



The Citizen

Your Community Newsletter



Christmas Season in Thompson has Begun!!!

National Child Day (NCD) was celebrated in Thompson on Saturday November 22nd. NCD is a Canadian day celebrated on November 20th to mark the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1989. It's a day to celebrate children's rights and their role in their communities and to commit to upholding the principles of the CRC, which include rights to protection, provision of basic needs, and participation. In recognition of NCD the City, in partnership with **Hello Parents Network of Thompson**, hosted a full afternoon of free activities that included the lighting of the Christmas tree at the TRCC immediately following the annual Santa parade.

For comments or feedback on The Citizen please contact Oswald Sawh 204-677-0760 or email executivedi-rec-tor@tnrc.ca






THOMPSON NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL CORPORATION
Thompson ihtāwinihk tāpastāwin

Crowds of Thompsonites in Attendance for the Annual Christmas Parade

The **Annual Santa Parade** had close to 40 floats in this year's parade. Participants were greeted with large crowds of families with kids eager to get candy and to see Santa and the parade floats. The TNRC would like to acknowledge and thank the organizers, volunteers and participants for all their hard work, it meant a lot to the children of Thompson.

Community Concerns Hotline
Your Voice Matters!


At Vale's Manitoba Operations, we are committed to being a responsible neighbor and maintaining open communication with the communities where we operate. We understand that our activities may sometimes have an impact, and we want to hear from you.

If you have any concerns related to noise, traffic, environmental effects, or any other issues stemming from our operations, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Call our Community Concerns Line: 204-778-2216
Or Email: Vale.MB.Public@vale.com

Your feedback helps us improve and ensures we continue to operate in a way that respects and supports our community. All reports are confidential and will be addressed promptly.

Together, we can make a difference.



Just a reminder that St. John's United Church has relocated to 10 Caribou Road, at the St. James Anglican Church, and all services will take place there. Following are the planned December services for Advent and Christmas. Please take note of service times. All are welcome!

Advent & Christmas Services

Advent 2, December 7th

St. John's United Church at **10:30 am**

Advent 3, December 14th

St. James the Apostle Anglican Church (visiting clergy) at **11:00 am**

Advent 4/Christmas Eve, December 21st

St. John's United Church at **10:30 am**



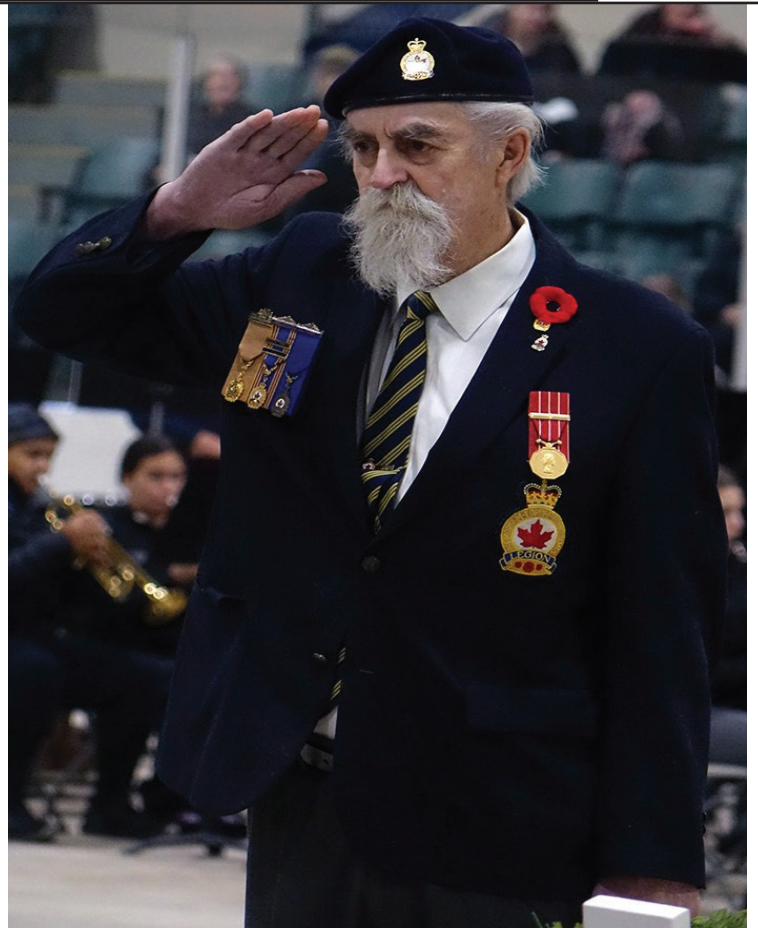
Remembrance Day Services in Thompson

The Royal Canadian Burntwood River Branch # 244 (Legion) hosted Remembrance Day Ceremonies at the Thompson Regional Community Centre's C.A. Nesbitt Arena on Tuesday November 11th. This year marks the 80th Anniversary of the End of World War 2.



