their success, assists with problem-solving, and provides informational services to other cultural connections and events pertinent to student success. This holistic approach ensures that Métis students feel valued and supported in their educational pursuits,

creating a sense of belonging and empowerment that enhances their overall educational experience.

826 total students were funded in Rupertsland Institute fiscal year of 2023/2024 to access post-secondary university education programs. Among those students, **216** students were undertaking their final year of their program and graduated with a post-secondary education credential.

Additionally, Rupertsland Institute was proud to fund 47 students to pursue post-graduate studies.

In conclusion, the Rupertsland Post Secondary program plays a pivotal role in advancing educational opportunities for Métis Albertans. By offering financial support, the program not only facilitates access to higher education but also nurtures the academic success and personal growth of Métis students. Through its comprehensive approach, the program contributes significantly to the empowerment, cultural preservation, and socioeconomic advancement of Métis communities in Alberta.

826

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216

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Clients Who Have Graduated Programs in 2023/2024

106

Certificate Program Graduates

127

Diploma Program Graduates

191

Degree Program Graduates

35

Post-Grad Program Graduates



Métis Student Services

NORQUEST STUDENT CENTRE

The inaugural Métis Student Services (MSS) Centre was launched in November 2023 at the NorQuest College Edmonton campus. This comprehensive student center provides essential support and resources for Métis students and alumni, reinforcing Rupertsland Institute's (RLI) commitment to their academic success and well-being. This centre is proud to be the first-ever student centre for Métis students.

SHAKAMOHTA

Shakamohta, meaning 'connect' in Heritage Michif, is the podcast initiative led and produced by the Rupertsland Métis Student Association. Debuting in June 2023 with its first series of interviews, the podcast launched its second season in May 2024. Episodes feature guests exploring topics such as music, sports, arts, food and much more.



INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

RLI's Métis Student Internship Program offers Métis students meaningful work experiences and opportunities to engage deeply with the Métis community and culture. This program allows Métis students within RLI to create initiatives, support project or department-specific needs, and gain practical and meaningful workplace experience. Our commitment to supporting Métis education, strengthening community ties, and providing valuable opportunities for students formulates the key to our internship program's success.

STUDENT AND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Rupertsland Métis Student and Alumni Association (RMSA) is a framework for supporting Métis students and alumni by fostering connections to their culture, community, and professional development opportunities. It provides numerous benefits and serves as a bridge from RLI to the wider community. The Rupertsland Métis Student and Alumni Association was proud to welcome **2,114** new students and alumni to bring our growing community to **7935**.



Projects Under Development

Métis Student Services is undergoing development on multiple initiatives in the 2023/2024 fiscal year with preparation to launch in the 2024/2025 fiscal year. Mandated to provide Métis students the support, information, and community connections necessary to encourage the successful completion of studies, Métis Student Services is exploring various initiatives and services to meet those needs. These initiatives include:



EN ROO

Development continued on a digital platform to facilitate communication and resource sharing amongst Métis students and alumni. En Roo is a user-friendly application created by students, for students, with clear navigation designed to fit the user's needs. En Roo will assist students to browse scholarships, resources, and events that apply to their field of study, among other features.

AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

This initiative offers volunteer opportunities for an engaged body of Métis student volunteers and alumni to represent Rupertsland Institute and guide past, present, and future members of the Rupertsland Métis Student Association. Participants will gain valuable experience in a team environment while fostering strong community connections.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

In collaboration with Indspire, the Rupertsland Mentorship stream will be created within this national program, aiming to provide Rupertsland students and alumni with greater access to mentors and mentees while developing comprehensive support for Métis citizens. This initiative also supports Indspire's strategic goal of increasing Métis engagement with their awards and services. Through a digital platform, it connects Métis students with mentors, alumni, elders, and laureates, strengthening Métis culture and community, and enriching self-determination.



Established in 1991 by the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) was incorporated as a nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to enhancing educational outcomes for Alberta Métis.

By collaborating with the MNA and leveraging the capabilities of the Labour Market Development Unit Program (LMD), MEF has significantly grown to support Métis students across Alberta.

FOUNDATION GROWTH AND IMPACT

In 2006, the strategic collaboration between the MNA and what is now known as Rupertsland Institute began capitalizing MEF, initiating negotiations for Métis endowments with post-secondary institutions throughout Alberta. These efforts were supported by funds from the National Aboriginal Labour Market Development Program.

Currently, MEF boasts an endowment portfolio valued at approximately \$33 million. This portfolio includes investments in 20 post-secondary institutions and two internally managed endowments, demonstrating our commitment to fostering educational opportunities for the Métis community.

In 2023, MEF aggressively began adding \$5.6 million to the endowment portfolio. This will supplement existing endowments as well as include the creation of two new endowments. A notable addition is a \$1.5 million endowment being created in partnership with the national organization Indspire, specifically designated for Otipemisiwak Métis citizens, and working towards a \$500,000 endowment being established at King’s University. This expansion ensures our citizens have the freedom to attend any post-secondary institution in Alberta and have access to Métis Scholar Awards.

GOVERNANCE

The MEF is governed by the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, reflecting our deep-rooted commitment to the Métis Nation within Alberta. The Board of Directors meets quarterly, or as needed, to review and approve changes to endowment agreements, receive reports from post-secondary institutions, and discuss strategic adjustments to enhance our educational initiatives.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Andrea Sandmaier – President, Otipemisiwak Métis Government



Shannon Dunfield – Secretary of Records, Otipemisiwak Métis Government



Jason Ekeberg – Secretary of the Treasury, Otipemisiwak Métis Government

MÉTIS SCHOLAR AWARDS

A cornerstone of our foundation’s impact is the Métis Scholar Awards. The awards disburse proceeds from the endowment investments managed by each post-secondary partner, ensuring that funds directly support Métis students’ educational aspirations.

Since the inception of MEF, more than \$10 million has been distributed through over 2,400 Métis Scholar Awards. This year alone, we disbursed \$833,998 to 181 deserving Métis Scholars.

