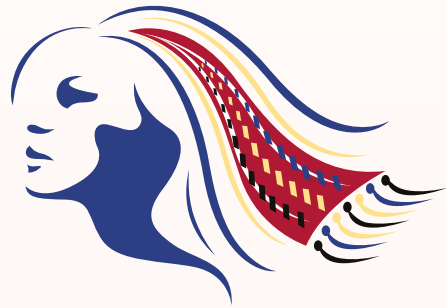


# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

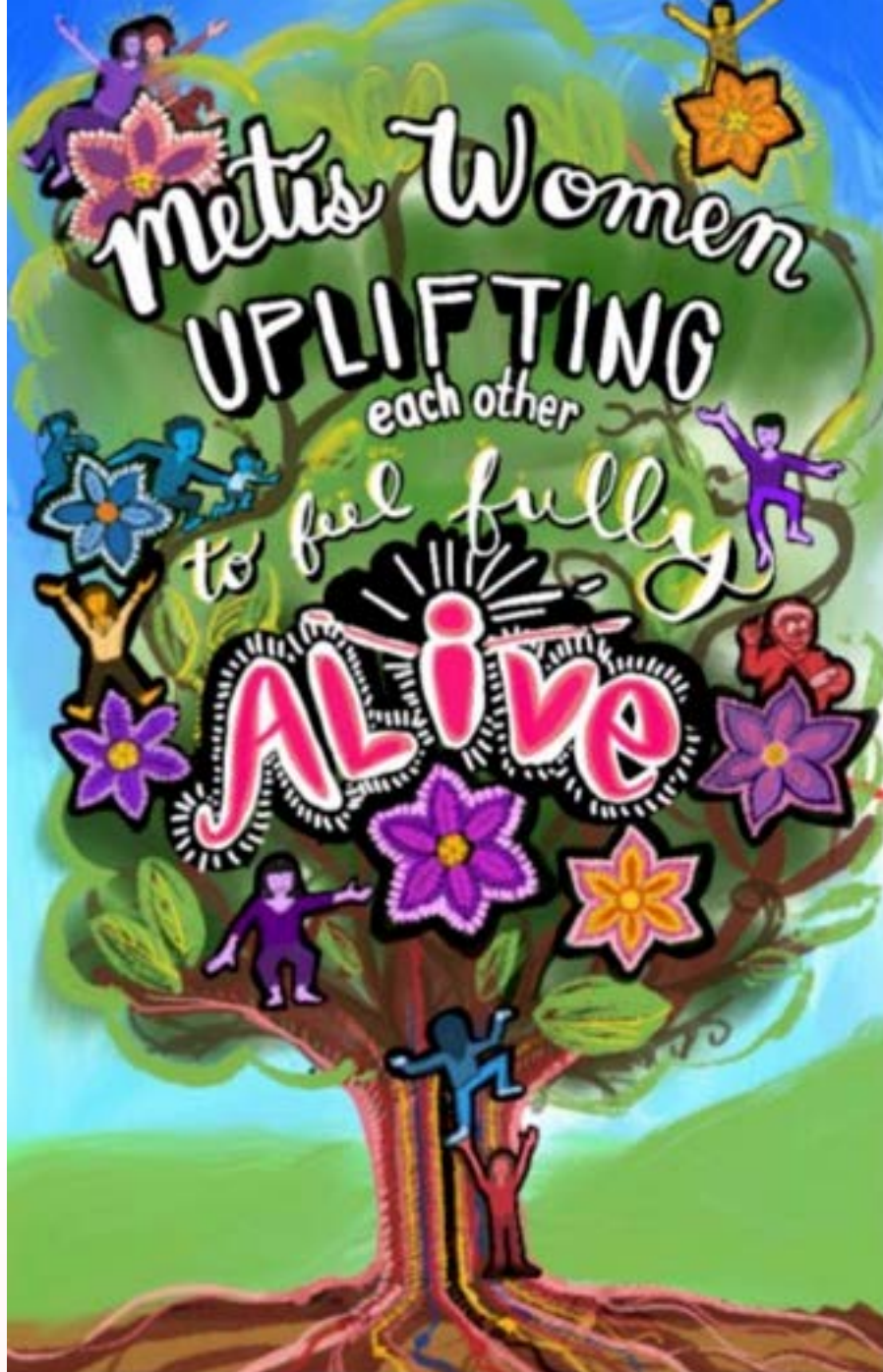


INFINITY  
WOMEN

SECRETARIAT ∞

## *Celebrating 10 Years Founded in Métis Sisterhood*





## OUR MISSION

Infinity Women Secretariat (IWS) is a non-profit, provincial organization that connects and empowers Métis women across Manitoba and provides culturally-specific programs, services, and supports. We foster a sense of belonging and sisterhood for all Métis women and our communities.

### Sisterhood

Noun

/ˈsɪs.tə.hʊd/

a strong feeling of friendship and support among women who are involved in action to improve women's rights

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# GREETINGS – SPOKESWOMAN ANITA CAMPBELL



As the Spokeswoman of Infinity Women Secretariat, in our 10th year as a proud MMF Affiliate, it is my honor, privilege and pleasure to share with you the various initiatives, programs and efforts that have been put forward during the 2021/2022 fiscal year, on behalf of Red River Métis women, girls, and female-identifying 2SLGBTQQA+ individuals, who form our grassroots membership. This year's theme "Celebrating 10 Years Founded in Metis Sisterhood" is based on the foundational knowledge that our continuing success is owed and dedicated to our growing 'Métis Sisterhood'. Collectively, we inspire, empower, uplift, and support each other in advancing our rights, recognizing our unique history and heritage, and celebrating our culture and language.

Over the past couple of years, we were compelled to adapt and navigate various challenges resulting from the global pandemic. As was demonstrated by our persistent desire and successful ability to connect with our membership, IWS was indeed up for this challenge. We persevered and were successful in launching various projects and initiatives to support our members, in a variety of formats. As we gradually emerge from the pandemic and find our 'new normal', our work has been focusing on integrating the needs and priorities emphasized by our membership by

having these materialize into tangible programs and services offered.

The Red River Métis have always been a proud nation of people, ever reliant on the strength and resiliency of our women. IWS strives to bolster our communities by promoting and recognizing the vital contributions that our members make. We endeavor to continue building on these enduring attributes and capitalize on current and emerging opportunities by regularly engaging with our membership in-person, online and in hybrid formats.

As a token of appreciation, IWS continues to demonstrate our gratitude to our members by acknowledging their contributions and the time and effort required to complete our surveys, attend our meetings, send/respond to emails, and participate in programs/initiatives by sending out "Wellness Packages". The feedback received has indicated that these packages are appreciated and valued. It must be noted that without our members' engagement, input, and feedback, we would not be in the favorable position that we find ourselves in today. I am keenly aware and intensely grateful for the enthusiasm and dedication of our members and the ongoing support provided by our Red River Métis government.



As a proud Affiliate of the MMF, IWS remains intricately connected to our Red River Métis Government, the seven Regions of the MMF, other Affiliates, partners, and stakeholders. With the continued support of President David Chartrand and the MMF Cabinet, IWS provides the platform and impetus to continue empowering our Métis women. The encouragement and ongoing support for the work that IWS engages in and accomplishes is wholeheartedly appreciated.

I would be remiss if I did not expressly convey my heartfelt gratitude to the IWS Board of Directors and acknowledge how privileged I feel to work with such a distinctive, exceptional, and informed group of Red River Métis women. Further, I would like to articulate my sincere appreciation to the IWS staff and our consultants for all they do, in giving back to our members and communities. The value of this dedication and commitment towards moving our collective Red River Métis women agenda forward is incalculable and ensures that we remain focused and successful now and into the future.

In closing, IWS will continue to operate like a sisterhood, empowering and uplifting future generations in an accountable, transparent, and inclusive manner. The principles of kindness, caring, and compassion remain at the heart of our community and the work that we do. Our Red River Métis foremothers and the Métis women leaders of today shape our nation and we remain indebted to their strength, perseverance, and unity. We remind you to always remember who you are and of your exceptional place in history – a proud citizen of the Red River Métis Homeland.

Thank you/Maarsii/Merci/Miigwetch



# GREETINGS – PRESIDENT DAVID CHARTRAND



It is with great pride that I extend greetings to all participants of the Infinity Women Secretariat (IWS) Annual General Assembly.

The theme of this year's assembly "Celebrating 10 years Founded in Métis Sisterhood" speaks to my heart, both as President and as a proud Red River Métis.

It's no secret that women have always been critical to the well-being of our Nation. During our foundational years, it was our mothers who taught us about our culture and our values, including how to live off the land, how to treat Elders, and how to live in a good way.

Our matriarchal roots have continued to influence us throughout our history, including today. In many ways, our Nation owes its strongest debt of gratitude to our matriarchs and those individuals and families who kept the flame of our existence and our nationhood alive during a time when no one remembered us, no one wanted to claim to be us, and we had very few resources for our people.

