



2025-2026

ANNUAL REPORT

To The Community

Sharing our Journey Forward



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2025-2026 Annual Report

Message from Secretary Lisa Wolfe



Lisa Wolfe

Portfolio Holder,
Education, Training,
and Research

Tansi,

Over the last 30 years, Rupertsland Institute began with a small budget with a big heart to develop educational and training resources with opportunities for Métis students to thrive into the future.

In 2025/2026, Education, Training, and Research is still the foundation of a strong and self-determined Métis Nation. Every student who graduates, every citizen who gains meaningful employment, and every new opportunity created through education and skills development strengthens our communities and our future.

Over the past year, the Education, Training, and Research Department has continued to make a meaningful impact in the lives of Métis citizens across Alberta.

Through investments in post-secondary education, employment and training supports, community outreach, research, and innovative initiatives, the department has helped create opportunities that empower individuals, families, and communities to succeed.

As we continue our transition to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, we are building a stronger foundation for the future. This transition is more than an organizational change—it is an opportunity to modernize our services, strengthen our partnerships, and ensure our programs continue to reflect the priorities and aspirations of Métis citizens within Alberta.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the staff of the Education, Training, and Research Department for their professionalism, dedication, and commitment to serving our citizens. I also would like to thank our many partners, educational institutions, employers, governments, and community organizations who work alongside Rupertsland Institute to create meaningful opportunities for Métis people in their future endeavours.

Together, we are investing in education, creating pathways to employment, advancing research, and building a skilled, knowledgeable, and self-reliant Métis Nation. I look forward to the work that lies ahead as we continue to support Métis citizens and strengthen our Nation for generations to come. Celebrate with us as we reflect on the 2025 and 2026 year in review.

Marrsi,

Secretary Lisa Wolfe
Portfolio Holder, Education, Training, and Research
Otipemisiwak Métis Government

RLI is currently governed by a public- and private-sector Board of Governors comprised of representatives from the Métis business community, the University of Alberta, industry, and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. This governance structure will remain in place while RLI transitions to become the Education, Training and Research Department of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.



James Henry, LLB

Board Chair,
Rupertsland Institute
Appointment



Andrea Sandmaier

President,
Otipemisiwak Métis
Government Ex-Officio



Lisa Wolfe

Otipemisiwak Métis
Government Ex-Officio



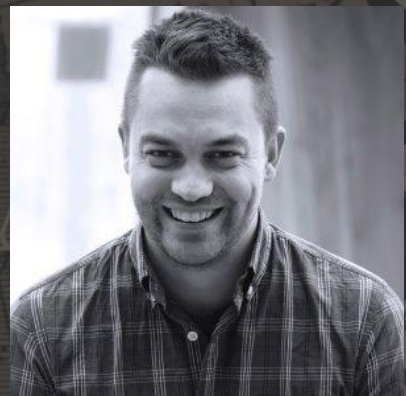
Dr. Ian Winship

University of Alberta
Ex-Officio



Delores Cox

Otipemisiwak
Métis Government
Appointment



Dr. Adam Gaudry

University of Alberta
Ex-Officio

Board of Governors



chi kishkayhtamihk
(chih gish-gay-tah-mihk)





EDUCATION



Teaching and Learning

RLI's Teaching and Learning team advances Métis education across Alberta by creating learning opportunities that reflect Métis histories, cultures, languages, and ways of knowing. Across early learning, K-12, post-secondary pathways, and Michif language revitalization, the team works with educators, school divisions, Knowledge Holders, Language Holders, and community partners to support learning that is accurate, meaningful, and grounded in Métis perspectives.

Through curriculum-connected resources, professional learning, student supports, course delivery, and community-based learning opportunities, the Teaching and Learning team helps Métis learners see themselves reflected in education while supporting educators to teach Métis content with confidence and care.

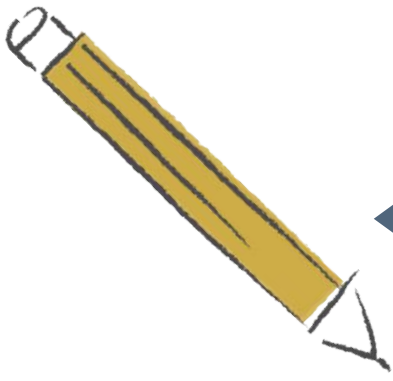
K-12 Initiatives / Strengthening Métis Education in Alberta Classrooms

In 2025-2026, RLI continued to expand the reach and impact of Métis education through in-person, virtual, and digital learning opportunities. The Teaching and Learning team delivered [29 professional learning sessions to over 1000 educators](#), supporting teachers, school leaders, and education partners in bringing Métis perspectives into classrooms across the province.

As a trusted Métis education stakeholder in Alberta, RLI participates in education action and advisory committees that help inform curriculum development, resource creation, and educator professional learning across the province. This work helps ensure Métis perspectives are represented in the systems and decisions that shape classroom learning.

RLI also works directly with school divisions to create and share Métis education resources that support the Alberta curriculum. [In 2025–2026, RLI maintained Métis Education Service Agreements with Christ the Redeemer, Pembina Hills, Prairieland, and Livingstone Range School Divisions.](#) Through these agreements, RLI provided curriculum support, cultural guidance, professional development, and opportunities for educators and students to learn from Métis Elders, Knowledge Holders, and Language Holders. [This partnership-based approach helps educators move beyond one-time learning, and toward sustained inclusion of Métis content throughout the school year.](#) It also ensures that Métis learning opportunities are rooted in community knowledge and the lived experiences of Métis people.





In 2025/26, RLI continued to expand access to Métis education and language learning through Moodle courses and digital platforms that reached learners across Alberta. Online course participation included:

- **214 registrants** in the Introduction to Michif course
- **269 registrants** in the Foundational Knowledge Themes course



Learning Through Community, Culture, and Connection

Throughout the year, the Teaching and Learning team created meaningful opportunities for educators, students, and community members to engage with Métis knowledge, language, and culture. This included participation in the Indigenous Teacher Conference in Winnipeg, Métis Week programming, the Youth and Seniors Gathering, Think Indigenous in Regina, professional development with school divisions, and student learning visits focused on Northern Michif language, Métis art, cultural programming, and identity.

The team also continued developing new learning materials through projects such as arts video recordings at Métis Crossing and land-based learning resources. These initiatives support educators with practical, classroom-ready tools while helping students engage with Métis knowledge through story, song, language, movement, art, and relationships with the land.

Launching Michif Minecraft

Among the new resources introduced this year, the Teaching and Learning team was proud to officially launch Michif Minecraft, an interactive learning experience available through Minecraft Education. Shaped by the contributions of Métis educators, Elders, Knowledge Holders, and other collaborators, the resource offers students an interactive way to explore Métis history, language, and culture. With curriculum-connected activities, walkthrough videos, and an educator guide, Michif Minecraft supports teachers in bringing Métis learning into the classroom in a creative, hands-on format.



Student Supports

To complement its educator and classroom initiatives, the Teaching and Learning team provided direct supports that helped Métis students stay engaged in their learning, strengthen academic skills, and prepare for future education pathways. In 2025–2026, this included tutoring for Métis students in grades K–12 through certified providers selected by families, as well as access to technology support and ExamBank logins. Together, these supports helped reduce barriers to learning by providing students flexible academic assistance, tools to review course material, opportunities to practise key concepts, and additional support as they prepared for assessments.