Additionally, there are two MEF-managed endowments, supporting Métis citizens pursuing educational opportunities abroad, engaging in unique athletic or artistic endeavors, and participating in Early Learning and Child Care Programs.



MÉTIS SCHOLAR AWARD DATABASE

The Métis Scholar Award Database (MSAD) serves as the repository for the operational and financial annual reporting information from each post-secondary partner that collaborates with the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) to distribute the Métis Scholar Awards. The MSAD is crucial for informing the MEF about the students who have received awards (operational reports) and the performance of the post-secondary partners’ endowments over the previous year (financial reports).

In 2022, MEF along with Big River Analytics undertook significant steps to enhance the integrity and utility of the MSAD. They met with post-secondary partners to review their data collection, reporting, and accounting

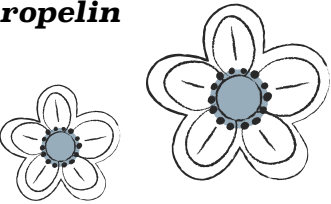
responsibilities, and developed a standardized process for reporting. This initiative aimed to ensure data integrity. As a result of the collaborative engagement between MEF, Big River Analytics, and our post-secondary partners, the data in the MSAD as of June 2023 is now complete and accurate.

The establishment of the MSAD Reporting Framework has been a pivotal advancement. This framework outlines the data collection process and includes a guide and toolkit designed to standardize reporting conditions and significantly improve the quality of reporting. The enhancements to the MSAD are expected to provide MEF with reliable data to better assess the impact of the Métis Scholar Awards and support strategic decisions to optimize the support provided to Métis students across Alberta.



“
Thanks to your generous sponsorship I’m able to pursue my passion for nursing at Keyano College. The Métis Scholar Award has helped alleviate my financial burden and is allowing me to focus on my studies. Again thank you!”

— Ashley Kropelin



2023 Métis Scholar Award Disbursements

Post-Secondary Institution	Original Date Established	Total Number of Awards	Total Funds
MacEwan University	2008	16	63,000.00
University of Alberta	2008	29	227,500.00
NorQuest College	2008	10	47,500.00
NAIT	2009	23	90,500.00
Portage College	2009	7	21,000.00
Northwestern Polytechnic*	2011	1	2,500.00
University of Calgary	2012	18	115,000.00
Mount Royal University	2012	8	25,200.00
University of Lethbridge	2012	10	54,228.00
Lethbridge College	2013	4	14,000.00
Athabasca University	2014	1	2,500.00
Northern Lakes College	2015	7	11,500.00
Lakeland College	2015	7	19,500.00
Bow Valley College	2015	6	18,500.00
MEF Endowment Trust Fund	2015	14	70,000.00
Medicine Hat College	2018	3	6,000.00
SAIT	2018	2	6,000.00
Concordia University of Edmonton	2018	2	5,000.00
ELCC Endowment Trust Fund	2020	10	29,570.00
Keyano College**	2021	-	-
Red Deer Polytechnic	2021	3	5,000.00
Olds College**	2021	-	-
Total Contributions		181	\$833,998.00

* Current collection year (2023/2024) presents 1-year lagged information (2022/2023).
** No awards will be distributed until the 2023/2024 school year, as outlined in initial endowment agreement. Reporting is lagged 1-year due to post-secondary fiscal-years ending beyond this reporting period.



Métis Education Foundation (MEF) Strategic Plan 2023-2026 Summary

MISSION:
To support Métis Nation of Alberta citizens through their journey in higher learning by cultivating good cultural practices, sound policies, and governance, and by establishing growth, partnerships and community supports in Métis education

VISION:
To enhance the educational and employment opportunities for Métis individuals through strategic investments and partnerships.

GOALS:

1. Promote Growth of MEF Endowments:

- Goal: Reach a market value of \$50M by 2035.
- Outcomes: Secure and grow endowments, conduct financial and risk assessments, and develop fundraising strategies.

2. Maximize Funding and Student Access:

- Goal: Support at least 500 post-secondary students annually by 2035.
- Outcomes: Increase funding, enhance accessibility, and implement marketing strategies.

3. Strengthen Governance through Strategic Policy:

- Goal: Establish governance policies supporting targeted growth by 2024.
- Outcomes: Develop comprehensive governance policies, provide professional development for the Board, and ensure alignment with MEF's mission and values.

4. Build Administrative Capacity:

- Goal: Ensure sustainable funding for MEF under Métis self-government by March 31, 2024.
- Outcomes: Identify funding sources, develop administrative policies, and provide professional development for staff.

Transition to Self-Government:

- Objectives: Engage with the MNA Transition Committee, gather community feedback, and align governance and administration with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

CENTRAL THEMES:

- Growth: Increase access to and funding for students through targeted analysis and research.
- Impact: Support activities and partnerships that align

with MEF's mission, vision, and values.

- Governance: Establish MEF as an independent affiliate under the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, focusing on policy creation and operational support.

PATH FORWARD:

- Commitment to strategic planning and delivering quality supports for lifelong learning.
- Collaboration with sister institutions and meaningful community engagement.
- Adherence to Policies, Terms of Reference, and Agreements to guide decision-making and operational activities.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Support has been provided for over 2000 Métis students with just over \$8 Million distributed
- Strong partnerships with post-secondary institutions in Alberta.
- Establishment of Memorandums of Understanding for future collaborations.

The MEF Strategic Plan 2023-2026 sets a clear path for continued growth and support for Métis students, emphasizing sustainability, independence, and community engagement.

Looking Forward

As we look toward the future, the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) remains steadfast in our dedication to expanding educational opportunities and fostering academic excellence among Métis students. Our robust endowment portfolio and the comprehensive reach of our awards across Alberta are testaments to our unwavering commitment to the educational success of Métis students.

Structured and thoughtful planning, reflective of MEF's historical achievements and future direction, forms the backbone of our approach to strategic planning. This multi-faceted approach is evident in the strategic plan developed, and MEF is looking forward to the work that will be undertaken as a result. We are poised to continue our mission with renewed vigor, ensuring the Métis community's educational aspirations are supported and our students are equipped to thrive in their academic and professional endeavours.