My own mother has always been my hero. I still speak to her every day, and it is her voice I hear in my mind when I am confronted with challenges or issues that face our Nation. She taught me the values I live by, including the importance of education, the need for strong personal integrity, and the sure knowledge that you must know where you come from in order to know where you're going.

I am tremendously proud of the strong presence of women in our government today, with women making up half of our Cabinet and three-quarters of our employee base, many in leadership positions. It is proof of what I have always said – women will always have a seat at the governance table for the Red River Métis. There is no question that we are made stronger and better by the valuable contributions of Red River Métis women to our government, our community and our Nation.

This meeting marks a ten-year milestone of ongoing success for the Secretariat, as we honour and elevate the women of our Nation. I would like to acknowledge the dedication of Spokeswoman Anita Campbell, the Board of Directors and the Secretariat's staff as they continue to advance the Red River Métis sisterhood,

raise the issues that are of concern to the women of our community, and support you as you achieve your dreams. I assure you – we take this work seriously at every level of our government, as we know it ensures that the strength of the women in our past and present is also being fostered for the future.

That said, I know that women, particularly Indigenous women, are still at risk of inequality, marginalization, violence and harm at a far greater rate than their male counterparts. In my heart, I believe that the Infinity Women Secretariat, along with the ongoing revival of our culture and values allow us to set an example for Canadians of what can be achieved when we cherish and nourish the voices and contributions of women.

I thank you all for everything you do in our families, our communities, and our Nation. Know that your Red River Métis government has your back in all your endeavours.

Meeqwetch,  
David Chartrand, LL.D (hon.), O.M.  
President, MMF



# INTRODUCTION

Infinity Women Secretariat (IWS) is an incorporated non-profit organization and proud MMF Affiliate that connects and empowers Métis women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals across the Red River Métis Homeland and beyond. IWS provides culturally specific and relevant programs, services, and supports to our membership.



In alignment with our organizational values, we foster a sense of belonging, unity and sisterhood for all Métis women and our communities. We promote inclusivity and celebrate diversity while advocating for our members and supporting them on their journey to obtain and maintain personal empowerment and enduring success. We remain proud to be an organization that is sustainably funded, accountable, transparent, and respected within and beyond our provincial and national borders.

IWS believes that communication is an integral component in all the work that we do. We are committed to ensuring continuing dialogue and engagement amongst and between local, regional, provincial, and national levels. In this spirit, we are keen to share information about the progress and successes that we have achieved during this past fiscal year.



# PROGRAMS AND SERVICES REPORT

It is with pride and a tremendous sense of accomplishment over the course of the past 10 years, that IWS is able to articulate that we are busier now - more than ever! As a result of the pandemic, we had been unable to deliver in-person programming for a 2-year period. Excitingly, we have refocused our delivery method to a 'hybrid-version' of programming, which has been adapted to include both in-person and virtual participation, to accommodate our members' preferences. Thus far, hybrid workshops and consultations have been very successful to ensure that all of our members are able to attend sessions, in the format they are most comfortable with.

The 2021-2022 fiscal year witnessed the culmination of three large projects:

- "Prosperity through Innovation: Métis Women in Manitoba" funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE)
- "Métis Women in Action – Recognizing Métis Contributions to Canada" funded by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) and
- "Moving Towards a Healthier Métis Community" funded by MMF - Urban Programming for Indigenous People (UPIP)
- Despite the sunseting of funding for these projects, IWS was successfully approved for

funding for new project initiatives and new federal government department partnership opportunities! New projects include:

- "Manitoba Métis Women-Centred ELCC Quality Improvement Project" funded by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC),
- "Fighting Inequality-Advancing Gender Equality Policy and Practice in Manitoba Métis Government and Communities" funded by WAGE.

IWS looks forward to another productive year working on our current and new projects, which will serve to address ongoing member needs and priorities, and to continue to build and strengthen the skill sets of our members, their families, and communities.



# PROSPERITY THROUGH INNOVATION

## MÉTIS WOMEN IN MANITOBA

This fiscal year was the final year for the Prosperity through Innovation (PTI) project, funded by WAGE. Designed to equip Métis women with the tools they need to find meaningful employment, it addressed systemic and institutional barriers to economic security and prosperity faced by Métis mothers, caregivers, and guardians and addressed the needs of Métis women who were not participating in the workforce or had been forced out of the workplace. Personal needs were addressed through connections to wrap-around services, which included skill development, mental health support, wellness and career counselling, childcare support, and direction to housing supports.

It was strategic in that it advanced Government of Canada commitments related to gender equality, supports for low/middle income families, improved early learning and childcare for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children and families, poverty reduction, and social innovation.

Through the development and implementation of individual "pathways to prosperity plans", Métis women in the Red River Homeland benefited from

increased accessibility to relevant programs and services, such as employment training and access to childcare. A network of stakeholders, employers, and Métis women in business, mentored and guided the participants through targeted outreach for job-matching, learning, and skill-building sessions.

There were three cohorts which combined several MMF regions: 1st Cohort - Winnipeg, Interlake, and Southeast; 2nd Cohort - Southwest and Northwest; and the 3rd Cohort - Thompson and The Pas. While the 1st Cohort (2019-2020) was delivered in-person and had child-minding services, the 2nd (2020-2021) and the 3rd Cohort (2021-2022) were delivered virtually due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and public health restrictions.

With the assistance of the Louis Riel Vocational College (LRVC), the PTI curriculum was adapted for the 3rd Cohort into virtual workshops that taught the participants the skills necessary to achieve their envisioned future career. It covered a range of topics, including but not limited to - Métis Culture and History, Understanding Virtual Technology (Cyber Security), Ten Soft Skills You Need for Employment,



Teamwork and Team Building, Time Management & Organizational Skills, and Managing Personal Finances, to name a few. Overall, 28 Métis mothers have gained or were offered meaningful full-time employment and/or promotions as a result of the PTI program. All 62 students from the 3 Cohorts benefited from increased economic opportunities after their completion of the PTI program. The PTI program was successfully delivered within the time frame that was planned and fostered participants' confidence to use

the skills and knowledge gained within their respective work placements.

In summary, IWS continues to demonstrate strong innovation, capacity, and abilities to successfully deliver programs such as the Prosperity Through Innovation program. IWS remains committed to improving the supports required by Métis women to prosper at home, in the workplace and in Canadian society.



# MÉTIS WOMEN IN ACTION

## RECOGNIZING MÉTIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANADA



Funded by CIRNAC, IWS is identifying, emphasizing and placing importance on the role of Métis women and recognizing how they have shaped the historical relationship between the Red River Métis and Canada. We are aware and acknowledge that Métis women are the heart of the Red River Métis Homeland and are fundamental to the process of reconciliation with Canada. This project has served to strengthen the relationship between the Red River Métis and Canada, contributing to a more culturally relevant, unified, collective, and sustained sense of pride for this vital segment of the population.

Traditionally and currently, Métis women have held the honoured and valuable role of 'knowledge keepers' and have been bestowed respect and held in high esteem. However, outside of their own communities, they were not well respected. Their perspectives were often devalued, and their voices were silenced. Métis people are often described as "invisible" or "the forgotten people" within the mainstream population (R. v. Powley, [2000] O.J. No. 99 (trial decision), para. 33.)

The aim of the project was to educate and engender greater appreciation and knowledge of Métis women amongst all Canadians. By using various social media platforms, IWS is endeavoring to educate all Canadians about the accomplishments and achievements of Métis women, past and present. IWS will continue celebrating, restoring, and exhibiting the significant achievements and contributions of Red River Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals, showcasing their pivotal and instrumental roles in history and by promoting Métis culture and pride.

The work completed on this project has proven to be essential to IWS and its members. IWS is a leader in recognizing "Métis women in Action". Through direct engagement with the program, IWS continually creates new relationships with extraordinary Métis women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals. IWS is taking a proactive role in honoring and valuing the vital role Métis women play in shaping the history and future of Métis communities.



# HEARTBEAT OF A NATION

## 250 YEARS OF MÉTIS WOMEN

IWS, in partnership with the MMF, proudly sponsored an exhibit at the WAG-Quamajug, where Tracy Fehr’s bowls were on display from August 20 – November 20, 2021, as part of the “Métis Kitchen Table Teachings.”

Tracy Charette Fehr, a renowned Métis Artist and IWS member, crafted 250 bowls that will be given away in collaboration with IWS as an honorarium to our Métis sisters. In her art, Tracy uses a combination of thread, clay and print intended to embody the conflicted aspects of identity, gender, and cultural intertwining. Her art visually demonstrates that the voices of Métis women are as unique as each of her handcrafted bowls.

On August 20, 2021, IWS and the WAG-Quamajug hosted an in-person extravaganza event celebrating the launch of her exhibit. Although it was the first official in-person event held since the beginning of the pandemic and strict health and safety protocols were in place, this did not deter people from attending. Registration was filled on the first day that it was advertised on IWS, MMF, and the WAG-Quamajug social media sites, with over 90 people attending the event. Their time was spent listening to music and enjoying some gourmet snacks provided by the WAG-Quamajug. Greetings were brought on behalf

of Spokeswoman Campbell by IWS Provincial Youth Representative Alyssa Thomas. Tracy eloquently spoke to the history and conception of her exhibit. The music was that of IWS Board of Director Brandi Vezina, and IWS youth members Taylor Fleming and Morgan Grace. It was a very prestigious and successful event!