As students begin planning for life after high school, the Métis Access to Post-Secondary (MAPS) program, provides direct guidance to Métis youth across Alberta as they explore, plan, and transition into post-secondary education. Through one-on-one support, culturally grounded engagement, school outreach, and participation in post-secondary open houses, **MAPS helps students better understand their education options, set goals, and connect with the financial assistance, programming, and services available through RLI.**

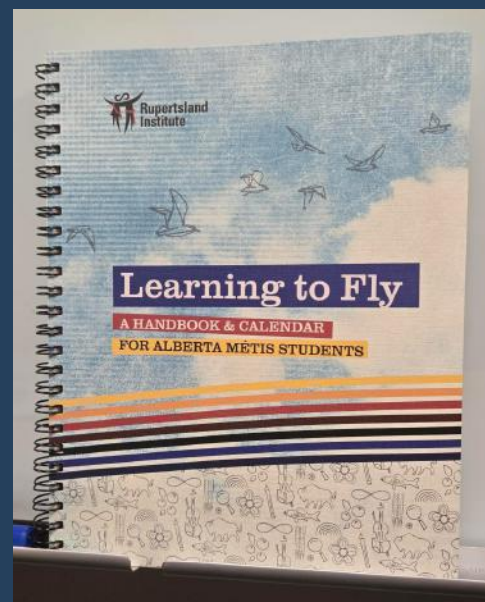
Since October 2025, MAPS has:

- Distributed Learning to Fly handbooks to **1,500 Métis students**
- Directly supported **137 Métis youth** in exploring post-secondary pathways, setting education and career goals, and understanding available RLI supports
- **Connected with 200 secondary schools** across Alberta
- Delivered **20 cultural presentations** in Alberta schools

Learning to Fly Student Handbook and Calendar

During the summer of 2025, The Teaching and Learning team worked alongside the Otipemisiwak Student and Alumni team to create a resource for upcoming post-secondary students. This took the form of Learning to Fly (ay-kishkinwahamaakooshiyaan aypimihaayenn [said: ay-gish-gihn-wah-hah-maw-goo-shih-yawn ay-pih-mih-haw-yen]); a handbook for our Métis Access to Post-Secondary (MAPS) Program to distribute to grade 10-12 Métis students throughout Alberta.

This handbook was developed to get Métis students interested and prepared for post-secondary education. It includes information on accessing post-secondary funding, community and cultural programming, and the opportunities available through Rupertsland Institute and the Otipemisiwak Métis Student & Alumni Association.



The title of the journal was inspired by the name and Métis teachings of the ohpahôwipîsim—“flying-up moon” or “learning to fly moon”. This is a time of change, as young birds learn to fly and we are reminded to grow in our own journeys while building respectful, reciprocal relationships with the land.



Métis Teacher Gathering – February, 26, 2026

On February 26, 2026, RLI Teaching and Learning hosted its first-ever Métis Teacher Gathering at the Edmonton EXPO Centre. The evening brought together Métis educators and allies from across Alberta for a celebration of connection, recognition, and community.

The gathering included a keynote address from Sandra Davenport, dinner, educational prize giveaways, and a lively jigging and fiddling performance that celebrated Métis music and dance. Guests enjoyed music by Colten Bear, accompanied by Robert Fraser on piano, with jigging performances by Ivy Brandsma, Allie Parry, and Bella Parry.

As the first event of its kind hosted by RLI's Teaching and Learning team, the Métis Teacher Gathering created space to honour educators, strengthen relationships, and celebrate the people helping advance Métis education in classrooms across Alberta.

Testimonials:

"I was personally so impressed that even though the presentation was meant for grades 1–9, our grade 11 class wanted to take part. That just speaks to how engaging the speakers were... All four sessions that were done throughout the day were talked about by many of the students."

– Ryan Mann, Assistant Principal, Delia School

"This session was very enriching and allowed me to better understand the history of the Métis scrip and the realities related to land theft. The facilitators' explanations were clear and well-structured, and they helped deepen my reflection on the history of Indigenous and Métis peoples in Canada. As a teacher in training, this knowledge is important for developing a more inclusive teaching practice that respects Indigenous perspectives. Thank you for this relevant and informative training."

– APLC Session Participant, kimotowin: Métis Scrip and Theft of Land

Post-Secondary Education Program



In the 2025-2026 academic year, the PSE program successfully supported 975 students across a diverse range of academic disciplines.

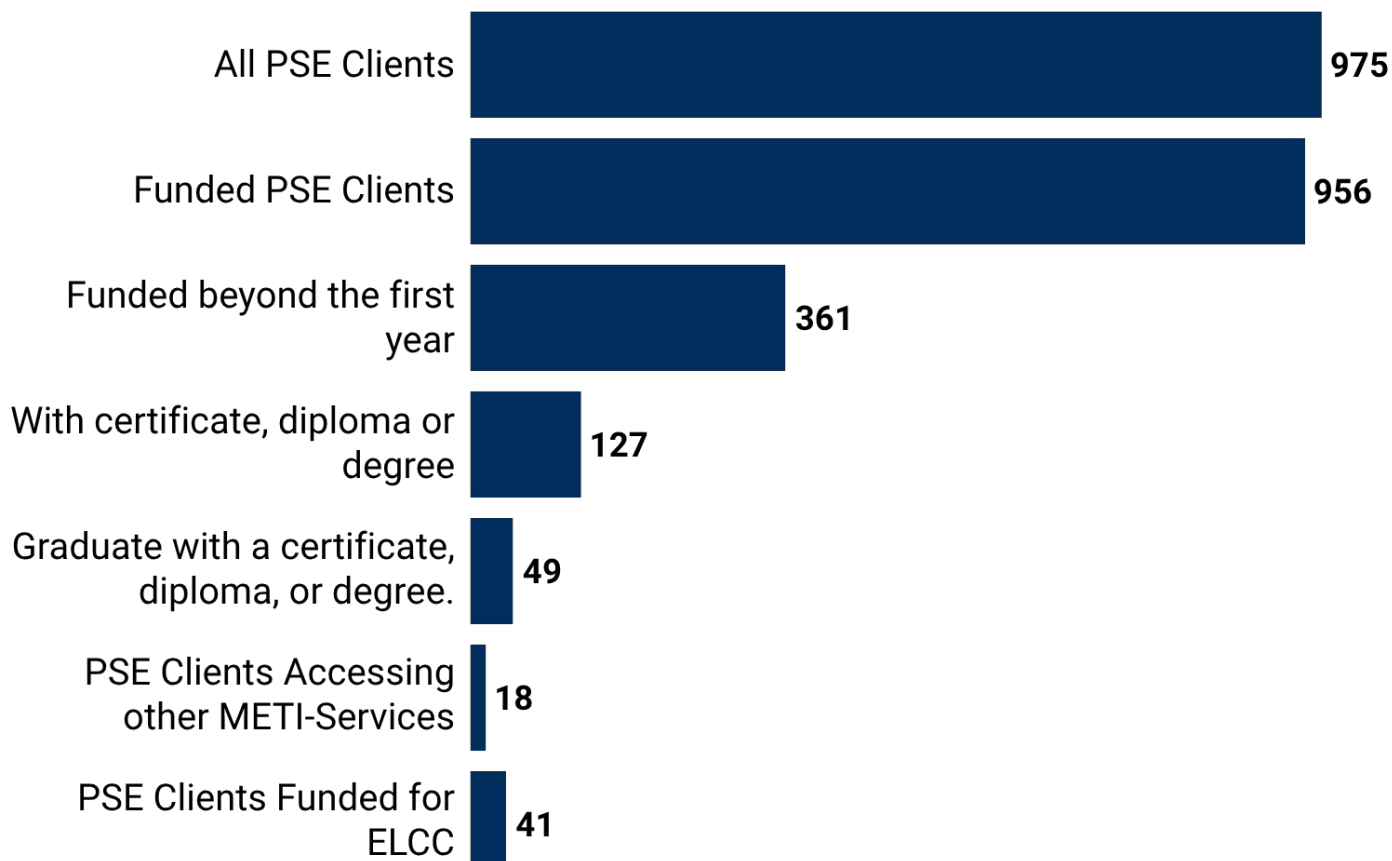
The Post-Secondary Education (PSE) Program provides financial assistance and student supports to help Métis citizens pursue eligible post-secondary degree programs.