We are proud of our accomplishments and are deeply grateful for the continued support from our community and educational partners. Together, we are building a foundation not only supporting the current generation of Métis learners but also paving the way for future generations.



Training



Métis Training to Employment

The Métis Training to Employment program offers services and assistance to Métis individuals in preparing for, seeking, and maintaining employment.

Going forward, Métis Training to Employment will proudly offer funding for:

- Certificate programs under 52 weeks
- Diploma programs up to three years in length
- Other short-term training as related to employment or skill development, and
- Registered trade programs

Métis Training to Employment also offers the following services to clients:

JOB ASSISTANCE

- **Resume building support through an assessment of transferable and marketable skills**
- **Referral to employment opportunities and job search assistance**
- **Employment Partnership Program**
 - › Allows eligible clients to gain valuable work experience and on the job training with a designated employer in a chosen field of work
 - › Rupertsland Institute will support the selected employer with employment related costs on a case-by-case basis for approved clients/employer contracts
- **Youth Summer Employment Program**
 - › Summer employment available to eligible Métis Youth (15-30) who are returning to school in the fall
 - › Rupertsland Institute will support wages of summer student employment opportunities on a case-by-case basis for approved clients/employer contracts
- **Employment Supports Program**
 - › Rupertsland will support clients to gain access to required tools, work attire, short term course certifications (such as safety tickets), or mobility assistance to secure employment
- **Entrepreneurial Development Program**
 - › Expert led workshops with curriculum developed specifically for Métis Entrepreneurs, learn more at: Métis Entrepreneurship Workshop
- **Group Training Projects**
 - › Group based training projects based upon current industry market demands

INFORMATION SERVICES

- **Employment and career information**
- **Resources to support job seekers and access to job banks**
- **Information on local service providers**
- **Phone, fax, and internet services for registered clients**

Our specially trained advisors provide these services from 10 offices in four distinct regions within Alberta and 2 mobile service units traveling across the province.

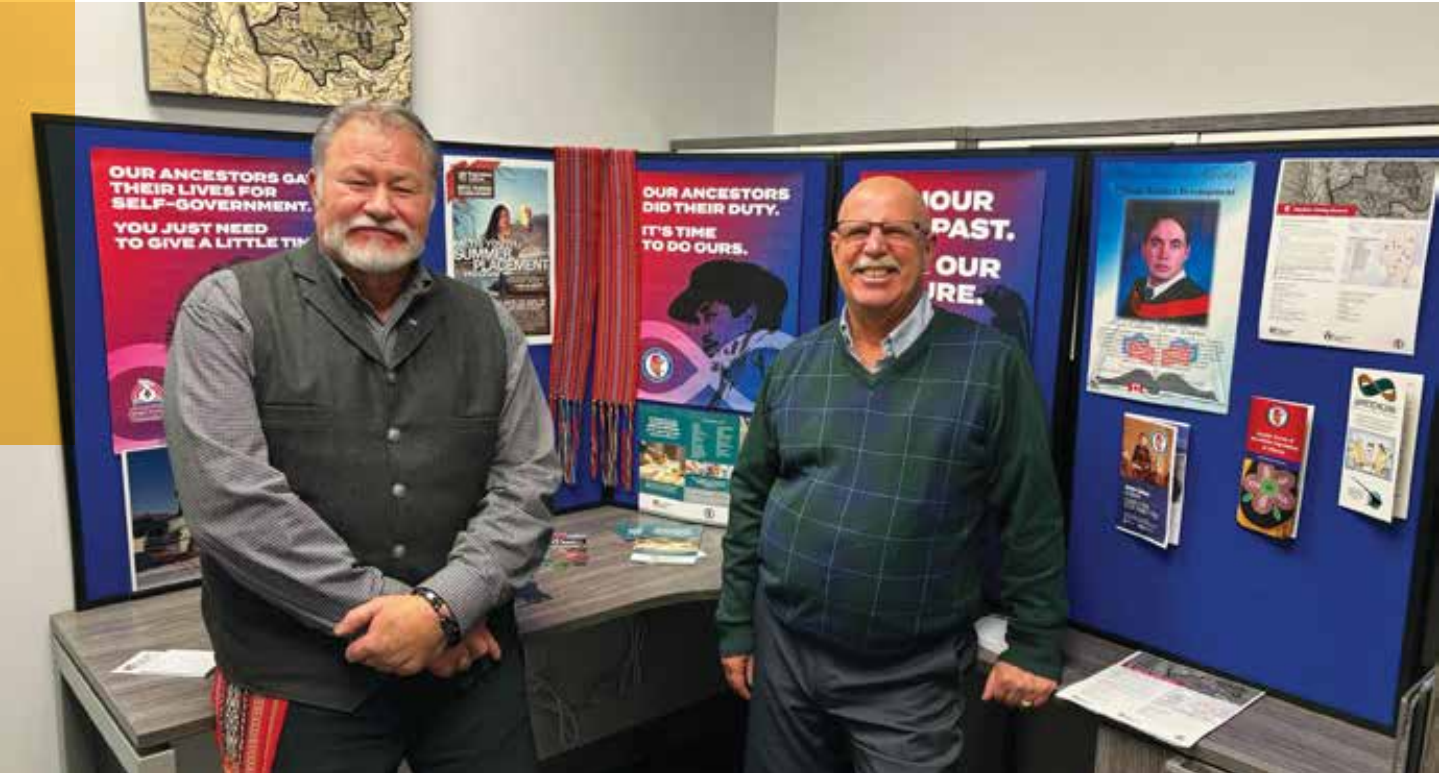
Our offices are distributed strategically across the province as follows:

Northwest Grande Prairie High Prairie Peace River Slave Lake	Northeast Bonnyville Lac La Biche Fort McMurray
Central Edmonton	South Calgary Red Deer



Stats by Region

REGION	FUNDED	EMPLOYED/ SELF-EMPLOYED	RETURN TO SCHOOL
Northwest	107	311	33
Northeast	120	116	51
Central	274	262	43
South	184	163	44
Online	303	211	21
TOTAL	988	1063	192



Northwest REGION

LEGEND



Northwest Region

Northeast Region

Central Region

South Region



In 2023-2024, the **Northwest Region** staff worked diligently to provide services to our Métis citizens. We provided job search, apprenticeship, Métis Employment & Training Services, as well as certificate, diploma, and degree students.

