

# OTIPEMISIWAK

*Official Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The summer and fall months have been filled with a great deal of activity at the Métis Nation of Alberta. We have been hard at work in meetings with the Government of Alberta and Federal Government to advocate on behalf of Métis Albertans. On December 9, 2016, myself and the MNC Board of Governors attended a First Ministers Meeting on Growth and Climate Change in Ottawa. We remain optimistic that the landmark Supreme Court Daniels Case Victory will help us to secure a fair deal for Métis on issues of import including economic development, consultation, programs and services, and of course, harvesting rights.

From Thursday, August 4th until Sunday, August 7th; Métis Nation of Alberta members gathered for our 88th Annual General Assembly. The assembly passed many excellent resolutions that are sure to move our Nation forward. The full resolutions are detailed in pages 12 to 19 of this publication. From November 13th until November 19th, we celebrated our annual Métis Week celebration. Thank you to all who helped make this wonderful week such a success!

This is an exciting time for our Nation and I look forward to seeing what 2017 will bring.

Kind Regards,

Audrey Poitras  
President, Métis Nation of Alberta



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## PRESIDENT POITRAS ENDORSES RECONCILIATION ADVANCEMENTS ANNOUNCED DURING MEETING WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The future is looking bright for the Métis Nation! On December 15th, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made some groundbreaking declarations during a meeting with Indigenous leadership from across the nation. The meeting is the second time the Federal Government has met with Indigenous leaders in the past two weeks—the first meeting being a forum on growth and climate change hosted in Ottawa on December 9th.

The meeting was attended by many Federal Government officials, including Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister, the Honourable Carolyn Bennett. Also in attendance were leaders from the Métis National Council (MNC) Board of Governors, including MNC Vice-President David Chartrand, Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras, Métis Nation of Ontario President Margaret Froh, and Métis Nation British Columbia President Clara Morin Dal Col.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister made three announcements with regard to advancing reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit, and the Métis Nation. In a statement released on December 15, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced:

First, we will create permanent bilateral mechanisms with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and First Nations, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the four Inuit Nunangat Regions, and the Métis National Council and its governing members. In this Kelowna-like process, every year, we will meet to develop policy on shared priorities, and monitor our progress going forward. Similar meetings with key Cabinet Ministers will take place at least twice each year. Second, we will establish an Interim Board of Directors to make recommendations on the creation of a National Council for Reconciliation. The Interim Board will begin an engagement process to develop recommendations on the scope and mandate of the National Council. Third, we will provide \$10 million to support the important work of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation located at the University of Manitoba, as recommended in Call to Action 78. This contribution will help to ensure that the history and legacy of Canada's residential school system is remembered.<sup>1</sup>

MNA President Audrey Poitras fully supports the push toward reconciliation. “For too long, Métis people have been on the outside looking in,” said President Poitras, “this announcement bodes well for the inclusion of Métis in an important political arena where key decisions are made. We are very pleased to witness such commitment from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Federal Government. I am optimistic that these promises will open new doors for the Métis Nation of Alberta as we move closer toward the ultimate goal of advancing Section 35 Métis rights, reconciliation, and establishing a new relationship with Canada.”

1. Trudeau, Justin “Statement by the Prime Minister of Canada on advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.” 15 December 2016, <http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2016/12/15/statement-prime-minister-canada-advancing-reconciliation-indigenous-peoples>



Left-Right: Métis Elder Oliver Boulette, MNO President Margaret Froh, MNA President Audrey Poitras, MNC President Clément Chartier, MNBC President Clara Morin-Dal Col, MMF President David Chartrand, MN-S Vice President Gerald Morin

Photo Credit: Ke Ning,  
Métis National Council

## MNA REPRESENTED AT FIRST MINISTERS MEETING ON ECONOMIC GROWTH, CLIMATE CHANGE

On December 9, 2016, our President, Audrey Poitras, was in Ottawa, participating in a meeting of Canada's First Ministers and Indigenous leaders on the Federal Government's proposed *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*. The framework is a two-pronged approach that addresses both economic growth and climate change across the nation.

MNA President Audrey Poitras is optimistic about the future relationship between the Métis Nation and Federal Government. "This framework is an historic and important step in solidifying the government to government–Nation to Nation relationship between the Métis Nation and Canada," said Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras. "The Métis Nation of Alberta is looking forward to working with Canada and Alberta to ensure that the impact of climate change can be appropriately addressed."<sup>1</sup> President Poitras went on to remark on the importance of addressing growth for Métis Albertans: "steady declines in our oil and gas sector have resulted in job losses and cut backs. Of all the provinces, Alberta's economy was hit the hardest in 2015 with a 4 percent decrease in GDP. Considering these hard economic times, it is of critical importance that we work toward a sensible, balanced plan that encourages economic growth while also considering environmental impacts."

The MNC Board of Governors are proud to be involved in these ongoing negotiations and looks forward to working with the Federal Government on a nation-to-nation basis to develop a robust plan on economic growth and climate change.

“The Métis Nation continues to focus its efforts to maintain a healthy Métis Nation and to protect our traditional territories. The Pan-Canadian Framework, along with the Process for Ongoing Engagement with the Métis Nation, represent the plan and the means to achieve this plan’, said MNC President Clément Chartier. ‘I appreciate the Prime Minister’s involvement of the Métis Nation and look forward to implementing this plan in partnership with the Government of Canada on a Nation-to-Nation basis.’

‘This is a significant step in moving forward on addressing the issues of climate change and I am very pleased with the inclusion of the Métis Nation in this framework,’ said Métis Nation British Columbia President Clara Morin Dal Col. ‘In British Columbia, the state of the environment and the impacts of climate change are very important to Métis people, and this framework lays out a plan to ensure our interests and concerns are addressed, and that Métis people are involved in the process.’

‘I applaud the Prime Minister in the inclusion of ensuring the Métis Nation will not only be included by name but will have a chance to participate in the greatest challenge that this country and the world faces’ said Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Vice-President Gerald Morin. ‘We want to do our part as the Métis Nation in achieving and setting that goal.’

‘I am pleased with the emphasis this Prime Minister is placing on the importance of balancing the effects of climate change with the need for sound economic development strategy,’ said MNC Vice-President and MMF President David Chartrand. ‘The planet is sending us a message and a challenge that we as leaders must meet. The actions we take now are not only for today, but will also form all our tomorrows. We cannot change what has been done, but we can set a better path for the future. The Métis Nation is ready to be a part of a cleaner, healthier environment. We are ready to walk with the Prime Minister and the rest of Canada towards this goal.’

According to Métis Nation of Ontario President Margaret Froh: ‘For Ontario Métis, the lands and waters of our Homelands are the heart, soul and lifeblood of our communities, identity and culture. Climate change puts at risk the living systems that nurture and sustain the health and well-being of all peoples and it transcends political, geographic, societal, and biological divides. The Métis Nation of Ontario welcomes this historic Framework agreement, and looks forward to working on a nation-to-nation basis with all those with which we share these lands to address the challenge before us. We will work with a view of forging collaborations and partnerships, consistent with our traditional alliances and the aspirations set out in the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose. We will also work with our Métis youth, women, veterans, Elders, Captains of the Hunt, knowledge holders, elected leadership, and all interested MNO citizens toward areas of common concern on land and water protection issues, including climate change.’<sup>1</sup>

The meeting is part of a larger, overarching commitment made by the Federal Government—a promise to work with Canada’s Indigenous groups to achieve reconciliation. On Thursday, December 15, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau released a statement on advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. Prime Minister Trudeau remarked “last year, I committed to a renewed relationship with Indigenous Peoples, one based on the recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership. Today, we take further steps on the journey of reconciliation.”<sup>2</sup>

1. Ning, Ke. “Canada and Métis Nation Join Forces to Support Clean Growth and Combat Climate Change.” *Métis National Council*, 9 December 2016, <http://www.metisnation.ca/index.php/news/canada-and-metis-nation-join-forces-to-support-clean-growth-and-combat-climate-change>

2. Trudeau, Justin “Statement by the Prime Minister of Canada on advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.” 15 December 2016, <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news>.

# MÉTIS YOUTH LEADERS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION FORUM, "WE BELONG"

The *We Belong International Forum on Life Promotion to Address Indigenous Suicide* brought together First Nations, Métis, and Inuit representatives during the month of November to address the ongoing problem of high suicide rates within Indigenous communities. Currently, the suicide rate is estimated to be 5-7 times higher for Indigenous Canadians compared to the non-Indigenous population.<sup>1</sup> The event was put on by the Initiative for Mental Health Leadership (IIMHL), Thunderbird Partnership Foundation, and the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement (CFHI). During the conference, participants worked together and brought forward recommendations regarding suicide prevention (also known as “life promotion”) in an effort to address this national epidemic.

According to the CFHI website the overall intention of the forum was to bring together “national and international Indigenous leaders in mental wellness, allies and stakeholders to:

- Validate what is known about Indigenous suicide prevention.
- Celebrate successes in Indigenous community mental wellness and resilience.
- Deepen understanding on Indigenous ways of holistic life promotion - belonging, hope, meaning and purpose.
- Raise public awareness of the resilience in Indigenous culture and knowledge, and the role for everybody in Canada to contribute to Indigenous safety. Indigenous youth belong in Canada – #WeBelong2016”<sup>1</sup>

The forum had representation from a diverse range of FNMI youth. In total there were 23 Indigenous youth from across the country representing their respective communities. 8 Métis youth represented the MNC as youth delegates: 1 from MN-S, 1 from MNO, 2 from MMF, 2 from MNBC, 1 from MNA and 1 from Ft. McMurray. There were 10 youth from various Inuit communities and 8 First Nation youth representing their communities. The forum also welcomed international perspectives and invited Indigenous youth representatives from northern Australia.

In the days leading up to the event, youth representative were coached in suicide recognition tactics. They were taught the 10 major signs of suicidal thoughts including 1) ideation, 2) substance abuse, 3) feelings of purposelessness, 4) anxiety, 5) feeling trapped, 6) feelings of hopelessness, 7) withdrawn behavior, 8) anger, 9) recklessness, and 10) mood changes. In addition to recognition, youth were taught how to step in to prevent a possibly dangerous situations. Youth were taught five steps including 1) ask the person how they are doing, 2) listen to what they are feeling, 3) stay with this person, 4) remove destructive objects around them, and 5) call for help.

