

Otipemisiwak

The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta

in this issue:

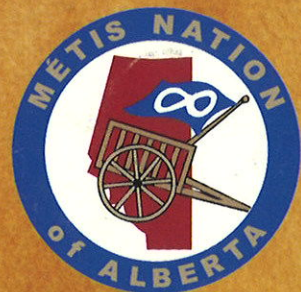
Evolution of a Nation

The Métis Nation of Alberta has made incredible advancements since its humble beginnings in 1928!

The Powley Case

What does it mean for Alberta Métis?

Programs for Métis Youth



Issue 1, Volume 1, Premiere Edition

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The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta

Otipemisiwak is the Official Magazine of the
Métis Nation of Alberta

Direct any correspondence or inquiries to:

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Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5
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Fax: (780) 452-8946
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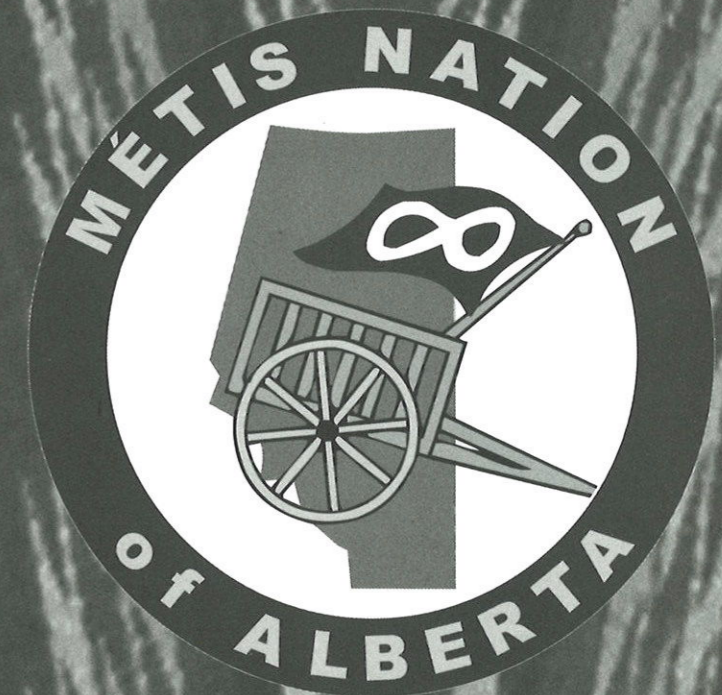
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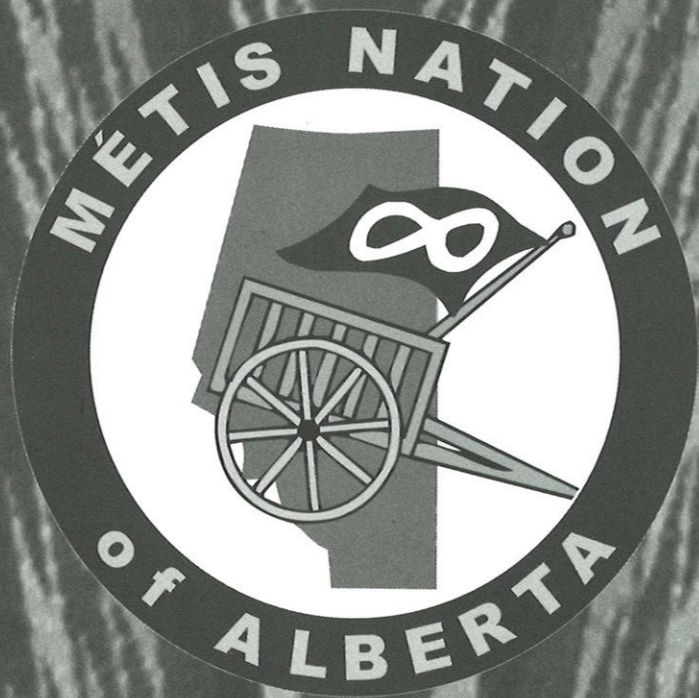
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Photo No. c004 164 Courtesy the National Archives of Canada

President's Message

On behalf of the Métis Nation of Alberta, I hope you will find this first issue of our new magazine *Otipemisiwak: the Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta* to be enjoyable and informative.

In 1999, the Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Alberta developed our *Blueprint to Métis Governance*. One of our strategies was to develop a communication process to strengthen the purpose, identity, goals and public recognition of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

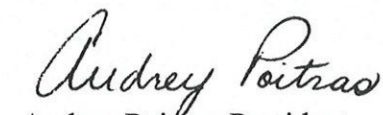
A communication strategy was developed to support our Métis self-governing identity. This strategy began with the development and ratification of our Métis Nation of Alberta logo and the unveiling of the flag of the Métis Nation of Alberta at the 2003 Annual General Assembly.

This magazine, *Otipemisiwak: the Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta* is a continuation of our commitment to the Métis to providing you with up to date information and news from all points of our great province. We have also launched an Internet Web Site as a further commitment to the delivery of information from the provincial office directly to the homes of Métis across the province.

It is our intention to celebrate, in print form, the achievements we have realized here in Alberta. This celebration of the Métis will reach beyond the activities and developments of a political organization to recognize the achievements of the people who are at the very heart and soul of the Métis Nation, the Métis.

In our Premiere Edition, you will read stories about our Métis people, our elders, our esteemed Métis veterans, our youth and our political leaders, local, regional, provincial, and national.

Otipemisiwak: the Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta is the official magazine of the Métis Nation of Alberta. We encourage all Métis in every region, the Métis Locals and Regions to contribute your stories, your photographs, your old photographs and your new ideas for potential stories in future


Audrey Poitras, President
Métis Nation of Alberta



Métis Nation of Alberta

"Together We Will Continue To Build A Nation."



Photo by Patricia Russell

Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister of Public Safety
and Emergency Preparedness Canada



Vice-première ministre
et ministre de la Sécurité publique
et de la Protection civile du Canada

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P8

The Honourable L'honorable
A. Anne McLellan, P.C., M.P. c.p., députée

**Message from the Honourable Anne McLellan
Deputy Prime Minister of Canada
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
Member of Parliament for Edmonton West**

It is with great pleasure that I offer my congratulations on behalf of the Government of Canada and our Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Paul Martin, to the Métis Nation of Alberta on the launch of your website and the inaugural issue of your official magazine "Otipemisiwak".

It is no secret that the Internet has had a tremendous impact on all of our lives. We now use the World Wide Web to gain access to an incredible amount of information. The debut of your magazine "Otipemisiwak" will benefit Albertans by providing timely and interesting information about the Métis Nation.

I want to commend the Métis Nation of Alberta for providing this information to members of your community and to anyone who is interested in learning more about the Métis culture and way of life.

Please accept my best wishes for this exciting event and for continued success.

Sincerely,

A. Anne McLellan

Canada

Métis Sisters Make History in the RCMP

Article by Kimberly Mueller, Photo courtesy the MNA

When Constables Holly and Jennifer Mueller graduated from Troop 16 in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in February, they made history as the first sisters to graduate in the same class.

The Mueller sisters often dreamed of a career in the RCMP and were inspired to join after attending a relative's graduation ceremony from the training program. With support from the Métis Nation of Alberta, a program designed with the help of Métis RCMP Sergeant Don Ladouceur and their own dedication and they were on their way to fulfilling a dream.

A pilot program called Aboriginal Policing and Security, under Alberta Learning and offered through Grant MacEwan, Norquest and Northern Lakes Colleges became available in the summer of 2002. The RCMP, the Métis Nation of Alberta, and First Nations began advertising the program in the Aboriginal communities to encourage aboriginal enrollment in the three classes offered. RCMP Sergeant Don Ladouceur addressed the Annual Métis Nation of Alberta Youth Camp and his words caught the attention of Holly Mueller who had been an RCMP Métis Youth Summer Student a few years earlier.

Holly attended an information session on the program a week later at Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton. From there, she headed over to the MNA Employment Centre to register. Holly realized the opportunity was too good not to share, so she convinced her younger sister, Jennifer, to look into the training opportunity as well.

After college graduation in the spring of 2003, Holly and Jennifer underwent the rigorous testing and interviewing process with the RCMP and successfully made it through, while some of their classmates did not.

In late August 2003, the sisters received their acceptance into the 22-week RCMP training course at Depot in Regina. In this stage of training, the number one remark from the cadets is that they miss their families. That's where these two sisters were lucky to be together. "It was definitely trying. It was the hardest point in my life, but also the most memorable," said Jennifer. "Now that it's over, I'd go back in a second."

"Having a sister for a study partner, a roommate, and supporter definitely helped get through the mental and physical challenges", added Holly. "It was nice to have



RCMP Graduates Holly and Jennifer Mueller pose with MNA President Audrey Poitras

someone familiar nearby and be able to support each other".

Métis Nation of Alberta president, Audrey Poitras, attended the graduation ceremony last month and proudly presented Holly and Jennifer with their first sashes. The two sisters are a success story for the Métis Nation of Alberta's Labour Market Development Unit. Their efforts and determination show how setting a goal and striving to meet it will produce rewards in the end. The Métis Nation of Alberta congratulates the Mueller sisters as they begin their new careers.

Holly's first posting with the RCMP is in Rimbey, northwest of Red Deer. Jennifer's first posting is at the Piikani Nation Reserve in southern Alberta.

For more information on the Aboriginal Policing and security Program please call: 1-800-252-7553.

Métis Nation of Alberta Celebrating Aboriginal Youth

Article by Kimberley Mueller, Photo by Patricia Russell

The Alberta Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards is a province-wide gala celebrating youth achievements with an awards ceremony planned for April 2, 2004.

The intent of the awards is to recognize the accomplishments of our Aboriginal youth and to encourage more of our young people to reach for their dreams and strive for excellence. Family, friends, teachers, and/or co-workers can nominate a youth achiever in six categories which include:

- Culture & Heritage
- Athletic Achievement
- Volunteer Services
- Career Advancement
- Academic Achievement
- Personal Achievement

The awards will fall into two categories: 10 to 17 year olds; and 18 to 29 years of age. Nominations can be made to more than one category.

The Métis Nation of Alberta Youth Programs Department originally developed this initiative in the fall of 2003. The attractiveness of the concept of celebrating Aboriginal youth drew interest and support from other organizations in the province resulting in these Alberta-wide awards. Métis, First Nations and community partners, such as the Royal Bank of Canada,



Kim Mueller is the Youth Program Coordinator with the Métis Nation of Alberta

came together to design, promote and organize the first annual awards ceremony and banquet.

Otipemisiwak will feature stories and photographs of the winners of the Aboriginal Youth Awards in its next issue.

For more information please contact Kimberly Mueller @ 1-800-252-7553.

76th Annual Assembly August 12-15th, 2004 Wabasca, Alberta

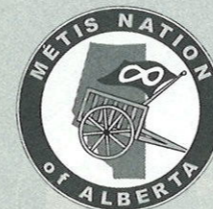
Please join us for the Métis Nation of Alberta's 76th Annual Assembly to be held in Region V, Wabasca, Alberta.

All business will take place at the Wabasca Community Hall.

Highlights:

- Métis Business Mixer
- Talent Show
- Tradeshow & Craft Fair
- Youth Dance
- Elders Banquet
- Workshops

Please visit www.mdopportunity.ab.ca, or www.wabasca.com for more information regarding directions, the venue location, and available accommodations. For additional information, please contact the Métis Nation of Alberta at (780) 455-2200, Toll free 1 (800) 252-7553



Support for the MNA

President Poitras urges greater support for MNA initiatives in meeting with Parliamentary Secretary for Aboriginal Justice, the Honourable Sue Barnes

Article by Robert Butler, Photo by Irene Collins

In February 2004, Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras met with the Honourable Sue Barnes, MP, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, with special emphasis on Judicial Transparency and Aboriginal Justice. As a lawyer, and as Past Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, and Past Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, Ms. Barnes has taken a particular interest in Aboriginal Justice issues for many years.

President Poitras briefed Ms. Barnes on a number of Métis Nation of Alberta initiatives which were of particular interest to Ms. Barnes, including the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Initiative and the new Aboriginal Youth Justice Committee in Calgary.

The Parliamentary Secretary noted the historic recognition of the Métis people in its first Throne Speech of the new Paul Martin Government, and its commitment to provide greater opportunities for Aboriginal people to share in our country's good fortune.

The federal Government clearly committed itself to the goal of seeing Aboriginals fully participate in national life, on the basis of "historic rights and agreements."

Most importantly to the Métis Nation of Alberta, the federal Government committed to not being



MNA President Audrey Poitras and the Honourable Sue Barnes, Parliamentary Secretary for Aboriginal Justice

deterred by jurisdictional wrangling and "to engage other levels of government and Métis leadership on the place of Métis in its policies."

Ms. Barnes asked to be kept informed of our progress and she committed to being an accessible point of contact to the Department of Justice for the Métis Nation of Alberta.

President Poitras said she would hold her to that commitment and urged greater Department of Justice support for Métis Nation of Alberta initiatives.



Photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

The Métis Nation of Alberta Proudly Salutes *Victor Letendre, Métis Veteran*

Article by Peter Crossan, Photo courtesy the MNA

Hugh Victor Letendre (Victor) was born on 4 March 1925, in the home of his Métis parents, at one of the oldest Métis settlements in Western Canada, Lac Ste Anne, Alberta. He was the second of seven children of Wilfred Letendre and Marie Anne Philomene Loyer. His strong Métis lineage includes Medicine Women such as Great-Grandmother Victoria Cahihoo and Great-Great Grandmother Nancy Belcourt, a Chief of the Michel Reserve, Great-Grandfather Louis Calihoo, entrepreneurs, Great-grandparents Victoria and Lious Calihoo, and others who helped define the Métis people and Métis nation.

Victor grew up at Lac Ste Anne, surrounded with extended family. Being the second oldest during tough times, he had a lot of responsibility including providing wild meat for the family, and earning money whenever possible. At the age of ten, Victor went commercial fishing with his father on Lac Ste Anne for the first time.

Victor went to school at Lac Ste Anne up to grade 7 at a school run by the Catholic church. His first job was as a janitor at the school when he was 11 years old. It was Victor's responsibility to start a fire in the morning to warm up the school, and to clean up after school.