The Northwest regional team assisted **107** clients with their employment, training, and post-secondary needs. Of the clients we assisted, **311** secured employment or are self-employed, and **33** have returned to school.

Employment Partnerships

MÉTIS EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENT PROGRAM

- The Work Place
- Mossy Ridge Log Homes

SUMMER STUDENTS

- High Prairie Golf Course
- Grande Prairie Public Library
- Valleyview MNA Local 1929
- Grande Prairie MNA Local 1990
- Northwest Development Society
- Region 5 MNA office
- Rupertsland Institute in Peace River & Grande Prairie offices

Events Attended by NW Region Staff

- **May 2023:** Virtual Youth Conference, Peace River
- **July 2023:** Region 6 Métis Fest, Peace River
- **August 2023:** Region 6 Golf Tournament – Peace River
- **November 2023:** Métis Week Events – Charles Spencer High School, Grande Prairie
- **November 2023:** School Presentations – Grimshaw High School & Peace River High
- **November 2023:** Santa Parade – Peace River
- **March 2024:** Career Fair at Peace River High School
- **March 2024:** Youth Expo – Bonnetts Energy Centre, Grande Prairie
- **March 2024:** Career Fair at Northwest Polytechnic – Grande Prairie & Fairview



Day Home Project – Provincial Project

Rupertsland Institute identified a need for Métis day homes and childcare staff. RLI, in partnership with NorQuest College, worked to develop a Day Home Project to enable its individuals to pursue an education as a day home provider. The project was delivered live online to students throughout Alberta; it was a 16-week project delivered from October 2023 to January 2024. The project was designed to enhance the student's skill level by providing the skill set necessary to open their own day home or gain employment in the early childcare field. This training included digital literacy business training to prepare students for success in the ELCC industry.

Throughout the project, the Rupertsland Institute Education team taught Métis cultural lessons weekly to enhance the students' outcomes by providing valuable knowledge and resources.

The students felt confident integrating the Métis culture into their day-home programs. They earned a Day Home provider certificate from NorQuest and a Child Development Assistant—Level 1 Certificate from the Government of Alberta.

There was a lot of interest in the Day Home Project; **11** participants enrolled and successfully completed it, **4** participants opened a day home, **5** are employed full-time in various childcare centres in Alberta, and some students are actively seeking employment. Three project participants will return to college in September to further their education and obtain the Level 2 Child Development Worker certificate.

The Day Home Project was well received, and the instructors, participants, and advisors provided a lot of positive feedback.



“

I am thankful to Rupertsland Institute for funding my back to college course in Bookkeeping and Accounting. It is never easy or too late to go back to school to upgrade your skills or even broaden and enhance your education and experience...Thank you again for all your support and guidance to help me achieve my goals and reach success.”

— **Corina Chenard**



Northeast REGION

LEGEND



- Northwest Region
- Northeast Region
- Central Region
- South Region



This past year, the **Northeast Region** worked collaboratively to promote Rupertsland Institute within the communities of the Northeast. The team attended various career fairs in Conklin, Lac La Biche, Lloydminster, and Fort McMurray. Open houses were held by the team to celebrate Métis Week in Fort McMurray, Lac La Biche, and Bonnyville. Additionally, the team delivered presentations about funding options and summer student programs to high school students within the region. The team also travelled on Rupertsland Institute Mobile Units, which were stationed in areas such as Conklin, Boyle, Athabasca, Lloydminster, St. Paul, and Cold Lake.

The Northeast team confidently provided exceptional employment and training assistance to **120** clients, resulting in **116** securing employment or becoming self-employed and **51** deciding to return to school.

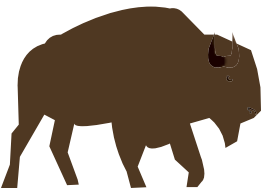
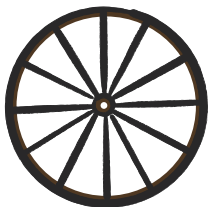
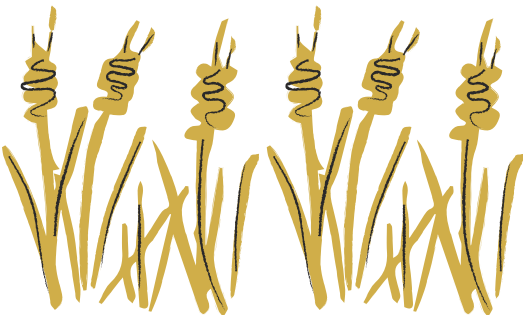
MÉTIS YOUTH SUMMER STUDENT PROGRAM 2023-2024
The region had **15** summer student placements, which offered fantastic opportunities for students to gain valuable work experience during the summer months. This was a chance to learn new skills, meet new people, and make meaningful connections that will last a lifetime.

- SUMMER STUDENTS WORKED IN PLACES LIKE:**
- People’s Museum Society – St. Paul
 - Canadian Native Friendship Centre in Bonnyville
 - Rupertsland Institute – Bonnyville
 - Lakeland Humane Society
 - Region 1 office
 - Bonnyville Golf & Country Club
 - Covenant Health
 - Lac La Biche Historical Society
 - Region 2 office
 - McMurray Métis
 - Aspen View Public School Division
 - Métis Crossing
 - EVNPR Enterprises, Ltd.
 - Lac La Biche Library
 - Town of St. Paul

“

Since I started my first year of post-secondary at Lakeland College, Rupertsland Institute has helped me along the way. They provided me with the financial support to enable me to focus primarily on my studies. After achieving my diploma in Business Administration, Real Estate Appraisal and Assessment at Lakeland College and a BComm. Degree majoring in Finance at The University of Saskatchewan, Thea Abdolhady connected me with Synergy Credit Union where I now work today as a Business and Ag. Advisor. I wouldn’t be where I am today without Thea and Rupertsland Institute.”

