



The *Riel* Scoop

MÉTIS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

Looking Ahead

UPCOMING EVENTS & SERVICES

HAPPY APRIL FOOLS' DAY

Tuesday, April 01, 2025

We hope today brings a little laughter, a lot of smiles, and a reminder not to take life too seriously.

HAPPY
APRIL FOOL'S
DAY



SPECIES AT RISK ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Wednesday, April 09, 2025

Are you concerned about the future of Alberta's



plants and animals? Have you noticed species in your community that need attention? Now is your chance to share your thoughts and engage in meaningful discussions about our province's biodiversity. Join us for the **Online Species at Risk Engagement Session on April 9, 2025!**

Once you register, the Zoom link will be sent to you on or before the session date. During this session, we invite you to:

- Discuss the plants and animals that matter most to you and your community.
- Voice any concerns you may have about species that are at risk in Alberta.
- Learn more about species at risk legislation and how we can all help protect our natural environment.



Date: Wednesday, April 9, 2025
Time: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

REGISTER HERE

This is an excellent opportunity for **MNA Citizens** to get involved, raise awareness, and help shape the future of wildlife protection in Alberta.

HAPPY EASTER!

Sunday, April 20, 2025

🌸🐰 Have a thumping good time this Easter! 🥚

From all of us at Métis District 21, we're wishing you a weekend filled with sweet treats, warm hearts, and time well spent with loved ones.

May your baskets be full, and your spirits even fuller



THE LONG WEEKEND

April 18, to 21, 2025

Our office will be closed for the Easter long weekend this Good Friday and Easter Monday. We will be closed from Friday, April 18, 2025, to Monday, April 21, 2025.

We will be back in the office with regular hours on Tuesday, April 22, 2025. We hope you have an excellent, safe, and fun Easter long weekend!

HAPPY EARTH DAY

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

🌍🌱 Today we honour our deep connection to the land — a relationship grounded in respect,



reciprocity, and stewardship. From the plants we harvest 🌱 to the animals we share the land with 🐾, Earth Day is a reminder to walk gently and live in balance with the world around us.

Let's continue to protect our traditional lands, water, and wildlife — for ourselves, our ancestors, and the generations still to come. 💚🔥♾️🌍



NEXT LOCAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

The Slave Lake Local #19 Métis will host a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 30, 2025.

*Please note that this meeting is not a part of the Métis District #21, but is organized and run by the Slave Lake Local #19 Métis. Should you have any questions, please reach out to Shane Combs, President of the Slave Lake Local #19, at 780-849-9312.

DATE: Wednesday, April 30, 2025

TIME: 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

LOCATION: Métis District #21 Office



LIFT: LEARNING INDIGENOUS FINANCIAL TEACHINGS

May 31, 2025 & June 01, 2025 (Both Saturday & Sunday)

We are inviting **ALL Indigenous Women and 2-Spirited people** to join our **FREE LIFT Workshop!** It is a 2-day personal financial workshop to LIFT Your Future by Empowering Your Finances. Full of Indigenous teachings, prizes, educational support, local success speakers, and community.

The LIFT Workshop (Learning Indigenous Financial Teachings) is Free Teachings that focus on:

- Decolonizing Your Money Mindset
- Planning Your Personal Budgeting
- Debt Planning
- Navigating Credit
- Investing In Yourself

DATES:

May 31 & June 01, 2025

Both Saturday & Sunday

TIME:

9:00 am to 4:00 pm (Both Days)

Doors open at 8:30 am

Class starts at 9:00 am sharp

WHERE:

To be announced within Slave Lake

COST IS FREE:

Includes lunch, snacks & refreshments

FREE 2-Day Financial Workshop

Inviting **ALL Indigenous Women and Two-Spirited**

IN SLAVE LAKE

DATE: May 31 & June 01, 2025
Saturday & Sunday (Both)

TIME: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

PLACE: To be announced,
In Slave Lake

REGISTER FOR FREE TODAY!



Made by Indigenous people
for Indigenous people



LEARNING
INDIGENOUS
FINANCIAL
TEACHINGS

Learn to Decolonize Your Money Mindset, Debt & Credit, Personal Budgeting, & Investing In Yourself.
LIFT Your Future by Empowering Your Finances!



Register Today!