Victor left Lac Ste Anne when he was 16, and lived

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As the voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta, Otipemisiwak would like to encourage Métis readers to submit articles, photos and stories on current or past events. Let your voice be heard!

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with his Aunt Nora and Uncle Edward Calihoo on the Michele Reserve near Edmonton. He worked there with a threshing crew for about three months.

Victor then went to Hinton, where he worked for a bush camp sawmill for summer of 1941. He worked at Coal Branch and Foothills in underground coal mines, where he drove horse drawn coal cars. Victor did not forget about his family back at Lac Ste. Anne, he sent money home for his mother every chance he got. He stayed at the mines for about two years, and then moved to Edmonton at age eighteen, where he worked as a mine driver for the Red Hot Coal Company. Victor joined the army on February 17, 1944.

Victor's basic training was in Camrose, Alberta and his advanced training was in Calgary, Alberta. Victor was sent overseas, to serve on the front lines in England, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany with the Calgary Highlanders Regiment. He was wounded on the Belgium front line (by grenade shrapnel), and sent to the Seventeen Canadian General Hospital in England to recover for one month. Victor contracted pleurisy on the front lines and was sent home on May 25, 1945. He was voluntarily discharged (on July 17, 1945) at the age of twenty.

After he was discharged, Victor was not briefed or provided any information on the programs and services available to veterans. He received a pension from approximately 1945-1948, as he had Pleurisy with infusion. In approximately 1948, the pension was completely withdrawn, despite a medical doctor's recommendation that Victor continue to receive 50% of the pension. For the next thirty years, Victor continued to re-apply for the pension, with no success. But in 1975, after talking with another veteran who had a pension, Victor re-applied, attended a hearing, and was approved for a 5% pension.

During his time in the army, Victor did his best to make sure his mother was taken care of, sending her 1/2 of his pay only to find out that his mother saved every dime for him once he returned!

At the age of twenty four, Victor married a Métis woman from Rosemary, Alberta on April 2, 1949. Georgina Dumont came from a proud Métis heritage as well, from the family of Gabriel Dumont. Years later, Georgina became an elder with the Women of the Métis Nation, and was the first recipient of their *Métis Women of the Year Award* in 1990.

In the summer of 1949, Victor commercial fished on Great Slave Lake, but returned home in August 1949. He started upgrading by correspondence, apprenticed in sheet metal, and received a Certificate in Sheet Metal. The family moved to a stout house in Edmonton in

1950.

Victor continued to work in the sheet metal business for the next twenty years. In 1964, he accepted a position from Freeze Maxwell as Manager of the company's Grande Prairie district office at a time when Métis people in management positions were extremely rare. The family returned to Edmonton in September 1969 to be closer to other family members. He received a Journeyman Roofing Certificate in 1967.

In Edmonton, Victor accepted a supervisor job with Erect All Structures. In 1971, he went to work for the Alberta Roofing Contractors Association as a Roofing Maintenance Inspector, and received a Roofing Inspector Certification in 1971. In 1975, Victor became one of the few Métis entrepreneurs when he purchased B.U.R. Roofing. As a Métis businessman in 1975, Victor paved the way for other Aboriginal entrepreneurs, breaking down barriers and proving that Métis are successful businessmen in the day and age. Victor owned the company until he retired in 1990.

Victor and Georgina had six children, and raised them in Edmonton when times were not the best for a Métis family. Hard childhood's for both of them; memories of the depression, discrimination, and illness were still fresh in their minds.

Throughout his life, Victor volunteered his time to numerous organizations. From 1962 to 1964, he was a member of the Sheet Metal Union Board. He was President of the Grande Prairie Construction Association, a member of the Alberta Roofing Contractors Association from 1965-1967 and also held various board positions with the Society of Alberta Roofing Inspectors and Contractors. Through his volunteer positions in mainstream society and business, Victor helped dispel myths and stereotypes of Métis and other Aboriginal people and proved that Métis people can make a lasting and successful mark in the business community.

Victor was on the board of the Grande Prairie Legion from 1966 - 1969 and served on the board of the Edmonton Legion (Branch #255) from 1971 - 1977. This was a time when Aboriginal veterans were not recognized and did not receive the same access to benefits, programs and services as other veterans,

Knowing some of the injustices faced by Aboriginal veterans, Victor was an active member of the Aboriginal Veterans Society of Alberta. He served in numerous positions, including holding the position of President for a number of years. He is currently the President and a board member of the National Aboriginal Veterans Association.

Like many other Aboriginal veterans, Victor

remembered his roots as a Métis, and spent time volunteering with numerous Aboriginal organizations. He was a founding board member of the Edmonton Canadian Native Friendship Centre in 1962, and was President of the organization from 1990-1992. Victor was also on the Board of the Native Seniors Centre.

From 1987 to 1993, Victor was a board member for Recovery Acres Society, an organization that ran a half-way house for recovering alcoholics. Elected in 2000, Victor is currently the President of Club 55, an organization that plans events for local seniors.

Victor is one of the original members of the Edmonton Native Youth Justice Committee, formed in 1995, and is presently the President of the Committee.

Victor is a Member of the Senate of the Lac Ste Anne Pilgrimage Committee, a Committee that is responsible for the transition of the Pilgrimage from the Catholic Church to Aboriginal people.

Victor understands the youth are the future, and are deserving of our time as displayed by his commitment to the Edmonton Youth Justice Committee. He also volunteered as the elder for a National Métis Youth Conference in 1999 and coached baseball for a year in Grande Prairie. He was manager and player with the

Jasper Place Bear Cats, a fastball team for a number of years.

In recognition of his involvement in the Métis community, Victor was presented with a Métis Sash from the Métis Nation of Alberta in 1993.

As the elder of a Métis family, Victor is known for his respect for people, his supporting and non-judgmental ways, and teachings through stories of his own life experiences.

Victor remains modest despite his life experiences, and more notably, his volunteer work in the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community. In 1996, at the end of an interview about his life, Victor concluded by saying "I haven't really done too much."

Today, Victor lives in Edmonton, and continues to volunteer his time in the community, to share his knowledge with his family, and to remember his Métis roots. Victor cleared a path for many Aboriginal people as a businessman, a community leader, a veteran, and a volunteer.

Victor is a silent leader in the Métis community, doing what he can and not asking for credit.



Left to Right: Wesley Whitford, Oscar Lacombe, Bob Berard, Herb Bell, Victor Letendre, and Fred L'Hirondelle

2004 National Métis Youth Role Model Awards

Photos by Patricia Russell

Recipients

Athletic Achievement

Career Advancement

Academic Achievement

Culture & Heritage

Volunteer Service

Personal Achievement

The 2004 National Métis Youth Role Model Awards were held in conjunction with the National Conference on Métis Rights and Self-Government in Edmonton on March 12th, 2004. Minister Denis Coderre, the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians presented the awards to the recipients.



Ashley Bressette: Academic Achievement

Ashley Bressette is the winner of this year's National Métis Youth Role Model award for Academic Achievement recognizing her achievements which include: an invitation to join the International Golden Key Society, winning the Queen Elizabeth II scholarship, a LaFarge Canada corporate scholarship and an entrance scholarship to the University of Ottawa.



Alyssa Delbaere-Sawchuk: Culture & Heritage

Alyssa's outstanding musical talent in classical and Metis music along with her cultural pride earns her the National Métis Youth Role Model award for Culture & Heritage. Ashley is the only Canadian member of the Youth Orchestra of the Americas. She is an active volunteer with the National Aboriginal Day Council and the Alzheimer's Society of Toronto.



Celina May King: Career Advancement

Celina May King is the winner of this year's National Youth Role Model Award for Career Advancement. Celina graduated from Lethbridge Community College with two diplomas: in Policing and in Criminal Justice. The award was accepted by her sister, Linea King.



Amy Poulist: Volunteer Services

Amy Poulist is this years winner of the National Youth Role Model Award in Volunteer Services because of her tireless volunteerism with Student Council at Margaret Barbour Collegiate, Student Action for Recycling (STAR), Teens Against Drunk Driving, The Pas Family Resource Centre and Girl Guides of Canada.



Doris Jones: Athletic Achievement

Doris Jones is the winner of this years National Youth Role Model Award for Athletic Achievement. Doris has set more than 50 Canadian and World Records in archery and will be representing Canada at the World Championships. Most important to her are the youth of the Métis Nation.



Melissa Cabezas: Personal Achievement

Melissa Cabeza is this year's recipient of the National Youth Role Model Award for Personal Achievement. Melissa is a single mother of a 2 year old and an avid volunteer who manages to balance all of her responsibilities with unconditional sincerity to the people she serves.

A New Journey Begins

Article by Kathy Hodgson-Smith and Jason Madden Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

A series of positive legal and political developments in favour of the Métis Nation of Alberta have resulted in the Métis National Council and its Governing Members to embark on a new journey with the Government of Canada and the provincial governments of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. This journey begins with the establishment of a Métis Nation Multilateral Process where, for the first time in over a decade, Métis governments, the federal government and the provincial governments from Ontario westward, are sitting down at one table together - to discuss and address Métis rights.

Although the process is in its infancy and only time will speak to its effectiveness, Métis leaders are optimistic this new process will bear positive results for the Métis Nation's rights-based agenda. "While I am confident that, in the short and long term, the multilateral process will be extremely productive, the implicit recognition of the historic Métis Nation and its national and regional governments alone in the new process is an important step for our nation," stated Clement Chartier, President of the Métis National

Council.

While this specific multilateral process is new, these types of forums are not new for the Métis Nation. Multilateral processes have proven to be extremely effective vehicles for the Métis Nation to collectively move forward with its rights-based agenda. For example, the benchmark *Métis Nation Accord*, as a part of the defeated *Charlottetown Accord*, was a product of a multilateral negotiation process during the 1992 constitutional round. Unfortunately, since 1994, Canada and provincial governments from Ontario westward have refused to engage in these types of forums, resulting in many of the pressing rights-based issues of the Métis Nation falling on the courts for decisions or into a political vacuum due to jurisdictional bickering between the provinces and Canada on Métis issues.

In an attempt to overcome this void, in August of 2003, the Honourable Ralph Goodale, the Federal Interlocutor for Métis, and the Interim President of the Métis National Council, Audrey Poitras, agreed to a re-engaged multilateral process as a "next step" from a series of exploratory discussions held between Canada



Métis Nation Caucus on the Multilateral

Back Row: Cynthia Bertolin, MNA; Dave Kennedy, MPCBC; Jean Teillet, MNO; Arthur Durocher, MNS; Jason Madden, MNC; Rick Salter, MNC; Dan Benoit, MMF; Kathy Hodgson-Smith, MNC
Front Row: Jennifer St. Germain, MNO; Senator Ed Head, MMF; Al Benoit, MMF; Cynthia Kolada, MPCBC and Dwayne Roth, MNS

and the Métis National Council.

At that time, the multilateral forum envisioned a focus on broader socio-economic issues (i.e. housing, education, etc.) and rights issues. However, in light of the pending Métis harvesting rights cases before the Supreme Court of Canada (*R. v. Powley* and *R. v. Blais*), the Métis National Council's Board of Governors decided to place Métis harvesting and access to resources issues at the top of the agenda to avoid misunderstandings, confusion and conflicts following the release of these historic decisions.

Interim Métis National Council President, Audrey Poitras, wrote to Canada and the provinces from Ontario westward on September 12, 2003, to engage a multilateral process in preparation for the decisions in *Powley* and *Blais*. Seven days later, the Supreme Court of Canada unexpectedly released both the *Powley* and *Blais* decisions.

Seeing the benefit of this type of process, the Honourable Pearl Calahasen, Alberta's Minister for

Aboriginal Affairs responded positively to the Métis Nation's proposal, on behalf of her province, and offered to act as a co-chair to move things forward from the provincial side. Subsequent to Minister Calahasen's letter, and a letter from federal Minister Goodale confirming Canada's support and willingness to participate as a co-chair, the provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia signed on as well.

Since the release of the *Powley* decision on September 19, 2003, the Métis National Council, the Governments of Canada and Alberta have been acting, as cooperative co-chairs, pulling the multilateral process together. In preparation for a Ministers and Métis Leaders meeting in the near future, Métis, federal and provincials officials have been conferring on the issues to develop and focus an agenda.

The first official-level multilateral meeting was held February 5, 2004 in Winnipeg. The Province of Manitoba and the Manitoba Métis Federation acted as



Métis Nation Caucus on the Multilateral

hosts to over 45 representatives from Ontario westward. The Government of Canada acted as the administrative chair represented by Allan MacDonald from the Privy Council Office.

Jason Madden, legal counsel for the Métis National Council, led the Métis Nation's caucus, supported by Rick Salter and Kathy Hodgson-Smith. The Métis Nation caucus consisted of two representatives from each Governing Member: Jean Teillet and Jennifer St. Germain, Métis Nation of Ontario; Al Benoit and Dan Benoit, Manitoba Métis Federation; Art Durocher and Dwayne Roth, Métis Nation - Saskatchewan; Cindy Bertolin and Irene Collins, Métis Nation of Alberta; Dave Kennedy and Cynthia Kolada, Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia.

This initial meeting focused on Métis harvesting rights, providing an opportunity for the three levels of government to state their interests, objectives and mandates which, while limited due to only officials being in attendance, provided ample room for important collaborative discussions.

Each Governing Member provided a regional update on the harvesting-related activities they had been undertaking in preparation for a Supreme Court of Canada case affirming Métis harvesting as protected by s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. The Governing Members, along with the Métis National Council,

highlighted the extensive work that has been undertaken post-Powley to assist and inform Métis harvesters. For example, the Manitoba Métis Federation representatives highlighted the work of the Harvesting Commission and the recent Métis Elders conference on harvesting. The Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia and the Métis Nation of Alberta discussed their regional and local meetings. The Métis Nation of Ontario and Métis Nation - Saskatchewan also shared their Métis-specific harvesting policies and legislation.

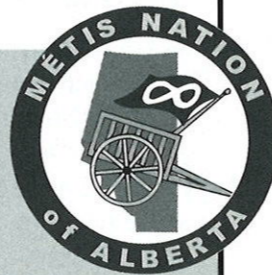
Officials at the February 5 meeting began scoping out a focused agenda for the Ministers and Métis Leaders conference anticipated in late March. Specific items proposed by the Métis National Council include: a Métis Nation Registry identifying Métis harvesters; working agreements such as interim measures; collaborative research identifying traditional Métis harvesting territories and developing an on-going agenda. Officials will meet once more in western Canada in early March to finalize the proposed agenda.