In fiscal year 2022-23, IWS will distribute the bowls during interactive events in each of our 7 Regions. In return for the bowl, the recipients will offer the gift of a name, which will be placed onto a tapestry embroidered by Tracy. This will become a living script of Métis women past, present, and future.



# MOVING TOWARDS A HEALTHIER MÉTIS COMMUNITY

Family and intimate partner gender-based violence continues to be a critical issue for Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals. Statistics Canada reports that 75% of abused women in Manitoba's shelters indicated that a current intimate partner was their abuser; a further 23% reported that a former intimate partner was their abuser. During the COVID-19 pandemic, 13% of Indigenous women report severe concerns about the heightened impact of confinement on family stress and violence in the home compared to 5% of non-Indigenous women who reported concerns for the same reasons.

The "Moving Towards a Healthier Métis Community" project aimed to improve the awareness and understanding of violence against Métis women in their communities, and to improve access to supports as a part of capacity building efforts aimed at building healthier Métis communities. This project was funded by MMF-UIP under the funding stream for women and was designed to promote and create preventative, supportive, and accessible resources and programs for Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals with a coordinated community approach, on building partnerships and interventions.

IWS, in partnership with the MMF, commissioned Probe Research, an independent public opinion research company, to conduct a needs assessment survey of IWS members. The survey was launched September 2, 2021, and covered a range of topics

related to the wellbeing of Métis Citizens and communities including: satisfaction with levels of government and policy focus; issues related to COVID-19; employment and training; finances; housing; education and childcare; poverty; violence; health care; and additional supports needed.

Those who completed the survey were entered into a draw for a \$400 grand prize and two 'runner-up' prizes of \$100 each. All IWS members who completed the survey received a "wellness package" from IWS as a demonstration of gratitude for completing the survey. The purpose of the wellness package was two-fold: it was important for IWS to maintain connection to its membership during the pandemic, and to show our members that IWS does care about their wellbeing and will continue to do so.

A total of 199 IWS members completed the survey between September 2 and 24, 2021. It was found that younger IWS members were more concerned about finances and older members raised health care as an issue. Other key concerns mentioned by roughly one in ten IWS members include mental health, addictions and COVID 19 concerns.

When asked how IWS can contribute to building healthier Métis Communities, members agree that IWS should continue to improve the health, wellness, and development of Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals.

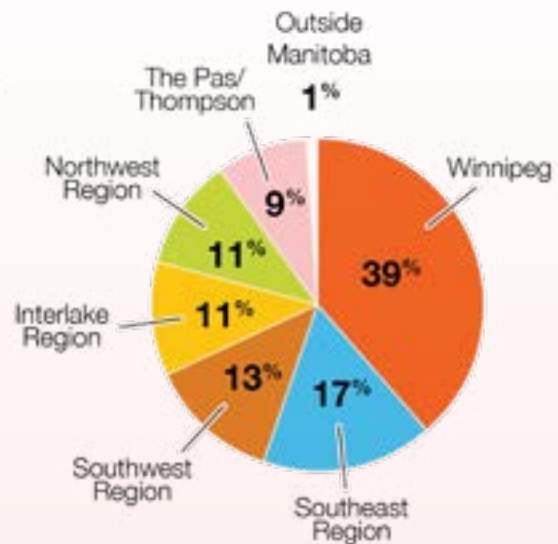
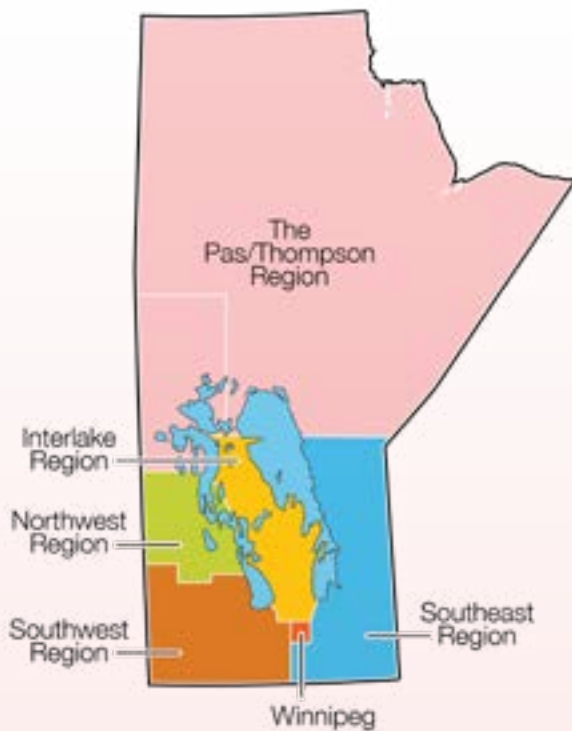
- IWS members suggest offering counselling, mental health, and addiction services, and/or setting up more virtual group activities and sharing circles to stay connected to others.
- IWS members suggested improving communication and resources in general and/or sharing more about health care and healthy lifestyles.
- IWS members are interested in accessing cultural activities online, particularly sessions that involve learning from Elders, knowledge keepers and leaders, and learning about Métis culture and women in history

- IWS members are also interested in workshops focusing on mental health, leadership development and self-improvement.

The feedback received from this project will continue assisting, guiding, and informing IWS programs, initiatives, and efforts to improve life circumstances, experiences, and opportunities for Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals throughout the homeland.

