

2025-26

Breane Mahlitz
2025 MEF Internal Métis Scholar Award
Studying at University of Victoria
Juris Doctor & Juris Indigenarum Doctor (JD/JID)



MÉTIS EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

A N N U A L
R E P O R T

TO THE COMMUNITY



Otipemisiwak
Métis Government



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OUR VISION

BUILDING THE FUTURE, HONOURING THE PAST

As the Métis Education Foundation steps into this next chapter, our work is rooted in the strength and resilience of the Métis Nation. Our Strategic Plan reflects more than goals, it is a commitment to building a future where Métis students have the resources, connections, and cultural grounding to succeed. By investing in education today, we are creating a legacy that will serve the Métis Nation within Alberta for generations.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We Believe in:

1. Honouring the strength, perseverance and cultural identity of our Métis Scholars
2. Assisting Métis scholars navigate their education journey.
3. Building a legacy of Métis scholars.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Growth - Expand funding, institutional capacity and program impact

Connection - Deepen relationships with students, alumni, and institutional/ community partners

Legacy - Build sustainability, identity, and renewed community engagement.

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Molly Salter celebrates receiving the Bruce Gladue Award at the 2025 Annual Delia Gray Gala, recognizing her achievements and contributions as part of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government awards.

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MÉTIS EDUCATION FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

The Métis Education Foundation (MEF) 2025–2029 Strategic Plan outlines a bold vision of cultivating a legacy of Métis scholars—grounded in culture, connected to community, and empowered through growth. Established in 1991 by the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), MEF has been instrumental in increasing educational access and success for Métis scholars. With the recent Community Legacy Initiatives (CLI) Funding Protocol Transfer Agreement between the Otipemisiwak Métis Government (OMG) and MEF, the Foundation enters a transformative era. MEF is poised to enhance governance, strengthen community accountability, and expand operational capacity as it moves forward as a stand-alone affiliate.

MEF's impact is rooted in its enduring partnerships, particularly with Rupertsland Institute (RLI) and Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). Since 2006, these collaborations have enabled the creation of perpetual post-secondary endowments across 21 Alberta institutions, providing sustainable scholarship support for Métis students. As MEF revisits its renewed commitment to educational equity, community impact, and long-term sustainability, it continues to build upon its foundational work to support current and future generations of Métis Scholars.

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.



ANDREA SANDMAIER
President
Otipemisiwak Métis Government
October 2023 - Present



SARAH WOLFE
Secretary of Records
Otipemisiwak Métis Government
June 2025 - Present



JASON EKEBERG
Secretary of the Treasury
Otipemisiwak Métis Government
October 2023 - Present



Award recipients, Buffy the Métis Scholar, family members, and award presenters gather on stage throughout the 2025 Annual Delia Gray Gala to celebrate the achievements, community connections, and stories behind each award.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES & COMMUNITY LEGACY INITIATIVES

The launch of the Métis Education Foundation's (MEF) 2025–2029 Strategic Plan marks the beginning of a transformative new era, shaped by a bold vision:

Métis Scholars are empowered through legacy, growth, and community.

Now, with the signing of the Community Legacy Initiatives (CLI) Funding Protocol Transfer Agreement between the Otipemisiwak Métis Government (OMG) and MEF, the Foundation is poised to operate as a stand-alone affiliate

with strengthened governance, expanded operational capacity, and a renewed commitment to community accountability.

Our mission: To foster an inclusive environment where Métis students thrive from equitable access to education, embrace their cultural heritage, build meaningful connections with their community, and are inspired to give back to the Métis Nation.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The 2025–2029 Strategic Plan is guided by three core priorities:

1. GROWTH

Expand funding, institutional capacity, and program impact.

We aim to increase the number and value of endowment agreements with post-secondary institutions to expand scholarship opportunities for Métis students. The launch of the Legacy Fund Development Program will open new doors to corporate, community, and individual donors, while community-based participation in award selection will strengthen transparency and local engagement.

2. CONNECTION

Deepen relationships with students, alumni, and partners.