The program plays a crucial role in ensuring Métis learners can access, participate in, and successfully complete post-secondary education. By investing in Métis students, the PSE Program fosters the development of a new generation of learners dedicated to their studies. Funding through the PSE program acts to reduce financial barriers and supports students throughout their studies, **helping Métis learners build the knowledge and skills to contribute to their communities and shape the future of the Métis Nation.**

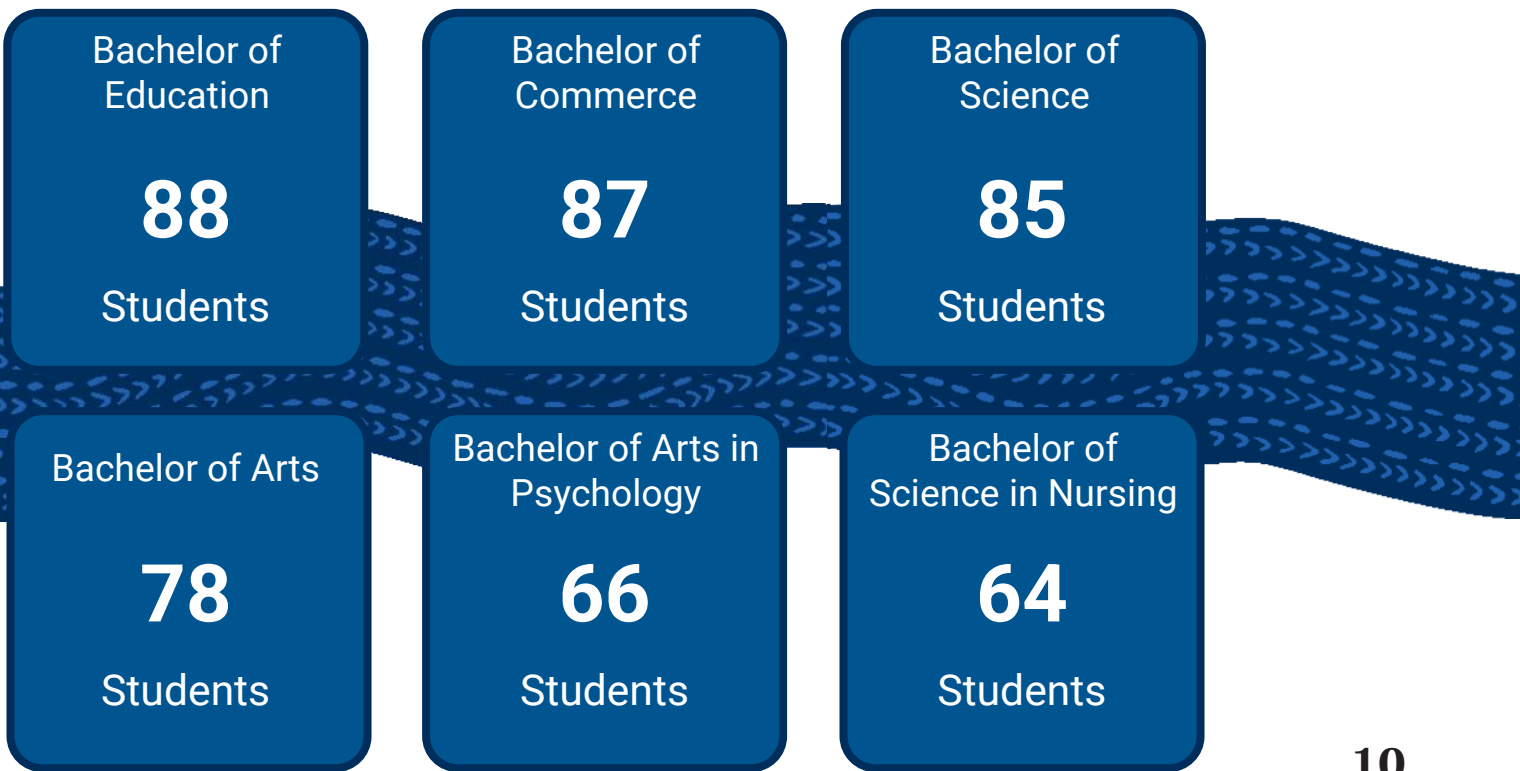
Continued access to the PSE program empowers students to build essential skills, explore career pathways, and prepare for a successful future. Our commitment to supporting students not only strengthens the province's talent pipeline, but also contributes to a more resilient and innovative Métis nation.

Our staff processed both Métis Training to Employment and Post-Secondary Education applications in 2025-2026, **resulting in nearly 2,000 Métis Citizens being supported for education and training over the course of the year.**

Below is our breakdown of client supports in 2025-2026:



The top six enrolled degrees for our students this year were:



Gathering Around

Rupertsland Institute's (RLI) promotions at Otipemisiwak Métis community events helps us connect with the community in a culturally rich environment centered on strengthening our community ties and influence.



Métis Games

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

Métis Fest

On June 13 & 14, 2025, RLI, the Métis Education Foundation (MEF), and the Otipemisiwak Métis Student and Alumni Association attended Métis Fest. At the event, we helped support community activities and assisted the Otipemisiwak Youth Department in creating a fun and welcoming space for community connection and participation.

Audrey Poitras 26th Annual Golf Tournament

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

Métis Stampede Festival

On July 9, 2025, the Otipemisiwak Métis Student and Alumni Association attended the 2nd Annual Métis Stampede Festival on behalf of RLI and the Métis Education Foundation. The team hosted a booth promoting services, distributed branded cowboy hats, and assisted with the Métis themed photo studio and engaged with attendees throughout the event.



2025–2026 Community Events

Métis Cup Tournament

From August 1 – 3, 2025, RLI, the Métis Education Foundation, and the Otipemisiwak Métis Student and Alumni Association attended the Métis Cup Tournament. Members of the team supported the event by coaching and volunteering as scorekeepers throughout the tournament.

Citizens' Gathering

On August 21–24, 2025, Rupertsland Institute (RLI) and the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) attended the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's Annual Citizens' Gathering. RLI and 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.