The forum presentations included 1) Culture as Foundation to Indigenous Well-Being, Resilience in the Face of Adverse Childhood Experiences, 2) Intergenerational Trauma and Intergenerational Strength, 3) Racism and Cultural Humility, 4) Wisdom of Indigenous Youth Leaders, 5) Building Consensus on the Forum’s Recommendations, 6) Vision for Wellness and Reconciliation

MNA is happy to have participated in this seminal event and wholeheartedly endorse the continued effort to prevent suicide in Indigenous communities across Canada.

1. “We Belong: International Forum on Life Promotion to Address Indigenous Suicide.” *Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement (CFHI)*, <http://www.cfhi-fcass.ca/NewsAndEvents/Events/we-belong-2016>





## MNA HOSTS MÉTIS-SPECIFIC STBBI SYMPOSIUM FOR ABORIGINAL AIDS AWARENESS WEEK

On December 3rd, 2016, Métis Nation of Alberta had the honour of co-hosting a symposium on Sexually Transmitted and Blood-borne Infections (STBBI) in Métis populations, which marked the only event in Canada during Aboriginal Aids Awareness Week to be Métis-specific. Along with partners at Aboriginal Women's Justice and Shinning Mountains Living Community Services, we were able to facilitate a conversation about the specific challenges Métis peoples face in regards to managing, diagnosing, and preventing STBBIs. Joining us at the table was Minister of Indigenous Relations, the Honourable Richard Feehan, a representative from Alberta Health, and our own President, Audrey Poitras.

The event was led by two experts, Raye St. Denys from Shining Mountain Community Services and Jessica Daniels from Aboriginal Women's Justice, both of whom have extensive academic and hands-on experience working with issues surrounding STBBIs in Aboriginal populations. Though there is no data specific for Métis peoples regarding STBBIs, we know in 2008, Aboriginal people experience HIV at rates about 3.6 times higher than other Canadians and continue to disproportionately represent those diagnosed with HIV and AIDs. With Raye and Jessica leading the symposium, the statistics were unpacked and hurdles such as lack of data on Métis health, inaccessibility to care, transportation, legacy of colonialism, unemployment, legacy of the residential school system, and insufficient funding were discussed.



The most important theme of the afternoon, however, is how all these issues intertwine, reinforce, or complicate each other. Indeed, none of these issues exist, or can be solved, independently of each other. For example, Jessica and Raye argue it is impossible to undercut the stigmatization of HIV and AIDs present in many rural Métis and Aboriginal communities without addressing the widespread trauma of the physical, sexual, and spiritual abuses experienced at residential schools. The stigmatization is particularly problematic because it can lead to shunning, violence, and shame. The end result of the stigma is that people are less likely to get tested and infection rates rise. To fully understand and undermine the stigma, Raye St. Denys argues that we must understand generations of Aboriginal peoples, including Métis, learn to associate issues of sexuality with abuse, creating intergenerational shame regarding sexuality.

Jessica of Aboriginal Woman's Justice discussed how government campaigns to reduce the stigma of HIV and AIDs generally target non-aboriginal demographics living in urban settings. Furthermore, Jessica stated, resources designated to raise awareness in Aboriginal populations are never used to raise awareness in Métis communities. By focusing on issues that undermine the Métis community's ability to combat STBBIs, our event marks an important change to the norm. One of the most important resolutions of the day was to advocate for research on Métis Health. Though experts and frontline workers like Jessica claim STBBIs in our Métis communities are rising, there are currently no empirical statistics. Jessica and Raye argue we need this data in order to understand more precisely how STBBIs affect our communities and how to best support them.

Raye was immensely encouraged by Saturday's event, stating the level of openness she heard was "beyond [her] wildest dreams," especially from the older attendees, whom she feels can help lead their communities. Hopefully, with help from other organizations and our community, we can continue the conversation and advocacy.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

In the new year, MNA will be disseminating a Social Determinants of Health Survey. We ask that current and prospective members fill out a survey so that we can create better programs and services to serve the Métis people of Alberta.



# MÉTIS ALBERTANS GATHER AT 88<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 88th Annual General Assembly brought together MNA citizens from across the province to participate in the affairs of the Métis Nation. The four day assembly ran from Thursday, August 4th until Sunday, August 9th and was packed with activity.

A meet and greet evening kicked off the assembly on Thursday night as travellers made the voyage—some by RV and some by canoe—to the historic Métis Crossing site just south of Smoky Lake, Alberta. A couple of exhausted looking voyageurs named Jordan Reves and Eric Paul stood outside the Métis Crossing giftshop. Adorned with Métis sashes and voyageur caps, the two had just undertaken a canoe expedition along the North Saskatchewan from Fort Edmonton to Métis Crossing.

Métis Crossing was a hive of activity on Friday. Ministerial and Affiliate presentations were delivered at the site's main tent where members gathered to learn about activities undertaken by the MNA during the 2015-2016 year. These presentations are compiled in the 2015-2016 MNA Annual Report, which is available electronically online and in print format at the MNA provincial office in Edmonton.

A youth conference and children's gathering also took place on Friday. Youth aged 15-25 took part in a workshop hosted by Shalene Jobin and Kirsten Lindquist from the University of Alberta where they learned about Métis governance, Métis identity, and health and wellness. The youth were also coached in the accepted protocol for submitting resolutions for the assembly. The youth drafted Ordinary Resolution #2 that calls for the formation of a provisional youth council. The resolution was passed by the assembly on Sunday.

A children's gathering for children aged 4-14 took place in one of Métis Crossing's historic homesteads on Friday. Children were taught fiddling basics by Prince Charles School teachers, Judy Gatto and Gary Lee. The children assembled for a grand performance at the business meeting on Saturday. The sound of synchronized fiddle tunes filled the big top and the crowd responded with thunderous applause!

Saturday and Sunday were devoted to the MNA Business Meeting - the democratic forum whereby MNA citizens partake in the MNA's legislative function. This year's business meeting was a flurry of activity and opened with the reading of the President's Report by MNA President, Audrey Poitras. Presentations were also given on the following topics:

- 2015-2016 Métis Rights Update by Jason Madden
- 2015-2016 Audited Financial Statements
- Independent Third Party Métis Judiciary Council Governance Review Report
- MNA Governance Review Report

Following the acceptance of presentations by the assembly, special and ordinary resolutions were brought before the floor for consideration. The resolutions passed were significant and are outlined in full on the following pages.

While important business discussions took place in the main tent, it was hard not to relax on the scenic banks of Métis Crossing. Visitors strolled along riverbank paths, visited the Métis museum in the historic Cromerty Barn, perused the craft fair, and checked out a genealogy display hosted by MNA Senior Genealogist and Manager of the MNA Genealogy Research Centre, Beatrice Demetrius. Youth cooked handmade bannock over an open campfire while a group of friends started up an impromptu jam session strumming happy tunes that perfectly complemented the warm, sunny afternoon.

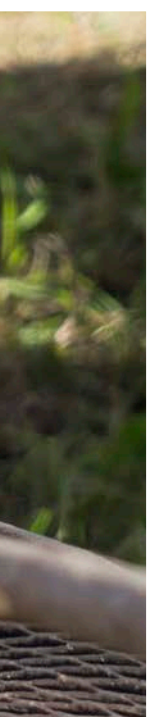
## BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Special Resolution #1 resolved to negotiate a modern day treaty relationship with the Crown.
- Special Resolution #2 resolved that the current MNA application must include an “oath of membership” for all future MNA applicants.
- Ordinary Resolution #1 resolved that the MNA make it an official policy that all persons living on a Métis settlement hold membership with the MNA. Moreover, the MNA must lobby the Government of Alberta and Federal Government to insist that MNA membership is the only trustworthy method of assuring Métis heritage.
- Ordinary Resolution #2 resolved to establish a provisional Métis youth council.
- Ordinary Resolution #3 resolved that the MNA continue to work on a new Métis harvesting arrangement with the Government of Alberta and authorized the MNA to pursue strategic litigation if the Alberta Government refuses to negotiate.
- Ordinary Resolution #4 resolved to begin developing a Constitution for the Métis Nation of Alberta.
- Ordinary Resolution #5 resolved to have a statue of Harry Daniels built at Métis Crossing.
- Ordinary Resolution #6 resolved that the MNA be authorized to pursue charges of harassment against Fish and Game officers who charge Métis hunters.
- Ordinary Resolution #8 resolved that the MNA continue to host the AGA at Métis Crossing in the years to come.
- Ordinary Resolution #9 resolved to endorse the Statement of Principles on Crown Consultation to move forward on negotiations toward a Government of Alberta Métis Consultation Policy.
- Ordinary Resolution #10 resolved to create a Veterans monument at Métis Crossing.





# ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN PICTURES



Right Page (Clockwise from top):

1. Brianna Lizotte, Métis Fiddler, waits for her cue to lead a Grand Procession of Métis Veterans, MNA dignitaries and honoured guests into the main tent for opening ceremonies.
2. A shuttle comprised of a quad and wagon zipped to and fro across the Métis Crossing site to help visitors get around.
3. Bannock cooking over an open fire.

Left Page (Counterclockwise from top):

1. Métis youth enjoyed a fun-filled weekend of games and face-painting!
2. Métis youth cook bannock over an open fire.
3. MNA citizens play traditional Métis songs on the banks of the North Saskatchewan.
4. Young fiddlers practice their skills at a fiddle camp led by Judy Gatto and Gary Lee from Prince Charles School.



# SPECIAL & ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS

## SPECIAL RESOLUTION#1

### Resolution on Negotiating a Modern Day Treaty with the Crown

WHEREAS it has been the longstanding goal of the MNA to advance the Métis Nation's inherent right of self-government and self-determination within Alberta through negotiating a modern day treaty relationship with the Crown, which recognizes the MNA's unique self-government, respects Métis rights throughout Alberta and addresses outstanding Métis land claims;

AND WHEREAS through the strong political organization and efforts of the MNA and Métis leaders like Harry Daniels, section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982 includes the Métis Nation and states,

1. The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed;
2. In this Act, "aboriginal peoples of Canada" includes the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada
3. For greater certainty, in subsection (1) "treaty rights" includes rights that now exist by way of land claims agreements or may be so acquired.

AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada has recently confirmed in the Daniels case that the Federal Government has the jurisdiction and responsibility pursuant to section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867* to establish a meaningful relationship with the Métis Nation that advances reconciliation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following objective of the MNA be added to Article 1 of the MNA Bylaws as Article 1.8:

To negotiate, on behalf of the Métis in Alberta, a modern day treaty relationship with the Crown through a "land claims agreement" or other arrangement as called for and contemplated within the meaning of section 35(3) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

MOVED BY: Bev New

SECONDED BY: Karen Collins

**RESOLUTION PASSED**

## SPECIAL RESOLUTION#2

### Resolution on Oath of Membership

WHEREAS Article 1.3 of the MNA Bylaws sets out that it is an objective of MNA "to promote, pursue, and defend the Aboriginal, legal, constitutional, and other rights of Métis in Alberta," which includes asserting and advancing Métis rights that are protected within section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* including dealing with the Crown's constitutional duties and obligations owing to Métis in Alberta and addressing outstanding Métis land claims in Alberta;

AND WHEREAS Articles 10.7 and 10.8 state:

10.7 Any Métis who has been accepted as a Member must sign and take an oath of membership to the Métis Nation.

10.8 The oath of membership shall be attached to Schedule "A" to these Bylaws and shall form a part of the Bylaws.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following oath of membership be attached to the MNA Bylaws as Schedule "A":

I agree to the Métis Nation's Bylaws and policies, as amended from time to time, and, voluntarily authorize the Métis Nation to assert and advance collectively-held Métis rights, interests and claims on behalf of myself, my community and the Métis in Alberta, including negotiating and arriving at agreements that advance, determine, recognize and respect Métis rights. In signing this oath, I also recognize that I have the right to end this authorization, at any time, by terminating my membership within the Métis Nation.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT this oath of membership be a requirement for all future individuals to sign as part of their application for membership in the MNA;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT all existing members be provided notice of this new oath of membership.

MOVED BY: Bev New

SECONDED BY: Karen Collins

**RESOLUTION PASSED**

### SPECIAL RESOLUTION#3

#### Resolution on Termination of Membership

WHEREAS it is now an objective of the MNA "to negotiate, on behalf of the Métis in Alberta, a modern day treaty relationship with the Crown through a "land claim agreement" or other arrangement as called for and contemplated within the meaning of section 35(3) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*."

AND WHEREAS other Métis Nation governments, including, the Manitoba Métis Federation, are pursuing their own negotiations with the Crown on behalf of their members, and their bylaws include provisions that state that participation in a land claims agreement under the meaning of the *Constitution Act, 1982* to which that Métis Nation government is not a party to results in automatic termination of membership;

AND WHEREAS Article 8(1) of the MNA Bylaws already recognize that a Lifetime Membership in the MNA shall terminate upon "entry of a member's name in a Band list or in the Indian Register according to the provisions of the *Indian Act, R.S.C.*";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the following be added as Article 8(1)(d) of the MNA Bylaws as a reason for termination of membership in the MNA:

Participation in a modern day treaty or "land claim agreement" with the Crown under the meaning of the *Constitution Act, 1982* to which the Métis in Alberta are not a party.

MOVED BY: Bev New

SECONDED BY: Karen Collins

**RESOLUTION DEEMED INVALID**

## SPECIAL RESOLUTION #4

WHEREAS the Provincial bylaws need clarity in the right of recall; and

WHEREAS there are many inconsistencies in the issue of recalling the Provincial President or Vice President; and

WHEREAS we need consistency in the process so that people can be advised on how to bring forward issues related to the Provincially elected positions; and

WHEREAS the current bylaws read as follows:

23.2 A President or Vice-President may be removed from office through the following process:

- a. A minimum of Twenty-One (21) days notice of a Local Community Meeting to approve an ordinary resolution demanding the removal of the President or Vice- President must be given to members of all Local Communities in Alberta; and
- b. A written resolution demanding the removal of the President or Vice-President must be approved by seventy-five (75%) percent of all Local Communities in Alberta who have held meetings and given their members a minimum of twenty-one (21) days notice of the meeting; and
- c. The written resolution approved and signed by seventy-five (75%) percent of the Local Communities in Alberta shall be sent to their Regional Council; and
- d. Upon receipt of the written resolution from the Local Council the Secretary of each Regional Council shall give a minimum of twenty-one (21) days notice of a meeting to the members of the Regional Council to vote on the written resolution; and
- e. A meeting each Regional Council shall be held and if seventy-five (75%) percent of the members of each Regional Council vote to remove the President or Vice- President then each Regional Council shall send a written resolution demanding the removal of the President or Vice-President to the Provincial Council; and
- f. Within twenty-one (21) days of the receipt of a written resolutions from seventy-five (75%) percent of the Regional Councils signed by seventy-five (75%) percent of the members of each Regional Council the Provincial Council shall remove the President or Vice-President and the position shall be declared vacant.

Therefore be it resolved that the current Article 23.2 be removed in its entirety and replaced with the following article: (highlighted parts indicate recommended changes):

23.2 A Provincial President or Provincial Vice-President may be removed from office through the following process:

- a. A minimum of Twenty One (21) days notice of a Local Community Meeting to approve an ordinary resolution demanding the removal of the President or Vice-President must be given to members of all Local Communities in Alberta; and



- b. A written resolution demanding the removal of the Provincial President or Provincial Vice-President must be approved by seventy-five (75%) percent of the number of Métis individuals that voted in that community during the election; and
- c. The written resolution approved and signed by seventy-five (75%) percent of the Local Communities in the Region shall be sent to their Regional Council; and Upon receipt of the written resolution from the Local Councils the Secretary of each Regional Council shall give a minimum of twenty-one (21) days notice of a meeting to the members of the Regional Council to vote on the written resolution; and
- d. A meeting each Regional Council shall be held and if seventy-five (75%) percent of the members of each Regional Council vote to remove the Provincial President or Provincial Vice-President then each Regional Council shall send a written resolution demanding the removal of the President or Vice-President to the Provincial Council; and
- e. Within twenty-one (21) days of the receipt of a written resolution from seventy-five (75%) percent of the Regional Councils signed by seventy-five (75%) percent of the eligible voters who voted in the previous election Regional Council the Provincial Council shall remove the Provincial President or Provincial Vice-President and the position shall be declared vacant.

MOVED BY: Darryl Shott MNA member: 003501 Region 1  
 SECONDED BY: Wendy Goulet MNA member: 004809 Region 6

**RESOLUTION WITHDRAWN**

### ORDINARY RESOLUTION #1

Ordinary Resolution submitted by: Métis Nation of Alberta Local 2002 Buffalo Lake

WHEREAS: The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Local 2002 Buffalo Lake is situated on the Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement and comprised of Métis holding membership within the MNA, and

WHEREAS: The MNA has an extensive Genealogy Research Centre (GRC), with staff having over thirty years collective research and genealogy experience, and

WHEREAS: Confirmation of Métis Status requires historical proof of an ancestor who received a land grant or script grant under the Manitoba Act or the Dominion Lands Act which would require proof of Métis ancestry to the 1800s, and

WHEREAS: the Ewing Commission set up on 1938 in Alberta to review the situation of the Métis in Alberta, recommended that land be set aside for the Métis with limited self-governing authority over hunting, fishing and trapping, and

WHEREAS: In the 1960s, a Cabinet Order-in-Council removed the settlements Marlboro, Touchwood, Cold Lake and Wolf Lake from the Métis regime, and

WHEREAS: In 1990, Accord Legislation passed giving the Métis people – all Métis people, not just certain Métis, 1.25 million acres of land on eight settlements remaining after – via the Métis Settlement Act, the Métis Accord Implementation Act, the Métis Land Protection Act and the Constitution of Alberta Amendment Act, and

WHEREAS: Confusion has arisen as to the definition of Métis as a result of litigation, public policy and lack of progression on the Métis Settlements, thus putting at risk assurances that the land set aside for the Métis remains for all Métis and not only certain Métis.

THEREFORE: be it resolved that:

1. The Métis Nation of Alberta make it an official policy that all persons living on Settlements and claiming to be Métis and benefit from the rights of land ownership, voting and holding office on a Settlement must hold membership with the MNA.
2. Moreover that the MNA lobby the Government of Alberta and the Federal Government to affect same as the MNA membership is the only trustworthy method of assuring Métis heritage and bona fides.

MOVED BY: Jack Ladouceur

SECONDED BY: Joe Blyan

**RESOLUTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

## ORDINARY RESOLUTION #2

### Métis Provisional Youth Council

WHEREAS, the Métis Youth gathered Friday August 5, 2016 at the 2016 Métis Youth Conference.

WHEREAS, we reviewed the 2015 Youth Gathering report, we discussed a provisional framework to move youth issues forward, and we discussed the transition process to finalize a youth council framework for the 2018 MNA general election.

WHEREAS, to move forward on these priorities, the youth within the Métis Nation of Alberta establish a provisional council, through a regional application process, which is comprised of a member from each region, within 6 months of the 2016 AGA.

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Alberta have set a precedent by having a previous youth council.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this 88th assembly support the establishment of a provisional youth council, and the MNA find the funds to put that plan into action and provide administrative support, with regional and provincial youth advisory support.

MOVED BY: Dusty Gauchier

SECONDED BY: Audrey Poitras

**RESOLUTION PASSED**

## ORDINARY RESOLUTION #3

WHEREAS hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering and practising traditional activities on our lands is fundamental to Métis identity and way of life in Alberta and are protected as constitutional rights in Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*

AND WHEREAS in 2007 the Government of Alberta unilaterally adopted a Métis Harvesting Policy that largely denies the Section 35 Métis Rights in Alberta and is inconsistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Canada's Constitution;

AND WHEREAS the 2007 MNA AGA unanimously adopted an Action Plan on Métis Harvesting that rejects Alberta's Métis Harvesting Policy and commits the MNA to advancing and protecting Métis harvesting rights;

AND WHEREAS the MNA President has repeatedly written to the new Alberta Government to re-engage in harvesting rights negotiations to arrive at a mutually agreeable arrangement that recognizes and protects rights for generations to come but has not received a response yet;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The MNA AGA fully supports the MNA efforts to negotiate a new arrangement on Métis Harvesting rights and that all MNA citizens be encouraged to call and write to the Premier, Minister of Environment and Parks as well as their member of the Legislative Assembly on the need for renewed negotiations;
2. If the Alberta Government refuses to negotiate on these issues, the MNA be authorized to develop and pursue strategic litigation in order to secure renewed negotiations with the Alberta Government since the status quo is unacceptable to Alberta Métis.

