



KING CHARLES III CORONATION MEDAL



King Charles III Coronation Medal

March 19, 2025

As part of the King Charles III Coronation Medal program, Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (LFMO) President Melanie Omeniho was presented with the King Charles III Coronation Medal for exemplary service in Reconciliation on September 20, 2024. She was given 30 medals with which she could personally recognize exemplary Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals. She presented the King Charles III Coronation Medal to the following individuals during a ceremony at the Infinity Convention Center in Ottawa, ON.

Community Service and Philanthropy

Sheila Andrews

Sheila Andrews was born into a Métis family in Prince Albert, SK in 1967. As the youngest daughter in a family of seven kids, she grew up in a much more innocent time when sexuality wasn't discussed and gender was defined as strictly male and female. From a very young age, she knew something about herself was different. Before she started school she wanted to be a boy and went by the name George. She didn't want to go to kindergarten as her mom told her that she had to go by her real name. She finally came out in the 80's and has been a very proud member of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community ever since



Suzanne Jackson

Steeped in Métis history, culture, traditions and politics for the past 20 years, Suzanne's passion is the protection and provisions of and for Métis women and children. From an experienced based perspective, she shares a traditional knowledge of culture, arts and teachings. Safety and well being is always at the forefront of all of her conversations on Métis women and children.



Lorelei Lanz

Lorelei, a proud Métis woman from southern Alberta, traces her roots to Big Prairie, where her great-grandfather settled after serving as a Lieutenant under Louis Riel in 1885. Her ancestry, enriched by names like



Jobin, Courtrielle, Dumas, Ferguson, and Gladu, reflects a legacy of Métis leadership and artistry.

A skilled artisan, Lorelei mastered traditional crafts such as beading and moccasin making, blending heritage with creativity. For over 30 years, she has devoted herself to community service, fostering healing, learning, and connection among women. Her leadership extends to local, provincial, and national advocacy, amplifying women's voices and addressing critical issues affecting families.

Lorelei has also served on boards of Indigenous and community organizations, championing initiatives that build connections and a sense of belonging within the Métis community. Her unwavering dedication exemplifies the resilience and contributions of Métis women. A skilled artisan, Lorelei mastered traditional crafts such as beading and moccasin making, blending heritage with creativity. For over 30 years, she has devoted herself to community service, fostering healing, learning, and connection among women. Her leadership extends to local, provincial, and national advocacy, amplifying women's voices and addressing critical issues affecting families.

Lorelei has also served on boards of Indigenous and community organizations, championing initiatives that build connections and a sense of belonging within the Métis community. Her unwavering dedication exemplifies the resilience and contributions of Métis women.

Lisa Pigeau

Lisa Pigeau is a proud Métis woman, deeply connected to her heritage and committed to empowering Indigenous communities. Lisa celebrates her Métis identity as a vital part of her life and work.

As an advocate for Indigenous rights, Lisa dedicates her energy to fostering cultural awareness, preserving Métis traditions, and addressing the challenges facing Indigenous peoples today.



She actively engages in community initiatives, focusing on education, social justice, and mental health support. Her efforts aim to create bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, fostering understanding and reconciliation.

Lisa's leadership is grounded in her passion for storytelling, a hallmark of Métis culture. She weaves narratives of resilience, strength, and identity into her work, inspiring others to embrace their roots and seek inclusive solutions to shared challenges.

In addition to her community work, Lisa is an educator and speaker, sharing her knowledge of Métis history, traditions, and contemporary issues. Through workshops, public speaking, and grassroots activism, she amplifies the voices of her people and works tirelessly to ensure that the contributions of Métis culture are recognized and celebrated.

Shanlee Scott

Shanlee Scott is originally from northwestern Manitoba and now resides in Winnipeg. She is a passionate and visionary leader and currently the Executive Director of Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad Inc. She recognizes her most important role as that of life-giver and mother to her two daughters.