We are building the Otipemisiwak Métis Students' and Alumni Association (OMSA) into a vibrant network that fosters cultural identity, professional development, and community connection. Enhanced institutional partnerships will improve visibility, support, and cultural safety for Métis students, while culturally meaningful engagement will strengthen MEF's presence in communities across Alberta.

3. LEGACY

Build sustainability, identity, and renewed community engagement.

We are finalizing a governance model that supports MEF's operational independence while remaining aligned with OMG priorities. A revitalized MEF brand will position the Foundation as a recognized leader in advancing Métis scholars, while renewed engagement with The Red Book – Determining Our Destiny will connect our community's history with its future.

MEF COMMUNITY LEGACY INITIATIVES

The Community Legacy Initiatives (CLI) framework is the foundation for MEF's ongoing investment in Métis students, alumni, and communities. Together, these initiatives create pathways to educational success, cultural pride, and lifelong connection.

1. MÉTIS ENDOWMENT PROGRAM

Through formal agreements with 21 post-secondary institutions across Alberta, the MEF's endowments provide sustainable, long-term support for Métis scholars. Scholarships funded through these endowments reduce financial barriers, foster academic excellence, and encourage community leadership. Two internally managed endowments further extend MEF's reach, ensuring awards remain deeply connected to Métis heritage and values.

2. OTIPEMISIWAK MÉTIS STUDENT AND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (OMSA)

OMSA strengthens cultural identity and professional growth for 10,373 registered students and alumni through:

- **En Roo** – A digital platform connecting students and alumni with resources, scholarships, and networking.
- **Ambassador Program** – Student volunteers who provide peer support and promote cultural awareness.
- **Mentorship Program** – Connecting students with alumni, Elders, and leaders for academic and professional guidance.
- **Shakamohta Podcast** – Student-led storytelling celebrating Métis voices.
- **Internship Program** – Paid work experiences grounded in culture and community.

3. OTIPEMISIWAK COMMUNITY-BASED AWARDS

Distributed to recognize and reward academic success and community involvement, these awards are open to Métis students pursuing academic excellence and providing both financial assistance and a platform to honor their accomplishments. Recipients are awarded a monetary prize and are celebrated during the annual November Métis Week celebration, highlighting their academic success and contributions to the community.

Current Community-Based Awards include:

- **Art L'Hirondelle** (\$1,000):
- **Bruce Gladue** (\$2,500):
- **Cecil Bellrose** (\$2,500):
- **Delia Gray** (\$1,000):
- **Pearl Calahasen** (\$1,000):
- **Gary Pruden** (\$500):
- **Ernest Poitras** (\$1,000):
- **Marlene Lanz** (\$2,500):
- **Tom Ghostkeeper** (\$1,000):

4. MEF LEGACY AND FUND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

This program secures MEF's long-term sustainability by cultivating relationships with donors, corporate partners, and industry stakeholders. Through innovative fundraising and strategic endowment growth, MEF ensures it can provide ongoing support for generations of Métis students.

2025/26 MEF EVENTS

A year of meaningful presence—engaging communities, expanding awareness of opportunities, and supporting Métis students at every stage of their journey.



INDSPIRE AWARDS 2025

On April 10, 2025, the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) attended the Indspire Awards ceremony in Vancouver to show support for our partners at Indspire and celebrate the achievements of all deserving recipients.



MÉTIS FEST

On June 13 & 14, 2025, the Otipemisiwak Métis Student and Alumni Association (OMSA) attended Métis Fest on behalf of the Métis Education Foundation (MEF). At the event, OMSA helped support community activities and assisted the Otipemisiwak Youth Department, helping to create a fun and welcoming space for youth to connect and participate.



MÉTIS GAMES

On May 17 & 18, 2025, the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) proudly supported the Métis Games, celebrating physical activity, culture, and community among Métis youth. The MEF team engaged with participants and families throughout the weekend, assisting with event activities and helping ensure a positive and welcoming experience for all attendees.



26TH ANNUAL AUDREY POITRAS GOLF TOURNAMENT

On June 19, 2025, the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) supported the 25th Annual Audrey Poitras Golf Tournament at Legends Golf Course. MEF sponsored a hole featuring a Caesars station hosted by the Otipemisiwak Métis Student Association (OMSA). MEF also participated in the tournament by entering a golf team.