There will be **LOTS OF PRIZES** to be drawn throughout the two days, and even a **DRAW FOR AN IPAD** at the end of the event!

MÉTIS FEST - SAVE THE DATE

June 13 to 14, 2025

Save the Date: Alberta Métis Fest is back!

Mark your calendars for June 13-14 at the Cultural Gathering Centre, Métis Crossing! Join us for two days of celebration, featuring the Métis Jamboree, Jigging Competitions, Artisan Market, and much more!

Follow the Alberta Metis for more details!

When: June 13-14, 2025

Where: Cultural Gathering Centre, Métis Crossing

For more information, visit the Otipemisiwak Metis Government within Alberta website linked below:

[Learn More Here](#)



Métis Youth & Children

YOUTH SUCCESS STORY IN OUR DISTRICT

☀️ Please join us in celebrating Hunter Lacombe as our Métis Youth Citizen of the Month! 💙 ∞

Hunter is a shining example of Métis pride, tradition, and heart. A proud citizen from Canyon Creek, Hunter is a familiar and beloved face in our District 21 community—and a dedicated Director for Métis Local #19 as well as a Council Member for Métis District 21. His leadership and commitment to our people runs deep. Hunter regularly attends Local #19 meetings and volunteers often—whether it's stepping in as one of Santa's elves at our Christmas Supper 🎅, helping build and decorate the Santa Parade float 🎪, assisting at our Youth Camp, curling with the

HUNTER LACOMBE

Métis Youth Success
Story from District #21



"Hunter is a shining example of Métis pride and dedication!"

☀️ Known for his incredible volunteer work and his passion within our community. From lending a helping hand at our Christmas Supper as one of Santa's elves 🎅, to helping build and decorate our Santa Parade float 🎪, to curling with the Riel Deadly Rockers 🎲, Hunter is always there—giving back, showing up, and making a difference. He's been active at Métis Local #19 meetings, Métis engagement sessions, the youth summer camps, and more! 🌟 Whether he's assisting our team, or sharing laughs with Elders, Hunter leads with compassion, honesty, and heart. ❤️

[Read the whole success story in the description!](#)



Riel Deadly Rockers 🎲, or lending a hand at the Hockey Fundraiser in Smith.

Hunter is more than just a volunteer—he's a hard worker, a respectful young man, and someone who has always honored his Elders, just as he was raised to do. He carries a deep respect for the land and is passionate about caring for it in the right way 🌱. He holds strong traditional knowledge—from harvesting medicines to hunting animals—and is proud to pass these teachings

forward.

He's also just an all-around kind soul—always thinking of others, always showing up with a smile, and always full of compassion and positivity. With 5 pups at home 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 and a heart just as big, Hunter continues to be a bright light in our community.

Hunter, we are so proud of you. Thank you for being such a strong and grounded youth leader. You represent the best of our Métis values—and we can't wait to see where your journey takes you next. ❤️

FASD TRANSITION SUPPORT - NEW

Ongoing Program by OMG



The New FASD Bridging Futures Program
Youth to Adult Transition Support

Rooted in Métis culture and traditional values, our new FASD Bridging Futures Program is designed to optimize the health and well-being of Métis youth with FASD. We understand that transitioning to adulthood is challenging for everyone. This is especially true for youth with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Our FASD Bridging Connections team is here to walk alongside parents/caregivers and their youth to create a transition plan for their future.

What we offer

- Personalized transition planning
- Connection to cultural support and resources
- A holistic approach

Program eligibility

- Métis youth aged 15 - 25 yrs
- FASD (suspected or diagnosed)
- Parent/Caregiver of Métis youth with FASD
- Resident of Alberta (when Citizenship not required)

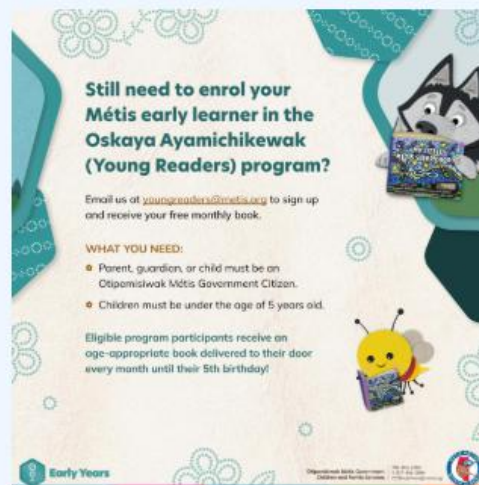
Let's work together to empower Métis youth with FASD to move into adulthood with the supports they need to thrive. For more information, contact us at fasd@metis.org.

