

Red River Métis



*Annual General Assembly
March 25-27, 2022*



Metis Justice Institute Overview:

- The Metis Justice Institute was established in July of 2003. The MJI is assigned the task of focusing responsibility and authority for justice issues within the MMF.
- The mandate of the MJI is to develop and maintain a full range of justice services and programs that meet the expectations of the Red River Metis in Manitoba. The MJI is guided by the MMF Minister of Justice to establish working relationships and partnerships to provide support and advocacy to Red River Metis Citizens in need of justice support.
- Since its inception, the MJI has continued to lobby Manitoba and Canada to work towards the development of Metis Justice Programs and Services. The MJI has utilized information obtained through Red River Metis Community Consultations to focus efforts to develop Justice Programming that will support Red River Metis Citizens involved in the Criminal Justice System.



Manitoba Metis Federation – Metis Justice Institute

Current Initiatives:

- Metis Community Justice Program and Thompson Community Justice Program
- Metis Justice Institute – Justice Programming
- Domestic Violence Programming
- Anger Management Programming
- Justice Support Program
- Program Development – Life Skills Programming
- Metis Community Safety Session Development
- Metis Community Inquiries and Resource Assistance
- Policing
- New Projects
- Ongoing Future Activities



Manitoba Metis Federation – Metis Justice Institute

Metis Community Justice Program (MCJP) and Thompson Community Justice Program (TCJP):

- The Metis Community Justice Program (MCJP) and Thompson Community Justice Program (TCJP) are Court Diversion Programs for Red River Metis Citizens who are diverted from the formal court process to a culturally appropriate community-based alternative.
- The MCJP and TCJP focus on providing culturally appropriate supports, alternatives, advocacy and resources to individuals who are referred to us as clients from the Crown or RCMP through a Restorative Justice Process.
- Our process focuses on building relationships within the community to repair harm done by those individuals diverted to the program. The MCJP and TCJP currently operate within the MMF Winnipeg, Northwest, The Pas, Thompson, Southeast and Interlake Regions.



Manitoba Metis Federation – Metis Justice Institute

MCJP and TCJP Program Statistics:

Referrals received include Crown diversions and Other Matters referred to the program through Metis Community Contact.

Number of Referrals	Youth	Adult	Total
2017/2018	44	174	218
2018/2019	61	193	254
2019/2020	39	198	237
2020/2021	12	112	124
2021/2022	13	210	223

In 2021/2022, the program has worked through 117 referrals that included a total of 156 charges. Over the year, the programs received 29 Different types of Criminal Code Offenses diverted from the Courts. Most diverted charges include: Assault, Public Mischief, Failure to Comply, Theft Under 5000, Break and Entering and Uttering Threats.



Manitoba Metis Federation – Metis Justice Institute

MCJP and TCJP Sanctions and Measures by Region:

For files diverted in 2021/2022, the following sanctions and measures were used:

	Thompson	The Pas	Northwest	Interlake/ Winnipeg/ Southeast
Domestic Violence	14	4	1	27
Anger Management	4	10	2	16
Community Service	13	0	0	5
Essay	4	18	7	15
Letter of Apology	28	26	14	56
Addictions Assessment	11	6	4	6
Parenting	1	0	0	0

NOTE: Sanctions and Measures are determined based on the charges referred to the Program from Manitoba Justice. Programming is assigned based on individual files and circumstances identified in the information obtained through the RCMP.



Manitoba Metis Federation – Metis Justice Institute

MCJP and TCJP Client Success by Region:

In 2020/2021, the following success rates were achieved for those that completed sanctions:

	Thompson	The Pas	Northwest	Interlake/ Southeast/ Winnipeg
Success Rate	100%	100%	100%	100%

These completion statistics omit case files that:

- Ongoing Open Case Files; or
- Client Not Accepted to the Program
- File was Recalled by Crown due to further criminal charges
- Did not agree to participate in the Program
- Client Moved Out of Service Area



Manitoba Metis Federation – Metis Justice Institute

MCJP and TCJP Program Successes:

Program Partners/Clients have stated the following to the work undertaken by the MCJP and TCJP:

- A leader in building relationships at the ground level with Judges, Crown Attorneys and Defense Counsel within the Manitoba Provincial Court system.
- Provides Red River Metis Citizens with an alternative to the formal court process and focuses on individual circumstances.
- Provides access to resources and a chance to repair relationships at a family, individual and community level.
- Recognized by the Manitoba Provincial Court as reputable programs that consistently fulfill restorative justice requirement within the Manitoba justice system.