MÉTIS STAMPEDE FESTIVAL

On July 9, 2025, the Otipemisiwak Métis Student and Alumni Association (OMSA) attended the 2nd Annual Métis Stampede Festival on behalf of the Métis Education Foundation (MEF). OMSA hosted a booth promoting its services, distributed OMSA branded cowboy hats, and assisted with the Métis themed photo studio while engaging with attendees throughout the event.



MÉTIS CUP

On August 1 – 3, 2025, the Otipemisiwak Métis Student and Alumni Association (OMSA) attended the Métis Cup Tournament on behalf of the Métis Education Foundation (MEF). OMSA members supported the event by coaching a team and volunteering as scorekeepers throughout the tournament.



BUFFY'S BIRTHDAY

On July 25th, 2025, the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) proudly collaborated on the planning and delivery of Buffy's Birthday Bash, celebrating Rupertsland Institute's incorporation and affiliation with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. The event featured outdoor games, a BBQ, door prizes, and a special OMSA giveaway for post-secondary students. MEF was honoured to support this cultural and community focused milestone.



EN ROO LAUNCH

On August 13, 2025, the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) and Rupertsland Institute (RLI) launched En Roo, a digital platform developed by Métis student interns to support Métis scholars in accessing scholarships, resources, and community opportunities. The launch celebrated the student-led development of the platform and introduced En Roo as a new tool to help Métis students manage scholarship applications and connect with supports throughout their education. Since the launch, En Roo has generated 440 active users.



CITIZEN'S GATHERING

On August 21–24, 2025, the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) attended the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's Annual Citizens' Gathering. MEF supported the event by engaging with community members and assisting with activities throughout the gathering, contributing to a welcoming and community focused environment across the event.



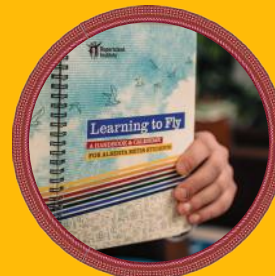
BELCOURT BROUSSEAU MÉTIS AWARDS (BBMA)

On September 20, 2025, the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) attended the Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards, which celebrate and support Métis students pursuing post-secondary education. MEF was proud to be part of such a meaningful event recognizing student achievements.



TAWÂW AT U OF A

On August 28th 2025, the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) attended Winter tawâw at the University of Alberta, hosting a booth to connect with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students. MEF successfully shared information about scholarships, awards, and employment opportunities, supporting students in exploring their career and education options.



LEARNING TO FLY HANDBOOK

On November 13, 2025, the Otipemisiwak Métis Student & Alumni Association (OMSA) created the Learning to Fly handbook on behalf of the Métis Access to Post-Secondary (MAPS) program. The OMSA developed this handbook to get Métis students interested and prepared for post-secondary education, including information on accessing post-secondary funding, community and cultural programming, and the opportunities available through Rupertsland Institute and the OMSA.



MÉTIS WEEK

From November 15–22, 2025, the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) participated in Métis Week celebrations, honouring Métis culture, history, and the legacy of Louis Riel. Throughout the week, MEF engaged with community members at various events.



YOUTH OPEN HOUSE

On November 20th, 2025, the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) proudly hosted a booth on behalf of the Otipemisiwak Métis Student Association (OMSA) at the Otipemisiwak Métis Government (OMG) Youth open house. This day consisted of celebrating Métis culture and connecting with the community.





DELIA GRAY GALA

On November 22, 2025, the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) supported the Delia Gray Gala at the Edmonton Expo Centre during Métis Week. MEF contributed to the delivery of the event and administered the awards presented during the ceremony, honouring the deserving 2025 Otipemisiwak Métis Government Award recipients.



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY OF EDMONTON DROP-IN EVENT

On February 2, 2026, the Otipemisiwak Métis Student and Alumni Association (OMSA) hosted a drop in event at Concordia University of Edmonton's kihêwak kâpimihâcik centre on behalf of the Métis Education Foundation (MEF). OMSA hosted a booth, shared information about its supports, and held an iPad giveaway while connecting with Métis students on campus.



