



MÉTIS EDUCATION
FOUNDATION



INSPIRED BY THE YOUTH WE SERVE 2024 MÉTIS EDUCATION FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT



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MÉTIS EDUCATION FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

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 Program (LMD), MEF has significantly grown to support Métis students across Alberta.

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 education 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

FOUNDATION GROWTH AND IMPACT

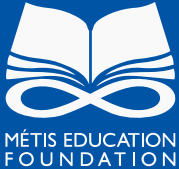
In 2006, the strategic collaboration between the MNA and what is now known as Rupertsland Institute began capitalizing MEF, initiating negotiations for Métis endowments with post-secondary institutions throughout Alberta. These efforts were supported by funds from the National Aboriginal Labour Market Development Program. Currently, MEF boasts an endowment portfolio valued at approximately \$40 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 March 2023, MEF began to add \$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. MEF is also working towards a working towards a \$500,000 endowment at King's University, this expansion ensures our citizens will have the freedom to attend any post-secondary institution in Alberta and have access to Métis Scholar Awards.

MÉTIS SCHOLAR AWARDS

A cornerstone of the Foundation's impact is the Métis Scholar Awards. The awards disburse the returns from the endowment investments managed by each post-secondary partner, ensuring that MEF directly supports Métis students' education aspirations. Since the inception of MEF, more than \$10 million have 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 internally held endowments, supporting Métis citizens pursuing educational opportunities abroad, engaging in unique athletic or artistic endeavors, and participating in Early Learning and Child Care Programs.





2023 DISBURSEMENTS

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 the integrity of the data. 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.

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

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.

ENDOWMENT GROWTH

2022-2023 Métis Scholar Award Endowment Chart

Endowment	Original Date Established	MEF-RLI Contribution	Partner and Third-Party Contribution	Endowment Amount	2024 Supplements	2022-2023 Market Value with 2024 Supplement
MacEwan University	2008	\$1,750,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$2,750,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$4,112,639.35
University of Alberta **	2008	\$3,324,570.17	\$501,000.00	\$3,825,570.17	\$175,000.00	\$8,118,255.31
NorQuest College	2008	\$625,000.00	\$375,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$1,125,000.00
NAIT	2009	\$1,300,000.00	\$1,070,000.00	\$2,370,000.00	\$175,000.00	\$4,036,808.31
Portage College	2009	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$1,326,926.50
Northwestern Polytechnic*, **	2011	\$250,000.00	\$96,000.00	\$346,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$477,764.68
University of Calgary	2012	\$1,500,000.00	\$750,000.00	\$2,250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$3,651,797.00
Mount Royal University	2012	\$250,000.00	\$250,075.00	\$500,075.00	\$125,000.00	\$880,706.55
University of Lethbridge	2012	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$1,439,575.68
Lethbridge College	2013	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$615,091.53
Athabasca University	2014	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$798,289.69
Northern Lakes College	2015	\$375,000.00	\$125,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$575,000.00
Lakeland College **	2015	\$417,600.00	\$50,000.00	\$467,600.00	\$75,000.00	\$587,118.14
Bow Valley College **	2015	\$260,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$460,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$610,885.14
MEF Endowment Trust Fund	2015	\$2,000,198.78	-	\$2,000,198.78	\$1,500,000.00	\$4,080,775.00
Medicine Hat College	2018	\$170,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$275,000.00
SAIT **	2018	\$500,000.00	\$334,759.19	\$834,759.19	\$175,000.00	\$1,175,598.88
Concordia University **	2018	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$347,700.00
ELCC Endowment Trust Fund	2020	\$1,400,061.06	-	\$1,400,061.06	\$75,000.00	\$1,751,532.00
Keyano College	2021	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$125,000.00	\$1,166,076.53
Red Deer University	2021	\$250,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$325,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$472,001.20
Olds College	2021	\$250,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$350,000.00	\$0.00	\$379,500.33
Indspire	2024	1,500,000.00			\$1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00
Kings University	2024	500,000.00			\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
Total Market Value				\$5,725,000.00	\$40,004,041.82	

Current collection year (2023/2024) presents 1-year lagged contribution amounts, endowment amounts, and market values (2022/2023)
* Formerly Grande Prairie Regional College
** Missing some contribution amounts in MSAD prior to 2022/2023

LOOKING FORWARD

As we look toward the future, the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) remains steadfast in its 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 education 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 education aspirations are supported and that 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 education partners. Together, we are building a foundation not only supporting the current generation of Métis learners but also paving the way for future generations.

MEF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

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.

5. 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 Metis 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 2,000 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.