FASD Bridging Connections
Otipemisiwak Métis Government
Children and Family Services

[Learn More Here](#)

FREE YOUNG READERS PROGRAM

Ongoing Program by OMG



Still need to enrol your Métis early learner in the Oskaya Ayamichikewak (Young Readers) program?

Email us at youngreaders@metis.org to sign up and receive your free monthly book.

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Parent, guardian, or child must be an Otipemisiwak Métis Government Citizen.
- Children must be under the age of 5 years old.

Eligible program participants receive an age-appropriate book delivered to their door every month until their 5th birthday!

Early Years
Otipemisiwak Métis Government
Children and Family Services

[Learn More Here](#)

EXPLORING METIS CULTURE: CULTURE CARDS

Ongoing Program by OMG

Explore Métis Culture Together!

The Otipemisiwak Métis Government's Children and Family Services Department is thrilled to announce the launch of the Métis Culture Card Collection!

Perfect for early learners, these cards are a fun and engaging way to discover Métis culture, history, and traditions as a family.

Eligibility:

- Reside in Alberta
- Be the legal guardian of a child aged 0-11
- Either the parent/guardian or child must be a registered Otipemisiwak Métis Government citizen

Complete the application process by clicking the button to the right and bring Métis culture to life in your home!



The Children and Family Services Department presents:

Natoona Michif Pimatisiwin
(EXPLORING MÉTIS CULTURE)

Series 1 & 2 Culture Card Collection

Series 1: Who Are the Métis?
Series 2: Métis: M'ikwaki (Métis Foods)

Early Years
Otipemisiwak Métis Government
Children and Family Services

[Apply Here](#)

FLOURISHING FUTURES ACCESSIBILITY GRANT

Ongoing Grant from

Seeking to provide the necessary supports for your Métis early learner to flourish? This program offers financial support to cover the cost of eligible referred services and supports that will empower eligible Métis early learners to overcome obstacles and excel in their learning journey!

This program is designed to support Métis Early Learners aged 0-11 across Alberta by covering the cost of services and supports that will address common developmental, social, and emotional barriers to learning.

For more information, please contact the Children & Family Services at OMG by email at FlourishingFutures@metis.org or 780-455-2200

[Learn More & Apply Here](#)



[Grant FAQ](#)

Digital Community CONNECTION

MÉTIS CITIZEN SUCCESS STORY FROM OUR DISTRICT

🌟 Celebrating The Creative Chana Trudel

Please help us celebrate Chana Trudel — a proud Cree-Métis woman, creative entrepreneur, passionate teacher, and inspiring community leader ❤️

Born and mostly raised in Slave Lake, Chana has deep roots in our region, growing up surrounded by Métis culture alongside her parents and grandmother. Her parents and grandmother planted strong seeds of culture, pride, and community leadership that she carries forward every day.

Chana is the visionary behind Truly Creative Marketing, an Indigenous, women-owned business that helps others bring their visions to life.

A graphic celebrating Chana Trudel as a Métis Citizen Success Story from District #21. It features a photo of Chana, a woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue and white striped top and black pants with white stripes. The text on the graphic includes: 'CHANA TRUDEL', 'Métis Citizen Success Story from District #21', a quote '“A proud Métis woman, creative entrepreneur, passionate teacher, proud Mama, and inspiring community leader ❤️”', and a description of her business 'Truly Creative Marketing' and her achievements, including a nomination for 'Canadian Indigenous Entrepreneur of the Year 2024' and a 'Finalist for AWE Indigenous Entrepreneur of the Year'. It also mentions her feature in 'Indigenous SME Magazine' and 'CBC's television show Still Standing'. At the bottom, it says 'Read the whole success story in the description!' and includes the 'MÉTIS DISTRICT 21' logo with the text 'Slave Lake, Alberta'.