ELDER GIFT EVENT

On December 15–16, 2025, the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) partnered with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government (OMG) to prepare and distribute holiday stockings for Elders at Métis Housing Renaissance Place. Team members assembled gift baskets with food, toiletries, gifts, and gift cards, then hosted a small holiday gathering with live music, treats and a visit from Santa while distributing the baskets.



MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY DROP-IN EVENT

On February 11th, 2026, the Otipemisiwak Métis Student and Alumni Association (OMSA) hosted a drop in event at Mount Royal University on behalf of the Métis Education Foundation (MEF). OMSA hosted a booth, engaged with students, and shared information about supports available to Otipemisiwak Métis Citizens attending post-secondary.



BOW VALLEY COLLEGE DROP-IN EVENT

On February 12, 2026, the Otipemisiwak Métis Student and Alumni Association (OMSA) held a drop in event at Bow Valley College's Iniiikokaan Centre on behalf of the Métis Education Foundation (MEF). OMSA had a booth, shared information on available services, and hosted an iPad giveaway for Métis post-secondary students who attended the event.



PORTAGE COLLEGE: MÉTIS SCHOLAR AWARD CEREMONY

On February 26, 2026, the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) attended the annual Portage Awards Ceremony. MEF celebrated and honoured the recipients of the 2026 Métis Scholar Award.



MÉTIS TEACHER APPRECIATION GATHERING

On February 26, 2026, the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) supported the delivery of the Métis Teacher Appreciation Gathering. The event recognized and celebrated the contributions of Métis educators across the province.



YOUTH & SENIORS GATHERING

On February 27th-28th, 2025, the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) was proud to attend the Métis Nation of Alberta Youth & Seniors Gathering. MEF supported the event by engaging with youth and Elders, contributing to a welcoming environment and helping bring generations together through shared activities and community connection.



OLDS COLLEGE DROP-IN EVENT

On March 3, 2026, the Otipemisiwak Métis Student and Alumni Association (OMSA) held a drop-in event at Olds College on behalf of the Métis Education Foundation (MEF). OMSA connected with students at its booth, shared information about services, and hosted an iPad giveaway for Métis post-secondary students.



MÉTIS TWO-SPIRIT LGBTQQIA+ CHARITY DRAG SHOW

On March 14, 2026, the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) hosted its third annual Métis Two-Spirit LGBTQQIA+ Charity Drag Show at the Edmonton EXPO Centre. Celebrating Indigenous drag artistry, the event featured ten dynamic Two-Spirit performers, including fan-favourite Canada's Drag Race winner Venus, along with a surprise appearance by MEF's mascot, Buffy the Métis Scholar. Drawing 235 attendees, the evening included a Glambot, two rounds of food service, custom MEF Charity Drag Show merchandise, a door prize raffle, and an after-show dance party that encouraged community connection. The event raised an impressive \$4580, with proceeds going toward the creation of a new Métis Scholar Award for 2SLGBTQQIA+ post-secondary students.



NORQUEST COLLEGE DROP-IN EVENT

On March 12, 2026, the Otipemisiwak Métis Student and Alumni Association (OMSA) was proud to host a drop-in event at Norquest College's miyo-pimâtisiwin Centre on behalf of the Métis Education Foundation (MEF). OMSA hosted a booth where staff shared information about available services and supports, and facilitated an iPad giveaway for Otipemisiwak Métis post-secondary students attending the event.



NORTHWESTERN POLYTECHNIC DROP-IN EVENT

On March 18, 2026, on behalf of the Métis Education Foundation (MEF), the Otipemisiwak Métis Student and Alumni Association (OMSA) facilitated a drop in event at Northwestern Polytechnic's on-campus Friendship Centre. OMSA hosted a booth to connect with Otipemisiwak Métis students, share information about available supports, and offer an iPad giveaway for Northwestern Polytechnic Métis students attending post-secondary.