MOVED BY: Joe Hamelin      SECONDED BY: Karen Collins

**RESOLUTION PASSED**

#### ORDINARY RESOLUTION #4

I, Carmen Wells move that the Métis Nation of Alberta, begin developing a Constitution for the Métis Nation of Alberta.

MOVED BY: Carmen Wells      SECONDED BY: Brian Hamelin

**RESOLUTION PASSED**

#### ORDINARY RESOLUTION #5

WHEREAS, the MNA is in the process of developing Métis Crossing as a world heritage centre in recognition of the Métis Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Métis Nation has recognized leaders such as Louis Riel where a statue of his likeness stands at the Manitoba Legislature; and

WHEREAS, a statue of Gabriel Dumont is erected in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; and

WHEREAS, Harry Daniels is responsible for getting “Métis” into the Constitution of Canada; and

WHEREAS, Harry Daniels is responsible for the Supreme Court affirming our Indigenous rights; and

WHEREAS, Harry Daniels was very involved within the Métis Nation of Alberta,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the MNA desire to have a statue of Harry Daniels at Métis Crossing as a world class attraction.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the MNA will work with all relevant parties to have a statue of Harry Daniels at Métis Crossing.

MOVED BY: Aaron Barner      SECONDED BY: Joe Blyan

**RESOLUTION PASSED**

## ORDINARY RESOLUTION #6

### Harvesting Harassment

WHEREAS Métis harvesting rights have been established in the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Provincial Fish and Wildlife continue to charge Métis hunters for hunting; and

WHEREAS, this action no longer be accepted and tolerated;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the MNA be authorized to pursue charges of harassment against all Fish and Game officers, who continue to contravene this court decision.

MOVED BY: Brian Fayant

SECONDED BY: Melanie Omeniho

**RESOLUTION PASSED**

## ORDINARY RESOLUTION #7

Melanie Omeniho moves that the resolution committee be mandated with the responsibility of presenting all resolutions and start by setting up a process for us to submit resolutions for them to be put on a screen before voting. Seconded by Brian Fayant.

MOVED BY: Melanie Omeniho

SECONDED BY: Brian Fayant

**RESOLUTION PASSED**

## ORDINARY RESOLUTION #8

Brian Fayant moves that the MNA continue to host the AGA at Métis Crossing, furthermore that a resolution be tabled at the next AGA that would provide the changes in the bylaws to reflect that.

Therefore be it resolved that Region 6 consider holding the 2017 AGA at Métis Crossing at which time a Special Resolution will be presented to change the bylaws. Seconded by Nora Chapdelaine.

MOVED BY: Brian Fayant

SECONDED BY: Nora Chapdelaine

**RESOLUTION PASSED**

## ORDINARY RESOLUTION #9

### Resolution on Statement of Principles on Crown Consultation and Accommodation with Métis in Alberta

WHEREAS the Crown has a constitutional obligation to consult with and, where appropriate, accommodate Métis in Alberta when governments contemplate conduct that may adversely affect asserted or established Métis rights, interests, and claims;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Alberta currently has no formal policy requiring consultation with Métis in Alberta not living on the Métis Settlements, and the Government of Alberta's approach to consultation with Métis is *ad hoc* and discretionary;

AND WHEREAS at the provincial, regional, and local levels, the Métis Nation of Alberta has consistently and repeatedly advocated for the collaborative development and implementation of a Government of Alberta policy that would ensure meaningful consultation with Métis in Alberta;

AND WHEREAS the *Statement of Principles on Crown Consultation and Accommodation with Métis in Alberta* (“*Statement of Principles*,” attached hereto as Appendix A) was developed and agreed to by a Technical Working Group made up of representatives of every Region of the Métis Nation of Alberta in order to serve as a statement of the principles to which Crown consultation and accommodation with Métis in Alberta must adhere;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Alberta endorses the Statement of Principles and mandates the Métis Nation of Alberta to undertake the following:

1. Negotiations with the Government of Alberta to develop a provincial government policy consistent with the *Statement of Principles* requiring Crown consultation with Métis in Alberta;
2. Negotiations between the Provincial, Regional, and Local Councils to develop consensus based regional consultation protocols consistent with the *Statement of Principles* that will define the processes by which the Crown and industry ought to consult with the Métis in specific geographic areas of Alberta; and
3. Preparation of proposed amendments to the Métis Nation of Alberta’s *Policy Guidelines Regarding the Duty to Consult and Accommodate Métis Aboriginal Rights and Interests in Alberta* (July 2009) to ensure its consistency with the *Statement of Principles*.

MOVED BY: Cliff Supernault

SECONDED BY: Karen Collins

**RESOLUTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

### ORDINARY RESOLUTION #10

Brian Fayant moves that the MNA create a monument to the Veterans located here at Métis Crossing. Seconded by Nora Chapdelaine.

MOVED BY: Brian Fayant

SECONDED BY: Nora Chapdelaine

**RESOLUTION PASSED**

Right Page (Clockwise from top)

1. Brianna Lizotte leads the Grand Procession as part of the AGA opening ceremonies.
2. Ken Brink, Manager of Indigenous Relations at TransCanada, is recognized by MNA Local 1935 President, Gail Gallupe, and MNA President, Audrey Poitras, for the company's significant contribution of \$20,000 to the redevelopment of the Local following the Fort McMurray Wildfire.
3. MNA Senior Genealogist, Beatrice, hosted a Genealogy Workshop in the basement of the historic Cromerty Barn.
4. MNA citizens take part in the weekend business meeting.

For more AGA photos, go to [www.albertametis.com/photos/](http://www.albertametis.com/photos/)





Left Page (Clockwise from top-left)

1. Métis Veteran, Lloyd Hamilton, is recognized during the Culture Seniors, and Veterans Ministerial Presentation on Friday.
2. Region 2 President and Vice President, Karen (KC) Collins and Duane Zaraska with Métis Veteran.
3. Brainstorming sessions at the MNA Youth Conference.
4. MNA President, Audrey Poitras, addresses the assembly.
5. Métis youth learning how to play the fiddle.
6. MNA citizens at Saturday's banquet and dance.

88<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

# RECOGNITION AWARDS

Each year, the MNA awards 6 regional recognitions and 1 provincial recognition to MNA community members for their outstanding contributions to the Métis community. The award recipients are recognized at the Annual General Assembly.

## PROVINCIAL RECOGNITION AWARD: BRIAN FAYANT

The Fort McMurray fire impacted many people from the north east communities. Families were fleeing fire, smoke and falling embers in a very dangerous and life threatening situation. People were distraught and frightened and did not know what the future would bring.

Brian Fayant also had to flee Fort Mac and had no idea if his own home was burned and did not know if he lost everything, or had a job anymore. Brian witnessed the distress that families with children were suffering and he decided to help whomever he could, especially the Aboriginal families.



He bought emergency items with his own money and helped out by loading up his pickup and giving out food, personal items, water and encouraging words. Brian realized that pets such as dogs and cats were without food and bought food for the animals. He bought cans of gas and helped fix vehicles when they overheated on the side of the road.

When Brian ran out of his own money, he still helped out by directing people to emergency stations and by giving first-hand information on the situation of Fort Mac and how far the fire had spread. He did whatever he could to assist. Métis Nation wanted to help and set up an emergency station in Edmonton to receive evacuees. Brian directed them to us and told them to come in. Region VI wanted to help so they put money into Brian's bank account so he could continue standing on the side of the road to hand out supplies. In the end, when he realized his own place was still standing, he posted on Facebook that his house was available to anyone who needed a place to stay. If anyone needed a ride, he could also help.

With people like Brian, who see the need and immediately step up, it is with great pleasure that the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Provincial Council take this opportunity to say a big "THANK YOU BRIAN", from all of us. We are proud to call you our friend and a Métis. You have a big heart and through all your own trials and tribulations, you do not forget your people or family. For this, we are truly grateful and you have reassured our belief that there truly are good people out there who are heroes to us all.



## REGION 1 RECOGNITION AWARD: MARTIN HAMELIN

Martin Hamelin was born on July 10, 1939. Being born into a large family of 13- 6 sisters, and 7 brothers, Martin always had a lot to keep him occupied! Martin left home at an early age to work on the rail road. As a young man, Martin traveled around - in his true fashion. He eventually moved to BC where he met a lovely young lady who would eventually become his wife - Verna. Together, Martin and Verna raised 5 lovely children and have been blessed with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren whom they cherish dearly.



Music has always been a passion of Martin's. Having always been musically inclined, and very talented, Martin has mastered many different instruments. Always an entertainer, Martin played many house dances in Imperial Mills where he lived as a child. Martin's love of music and entertaining was appreciated by friends and family alike, and folks always looked forward to hearing Martin play the fiddle at dances most every weekend.

Martin and his brother Joe would become quite a team with Martin playing the fiddle and his brother Joe chording for him. Since his retirement, Martin has continued to pursue his passion for music by competing, entertaining and being a key and founding member of the Nicely Put Together Band. Martin is an amazing man with a great talent and passion for music. He continues to be an integral member of our Region and are honoured to have the opportunity to award this recognition to him.

## REGION 2 RECOGNITION AWARD: ROY DUMAIS



There are many Métis individuals, past and present, who live and breathe Métis culture, traditions and politics! Roy Clarence Dumais is one of them! Roy is one of 14 children born to the Late Frank and Mary Dumais. This Dumais family was raised on the south shore of Muriel Lake where life was good for them. They were active in traditional sustenance activities including hunting, gathering, trapping, gardening and harvesting of herbs and plants for medicine and ceremonial purposes. With many young men in the family and a farm of horses, they were very much a part of rodeos and, being musically inclined, they had a family band!

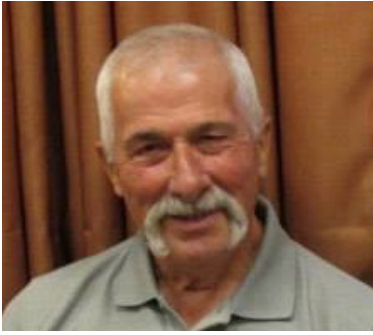
Roy is a father of three grown children; Steven, Joyce and Trevor; 7 grandchildren and 1 chapan. All of whom are the treasures in his life and the focus of his energy for passing on his knowledge and teachings.