Her incredible journey has earned her **national recognition**, most recently, she is currently nominated for Canadian Indigenous Entrepreneur of the Year with Canadian SME Magazine. In the last year, Chana was a **Finalist for AWE Indigenous Entrepreneur of the Year**, and a finalist for the **Pow Wow Pitch Entrepreneur Awards**. She was also featured in a **3 page Article in Indigenous SME Magazine** and received a heartfelt letter of congratulations from Canada's Minister of Small Business. 🏆 ✨

But her story doesn't stop there. Currently, Chana is creating, teaching, and facilitating the **LIFT Program (Learning Indigenous Financial Teachings)**, delivering financial literacy workshops to Indigenous women, girls, and 2S individuals within our District. This powerful program brings meaningful, accessible financial knowledge to our rural communities—empowering participants to take control of their financial futures 🌱 🌿

Chana is a proud neurodivergent entrepreneur who advocates for inclusivity in all spaces. She works hard to overcome her disabilities in creative ways while embracing the motto of "Always Learning." She teaches both modern and traditional Métis art such as beading and dot art painting with District 21, is a loving wife and proud mama, and continues to uplift our community in every space she steps into.

Chana, we are so proud of you. **You make District 21 brighter, bolder, and more beautiful.** Keep rising—we're with you every step of the way!

NOMINATE A DISTRICT CITIZEN AS A SUCCESS STORY - ADULT & YOUTH FORM

Do you know someone in our community who has a success story worth sharing? We want to hear about it! Whether it's a personal achievement, a career milestone, or a positive impact on our community, we want to celebrate the successes of our Métis citizens.

Nominate or recommend someone for our Métis Success Stories feature by filling out the form linked below. Share their inspiring journey with us! Share their inspiring journey with us!

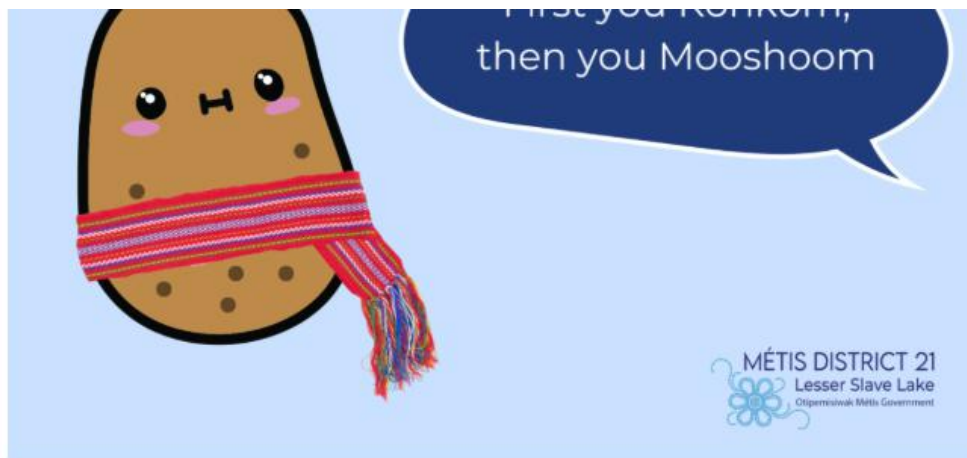
[Click here to nominate someone, a team, or a business!](#)



NOMINATE A SUCCESS

Exactly how do you
make those delicious
potatoes?

Easy.
First you Kôhkem



PSYCHOLOGY BENEFIT PROGRAM

March 31, 2025 - Ongoing Program by OMG

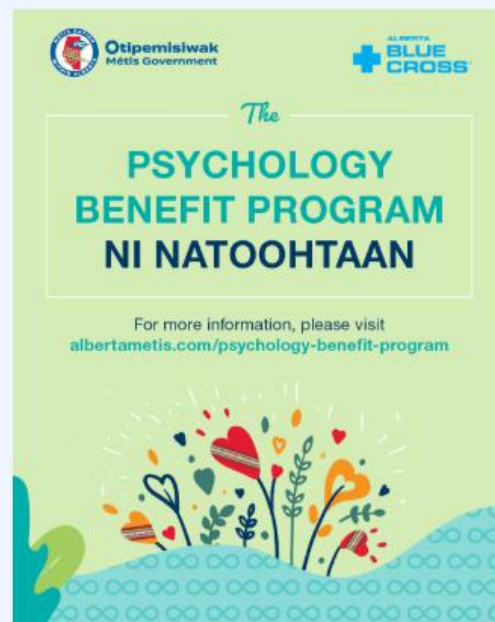
The Psychology Benefit Program, Ni Natoohitaan, provides financial support to Métis Citizens accessing care with psychologists or social workers for longer-term and complex mental health needs. In partnership with Alberta Blue Cross, we are excited to offer a modern, best-in-class psychology benefit program.