OMSA CULTURAL FISHING TRIP

On March 21st – 22nd, 2026, the Otipemisiwak Métis Student and Alumni Association (OMSA), in partnership with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Harvesting Department, hosted a Cultural Fishing Trip at Pigeon Lake, Alberta. The event brought Métis students, alumni, and community members together for a hands-on cultural harvesting experience. Participants spent a day learning how to fish. Two cohorts participated across the two days, with attendees able to take home the fish they caught.



MACEWAN GRATEFUL GATHERING

On March 18, 2026, the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) attended MacEwan University's Grateful Gathering to connect with past recipients of the Métis Scholar Award and scholarship donors. This event provided MEF with an opportunity to engage directly with students and witness the positive impact of its support on their educational journeys.



NAIT DROP-IN EVENT

On March 25, 2026, the Otipemisiwak Métis Student and Alumni Association (OMSA) hosted a drop-in event at NAIT on behalf of the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) during the Nisôhkamâtôtân Centre's monthly stew and bannock. At its booth, OMSA engaged with students, highlighted support for Otipemisiwak Métis scholars in post-secondary, and hosted an iPad giveaway.

MEF SUPPORTS STUDENTS TO POWER THEIR POTENTIAL

Meet some students supported by the Métis Education Foundation—each story reflecting how the right investment opens doors, builds confidence, and turns potential into achievement. They're just getting started, and their journeys show how education lays the foundation for future success—this is what that promise looks like in real life.



2025 MEF INTERNAL MÉTIS SCHOLAR AWARD - UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA Juris Doctor & Juris Indigenarum Doctor (JD/JID)

“There is a certain weight that comes with pursuing law as a Métis student far from home. The barriers within institutions that were not built with us in mind feel especially heavy, and distance can make it feel almost impossible to carry. In these moments, receiving the Internal Métis Scholar Award feels like more than financial support. It affirms that no length can separate me from the support of my Nation. It is a testament to the strength, perseverance, and self-determination that have defined our people for generations, and a reminder that this same spirit lives in me.

This reminder deepens my sense of responsibility to carry myself in ways that honour those who came before me, those who have supported me, and those who will come after me. In this way, the award shapes how I understand my education not as an individual achievement, but as reciprocity carried forward in gratitude to my Nation. It brings me back to why I chose law in the first place: to advocate for and alongside Métis people.

To me, the Métis Scholar Award is both an anchor and a compass, grounding me in where I come from and guiding how I move forward in law, and beyond. What once felt like an impossible weight to carry is something I now understand I was never carrying alone. With the support of this award, I can not only move forward lighter, but do so with clarity, integrity, and pride in who I am”.

– BREANE MAHLITZ



**2025 MEF INTERNAL ELCC AWARD - MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY:
Early Learning & Child Care Degree**

“ I am writing to express my gratitude for receiving the Métis Scholar Award, this is a life changer. I was looking for jobs to cover expenses for Keyano’s tuition, and now I do not have to worry about the financial burden. This will help me complete my Bachelor of Arts degree, I will be able to pursue my dream of becoming an Indigenous Liaison. I cannot express how grateful I am.”

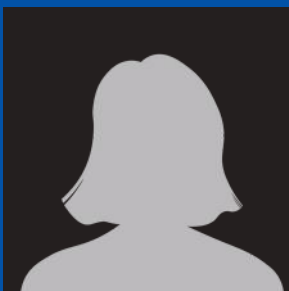
- CRYSTAL SHAW



**2025 MEF INTERNAL MÉTIS SCHOLAR AWARD - UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA
Mechanical Engineering and Entertainment Engineering & Design**

“ My name is Owen Anderson and I am currently studying two engineering degrees at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. I am in my fourth year of Mechanical Engineering and my second year of Entertainment Engineering & Design. This award has had a huge impact on my ability to pursue higher education. As an international student studying in the United States, the financial cost is significant, and I would not be able to pursue two engineering degrees without scholarships like this. The support from the Métis Education Foundation has made it possible for me to continue my academic journey and work toward my long-term goals. Once again, thank you very much for supporting my goals and helping me achieve my dreams. I am proud to represent the Métis community abroad and will continue to do so throughout my academic and professional career”.