Shanlee has been honoured to spend her career in community services primarily supporting those most vulnerable. Since childhood, she has been passionate about issues related to racial and gender equity. Shanlee serves on several boards and advisory committees focusing on advocacy and human services. Her personal philosophy is best reflected by John P. Kretzmann and John L. McKnight; "Every single person has capabilities, abilities, and gifts. Living a good life depends on whether those capabilities can be used, abilities expressed and gifts given. If they are, the person will be valued, feel powerful and well-connected to the people around them. And the community around the person will be more powerful because of the contribution the person is making.



Theresa Stenlund

Theresa is currently serving her fifth term as Region 1 Councilor for the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community, having initially joined the PCMNO in 2008 and previously served on the MNO Kenora Métis Council from 2001 to 2008.

Her leadership experience positions her as a strong advocate for Métis rights, interests, and claims on regional, provincial, and national platforms. She has actively participated in negotiating various Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and Impact Benefit Agreements (IBAs) between the MNO and regional industry partners, benefiting NWOMC citizens.

Theresa played a key role in negotiating the Memorandum of Understanding to Advance Reconciliation with the Government of Canada, and the historic Framework Agreement signed with Canada and Ontario in 2017. Furthermore, she became a signatory to the Framework Agreement between the Northwestern Ontario Métis community and Canada, aimed at reconciling and addressing outstanding claims related to Treaty 3 Adhesion of 1875. Beyond her advocacy work, Theresa has spearheaded the creation of resources highlighting the region's historical significance. As a married mother of two, she emphasizes the importance of early cultural identity for Métis children and actively involves her children in their heritage. Her passion includes child and family services, Métis culture and heritage, support for children with disabilities, and advancing Métis rights. Notably, she pioneered the establishment of Ontario's first Métis Child & Family Services agency, focusing on prevention services for the Métis citizens of Northwestern Ontario.



Brenda White

Brenda White is a proud Métis woman who has raised two wonderful sons, has six grand daughters, and one grandson. She has worked with and for people since the age of 18. Mrs. White believes strongly that helping people to help someone else is the most powerful tool she can give them. She is so very proud to have been involved from the start in building a Metis woman's transitional home for women fleeing violence with their children. The project is called Miakoda and will provide apartments in a secure building they can call home for up to 18 months. It will provide in house programming and cultural events with the goal of connecting women to the community.



Brenda presently works for a Metis organization that offers affordable housing, serves as the Vice President of local 109, and as the Vice President for Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak.

Education

Dr. Jennifer Adese

Dr. Jennifer Adese (she/her) (otipemisiwak/Métis) is the Canada Research Chair in Métis Women, Politics, and Community and an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM). She has previously held the positions of Associate Professor and Program Coordinator of Indigenous Studies in the former School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies at Carleton University, where she began her career as the New Sun Visiting Aboriginal Scholar and Assistant Professor.



Dr. Adese holds a PhD and Master's degree from McMaster University's Department of English & Cultural Studies, and an BA (Hons.) and BA from Lakehead University. She is the author of *Aboriginal™: The Cultural and Economic Politics of Recognition* (University of Manitoba Press), and is co-editor of two books, *Indigenous Celebrity* (with Robert Alexander Innes) (University of Manitoba Press), and *A People and a Nation: New Directions in Contemporary Métis Studies* (with Chris Andersen) (UBC Press). She is also the author of a number of articles and book chapters on Métis literature and politics, Indigenous visual sovereignty, and Indigenous-Canada relations. Her work has been published in journals such as *TOPIA*, *American Indian Quarterly*, *SAIL: Studies in American Indian Literatures*, *MediaTropes*, *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society (DIES)*, *Public*, and appears in select edited anthologies. Born in British Columbia and raised in Southern Ontario, Dr. Adese's paternal Métis family come from the Métis communities of St. Albert and Lac Ste. Anne, and she is a descendant of the former Michel and Papaschase Bands.

