

Understanding cumulative effects across the National Homeland of the Red River Métis

Project Description

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), National Government of the Red River Métis, has a number of programs aimed at monitoring the impacts of human activities on ecosystems across the National Homeland, including the Red River Métis Knowledge Data Catalogue and the Red River Métis Citizen Science Program. However, in order to better advocate for Red River Métis Citizens and Harvesters when the cumulative effects of proposed projects have the potential to impact their exercise of Red River Métis rights, there is a need to understand where and when this monitoring is sufficient and where it needs to be enhanced. This project aims to develop a cumulative effects framework which is comprehensive, regionally-specific and responsive to arising community concerns.

We invite expressions of interest for a student who will be eligible to enroll in the Master in Environmental & Social Change program at The University of Winnipeg (MSc or MEnv stream) starting September 2025. The successful candidate will work with the MMF to undertake an analysis of past, present and reasonably foreseeable development projects, natural disturbances, and climate fluctuations on waters within the MMF's 7 Regions. The main focus of the project will be the development of a living database that allows MMF to understand what data and capacity exist to understand and assess cumulative effects across Manitoba. The development of the database will be guided by facilitated workshops with MMF Youth and Knowledge Holders to ensure it is informed by Red River Métis perspectives. The student will lead the collation of existing biophysical data and Red River Métis traditional knowledge around observed changes and areas of concern focusing largely on streamflow, water quality and aquatic ecosystem health data, with flexibility to include other vulnerable environmental components.

Qualifications and Support

We seek an enthusiastic and dedicated colleague with a 4-year Bachelor degree (e.g., Geography, Environmental Science, Biology, Natural Resource Management). The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate how their background and goals fit with the graduate opportunity. The successful candidate will receive guaranteed funding support for two years. This project is a collaboration between the MMF and the University of Winnipeg, and thus both will be involved in the selection of the successful candidate. Preference will be given to qualified Red River Métis applicants, and they are encouraged to self-identify on their cover letter.

How to Apply

Expressions of interest can be sent to Dr. Nora Casson, Canada Research Chair in Environmental Influences on Water Quality and Associate Professor in the Department of Geography (n.casson@uwinnipeg.ca). Your email must include your 1) updated CV, 2) transcripts (unofficial acceptable at this time), and 3) a brief statement outlining why you are interested in this opportunity. Please include "Cumulative Effects MESC Position 2024" in the subject line of your email.