Regular updates on the multilateral process are available through your respective Governing Member. Also check out the Métis National Council's website at www.metisnation.ca for progress reports.

And a new journey begins ...

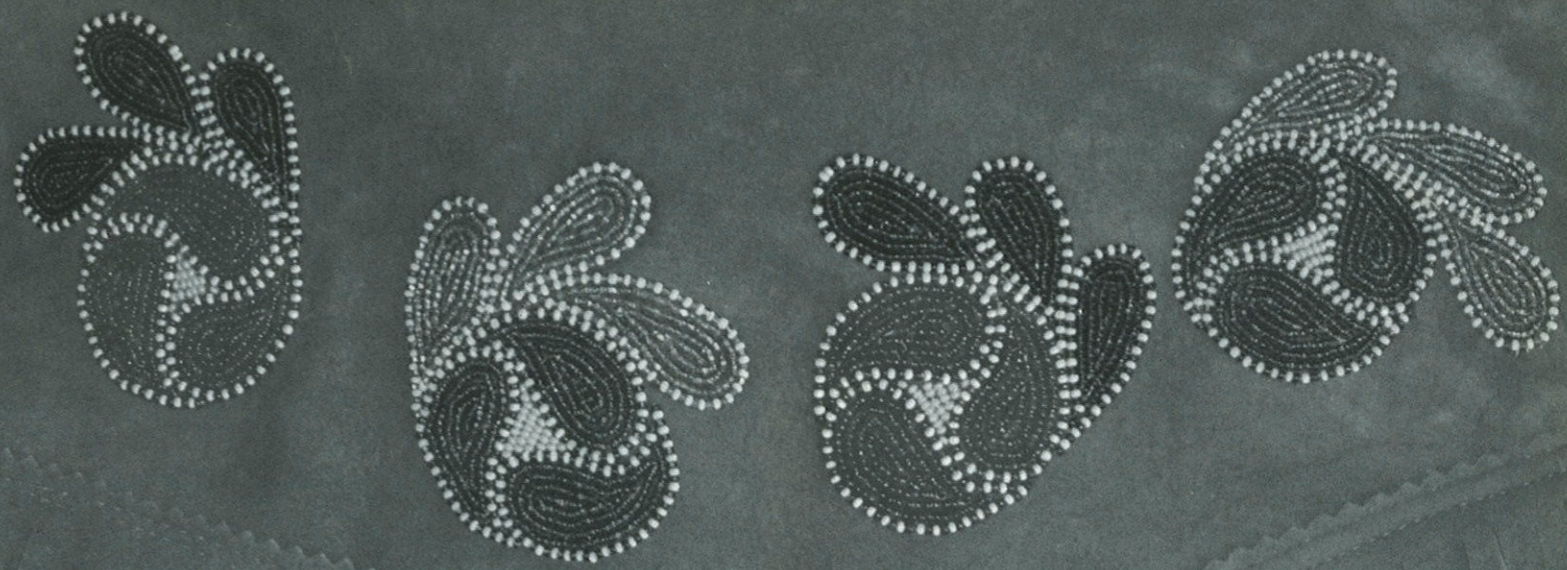
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Fort McMurray 780-714-3029	Lethbridge 403-317-1555	Whitecourt 780-706-2339	High Prairie 780-523-2004	Grande Prairie 780-539-5477
Conklin 780-559-8995	Red Deer 403-358-7734	Hinton 780-865-8229	Wabasca 780-891-2363	High Level 780-841-0600
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Forgotten People No More

Métis Nation Applauds Martin Government's New Direction on Aboriginal Policy

(February 2, 2004) - Ottawa, ON - Métis National Council President Clément Chartier is calling today's Speech from the Throne a historic breakthrough for the Métis people. "Today, with the inclusion of specific commitments to the Métis in the Speech from the Throne, our people are witness to a fundamental shift in federal Aboriginal policy," said President Chartier.

President Chartier added, "For almost two decades, the Métis people have never been explicitly mentioned in a Speech from the Throne. In the past, when Canada referred to Aboriginal, it essentially meant First Nations and Inuit. With this Speech, Prime Minister Martin has signaled that Métis exclusion must come to an end. I look forward to working with the Prime Minister, the Federal Interlocutor for Métis, the Hon. Denis Coderre, Parliamentary Secretary for Métis, the Hon. Brenda Chamberlain, and the rest of Mr. Martin's team to fulfill this Throne Speech commitment to the Métis."

Over the years, historians and courts have used the term "Canada's Forgotten People" when referring to the Métis based on a lack information on the Métis, in comparison to other Aboriginal peoples in Canada, and a lack of clear government policy when dealing with the Métis people. With this new commitment to work with Métis leadership on the place of the Métis people in federal Aboriginal policy, the Métis National Council, is optimistic the era of the Métis being referred to as a forgotten people is coming to an end.

President Chartier was also encouraged by Canada's commitment to ensure Aboriginal peoples can fully participate in national life based on their historic rights. In September of 2003, the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously affirmed that the Métis people have constitutionally protected rights on par to those of other Aboriginal peoples in *R. v. Powley*.

President Chartier commented, "This commitment in the Throne Speech is another example of how the Métis Nation is moving forward on its rights-based agenda. With this new commitment from Canada, our recent landmark victory at the Supreme Court, and a national definition of Métis that has been agreed to by all Métis governments from Ontario westward, we are ready to move forward on a new era of negotiations and reconciliation with the Canadian federation. This is truly a very exciting time for the Métis Nation."



Photo Credit: Kathy Hodgson-Smith

President Clément Chartier

To initiate this new era, a Métis Nation Multilateral Process which includes participation from the Métis Nation's governments, Canada, and the provinces from Ontario westward has been established to deal with Métis harvesting, access to resources, and other Métis-specific issues. The Métis National Council will be co-chairing the process, along with Canada and the Government of Alberta. Meetings are currently being held at an officials level and it is expected that a meeting of Métis Nation's leadership and Ministers will be held in the next few months.

President Chartier concluded by saying, "I would like to thank Prime Minister Martin for having the vision to change Canada's longstanding exclusion of Métis from its overall Aboriginal policy. The Métis Nation has always believed in the federation of Canada. Since the days of Riel, our people have fought to carve out a healthy space for our existence, as a distinct Aboriginal people, within the Canadian family. I hope that we can now begin that reconciliation process with the Government of Canada to build a stronger Métis Nation and Canada."

For more information:

Miles Morrisseau Director of Communications 613-232-3216 613-612-5753 (cell)	Katelin Peltier Communications Officer 613-232-3216 613-859-7130
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The Métis Nation Loses a Hero

The Métis Nation of Alberta respectfully mourns the death of Métis hero, Steve Powley on February 23, 2004. Steve passed away in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario after a long fight with diabetes. His wife Brenda and four children survive him: Paul, Evelyn, Roderick, Kimberley, and three grandchildren, Jerri-Lee, Anthony and Aaron.



Photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

Métis Regional Council Zone IV of the Métis Nation of Alberta



11724 95 Street
Edmonton, AB T5G 1L9
Phone (780) 944-9288
Fax (780) 455-5546
Toll Free 1-888-588-4088

Web site: www.metiszoneiv.com
Email: zoneiv@telusplanet.net

Zone IV provides a wide range of programs and services specifically designed to respond to the needs of Métis people in our area including:

- ∞ Political Representation and Advocacy
- ∞ Cultural Awareness
- ∞ Labour Market Development Unit
- ∞ -Métis Nation of Alberta Employment Assistance Service Centres in Hinton, Edmonton and Whitecourt
- ∞ Literacy Project Society for Métis Literacy
- ∞ Métis Child and Family Services
- ∞ Youth Cultural Camp (Drayton Valley)
- ∞ Economic Development
- ∞ Proposal Selection Committee
- ∞ Asokan
- ∞ Tender Ties
- ∞ Riel Institute for Education & Learning Society
- ∞ Métis Homelessness Program (Urban)
- ∞ Crime Prevention and Awareness Program (Urban)
- ∞ Métis Youth Programming
- ∞ Cultural Events
- ∞ Metis Opportunities Inc. [MOI]
- ∞ Cultural Preservation



The Powley Case What Does It Mean for Alberta Métis?

On September 19th, 2003, in a unanimous judgement in *R. v. Powley*, the Supreme Court of Canada affirmed what the Métis people have been saying for generations - we are a distinct Aboriginal people with existing Métis rights that are protected by Canada's Constitution. This was an historic day for the Métis Nation and a new dawn for Métis people and their rights.

This document has been prepared as an insert to *Fulfilling Canada's Promise: A Case Summary and Frequently Asked Question on R. v. Powley for Alberta Métis*. *Fulfilling Canada Promise* was prepared by the Métis National Council along with the Métis Nation's governments from Ontario westward to assist Métis citizens across the homeland better understand the *Powley* case and its implications. Additional copies of *Fulfilling Canada Promise* are available through the Métis Nation of Alberta.

This Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) document provides specific information on the implications of the *Powley* case for this province, the work being undertaken by the MNA on harvesting and access to resources issues, and the state of discussions between the Government of Alberta and the MNA with respect to the *Powley* case.

This document is not a legal opinion and should not be relied upon as such. It has been developed to assist in community meetings and upcoming community consultations. It will be updated regularly as discussions between the MNA and the Government of Alberta progress and additional information becomes available.

Does the *Powley* case apply to Alberta?

Yes. The *Powley* case sets the test that a Métis community must meet in order to establish a Métis right to hunt protected by s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. This test will apply to Métis communities in Alberta.

Why is the *Powley* case significant for Alberta Métis?

Prior to the *Powley* case, governments throughout Canada denied the very existence of Métis having existing Aboriginal rights and refused to negotiate with Métis governments on harvesting and access to resources issues. In the *Powley* case, the Supreme Court of Canada rejected these federal and provincial position and definitely said that Métis communities who meet the requirements set out by the Court in *Powley* have a Métis right to hunt protected by s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

This is significant for Alberta Métis because we now have a "test" that outlines how we establish a Métis right to hunt in our communities. Further, the *Powley* case provides a solid framework for negotiations between the MNA and the Government of Alberta in order to identify Métis communities who have existing harvesting rights in the province and to identify Métis who can exercise those rights.

As well, if governments are still not willing to negotiate, the *Powley* case provides direction to lower courts on how to determine whether a community holds a Métis right to hunt. However, it is the preference of the MNA that these issues be resolved through respectful negotiations rather than having to resort to litigation.

What does the Government of Alberta have to do?

The Government of Alberta, like all government in Canada, has a constitutional obligation to accommodate Aboriginal rights by ensuring its actions do not unjustifiably infringe on those rights.

Similar to the Ontario Government's scheme in the *Powley* case which was found to be an unjustifiable infringement on the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community's right to hunt, Alberta's current provincial regulatory regime provides no recognition or accommodation of the Métis right to hunt in the province. This must change in light of the *Powley* case.

What has the Government of Alberta done so far? What is the Métis Nation of Alberta doing?

The Government of Alberta has already written to the President of the MNA to initiate dialogue in order to address the implications of the *Powley* case in Alberta and to begin working together on harvesting and related issues. Preliminary meetings have been held and it is hoped that a consultation and formal negotiations process will be engaged in the next few months.

The leadership of the MNA is committed to working with the Government of Alberta in order to ensure conservation and calm is maintained during the transition period following the *Powley* decision. As well, the leadership of the MNA is committed to developing a mutually agreeable arrangement with the Government of Alberta which allows Métis harvesters to exercise their right to hunt without fear of prosecution or harassment while also ensuring the Métis Nation's values of conservation and public safety are respected.

Also, in the very near future, the MNA will begin a series of province-wide consultations on harvesting and access to resources related issues in order to inform and guide the discussions with the Government of Alberta. As well, Métis citizens will be updated every step of the way on progress being made.

What do I do for this Fall's harvest?

Unfortunately, since governments refused to negotiate with the Métis Nation with respect to harvesting issues prior to the Supreme Court's decision in *Powley*, there is going to be uncertainty this fall as everyone begins to understand the implications of the decision.

If you believe your community can meet the *Powley* test as outlined in *Fulfilling Canada's Promise*, you can harvest in your community's traditional hunting territory as long as you:

- self-identify as Métis;
- have an ancestral and on-going connection to the historic Métis community which hold a Métis right to hunt; and
- are accepted by the present day Métis community which has continuity to the historic Métis community.

Please note that a Métis community's traditional hunting territory is the area your community has historically relied upon in order to sustain itself. This does not mean you can hunt from one end of the province to the other. Métis traditional harvesting territories in the province are going to have to be determined through land use mapping, talking to elders and harvesters and evidence. This work has not been undertaken yet, so please talk to elders and traditional harvesters in your community and use common sense.

Can I still be charged?

Yes. The current law in Alberta states that individuals who hunt without a license can be charged under the provincial *Wildlife Act*. The law in Alberta also states that if you are found to be in possession of game that was killed illegally (without a license), you can be charged. At this time, the MNA cannot guarantee you will not be charged until we have some arrangement with the Government of Alberta.

Similar to years past, it is your decision whether you obtain a license or not. This is a personal decision. Through future negotiations and possible arrangement with the Government of Alberta, the MNA will be able to provide Métis harvesters with greater certainty in the future; however, you must be aware that you may still be charged this year since we do not currently have an arrangement with the Government of Alberta or know how Conservation Officers are going to react this Fall.

The MNA cannot provide you with a guarantee or commit to cover legal costs if you are charged; however, we have provided you with as much information as possible in order for you to make your decision for this year.

Whatever, your decision we are asking people to be polite, act responsibly this fall and respect our values of conservation and public safety.

Should I go hunting and get charged just to prove a point?

No. The MNA will not support or stand by individuals who take more harvest than they need or are disrespectful to other harvesters or Conservation Officers. Our ancestors have always said, with rights come responsibilities. Please continue to exercise our rights responsibly.

Does Powley Mean I don't have to register my gun?

No. Gun registration is under the Criminal Code of Canada. The *Powley* decision does not remove any obligation on the part of the gun owner to register his or her guns.

I have a MNA card. Does this mean I can hunt without a license in Alberta?