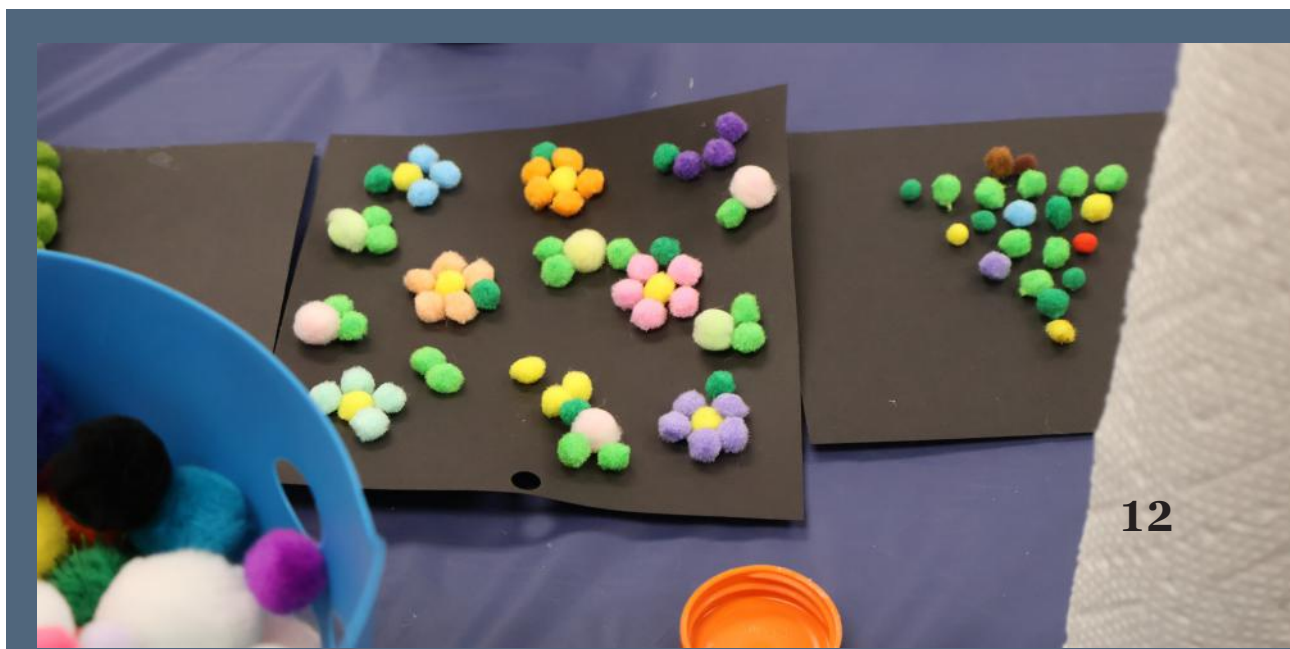
Métis Week

From November 15–22, 2025, RLI and the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) participated in Métis Week celebrations, honouring Métis culture, history, and the legacy of Louis Riel.

Throughout the week, RLI and MEF engaged with community members at various events.

Renaissance Tower Senior Gifts

On December 15 & 16, 2025, RLI and the Métis Education Foundation partnered with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government to prepare and distribute holiday stockings for Elders at Métis Housing Renaissance Place. Team members assembled and distributed gift baskets with food, toiletries, gifts, and gift cards. Following this, the team hosted a small holiday gathering with live music, treats, and a visit from Santa.



Continuing to Make History: Success Stories from Otipemisiwak Students and Alumni

Throughout the 2025–2026 year, Rupertsland's Institute's communications and executive team worked to showcase stories of success from Otipemisiwak Métis Students and Alumni who previously received, or are currently receiving, education or training support from Rupertsland Institute or the Labour Market Development Program between 1996 and 2026.

This initiative highlighted students currently pursuing their education as well as alumni making waves in their current careers and pursuits.

***The communications team collected
and published 80 unique stories, with
more to come in the new year.***

***Celebrating Rupertsland Institute's Legacy and Impact on
Otipemisiwak Students and Alumni***



"With every student supported, we are continuing to make history."



Student and Alumni Events



Buffy the Métis Scholar's Birthday

On July 25th, 2025, we celebrated Rupertsland Institute's incorporation and affiliation with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. The event featured outdoor games, a BBQ, door prizes, and a special Otipemisiwak Métis Student Association giveaway for post-secondary students. This event was executed in collaboration with the Métis Education Foundation and the Otipemisiwak Métis Student and Alumni Association team.

En Roo Launch

On August 13, 2025, the Métis Education Foundation and RLI launched En Roo, a digital platform developed by Métis student interns to support Métis learners 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 over 440 active users.



RLI's Student and Alumni events work to engage the Otipemisiwak Métis community by creating environments of connection woven with influence from the community and Métis identity. These events are held in collaboration with the Otipemisiwak Métis Students' and Alumni Association to ensure our reach envelopes past and present individuals funded through RLI and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

Post-Secondary Drop-Ins

From February 2nd to March 25th, 2026 the Otipemisiwak Métis Student Association team, with RLI advisors on hand, visited 7 post-secondary institutions across Alberta. The visits provided students and staff opportunities to connect, visit, and learn more about the funding supports and job search services Rupertsland offers as well as benefits that come from joining the Otipemisiwak Métis Student Association.

In 2026, the Otipemisiwak Métis Student Association team visited **7 post-secondary institutions** on behalf of the Métis Education Foundation:

- **Concordia University of Edmonton:** February 2
- **Mount Royal University:** February 11
- **Bow Valley College:** February 12
- **Olds College:** March 3
- **NorQuest College:** March 12
- **Northwestern Polytechnic:** March 18
- **NAIT:** March 25



Métis 2SLGBTQQIA+ Charity Drag Show

On March 14, 2026, the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) hosted its third annual Métis Two-Spirit LGBTQIA+ 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 astounding \$4580, with proceeds going toward the creation of a new Métis Scholar Award for 2SLGBTQQIA+ post-secondary students.





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(gish-in-nah-hamaw-gay-oh)





TRAINING



Métis Training to Employment



The Métis Training to Employment (MTE) program is dedicated to helping Métis citizens across Alberta achieve meaningful employment through training and education.

The 2025–2026 year was marked by a dual focus: transitioning into our role as a department of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government while also completing the year's ongoing business. This transition was supported by a collaborative team from both the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and RLI, who worked together to transition staff, close out legacy business, and ensure continuity of operations with minimal disruption to community services. As with any transition of this scale, the process required—and will continue to require—ongoing adjustments as remaining gaps are identified and addressed over time.

As reported in 2024, RLI conducted staff and community engagements to streamline and enhance our services. RLI explored alternative service delivery models that would result in efficiency and cost-effectiveness. The closure of regional offices means that RLI can now extend its reach through expanded mobile services providing more in-person connections to the community at less cost. This approach, combined with the online application system, allows RLI to maintain a strong and more accessible presence across Alberta, particularly in more geographically dispersed and remote communities. It's RLI's way of combining our traditional approach with the digital world.

Our work behind the scenes is to continue to ensure these transitions do not disrupt the quality of services provided to citizens across Alberta. Our team is dedicated to supporting the Alberta Métis community in pursuing their educational and training journeys.

