



2020 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

MÉTIS EDUCATION FOUNDATION



BACKGROUND

Established in 1991 by the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) was incorporated as a non-profit charitable foundation with the goal of improving education outcomes for Alberta Métis. In 2006, the MNA and the Rupertsland Institute predecessor (the Labour Market Development Unit – LMD) began to capitalize the MEF and started the process of negotiating Métis endowments with post-secondary institutions across Alberta with funds derived from the Federal Indigenous Labour Market Program.

BOARD MEMBERS

MEF is governed with a four member Board of Directors that is made up of the Executive Committee of MNA Provincial Council. The Board meets as needed and generally at least once every quarter to consider matters placed before it by RLI such as new or changes to endowment agreements, reports from post-secondary institutions on the endowments, proposed amendments to these agreements where appropriate, and any other business that may arise.



Audrey Poitras

Provincial and Executive President



Dan Cardinal

Provincial and Executive Vice President



Carol Ridsdale

President, Region 6

MNA Executive Secretary



Lawrence Gervais

President, Region 3

MNA Treasurer

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Last year MEF accomplished two major milestones:

- ✳ MEF fully capitalized the internal MEF Endowment at \$2 million
- ✳ MNA's ELCC investment was capitalized to create a \$1.48 million endowment that targets Métis citizens entering ELCC studies at provincial post-secondary institutions.

These two internally held endowments will begin to distribute awards in the 2020/2021 Academic year.

Last year, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) invested \$2.5 million in Métis post-secondary education. This one-time fund supported the expansion of the MEF endowment portfolio by:

- ✳ Capitalizing the internal MEF endowment fund
- ✳ Working towards the creation of a \$1 million endowment at Keyano College
- ✳ Proposing a \$325,000 endowment at Red Deer College (University)
- ✳ Supplementing the University of Alberta \$250,000, bringing the endowment to a market value close \$7 million
- ✳ Supplementing NorQuest College \$250,000, to create a \$1 million endowment



Portage College celebrated its 11th Annual Métis Scholar Award Presentation Thursday, February 27, 2020 at the Lac La Biche Campus. MNA Region 1 President James Cardinal, RLI Senior Director of Operations Mark McCallum and Local 125 President Kendrick Cardinal brought greetings to all of our Métis Scholar Award recipients. RLI would like to congratulate not only the Métis Scholar Award recipients at Portage College but all Métis Scholar Award recipients on their pursuit of higher education!

MÉTIS SCHOLAR AWARDS

The MEF Métis Scholar Awards program disburses the proceeds of endowment investments from each post-secondary institution and funds individual students through the Métis Scholar Awards. Under this program, students can access support in the years before the final year of their post-secondary studies. Once students reach the final two semesters of studies, they can be eligible for funding through RLI's Metis Training to Employment program.