If you are currently seeing a licensed Psychologist or Social Worker, you may be eligible to receive financial coverage for 12 sessions.

The next applications period will open on April 14, 2025, and will remain open until all program spots have been filled. Applications will be processed on a first come first serve basis and you will be contacted by an MNA staff member to confirm your enrollment.

To review your eligibility and apply please go to

[Learn More](#)



FREE METIS COURSES

Ongoing Program by RLI



BENEVOLENCE FUN

Ongoing Program by OMG



[Learn More Here](#)

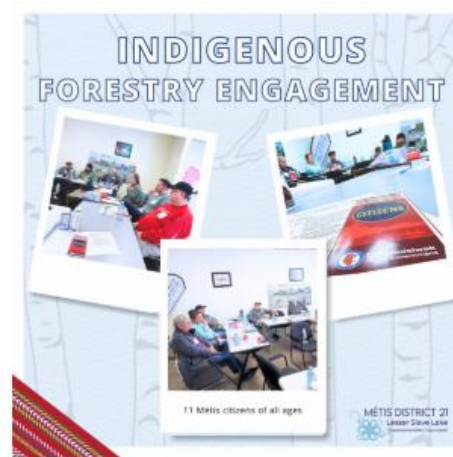
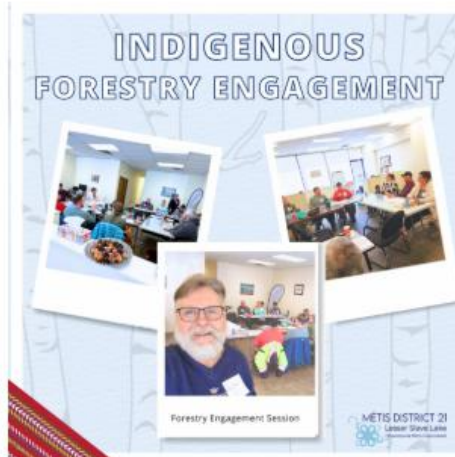
[Learn More Here](#)

Looking Back

LAST MONTH AT A GLANCE

INDIGENOUS FORESTRY ENGAGEMENT

March 14, 2025

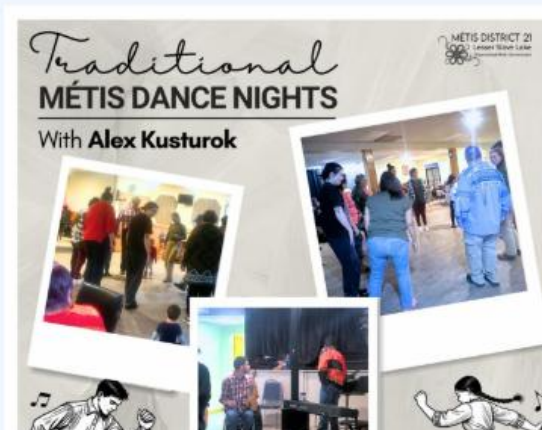


On March 14, 2025, we gathered for an incredible **Forestry Engagement Session**, where our citizens shared how deeply connected we are to the forests—not just as a career path, but as a way of life. **The land teaches us, provides for us, and holds the knowledge of our ancestors.** We were honored to have **11 Métis citizens of all ages** join the discussion, bringing forward valuable insights on the importance of preserving and respecting our forests for future generations. This session was thoughtfully organized by **Carleton University representatives**, who gathered our knowledge for future studies. As a community, we continue to take action on the issues that matter most—protecting the land, honoring its gifts, and ensuring its teachings live on.