Michele Nichol-Sawh, President of the Legion comments, "We would like to thank the participants in today's service of remembrance including representatives from Member of Parliament Rebecca Chartrand, Member of Legislative Assembly Eric Redhead, Mayor Colleen Smook, Pastor Chris Lowe, Elder Jack Robinson and his granddaughter Novlan Denechezhe, 737 Royal Canadian Air Cadets, 1st Thompson Scouts, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Thompson Fire and Emergency Services, R.D. Parker Collegiate Senior Band Thompson Community Band, Thompson Community Choir and Ms. Lisa Laroque. I would also like to acknowledge and thank Oswald Sawh for once again being our Master of Ceremonies."

Michele continued to say, "The Legion also would like to thank and acknowledge the City of Thompson Recreation Department for all of their work on getting the CA Nesbitt Arena prepared for our Remembrance Day service, all of the businesses and organizations that sponsored wreaths for today's service of remembrance, and everyone who has supported the 2025 campaign. The Legion also thanks all those in attendance for the ceremonies."



Students and teachers from Westwood School volunteer to serve at the Remembrance Day Tea put on by the Women's Auxilliary.

The Annual Remembrance Day Tea takes place the Saturday before Remembrance Day each year.

Thompson Humane Society holds 4th Animal Health Clinic this year on November 28th to December 1st with close to 200 points of service including spays, neuters, health checks and vaccinations!!!





National Indigenous Veterans Day

National Indigenous Veterans Day is a memorial day observed in Canada in recognition of Indigenous contributions to military service, particularly in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War. It occurs annually on November 8th. The day was first commemorated in 1994. **Over 700 Indigenous and Northern Manitobans served in WW1, WW2, and the Korean Conflict**, approximately 213 of these individuals served in WW2. In recognition of the day, MKO held ceremonies at the Wildlife Building on Saturday November 8th.

Under Canada.ca, **Raquel Loth** wrote, “Established in 1994, *Indigenous Veterans Day* serves not only as a time to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Indigenous Veterans, but also as a moment to acknowledge the historical injustices many faced during and after their military service.”

Raquel continues, “*It goes without saying that Indigenous Veterans have made invaluable contributions to the CAF. They stood shoulder to shoulder with non-Indigenous members, demonstrating unwavering bravery and loyalty. Yet, despite their service, many returned to a country that failed to honour them equally. They were denied the same benefits, land grants, and reintegration support provided to non-Indigenous Veterans. While the culture of the CAF has evolved over time, we must continue to recognize and acknowledge the inequities that our Indigenous Veterans endured. This day allows us to share stories of heroism and resilience, not only in the face of enemies on the battlefield, but also in confronting the systemic injustices they experienced upon returning home.*”

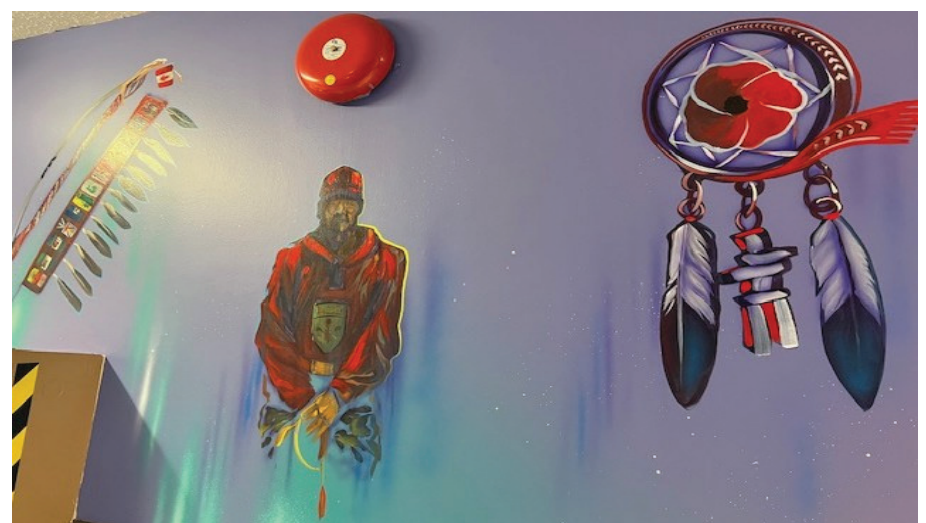
The Royal Canadian Legion Burntwood River Branch # 244 held a commemorative event on November 8, 2023 that included the unveiling of a special mural painted in their building by local artist Jasyn Lucas recognizing the contributions of Manitoba’s Northern and Indigenous veterans as well as signage showing the names of the over 700 that served in WW1, WW2, and the Korean Conflict.