Not necessarily. Currently, MNA cards are not issued based on traditional harvesting territories nor do they indicate whether you have an ancestral connection to a specific historic Métis community in Alberta. An MNA may be proof of self-identification and community acceptance, but it does not guarantee you any hunting rights or privileges in Alberta.

Will the Métis Nation of Alberta assist in my legal defence if I am charged?

While the Métis Nation supports the recognition of the rights of all Métis in Alberta, it is not in a

financial position to provide financial or legal support to all individuals who are charged for hunting without a license, or any offence related to hunting.

However, the MNA will continue to move forward with the Government of Alberta in order to arrive at a mutually agreeable arrangement with the Government of Alberta which allows legitimate Métis rights-holders to exercise their right to hunt without fear of prosecution or harassment while also ensuring the Métis Nation's values of conservation and public safety are respected.

How does the *Powley* decision relate to our other Aboriginal rights, such as benefits and land rights?

It is important to remember that the *Powley* case is only about the Métis right to hunt. However, the Court said that the general purpose of s. 35 for the Métis is to protect the "practices that were historically important features of these distinctive communities and that persist in the present day as integral elements of their Métis culture." Achieving certainty on other Métis rights protected in s. 35 or other rights-based obligations owed by governments in Canada will come through negotiations between the Métis and governments in Canada and/or litigation.

Most importantly, the outcome of the *Powley* decision is very significant because it affirms the Métis exist as an Aboriginal people in Canada and they have existing Métis rights. The case sets a very strong precedent for future negotiations, and litigation if necessary, for recognition of our other rights.

What can I do as a Métis person in Alberta to help secure future recognition of our Aboriginal rights?

We are confident that the firm commitment that we have from the Government of Alberta to discuss the resolution of these issues out of court will result in the recognition of the hunting rights of Alberta Métis. However, all Métis people in the province are an important part of this opportunity following the *Powley* decision. You as a Métis person can do a number of things to assist:

- Attend one of the upcoming community consultations across the province;
- Write to your local MLA in support of Métis rights;
- Maintain your membership in a Métis local/zone and support community activities;
- Stay informed of local developments, meetings, workshops that may be offered on the topic of traditional harvesting practices and/or traditional land use; and
- Tell other Métis people about the *Powley* decision and this information bulletin.

If you have further questions in regard to your rights as a Métis hunter in the province of Alberta, please contact the Métis Nation of Alberta at 780-455-2200 or 1-800-252-7553 (Alberta only).



- 1928 First Gathering at Frog Lake
- 1932 - Métis leaders form L'Association des Metis D'Alberta et des Territoires du Nord Ouest to represent the people
- First Annual Convention held in St. Albert, Alberta
- Abolishment of the term "Half Breed"; the term "Métis" adopted
- 1938 - Métis Population Betterment Act forms 12 settlements
- 1939 - Métis Soldiers fight for the Dominion in WWII
- 1979 - Stan Daniels makes historic trip to Ottawa with a coil of sausage to emphasize struggle of Métis
- 1982 - Métis receive Constitutional recognition, Section 35
- 1983 - Métis Urban Housing incorporated
- 1984 - Reorganization of governance structure - application of provincial Zones
- 1985 - Alberta adopted 'Resolution 18' to amendment Alberta Act & Métis Betterment Act
- 1987 - Apeetogosan created
- Métis Settlements resolve lawsuit with provincial government leading to Alberta Métis Settlements Accord
- 1987-1988 - First Framework Agreement signed
- 1990 - Métis Land Claim Settlements Act passed, Proclamation of Métis Settlement Accord
- 1991 - The name Métis Association of Alberta changes to Métis Nation of Alberta Association
- 1992 - Tripartite Agreement signed
- 1995 - Charlottetown Accord defeat leads to creation of Inherent Right Policy, Tripartite Process, and the position of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis & Non-Status Indians
- 1996 - Regional Bilateral Agreement signed
- 1997 - Acquired Delia Gray building to house Provincial Head Office
- 1999 - Acquired Inglewood Building delivery site of Edmonton Employment Assistance Services and Apeetogosan
- Continuance of Regional Bilateral Agreement phase referred to as the "Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy"
- 2000 - Provincial government delegates authority to deliver child and family services in the 8 Métis settlements.
- 2001 - Acquired Larry Desmeules building - Métis Urban Housing
- Acquired Victoria Landing
- 2002 - Purchased Oil Rig 100% Métis owned
- 2003 - Parliament passes Louis Riel Bill C-288
- *Powley* decision from Supreme Court of Canada
- Federal government commits to renewing the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy



Joe Dion
President 1932-1960



Adrian Hope
President 1960-1971



Stanley Daniels
President 1972-1975 & 1977-1979



Ambrose Laboucane
President 1975-1977



Sam Sinclair
President 1979-1988



Larry Desmeules
President 1988-1993



Audrey Poitras
President 1996-present

Evolution of a Nation

Article by Patricia Russell, Timeline by Roxanne Ropchan

When we reflect on the long history of the Métis Nation of Alberta, more than 75 years of history, we would be negligent to not consider what life was like back then, what moved the founding Fathers of this Nation to fight for change. What could they have imagined to eventually result, in the following decades, from the energy that drew them together on that one cold December night at Frog Lake?

Who can answer those questions, except by interpreting the ideas and frustrations documented forever in a letter written by Joe Dion in September of 1940 and now stored in the Alberta Provincial Archives, words that describe anxieties and stressors among the disenfranchised Métis struggling to build their own community?

Dion wrote, "I beg to say that my story only dates back from May 24, 1930 for it was on this day that I attended my first "Half breed" meeting. Mr. Delorme and a number of others who had been living at Fishing Lake near Frog Lake for many years had called a meeting for the purpose of organizing a Half-breed settlement at Fishing Lake. Having always taken a lively interest in the welfare of the Half-breeds, whose ranks I had joined...and believing that here at last was my chance to serve these people in their own settlement, where discrimination would not exist, I readily accepted the invitation and met with them at Fishing Lake".

Dion goes on to describe that, "In the course of this speech making I asked Mr. Cardinal, with whom I happened to be sitting, if at any time somebody had taken these talks on paper, or had an official of any kind ever attended these meetings. These are the very words Mr. Cardinal spoke, "no, this is as far as we've ever gone. We make a lot of speeches, then go back to our homes believing that we had accomplished something".

Dion realized the extent of the deplorable living conditions endured by the people and when asked about his ideas on the situation, he writes, "I may have said things which were not very complimentary to the occasion. The upshot of this flare of mine was that I was delegated then and there to go and present the Half breed case to the authorities in Edmonton."

Indeed, such coincidence has become a pivotal

moment in the history of Métis in Alberta, for it was there among that gathering of disowned men that the seeds of an organization were sown.

The sentiments and concerns expressed at that meeting and the subsequent actions taken led to the creation, in 1932, of the, Métis Association of Alberta, the prototype of our current organization. The first convention of its kind assembled on December 28 in the basement of the Roman Catholic Church at St Albert and led to the election of our first officers.

Officially named "L'Association des Métis d' Alberta et les Territoires du Nord-Ouest, the first elected representatives of that fledgling organization were: Joe Dion, President; Malcolm Norris, 1st Vice President; Felix Callihoo, 2nd Vice President; Peter Tompkins, 3rd Vice President and J.P. Brady, Secretary/Treasurer.

Among the first actions taken by that group in securing appropriate recognition to our people was the abolishment of the term "half-breed" which was replaced by the more appropriately descriptive term, "Métis".

The building blocks upon which our organization sits were laid at that first meeting: The reinstatement of the Métis race; to properly educate the Métis children and to take care of the sick. Three simple, straightforward principles that were relevant to the social concerns and living circumstances of the day; and still principles that have not eroded over the passage of 75 years and remain as significant today as they did that cold December night.

We can collectively celebrate the progress made by the Metis Nation of Alberta as a provincial organization. We have made enormous strides in our capacity to take care of our children and youth, our elders, and our communities. The development and delivery of programs in education and training, employment assistance, health and social services, housing and economic development are first-rate examples of how we can, together as one Nation, take care of our people.

We have made evolutionary advances in provincial, national and international politics since 1928, with respect to securing due recognition of Metis as a distinct aboriginal people. Section 35 of the Constitution, 1982, secures the protection of our

Photo No. c081787 Courtesy the National Archives of Canada

inherent Aboriginal rights. Canada's highest court has recently affirmed, through the *Powley* decision, that we are a distinct Aboriginal people with existing Metis rights protected by the Constitution.

Joe Dion and the first elected officials to represent the Métis could not have imagined the productive

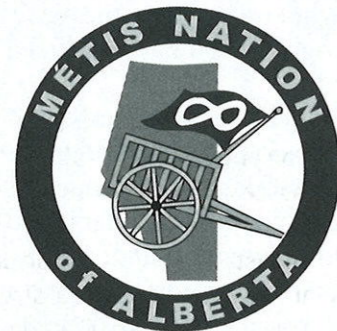
length and breadth of their initial good intentions. We have collectively taken their ideas and built ourselves, one stone at a time, one stick upon another, a nation of peoples bound by a common energy and passion, all in the interest of the recognition, protection and preservation of the Métis in Alberta.



Malcolm Norris, Peter Tompkins, Joseph Dion, Felix Callihoo and Jim Brady

The Scholarship & Bursary Handbook for Métis Students

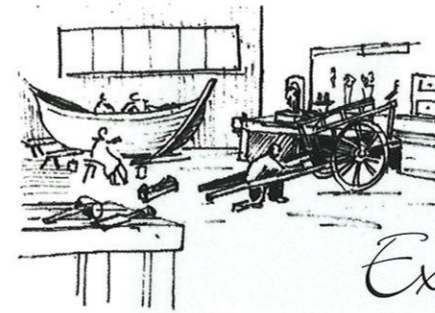
The "Scholarship and Bursary Handbook for Metis Students" is for information purposes in regards to accessing funding sources for employment training and continuing education.



- ∞ Tips for Accessing Financial Resources for Education and Training Purposes
- ∞ Awards for Aboriginal Students
- ∞ Public and Private Sector Awards
- ∞ Post-Secondary Institution Awards
- ∞ Delia Gray Memorial Scholarship
- ∞ Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards
- ∞ Student Finance Information - Grants and Student Loans
- ∞ The Métis Nation of Alberta Labour Market Development Program Employment Assistance Service Centres

Produced & Compiled by The Métis Nation of Alberta

For more information contact us at:
(780) 455-2200 or Toll free (Alberta Only) 1-(800) 252-7553



Métis Crossing

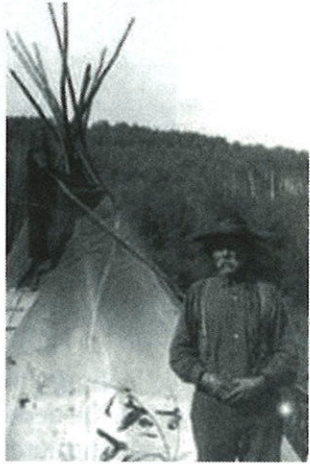
Experience Our Exciting Culture

A Distinct People

The Métis Legacy lives in the heart of Alberta. For more than 300 years we have been co-creators of our Canadian history.

The Métis Nation evolved in the historic northwest in the 18th and 19th centuries. Born of a mixture of French and Scottish fur traders and Cree, Ojibwa, Saulteaux, and Assiniboine women, the Métis in the northwest developed as a people, distinct from either Indian or European.

For decades Métis were denied the recognition of their collective rights and became Canada's "forgotten people." Only in Alberta was any action taken to alleviate this distress through the establishment of Métis settlements by the provincial government in 1938. The Métis were officially recognized as one of Canada's Aboriginal Peoples in the Canadian Constitution of 1982.



The Métis Today - An Exciting Time

Today, nearly 300,000 Métis call Canada home with Alberta having a population of more than 67,000 Métis. Most reside in western Canada, both in remote and urban communities and in Métis-only and mixed communities. There are over 300 Métis communities; most are English-speaking with some northern communities using Cree or Michif, the unique language that distinguishes the Métis.

In the February 2, 2004 speech from the throne, the Prime Minister expressed a commitment to work with Métis and signalled a fundamental shift in federal Aboriginal policy. President Clément Chartier of The Métis National Council expressed, "With this Speech, Prime Minister Martin has signalled that Métis exclusion must come to an end."

This is a very exciting time for the Métis people as they continue to build a stronger and highly recognized presence in Canada. Métis Crossing will play an integral role in sharing the stories of the Métis as part of the Canadian Family.

Celebrating Métis Culture

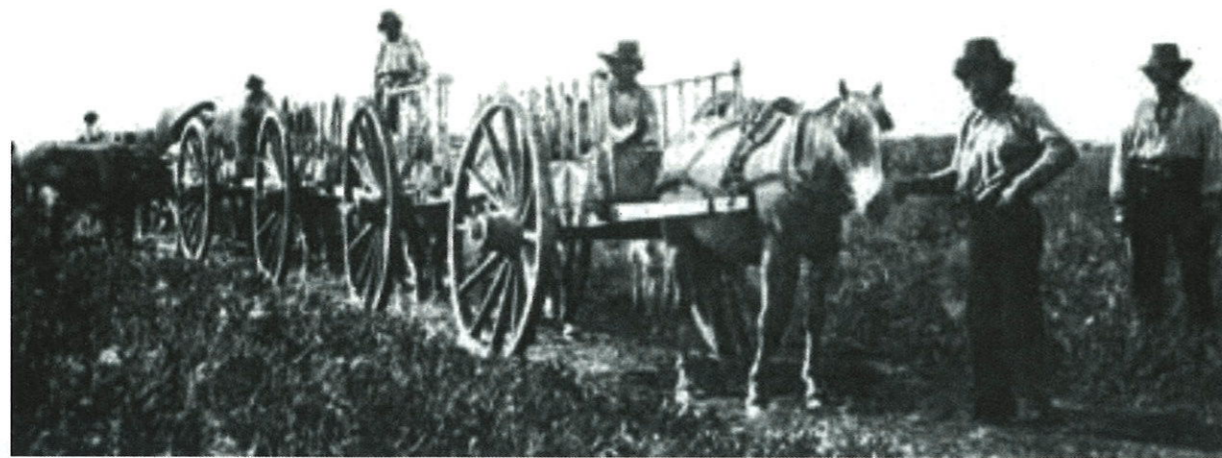
Métis Crossing sits on Victoria Landing, a picturesque 512-acre site, with a spectacular view from the banks of the North Saskatchewan River. An hour north of Edmonton and just south of Smoky Lake, Alberta, it is a perfect location to share the Métis culture and celebrate the Métis people and their history in Alberta.