- OWEN ANDERSON



2025 MÉTIS SCHOLAR AWARD - NAIT

“ It has been amazing to have this support [from the Métis Education Foundation]. I dream of opening my own bakery one day to spread happiness through my love of food. I also want to help share Indigenous culture so that our history is never forgotten”.

- AUSTIN GABRIEL



2025 MEF INTERNAL MÉTIS SCHOLAR AWARD - VILLARREAL FUTEBOL ACADEMY **Villarreal Futbol Academy**

“ The support I received from the Métis Education Foundation has had a major impact on my ability to pursue both my education and soccer at the highest level. It helped make it possible for me to train in Spain at the Villarreal Academy while continuing my studies, which is an opportunity I would not have been able to fully take on without that support. Being here has challenged me to grow both as an athlete and as a person. It also reminds me that I am part of a Métis community that believes in its youth, and that support motivates me to work harder and represent that community in a positive way”.

– RYDER PENDRY



2026 MÉTIS SCHOLAR AWARD - UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Department of English**

“ The Métis Scholar Award I received in Winter 2026 is life-altering. After more than five years away from academia before beginning my PhD in Fall 2025, I saw a number of challenges that made returning to university feel like an impossible pipedream because of the costs. However, the Métis Scholar Award I received makes it possible for me to have stability for my family and me. With this Métis Scholar Award, I can confidently focus on my research and maintain stability to succeed in my creative career as a Métis author. Thank you to the Award’s donors for my making my research and creative dreams attainable”.

– BLAIR PALMER YOXALL



2026 MÉTIS SCHOLAR AWARD - UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY **Master of Transdisciplinary Research (MTDSR), Transdisciplinary Research Graduate Program**

“ My name is Alice Hartley, and I am a Métis-South Korean youth, artist, and graduate student from Moh’kinstsis (Calgary) on Treaty 7 and Battle River Territories. Receiving the Métis Scholar Award is not only a reminder that I am supported and encouraged as a Métis youth, but also a testament to the necessity of the Indigenous research I do. This has opened many doors for my work as my financial limitations are reduced. From the bottom of my heart, I am immensely grateful to receive this award! Maarsi!”

– ALICE J. HARTLEY



2025 MÉTIS SCHOLAR AWARD - UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Bachelor of Arts - Native Studies

“As a mature student, the Métis Scholar Award has played a foundational role in shaping my student experience by allowing me to focus on my studies full-time in the Native Studies program at the University of Alberta. With this ongoing support, I have been able to build meaningful academic and personal relationships and take on opportunities that strengthen my connection to the community and help me align with my future goals.

Throughout my degree, the Métis Scholar Award supported me in pursuing valuable opportunities. I learned Y-dialect Plains Cree as part of my degree and have since developed and continue to facilitate a lunchtime beginner Cree language workshop for students at a local high school, working toward the revitalization of Indigenous languages in our community. I have also had the opportunity to work with the Métis Archival Project (MAP) Lab on campus, contributing to genealogical research that supports the Métis community while developing my archival research skills. These opportunities have allowed me to engage with the community while advancing my long-term academic and career goals. This upcoming September, I will be attending the Master of Library and Information Studies program at the University of Alberta. My ultimate career goal is to work toward decolonizing spaces of knowledge and information while highlighting Indigenous voices in collections management in ways that support Indigenous data sovereignty. Achieving this degree has been a community effort, and I am deeply grateful for the support and opportunities the award has given me in my past, present, and future.

– ALISHA ANDROSCHUK

IN THE NEWS

Coverage that reflects a growing recognition of the Métis Education Foundation's impact—amplifying the importance of education, opportunity and Indigenous student success.

See MEF in
the news
here ►►



A CEREMONY TO CELEBRATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MÉTIS STUDENTS.

A SPECIAL CEREMONY AT PORTAGE COLLEGE, RECOGNIZING SEVEN STUDENTS RECEIVING MÉTIS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS.