Manitoba Metis Federation – Metis Justice Institute

Metis Justice Programming:

- As part of Consultation with the Red River Metis Community, it was identified that access to Programs and Services were needed for Red River Metis Citizens involved in the justice system.
- The Metis Justice Institute developed and delivers Metis Justice Domestic Violence and Anger Management Programs for Red River Metis Citizens involved with our court diversion program.
- The programs are offered as a part of the MMF's commitment to develop programming that is accessible for Red River Metis Citizens in terms of location, access, cost effectiveness and meaningfulness.



Manitoba Metis Federation – Metis Justice Institute

Metis Justice Programming – Court Diversion Domestic Violence Program:

- The MJJI as a part of our Court Diversion Programs offer a Domestic Violence Program for Red River Metis clients diverted through the Provincial Court for Assault Charges.
- Within the Interlake, The Pas, Northwest, Winnipeg, Southeast and Thompson MMF Regions the following number of individuals have participated in and completed programming:

2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
49	49	73	49	35



Manitoba Metis Federation – Metis Justice Institute

Justice Programming – Court Diversion Anger Management Program:

The MJJ as a part of our Court Diversion Program offers an Anger Management Program for Red River Metis clients diverted through the Provincial Court for Assault Charges.

Within the Interlake, The Pas, Northwest, Winnipeg, Southeast and Thompson MMF Regions the following number of individuals have participated in and completed programming:

2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
60	80	81	32	25



Manitoba Metis Federation – Metis Justice Institute

Justice Support Program (JSP):

- The Justice Support Program (JSP) was developed by the Manitoba Metis Federation to focus on the delivery of an efficient and effective reintegration process for Red River Metis Citizens.
- The goal of the JSP is to assist men and women in conflict with the justice system to reintegrate into the community. The program is mandated to serve Red River Metis community members that have been remanded, have been released from provincial or federal correctional facilities or have received community dispositions.
- The JSP assists individuals to overcome barriers and address basic needs such as justice support, education, employment and training, accommodations, financial assistance, programming, personal documentation and family support. The program focuses on developing life skills, promoting job skills and ultimately supports individuals to become employment and/or education ready.



Manitoba Metis Federation – Metis Justice Institute

- Over the 2021/22 fiscal year the JSP has continued to provide reintegration supports to individuals within the following areas:

Justice Support	Education	Employment and Training	Accommodations	Financial Advocacy	Programming	Personal Documentation	Family Support
Release Plans	Resources	Resources	Resources	Assistance with EIA Application	Access to Anger Management Programming	Personal Identification	Resources
Court	Referrals	Referrals	Referrals			Metis Citizenship	Referrals
Lawyer Referral Service Information							



Manitoba Metis Federation – Metis Justice Institute

Justice Program Development – Life Skills Program:

New to programming for The Metis Justice Institute is the Metis Justice Life Skills Program.

Access to this program will be offered to MJJ Clients that are apart of our Court Diversion Program.

The Program aims to empower participants to gain skills and resources to affect positive change in their own lives.

The MJJ is currently looking at options for delivery of the program through access virtually and through on-line completion.



Manitoba Metis Federation – Metis Justice Institute

Metis Community Safety Sessions:

In our continued efforts to enhance the safety and well-being of Red River Metis Citizens and our communities, the Metis Justice Institute (MJI) undertook a justice survey within each MMF Region in 2019.

The Survey obtained information regarding Red River Metis Citizens thoughts and feelings on important community safety issues. Red River Metis Citizens were asked to provide information on a variety of community safety issues and were asked to identify types of programs and services that they would like to see offered to help prevent community members from becoming victimized.

As a result, the MJI continues to develop workshops based on Red River Metis Community response. The MJI looks forward to the development of a workshop series within the following areas for community safety programming has been identified as Provincial Priorities:

Elder Abuse
Frauds and Scams
Internet Safety
Safe Banking Practices
Fire Safety
Emergency Preparedness

Personal Safety
Planning for Your Future
Safe Driving Practices
Medication Safety
Safe Mobility Practices
Substance/Gambling
Abuse



Manitoba Metis Federation – Metis Justice Institute

Metis Community Inquiries:

The MJJ continues to receive many inquiries from Red River Metis Citizens in terms of support, advocacy and information regarding resources to help with specific justice issues.

The MJJ welcomes Red River Metis Community Inquiries that seek out assistance with information regarding resources to help with justice issues and concerns. The MJJ does not provide legal services or provide funds to pay for these services but will assist with resource information and paperwork completion.