Dr. Lucy Delgado

Lucy Delgado, PhD, is a Two-Spirit Métis woman, born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Her family were Sinclairs, Cummings, Prudens, some of whom took scrip in St Andrews and St Johns, and she also has other family and ancestors from Red River, Oxford House, Norway House, and Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, and settler family from Ireland and the Orkney Islands. Lucy is a community organizer, involved in a variety of local and national

groups, and is actively involved with the Two-Spirit Michif Local of the Manitoba Métis Federation. She also serves on several boards, including the board of directors of Two-Spirit Manitoba and Full Circle for Indigenous Education. Lucy is one of the creators and Circle of Editors of *Pawaatamihk: Journal of Métis Thinkers*, an open-access academic journal focusing on lifting up the voices of Métis scholars, artists, and community members. Lucy is an Canada



Research Chair in Michif and Two-Spirit/Indigiqueer Education as Wellness and an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba.

Nicki Ferland

Nicki Ferland (she/they) is a two-spirit Métis mother, wife, aunty and helper. Her parents are both descended from scrip-bearing Métis families with ancestral roots in St. Vital and St-Boniface (Winnipeg), and Lorette, Manitoba. Nicki has a Master of Education in Indigenous Land-Based Education from the University of Saskatchewan, and is working on a PhD in Education. Her work and research are focused on (urban) land-based pedagogies and queering education. She is a sessional lecturer at the

Universities of Winnipeg, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Nicki is vice-chair of the Two-Spirit Michif Local (Manitoba Métis Federation) and sits on Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak's Two-Spirit National Committee on gender and culture-based violence. She is the Director of Land Based Education and Indigenous Curriculum at the University of Manitoba.



Dr. Laura Forsythe

Dr. Laura Forsythe is a Metis scholar at the University of Winnipeg in the Faculty of Education. Dr. Forsythe's research focus is Metis-specific contributions to the academy, Metis inclusion efforts, and educational sovereignty. Dr.Forsythe's contributions include five edited collections, numerous peer-reviewed publications, and the co-creation of a Michif Language program at the University of Manitoba. She has founded two two academic journals which lifts up the voices of indigenous scholars and is currently coordinating the creation of a Metis scholars association.



She is also a citizen of the Manitoba Metis Federation. Her kinship ties include the Huppe, Ward, Berard, Morin, Lavallee, and Cyr lines. Dr. Forsythe's ancestors worked for the Northwest and Hudson's Bay Companies, fought in the Victory of Frog Plain, and owned Lot 31, the site of a contemporary Métis space called Pakan Town.

Stella Erasmus Johnson

Stella Erasmus Johnson is a revered Elder from the Métis community of McLennan, Alberta. With deep ties to her ancestral traditions, she is a respected Knowledge Keeper, mentor, and cultural educator dedicated to preserving and promoting Métis heritage. Stella's work spans decades, focusing on sharing the teachings of her ancestors, fostering reconciliation, and uplifting Indigenous voices.



Born and raised in the Peace River region, Stella grew up immersed in the Métis way of life, learning traditional skills such as beadwork, jigging, storytelling, and land-based practices like hunting, fishing, and harvesting medicines. A fluent speaker of Cree and Michif, she has been instrumental in language preservation efforts, leading workshops and teaching young people the importance of reclaiming their linguistic and cultural roots.

Stella is a trusted advisor and participant in reconciliation initiatives at local, provincial, and national levels. She works closely with schools, government bodies, and community organizations, sharing Métis history and advocating for the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives in education and policymaking. Her role as an Elder extends to spiritual guidance, ceremonial leadership, and offering teachings rooted in respect, humility, and the interconnectedness of all life.

As a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Stella is passionate about ensuring that the next generation carries forward the strength, resilience, and pride of the Métis people. Her contributions to cultural preservation and community well-being continue to inspire and leave a lasting legacy in McLennan and beyond.

Dr. Yvonne Vizina

Yvonne has a Ph.D. from the School of Environment and Sustainability at the University of Saskatchewan, where she studied traditional Indigenous concepts of sustainability and their applications in postsecondary education programs across Canada. During earlier graduate research, she explored the ways that First Nation and Métis people understand traditional environmental knowledge and how that can be integrated into school science education. Yvonne is Métis from Reserve, SK and a graduate of the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program in Prince Albert, SK, specializing in Biology and Indigenous Studies. For the past few years, Yvonne has been teaching and researching traditional Indigenous teachings about human relationships with the Earth, including how those relationships affect our personal and collective well-being.