— **Dawson Vallier**



Central REGION

The **Central Region**, with one office in Edmonton, also serves the greater Edmonton area and west to Jasper through our RV mobile service.

The staff in the Central Region continued to provide services to those seeking training for years one to four of a trade, certificates programs, employment supports, employment partnerships, and the final two semesters of a degree.

The Central assisted **274** individuals with education, training and employment needs. Of the completed journeys, **262** individuals are currently employed or self-employed and **43** have returned to school.

The Central Region has seen a decline in employment opportunities due to the rising cost of living and instability in the oil and gas industry. There have been numerous layoffs in various occupations, leading to an increase in requests for training opportunities.



In the summer of 2023, RLI supported seven businesses in hiring summer students, and **24** youths found rewarding positions where they could apply their education to employment.

The Edmonton staff is called upon throughout the year to attend many functions, and they are happy to engage with the community to meet Métis citizens and promote RLI's programs and services. The Central staff attended over **20** events over the past year.

On November 17, 2023, the Central office celebrated Métis Week by hosting an open house. Attendees included dignitaries from the NDP party, Sarah Hoffman and Brooks Arcand-Paul, MLA for Edmonton-West Henday. Lisa Wolf and Sarah Wolf from the Otipemisiwak Métis Government also attended, along with numerous others who enjoyed refreshments and music.

LEGEND

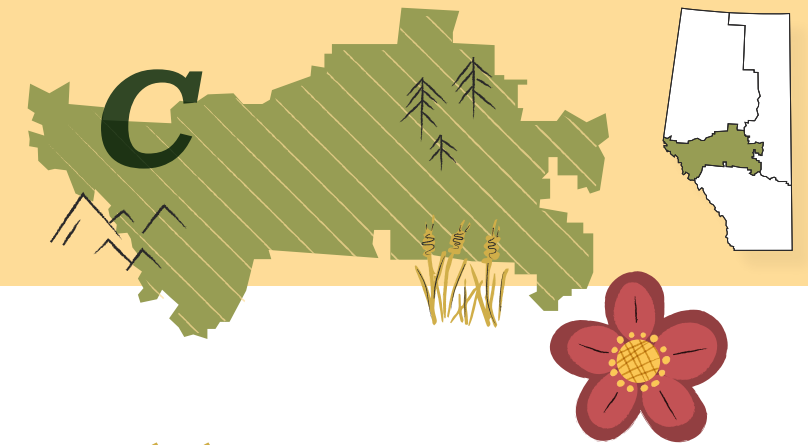


Northwest Region

Northeast Region

Central Region

South Region



Kasey Dicristafaro



Sarah Smith



“

I was incredibly fortunate enough to receive funding support from Rupertsland Institute, and its effect on my life was like a ripple effect! The funding I was provided with allowed me to focus on my studies and relieved an incredible amount of stress from my life.”

— **Kasey Dicristafaro**



“

RLI inspired me to work harder than I ever have before. Having to do monthly updates with Michelle kept me always feeling very motivated and accountable for all my success. I felt very supported and very inspired to make them proud...My experience with Michelle and RLI was wonderful, and I will forever be grateful for their support and for allowing me to achieve my dreams.”

— **Sarah Smith**

South REGION

The **South region** team supported **184** clients with their employment and training needs. Out of the completed journeys, **163** clients have secured employment or are self-employed, and 44 have returned to school. During the Enhanced Staff Structure, the team also assisted **164** clients with funding for their post-secondary education journeys, including those attending post-graduate programs.

During Métis Week, we hosted two Open Houses at our offices, one in Calgary and one in Red Deer. In Red Deer, we welcomed **28** community members and various organizations. In Calgary, the newly elected District 5 and 6 representatives attended, along with **43** employers, clients, and community organizations.

In the community, we engaged with numerous high schools, post-secondary institutions, community organizations, and employment agencies. We participated in career expos, job fairs, and trade shows throughout the year. We were thrilled to contribute to the success of the second-ever RLI Alumni event hosted in our region and supported by the RMSA Team. Additionally, we seized the opportunity to join the MNA citizenship drive to educate newly applied MNA citizens about RLI and our services. Lastly, RLI proudly partnered with the Region 3 Marlene Lanz Annual Golf Tournament. The South team eagerly anticipates the upcoming year.

Employment Partnerships

MÉTIS EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENT PROGRAM

- TGL Consulting
- Cougar Technical Services
- 222 Concrete Ltd.

MÉTIS YOUTH SUMMER STUDENT PROGRAM

- Tail Creek Campground
- Métis Local 145 Rocky Mountain House
- SAAMIS Employment and Training



“

I can say without a doubt that I would not have been able to accomplish this academic achievement without Rupertsland Institute’s financial support and holding me accountable each month with check-ins. From my humble beginnings with Chad to finishing it off with you and the other advisors I had for short stints, I always felt heard, encouraged, and advocated for. ‘Thank you’ feels so insignificant. I am in deep appreciation for this gift of higher education.”

— **Sherri Lynn Stokes**



LEGEND



- Northwest Region
- Northeast Region
- Central Region
- South Region



“

Support from Rupertsland Institute comes from so many avenues, not just in a financial sense but in irrevocably shaping my experience as a Métis student. They provided my first opportunities as a public speaker, and have been nothing but kind and encouraging as I navigate that new passion. Working for RLI as a Research Intern has only grown my fondness for the projects, funding, and support that only comes as a result of the passionate staff. As my Grandfather, Elder George Pambrun would say, “Education is the Métis future.”

— **Luke Pambrun**



Provincial PROJECTS

LEGEND



Northwest Region
Northeast Region
Central Region
South Region



“

My biggest takeaway was the financial portion of the workshop, but truly would say everything was amazing. It gave me so many more things to think about or consider that I would never have on my own. Your team was incredible, they made it enjoyable and comfortable. Thank You.”

— **Anonymous Participant
Survey Response**



Rupertsland Institute (RI) creates training projects and programs, often in partnership with local companies, institutions and other stakeholders. Training projects may be region-specific or available across the province. As a Métis individual, you must be ready, willing and able to obtain employment following training and assistance from RI following completion of the training project.