What We Offer:

The MTE Program focuses on short-term training and college programs such as certificates, diplomas, and employment supports for job-ready clients. MTE also focuses on job training and employment services tailored to the needs of Métis Citizens. RLI provides a wide range of services under MTE, including:

- Funding for certificate, diploma, and trades programs
- Customized training initiatives
- Employer programs to support the hiring of Métis citizens
- Short-term training (e.g., safety tickets, PPE acquisition)
- Employment readiness services (e.g., resume writing, mock interviews, and job search)
- Career and job fairs
- Partnership development to create more job opportunities

These services are available both online and in person through two centralized offices and three mobile service units. Our services cover all 22 districts under the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

The 2025-2026 year was truly a banner year for community support:

A total of ***1,113 Métis Citizens received funding support from MTE***, reflecting the growing reach of our programs. In addition, ***664 Métis Citizens successfully secured employment or returned to school*** after receiving support from our Métis Training to Employment team.



Training Across Alberta

Throughout the year, the Edmonton-North team delivered extensive outreach, programming, and community engagement across the region, supporting Métis citizens in employment, education, and career development.

Career Fairs and Community Engagement

The Edmonton-North Rupertsland Institute team participated in several career fairs and events across the region. A major career fair – Athabasca Tribal Council in Fort McMurray welcomed **over 500 students and community members**. Additional career fairs and presentations were delivered in Lac La Biche, Boyle, St. Paul, Bonnyville, Cold Lake, Vermilion, Vegreville, and Smoky Lake, where Job Coaches and Advisors provided classroom presentations on Rupertsland Institute services.



Otipemisiwak Métis Workforce Expo in Calgary

Our Edmonton-North team travelled across Alberta and connected with Métis Citizens at events such as:

- Try-a-Trade event in Lloydminster with **over 400 attendees**
- Conklin Career Fair with **150 attendees**
- Portage College Career Fair in Lac La Biche with **250 attendees**
- Métis Fest in Fort McMurray with **250 attendees**
- Lac La Biche CARE Event with **150 attendees**
- Get Ahead of Your Future event with approximately **60 students**
- EmployAbilities Job Fair with approximately **150 attendees**
- The Otipemisiwak Métis Workforce Expo in Calgary with **over 120 attendees**

Community Partnerships and Outreach

Our Edmonton-North team supported Otipemisiwak Métis Government membership drives in Lac La Biche, Bonnyville, Boyle, Cold Lake, and Smoky Lake, strengthening connections with Métis citizens across the region.

Client Outcomes and Supports

The Edmonton-North region funded 242 Métis citizens through employment and training programs:

- **110 clients secured employment**
- **45 clients returned to school**

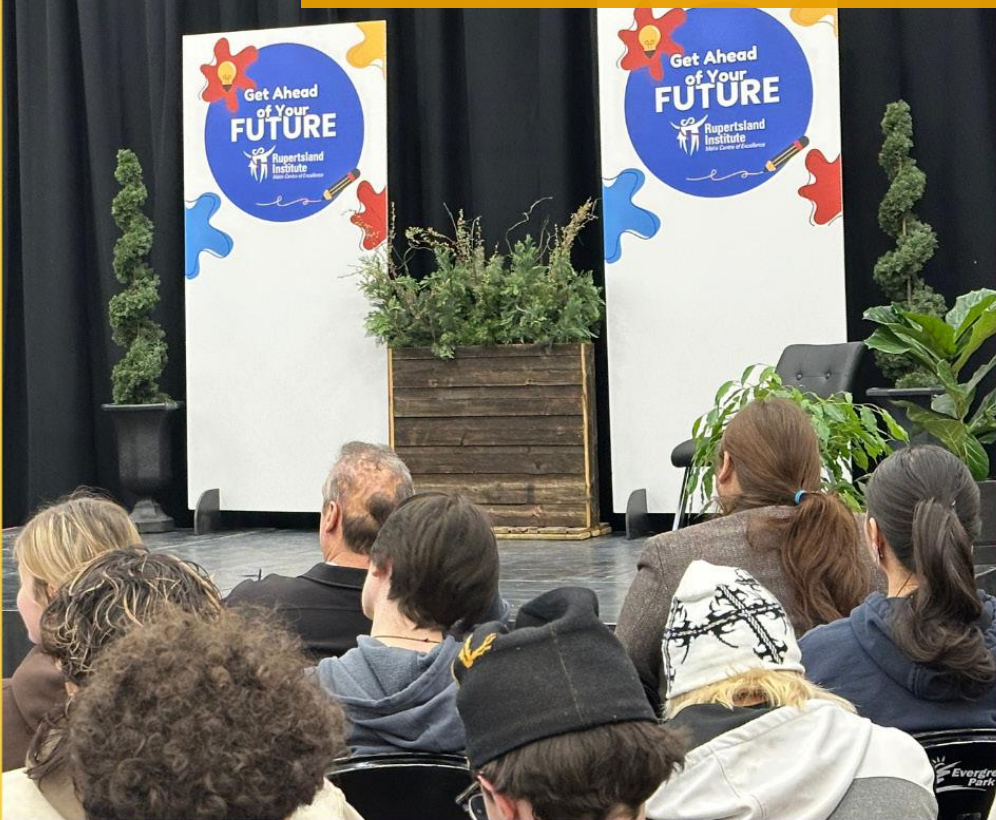
In addition, staff provided **22 non-funded interventions**, including resume assistance, career decision-making support, and referrals to external services.



The Athabasca Tribal Council Career Fair in Fort McMurray from April 15-16, 2026.



Reports from the Regions





Métis Stampede Festival in Calgary, AB. – July 9, 2025

The Calgary-South Region experienced an exceptionally active and impactful year, continuing its commitment to supporting members of the Métis community in education, training, and employment.

Over the past year, the region successfully assisted an unprecedented number of clients, reflecting both the growing demand for services and the team's dedication to expanding its reach. Looking ahead, the Calgary-South Region remains focused on further extending its support to serve even more individuals and communities.

In total, the Calgary-South Region supported **243 individuals through various education, training, and employment initiatives**. Additionally, **37 non-funded interventions were provided**, ensuring that individuals received guidance and support even outside of funded programming. Among those who completed their programs or services, outcomes were strong:

- **92 individuals secured employment**
- **15 individuals became self-employed**
- **20 individuals returned to school**

The Mobile services in the Calgary-South region were a key outreach initiative, playing a significant role in expanding accessibility to Rupertsland programs and services.

In the Calgary-South region, the **Mobile METI-Service unit reached over 500 people**.

The mobile service approach continues to be an effective and efficient method to reach diverse communities and provide services directly where they are needed.



Throughout the year, our team in the Calgary-South region had the privilege of attending and participating in numerous events centered on education, employment, and community connection.

These engagements were vital in maintaining strong relationships with communities and deepening understanding of both the opportunities and challenges faced by Indigenous populations across Alberta, particularly within the Calgary-South Region.

At each event, the Calgary-South Region team proudly shared information about Rupertsland Institute programs and services while building meaningful connections with community members. These interactions are essential for fostering collaboration with organizations and businesses, strengthening partnerships, and ultimately enhancing the support available to clients.