She has worked with Inuit, First Nation, and Métis scholars, Elders, and community knowledge holders and practitioners in Canada. She has also collaborated with Indigenous Peoples from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America, and Oceania, through the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

Elder Veda Weselake

Veda Weselake has a Cree Métis fur trade heritage tied to northern Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Trained as a sociologist, she worked for several levels of government in Manitoba and Ottawa in policy, negotiations and senior administrative roles, taught at two universities, and co-owned a social research company. For the majority of her career, Veda worked primarily on issues of particular concern to Indigenous peoples: rights recognition and implementation, treaty interpretation, governance, and resolution of historical grievances. She also did research and advocacy in the areas of culture production, crime prevention, homelessness, substance abuse, health promotion, income security, change management, dispute resolution, and international industrial security.

Veda is currently an adjunct faculty member at the University of Victoria's School of Public Administration and is in her third term as a councilor on the (Métis Nation of Ontario) Ottawa Region Council.

As an Elder, Veda draws upon her life experiences, the wisdom of Elders she has known, cultural teachings she has received, and her knowledge of Indigenous history and experience in the context of the larger society. Special interests include: dissemination of knowledge about the Métis, actions to address the crises of climate change and ecosystem destruction, support for Indigenous students and Indigenous curriculum development in school boards and universities, support for marginalized persons living in precarious situations, support for refugees and other new Canadians, support for the self-determination of Indigenous peoples, and support for truth, healing, and reconciliation. Veda and her husband live in Ottawa and have two sons.



Politics, Public Service and Justice

Annette Hobart

As a proud Métis woman, Annette is deeply honoured to be nominated for the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

Throughout her whole professional career it has been Annette's commitment to preserving Métis culture, heritage, and Indigenous knowledge, and to amplifying the voices of my community in all that she does.

For over 25 years, she has worked in the oil and gas sector, a space where Indigenous representation at decision-making tables is often limited.

Despite these challenges, she has made it her mission to ensure that Indigenous voices are not only heard, but understood. Through storytelling, teaching, and mentoring, she brings Indigenous perspectives to conversations that shape policy and practice. She uses her lived experiences and cultural teachings to create awareness, challenge misconceptions, and foster respect.

Balancing her professional and personal life is essential to fulfilling this mission. As an active land user and trapper, Annette remains deeply connected to her heritage, drawing from the teachings of her Elders to guide the path. By sharing her experiences, mentoring colleagues, and listening to and responding to questions in a respectful and safe manner, she creates spaces where dialogue and understanding can flourish.

It is a profound responsibility and privilege to bridge Indigenous ways of knowing with modern practices, ensuring that our community's wisdom is carried forward. This nomination represents not just her work, but the enduring resilience of Métis culture and the journey toward reconciliation that she is proud to champion for.



Sharon Morin

Sharon Morin is a proud Métis woman, cultural educator, and passionate advocate for Metis cultural heritage and arts. Hailing from a lineage deeply rooted in the Métis traditions of Alberta, Sharon has dedicated her life to preserving and sharing the rich history, stories, and culture of her community. As the Metis Knowledge holder and Coordinator for LFMO Sharon has the talent for merging cultural insights with technical knowledge bringing together different perspectives in both team collaborations and in a professional session.



With over 25 years of experience in cultural education, Sharon has been instrumental in fostering awareness and understanding of Metis perspectives in both urban and rural communities. Her expertise includes facilitating workshops on traditional arts such as beading, jigging, and Métis embroidery, as well as leading discussions on the historical and contemporary challenges facing Indigenous peoples in Canada.

An accomplished artist and storyteller herself, Sharon incorporates traditional Métis values of resilience, family, and community into her work. She is a frequent speaker at conferences and educational forums, where she advocates for reconciliation and the inclusion of Metis Women's voices in education, governance, and the arts.

Committed to empowering the next generation, Sharon mentors' young Indigenous leaders and collaborates with schools to ensure that Métis culture remains vibrant and celebrated.

Whether on the stage, in classrooms, or at community events, Sharon Morin continues to inspire others through her dedication to cultural preservation and the celebration of Métis identity.