CURRICULUM RE-DESIGN OF ENTREPRENEUR WORKSHOPS:

Rupertsland Institute Métis Training to Employment has been offering Entrepreneur Workshops to Métis Albertans who are interested in starting or expanding their small businesses since 2017. The landscape of the entrepreneurial sector has undertaken a major transition since the original curriculum design in 2017 due to natural evolution of societal situations. To ensure that Rupertsland's programs and services continue to align with the overarching theme of excellence, RI conducted a complete curriculum revamp of the Métis Entrepreneur Workshops utilizing subject matter experts and actual operational and successful Métis businesses and entrepreneurs as the framework of the program.

Once the curriculum redesign was completed 57 Métis Entrepreneurs attended the workshops in the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

WOMEN IN MICROBUSINESS SEMINAR SERIES:

In addition to the overall curriculum redesign of the Métis Entrepreneurial Workshop, the incredibly successful and highly demanded Women in Microbusiness Seminars expanded its curriculum and service delivery scope in the 2023/2024 fiscal year. With the addition of seminars on Content Marketing, Consumer Marketing, and Brand Strategy the outreach efforts of the small businesses were expanded with relevant, pertinent, and actionable lessons. Further, one-on-one mentorship hours with subject matter experts were provided to the Métis Women who completed



the seminar series, allowing them personalized and individualized time to discuss matters of concern relevant to themselves and their business specifically.

Throughout the year 65 women participated in the facilitated seminar sessions and gained valuable insights on pursuing or continuing their micro-businesses.

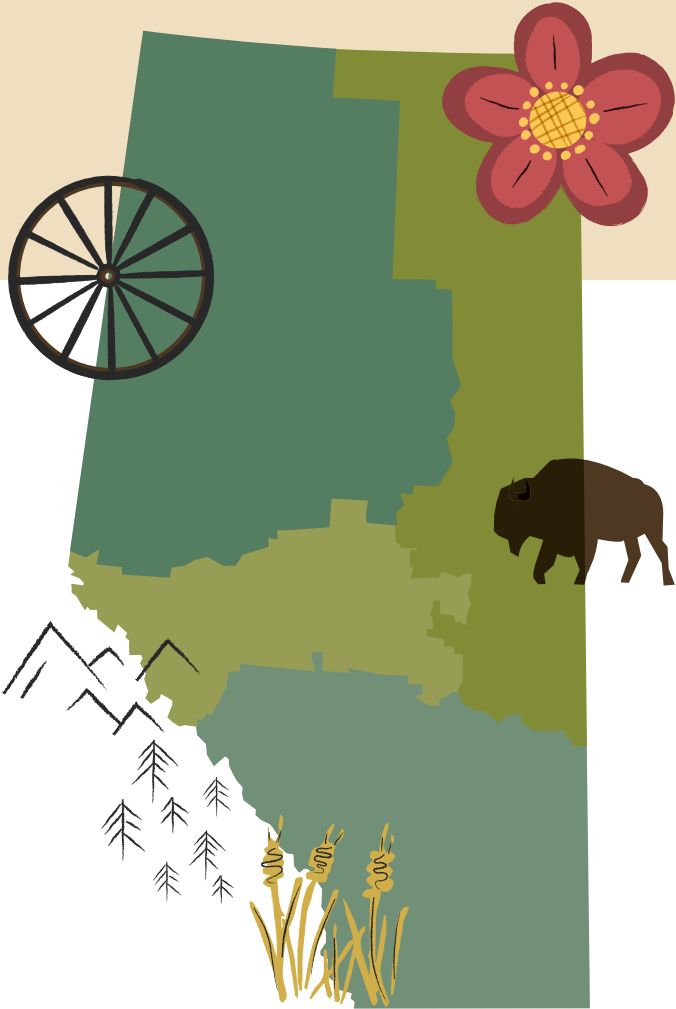
Métis Entrepreneurial Access Program and Women in Microbusiness Program:

To complement the workshops and seminars offered by Rupertsland Institute, the partnership was continued with Apeetogosan Métis Development Inc. to continue providing wrap-around services to Métis Albertans who are pursuing loans to open or expand their business through both the Métis Entrepreneurial Access Program and the Women in Microbusiness program. Rupertsland Institute, through this partnership, provides support to business owners to be able to access services such as business planning, liquidity studies, risk/benefit calculations, and launch/expansion plans to ensure that Métis entrepreneurs have the services they require to be successful in their business endeavors. Through this program 64 women received services through the Women in Microbusiness program and fourteen (14) clients received support through the Métis Entrepreneurial Access Program.

Virtual Job Search Workshops:

In the second year of implementation, the Rupertsland Institute Virtual Job Search Workshops continued to be utilized by our community to support self-paced learning in employment search. Through this program, four unique workshops developed specifically for Métis Albertans cover resume writing, cover letter writing, job search techniques, and career decision-making activities to support the client on their own time to pursue new employment opportunities.

54 clients accessed the workshops on Rupertsland Institute's Moodle platform throughout the 2023/2024 fiscal year.





Mobile METI-Service Centre

RLI Mobile Services continued to provide scheduled services to communities throughout the territory.

RLI also attended numerous special events such as Métis Cultural events, trade shows, school events, job fairs, recruiting fairs, golf tournaments, parades, and the MNA AGA at Métis Crossing. **The three RVs logged 73,000 km in the last year.**

The Mobile Offices continue to be recognized in communities as a safe, dependable resource for not only access to education, training, and research assistance and information but also provide referrals to all other services provided by the MNA. We receive numerous inquiries about membership, harvesting rights, housing, and other services.

We refer citizens to the appropriate affiliates. In addition to our two larger Mobile Units, we introduced a new smaller Mobile Office that enables us to provide services to more locations and is also being used to attend events where space is an issue. RV4 has been a great addition.

Wildfires

The RLI Executive Team identified a need to assist residents disrupted by the extensive wildfires starting in May 2023. The Mobile Units were reassigned to provide some assistance to residents throughout the affected areas. Supplies were purchased and distributed to help with the additional burden placed on residents.