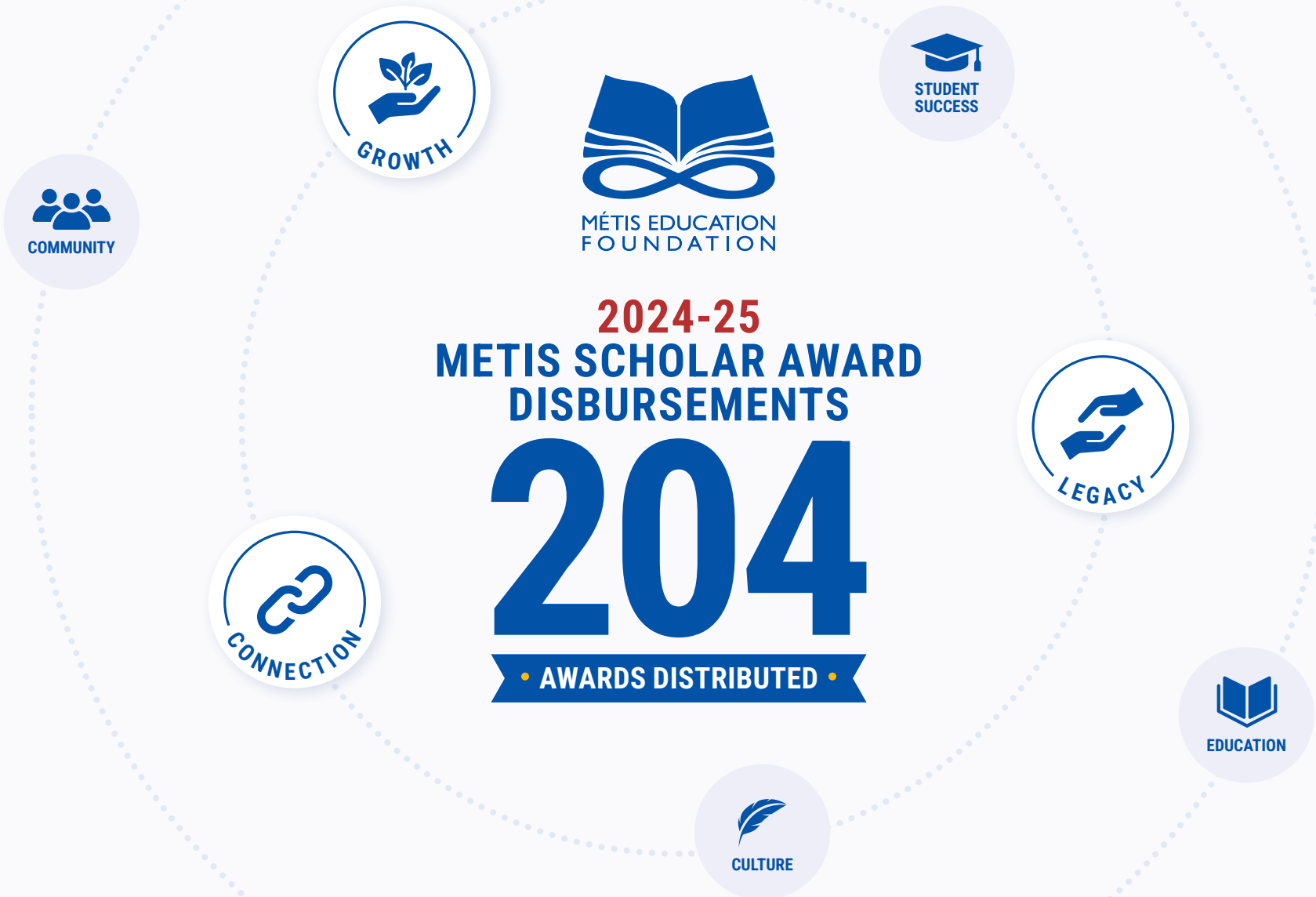
MÉTIS STUDENTS LAUNCH EN ROO - A NEW DIGITAL PLATFORM CONNECTING MÉTIS LEARNERS TO SCHOLARSHIPS, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY

STUDENT-BUILT APP BREAKS DOWN FINANCIAL BARRIERS AND STRENGTHENS CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

AT MACEWAN UNIVERSITY'S ANNUAL GRATEFUL GATHERING, DONORS AND STUDENTS CAME TOGETHER IN CELEBRATION AND GRATITUDE TO MARK THE IMPACT OF THE MORE THAN 6,500 SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS AND BURSARIES.