She adds, “*To understand why Indigenous Veterans Day is observed in addition to Remembrance Day, we must first understand the history of Indigenous military service within the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). For generations, Indigenous Peoples have played a vital role in Canada’s military efforts, with involvement dating back to the War of 1812 and the South African War (1899–1902). Their commitment continued through the First and Second World Wars, the Korean War, and into modern-day operations. During the First World War, more than 4,000 Indigenous People served, with some communities sending every eligible man between the ages of 20 and 35. In the Second World War, over 3,000 First Nations members served, alongside Inuit and Métis individuals, most within Canadian Army operations. It is estimated that more than 12,000 members served in the 20th century, with 500 making the ultimate sacrifice.*”



Beyond contributing to the CAF workforce, Indigenous soldiers brought skills passed down through generations in their communities. Abilities such as marksmanship, tracking, and terrain awareness were proved invaluable on the front lines. In the Second World War, their impact extended beyond combat: Indigenous languages, such as Cree, were used to encode military communications, helping protect vital information from enemy interception.



ADDITIONAL STUDENTS WITH GRADE 9 HONOURS

The following students, in addition to those printed in the November 2025 issue of The Citizen received Honours in Grade 9:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Parker Clements | Harlee Mowatt | Bradley Derosé |
| Jaxon Power | Samual Zawadksy | Adam Drebit-Bove |
| Clara Randall | Braden Elson | Sweetgrass Redhead |

Congratualatios to these students who earned an average of 80% or higher.



**THOMPSON NEIGHBOURHOOD
RENEWAL CORPORATION**
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Manitoba Winter Games in Need of Volunteers

The Manitoba Games comprises of games held in the winter and summer. The first games were held in 1974. During this time period, the City of Thompson has been the host community for the Winter Games twice, in 1994 and 2018. For the 3rd time, Thompson is hosting this major event, not just for the City of Thompson but for our Province. The **Manitoba Winter Games** is taking place from **March 1 - 7, 2026**.

The TNRC interviewed **Cristy Andres, Co Executive Director** for the Games to talk about the need for volunteers for this important event.

1) How many you have and how many you need?

So far we have about 320 registered in our program. We need 800-1000 - so still a long way to go to reach our minimum. We are hopeful our community will answer the call.

2) Any specific areas that need more volunteers for?

We have lots of different roles: food services, sport specific roles, sport results, medical, access control, opening and ceremonies set up and take down, athlete villages, transportation, medal presentations, warehouse, appreciation, selling merchandise, screening and accreditation, so much more. For example we will need a big able body crew for closing ceremonies so we can flip from speed skating to prepare the ice and stage for closing ceremonies. Hopefully many hands makes for light work and we can keep this event on schedule - our window is short.



3) Why is it so important to get more volunteers?

Volunteers are truly the heartbeat of the Games. To meet the needs of every sport and keep all venues running safely, smoothly, and on schedule, we simply need more hands. Each volunteer makes a direct impact, whether it's helping a venue stay on time, supporting athlete flow, or ensuring coaches and families have a positive experience. The more volunteers we have, the better we can deliver the welcoming, memorable, and well-organized Games that our athletes deserve.

4) What is the importance of hosting the games?

Hosting the Games is a huge point of pride for our community. It brings together sport, culture, and local spirit in a way few events can. This is our chance to showcase the Northern spirit, our hospitality, our resilience, and the beauty of our region. Economically, it supports local businesses; socially, it brings people together; and for young athletes, it creates memories and opportunities that can inspire them for years. Hosting is

more than a just an event — it's a legacy.

5) How can individuals contact organizers if they want to volunteer.

Our registration program is online. Every volunteer needs to register using this program - it's called Gems Pro. This registration is necessary so you can be accredited and will be able to accept shifts. Even if you don't know when you might be available please get registered as soon as possible so we can get your volunteer shirt ordered and start the process.

<https://mg2026.gems.pro>

You can also go to www.mbgames.ca and click on Thompson 2026, there you can find the *Volunteer - Register Now* link.

Alternatively, you can also stop by the local Games office for in-person support with registration. This is on the second floor at the TRCC lobby. We're happy to help people find the right role for them.

6) Any specific skill sets that you are in big need of?

Yes, a few specific skill sets are especially helpful:

- *First aid or medical experience*
- *Photography/Videography*
- *People-facing roles (check-in, hospitality, team support)*
- *Drivers or individuals with transportation experience*
- *Tech-savvy volunteers (results, scheduling support, communications)*

But we want to be clear: you don't need special skills to help, there is a place for everyone, including first-time volunteers.