Like many, Roy spent many tireless hours volunteering for various Métis functions and programs, eventually, getting involved in the Métis political arena. Although he was very active on the Local scene, Roy got elected in the position of a Board of Director for the Métis Association of Alberta, which is now the Métis Nation of Alberta. He took a few years off from that level to gather his thoughts, renew his energy and spend quality time with his family.

Once a Métis, always a Métis is so true of Roy, for he returned to the Métis action in 2002 and became part of the team working for the Zone II Regional Council. His commitment, dedication and comradery is evident by his willingness to help out wherever and whenever he is asked. He has given many hours toward the Métis Nation government at all levels.

Thank you; kinanaskomatin; merci for all you have contributed for our Métis people. May your path to good health and long life be blessed.

### REGION 3 RECOGNITION AWARD: LARRY BERGUM



Larry was born in Killam, Alberta on December 10, 1943. He married Doreen Dumont of Sundre on October 8, 1965.

When Doreen decided she needed to know more about her Métis Culture and wanted to learn how to bead, she joined the Métis women's group and got involved with Region 3. Larry was always at her side learning along with her and spent long weekends at their acreage in Sundre beading, cooking and learning how to tan hides. Larry volunteered profusely for the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3 and always brought fun, and laughter to each event. Larry most certainly understood and took pride in his wife's history, heritage - and in doing so, truly became one of our own.

He didn't mind putting on an apron and helping in the kitchen for the many Métis functions that were held throughout the year. He was a past recipient of a volunteer award from Region 3. He was more than willing to share his knowledge and expertise when asked for advice on new initiatives. Larry and Doreen enjoyed square dancing and jigging with the Calgary Star Dancers and participated in several Calgary Stampede Parades with the Métis Float. Larry passed away on January 20, 2016 but we know he is here in spirit.

### REGION 4 RECOGNITION AWARD: AARON BARNER

This recipient was a real hellion in the hockey rink. As a child, Aaron Barner grew up in what he calls "the projects" of Mill Woods and was schooled on the finer aspects of life and of being a young man by his elderly grandfather who has since passed on.

In 1999, he completed high school while punching his way through the Alberta Junior Hockey League's Drayton Valley Thunder, Grande Prairie Storm and St. Albert Saints. The junior hockey career as an "enforcer" stayed with him through college at NAIT where he completed his diploma in finance and through the University of Lethbridge where he completed his bachelor degree in management. By 2006, he completed his Master's degree in Business Administration but tragically, he also ended his hockey career when he injured his knee.



From an early age, Aaron has always been a hard worker. As a young man, he worked at several jobs while he was in school including a short stint at Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Both hockey and the pursuit of education took him away from home many times as he "billeted" his way from BC to Manitoba. He worked for the First Nations Finance Authority from 2006-2009 and was then hired by the MNA labour market development program and the Rupertsland Institute where he worked as Associate Director of Industry Relations. In January 2012, he was seconded to the MNA Provincial Office as the Senior Executive Officer.

As Aaron has grown from a talented young hockey player, into one of the most senior officials in Métis governments in Canada, Aaron's leadership, hard work and passion for his community has not gone unnoticed. Aaron was key in the establishment of the Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research- the first of its kind in Canada, and a key player as we continue to move our Métis rights agenda forward. Aaron's passion to his community, his endearing passion for what is right and just has left a significant impact on MNA Provincial Council, whom respect him dearly. Aaron is a true champion and his kind-hearted and positive approach to his work and has earned respect from his colleagues, MNA Affiliates, academia and government circles, alike.

Above all, Aaron is a family man. Aaron's pride and commitment to his family and ensuring his culture and heritage is passed down to his children is fantastic. Aaron's passion is contagious and when you meet or encounter this exceptional young man, it will become obvious that he has a deep passion for the Métis community and that he takes his role as a representative of the Métis Nation very seriously. It is certain that Aaron will continue to make meaningful contributions to the Métis Nation in the years ahead.

### REGION 5 RECOGNITION AWARD: FLORENCE GULLION



Florence Gullion is a Métis woman from Wabasca, Alberta. She was born on November 10, 1927 and is 89 years old.

Florence is a fluent Cree speaker and has 7 children. One of her sons - Elmer Gullion - has been involved with the Métis Nation for over 30 years. Florence has been blessed with numerous grandchildren and many great and even great-great grandchildren.

Florence has always loved to cook. She started off as a helper in a forestry camp kitchen making pies and would eventually become cook and worked in this position in many different bush camps throughout Alberta.

When she retired from head cook she continued to bake for her children and grandchildren and still continues today.

Along with cooking, Florence is also a talented quilter and beader.

### REGION 6 RECOGNITION AWARD: BARRY DIBB

Barry has been part of Region VI Regional Council since 2013. He is the President of Fairview Local and is very committed to the members as well as the Métis Nation.

He also is the Treasurer of Region VI and takes this responsibility seriously, overlooking all aspects of our financing. Barry is a voice for our people at many meetings with the oil and gas industry and lobbies on our behalf. Barry's other responsibilities include acting as board member for Bison Contracting and representing Nesokmahtan Enterprises Inc., Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance and Community Advisory Board for Northern Gateway.

Barry is always willing to work with Elders and volunteers for events; he contribute his time and efforts to move Métis Nation forward in a positive way.

He is a family man who is very proud of his grandchildren and farms with his wife Cindy in Eureka River area.

Congratulations, Barry! You are a very promising leader with a heart of gold and a wonderful sense of humor. Region VI Regional Council and members commend you on your leadership!!!



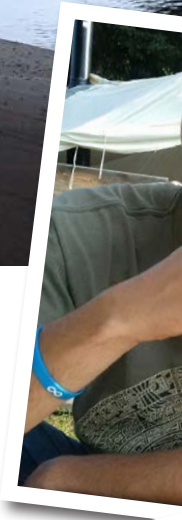


## FRIENDS UNDERTAKE CANOE VOYAGE TO ATTEND ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT MÉTIS CROSSING

Not everyone who attended the 88th Annual General Assembly at Métis Crossing arrived by road. Good friends and MNA members, Jordan Reves and Eric Paul, travelled to Métis Crossing using the historic roadway of the Métis voyageurs - the river. The two friends commenced their canoe expedition at Fort Edmonton to cheering crowds of schoolchildren.

During the adventure, Jordan and Eric contended with some high and fast moving waters including one section fraught with rapids! Over the two day journey, the friends also noticed that they were being followed closely by blue herons. The dynamic duo, determined to reach their destination, only made one rest stop during the two day journey in order to set up a campfire atop the river bank.

In an effort to promote traditional Métis culture, Jordan and Eric hope to complete the voyage again in the future. Eric Paul commented that “it was a great trip and the river way was beautiful. People were very receptive and appreciated our initiative, which was wonderful and humbling.”





Left Page

1. Jordan and Eric start their voyage at Fort Edmonton Park on Wednesday, August 6th.

Right Page (Clockwise from Top):

1. Jordan (left) and Eric (right) take a much needed break after arriving at Métis Crossing after their two day voyage.
2. Jordan and Eric commence their voyage eastward.
3. Chelsea Reid delivers a speech in commemoration of the trip during the AGA Saturday night banquet.



# ALBERTANS COMMEMORATE LOUIS RIEL, CELEBRATE MÉTIS WEEK

Métis Nation of Alberta President (MNA) Audrey Poitras declared November 13th – 19th, 2016 “Métis Week” in Alberta. Métis Week is an annual celebration that shares the joy of Métis culture with Albertans. The week is structured around the Louis Riel Commemorative Ceremony on November 16th. On this day, the Alberta Legislature opens its doors so that Métis people can gather to remember Louis Riel and his grave sacrifice in his fight for Métis Rights.

“We are happy to share our proud legacy with the support of the Provincial Government,” stated MNA President Audrey Poitras during the Louis Riel Commemorative Ceremony. “Each year we assemble to celebrate our vibrant culture and remember the important work of our great Métis ancestors including the heroic Louis Riel. Today we stand united on the shoulders of giants.”

Minister of Indigenous Relations Richard Feehan fully endorsed Métis Week and commented “Métis people have such a significant history in these lands. During Métis Week, I encourage all Albertans to take time to explore and celebrate this dynamic tradition, which continues to shape Alberta and make it stronger.”



Left Page (Left-Right)

1. MNA President Audrey Poitras gives remarks at the Louis Riel Commemoration Ceremony on November 16.
2. MNA President Audrey Poitras and dignitaries stand for the singing of the Métis National Anthem - Proud to be Métis.

Right Page (Clockwise from Top):

1. Community members take part in the 6th Annual Louis Riel Commemorative Walk to St. Margaret's Church.
2. Youth playing a fiddle during Saturday's fiddle camp.
3. An in-progress firebag by Métis artisan, MJ Belcourt.
4. Community members enjoying the Region 4 Jamboree.
5. An assembly of dignitaries watch the raising of the Métis infinity flag outside of Edmonton city hall.
6. Youth show off their skills during fiddle camp.
7. A big turnout for Friday's Region 4 Jamboree!



# MÉTIS WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

<b>SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup></b>	6th Annual Louis Riel Commemorative Walk - Members from the community made the 6.6 km trek to St. Margaret's Church in commemoration of the procession made by Riel's friends and family to his funeral. It was a warm, sunny day complete with a hot chocolate checkpoint for the weary travellers!
<b>MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup></b>	MNA, MNA Region 4, and the City of Edmonton hosted a Proclamation and Flag Raising Ceremony at City Hall. Attendees gathered around the city hall flag pole to witness the raising of the infinity flag to a live rendition of the Métis National Anthem, <i>Proud to be Métis</i> , performed by Métis singer, Sarah Wolfe.
<b>TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup></b>	A Seniors' and Veterans' Come and Go Tea was hosted by the MNA provincial office. It was a friendly gathering with lively discussions among good friends.
<b>WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup></b>	Métis Albertans gathered at the Alberta Legislature for the Louis Riel Commemorative Ceremony. Alberta Minister of Indigenous Relations, Richard Feehan; MNA President, Audrey Poitras and many other notable dignitaries offered speeches about Louis Riel's remarkable legacy and the path forward for Métis in Alberta.
<b>THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup></b>	A crib tournament took place at Londonderry Hall in Edmonton. Thanks to everyone who participated!
<b>FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup></b>	A lively Jamboree complete with a firebag workshop by Métis artisan, MJ Belcourt, banquet, and dance took place on Friday. MNA Scholarship recipients were honoured during the banquet.
<b>SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup></b>	The MNA provincial office hosted a Family Fun Day at the Ramada Hotel. The day included a fiddle camp for youth aged 6 and up hosted by Judy Gatto and Gary Lee.