## IWS Members Profile

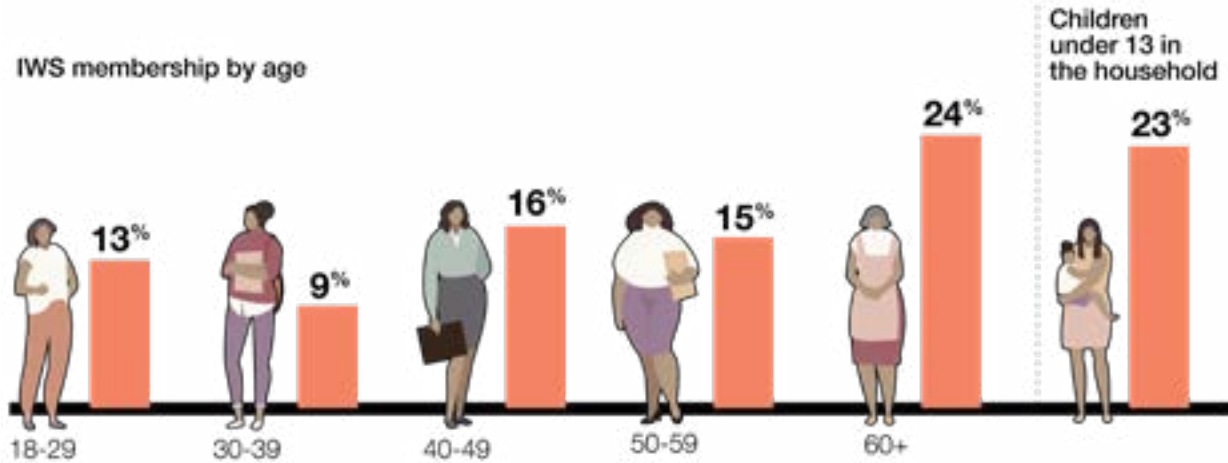
## Location



# IWS Members Profile

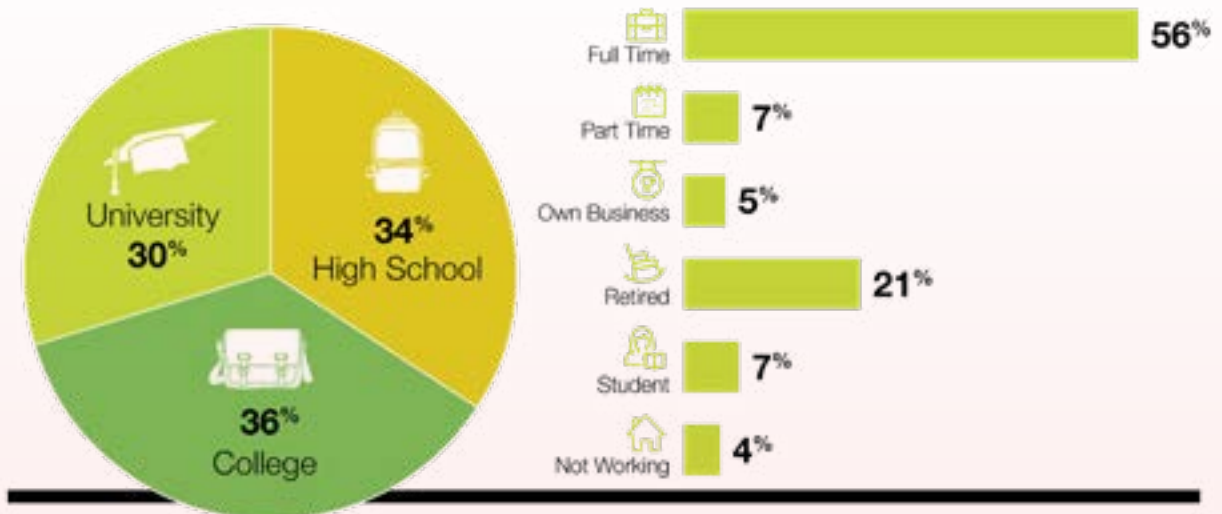
## Age

IWS membership by age



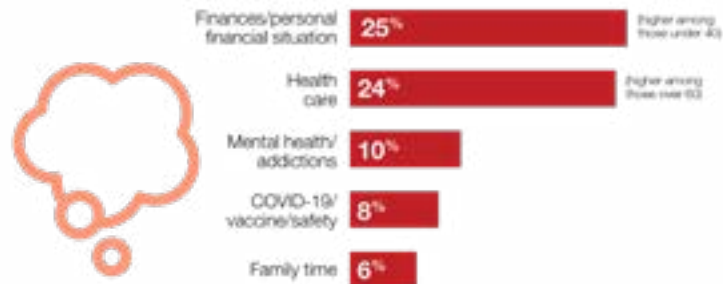
# IWS Members Profile

## Education & Employment Status



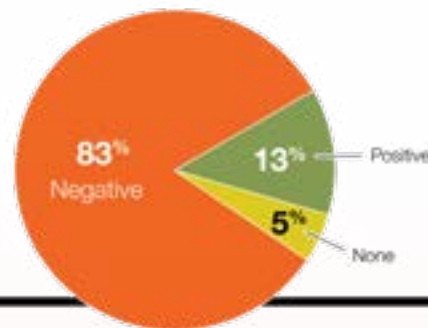


## IWS Member Concerns Top Five Issues



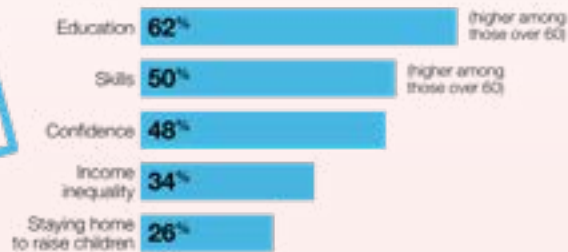
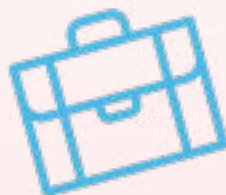
## IWS Member Top Concerns

## Impact of COVID on members' lives



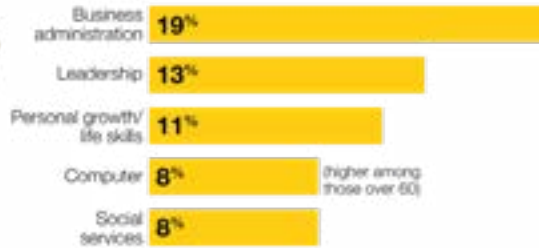
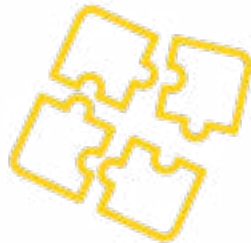
## IWS Member Top Five Concerns

## Employment Challenges



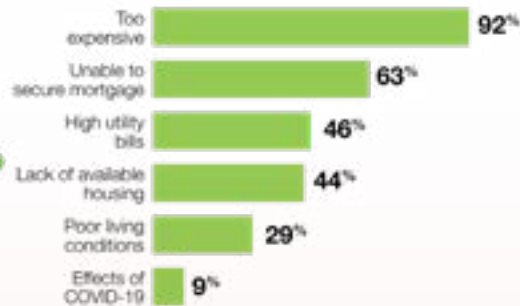
## IWS Member Top Five Concerns

## Skills Development



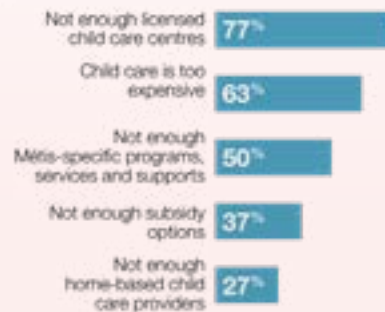
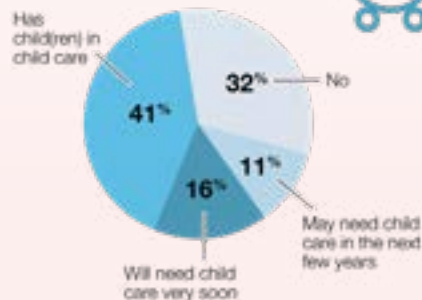
## IWS Member Top Concerns

## Affordable Housing



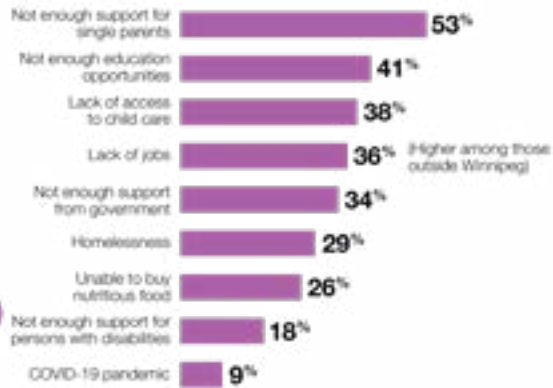
## IWS Member Top Concerns

## Child Care Needs & Challenges



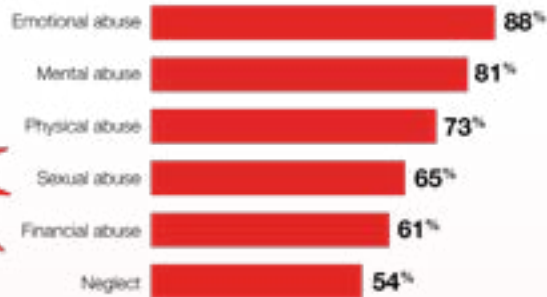
IWS Member  
Top Five Concerns

Poverty  
Among Métis Women,  
Girls, LGBTQ2S+



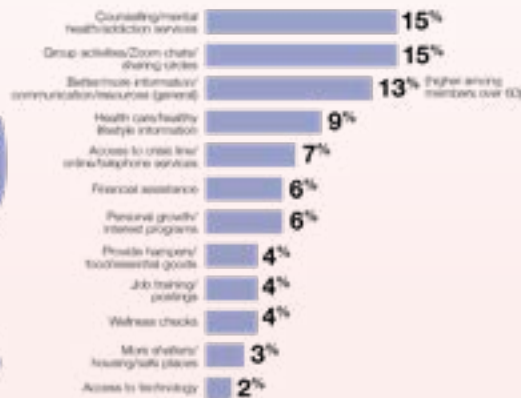
IWS Member  
Top Five Concerns

Direct or indirect  
Family Violence



IWS Member  
Top Concerns

Ways to improve  
Health & Wellness



# ENHANCING GOVERNANCE & ADVOCACY CAPACITY PROJECT



For the 2021/2022 fiscal year, this project is in its 3rd year of a 4-year project funded by WAGE, to create a concerted, focused, and collaborative formal multi-year Strategic Plan, for Infinity Women Secretariat, and to develop and improve its capacity. This project aims to solidify the IWS mandate, vision, mission, goals, values, and governance structure, and will guide our priorities and programming streams now and into the future.

Over the 2021-22 fiscal year, the IWS Board of Directors, stakeholders, staff, and consultant met virtually with AHA! Graphic Facilitation to continue with the development and completion of planned activities utilizing a variety of techniques and strategies.

On October 30, 2021, a hybrid in-person workshop was facilitated by Kara Stonehouse to create the

foundational working document for the IWS Strategic Plan. The IWS Vision Statement and Mission Statement were finalized, and the 5 strategic objectives of IWS were outlined. Work is being done to refine and finalize the goals of each strategic objective, as IWS continues to evolve with the MMF, now known as the National Government of the Red River Métis.

As a women-led organization who has traditionally served Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals, IWS is exploring expanding its audience to include others who are impacted by the issues Métis women face. As we move ahead, it will be important to enhance these initiatives and ensure that Métis women are part of the discussions, design, and leadership of how these programs and policies are defined and how they will be delivered across the Red River Métis Homeland.





# SHOCK PROOFING COMMUNITIES

## IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Funded by the Canadian Women's Foundation as a part of the "Stronger + Safer Grants" initiatives, this project aims to address the systemic barriers faced by our members. Métis women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals continue to be denied equal opportunities to participate in the labour market, they continue to experience Gender-Based Violence (GBV) at home and in the workplace, and experience underrepresentation in civic and civil society organizations. This project also focuses on the unique challenges that presented during the pandemic, including the prevention of and education about GBV, and supporting survivors.