The Calgary-South regional team promoted Rupertsland programs and services across Southern Alberta at events such as:

- Métis Stampede Festival,
- Naming Ceremony hosted by Indigenous Services Blackfoot,
- ISET National Gathering,
- Cannexus Conference,
- Regular RV tours throughout the South Region,
- Post-Secondary Drop-in events with the Otipemisiwak Métis Student Association team at Mount Royal University and Bow Valley College,
- The MétisWorks Business Mixer in Calgary,
- Youth Career Exploration Event in Red Deer,
- Get Ahead of Your Future in Red Deer,

and various job fairs across the region

Overall, the year has been marked by growth, strong outcomes, and deeper community engagement. The South Region is well-positioned to build on this momentum and continue making a positive impact in the year ahead.



Provincial Projects

Each year, Rupertsland Institute develops training projects designed to provide Otipemisiwak Métis Government citizens with the skills and certifications needed to advance in their careers.

These projects are developed through consultation with the community, employers, and by utilizing labour market information to address gaps in the labour market where our people can find opportunities to succeed. Our team continued our focus on developing capacity and certifications for Métis people in emergency management and first responder roles, allowing greater representation of our community during times of crisis.

Emergency Medical Responder Certification

In November and December, Rupertsland collaborated with Emergency Services Academy to provide an opportunity for Métis citizens across the province to become certified as Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs). **Our goal was to not only increase representation of Métis people in the first-responder field, but to also increase the number of Métis people who are able to aid during emergency situations.**

Over the course of the project, **8 participants developed the knowledge, skills, and physical fitness required to work as first responders.** The first 4 weeks were self-directed study, in their home communities. The final 4 weeks were spent training in-person at Nekinan Lodge in Smoky Lake, AB. The Métis-owned facility provided the necessary accommodations and classroom space to ensure our participants could focus on the critical skills and knowledge they would need in their future careers. **The training at Nekinan included moving the patient, proper use of equipment, and working on case scenarios which simulated various emergency situations they may face in the future.**

Despite the steep learning curve around medical terminology and regulations, this project achieved a 100% success rate. **All 8 participants successfully completed the program and became eligible for the Canadian Organization of Paramedic Regulators exam, while others are moving onto the Primary Care Paramedic training to advance their skills to the next level.**



**EMR Certificate Students at the Nekinan Lodge
December 2025**





Professional Project Administrator

In collaboration with Royal Roads University, we were able to provide 13 participants with the opportunity to earn a university certificate in project administration. The Professional Project Administrator training project was an online training project that allowed participants from across the province to work towards a certification that would lead directly to employment or further education in business administration.

Of the 13 original participants, 10 successfully completed their training and moved on to their careers.

Métis Youth Guide Camp

Indigenous tourism in Alberta continues to outpace all other emerging tourism sectors as more international visitors express interest in our history and our stories. Our provincial project team recognizes this as a unique instance where the preservation of our culture and building skills that are valuable in the labour market align. **In addressing this opportunity, we have once again collaborated with Painted Warriors to deliver our Métis Youth Guide Camp to Métis youth between the ages of 15 and 18, who are interested in a possible career as an Indigenous guide.**

The camp is a career exploration project, where youth who are still in high school have the opportunity to sample what a career in the Indigenous tourism sector may be like. The two-week experience culminates in participants working in pairs to develop their own wilderness experience around a specific outdoor skill they learned during their time at camp. Students spend the final two days of the project in a short practicum with an Indigenous tourism destination near their home communities, where they can put their new skills to the test.

This project has been run several times over the last 10 years and has proven to be an excellent introduction to the industry for many youths. Several graduates of this project over the years have moved on to careers in Indigenous tourism, working at destinations such as Métis Crossing once they have completed high school. **In 2025-2026, we had 5 students from across Alberta who attended the program, and each one of them completed the experience successfully.**



Rupertsland Emergency and Industry Skills Drone Training

In Fall of 2025, we again partnered with Métis owned In Flight Data to offer the Rupertsland Emergency and Industry Skills Drone (REISD) training project. As we continued our focus on developing capacity in the emergency management field for our citizens, we wanted to run another cohort of the REISD to **continue to put Métis people on the leading edge of industry disrupting technology.**

Many of the participants this year were entrepreneurs looking to either expand their current offerings or develop businesses around their new skills. To help on their way, the REISD project provided a course on the specific laws and regulations that drone based businesses would need to be aware of, such as unique insurance requirements and Transport Canada regulations.

For those looking for the more typical employment pathway, we provided several safety tickets related to industry requirements, including Incident Command System 100 and 200, Standard First Aid, Common Safety Orientation, and Bear Awareness. We also provided instruction on building an employability portfolio, and our Foundational Themes curriculum to ensure a cultural component was included throughout.

Our project began with a full complement of 15 participants, of which 13 participants completed their training and passed their flight exams at the end of the training.



REISD Students at Métis Crossing November 2025

In 2025-2026, our Provincial Projects team also ran the following initiatives:

Project	Area(s) Served
• Security Guard Certification	Edmonton
• Class 5 Driver Training	Bonnyville, Calgary, Cold Lake, Edmonton, Lac La Biche, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, and St. Paul
• Dental Office Assistant with NorQuest College	Edmonton
• Women in Microbusiness	Online / Province-Wide
• Métis Entrepreneurship Workshops	Online / Province-Wide
• Digital Marketing Bootcamp with Jelly Academy	Online / Province-Wide
• Employer Apprenticeship Incentive Project	Province-Wide
• Virtual Upgrading with NorQuest College	Online / Province-Wide
• Tattoo Artist Training and Certification with the Alberta College of Body Art	Grande Prairie



Provincial Events

Otipemisiwak Workforce Expos

As the Otipemisiwak Métis Government continues to grow to meet the needs of our citizens, opportunities for employment within the government grow as well. To address this increasing need for skilled and dedicated staff, Rupertsland Institute developed the Otipemisiwak Workforce Expos to try and recruit Métis citizens to fill as many of these vital roles as possible. While you didn't have to be Métis to attend the event and apply for a suitable position, we were happy to see so many of our citizens show up to explore the opportunities and to learn more about what our government is doing to build our community within in Alberta.

The expos took place on October 15th, 2025, in Calgary at the Hotel Arts, and October 21st, 2025 at the Edmonton Convention Centre in Edmonton. Alongside Rupertsland Institute, we had a wide variety of departments and affiliates looking to recruit for their vacant positions.

Over the course of the two in-person events, we had 264 total attendees, of which 170 were citizens of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. These efforts resulted in a number of new members of the various teams within the government.





Get Ahead of Your Future 2026

Over the past year we also held career exploration events for high-school Métis students across Alberta. Career exploration events are not about recruiting for jobs, but instead providing an opportunity for youths to discover new opportunities and to expand their vision of what their careers could be like once they graduate. In previous years we have held these events in Calgary and Edmonton in an effort to reach the largest number of students possible. However, this year we wanted to take the events to communities that do not always see the same number of events.

Our venues this year were Fort McMurray, Red Deer, and Grande Prairie. Each one a community with a strong Métis presence, but not always chosen to host events of this nature. At each event, students were joined by representatives from up-and-coming industries, training institutions promoting non-traditional career pathways, emergency services organizations, as well as a robot which could provide career exploration activities, career-based personality assessments, and the opportunity to take some pictures with their friends to remember the event. We also had a graphic recorder on hand creating artwork that represented what was happening at each of the events, ensuring we captured the thoughts of the attendees and the energy of the experience.