## ART CONTEST WINNERS

This year we had so many great submissions and were immensely delighted by the talent displayed by our youth artists! In the 3 – 7 age category, seven-year-old Clarity Kruk's cheerful illustration of a Métis fiddler in the mountains won. The 8-12 age category was our biggest and tightest category. In the end, it was ten-year-old Berg Felsing who won with his striking portrait of Louis Riel. In another tight category, fourteen-year-old Giogianna Leddy took the 13-17 with her delightful composition of Métis cultural items.





## 2016 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Each year, Métis Nation of Alberta rewards the outstanding achievements of Métis students with scholarships that are announced during Métis Week. This year's winners show exceptional promise and we are thrilled to congratulate them all on their achievements.

**Tyler Hart** - Tyler is currently enrolled his third year of the University of Alberta's commerce program and will graduate in April 2018. Tyler will also be completing his degree with the Aboriginal Governance and Partnership Certificate.

**Jessica Grobel** - Jessica is on track for a prosperous career in healthcare! She is currently enrolled in the 2016 fall term of Psychiatric Nursing Diploma at MacEwan University. As an ardent humanitarian, Jessica's journey toward a career in healthcare began at a young age when her good friend was involved in a serious car collision. As her friend gradually gained back strength, Jessica realized that anything is possible with perseverance and she embarked on a career in medicine.

**Megan Claude** - From a young age, Megan knew the difference that a good teacher can make in the lives of youth. Since then, she has dedicated her life to the art of education with aspirations of becoming a teacher and is currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Education Program at Red Deer College. In Megan's own words, "I dream to be influential."

**Jayden Draney** - Originally from Kikino Métis Settlement, Jayden is currently studying abroad at Finlandia University in Hancock, Michigan. She plays on the University's hockey team and dreams of becoming a Physical Therapist. Jayden hopes to one day share her passion for sport with youth and looks forward to eventually opening her own Hockey Academy for Aboriginal children.

**Joshua Weeks** - Josh is currently enrolled in the Wind Turbine Technician Certificate Program at Lethbridge College. Joshua is eager to give back to his community and looks forward to doing this with an alternative power source that is safe and friendly for the environment.



**Sydney Leddy** - Working with Rupertsland Institute on summer internships, Sydney discovered her passion for the forestry industry and the environment. She is currently enrolled in the Forest Technology Program at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT). Regarding her experiences with the Rupertsland Institute, Sydney commented "developing these skills has really helped me grow and mature as a person, and I believe that I have the skills necessary to be successful!"



### 2016 Delia Gray Memorial Scholarship

Tyler Hart

Jessica Grobel

### 2016 Pearl Calahasen Scholarship

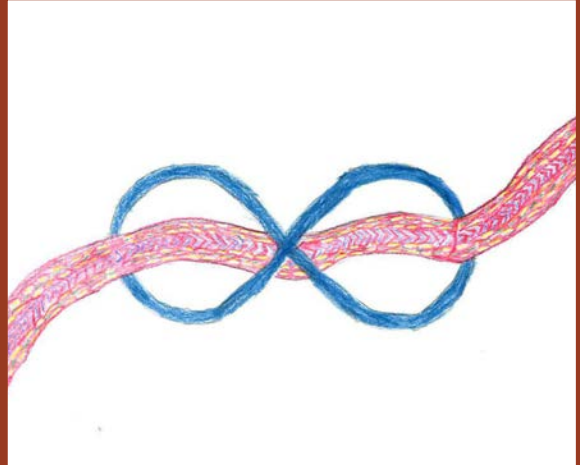
Megan Claude

Jayden Draney

### 2016 Art L'Hirondelle Scholarship

Joshua Weeks

Sydney Leddy





#### Art Contest Honourable Mentions

Right Page (Clockwise from top):

1. Cowboy holding an infinity flag, the work of ten-year-old Tru Nordolm.
2. Work of seven-year-old Miranda Christie.
3. Eleven-year-old Seanna Savill is responsible for this elegant illustration
4. Annabella Sousa, age nine, is the great artist behind this work
5. Marley Jeffers, age seven, is responsible for this colourful illustration.
6. Ten-year-old James Carlo Salumbides is the artist behind this composition
7. Collage of Métis cultural items by nine-year-old Jonas Kruk

Left Page (Clockwise from top):

1. Impressive work from ten-year-old Joshua Crosby.
2. Detailed infinity symbol with rose by talented nine-year-old Sloan McLure.
3. Uplifting collage of symbols of Métis culture from ten-year-old Elizabeth Sousa
4. Fourteen-year-old Kane Pendry's detailed work
5. Twelve-year-old Robbie Buffalo was very close to winning with his illustration of a wolf howling at an infinity flag

## UP AND COMING MÉTIS YOUTH ARTIST ON TRACK FOR SUCCESS!

Through our annual Métis Youth Lapel Pin Contest, we have had the opportunity to meet many incredible Métis artists. One such artist is precocious fourteen-year-old Kane Pendry from Edmonton, Alberta. Though in many ways Kane is a typical teenager and is interested in animals, Taekwondo, and drawing, his artistic maturity is exceptional. Seriously studying art for eleven years now, Kane has been able to develop striking skills in a number of styles, including acrylic, ink, and soapstone carvings. His current art teacher, Gene Prokop of Pro's Art Studio, only accepts adult students, but upon realizing Kane's prodigious talent, gladly took Kane on. Indeed, Kane is so exceptional, he has been asked to teach soap stone carving and he now teaches lessons at Canvastone Children's Art Studio.

With his incredible skills, Kane has been winning art contests throughout the region, such as last year's MNA Youth Lapel Pin Contest and The Peace Hills Trust 34th Annual Aboriginal Art Contest. Kane describes the experiences as "great opportunities" and he appreciates the ability to share his work with the community. In an effort to connect more people with his art, Kane is in the process of developing a website that would allow art fans to purchase his incredible artwork online. Kane is looking forward to using the website as a means to promote his work and also to raise funds for his philanthropic interests; Kane will donate a portion of all artwork proceeds to the Children's Stollery Hospital.

When discussing the origins of his interest in art, the first thing Kane thinks of is crafting with his mother Michelle who he describes as "a real scrap-booker." From scrapbooking, he moved onto "little doodles," and eventually illustrations. By the time he was eight, Kane began seriously pursuing art. Even with all of Kane's success, he remains quite close with his family and is even working on an ambitious 20x60 cherry blossom painting for his family's mantle.

Kane's ambitions continue to be lofty. He wishes to travel the world and indulge his passion for animals by photographing nature and animals. In 2020, he also hopes to qualify for the Olympics in Taekwondo. With everything this amazing teen has accomplished, we are certain that Kane can achieve anything he puts his mind to and we wish him all the best with his endeavors.



Photos Right to Left: 1) Kane's winning art entry for the Peace Hills Trust 34th Annual Aboriginal Art Contest, "Catching Spirits". 2) Kane (left) poses for a family photo with mom, Michelle, and younger brother.

## MNA HOSTS "ALBERTA DAY" AT BACK TO BATOCHÉ FESTIVAL

Métis Nation of Alberta once again hosted a successful Alberta Day celebration on Friday, July 15th. The MNA provincial office and each of the six MNA regions sponsored performers to put on a grand show that included the varied artistic stylings of fiddlers, singers and jiggers. We thank all of our talented Métis performers from across the province including Twin Fiddles, Métis Child and Family Jiggers, Brian and Joyce Ladouceur, Old Country Band, Martin Hamelin, Diane Scoville, Zack Willier, Hardy Loomis, Allan Gladue, Marla Ghostkeeper, Nathan Cunningham, Tom Cardinal, Richard Laboucane, George Chalifoux, and Fran Sinclair.

At the Alberta Pavilion, the MNA Culture Team hosted a pop-up museum with information pertaining to the Battle of Seven Oaks 2016 – a key Métis military resistance indicative of the rise of Métis political consciousness in Canada. The display prominently highlighted Pierre Falcon's famous song, *Chanson de la Genouillère* (the Song of Frog Plain).

On Saturday, July 16, a ceremony was hosted in honour of Métis veterans. This year, new walls were installed around the perimeter of the central veteran's monument and inscribed with the names of Métis veterans from each province. The MNA wholeheartedly supports the development of this monument as a tribute to the important contributions made by Métis veterans to ensure the freedom of our nation.

The MNA Pavilion also enjoyed a visit from the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, who stopped by to view the Battle of Seven Oaks display and meet with MNA President Audrey Poitras. Minister Bennett additionally offered a pledge of support to the Métis community during the Batoche opening ceremonies on Friday, July 15th.

### Right Page (Top to Bottom)

1. MNA President, Audrey Poitras, and Canada Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, The Honourable Carolyn Bennett.
2. Martin Hamelin from MNA Region 1 plays a lively fiddle at Alberta Day.
3. Métis Veterans pose for a photo following the monument ceremony.
4. Youth visiting the Alberta Pavillion.
5. Battle of Seven Oaks Display prepared by the MNA Culture Team.