IWS partnered with the MMF, its seven regions and community-level service providers to address GBV by developing consultation workshops that engaged Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals, throughout the province. In November and December 2021, IWS delivered three regional "Against Gender-Based Violence" weekend consultations via Zoom to a total of 89 participants.

IWS worked with the MMF's Department of Information Technology and the Department of Engagement and Consultation to host and facilitate the consultation sessions with virtual breakout rooms for consultation

topics which included: increasing awareness, cultural connections, resiliency, and building a strong and healthy community. Participants were given a safe and inclusive online space where they could exchange information and knowledge. They were able to share their thoughts, while being able to ask questions confidentially. In addition, IWS provided self-care instruction and members had access to the MMF Mental Health Support line.

Adrienne Carriere, IWS Vice-Spokeswoman delivered a presentation entitled "Against Gender-Based Violence" which served to educate IWS members about the myths and facts of GBV. This presentation also brought awareness and more fulsome understanding of the topic and the multiple forms of violence that can occur.

Joy Smith of The Joy Smith Foundation, gave a presentation on Human Trafficking and Gender-Based Violence. She spoke about how Métis youth are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking, and the factors that lead to trafficking, which include GBV. The presentation offered valuable insight for how to spot predators and how they gain control. For many Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals,





trafficking is a component on a spectrum of violence that has deep roots and results in higher rates of abuse and exploitation.

IWS conducted post-consultation online surveys, with 78 of the 89 consultation participants completing the survey. After completing the surveys, each participant received a 'wellness package' to demonstrate our gratitude and appreciation of the time, energy and effort required to engage in the process and provide their perspectives, opinions, and input.

The consultation process had a significant impact on the participants in terms of increasing their knowledge base relating to GBV. At the beginning of the consultation, only 9 participants (11%) claimed a high understanding of GBV. This number increased to 46 (59%) after the consultation. Most importantly, almost all participants reported that they increased their understanding of when and why GBV occurs. Participants indicated that they felt better equipped to avoid violence and the circumstances that surround

it in the future. Moreover, and noteworthy, all the participants wanted more engagement/consultation sessions, information, and support regarding GBV.

On a supplemental online GBV survey that was distributed to our membership, 98 IWS members responded to the survey, which was significant considering the short window to return these surveys. The results revealed that GBV highly impacts our IWS members. More than 80% of the participants reported that GBV affects their family and community. When asked if they have experienced GBV, one in five IWS members report that they have dealt with this personally, including 4% who experienced GBV on a regular basis. 40% reported that someone close to them has experienced GBV. The vast majority of IWS members indicated that it was important to establish a Métis specific, prevention-based transitional housing unit or domestic violence centre in their community or close to where they live, which as we all know, is on our list of priorities to achieve and become a reality.

# 'PEY KEY WAY TA HIN'

## BRING ME HOME PROGRAM

Working together with the MMF, IWS is bringing forward and addressing issues related to historical and transgenerational trauma through family-driven, inclusive, preventative programming and targeting interventions.

The 'PeyKeyWayTa Hin' - Bring Me Home Program was designed to provide supports and advocacy capacity to survivors and family members of all murdered and missing individuals. Giving voices and dignity back to Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals. Working within Red River Métis communities, our commitment is to cultivate awareness, conduct outreach, and bring our missing or murdered loved ones home to their families and friends.

IWS has developed a strategy outlining the goals and objectives of this multi-year project. With 'Phase I - Program Planning, Research, and Development of Networks and Services' underway, IWS is researching

what supports are offered in each Region. In partnership with the MMF, MMIWG2S+ Advisory Committees, and The Joy Smith Foundation, IWS is making connections with, but not limited to, Winnipeg Police Services, RCMP, Victim Services, and with organizations that support and offer resources for MMIWG2S+ survivors and families. IWS is also working on 'Phase II - Development of MMIWG2S+ Specific Services', designing a database system and creating resource guides that will be available in all Regions. In fiscal year 2022-23, IWS will begin working on 'Phase III - Program Design and Delivery, Networking, and Development of Workshops and Information Sessions.' This will include designing hybrid consultations and educational materials, along with awareness events for MMIWG2S+ survivors, families, and all those impacted. In addition, IWS will also be creating support groups for MMIGW2S+ survivors and families.

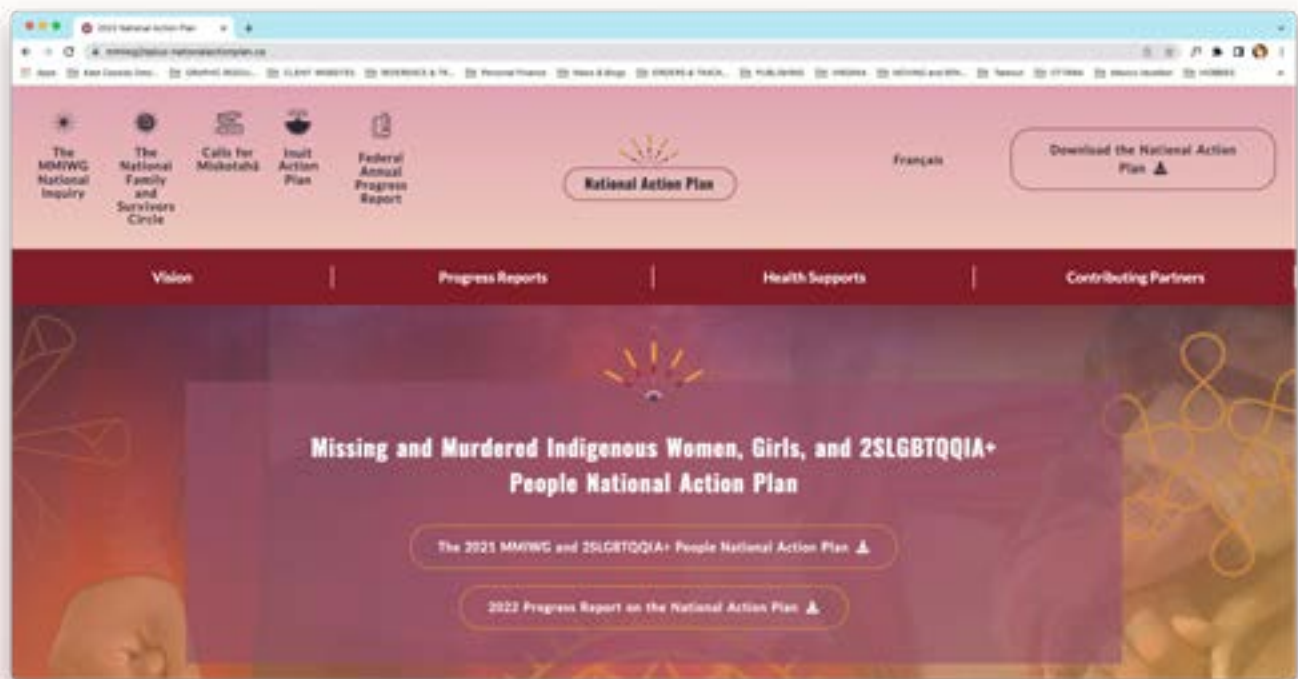




**Silence is violence.**  
*Talk about it.*

Furthermore, IWS was included as a partner in the development of a National Action Plan responding to the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG2S+) and remains a part of the national MMIWG2S+ Advisory Committee. This past year, IWS was invited to create the MMIWG2S+ Manitoba Response to the MMIWG2S+ Implementation Plan, in an advisory capacity. Since

November 2021, IWS has been involved in the provincial MMIWG2S+ Advisory Committee, which is comprised of family members, survivors, and advocates. IWS was acknowledged for its ability to create and sustain positive change for Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals. Our goal is to ensure that the MMIWG2S+ National Action Plan is implemented and realized in Manitoba.



# MÉTIS WOMEN LEADERSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

IWS is promoting and building improved self-confidence within our membership and creating Métis women leaders of today and tomorrow. Our goal is to engender confidence in Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals to enhance their ability to envision an aspired future, encourage and empower them to achieve that future, and become leaders in their communities. IWS offered the 'Online Leadership Workshops Series' with an aim to develop leadership skills for Métis women in Manitoba.

IWS partnered with the ACHIEVE Centre for Leadership to deliver the Online Leadership Workshop Series. ACHIEVE provides training, consulting, books, and free resources in the areas of leadership, workplace culture, conflict resolution, and communication. IWS worked with ACHIEVE and guest speakers to specifically tailor a curriculum workshop series, suited to our members' needs, including living the life you love, mindfulness for leaders, personality differences, assertive communication, conflict resolution skills, and civic and political engagement.