The area of Victoria Landing and the Victoria Settlement is full of history. Archaeologically, excavations have uncovered remains of a 6,000 year-old campsite. The area also represents a direct link to the success of the Hudson's Bay Company, the fur trade, and the opening of Western Canada to



Europeans. A large Métis community was founded here; it served as a steamboat and ferry landing and a major stopping place along the Victoria Trail from 1863-1918. Nearby, one of the first gas wells was drilled and gold was panned for generations.

Currently the Landing and Settlement area feature our Métis Museum, an historic graveyard, the original HBC clerk's residence built in 1864 (left), and the 1906 Methodist church still standing in the Victoria Settlement Provincial Historic Site.



Living History Experience

Métis Crossing will focus on providing the opportunity for visitors to experience Métis history and enjoy the landscape. The activities at the site will provide valuable educational experiences for adults and children alike.

Visitors will tour historic buildings and learn from interpretive exhibits, artifacts and interactive programs. While experiencing Métis Crossing and the landscape, a full service campground will meet the needs of the camping enthusiast. Trails and picnic areas on site will ensure optimum enjoyment of the outdoors. Gift and food services will also be part of the on-site activities.

Links to Existing Local Attractions

Victoria Landing as the provincial Métis homeland is the centrepiece or hub of the Métis Nation of Alberta's tourism strategy. From a tourism perspective Métis Crossing will attract a high number of visitors as a year-round attraction.

In addition, we envision linking to existing local attractions such as the Pumpkin Festival in Smoky Lake, historic sites such as the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, national parks such as the Elk Island National Park, and other Métis cultural heritage sites. Métis Crossing will enhance the critical mass of these existing local attractions. It will also be available for private functions such as weddings, Christmas parties, and sleigh rides.

Considerable Progress To Date

Board of Directors is in place to oversee and guide the careful development of Métis Crossing. Consultants are providing expert assistance in several initiatives, such as:

- Historical research
- Baseline environmental inventory
- Cultural landscape and building design
- Markets planning (ecotourism, business, education, etc.)
- Business planning
- Implementation development planning

We are also committed to hearing directly from the communities who will be involved in the project and potential users to help ensure ongoing success.

Financial Overview

This project will be the premier centre for Alberta Métis cultural interpretation and will provide the basis for educational and business development. It will enhance knowledge about who the Métis are and will describe the unique Métis history for the benefit of all Albertans, Canadians and international visitors.

The Métis Nation of Alberta has been awarded a \$1 million Centennial Legacies Grant from the Alberta Government for the development of Victoria Landing, \$620,000 from the Belcourt-Brosseau Foundation for land purchase, and \$112,000 through Western Economic Development programs to create a detailed land development plan for the project.

The total projected cost to develop, build, equip, and furnish Victoria Landing is **\$3.6 million**.

Our Commitment

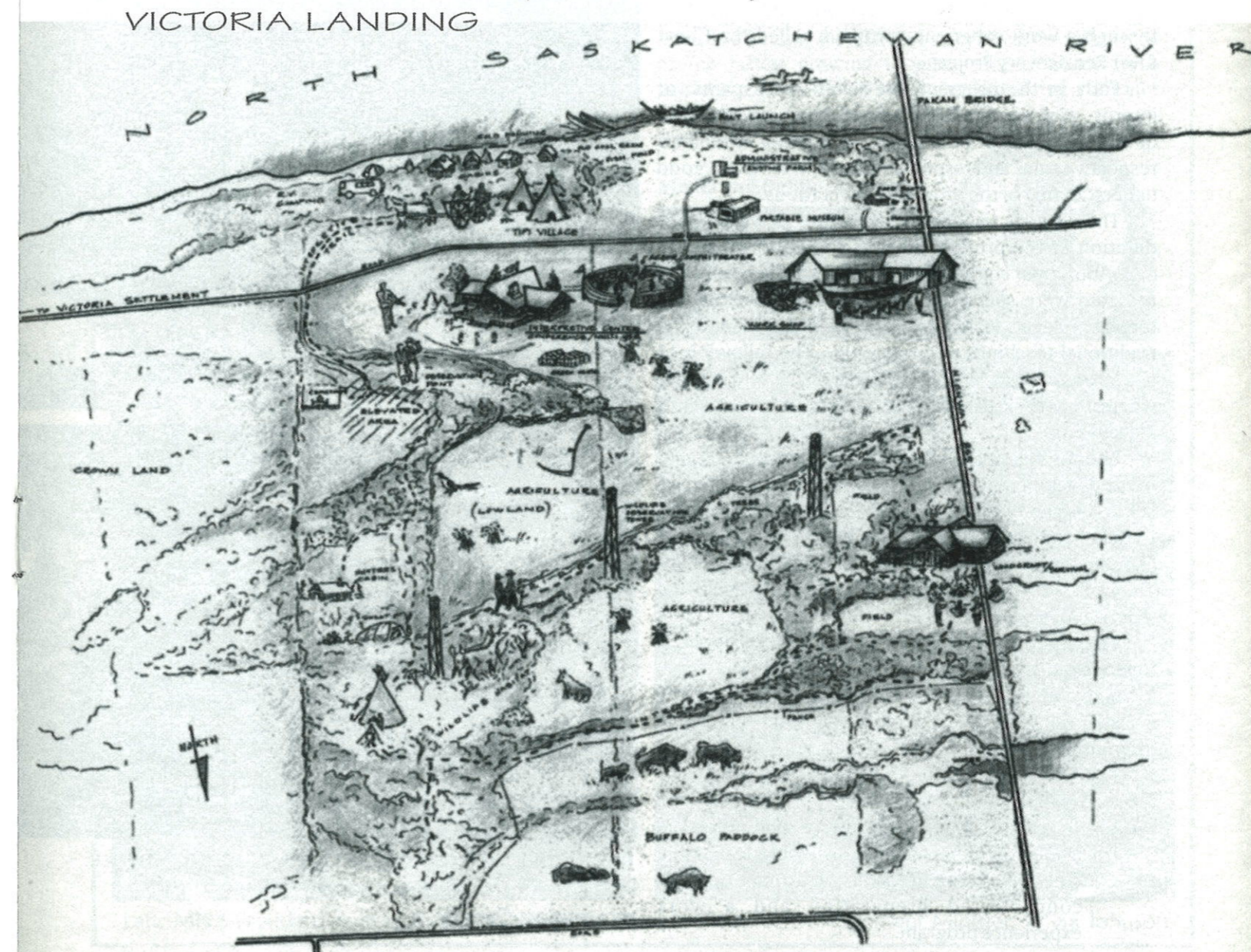
The Victoria Landing Board of Directors, a subsidiary of the Métis Nation of Alberta, is committed to providing leadership for this project. We recognize that partnerships with individuals, corporations, foundations and government are integral to the success of this development.

The Board is excited to be a part of this important venture and looks forward to seeing the vision and dreams of the Métis people for this land come to fruition.

Métis Crossing will be a place for all to experience, learn, and enjoy. We invite your perspectives on these exciting plans.



*Métis Crossing
Where you will breath the air of an ancient place,
Dance to the rhythm of Métis music
And experience an astonishing culture!*



Canada to Guyana

Métis Nation of Alberta Sends Youth Packing

Article by Kimberley Mueller, Photos courtesy the Métis Nation of Alberta

Five Métis youth had the opportunity to travel and work in Guyana, South America this year through a program supported by the Métis Nation of Alberta, First Nations Treaty Seven and the federal government's Human Resources & Skills Development. Ten youth, five Métis and five First Nations, travelled abroad and developed new technical, interpersonal and living skills through a work experience program called the Ghost River Rediscovery Project.

Early in the program, the youth participants, or interns, were required to establish clear expectations, develop their individual goals, to identify with their respective roles and responsibilities and to have a good understanding of the program expectations.

The interns lived together as a group for the duration of the project and in doing so formed their own Aboriginal community. The first 14 weeks of the program were spent in Canada, living in a mountain teepee village, learning from an Elder about the traditional teachings of our people. The following 11 weeks were spent in Guyana in a cross-cultural setting where they took part in a variety of work experience placements.

The interns received support and encouragement in the development of their career and life plans. Cross-cultural issues were also addressed, issues such as how to deal with culture shock, adjusting to the lifestyle in Guyana, group dynamics and individual responsibility. The course also focussed on developing leadership and team building skills.

The interns were required to fulfill a personal fundraising goal as part of the project. They also learned about the history and network behind the Ghost River Rediscovery Project and Youth Challenge International.

Project Goals:

- To create young, self aware and informed leaders by developing transferable leadership and employment skills learned through concentrated preparation and a work experience program.

- To develop employment skills that will assist interns in obtaining work and/or to help them define and achieve realistic educational goals and career development.



Top: Project Participants in Guyana, South America
Bottom: Participants at a teepee village in the mountains, Canada

NEWS RELEASE

Métis Nation of Alberta Applauds Renewal of the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy

Poitras calls on incoming Prime Minister Martin to commit increased resources to build a skilled Aboriginal workforce

(December 2, 2003) - EDMONTON - Audrey Poitras, Provincial President of the Métis Nation of Alberta today commended the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Minister for Children and Youth, for her announcement of the 5-year renewal of HRDC's Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy. The announcement was made at a news conference in Yellowknife, NT attended by Poitras and MNA Human Resource Development Minister, Sylvia Johnson.

HRDC partners with Aboriginal groups to administer Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreements (AHRDA's) to help Aboriginal people prepare for, find, get and keep jobs.

Since 1999, the Métis Nation of Alberta has been one of the most successful AHRDA holders in Canada, administering \$11 million dollars per year and assisting more than 6,000 Métis clients and other Aboriginals enter the workplace throughout the province.

HRDC and AHRDA holders have a proven track

record of increasing and strengthening the Métis participation in the labour market.

Poitras declared, "I applaud the Federal Government's continuing commitment to share responsibility for breaking down barriers and building a fully engaged Aboriginal work-force. The Métis Nation of Alberta is uniquely qualified to design, deliver and administer programs that best meet the needs of Alberta Métis."

"I call on incoming Prime Minister Martin to commit increased funding for AHRDA's to address the vital needs of the fastest growing segment of the labour force potential. This will be a key factor in building a brighter future for Métis people in Alberta," concluded Poitras.

Media and Public Inquiries:

Patricia Russell,
Public Relations
Métis Nation of Alberta
(780) 453-0283

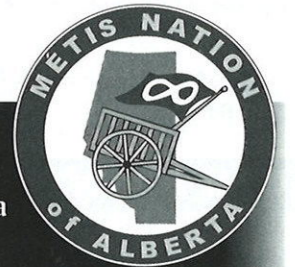


Photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith



Photo by Patricia Russell

Left: MNA President Audrey Poitras, Right: MNA Human Resource Development Minister, Sylvia Johnson

Métis Youth Programs

Article by Kimberly Mueller, Photos courtesy the Métis Nation of Alberta Labour Market Development

Why Have Métis Youth Programs?

It is a well-known fact that approximately 40% of the Métis population is younger than 15 years of age. Using these demographics, the Métis Nation of Alberta, with funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage and Human Resources & Skills Development, is working to ensure youth related issues are addressed and that programs are being developed to suit the needs of this new generation. Social indicators reveal that many of our Métis youth are, in some ways, an unusually troubled youth, leading to increased barriers in the pursuit of education or employment goals.

The statistics show alarming facts about our young people:

- 45% of Aboriginal youth do not complete high school.
- Suicide rate is five times higher than the national average.
- High numbers of teenage pregnancies.
- Unemployment rate among Aboriginal youth who do enter the labour force is consistently two to three times higher than the mainstream average.
- High number of Aboriginal youth in conflict with the law.
- Rate of welfare dependency is extraordinarily high among 19 to 24 year-olds.

What Type of Programs are Available for our Youth?

The Métis Nation of Alberta Labour Market Development Program has designed three youth programs under the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy (AHRDS). Programs specifically aimed at off-settlement Métis youth between the ages of 15 and 30 to address their employment and training needs. The goals of the youth programs are to...

- Help participants develop transferable employment skills and community leadership abilities;
- Provide youth with a culturally based exploration of their history;
- Provide youth with an opportunity to broaden their understanding and awareness of social and developmental issues faced by other aboriginal cultures internationally through a cross-cultural exchange; and
- Create a clear action plan to facilitate entry or re-entry into the workforce, as well as explore academic opportunities for the future.

Métis Youth Community Connections

This initiative links community based activities with unemployed, out of school Métis youth and provides them with an opportunity to gain relevant work experience, to learn transferable job skills and to develop interpersonal skills. Activities are designed to increase employability among young people and to address an identified community need.



Cadets - We did it!

Métis Youth Internship Program

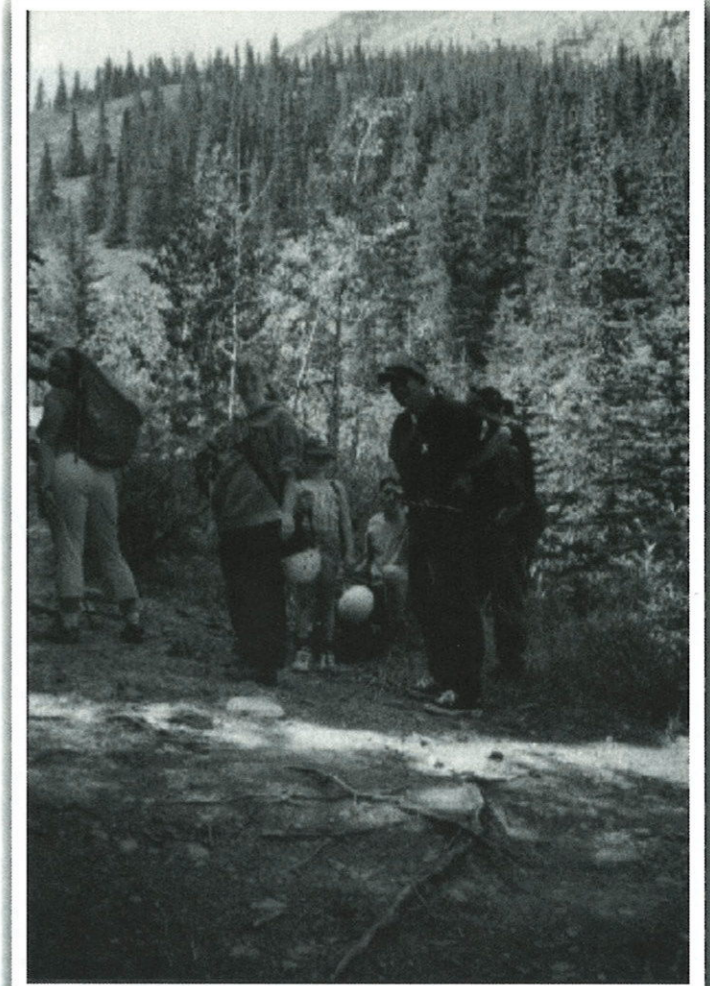
The Internship program provides work experience for Métis youth (high school or post secondary graduates) who have difficulties making a successful transition into the labour force. This is accomplished by offering a wage subsidy to employers, who then provide career-related work experience.