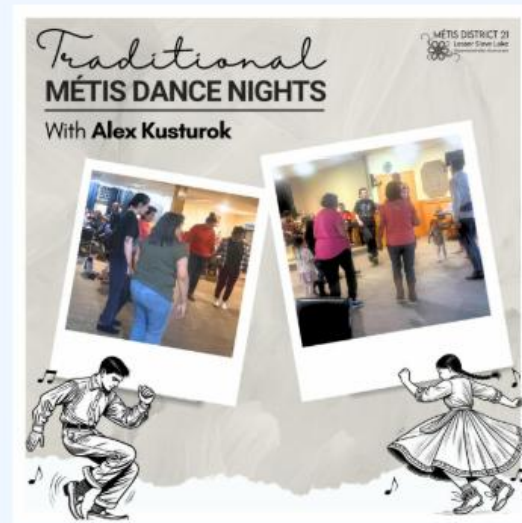
TRADITIONAL METIS DANCE NIGHTS

Slave Lake: March 14, 2025 | High Prairie: March 15, 2025

What a Weekend of Métis Music, Dance & Laughter! What an **absolute blast** we had at our **Traditional Métis Dance Nights** last weekend! **Alex Kusturok** had the fiddle singing, the dance floor was alive with energy, and the spoons were clacking in rhythm! We **laughed, jigged, waltzed, and even learned how to play the spoons**—all while celebrating our Métis culture through music, storytelling, and dance. In High Prairie, we also had an incredible afternoon of **storytelling and dot art**, making the event even more special.



A huge thank you to Alex Kusturok for his incredible talent and for hosting these events, to our wonderful volunteers, and to everyone who came out to dance, sing, and celebrate Métis culture with us!



2025 MICHIF WOMEN'S GATHERING

March 07, 2025

What an incredible weekend at the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's Michif Women's Gathering 2025! This year, the gathering celebrated **strength, wisdom, and leadership** of our Aunties—the trailblazers who have shaped our families, communities, and workplaces. A few of our citizens from District 21 were delighted to attend. From **empowering workshops** to **inspiring stories of resilience and success**, the event was a beautiful reminder of the **vital role Métis women play** as entrepreneurs, educators, caregivers, and leaders.

Let's continue to uplift, honour, and celebrate our Aunties—not just today, but every day!



LEGACY OF RESILIENCE WORKSHOP

March 28, 2025

Honouring Our Survivors 🌱

On March 28, 2025, Métis District 21 hosted our Legacy of Resilience Workshop, a heartfelt and healing day dedicated to our Indian Residential School and Day School Survivors.

This intimate gathering welcomed invited participants to engage in healing and



participants to engage in healing and reflection, supported by cultural teachings, storytelling, and meaningful activities. Each participant received a workbook to guide their journey—facilitated with compassion by Lorna Dancey—and had the option to complete it at their own pace. ❤️

MÉTIS DISTRICT 21
Lac Seul, Lake Louise

LEGACY OF RESILIENCE:
Honoring Our Survivors



Jamie Chalifoux shared his powerful experience of growing up as the child of Residential School Survivors, while Chana Trudel offered space for expression through sand garden art therapy—a beautiful and calming creative outlet.

✦ To close the day, James Cardinal led the group in learning two songs in English and Cree, lifting spirits and voices. Participants also received massage and movement therapy by Yvonne Dicristafaro, and had a moving portrait captured by the talented Brooke Fontanet of Copper Creek Photography. This day was filled with reflection, connection, and honouring the strength of our Survivors. We are deeply thankful to everyone who made this day so special:

- ✦ Harry Andrews and his companion for the music,
- ✦ Lorna Yellowknee, Sandy Lavallee, Donna Sinclair-Gullion, and Michelle Giroux for volunteering,
- ✦ Shane Combs for his support,
- ✦ Susan Cunningham for going above and beyond behind the scenes,
- ✦ Slave Lake Inn and Conference Centre for hosting us.



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email

Métis Programs

MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA

The images below are each a different program, service, or support for all Métis citizens from the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA). Click on the images below to **Learn More** about each one.



Adult Dental



Business



Support Groups



Mental Health



Medical Stay



Transportation



Quit Smoking



Recovery



Therapy



Training



Mental Health



Harvesting



Reconciliation



FASD



Environment



Housing



Climate



Apply Today



Apply Today



Education



Benevolence Fund



MNA Store



Culture



Financial

PROGRAMS & SERVICES FOR YOUTH ONLY



Adult Dental



Readers



Scholarships



Podcast



Activities



Free Courses



Metis Youth



Hunters



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