Elder Linda Boudreau Semaganis

Linda Boudreau-Semaganis is a proud Cree Metis woman. She was born in Fort McMurray to Henry and Evelyn White, when the 'Mac' was just more than a village. Linda has lived across the prairie provinces, working in indigenous agencies and mentoring women and youth. She has a lifetime of employment in the human service industry and has been an activist on behalf of Missing and Murdered Women and Girls for over 20 years, as well as Stopping Violence against women, and promotes addiction free lifestyles. Linda is a historian, and highly involved in cultural conservation through her use of culture, and teachings to assist others to achieve balance in their journey. Linda is a writer and storyteller, who carries songs, ceremony, and tradition in her medicine bag of life.



Colette Surovy

Colette Surovy, a proud & passionate Métis woman from Kenora, ON, has dedicated her life to advancing Métis culture, women's empowerment & systemic equity. She has championed language revitalization, transitional housing & advocacy, exemplifying a commitment to community and heritage.



Bridget Tolley

Bridget Tolley has been looking for justice for over 2 decades. She is an Algonquin mother, grandmother & great-grandmother from Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg. Her mother was struck & killed by SQ Police in 2001 so she has been looking for justice since. She also started the Sisters in Spirit Vigils in 2006 on Parliament Hill for MMIWG2S. She does her best to help families of MMIWG2S to give them a voice and help tell their story. 2 years ago in April 2022 the Quebec Ministers came to apologize to Tolley's family for the way they were treated that night when her mom was killed in Oct. 2001. This was the first time that the Canadian Government has done this. She was also recognized by the Senate of Canada this year for the 20th Anniversary for the first Stolen Sisters Report that came out in Oct. 3rd, 2004. 20 years of doing volunteer work from her heart to help as many families as we can to bring home loved ones or help with unsolved + unresolved MMIWG2S cases.



Florence Pixie Wells

Pixie Wells, a 2SLGBTQQIA+ Métis advocate, uplifts Indigenous voices by blending traditional knowledge with modern perspectives. Through education, art, and activism, she fosters inclusivity, cultural resilience, and pride in Métis heritage and LGBTQIA+ identities.

Throughout her career, Pixie has been a steadfast advocate for the rights of others, including her own. Her commitment to community service and social justice is evident in her active involvement in various initiatives aimed at improving the well-being and representation of Métis individuals and other marginalized groups.



Pixie's leadership extends beyond her organizational roles; she is also recognized for her efforts in fostering cultural connections and promoting the importance of land and language acknowledgments. Her dedication to these causes highlights her deep commitment to preserving and celebrating Métis heritage and identity.

Through her various roles and initiatives, Florence "Pixie" Wells continues to make significant contributions to the Métis community and beyond, advocating for inclusivity, cultural preservation, and social equity.

Social Sciences and Humanities

Dr. Chantal Fiola

Chantal Fiola is Michif (Red River Métis) with family from St. Laurent and Ste. Anne, MB and is a registered citizen of the Manitoba Métis Federation. She is Associate Vice-President Indigenous Engagement and Associate Professor in Urban and Inner-City Studies at the University of Winnipeg where she also served as Distinguished Indigenous Scholar's Chair (2021-2024).



Dr. Fiola has spent nearly 20 years researching and promoting Métis spiritual resurgence, and refining a collaborative Métis community-centred research methodology. Her first book, "Rekindling the Sacred Fire: Métis Ancestry and Anishinaabe Spirituality" won the John Hirsch Award for Most Promising Manitoban Writer and the Beatrice Mosionier Aboriginal Writer of the Year Award (Manitoba Book Awards). Her second book, "Returning to Ceremony: Spirituality in Manitoba Métis Communities" won the Manitoba Day Award

(Association for Manitoba Archives) and was nominated for the Alexander Kennedy Isbister Award for Non-Fiction (Manitoba Book Awards). Currently, she is Project Director on a three-year Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada study titled, "Expressions of Métis Spirituality and Religion Across the Homeland" and working on her third book.