With the overwhelming success of our advertisement strategy, which included emailing IWS members, and promotion on our IWS social media platforms, 151 women registered for the Online Leadership Workshop Series. This surpassed the targeted maximum of 50-60 participants for the session by 250%. As such, IWS quickly negotiated a revised plan with ACHIEVE to offer the same series twice a week – Tuesdays, March 8 to April 5, 2022, and Thursdays, February 24 to March 31, 2022. The first set of 70 registrants who signed up for Thursdays all attended the Thursday sessions with 100% attendance. The remaining registrants were assigned the Tuesday evening sessions, but approximately only half attended the majority of the workshops, due to prior commitments on Tuesday evenings. For future sessions, IWS will offer the sessions only once per week but with alternate periods of time for the Online Leadership Workshop Series.

An evaluation was distributed after the completion of the series. Over 90% of participants reported growth in their overall leadership skills and knowledge.

The majority of participants were either satisfied, or very satisfied with the information presented, the presenters' expertise on the topics, and organization of the workshops. 100% of the participants agreed that learning objectives were clear, workshop content was well planned and the workload was appropriate. All participants agreed that they could participate fully because presenters were responsive to questions, actively involved the participants and sought their input. 68.57% of participants strongly agreed, and 31.43% of participants agreed, that the series was of great relevance for their personal and professional growth. Overall, the Online Leadership Workshop Series proved to be very useful to participants and addressed their needs.

The 'Online Leadership Workshop Series' promoted awareness pertaining to the strength of Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals and their potential. Further, the program offered them encouragement and instilled confidence to take leadership roles and participate in civic engagements. IWS has taken a leadership role in the Red River Métis community and is extending its capacity to nurture upcoming female Métis leaders who can contribute exponentially to our community. IWS will continue to create new strategic partnerships and build career opportunities and life development portfolios for participants. With the measurable success of these workshops, IWS is planning to deliver another series in the 2022/2023 fiscal year.

*"The workshops helped me speak up and be confident"*

*"Being able to meet other Métis women was so valuable. I enjoyed learning and taking part. Learned so much from Assertive Communication. Thank you, Spokeswoman Campbell, and Staff!!"*

*"Amazing. The presenters were well informed, providing adequate information to any questions asked. Nice to hear other's experiences, and how they deal with others."*



# MANITOBA MÉTIS-CENTRED ELCC QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Funded by Employment and Social Development Canada, this multi-year project (ending in June 2023) aims to develop a Métis women-centered governance model that supports Métis-led Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) decision-making and defines a high-quality Métis ELCC system. This project also endeavors to build and improve partnerships with MMF communities across Manitoba to develop culturally appropriate home-based childcare initiatives. In partnership with MMF-ELCC, IWS is working towards improving Métis women's access to home-based childcare business opportunities as well as improving overall accessibility to home-based childcare services within Métis communities.

Ongoing research and environmental scans are being conducted to ensure that we are able to implement culturally appropriate, high-quality performance measurement frameworks, evaluation strategies, as well as Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) methodology for application to IWS's and the MMF-

ELCC services, programs, and support. Finally, this project will also provide leadership and management training to Red River Métis women working in the Métis ELCC field so they may better serve women and families throughout our Homeland and beyond.

The results of this project are anticipated to produce a coordinated local and regional approach to services which are Métis-led, and culturally competent and responsive, thereby improving ELCC experiences for Métis children and their families in Manitoba. Further, we also anticipate that this project will foster coordinated and robust governance of Métis ELCC in Manitoba by Métis Women.

IWS is putting effort toward expanding and building upon the partnership with the MMF-ELCC Department to work on Home-Based Child Care initiatives within our Regions and Locals throughout Manitoba. A hybrid workshop and consultation series is being developed which will serve to train IWS members on how to



create their own home-based child care business to improve economic opportunities and access for Métis women throughout our homeland.

IWS is working in partnership with the MMF Housing Department on the "Little Infinity Childcare Centre" site located at 12 Hawthorne Place, St. Andrews, Manitoba, to complete the necessary steps in our renovation plans for that facility. We are planning to

have spaces for 55 children: 8 infants, 32 preschool and 15 school aged children. We continue to work on our concept plans for the new proposed centre to be built in Thompson, Manitoba which will also have space for 55 children: 8 infants, 32 pre-school, and 15 school aged children. Lastly, a location has been identified for a possible childcare centre site in Winnipeg, with details pending.

# IWS SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

In line with the “Employment Strategy for Métis Women and Girls,” IWS delivered the Summer Student Employment Program (SSEP) once again in the Summer of 2021. This project was initiated to provide strategic employment opportunities for Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals attending school as part of the proactive approach to assisting with financial hardships and crisis experienced during the global pandemic since March 2020.

IWS coordinated with the MMF Regions to place Summer Students in four of the seven Regions within various employers in the MMF Locals for summer employment. An improvement from the last year, IWS expanded our network to include students and employers from the Winnipeg, Interlake, Southeast, and Northwest Regions.

The intake process was swift and straightforward with two kinds of intake: student or employer. The new “Summer Student Survey” was essential for student placement within the program. The survey provided information on their education, interests,

skills, and summer employment goals. Students came with varied employment histories and educational backgrounds. Several student participants were Métis women and girls entering the workforce for the first time ever and with diverse backgrounds and skillsets who were looking for employment in their desired vocation. In total, 23 students participated in the SSEP. All students gained meaningful experiences that will enhance their resume and help them build necessary skills, leading to increased opportunities for future success in the labour market.

Employers were requested to fill out the “Position Request Form.” One of the goals of the program was to create a database of employers that were looking to hire and mentor Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals. IWS matched potential candidates with businesses looking for particular skillsets for a variety of positions in multiple fields of employment. The program had great success recruiting Métis and non-Métis businesses and organizations to form the database. There were more employers than there were students with 52

position request forms submitted to IWS. Overall, 20 employers were matched with students. Most employers received one fully funded student for the summer, with the exception of some businesses in the Southeast and Northwest Regions taking on more than one student at their place of business.

This year a program evaluation was created for both student and employer, and was created to inform IWS about what went well and what needs improving for next year. Responses were as follows: 76% of students claimed they were given the opportunity to learn new skills; 100% of students and employers would like to participate in the SSEP next year and would recommend the program to peers; 88% of students had a positive relationship with their employer and 83% of employers enjoyed having their student for the summer; 72% of employers would consider hiring their student again, and 78% would give their students an excellent recommendation.

IWS will continue offering the Summer Student Employment Program and being a focal point of contact for Métis and Non-Métis businesses and organizations that are looking to recruit Métis students for employment opportunities and placement.



# MÉTIS CULTURE AND IDENTITY REVITALIZATION PROJECT

Infinity Women Secretariat acknowledges members' requests for the need of increased understanding and opportunities to participate in activities associated with the Red River Métis culture and identity. Funded through MMF-UPIP, the "Métis Culture and Identity Revitalization" project is working to advance the rights of Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals,

by promoting and celebrating Métis identity through sharing and teaching opportunities. IWS is engaging IWS members through a variety of Métis-specific cultural revitalization workshops that educate Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals about their culture, heritage, and traditions.

## 'BEADING WITH JOAN' PROGRAM

Entering our second year in 2021/2022 of offering this program, our online beading classes continue to be a huge hit with our IWS members. Although initially these classes were geared towards the beginner level beaders, we had beaders who had previous experience and knowledge participating and/or they had taken the beading sessions with Joan the previous fiscal year, as we found our beaders learned quickly and were always willing and interested to learn more.

This year participants learned simple beading techniques such as beading flowers for pins, earrings, and lanyards. All supplies for the online beading classes were sent to participants ahead of time and the kits included 5 colours of beads, needles, Pellon, thread, patterns, and other required supplies.

As the beading classes were online via Zoom, this gave the opportunity for many of our members to participate in these sessions no matter which

*"Thank you to IWS again for the lessons, I'm so glad to have had the chance to learn how to bead! It definitely isn't something that I would have ever started on my own without the supplies and lessons provided by IWS."*





## *“I had such a great time ‘Beading with Joan!’”*

Region they were from. Registration for the beading sessions reached capacity literally minutes after the advertisement was posted on our social media. There were approximately 115 participants registered for the online beading session, participating in the Wednesday evening sessions for the 2021-22 fiscal year. The “Spring” Beading session had 30 participants from April 12 – May 31, 2021. IWS held a “Backyard Beading” summer session from June 22 to July 27, 2021, where the 26 participants could participate while simultaneously enjoying the outdoors during these Zoom sessions. This approach was innovative and clearly a great fit, as IWS members loved it! The “Fall” Beading Session ran from September 15 to November 3, 2021, with 30 participants; while the “Winter” Beading Session was held from February 16 to April 6, 2022 and had 29 participants.

In keeping with Métis tradition, throughout the beading sessions, participants shared personal and family stories with each other, not to mention the many laughs. IWS members, of all abilities learned how to bead, with Elders and youth coming together to learn why the Métis people are known as the “flower beadwork people”. It was truly an opportunity to bond for everyone, and as the pandemic continued, the members looked forward to their Wednesday evening beading sessions, as a means to stay connected and supported. Interesting fact, some of our participants have excelled at this and are now selling their beading online and in the Ed Simard General Store (ESGS) located at the MMF Home Office.