Métis Youth Summer Student Placement Program

The Métis youth Summer Placement Program offers a wage subsidy to private, public and non-profit employers who are able to provide an opportunity for Métis youth, who are still in school, to gain full time, quality work experience over the summer.



Rob Threadkell, Wynter Ducharme, Noah Johnson White Eagle, and Kristin



Blue Lake

How are the Programs Making a Difference?

Typically, these programs offer youth ideas for new ways of thinking and working. The programs encourage youth to strive that extra bit towards the realization of their goals. For many participants, this becomes the turning point where they decide whether to continue attending school or move into the workforce.

The second stream of youth programming available through the Métis Nation of Alberta is through the Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centre Initiative (UMAYCI). The objectives of the UMACI are:

- To improve the economic, social, and personal prospects of urban Aboriginal youth.
- To provide accessible, Aboriginal community-based, culturally relevant and supportive projects, programs and services, addressing a wide range of youth-related issues and needs.
- To support co-operative and collaborative Aboriginal community-based initiatives to address the needs of urban Aboriginal youth.

For six years, the Métis Nation of Alberta, through the Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centre Initiative, has supported projects ranging from Youth drop-in

centres to a lunch program to help students in need. UMACI programs are important to our communities as they provide our youth with the opportunity to experience and take part in activities that might otherwise be outside of their reach.

If you have any questions regarding the youth-related programs available through the Métis Nation of Alberta, please contact Kimberly Mueller at 1-800-252-7553.



R.C.M.P. - (Back row) Karen Adams, Jennifer Kroetch, Holly Mueller, Sonya Lambert, Yvonne Nepooee-Rich, Jennifer Mueller, and Laurelle John (Front row) Cody McAteer, Chris Kelly, Clayton Bird, Shane Noon



Alberta Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards

April 2, 2004

Chateau Louis, 11727 Kingsway Avenue
Edmonton

5:00 PM - Career Fair & Crafters

6:00 PM - Dinner and Awards

Look for highlights of the winners in the following award categories in our next edition of Otipemisiwak

- ∞ Culture & Heritage
- ∞ Athletic Achievement
- ∞ Volunteer Service
- ∞ Career Advancement
- ∞ Academic Achievement
- ∞ Personal Achievement

For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact
Kim Mueller at the Métis Nation of Alberta
1-800-252-7553

NEWS RELEASE President Audrey Poitras Counts on Government to Uphold Commitment



Photo Credit: Kathy Hodgson-Smith

MNA President Audrey Poitras

Historic recognition of Métis in Throne Speech by Federal Government an important first step in turning the corner on Aboriginal issues

(February 2, 2004) - EDMONTON - Audrey Poitras, Provincial President of the Métis Nation of Alberta, today expressed her appreciation for the historic recognition of the Métis people in its first Throne Speech of the new Government, and its commitment to provide better opportunities for Aboriginal people to share in our Country's good fortune.

The Government clearly committed itself to the goal of seeing Aboriginals fully participate in national life, on the basis of "historic rights and agreements."

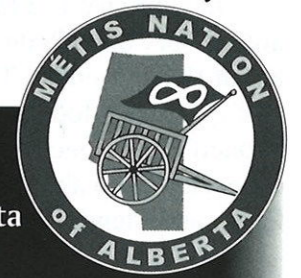
Most importantly to us, the federal Government committed to not being deterred by

jurisdictional wrangling and "to engage other levels of government and Métis leadership on the place of Métis in its policies."

President Poitras said, "The federal Government has set an ambitious and historic agenda for Métis people in Canada. We accept the Prime Minister's call to turn the corner. We will play our part. Added President Poitras, "The Métis people will hold the Government to its commitments to fairness, justice and decency. We can do no less for our people."

Media and Public Inquiries:

Patricia Russell
Public Relations
Métis Nation of Alberta
(780) 453-0283



Otipemisiwak

The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta

As the voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta, Otipemisiwak would like to encourage Métis readers to submit articles, photos and stories on current or past events. Let your voice be heard!

Phone: (780) 453-0283 or
1(800) 252-7553 (Alberta Only)
Fax: (780) 452-8946
Email: communications@metis.org



Otipemisiwak
Métis Nation of Alberta
#100 Delia Grey Building
11738 Kingsway Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5

Coping With *The Loss of a Loved One*

Article and photo courtesy Paulette Gosselin

Therapists counsel grieving families and friends by suggesting they take part in activities that will help to embrace their grief and loss. This is one way a family chose to mark the anniversary of the loss of their son, brother, friend and loved one.

Paulette Gosselin lost her son, Joel-David Legiehn after he was injured in a fall from a tank while working for a drilling company in northern BC. Joel was 29 years old at the time of his death and his family and friends have found it very difficult to cope with the loss of someone so young and vibrant. All agree on the importance of doing things to keep his memory alive and to talk about Joel often. Even though his physical presence is no longer with us, his spirit and his being will be in our hearts and memories forever.

On February 1, 2004, the family marked the first anniversary of Joel's death with a memorial dinner for about thirty friends. The dinner included a menu of Joel's favorite foods. He always enjoyed "home cooked" roast beef dinners with all the trimmings, especially the cabbage rolls, in a feast shared with family and friends.

Joel's sister, Pamela McLearn, assembled a video with photographs from when he was a baby to recent pictures taken with his father on a visit to Regina. Watching the images after dinner had an emotional impact on those who gathered to celebrate Joel. Seeing photographs of a young man embracing life made for a bittersweet realization of the very precious nature of life. The guests were entertained with wonderful music played by the very talented Kirk Boucher and Jess Lee.

A memorial mass was held on the following Sunday at the Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples with Father Jim Holland OMI officiating. Joel's picture, a Métis sash and an eagle feather sat in prominence on a table at the front of the church. The family selected special hymns for the choir to sing.

Joel's brother, Garry Legiehn and Allison Guichon chose that Sunday to baptize their daughter, Danica Joel, in a ceremony after the mass. What better way



Joel-David Legiehn 1974-2003

to remember their brother than to have a namesake in the family. Danica was born December 13, 2003. Three other baptisms took place that day and everyone enjoyed hearing the "Sparrow Song" sung by Jess Lee for the special occasion.

The memorial dinner is one of the special activities the family has done to help them through the healing process. Paulette believes by creating special events, such as the memorial dinner, celebrating Joel's birthday on July 22, planting a tree, writing his story, making a memory book, assembling the CD-Rom of photographs, starting plants from Joel's own potted plant to give to friends, giving away Joel's t-shirts to his friends, these are all actions that have helped deal with the grief and sense of loss.

A PERSONAL FIGHT A NATION'S PLIGHT

A Personal Fight A Nation's Plight

Article by Fran Hyndman

The Métis Nation of Alberta hosted the first ever "Métis Diabetes Conference" in Edmonton on March 17 to 19. The well-attended event featured the launch of a cookbook with tasty recipe suggestions appropriate for a diabetic diet. The conference participants also saw the launch of a new information video titled, "Living Healthy with Diabetes". The *St Albert Gazette* wrote, "Embracing the traditional Métis culture such as music and dance can do a lot to create a healthier lifestyle."

For more information on how to get a copy of the video or the cookbook, call the Métis Nation of Alberta at (780) 455-2200 or 1-800-252-7553.

6th Annual

Métis Entrepreneurial Leadership Awards

Friday April 16, 2004

Please join us for a Great Evening of Fun & Métis Entrepreneurial Leadership Awards



Key Note Speaker: Jason Madden

- Legal Council Métis National Council
- Lawyer on Powley Hunting Rights Case

Singer: Dorothy Walker

Fiddler: Dean Melcolm, Bob Willies, Gabriel Dumont

Calgary Métis Youth Dancers

Coast Plaza Hotel

1716 - 33 St. NE, Calgary, Alberta



Reception: 5:30 pm

Dinner: 6:30 pm

Dress: Business/Evening

Tickets: \$550.00 Table of 8

\$75.00 per person

Master of Ceremonies: Winston Wuttenee

For Tickets and Event Sponsorship Information

Please Contact Region III Office

Ph: (403) 569-8800 Fax: (403) 569-8959 Email: mlanz@metis.org

The Métis Nation of Alberta *Registry and Membership*

Article by Irene Collins, Photo by Patricia Russell

Delegates at the Annual General Assembly held in Edmonton in August 2004 passed the following definition: "Métis means a person who self-identifies as a Métis, is distinct from other aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation." The work of the Metis Nation of Alberta Registry and Membership is based upon this definition.

Historical Proof refers to evidence of an ancestor who received a land grant or a scrip grant under the Manitoba Act or the Dominion Lands Act, or who was recognized as a Métis in other government, church or community records. Historic Métis Nation refers to the Aboriginal people then known as Métis or Half-breeds who resided in the Historic Métis Nation Homeland. Historic Métis Nation Homeland is the area of land in west central North America used and occupied as the traditional territory of the Métis or Half-breeds as they were then known. Métis Nation means the Aboriginal people descended from the Historic Métis Nation, which is now comprised of all Métis Nation peoples and is one of the "aboriginal peoples of Canada" as defined in s.35 of the Constitution Act 1982. Distinct from other Aboriginal peoples

means distinct for cultural and nationhood purposes.

If you are considering applying for a membership with the Metis Nation of Alberta, you will need to pick up an application form from either our head office if you are in Edmonton, or from one of the six Regional Council offices located in Lac La Biche, Bonnyville, Calgary, Edmonton, Slave Lake and Peace River. Some Métis Local offices also carry the application packages; you should contact your Métis Local directly to determine if they have the MNA Membership application packages.

In the application package, you will find a New Individual Membership Application form; this form is



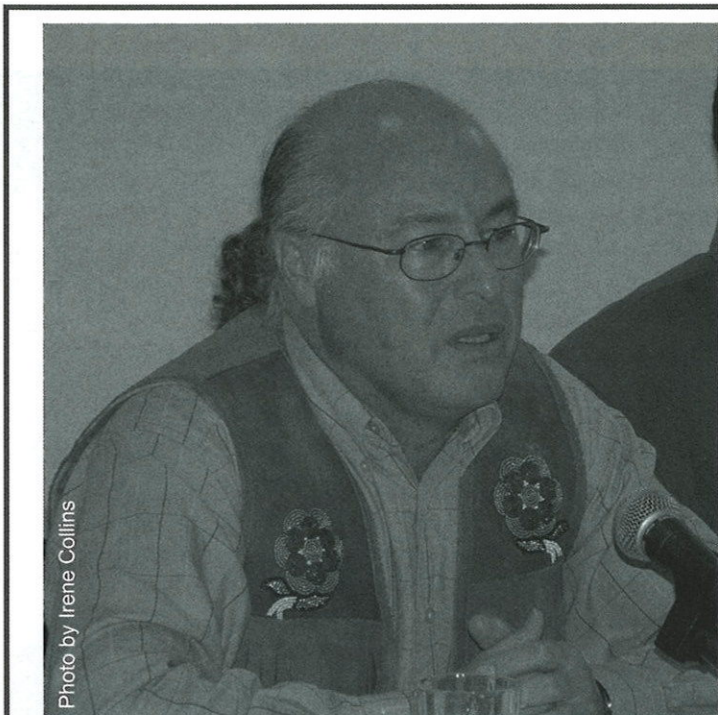
Membership clerks Inez Isbister and Rhonda Franson and genealogist Beatrice Jobin Demetrius staff our central Registry. Their job is to review new, renewal and updated membership applications.

to be used if you are applying for membership for the first time. Youth Membership Application form, this is for children 15 and under applying for the first time. Use the Replacement Application if you already have a membership and are updating your file, or getting a new card. Other documents in the kit are a Genealogy Sources document and a blank family tree form; this is to help you to trace your ancestry. The Consent to Release Confidential Information Form helps us to determine who can access your family tree information.

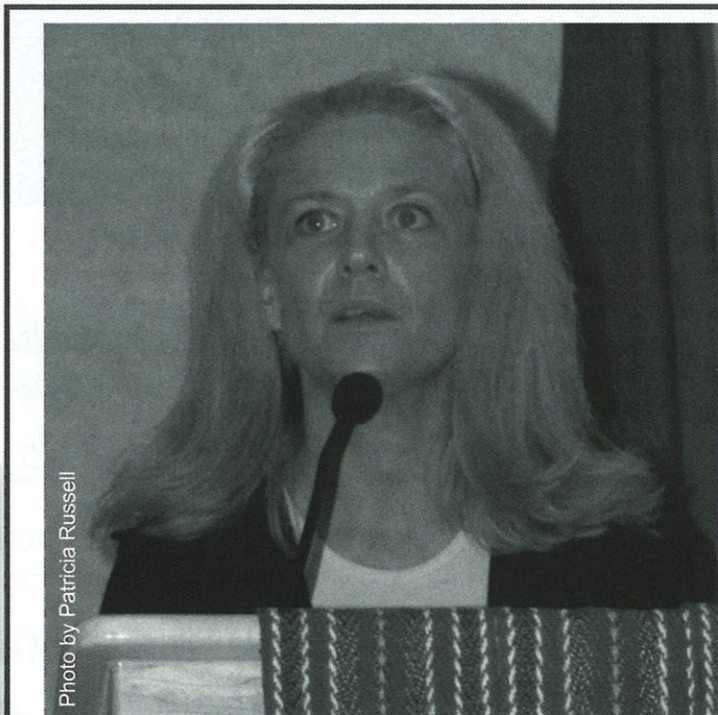
If you are making application for membership for the first time, you will need to apply in person at either one of the Regional offices or a Métis Local office. What you will need to bring with you when you are applying is a long form Birth Certificate or Baptismal Certificate (either of these forms must have your parents names on it), Valid Picture Identification (drivers licenses, passport, etc), and a completed family tree dated back to at least 1885 or earlier if you can. You must include dates and places of birth. A genealogist and two registry clerks are on staff to help you with your search for family information.