PORTAGE COLLEGE STUDENTS HONOURED WITH MÉTIS SCHOLARSHIPS





BUFFY

THE MÉTIS SCHOLAR

Events Buffy Attended past year:

1. Métis Games
2. Buffy's Birthday
3. Métis Cup
4. En Roo Launch
5. Métis Housing pancake breakfast
6. Citizen's Gathering
7. Métis Week – Elders Tea
8. Youth Open House
9. Staff Conference
10. Delia Gray Gala
11. Métis Teacher Appreciation Gatherings
12. Youth & Seniors Gathering
13. Métis Two-Spirit LGBTQIA+ Charity Drag Show





BUFFY AS IDENTITY + COMMUNITY IMPACT

*A symbol of Métis student success,
culture, and community*

WHO IS BUFFY?

Buffy the Métis Scholar has become one of the most recognizable and beloved figures within the Métis education community, serving as a symbol of connection, culture, and student success.

Born at Métis Crossing and grounded in the rich traditions of his people, Buffy represents the journey of Métis students across Alberta as they pursue post-secondary education, connect with their culture, and build their futures.

His journey reflects the experiences of Métis scholars as they navigate post-secondary education while staying connected to their identity and community.

More than a mascot, Buffy is a storyteller, motivator, and cultural ambassador. Through his presence at events and within communities, he creates moments of connection, belonging, and pride for Métis students, alumni, and citizens.

Whether he is welcoming students, celebrating achievements, or participating in cultural gatherings, Buffy embodies the strength, perseverance, and vibrant spirit of the Métis community.

BUFFY IN THE COMMUNITY

Over the past year, Buffy played an active role in a wide range of community, youth, and student engagement events across Alberta.

From large-scale gatherings such as the Métis Games, Métis Cup, and Citizen's Gathering to more intimate and meaningful moments like the Métis Week Elders Tea, Métis Housing Pancake Breakfast, and Teacher Appreciation Gatherings, Buffy helped create welcoming and engaging spaces for Métis students and families.

Buffy was also present at key initiatives including the En Roo Launch, Youth Open House, and Youth & Seniors Gathering, supporting intergenerational connection and student engagement.

His presence extended to community celebrations and special events such as Buffy's Birthday, the Delia Gray Gala, and the Métis Two-Spirit LGBTQIA+ Charity Drag Show, reflecting the diversity and inclusivity of the Métis community.

Across all events, Buffy's role remained consistent: to foster connection, encourage participation, and create a sense of belonging for Métis students and community members.

Through these engagements, Buffy is the embodiment of the strength, perseverance, and cultural identity that define and inspire our Métis Scholars.





DIGITAL GROWTH + STRATEGIC IMPACT

EXPANDING BUFFY'S REACH: DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

In 2025, Buffy expanded his reach into the digital space with the launch of his TikTok page, @BuffyTheMetisScholar.

This platform allows Buffy to connect with students in a way that is accessible, engaging, and culturally relevant, which meets scholars where they are.

Through short-form content, Buffy shares:

- Tips for Métis students on scholarships, applications, and student success
- Cultural content that celebrates Métis identity and traditions
- Lighthearted and engaging videos that build connection and community
- Messages of encouragement during exam periods and key academic deadlines

Buffy's growing online presence has created new opportunities to engage Métis scholars across Alberta, particularly younger students navigating their educational journeys.

WHY BUFFY MATTERS

Buffy represents more than a character, he is a strategic approach to student and community engagement across both in-person and digital spaces.

By combining cultural representation with relatable storytelling and digital outreach, Buffy helps:

- Increase awareness of programs, supports, and opportunities
- Strengthen engagement at community and post-secondary events
- Foster a sense of belonging among Métis students
- Connect youth, students, alumni, and community members
- Extend OMG, MEF and OMSA's reach beyond traditional engagement channels

As Buffy continues to evolve, he remains a powerful and recognizable symbol of Métis student success, connection, and community, both in person and online.







MÉTIS EDUCATION
FOUNDATION