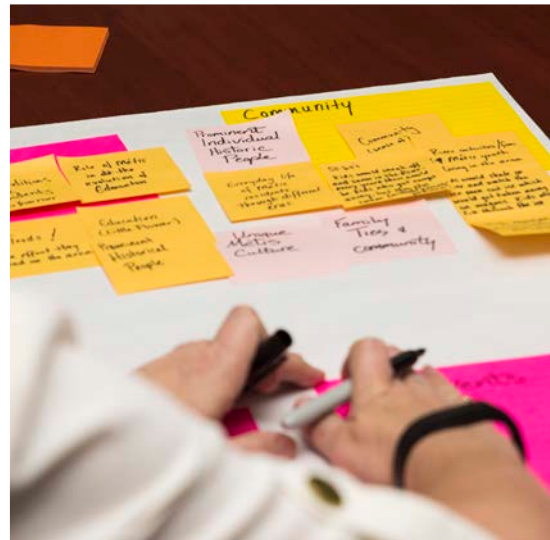
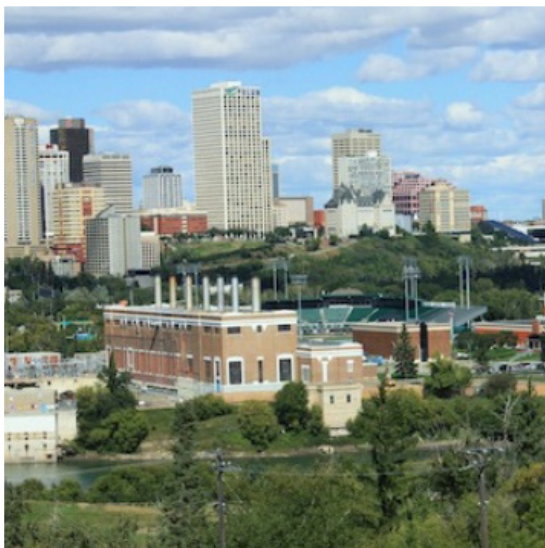


# RIVER CROSSING HERITAGE INTERPRETIVE PLAN TO INCLUDE MÉTIS STORIES

On Tuesday, October 11, Métis Nation of Alberta and our partners at the City of Edmonton hosted a visioning workshop for the River Crossing Heritage Interpretive Plan taking place in West Rosssdale. The workshop invited members of Edmonton’s Métis community to share what they would like to see included in the revitalization of the Rosssdale Flats community located around 105 Street and Rosssdale Road NW.

Over the course of the evening, participants remarked on the importance of highlighting the significant influence of Métis culture on the Rosssdale region. It was noted that the area was home to a number of Métis families and was once a significant hub for Edmonton’s fur trade. A brainstorming session resulted in a lively discussion with participants outlining a number of important categories including “community”, “culture”, “people”, “visitor attractions”, “military history”, “land use”, and “oral history” among others.

During the course of the workshop, facilitators implored participants to explore methods of communicating Metis culture. This conversational prompt was met with a variety of suggestions including art installations, artifact displays, cultural interpreters, interactive displays, and special events. One creative suggestion recommended that Rosssdale neighborhood host a monthly Métis jamboree to showcase Métis festive traditions through dance and music! Métis Nation of Alberta looks forward to following the development of this exciting project.





## MNA YOUTH CONSULTATIONS TO REFORGE MÉTIS YOUTH STRATEGY IN ALBERTA

“What are the biggest challenges you think Métis youth are faced with today?” In partnership with Deloitte, our Youth Coordinator, Tania Kruk, is organizing consultations in each region asking youth and their community this important question. Tania has already completed many of the consultations and is very pleased with the outcomes. In MNA Region 2 in Bonnyville, participants developed an extensive list of challenges faced by Métis youth within the region and brainstormed potential future programs to address these challenges. In addition to youth, we also heard from parents, teachers, and youth coordinators. Though there was a lot of great participation, Tania stated her favourite part of the consultations was “seeing kids dreaming about what programs could exist.” We plan to take all the great feedback and inform the Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS), which seeks to connect Indigenous Canadians in urban centers to services and programs that are tailored for their needs.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Complete the Deloitte MNA Youth Programs/Services Survey at  
**[bit.ly/ABMetisYouth](http://bit.ly/ABMetisYouth)** to have your voice heard!

Please note that the link is case-sensitive.

## MÉTIS RODEO STARS REPRESENT AT THE INDIAN NATIONAL FINALS RODEO (INFR) IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Terryl Woodward and Debbie Hertz know a thing or two about rodeo. Having both grown up around horses, the fearsome barrel racing duo have rodeo running through their veins. Growing up between St. Paul and Elk Point, Alberta, Terryl Woodward remembers first barrel racing at age 4 while Debbie's family and friends have fond memories of her climbing up onto the horses in the field and falling asleep on them!

The two ladies are doing a wonderful job of representing Métis people in the rodeo scene. Terryl has been a member of the Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR) Association for 10 years and has qualified for the year-end finals in Las Vegas, Nevada 4 times. While 2016 was Debbie's first year of membership and first qualification to the INFR finals in Las Vegas, she boasts a bevy of rodeo experience including the Canadian Barrel Horse Incentive, and the Tsuu T'ina Nation, Siksika and Strathmore rodeos. Terryl and Debbie are both members of Region 1 of the INFR, the Indian Rodeo Cowboys Association (IRCA). "I really enjoy the Indian Rodeos for several reasons," said Debbie. "I have met lots of really nice people this year, I get to compete in both the US and Canada, and the arenas and ground conditions are always great!"

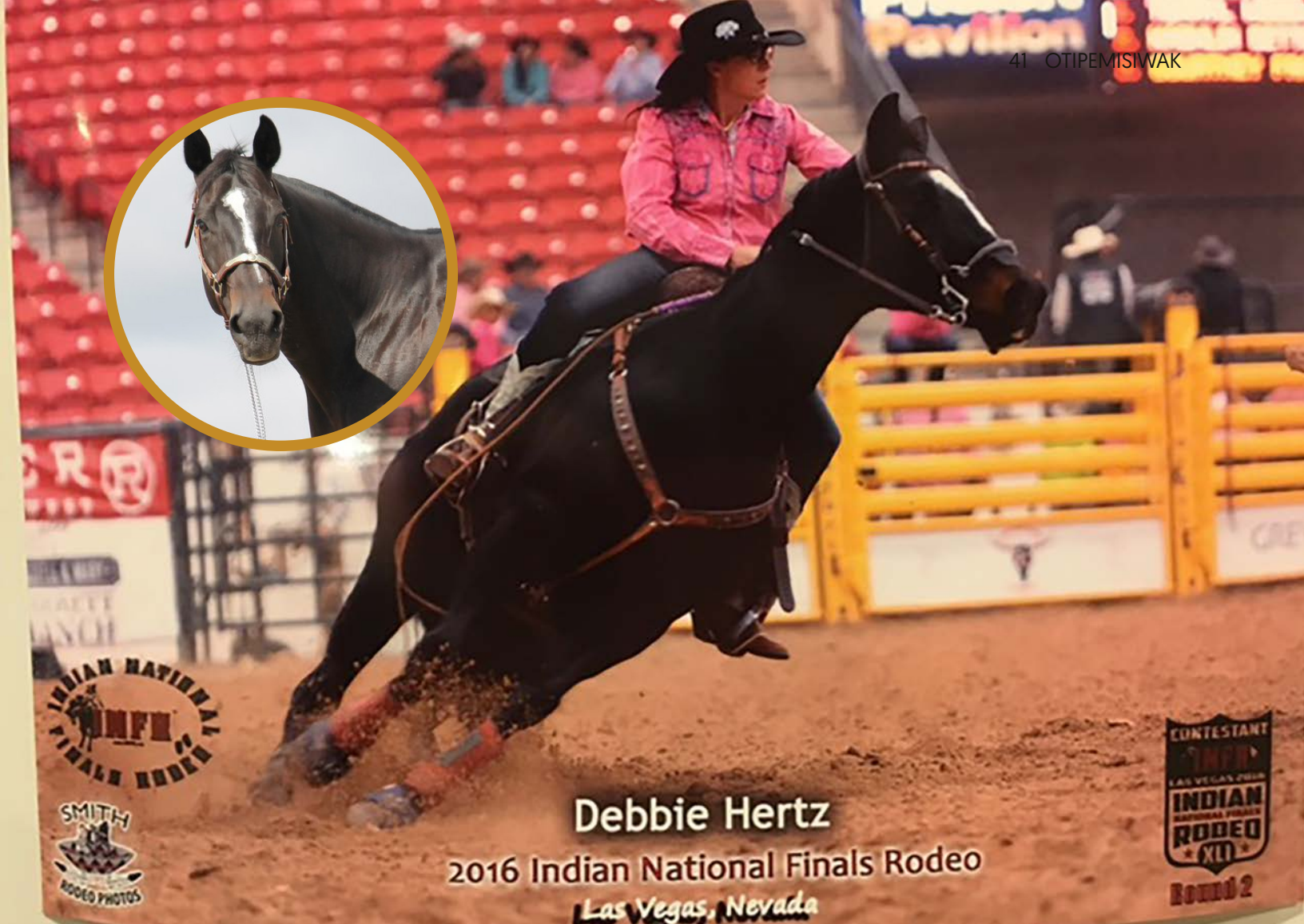
*"I could rodeo in any association I want to but I ultimately choose the INFR for the organization, the culture and having that connection with all walks of Aboriginal people"*

Vegas can sometimes be an exhausting experience." Terryl commented, "It's a nice arena. Running down that big, wide alley to the first barrel is a big rush. It's a lot of fun! They have 3,000 stalls under the casino at the South Point and they have 3 arenas - 1 performance arena and 3 warm-up arenas."

The competition is structured into 4 rounds per competition category. Terryl noted, "there are 3 rounds that everyone competes in and the top 15 compete in the 4th round." The winners are determined by averaging the times from all 4 rounds."







Unfortunately, neither Terryl nor Debbie made it through to the 4th round, however, the two women are not letting the loss dampen their spirits. Terryl noted that her goal for next year is to hopefully qualify for the finals again and try to win one of the four rounds at the 2017 INFR.

When asked about Métis representation at the INFR, Terryl noted that interest is increasing due to increased publicity from the INFR saying “they are doing a great job with promoting the organization”, however, she also expressed concerned about the INFR’s contestant membership policy changing.

On September 9, 2016, the INFR posted a notice on its website regarding an “increase in applications from individuals whose Indian heritage is in question.” The notice goes on to state “the INFR will only accept proof of tribe enrollment or Indian status cards for an INFR contestant membership.”

Photo Captions (Right to Left):

1. Terryl Woodward and her favourite horse, Reggie.
2. Debbie Hertz racing at the INFR with her horse, Dr. Brenda.

The organization noted that a more detailed definition will be provided in 2017. Métis Nation of Alberta sincerely hopes that Métis people, as one of Canada’s 3 distinct Aboriginal peoples, will continue to be permitted to participate in this event that holds great significance for Métis Albertans involved in the rodeo circuit. Terryl commented “I could rodeo in any association I want to but I ultimately choose the INFR for the organization, the culture and having that connection with all walks of Aboriginal people”

We wish both Terryl and Debbie the very best in their adventures as they blaze across the North American rodeo scene and can’t wait to follow them during the 2017 rodeo season!