If you are updating or applying for a replacement card you will need to contact the head office to see what is missing from your file. Once you have been advised as to what is missing and have obtained these documents you can then apply in person at one of the regional office or a local that is set up for membership.


The membership application process takes from 4 - 6 weeks to complete. If you have any questions about membership please feel free to contact our head office at 455-2200 or toll free at 1-800-252-7553.



The Métis Nation of Alberta congratulates Clément Chartier on his recent election as the new president of the Metis National Council (MNC).



Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras congratulates Lorna Docken on her election as Interim President of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan. Ms. Docken was elected to the position in January at the Annual General Assembly held in Saskatoon, SK.



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Beatrice Jobin Demetrius proudly displays her family's genealogy

Genealogy Searching the Roots of Family Trees

Article by Beatrice Jobin Demetrius
Photo by Patricia Russell

After years of researching my family tree, I am proud to say I can trace my lineage back to cousins who served as voyagers, interpreters, guides, and to soldiers who served in the armies of Cuthbert Grant and Louis Riel.

Genealogical research is particularly important for Métis families to better understand our history and the influence that history has on our lives. My own family tree includes names such as Jobin, Quintal, Cardinal, Desjarlais, Bremner, Chalifoux, Dumas, Mandeville and Frobisher, to list a few. A thorough search of the Métis Nation of Alberta's historical documents has helped me find relatives who settled in areas such as Grouard, Big Prairie, Lac La Biche, Peace River and St. Albert in Alberta, north to Fort Resolution and east to Batoche.

The Métis Nation of Alberta holds genealogy workshops every month to assist Métis in the search of their history. We invite Métis to access our historical records, Métis scrips and our general knowledge to help you find out more about the roots of your family tree.

Mary Poitras, A Métis Matriarch

Her Passing

Article and Photo courtesy Carol Jenkins

A great lady lies dying in a hospital room in a small, Alberta town. Her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren surround her twenty-four hours a day. Her husband of sixty-five years sits at her left side. On her right sits her sister.

The hospital has provided a room with an adjoining sitting room, complete with fridge, TV, microwave oven and spare bed for her husband who refuses to leave her side for longer than a few hours. The staff is friendly, kind, and understanding, even when both rooms are literally full of visitors late into the night. They pray uninterrupted and sing the gospel songs she loves with accompanying guitars and voices raised in praise.

Her children and grandchildren tend to her with living hands: her face washed, hair combed, lips moistened and wiped with Q-tips, spoon fed, water held as she is coaxed to drink, and faithfully turned to prevent bed sores.

Her children are many, ten in all. Each of them having at least two children, at the most, eight. The grandchildren are not easily numbered and, in most cases, have their own families. The great-grandchildren have also begun having families. There are five generations living at this moment, but her time grows short.

Many family members who live close by come to the hospital on a daily basis or when their work permits. Others who live further come on the weekends and provide a welcome relief for those who are heart-sore and weary. During the week, people call to see how she is doing and to check the progression of the cancer, which is ruthlessly consuming her from within. She is in the final stage.

When she was young, she considered becoming a nun but, instead, lost her heart to a brash young man with an easy smile and a playful character. The children began coming within a year of the wedding and soon World War II broke out. Her husband was called overseas and she was left with three small children and a farm to tend on her own. She managed to keep the farm intact until her husband returned.

Unfortunately, as with many men who see combat, her husband came back with demons. They eventually lost the cattle and horses to the bottle and her life became a nightmare as her husband struggled with his vices and internal torment. He rarely, if ever, spoke about the images and memories haunting his mind. The children kept coming. In time, her husband vanquished the bottle but the damage incurred in the drinking years was extensive.

What sustained her throughout the turmoil in her long life was her unwavering faith in God and the Catholic Church. These values she passed on to her children. She watched as her children, and many of those who came after, were baptized and confirmed. The Rosary was taught to the grandchildren and Holy water was sprinkled through the house during violent thunderstorms.

She smoked throughout her life and resisted the



Mary Poitras 1920-2004

Genealogy Workshops

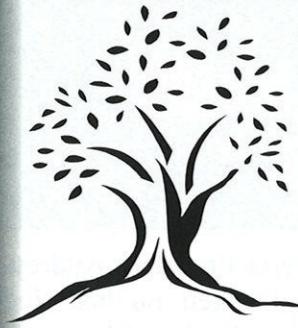
Organized by the
Métis Nation of Alberta

Historical documents and scrips can be made available to help you search the roots of your family tree.

For more information, call Beatrice

(780) 476-2715
1-800-252-7553

Métis Nation of Alberta
#100 Delia Grey Building
11738 Kingsway Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5



efforts of her partner, family and doctors encouraging her to quit. This vice invited the cancer into her lungs.

It wasn't all pain and sorrow though. She knew laughter and joy as well. Her children and grandchildren have talents in music and their abilities shared them with many communities throughout Alberta. Their music filled the local halls, talent shows and churches. The family excelled in sports and in the winter, she was cheering on her sons and grandsons at the local hockey arenas. Summers found her in the stands at baseball diamonds encouraging her sons and daughters.

Her own gifts were many. Possessed of a keen mind and ready wit, she faithfully kept a personal journal written with a clever and insightful hand, perhaps a legacy of her father, J.F. Dion. She amasses a collection of small,

hand-written notes on brightly coloured bits of paper; glimpses of other musings or her own complex thoughts. She was able to sew her own clothes and blankets, a skill she passed on to others, and could cut a rug with the best of them. She gave selflessly and her thoughts and prayers were often for her loved ones rather than herself. She was a devoted spiritual leader. After God though, the unity of her family was her main concern. She wanted the family built with love, laughter, pain and tears to never be parted.

Mary Poitras lived a long, full life, marred by hardship and pain, yet softened by love and affection. On January 10, 2004 while surrounded by family and song, she quietly slipped away. A classic portrait of a Métis matriarch, she has left behind her loving family, which will never be the same.



Alberta Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards

Have you bought your ticket?
Individual Price: \$25.00
Tables available upon request

Chateau Louis Hotel & Conference Centre, Edmonton
11727-Kingsway Avenue
Friday, April 2, 2004

*This event recognizes the achievements of
Aboriginal Youth in Alberta
Everyone is Welcome to Attend*

For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact
Kim Mueller at the Métis Nation of Alberta
1-800-252-7553

LABOUR MARKET DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM Assistance For Individuals



Are You...

- A Métis Alberta resident living off-settlement?
- Facing employment barriers?
- Unemployed, underemployed or employment threatened?
- Legally entitled to work in Canada?
- In need of employment assistance?

Are You Prepared To...

- Complete an action plan leading to employment?
- Be ready, willing and able to undertake and successfully complete your chosen intervention?
- Be entering an occupation that will result in self sufficiency?

Employment Assistance Service Centres are here to help!

Lac La Biche

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Lac La Biche AB T0A 2C0
780-623-2524
1-877-623-2524

Fort McMurray

Bay 301 Tamarack Village
9612 Franklin Ave.
Fort McMurray AB T9H 2J9
780-714-3029

Conklin

General Delivery
Conklin AB T0P 1H0
780-559-8995

Bonnyville

5102-51 St.
Bonnyville AB T9N 2H9
780-826-7368
1-877-523-7203

Calgary

#5-2611 37th Ave NE
Calgary AB T1Y 5V7
403-250-8902
1-877-250-4295

Lethbridge

740-4th Ave South
Lethbridge AB T1J 0N9
403-317-1555

Red Deer

105-4711-51st Ave
Red Deer AB T4N 6H8
403-358-7734

Medicine Hat

#8-3307 Dunmore Rd SE
Medicine Hat AB T1B 3R2
403-504-4056

Edmonton

12308-111th Ave
Edmonton AB T5M 2N4
780-423-2237

Whitecourt

Box 454
205 Midtown Mall, 5115 - 49 St.
Whitecourt AB T7S 1N6
780-706-2339
1-866-706-2339

Hinton

568 Carmicheal Lane
Hinton AB T7V 1X8
780-865-8229

Slave Lake

105-6 Ave. Box 1259
Slave Lake AB T0G 2A0
780-849-4660

High Prairie

4932-15 St. Box 96
High Prairie AB T0G 1E0
780-523-2004

Wabasca

2691 Strawberry Lane
Box 148
Wabasca AB T0G 2K0
780-891-2363

Peace River

9615 100th Street
Peace River AB T8S 1J7
780-624-0703

Grande Prairie

10011-102nd Street
Grande Prairie AB T8V 2V5
780-539-5477
1-877-538-5477

High Level

9806 - 98 Street
Box 150,
High Level AB T0H 1Z0
780-841-0600



Métis Nation of Alberta
*"Together We Will Continue
To Build A Nation."*

"Without a struggle, there can be no progress"

Métis Nation of Alberta

Celebrates 75th Anniversary

President Audrey Poitras

Article and Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith
Reprinted with permission from the July-August 2003 Issue of New Breed Magazine

While the story of the Métis in Alberta begins long before 1928, the Métis Nation of Alberta celebrates its 75th Anniversary marking a celebration of the collective voice of the Métis in their province. The celebration followed a two-day Métis Rights conference arranged by MNA Zone IV, under the direction of Jerry Letendre, Zone IV President and Minister of Children Services for MNA, and Cecil Bellrose, MNA Zone IV Vice-President and Minister responsible for Métis Nation Agenda. The conference opened with remarks by President Audrey Poitras, followed by presentations and discussions by lawyers, academics and community members on the issues, the research and the challenges ahead for the Métis Nation. Issues such as land claims and citizenship registration, Métis harvesting rights and Métis

Nation judicial systems and governance were discussed.

The Anniversary celebrations, entitled *Celebration 75, The Métis Nation Legacy*, were held at the Mayfield Inn and Trade Centre in Edmonton and were opened with a procession of Métis Veterans, Elders and Dignitaries, to the sound of the Métis Anthem as sung by Lorilee Brooks. Opening remarks were given by President Poitras, on behalf of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Clément Chartier, on behalf of the Métis National Council, David Chartrand, on behalf of the Manitoba Métis Federation, Harley Desjarlais, on behalf of the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia, and Gary Lapinski, on behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario. The Government of Canada's Métis Interlocutor, the Honourable Ralph Goodale gave

opening remarks, along with Senator Thelma Chalifoux. Several other dignitaries gave words of support at the opening of the 75th Annual General Assembly of the Métis in Alberta. Reports were provided by elected officials on the business of the Métis Nation since last assembly. During the lunch hour, Mrs. Mary Benoit was honoured as she celebrated her 100th Birthday. The evening's events

included a Gala which began with the entrance of the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, The Honourable Lois E. Hole, who presented the Governor General's Medal of Bravery to Mr. Claude Delorme of Grande Cache, Alberta. The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal was presented to Mrs. Audrey Poitras, as President of the Métis Nation of Alberta. After the delicious hot meal, a 75th Anniversary Time Capsule was presented by Vice-President Trevor Gladue, along with his many young companions. Following this, they held a series of presentation awards to special individuals who had made a contribution toward the strength and unity of the Métis Nation in an effort toward nation-building.

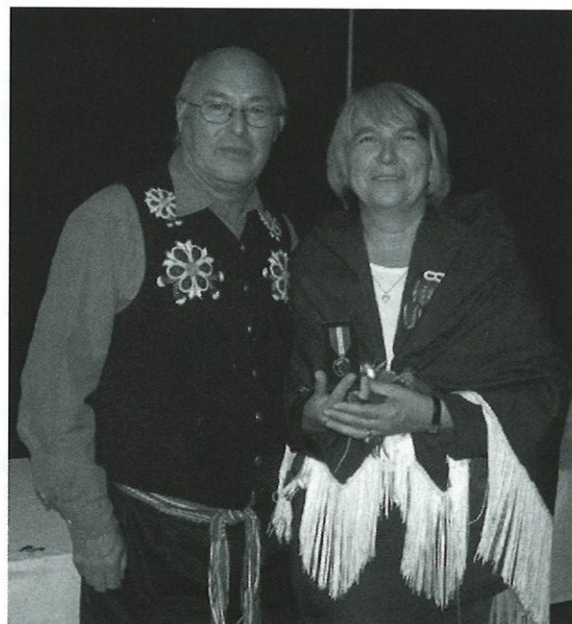
Honouring the Contributors to Nation Building:

Seventy five years ago, five men saw the need to come together collectively to address the destitute conditions being faced by Métis everywhere in Alberta. They understood the importance of having one collective voice if Métis were to be heard by the governments of the day. As we gather here this evening let us take time to reflect on the sacrifices made and struggles endured by men like J. F. Dion, Jim Brady, Malcolm Norris, Pete Tompkins and Felix Callihou to ensure our existence and well being as a Métis Nation. There are many of you here this evening that can identify at least one other individual who has participated in the building of our Nation throughout the 75 years. Many are no longer with us let us not forget their hard work and truly appreciate the legacy they shaped for us and for our children. Tonight, we honour just a few of these pioneers of the Métis Nation of Alberta. "Without a struggle, there can be no progress". President Audrey Poitras.

Honours Went To: Walter Anderson; Pat Beacon; Herb Belcourt; Minnie Belcourt; William Boucher; Rene Boucher; Mabel Courtoreille; Chester Cunningham; Late Stan Daniels; Francis Dumais; Dean Franklin; Marge Friedel; Sophie Hiebert; Late Hazel Hopps; Ruth Kidder; Josephine Laboucane; Lloyd Norris; Peter Pelletier; Stan (Butch) Plante; Emery Poitras (Muskwa); Lloyd Poitras; Mary Poitras; Fred Reid; Alvena Strasbourg; Josephine Taylor; and Art Thiebert.