Voyageur Trades Program

Building the Future of Skilled Tradesworkers in Alberta

Demand for skilled trades in Alberta continues to grow and with it comes significant opportunity.

Across the province, construction and infrastructure projects are expanding to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population. At the same time, a large portion of the current workforce is nearing retirement, creating a gap that will require thousands of new skilled workers in the years ahead.

Rupertsland Institute's **Voyageur Trades Program** (VTP) is about creating real opportunities in the skilled trades for Métis citizens across Alberta. VTP currently offers mentorship to plumbing, carpentry, and electrical apprentices.

It's built on a simple idea: when people are given the right support, experience and connections, they can build meaningful, lasting careers and strong futures for themselves and their communities. Apprentices within this program gain broad experience across multiple job sites, ensuring exposure to residential, commercial, and community-based projects.

VTP is designed for individuals who are ready to take the next step, moving beyond training and into real job-site experience. It focuses on helping participants gain the hours, hands-on skills and confidence needed to move forward in their chosen trade. VTP creates a bridge between training and employment by supporting Métis participants as they gain real job site experience, connect with mentors, and build the hours and confidence needed to move forward in their trade.



VTP is more than a training initiative, ***the program connects participants with mentors and opportunities supporting long-term success. The program is about building practical and supported pathways rooted in real-world experience.***



"I get a lot of joy from seeing apprentices grow and succeed in their own careers. For me, this is an opportunity to giving them the support and confidence to move forward."

*- Pat Sestito
Mentor & Journeyperson Carpenter*



Education, Training, and Research **Mobile METI-Services**

The Mobile METI-Services team extend our reach by bringing education, training, employment, and research supports directly to Métis Citizens across Alberta. Mobile Services improve access by meeting citizens where they live, work, and gather.

Our Mobile Services support:

- Community outreach and citizen engagement
- Program awareness, intake support, and referrals
- Career fairs, information sessions, and community events
- Partnerships with schools, post-secondary institutions, and community organizations
- Regional service delivery in rural, remote, and underserved communities

Otipemisiwak Métis Government Kitchen Party Tour

While supporting the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Kitchen Party Tour was outside the core mandate of ETR Mobile METI-Services, it provided a valuable opportunity to connect with Métis Citizens across Alberta. Our Mobile Services team transported and set up the mobile stage at each community stop while engaging directly with citizens. The team shared information about the Education, Training, and Research Department, promoted available programs and services, and demonstrated how Mobile METI-Services delivers education, training, employment, and research supports directly within communities. **The tour reinforced the value of Mobile Services as a trusted and visible point of connection for citizens across the province.**





Northeast Region Visitors

Métis:	713
First Nations:	166
Non-Indigenous:	506

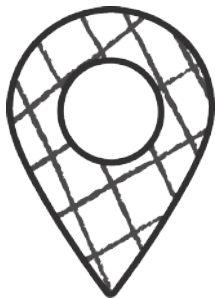
	Northwest Region
	Northeast Region
	Central Region
	South Region

Northwest Region Visitors

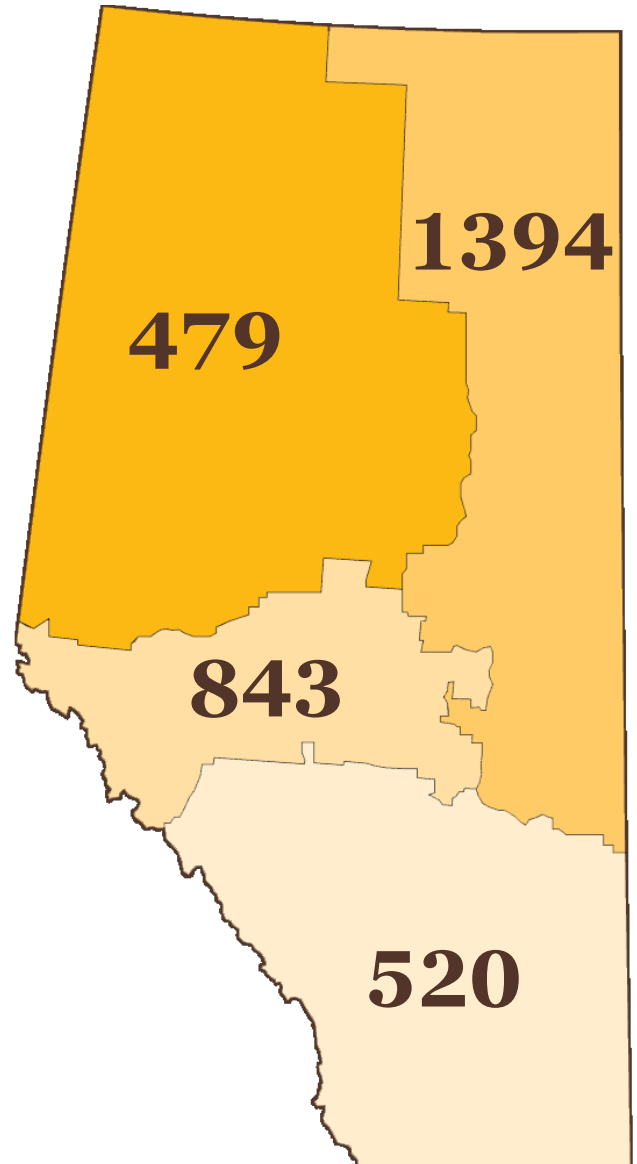
Métis:	265
First Nations:	71
Non-Indigenous:	143

Central Region Visitors

Métis:	413
First Nations:	14
Non-Indigenous:	386



Total Visitors:
3236



South Region Visitors

Métis:	284
First Nations:	100
Non-Indigenous:	200

68,000 kms travelled

Travelling Around with the *Métis Coureur de Bois*



*In 2025-2026 the mobile services team represented our services at **over 20 events** and within **over 40 communities** across Alberta.*