# RUPERTSLAND INSTITUTE RECOGNIZED AT OSLO EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The work of the Rupertsland Institute (RLI) was received with great acclaim at the Global Best Awards in Oslo, Norway from September 14-16, 2016. RLI was awarded the 2016 Global Best Award North America Chair's Award. A delegation of MNA and RLI representatives including MNA President, Audrey Poitras; RLI CEO, Lorne Gladu; and RLI Associate Director of Research, Policy & Strategic Partnerships, Guido Conteras represented the MNA at this significant event.



Image Captions (Left to Right): MNA President, Audrey Poitras, speaks at the awards. A photo of the Global Best Award - North America Chair's Award Certificate.

# REGION 1 TRADITIONAL LAND USE STUDY ASSESSES IMPACT OF POWERLINE PROJECT



In May 2016 Alberta Powerline (APL) agreed to provide funding to the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) to assist in the collection of baseline information on Traditional Métis Land Use, Occupancy and Knowledge of the area where APL plans to construct a powerline between Fort McMurray and the Genesee area south West of Edmonton. The funding was used to perform 4 community meetings (in person) consultation and 3 days of field research with MNA Region 1 Members. APL was involved in all four (4) community meetings. The consultations engaged MNA members in three Region 1 locals to garner their input into a report detailing concerns from the Métis community. APL took part in all of the consultation meetings.



During the consultations, the most common member concern was how the powerline would interfere with harvesting. Lac La Biche, Baptiste Lake, Sandy Lake, the Athabasca River, and Owl River were mentioned as good habitat for all varieties of northern fish, Pelicans and traditionally, mink. Calling Lake and Orloff Lake Wildlands were mentioned as good habitat for bear, elk and moose. Nearly all Region 1 participants noted that regions along the Athabasca River were crucial to the economy; these regions are used as traditional migration routes and have deep cultural significance to the local Métis. Overall, Region 1 members indicated that their traditional land use plays a key role in their diet through the fishing, hunting and gathering of species in this region. Some members remarked on the decreasing quality of fish captured along the Athabasca River due to the introduction of toxins from industry operations. This development has had a significant impact on the ability of Region 1 community members to feed their families.

The concerns raised by Region 1 members are based on over 200 years of Métis use and occupancy of the land between Fort McMurray and Wababum. These Métis families make their living from the land by harvesting berries, medicinal plants and herbs, and from fishing and hunting. Throughout the consultations, members made it clear that the region holds significant cultural value. The community welcomes economic development if it is done in a respectful and suitable manner. Overall, it was agreed that the APL powerline project would interfere with community members' traditional lifestyle and Métis rights.

#### Image Captions (Top to Bottom)

1. TLU Consultation Workshop in Region 1.
2. A trapline cabin in Region 1.
3. Wildlife, including elk, are abundant in the region.





# MÉTIS BOXING CHAMP DEFENDS TITLE, SHARES PASSION FOR SPORT

As I walked through the doors of Kamikaze Punishment Foundation, my senses were greeted with an exhilarating flurry of sound and colour. A steady electronica track was pumping along in the background to keep energies high. Atop of azure floor mats, martial artists swiftly struck at a forest of red punching bags suspended from the ceiling. The gym's focal point is the central raised boxing ring – the proving grounds where aspiring young fighters clamored to demonstrate their worth in friendly sparring matches.

In the center of all the commotion was Rob Nichols – the defending Cruiserweight Boxing Champion in Canada. Beneath his steel blue gaze is a quiet sort of determination – a willpower that has catapulted him into the upper echelons of Canadian boxing and earned him the fearsome moniker, “Raging Bull”. At 37 years of age, Rob is a veteran of the sport; he first picked up a pair of gloves in 1999 and has boxed professionally since 2008. He is also a proud Métis man with roots in Alberta’s east central Lakeland Region (Region 2 of the Métis Nation of Alberta). On December 11th, 2015, Rob claimed the title of Canadian Cruiserweight Champion in a match against then-reigning champion, Frank “The Hammer” White. On Sunday June 4th of this year, Rob defended his title in a second match against Frank White at the Cold Lake Energy Centre in Alberta.

Rob’s stalwart Chief Second, Sterling Craig, has been at his side for the past eight years to offer the expert industry insights and training necessary for a champion. Rob’s impressive fight history boasts 11 wins, 3 losses, and 1 draw, but it hasn’t always been smooth sailing. Sterling recalls a fight in 2014 against Shane Andreesen that really put Rob through the ringer. “That was one fight that had me really worried. I wasn’t sure whether to be a cornerman or a fan that night” recalls Sterling about the fight that ended in a draw and left Andreesen in the hospital with a shattered metacarpal bone. Since then, Rob has trained relentlessly to become the best in his league. Rob’s boxing career has taken him across Canada from Boucherville, Quebec to Nanaimo, British Columbia and he is holding out for the chance to fight on the international stage.

As an ardent advocate for community boxing clubs, Rob looks forward to eventually starting up his own club in the community of Cold Lake. Both Rob and Sterling agree that boxing is a great sport to help kids build up the confidence required for happy, successful lives. Sterling recalls meeting a boy named David\* - a chubby and insecure kid - who gained self-esteem and a sense of purpose by taking boxing classes. To this day Sterling’s most prized possession is a gift from David\* - a keychain inscribed with the words “#1 Coach”.

Rob's boxing career has taken him across Canada from Boucherville, Quebec to Nanaimo, British Columbia and he is holding out for the chance to fight on the international stage.

Rob stated that boxing was a major contributor to his own sense of identity as a teenager and has fond memories of watching boxing matches with his Grandfather in Frog Lake. Rob commented that “kids take boxing classes and get their parents involved and before you know it, you have aunts, uncles, cousins and all members of the extended family coming in as well. Compared to hockey, football, and sports with big equipment costs, boxing is an affordable option for families.” As the Defending Canadian Cruiserweight Champion, Rob is well positioned to pass on his knowledge to the next generation of young Canadian boxers.

Rob has been a member of the Métis Nation of Alberta since 2009 and is thankful for training he received through the MNA to become a Certified Personal Trainer & Registered Massage Therapist. Outside of the ring, Rob is the owner of Core-LTD Health & Fitness where he employs functional training, posture awareness and massage therapy to help his clients reach their fitness goals. Health plays an important role in Rob’s life and his determination coupled with his positive attitude is contagious. We look forward to following Rob’s dynamic career in the years to come.

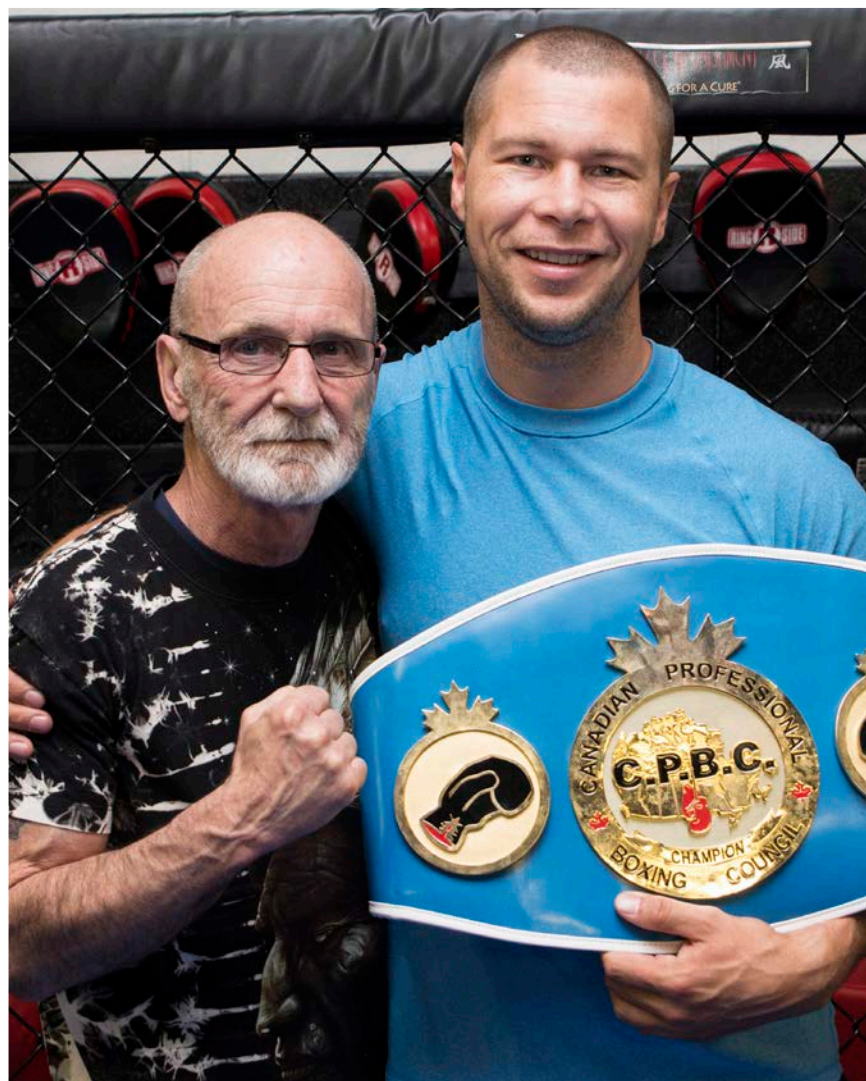
*Name denoted with asterisk\* has been changed for reasons of confidentiality*

Top Image: Rob poses with the crew from Kamikaze Punishment Foundation.

Bottom Left Image: Rob in a friendly sparring match at Kamikaze Punishment Foundation.

Bottom Right Image: Rob poses with Chief Second, Sterling Craig.







f @ABMETIS

t @ALBERTAMETIS

#YOURVOICECOUNTS

# YOUR VOICE COUNTS!

Métis Nation of Alberta and Deloitte are hosting youth consultations to gather perspectives and develop recommendations to inform the Urban Aboriginal Strategy to better meet the needs of Métis youth in the Province of Alberta.

*Consultation dates are listed on our website, [www.albertametis.com](http://www.albertametis.com). Missed the consultation session in your MNA region? You can still offer input! Complete our online survey at <http://bit.ly/ABMetisYouth>*