2019/20 METIS SCHOLAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

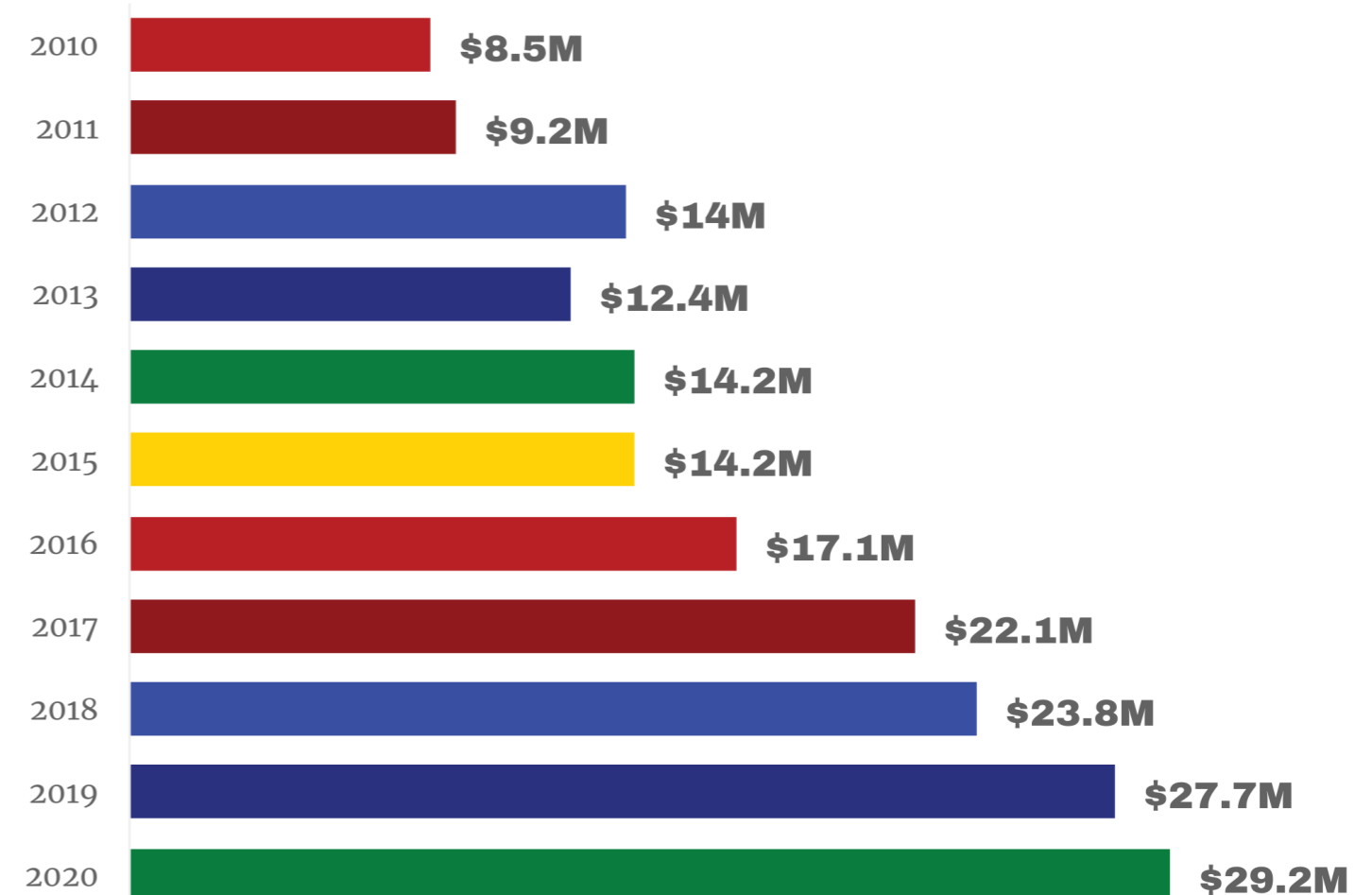
Institution	Awards Dispersed this Year	Total Funds Disbursed
Athabasca University	4	\$20,000
Bow Valley College	4	\$10,800
Grande Prairie Regional College	3	\$6,000
Lakeland College	8	\$16,000
Lethbridge College	6	\$21,000
MacEwan University	47	\$128,000
Mount Royal University	4	\$14,000
NAIT	28	\$145,000
Norquest College	7	\$17,500
Northern Lakes College	12	\$24,750
Portage College	15	\$45,000
University of Alberta	18	\$167,000
University of Calgary	12	\$60,000
University of Lethbridge	12	\$36,250
Total	180	\$711,300

GROWTH

Since the establishment of the first endowment at MacEwan University in 2007, the Métis Scholar Awards Endowment Program has grown and continues to grow. The purpose of the endowment program is to encourage and assist Métis citizens to access post-secondary studies, to encourage academic achievement, and to provide financial assistance to Métis students enrolled at higher-education institutions. The past 10 years RLI and MEF have worked towards increasing the impact, streamlining and standardizing approaches to enhance the program's effectiveness.