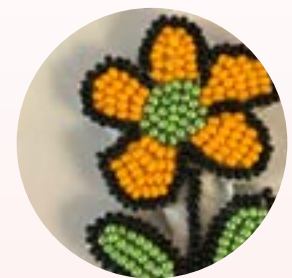
*Work in progress,  
Celeste Grouette*



*Finished Flower,  
Celeste Grouette*



*Flower, Jeanne Pinette*



*Flower, Jaime  
Bernardin*

*“Please pass on my gratitude to Joan, as well as to Minister Campbell & IWS for facilitating the beading course.”*

# MÉTIS DOT ART WITH CANDACE

IWS wanted to offer something new for their members and a new cultural experience was presented in fiscal year of 21/22: traditional Métis Dot Art with Métis Artisan and workshop facilitator Candace Lipischak. Candace's work is inspired by nature and their Red River Métis background. Self-taught, her company Fat Daug (short for Father/Daughter) offers unique and organic antler jewelry sold both online on their website and at the Winnipeg Art Gallery (WAG-Quamajug).

Dot Art started with one session, in collaboration as a part of the "Métis Kitchen Table Teachings" at the WAG-Quamajug. The afternoon paint session was offered free of charge on November 14, 2021, for Métis youth and was as successful as IWS anticipated it would be. It was a hybrid event with both in-person participation at the WAG-Quamajug and virtually via Zoom. 12 Métis

youth aged 7-13 years old learned how to paint using dot art. Candace was an enthusiastic instructor sharing Métis stories while simultaneously showing them how to paint traditional Métis flower designs, in honor of our namesake as the flower beadwork people.

As a result of the high interest in the program, IWS held three additional online sessions: February 13th, March 3rd, and March 13th, 2022. Of the 120 IWS members registered over 80% participated in the sessions: 34 participated on February 13th, 39 participated on March 3rd, and 24 participated on March 13th. The women not only learned a new skill from Candace but benefited from stories shared about Candace's Métis heritage and life. The afternoons passed quickly as everyone enjoyed themselves and worked very hard on their dot art!



*Lynda Monkman*



*Sheryl Crain*



# IWS SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGY

The IWS social media strategy is designed so that we can stay connected with our members, partners and supporters by: sharing our programming workshops and consultation opportunities, and by bringing recognition to special days and events.

We strive to maintain connection to our community by actively posting content on our Facebook page, Instagram page, by answering comments and messages through our social media platforms as well as by answering emails generated through the IWS website. When actively staying connected with our community, we build a strong, trusted relationship and gain each other's respect and support.

Evidently, being active on social media allows us to reach more of our Red River Métis community. This is demonstrated when IWS members share IWS posts to their own personal page, which can be seen by many MMF citizens who may not (yet) be IWS members. Our social media strategy has the benefit of reaching a wider audience, sharing of information and cultivating increased IWS memberships.

In fiscal year 2021-22, the IWS team achieved an impressive amount of work as a small team of 9, as we had successfully launched our Facebook page on February 18, 2021, and gained a lot of followers. We promoted our programming on Facebook and of the 73 posts made by IWS, the information reached 61,378 people through members clicking the 'share' button, casting a net wider than we could have imagined. As of March 31, 2022, our Facebook page had reached 559 "likes" in a matter of only 6 weeks. Lastly, since the launch of our website [www.infinitywomen.org](http://www.infinitywomen.org) on March 29, 2021, our webpage received 21,114 unique and returning visitors throughout the 2021-22 fiscal year.

We are not quite finished, as we have more plans and ideas to implement as part of the Infinity Women Secretariat's Social Media Strategy – stay tuned for more!

# ONE LAST THING...

## A VIRTUAL IWS HALLOWEEN

IWS celebrated Halloween a little differently this past year, due to the IWS Office still not accessible due to renovations at MMF Home Office. We launched a virtual "Spooky Costume Contest" inviting the children of our IWS members to send us their scariest (but more so cutest) picture in their costumes. The IWS

team had a hard time choosing the winner and opted to leave the selection of the winner up to chance, by using a technological app to pick a name at random. We thank everyone who participated in a "Virtual IWS Halloween" and in our eyes, all submissions are and were winners!



# BIOGRAPHIES

## IWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### ANITA CAMPBELL - SPOKESWOMAN

[acampbell@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:acampbell@mmf.mb.ca)



Anita Campbell is the Spokeswoman and CEO of Infinity Women Secretariat (IWS). Having grown substantially since it began, IWS now provides many programs, services, and supports to over 1300 members. Her dedication and passion to support the Métis women of Manitoba is prevalent in her day-to-day activities as she has served as Spokeswoman since the incorporation of IWS in 2013.

Spokeswoman Campbell was first elected in 2003 as a Caucus and Cabinet Member of the Manitoba Métis Government. She has held many Ministerial appointments including Minister of Finance and Human Resources since 2012, and Minister of Information Technology since 2018, along with many appointments to multiple Boards and Committees. In addition, she holds the position of Chief Administrative Officer, as of September 1, 2016. For over two years, she has served as the Co-chair of the Métis COVID-19 Response Team, working to ensure the health, safety, and care of all Red River Métis citizens.

Spokeswoman Campbell is happily married to Mike McIvor and has a blended family of 3 sons, 2 daughters and 5 grandchildren. She is a Métis woman from Duck Bay, Manitoba. She received her

education through the Red River College Business Management Program. After moving from Winnipeg to Thompson, she was employed with the Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre for 35 years, of which 23 was as their Executive Director, where she dedicated her life building it from the ground up. She played a key role in the development of programs and services that addressed the social, economic, cultural, and educational issues, in addition to striving to empower women to gain a better quality of life. Her mentorship gave the Centre the "push" it needed to become the place it is today, where urban Indigenous peoples can access programs and services from one location.

Spokeswoman Campbell has received multiple awards for her commitments. She was presented the provincial award for Community Development from the Original Women's Network in 2001, the Interprovincial Association on Native Employment (IANE) Bill Hanson Award in 2007, and the Thompson Trail Breakers Award for Community Leadership in 2011. She also received the Governor General of Canada's Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers in recognition of outstanding Indigenous Leadership in June 2017.



## ADRIENNE CARRIERE – VICE-SPOKESWOMAN WINNIPEG REGION

[acarrie38@gmail.com](mailto:acarrie38@gmail.com)

Adrienne Carriere is a Métis woman from San Clara, Manitoba and has resided in Winnipeg since 1991. She has been a member of the Executive with both the St. Norbert Parish-La Barriere Parish Métis Council and the South-Central Métis Council. She is currently a member with Lii Michif Otipemisiwak Local. Adrienne served on the Local Advisory Committee (LAC) for the Winnipeg Region for four years and was a Board Member with the Louis Riel Institute. She is currently the Infinity Women Secretariat Vice-Spokeswoman and IWS Board Representative for the Winnipeg Region and looks forward to continuing her work as an advocate to ensure Métis women, girls, and members of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Community have more opportunities and options available to them.

Adrienne graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work degree in 1994 and worked at the Native Women’s Transition Centre where she provided support to women and children who experienced domestic violence. She was a strong advocate to the women when dealing with Child and Family Services, Manitoba Justice, Employment and Income Assistance and other systems. She accepted a position with the University of Manitoba Access Programs in 1997 as an academic counsellor, completed a Masters’ Degree in Adult Education in 2006, and became the Associate Director of Access and Aboriginal Focus Programs in 2012. She is currently the Lead of Indigenous Initiatives and Partnerships in the Division of Extended Education at the U of M and teaches in the Applied Counselling Certificate Program as well as the Faculty of Social Work.



## DEE CHABOYER – SECRETARY, THOMPSON REGION

[dchaboyer@mamowwetak.mb.ca](mailto:dchaboyer@mamowwetak.mb.ca)

Dee Chaboyer is a Métis woman originally from the city of Thompson. In 1993, Dee graduated from Keewatin Community College with a diploma in Business Administration, Accounting Major. After graduation she became a participant of the Single Parent Job Access Program and was placed with the Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre for 6 months of work experience in the finance department and 29 years later remains with the organization. In 1994 Dee was offered the full-time position of Financial Administrator and since 2006 has held the positions of Assistant Director, Director of Operations and currently holds the position of Executive Director since September of 2016.

In addition to her work with the Friendship Centre, Dee is involved with many organizations and groups at the municipal and

provincial and federal level including current Secretary of Infinity Women Secretariat, Secretary/Treasurer of the Manitoba Métis Federation - Thompson Local Advisory Committee, Chairperson of the Indigenous Advisory Board – Reaching Home, Canada’s Homelessness Strategy, Co-Chair of Thompson’s Community Wellness & Public Safety Advisory Committee, Manitoba Representative on the National Association of Friendship Centre’s National Expert Advisory Committee, to name a few.

Dee believes in providing the education, knowledge, and skills necessary for the advancement and empowerment of Indigenous people.