Our Drivers: Bernie, Tammy, and Clayton

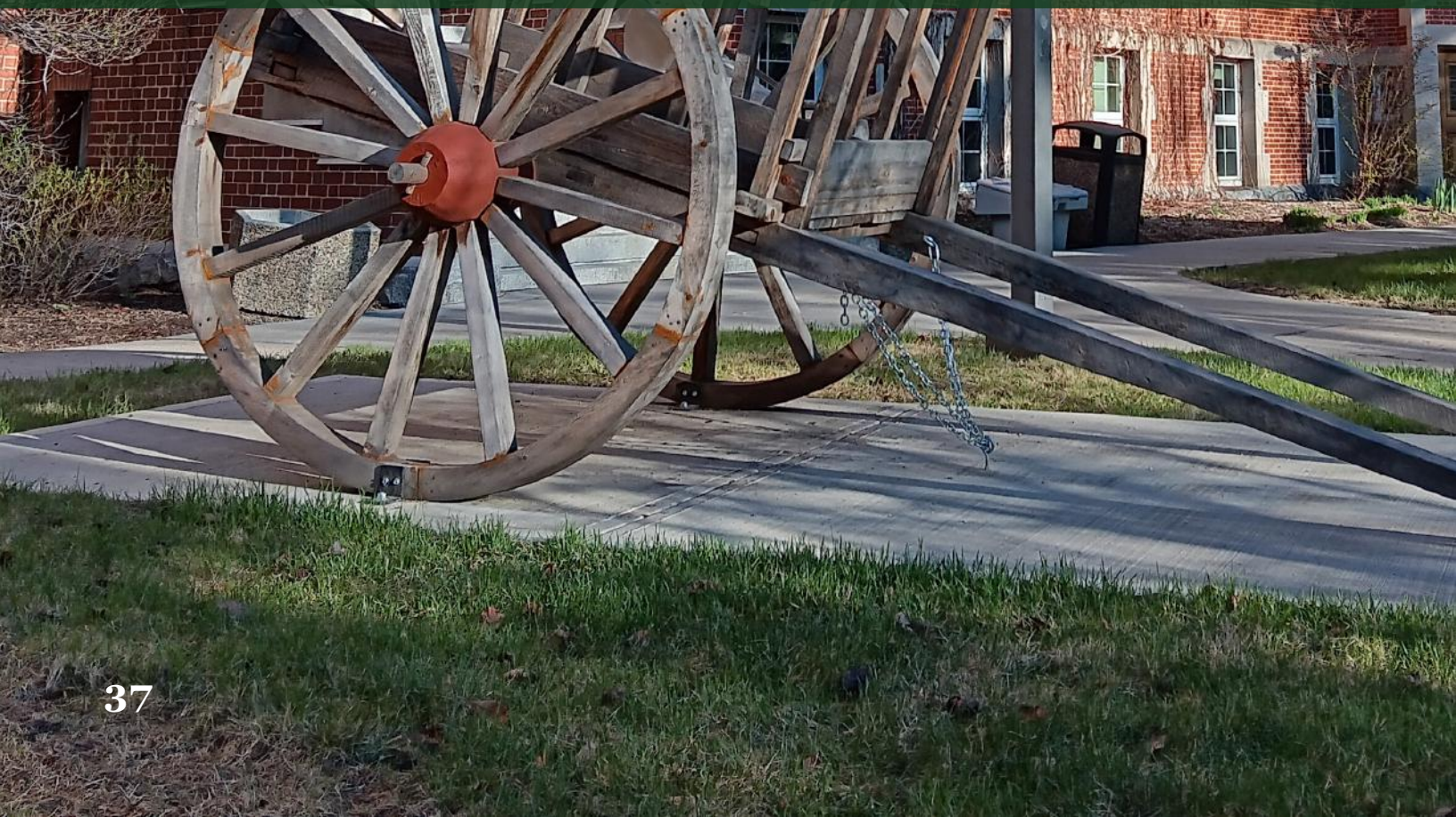


***Our METI-S Mobile Services are more than vehicles—
they are a visible extension of Rupertsland Institute's
commitment to ensuring Métis Citizens have equitable
access to education, training, employment, and research
services throughout Alberta.***





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(ehn nah-toon-ih-gay-k)





RESEARCH



Research at RLI

RLI's research function continues to play a vital role in informing decision-making, guiding program development, and supporting the advancement of Métis education, training, and employment priorities.

In 2025/26, our research activities were grounded in strong partnerships, strategic data collection, and community engagement to ensure that services are responsive, evidence-based, and aligned with the vision of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

The Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research (RCMR)

For 15 years, RCMR has engaged in research that focuses on the needs of Métis community while working alongside our partners at RLI and a number of departments with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. Housed in the Faculty of Native Studies (FNS), RCMR is an independent academic research centre that is a result of the long-term relationship between the University of Alberta, the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, and Rupertsland Institute who collectively agreed that there is a need for Métis specific research.

Since 2011, RCMR has been described as an anchor of Métis presence on the University of Alberta campus that engages in community-collaborative research related to Métis rights and historical research, institutional deficit in Métis education, land use and resources, contemporary Métis issues. RCMR develops research and analysis capacity through the hiring and training of students who support the research.

Our longstanding relationship with the Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research at the University of Alberta remains central to our research capacity. Together, we continue to generate knowledge that advances understanding of Métis experiences and priorities.

Collaboration is a Cornerstone

A cornerstone of the research project work for RCMR is centered on collaboration. Over this past year RCMR has worked with partners at the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and RLI, as well as with Métis colleagues at the University of Alberta.



Métis Research Ethics

In September of 2025 RCMR hosted a workshop at the Banff conference hosted by the Prairie Political Science Association and the Indigenous Relationality Workshop. RCMR Director, Dr. Nathalie Kermoal, and RCMR Affiliates Dr. Kisha Supernant, and Dr. Yvonne Poitras-Pratt held the workshop *Centering Relationality in Métis Research: A Dialogue*, where discussions centered on good relations, how to conduct research that reflects, advances, and meets expectations for ethical collaborative, and culturally supportive engagement with Métis individuals and communities. In addition, ideas were generated to assist researchers, communities, Métis scholars, and students to formulate guidelines for how research with Métis communities can best be structured to work collaboratively.

This workshop was developed following RCMR's attendance at the *Reclaiming Métis Ethics Beyond OCAP and Towards Métis Sovereignty* conference held in Winnipeg in May of 2025. The symposium gathered Métis researchers and community representatives across the Métis homeland.

Métis Data Sovereignty

The OMEKA-based Métis homeland database was established by RCMR and is accessible through the RCMR website. One of the original aims was to create a central repository by gathering and digitizing past and present policy documents, research, and analyses that support and strengthen Métis Nation knowledge networks. RCMR continues to focus on the important work related to Métis Data Sovereignty, and has recently received a grant that will support an expanded project entitled: *Working towards a Métis-governed virtual archival repository*. The primary objective of this project is to initiate a collaborative, Métis-led conversation that lays the groundwork for the co-development of a culturally governed virtual archival repository dedicated to Alberta's Métis histories, knowledges, and experiences. During the summer of 2025, RCMR, in collaboration with the Institute of Prairie and Indigenous Archaeology at the University of Alberta, began work on a new booklet, *Métis Data Sovereignty*.

Métis Talks

Fall 2025 marked the 10-year anniversary of Métis Talks and an online event was held on Thursday, November 27th, 2025 with 35 people in attendance.

The topic related to wildfire research and work pertaining to Indigenous fire stewardship and Métis-developed community responses. We had three wonderful presentations from: Dr. Amy Cardinal Christensen, Jakob with the Otipemisiwak Métis government and Dylan Turner from Rupertsland Institute.

MÉTIS Talks
10 YEARS

Dr. Amy Cardinal Christensen
Indigenous Fire Stewardship and Métis Communities

Jakob (with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government)
Coping with Wildfires: Holistic Approaches for Métis Citizens within Alberta

Dylan Turner (with Rupertsland Institute)
Kiwichitanow: We Are Helping Others.

Thursday November 27, 2025
2:00PM – 4:00PM (Mountain Time)
ONLINE

[Register Here](#)
https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register?anASCLB5hCJWp0tB_2Q

[or Register with the QR code](#)

Logos: UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, Otipemisiwak Métis Government, Rupertsland Institute, NATIVE STUDIES

STAY CONNECTED

into 2026-2027



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