RLI and MEF monitor the Métis Endowment Program to ensure that the program is being fully utilized, measure and compare the return on investments. Partner governing documents (i.e. Terms of Reference, Agreements, and Memorandum of Understanding) are reviewed annually to ensure award application visibility, ease of use, deadlines, and general application processes of each endowment program are optimized.

ENDOWMENT GROWTH OVER 10 YEARS



THE IMPACT



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Thank you for establishing a scholarship at Bow Valley College. It is an honour to be this year's recipient of the Metis Scholar Award. I am currently enrolled in the Business Administration Diploma. My future goals would be to finish my diploma and open my own business once my children are in school full time. My future goals are not set in stone but I am so grateful to further my knowledge and skills and be in a better position for career advancement. I am a proud Métis woman and mom of two beautiful children ages 1 and 3. I am pushing to show my children that you can change careers and further your education and can be successful and break barriers, it's never too late. ”

-Jennifer McNicol, Bow Valley College



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Being a Métis Scholar at NorQuest College has helped me express my hopes and dreams through heritage and education. It gives me hope knowing that I can carry on my dreams knowing that my four children can look up to their resilient, intelligent and Métis mother who shows passion and dedication to her educational goals, heritage and values. ”

-Patricia Gladue, Norquest College



Patricia Gladue of RBC's Indigenous Mentorship Program

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I am applying for the Metis Scholar Award to help subsidize the financial instability I am faced with while working towards my Education degree.

Growing up in a small town in Northern Alberta, I faced discrimination and prejudices from peers due to being open about my Metis heritage. The adversities I battled with veered me away from wanting to excel in school. Without having emotional support from my parents, I felt trapped, until high school, where my grade ten English teacher changed my thought process. It was her determination to develop a personal connection with me, despite my resistance, and selfless compassion that deepened my understanding on the importance the role of a teacher has on students' lives. This experience led me to my decision on wanting to become an educator, not just for the purpose of teaching, but to make a positive impact in a child's life that leaves an everlasting effect.

Being a recipient of the Metis Scholar Award relieves the financial difficulties of paying for my tuition over my family's basic necessities, such as rent, groceries, and childcare costs. Thank you for considering me for the Metis Scholar Award. ”

-Tanisha Preston, Medicine Hat College



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I am a proud member of the Metis Nation Region 3. As a recipient of the 2019 Metis Education Foundation Entrance Bursary I cannot express my gratitude enough, as the bursary allowed me to have a fantastic first year experience at the University of Calgary without worrying about how I would finance it. ”

-Grace Webber, University of Calgary



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

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Thank you for selecting me to be a recipient of the Metis Education Foundation Metis Scholar Award. This award will benefit me greatly to achieve my ambition to become a social worker. Since my family's financial situation has changed in the past few months, this award will help alleviate my financial worries. I will be able to pay for all of my monthly expenses without putting financial pressure on my family. I greatly appreciate your support. With awards like yours, I will be able to finish my Social Work degree and begin helping those in need. ”

-Max Morin, Grant MacEwan University



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The Metis Scholar Award has been an outstanding award available to Metis students to help them through their educational journey. This award opens up so many doors and allows the students to focus on their studies and not worry about financial burdens. Thanks to RLI and SAIT more of our Metis members are achieving their dreams.

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-Blair Cunningham, Career Advisor - SAIT



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One of the most common barriers for Metis students in accessing post-secondary training and education at SAIT has been financial. Many Metis students begin studies here at SAIT and find themselves having to leave as they need to work to make ends meet and support their families. Some of these students return to complete their program when finances allow. The Metis student scholarship is an incredible gift that will help Metis students successfully complete their program of study. SAIT is grateful for this contribution and many Metis students will benefit from this gift. The scholarship will increase the retention and success rates of Metis students.

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- Larry Gauthier, Coordinator, Chinook Lodge Resource Centre - SAIT



BRIDGING THE GAP IN EDUCATION