## BRANDI VEZINA – TREASURER, SOUTHEAST REGION

**brandivezina@hotmail.com**

Brandi Vezina is a singer/songwriter and mindset coach (B. Env Sci, B. Ed) from Stony Point, Manitoba. She teaches women to love themselves so they can show up more powerfully in their lives. She has written 3 books, has a podcast, Going Inward with Brandi Vezina and YouTube channel. She has worked with organizations across Turtle Island and is a strong advocate for Mother Earth and all animals.

Brandi's music carries powerful messages combined with pop

and country elements. Her music is heard on SiriusXM Canada's Indigenous Peoples' Radio, CBC Country, and North Americana channels.

Brandi is grateful to be an IWS Board of Director, representing the Southeast Region. She currently holds the position of Treasurer and is honoured to work for the betterment of our Métis women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals.



## CAROLE REIMER THE PAS REGION

**carolereimer@gmail.com**

Carole Reimer is a Métis woman born in Flin Flon, Manitoba and raised in The Pas, Manitoba. Carole and her (late) husband, Steve, raised their four grown children in the north. They fostered three beautiful little ones and have had the privilege of welcoming fourteen grandchildren into the family.

As an adult, she moved to Winnipeg and graduated from Herzing Career College with a Computer Electronic Technology Diploma in 1993. She returned to The Pas in 1998 when she was offered a position at Keewatin Community College, known currently as University College of the North (UCN), as a Computer Services Technician. When she left UCN after over 22 years of employment, Carole's role was Systems Support in the IT Department.

Carole is honoured to have the opportunity to serve as the IWS Board of Director, The Pas Region, as well as The Pas Local Executive Secretary and the Regional Returning Officer for The Pas Region. She strongly believes in lifelong learning and is a strong advocate for education, educational opportunities and supporting our women and children to be successful in making their dreams become their reality.



## LORNA SANDERSON NORTHWEST REGION

[lornasanderson69@msn.com](mailto:lornasanderson69@msn.com)

Lorna Sanderson is a Métis woman from Dauphin, Manitoba. She is a proud single mother of a 21-year-old son who is a graduate of the Culinary Arts Program at ACC in Brandon and working at what he loves to do, cooking. Lorna was raised by a strong Métis woman, her mom, and then at the age of 11 her dad (stepfather). She was born in Ste Rose but grew up in Crane River, where she spent a lot of time with her grandparents; her papa was a WWII Veteran.

Lorna graduated from Business Administration in 1997 from Red River Community College. Lorna worked at various jobs both in the private sector and Provincial Government then eventually

made her way to the Federal Government where she has worked for the last 23 years. Lorna currently sits on the Dauphin Amisk MMF Local as Chair, the Advisory committee for Gender Based Violence and most recently, Board of Director for Infinity Women Secretariat from the Northwest Region.

Through her work/life experiences, Lorna has learned a lot on leadership, working with others and being compassionate. She is a strong Métis woman who will help encourage and lead other Métis woman and youth to do better for themselves and others. She enjoys sharing her knowledge, her culture, and especially her beading.



## JOAN CHURCH SOUTHWEST REGION

[J\\_tulman@yahoo.ca](mailto:J_tulman@yahoo.ca)

As a Mother and Grandmother, Joan is blessed with five daughters, 17 grandchildren, and two great-grandsons. She was born in Swan Valley but spent her early years at Bowsman Ridge, a Métis settlement at the foot of the Porcupine Mountains. Before retiring in 2013, Joan worked in the field of education for 30 years. She was given a lifetime opportunity to become a teacher through the BUNTEP Program, graduating with a Bachelor of Education (Brandon University) in 1981. She taught literacy for 12 years until receiving a position in the Swan Valley School Division, where she remained until her retirement.

Joan had spent over 30 years volunteering with the Friendship Centre Movement. She was a board member on the ECFC board, the MAC's National Board Representative on the NAFC, the

President of MAC, as well as the Friendship Centre representative on the Northwest LMB. She has been active with her MMF local since the 70's and still is today. She is also very active in the Southwest Region Seniors group!

Joan is a fierce advocate on the behalf of all Métis Citizens, focusing on what we can do to promote understanding, awareness, and prevention. Now, Joan is working with "Beyond Borders" advancing the Manitoba Métis Federation Self-Governing Agreement with Canada and bringing forward our voice on behalf of Infinity Women Secretariat. Joan looks forward to continuing to serve IWS with dignity, pride, and her awesome humour.





## BEV WEBB INTERLAKE REGION

[Bwebb07@hotmail.com](mailto:Bwebb07@hotmail.com)

Bev is a Métis woman born in Fisher Branch, MB, where she was raised by her paternal grandparents in the Marble Ridge District. With her husband Bill, they raised their family, and they still live just down the road from where she grew up. Bev has three children, 8 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild, and 5 fur babies. Bev is a retired Health Care Aide of over 20 years. In all of the things that Bev has done, she feels her greatest adventure was to be a stay-at-home mom. She only went back to work after her children were grown. She currently has two part-time jobs and still enjoys guarding at the Ashern, Arborg, and Fisher Branch RCMP detachments.

She has been a member of the Interlake LAC Board for 25+ years, and is appointed to the Interlake PAC. She has been a member of the Métis Child, Family, and Community Services (MCFCS) agency board for over 8 years.

She takes pleasure in volunteering for various organizations and takes pride in being the IWS Board of Director for the Interlake Region. Being a part of the IWS Board has allowed her to meet new people and do things that she would not have imagined ever doing on her own, like Zoom. Thank you, Spokeswoman Campbell!



## ALYSSA THOMAS – PROVINCIAL YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE, SOUTHEAST REGION

[alyssa.thomas@mmf.mb.ca](mailto:alyssa.thomas@mmf.mb.ca)

Alyssa Thomas has been actively involved in the Métis community most of her life. Now in her 2nd term, Alyssa has held the appointed position of Infinity Women Secretariat Youth Representative since 2018 on the IWS Board of Directors and on the MMF's Provincial Youth Advisory Committee, and the Southeast Regional Youth Advisory Committee. Alyssa provides a female youth perspective and encourages youth involvement.

Alyssa is entering her second year of law at the University of Manitoba, Robson Hall. She is an active member in the student body and is currently the first representative for the Environmental Law Student Group. Alyssa also has a volunteer position with Pro Bono Students Canada, where she works on a legal research project with the Manitoba Eco-Network.

Prior to law school, Alyssa graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Winnipeg. Throughout her first degree, Alyssa maintained an above 4.0 GPA and has been recognized for her academic achievements through many prestigious awards. Most notably, Alyssa was awarded the Dieter Hoehne Memorial Scholarship as the highest standing Indigenous student in the University of Winnipeg's Political Science department in 2018, and in 2020, the Yvonne Prefontaine Memorial Award recognized her outstanding work in politics courses.

# IWS STAFF



SEANA LEVESQUE –  
FACILITATOR  
s.levesque@mmf.mb.ca



KARRIE BURZUIK – SENIOR  
PROJECT OFFICER  
karrie.burzuik@mmf.mb.ca



LISA KAROL – FAMILY  
SUPPORT COORDINATOR  
lisa.karol@mmf.mb.ca



SANDY GAGNE –  
DIRECTOR OF IWS CHILD  
CARE CENTRES  
sandra.gagne@mmf.mb.ca



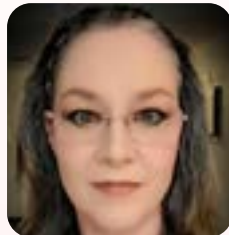
NATALIE KULCZYCKI –  
BUSINESS NAVIGATOR  
natalie.kulczycki@mmf.mb.ca



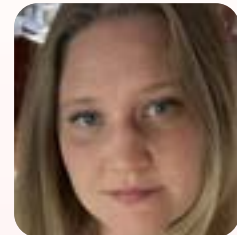
CATHY SOMERSET –  
PROVINCIAL ADVISOR, ELCC  
cathy.somerset@mmf.mb.ca



CHLOÉ ARBEZ-RONDEAU  
– YOUTH OUTREACH  
WORKER  
c.arbez-rondeau@mmf.mb.ca



RAYETTE GILES –  
POLICY ANALYST  
rayette.gile@mmf.mb.ca



RANDI STAPLES – PROJECT  
COORDINATOR  
randi.staples@mmf.mb.ca



DONNA THORSTEINSON  
– ADMINISTRATIVE  
COORDINATOR  
donna.thorsteinson@mmf.mb.ca



KAITLYN CLARKE –  
STUDENT INTERN  
kaitlyn.clarke@mmf.mb.ca



WEI XIE – SENIOR  
ADVISOR  
wei.xie@systemway.ca

# CONTRIBUTIONS

INFINITY WOMEN SECRETARIAT APPRECIATES  
THE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:



**Canada** 

Indigenous Services Canada

Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs

Department for Women and Gender Equality

Employment and Social Development Canada





# INFINITY WOMEN

SECRETARIAT ∞

## Infinity Women Secretariat

✉ Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) Home Office:  
11-150 Henry Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 0J7

☎ (204) 586-8474 ext. 2775

@ IWS@mmf.mb.ca

🌐 infinitywomen.org

📘 facebook.com/Infinitywomensecretariat