SUCCESS STORIES

MEF Internal

“It’s a huge honor, I’m very pleased to have been chosen. It’ll help me a lot as I [prepare to] go off to Olds College. I will be [enrolled] in Business, majoring in Sports Management.” - **Connor Poitras**

“Being a recipient is pretty cool. I get to represent my people, my friends, my family and letting them know I received this scholarship was cool and I bet they’re proud of me. In Post-Secondary, I’m looking to go into the NRT (Natural Resources Technology) program.” - **Kaden Cardinal**

MacEwan University Recipients

“As a Métis student, this award has been a cornerstone of my academic journey, providing not only financial support but also the invaluable gift of time. Receiving the Métis Scholar Award alleviated a significant portion of my financial burdens, allowing me to fully dedicate myself to my studies. This relief from financial stress was transformative, enabling me to immerse myself in my academic pursuits without constant worry. I am proud to share that I earned First Class Academic Standing for the 2023-24 academic year in Bachelor of Arts at MacEwan University, a milestone that symbolizes the opportunities this award has opened up for me. The support from the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) has been instrumental in shaping my educational experience, allowing me to set higher goals for my future. The Métis Scholar Award has changed my life, enabling me to further my educational goals and continue striving for excellence. I look forward to the future with optimism and determination, knowing that the support from MEF has laid a solid foundation for my continued success.



Thank you, MEF, for helping shape my experience as a Métis student and for being a vital part of my journey toward academic and personal growth.”
- **Rayven-Sumonay Glazebrook**

Keyano College Recipients



“To Rupertsland, I would love to express my gratitude to the committee of the Métis Scholar Awards. I am tremendously grateful to be a recipient of this award. Thank you so much for your consideration!” - **Ryan Rice**



“My name is Ashley Kropelin and I’m one of the recipients of a 2023/24 Métis Scholar Award. 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**

Thank you for selecting me for the Métis Scholars award! As a mature student, this goes a long way to help fund this endeavour.

Returning to SAIT was a decision brought on by wanting a career change within the construction industry. As a carpenter in commercial construction, my career path choices were fairly limited. I have always been interested in learning more about the project lifecycle in its entirety, rather than just the execution phase that happens on-site.

My studies have helped me feel a reinvigorated passion for learning about other aspects of construction. This award will help fund that ongoing spirit of development through the school terms.



Thank you again for your support,

Allan Bergsma

MEF INTERNAL RECIPIENTS 2023

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 have not endowment partnerships with the Métis Education Foundation.

- Breanne Major
- Brendan Hamilton
- Kaylee Oulette
- Shelly Mercredi
- Edmund Major
- Jonah Kurylowich
- Joel Gamache
- Kathryn Frank
- Alicia Anderson
- Nickolas Seal
- Alexandra Dolhan
- Tianna Tenney
- Crystal Shaw
- Talia Mimura
- Cheyenne Hall
- Amy Valenzuela
- Dominique Maure
- Kirsten Lamouche
- Kendall Boucher
- Megan Hulbert
- Ree Sernes
- Cassidy Baughman (Sinclair)
- Isabella McDonald
- Jacob Leroux
- Noah Balmer
- Alex Kusturok
- Cher McGillis
- Heather Moraal
- Ethan Paulin-Hatch
- Kendra Johnson
- Jamie MacKinnon
- Trent Bonneau

MEF IN THE NEWS



Southern Alberta Institute of Technology: \$1M dream to support Métis students comes true at SAIT (Education News Canada, October 2, 2023)

“In 2019, the Métis Education Foundation, through the Rupertsland Institute (RLI), approached SAIT with a goal to raise \$950,000 in 10 years and create an endowment fund in support of Métis student success. Thanks to the incredible generosity of SAIT's philanthropic family, this dream was achieved in less than five years.”



Portage College Hosts Annual Métis Scholar Awards Ceremony (Portage College, Feb. 08. 2024)

“The event showcased the achievements of 10 outstanding Métis students who were recognized for their hard work and dedication to their studies. Each recipient was honoured with a prestigious Métis sash, along with a monetary scholarship of \$3,000.”

MEF IN THE NEWS



Keyano College and Métis Nation of Alberta establish \$1-million education fund
(100.5 Cruz FM, September 5, 2023)

“This partnership signals a commitment from Keyano College to the education and success of our Métis citizens...to the Métis Nation, the creation of this fund was not just a donation to the College; it was an investment in the future of the Métis Nation,” said President of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Audrey Poitras.”

MEF ACTIVITIES

Keyano College \$1,000,000 Endowment Announcement

The MEF announced a new \$1,000,000 Endowment with Keyano College in September 2023



MacEwan University - Government of Alberta: MacEwan Means Business Campaign - November 2023

The MEF was in attendance of the announcement of The Government Alberta committing towards MacEwan University in the MacEwan Means Business campaign.



MacEwan - State of the University - MEF - November 7, 2023

The MEF supported MacEwan University’s State of the University announcement, as Dr. Trimbee spoke among faculty, staff, students, and donors about the importance of place and how it empowers MacEwan’s future.



MEF - Lakeland College December 2023

The MEF visited the Lakeland College campus



U of A Indigenous Celebration Week - January 2024

The U of A invites RLI & MEF to host a session of Michif games and scholarship opportunities for UofA Metis citizens at the Cascade Room, Students Union Building.



MacEwan Donor Event - March 13, 2024

The MEF attended the MacEwan Donor Event to extend appreciation to our partner and to connect with fellow recipients of the MSA.



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Otipemisiwak
Métis Government



Rupert's Land
Institute

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