VOLUNTEER FOR THE MANITOBA WINTER GAMES
Please follow the steps outlined below to complete your registration

STEP 1: GET TO REGISTRATION WEBPAGE
Type mg2026.gems.pro into your browser or scan the QR Code

STEP 2: COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION INFORMATION
Please complete the mandatory information and upload a photo of yourself. Please follow these photo guidelines:

- Plain background
- Head and shoulders close up
- No sunglasses or hat
- No other people in the photo

STEP 3: CONSENT TO EVENT WAIVERS

STEP 4: REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION
Create a password and keep somewhere safe! Once completed, you will receive a confirmation email.

NEXT STEPS: SCREENING CHECKS
Thank you for registering! You may need to complete additional screening checks. The 2026 Host Society will reach out to you with further instructions if required.

CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS OR HELP: MANITOBAGAMES2026@GMAIL.COM OR 204-250-2166

This will be the **3rd time** Thompson has hosted the Manitoba Winter games, the most of any community, which speaks volume on the capability and willingness of our city to host such events.

The TNRC would like to acknowledge and thank all individuals like Cristy and the many others that are involved in the Manitoba Games, these events mean so much to our kids. Volunteering, even if it is for a few hours would be very helpful.

We Did It - Endowment Week a Huge Success

Endow Manitoba Giving Challenge ran from Monday November 10th to Sunday November 16th. During this time, the **Thompson Community Foundation (TCF)** asked for donations to one of their unrestricted funds so that they could take advantage of matching dollars. **For every \$ 5 of donation the TCF received , the Winnipeg Foundation and the Province Manitoba matched \$2 to a maximum of \$ 2,000 each.** This allowed the TCF to grow its pot of funds that they can provide to community groups and organizations in the form of grants.

The TCF officially announced *“We are is very excited to confirm that we surpassed our initial goal of raising \$10,000, which would have maximized the matching grant, and raised over \$14,000 thanks to our fellow Thompsonites and local businesses. Since 1996, the TCF approved a total of \$2.32 million in grants to over 100 local organizations including all 8 of our schools.”*



15th ANNUAL
- Artists, Artisans, Crafters, & Small Business Expo
DECEMBER 6TH - 10 AM - 4 PM
TRCC Gymnasium - 274 Thompson Drive.

Registration forms are available by email or in person at TNRC office. 117 Commercial place, email: admin@tnrc.ca

Deadline for registration: December 1, 2025



Community Futures North Central



More than mining

Since 1956, Vale’s Thompson Operation has been a cornerstone of Northern Manitoba – driving economic growth, creating thousands of jobs, and contributing billions to Canada’s economy. With over \$750,000 invested locally every year, Vale supports education, reconciliation, and community development through strong indigenous and community partnerships and employee volunteerism.

As global demand for critical minerals rises, Thompson’s Nickel Belt – the fourth largest on Earth – is poised to power clean energy and sustainable development for generations to come.

Vale is more than a business. It’s a partner, a neighbour, and a driver of opportunity – for our local communities, for Manitoba, and for the world.



We’re changing the future. Be a part of our journey.

#energytransitionmetals



Public Notice

Seeking Input from Communities of Interest

Vale Base Metals – Community Engagement Initiative

Vale’s Manitoba Operations is committed to responsible and sustainable mining practices. As part of our ongoing efforts to build respectful and transparent relationships, we are identifying Communities of Interest who may be affected by or have a genuine interest in our operations in Thompson, Manitoba.

We invite individuals, organizations, and communities—including Indigenous communities and organizations—to self-identify as Communities of Interest. Your voice matters in shaping how we operate and engage with the community.

You may be a COI if you:

- Live near or use the land around our facility or operations
- Represent an Indigenous community or organization
- Have environmental, cultural, or economic interests in the area
- Are part of a local, regional, or national organization with a stake in mining activities

How to Participate

To self-identify or learn more, please contact Ray Solski:

Phone: 204-778-2033

Email: Ray.Solski@vale.com

All information shared will be treated with respect and confidentiality, as requested.

Let’s work together to ensure our operations reflect the values and concerns of the communities we serve.

THE 2026 MANITOBA GAMES ARE ONLY 3 MONTHS AWAY!

WANT TO HELP OUT?

Scan this QR code to register as a volunteer!



Scan this QR code to enter our online 50/50 draw!



Scan this QR code to buy merchandise from our online store!



TOGETHER
māmawi ki-mētawānaw
WE PLAY

POWERED BY



A PROGRAM OF



PRESENTED BY



ERIC REDHEAD

MLA for the Constituency of Thompson

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eric.redhead@yourmanitoba.ca**