Dr. Fiola is a Circle of Editors founding member of Pawaatamihk [Pah-WAH-tah-mik]: Journal of Métis Thinkers, as well as a board member for Two-Spirit Manitoba, and a founding member of the Two-Spirit Michif Local (of the MMF). Chantal is Two-Spirit and an advocate for 2SLGBTQ+ wellbeing. For her efforts, she was crowned the 2018-2019 International Two-Spirit Ogichidaakwe (31st International Two-Spirit Gathering), and received the 2023 Métis Matriarch Award (Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak).

Dr. Jacqueline Maurice

Dr. Jacqueline Maurice is a distinguished scholar, author, and advocate with a deep commitment to advancing Indigenous rights, education, and social justice. A proud Métis woman, she brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to her work, drawing from her personal journey and professional expertise. Dr. Maurice holds a doctorate in Social Work, emphasizing Indigenous knowledge systems and community-centered approaches to reconciliation and healing.



Her groundbreaking research has illuminated the systemic challenges faced by Indigenous communities, particularly in the areas of the Sixties Scoop, child welfare, education, and intergenerational trauma. Through her work, Dr. Maurice has become a passionate voice for the empowerment of Indigenous peoples, promoting culturally responsive practices and policies that foster healing and resilience.

In addition to her academic contributions, Dr. Maurice is a celebrated author whose writings explore themes of identity, history, and the transformative power of storytelling. Her works serve as a bridge between cultures, offering insights into the rich traditions of Métis and other Indigenous communities while addressing pressing contemporary issues.

A dynamic speaker and educator, Dr. Maurice is dedicated to fostering dialogue and understanding among diverse audiences. She has been recognized for her efforts to build partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, striving toward a future rooted in mutual respect and equity. Dr. Maurice's enduring legacy is one of compassion, advocacy, and a steadfast commitment to creating positive change for generations to come. In her words "We are the Future Ancestors of those yet unborn."

Lillian Parenteau

The eldest of seven with a large extended family, Lillian was born and raised in the Fishing Lake Metis Settlement in northeastern Alberta. She is a mother of two and grandmother of five. Seeking more opportunity than was available in a small remote community, Lillian started working first with indigenous organizations in community development and then within the provincial government specifically focussing on developing the structure to deliver child and family services to the eight Metis settlements both on and off settlement.

This resulted in the only Indigenous authority to be created within Alberta Children's Services Ministry. Driven by the desire of the Metis settlements that children had every opportunity to remain within or connected to their families, Lillian and her staff worked tirelessly to ensure families and children were provided with services and supports that facilitated that vision. As the only



Indigenous CEO within the Ministry, Lillian advocated for change in how provincial services were delivered provincially to Metis communities. The Authority was able to continuously demonstrate the many benefits of engaging family and community in the care of children, ensuring a sense of belonging and identity. Upon retiring from public service, Lillian has continued to be involved with the development Metis child and family services underpinned by Metis laws. Like many Metis, her belief is that this is the firm foundation critical to truly developing services and supports for healthy children and families for generations to come.

Knowledge Keeper Raye St. Denys

For over 35 years, Knowledge Keeper Raye St. Denys has been a strong advocate for Metis people. She has been called an innovator, as someone who sees a need, and seeks a way to fill it. From assisting veterans, to the homeless, to those that use drugs, and those whose lifestyle choice as less than ideal, she seeks to give them an opportunity to live another day to make different life choices. Being a crusader ensuring that Metis peoples are not forgotten, or blanketed when looking into historical events.



Knowledge Keeper Raye St. Denys lives by the seven sacred teachings of respect, honour, humility, trust, love, honesty, bravery, and courage. She believes that all humans deserve as many chances as they need to make different choices to change their lives. She lends a helping hand when it's needed, no matter the circumstances. Knowledge Keeper Raye St. Denys' work has included running an organization called Helping Hands, assisting those that are unhoused with meals, warm clothes, and medical attention. Being a strong advocate in the fight for equality for the 2SLGBTQ+ community and the AIDS/HIV movement, a health advocate, and a resource for women fleeing domestic violence through housing and community. She continues to strive to make a difference in the lives of Metis people through the work, service to our community, and family and friends.