Wildfire Emergency Response: Assistance was provided at six wildfire events in the following communities: twice in the Slave Lake and High Prairie region, twice in Valleyview, and once each in High Level and Jasper.

6

Wildfire Emergency Responses.



Apprenticeship Services Program

This year marked the second and final year of Rupertsland Institute's participation in the Apprenticeship Services Program, funded by Employment and Social Development Canada. Once again, RLI successfully assisted dozens of Indigenous applicants (Métis, First Nations, and Inuit) and non-Indigenous women (gender) to find their pathway to a trade career. This program was specifically designed to pair these potential apprentices with small and medium-sized businesses across the province, helping to build the capacity of those organizations alongside the apprentices they have sponsored.

Before the project officially closed on March 31st, 2024, we achieved the following:



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training

Part of RLI's Apprenticeship Services Program included developing and facilitating a Métis-centric diversity, equity, and inclusion workshop. After two successful workshops the previous year, our team worked with curriculum developers to refine the concepts further and make them more relevant to the Métis experience. We also conducted a week-long train-the-trainer session, during which five RLI team members learned how to facilitate the program. After successfully concluding the training portion, our RLI facilitators conducted consecutive workshops to cap off the week.

The first RLI-facilitated session on November 30, 2023:

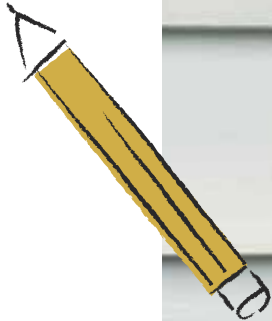
- 21 attendees
 - > 5 in-person
 - > 16 virtual

The second RLI-led cohort on December 1, 2023:

- 22 attendees
 - > 6 in-person
 - > 16 virtual

The third and final session of the year took place on February 26, 2024:

- 32 attendees
 - > 4 in-person
 - > 28 virtual



“

I am really thankful to ASP and Rupertsland Institute trade program for sponsoring me and my brother, Grayson Oulette. We are learning the trade of carpentry under the guidance of Doug Sherk, who has over 40 years of experience in the trade. I know the future looks bright in construction.”

— Joel Oulette





Research



Research

Rupertsland Institute (RLI) Research plays a critical role in advancing Métis autonomy, self-determination, and control through a diverse range of academic and applied research initiatives. The breadth of RLI Research extends beyond academic inquiry to include applied, practical research that directly benefits RLI and its stakeholders. This approach involves conducting labour market research to provide informed analysis and support for decision-making processes within RLI. By understanding the unique challenges and opportunities faced by Métis communities, RLI can design and implement programs that enhance Métis self-sufficiency and well-being.

Moreover, RLI's commitment to evidence-based, data-driven decision-making ensures that its initiatives are grounded in reliable data and research-informed practices. This approach is evident in the organization's comprehensive data collection and analysis efforts, which inform the development and evaluation of its programs. By leveraging data, RLI can monitor the effectiveness of its services and make necessary adjustments to better meet the needs of Métis citizens. Its commitment to continuous improvement and accountability underscores RLI's role in fostering a skilled, knowledgeable and self-reliant Métis Nation. By continuously monitoring and analyzing labour market conditions, RLI ensures that its community-based services remain relevant and effective in promoting Métis participation in the labour market.

In 2011, RLI partnered with the University of Alberta, and established the Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research (RCMR). Its mandate is to build provincial and national connections with the Métis community, increase research capacity to advance Métis-specific research, and train student researchers through research-related employment. This academic collaboration supports the creation of a robust knowledge base that informs policy and decision-making, ensuring that Métis perspectives and needs are adequately addressed in educational and socio-economic strategies.

In May 2023, RCMR (Dr Nathalie Kermoal and PhD candidate, Amanda Evans), together with community research partners Kelsey Bradburn (MNA-Child and Family Services) and Reagan Bartlet (MNA-Health), and the faculty of Native Studies PhD student, Angie Tucker, conducted a roundtable presentation session at the National American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) conference at the University of Toronto. As a group, they showcased the principles of doing collaborative research for the past 11 years, and presented RCMR projects and research results, and their approach, favouring the building strong, ethical research relationships between the Métis Nation and the University of Alberta.

NEW PUBLICATION!

In January 2024, RCMR published a new community-oriented booklet! Written by Métis Master of Arts student Devonn Drossel from the Faculty of Native Studies as a follow-up to our podcast series Our Foods, Métis Food Sovereignty is a 23-page booklet exploring the concepts of food sovereignty and its relevance to Métis people and communities.

The Métis Women's Leadership course was created in 2021 in partnership with the national Métis women's organisation, Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (LFMO). It is offered in two streams: NS280 Métis Women's Leadership, a three-credit course available to students enrolled in undergraduate degree programs at the University of Alberta (U of A),

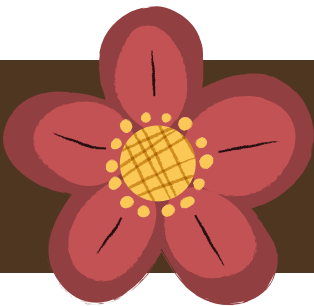
and EXNS 2802, a non-credit course embedded in the larger Reach for the Sky women's leadership training program offered by Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak to young Métis women across the homeland. **This online asynchronous course has been completed by 152 U of A students and 102 young Métis women through the Reach for the Sky program.**

In April 2024, the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) awarded our work with Les Femmes Michif the Sarah Shorten Award. This national award recognizes outstanding achievements in promoting the advancement of women in Canadian universities and colleges and the continued excellence that RCMR brings to research and education.



MÉTIS CHANGEMAKERS

Rupertsland Institute is proud to launch a set of Métis Changemakers posters that highlight influential role models and their contributions to the Métis Nation. These posters will support K-12 educators in teaching about past and present Métis Changemakers in a strengths-based way, which will in turn reshape the narrative of the Métis in Canada.