The MJJ has a resource listing available for each Region that can assist in the areas of legal aid referrals, record suspension (formally Pardons) information, policing issues, advocacy, addictions, housing, transportation, employment and training, Manitoba Public Insurance, identification, individual support with probation orders, food and individual support.



Manitoba Metis Federation – Metis Justice Institute

Policing:

The MJJ has continued to enhance a working relationship with the RCMP “D” Division Indigenous Policing Services in regard to enhancing and improving policing relationships with Red River Métis Citizens within Manitoba.

Through the developed partnership, the Red River Metis Government has focused on policy development that will engage the Red River Metis in each of our Regions in the development of annual RCMP Detachment Performance Plans. This process will include the Red River Metis Government representation to ensure that policing needs and concerns of the Red River Metis are included and prioritized within RCMP Detachments across Manitoba



New Projects for the Metis Justice Institute

Metis Identity within the Justice System Project

The Metis Identity within the Justice System Project will support the development of a Metis Distinctions Based education and training resource for justice professionals in Manitoba. The project will provide the Metis context and aim to address the underlying bias and racism in the Justice System that have led to the continued overlooking of the needs of Metis people and communities as Indigenous people through our Government's perspective.

Red River Metis Engagement with the Indigenous Justice Strategy

The Red River Metis Engagement with the Indigenous Justice Strategy – Metis Justice Strategy Project will support the development of a Red River Metis Justice Strategy in the planned co-developed Federal Indigenous Justice Strategy. Developed through multi-stage process of research collaboration with elders, knowledge keepers and other experts and structured citizen engagement processes. The project will develop a Red River Metis-led vision of justice system reforms as they relate to community safety and crime prevention, accountability for criminal behaviour and rehabilitation of offenders achieved through a systematic effort to identify Red River Metis specific traditions of law and justice and inform sectors that focus on reintegration, courts, policing, victimization, youth justice, legal support and review programs that currently do not provide adequate services and supports to our citizens.



New Projects for the Metis Justice Institute

Metis Mediation Services Project

The Metis Mediation Services Project will develop a Metis distinctions-based Mediation Service to support access for Metis Citizens who require Mediation Services. The focus will be on capacity building and service delivery for Child and Family Mediation. The project will be developed to deal with child and family mediation issues that develop a plan to assist with key conflicts within their family structure (including breakdown of a relationship, begin separation and custody agreements, child, parent, guardian and sibling communication), expectations, greater understanding of past events and intentions or schedules or timelines for commitments made.

Metis Courtwork Program

The Metis Court Work Program will facilitate and enhance access to justice by assisting Metis Citizens charged with an offence under any federal or provincial statute, municipal by-law, or otherwise involved in the criminal justice system to obtain fair, just, equitable and culturally relevant treatment.



New Projects for the Metis Justice Institute

Metis Family Support Project

The Metis Family Support Project will focus on supporting Metis Families who have been impacted by a missing and murdered loved one. The project seeks to identify Metis families through outreach and provide information and resources to the Metis community from the Metis Government to better understand its impact on the Red River Metis community and available resources to help families through their experience.



Manitoba Metis Federation – Metis Justice Institute

Ongoing Future Activities:

As reported last AGA, the Metis Justice Institute's Strategic Sectors have been a focus of ongoing efforts to expand program and services for the Red River Metis.

The Metis Justice Institute's continues to review available funding for each of our department's identified Eleven Departmental Sectors.

As these future activity areas are dependent on external funding opportunities the focus has been on:

Youth Justice – This Sector will focus departmental deliverables with a Youth perspective as a vulnerable population with complex needs. This Sector will require a multi-departmental approach to ensure Red River Metis youth have access to services and programs.

Courts – This Sector will focus on departmental deliverables to develop and implement A Red River Metis Specific approach to Courts to ensure Red River Metis Citizens have access to programs and services that meet our unique needs as Indigenous people.

Victims – This Sector will focus departmental deliverables to include a Red River Metis Community Safety perspective for intervention, prevention, and aftercare.

Policing – This Sector will focus on the inclusion of the Red River Metis Government in legislation regarding police, service delivery and culturally appropriate inclusion of the Red River Metis Government in the delivery of Indigenous Police Services.



Manitoba Metis Federation – Metis Justice Institute

Conclusion:

The Metis Justice Institute is committed to continue to work over the next year on the above noted initiatives and to further develop justice programs and services needed to assist Red River Metis Citizens.

For further information on any of the initiatives through the MJJ please contact our office at:

Metis Justice Institute
150 Henry Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 0J7
(204) 586-8474
(866) 665-8474