What to >>>>>>>> Expect for 2024-2025



ANGELA HALL ARTWORK

Angela Hall is a Métis artist who has created 12 paintings focusing on Métis ways of knowing and being. These paintings serve as educational tools, offering insights into how Métis people share their stories, culture, and way of life with educators and students. Reflective questions for further exploration accompany each painting.

BRIDGING CLASSROOMS TO COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

The Bridging Classrooms to Community (BCC) Grant is a three-year grant by Alberta Education aimed at building and strengthening programming for out-of-school Indigenous students to support their success in school. BCC will be implemented in Northern Gateway Schools, High Prairie School Division, and more schools to come that share Métis culture, history, and language, involving various Métis Knowledge Holders.

ASKÍHK KISKINOHAMÂTOWIN LAND-BASED LEARNING

Land-based learning is central to Métis ways of knowing and being. When we create relationships with the land, we have a responsibility to live in reciprocity by protecting and caring for it and all that lives on it. Join Métis Knowledge Holders across Alberta as they follow the 13 moons and learn from the land together in the video series with unit and lesson plans, askíhk kiskinohamâtowin.



GOIN' TO KOOKUM'S

RLI is thrilled to present the introductory episode of Goin' to Kookum's this year. In this inaugural episode, Kookum Ernestine and her puppet Mahkitón invite all nosimak (grandchildren) to visit and engage with Métis culture and the Michif language through play, song, and adventure.

MICHIF MAKERS

Michif Makers is a video series for early learners that teaches the foundations of Métis culture and language through two young puppets. Each lesson shares Michif words and worldviews. Watch for the four special Rupertsland puppets celebrating the two distinct Métis dialects!

MICHIF MINECRAFT

Rupertsland Institute is developing a Minecraft world where students will encounter a Métis-centric environment with learning experiences designed to enhance in-school Michif learning. This world will feature authentic and accurate representations of Métis culture and history and meaningful Michif language learning activities. An underlying storyline will guide students through the experience of Métis fur trading history. This educational game is accessible to 94% of schools in Canada that hold a Microsoft 365 license. Minecraft Education currently reaches over two million students across Canada annually!



MICHIF EARLY LEARNING RESOURCES

In collaboration with RLI's Education Team and Michif knowledge holder Sandra Davenport, over 15 Michif resources geared toward Early Learning will be launched next year on our website, including videos, books, songs, etc.

Staff Appreciation



Michelle Ingham



Michelle started with the MNA in 1999 and moved to RLI in 2010, the day RLI opened. Michelle is currently our Finance Manager.

Throughout her tenure with the MNA and RLI, she has worked as Finance Officer, Online Program Assistant, Assistant Manager

of PSE, and fully circled back into her current role as the Finance Manager. These positions and her extensive experience within RLI have granted Michelle a plethora of knowledge and a wicked sense of humour.

Michelle likes working at RLI because of being able to “meet and work with amazing people.”

Let's get to know Michelle a little more:

What is your top movie or book recommendation?
“The books by Stieg Larsson - The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo”

What is your signature dish?
“My grandchildren seem to all want my macaroni and tomatoes with BBQ steak.”

What has been your favorite event to attend at or with Rupertsland Institute?
“I love our annual staff conferences where I get to see and mingle with all my co-workers. I also attended one of the Beaver’s Den events, it was amazing to see so many talented Métis entrepreneurs.”

What are you looking forward to this year?
“Spending time with family and looking forward to watching our new addition, who came into our world in June 2024, grow!”

Thank you, Michelle, for all you've done for the MNA and RLI! We're grateful for your dedication and many years of service, and are so lucky to have you on the team!

Kathleen Jocko



I believe the creator bestowed special gifts to each of us when we entered this world.

If we are lucky enough to recognize what that gift is and are able to apply it throughout our life - that has special meaning. For me, I was born a helper, always trying to fix things, make things better for people and that is why I entered into nursing and became an LPN.

Later on, I discovered my helping skills were needed somewhere else, which led me to Rupertsland Institute - Métis Training to Employment – it was called back then (2011). Over the 13 years I was employed with RLI, I met some beautiful people (staff & clients) whom I got to know through work and various community engagements.

My job was to inform the Métis Community of the programs and services offered within our organisation. I enjoyed spreading the word and the response throughout the community was mainly one of gratitude.

There are some very dedicated staff here who are sincerely making a difference and I was lucky enough to meet and get to know. Thank you for your friendship.

Retirement for me will start out with a trip to Ontario-visiting my brother at his cottage on a lake shooting the breeze. Hopefully there will be a trip to Europe, as well. Looking forward to spending more time in my garden and visiting with family and friends.

Take care,
Kathleen J.



Years of Service

2 YEARS
Amy Barrios
Kathleen Capparo
Jenny Church
Diana Elias
Cher Kelly
Sonal Modi
Camellia Ridsdale
Samia Sai
MaryAnn Sanderson
Angel Tuttle
Clayton Wilbern
Joanne Williams

3 YEARS
Samar Baalbaki
Ronda Bellerose
Babette Dubois

4 YEARS
Lisa Cruickshank
Penny Desjarlais
David Jones
Makayla LeSann
Sheryl Weigelt
Leah Whalley

5 YEARS
Kimberley Fraser-Airhart
Carmella Mackey
Lori Menzak
Trent Peeters
Michelle Switner

6 YEARS
Tina Ludwar
Tara Lynch
Jolene Mearon

7 YEARS
Ashley Dochuk
Heather Hagen
Beth Roehler
Dylan Turner

8 YEARS
Thea Abdolhady

9 YEARS
April Nabess

11 YEARS
Donna Evans
Lisa Savill

12 YEARS
Bernard (Bernie) Joly

13 YEARS
Kathleen Jocko

14 YEARS
Kathleen Bellerose

15 YEARS
Barbara Beauchamp
Shelly Paradis

19 YEARS
Jason Chartrand

21 YEARS
Bella Brereton
Betty Desjarlais
Marilyn Gordey
Roxanne Hall
Marlene Klassen

25 YEARS
Michelle Ingham







Otipemisiwak
Métis Government

Canada 