Left: President Audrey Poitras and the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, The Honourable Lois E. Hole



Right: President Clément Chartier and President Audrey Poitras



Apeetogosan

(Métis) Development Inc.

Article and photos by George Vass

Since inception of Apeetogosan back in 1984, the focus of the corporation has been to assist Métis entrepreneurs throughout Alberta gain independence through self-employment. In building a nation, we must look to developing an economic base much like our ancestors before us.

Over the years, Apeetogosan has lent out over \$32 Million dollars to a variety of business ventures. Many of these businesses are still going strong today and are providing a source of employment for many of our people. The economic benefits to our communities and to the Province are incalculable.

Loans can vary from as low as \$5,000 for a home-based business, to as high as \$250,000 or more for those business ventures that have demonstrated

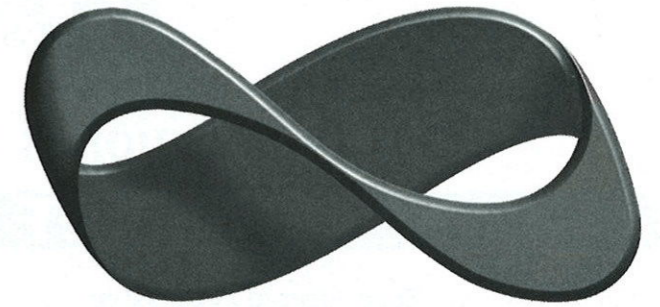
strong growth. We are not in competition with traditional lenders and we are not a lender of last resort. We want to help those people that have a well developed business plan combined with the necessary experience and skills to carry the project through. Many of our clients use our services because we are more flexible in our terms and we are prepared to work with our clients during difficult times.

While lending money is the primary role of Apeetogosan, our subsidiary, Pinnacle Business Services Ltd. was established to assist our clients in preparation of business plans, feasibility studies, marketing plans and a variety of other services that help our clients succeed in today's business world.

Pinnacle also provides assistance to our clients in setting up accounting records, bookkeeping services and financial management support services. Pinnacle works closely with our in-house representative for Aboriginal Business Canada (ABC) by assisting individuals in accessing federal contribution programs that our clients may be eligible for.

Funding assistance through Aboriginal Business Canada has helped many of our clients over the years. The contribution programs available to our budding entrepreneurs include tourism, manufacturing and youth entrepreneurship. The enhancement to the youth entrepreneurship program has increased the maximum age eligibility from 29 years to 35 years. There are other programs available to our clients such as business, professional, scientific and technical services and funding assistance to those businesses that may be linked to oil sands expansion. For existing businesses, the ABC programs support innovation wherein the business will be adopting new technology to improve productivity and profitability. Existing businesses looking at trade and market expansion can access this program as well.

We welcome all of you to visit our web site at www.apeetogosan.ab.ca to learn more about our services.



APEETOOGOSAN

Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc.

#302, 12308 - 111 Avenue

Edmonton AB T5M 2N4

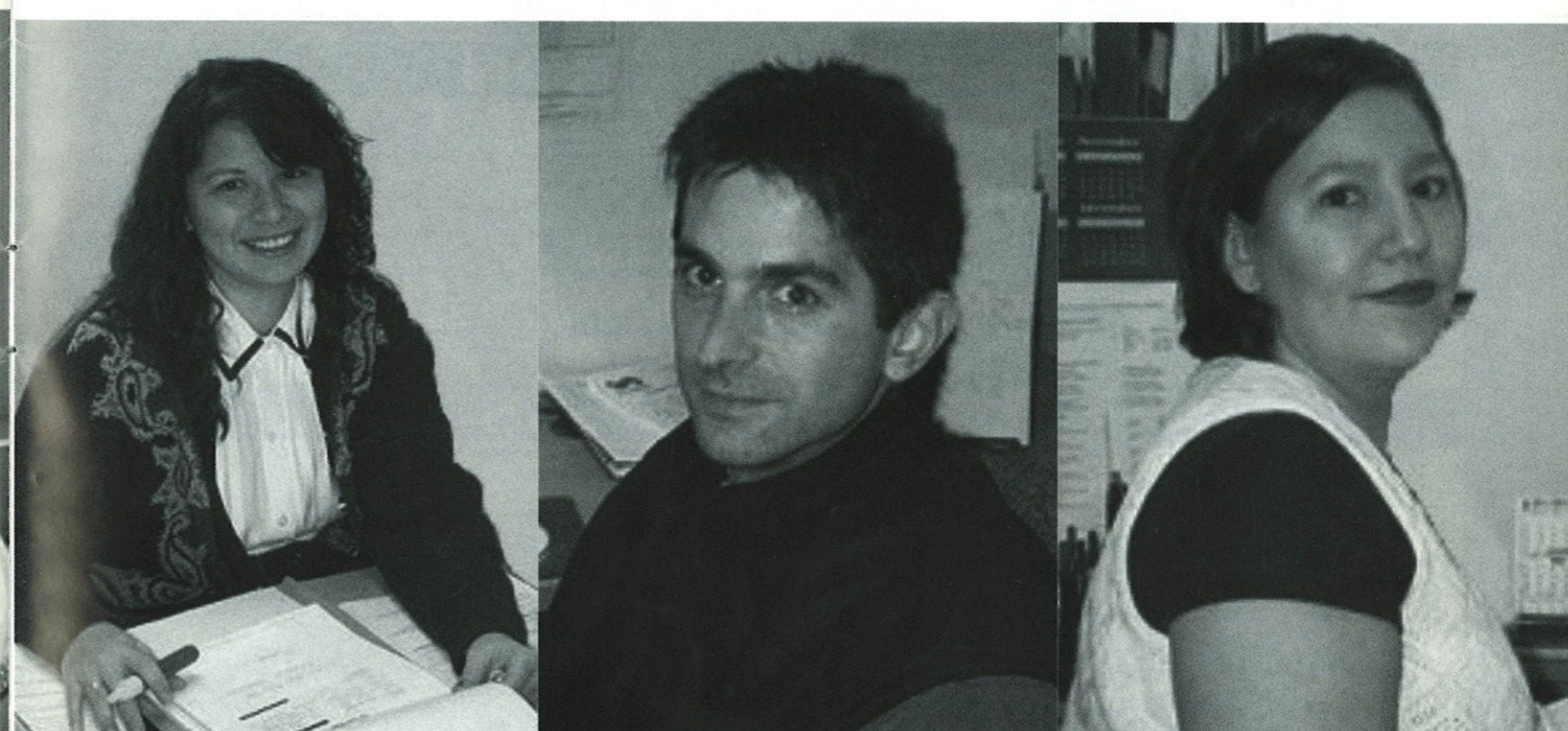
Phone (780) 452-7951

Toll Free 1-800-252-7963

Fax (780) 454-5997



Left to Right: George Vass, General Manager; Cindi Casteletti, Office Manager; and Ken Balcom, Sr. Business Consultant, Pinnacle Business Services Ltd.



Left to Right: Sally Atkinson, Loans Officer; Michael Ivy, Aboriginal Business Canada Development Officer; and Joanne Gunville, Loans Assistant



Métis Regional Council - Zone IV

CABINET MEMBERS

Zone Elected Leadership

Jerry Letendre, President
Cecil Bellrose, Vice President

Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs &

Métis Rights
Robert Lee

Minister of Community Development

Melanie Omeniho

Minister of Housing

Vacant

Minister of Economic Development

Ray McKenzie

Minister of Social & Children Services

Muriel Stanley-Venne

Minister of Education & Health

Maryann Stepien

Minister of Youth

Melanie Moore

OUR VISION (OUR INSPIRATION)

"Together we will continue to build a strong Métis Nation"

ZONE IV MISSION

"On behalf of all Métis people within Zone IV, Zone IV is responsible for the advancement of the rich Métis culture and ensure the social, economic and political well-being of all Métis people."

CORE BUSINESS

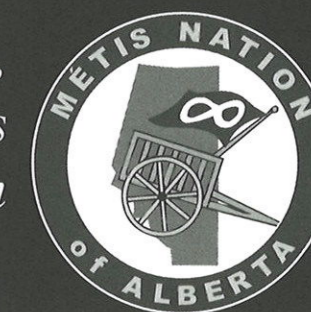
Jurisdiction

Zone IV Regional Council is the representative body for all Métis residents within the geographical territory of west-central Alberta including west of Edmonton, north of Rocky Mountain House, south of Valleyview and east of the Alberta-British Columbia border.

Otipemisiwak

The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta

As the voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta, Otipemisiwak would like to encourage Métis readers to submit articles, photos and stories on current or past events. Let your voice be heard!



Otipemisiwak: The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta

Phone: (780) 453-0283 or 1(800) 252-7553 (Alberta Only)

Fax: (780) 452-8946

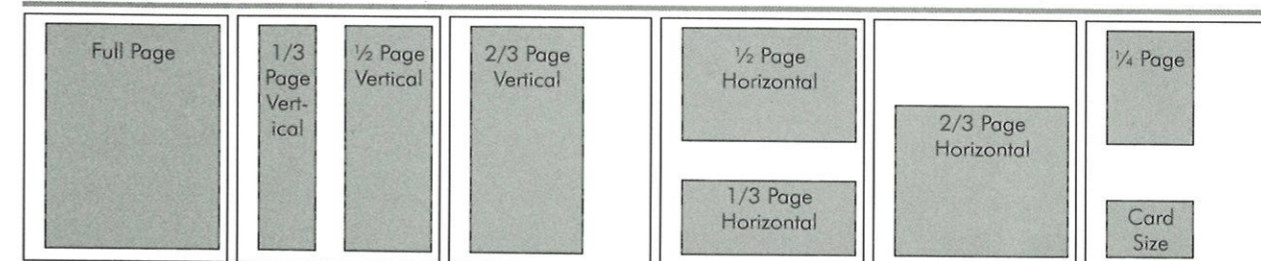
Email: communications@metis.org

#100 Delia Grey Building 11738 Kingsway Avenue Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5

ADVERTISING DIMENSIONS & RATES

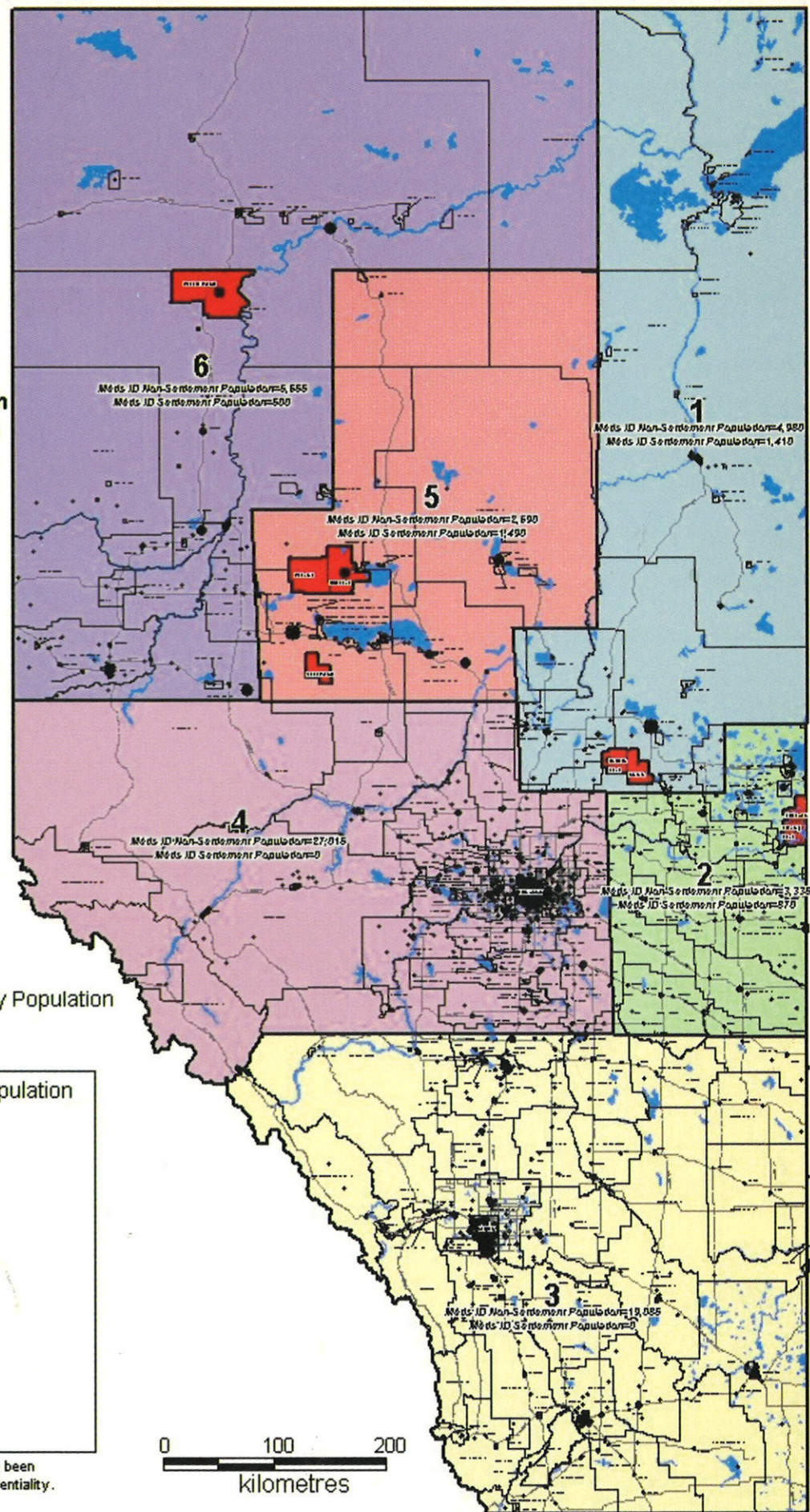
For more information on these rates, please contact Otipemisiwak at the Métis Nation of Alberta. Note that ads appearing on the back cover are in colour and are subject to a surcharge.

	AD DIMENSIONS		RATE PER ISSUE
	width	depth	
Centrefold	16 inches	10 inches	\$2,940
Full Page	7 ¼ inches	10 inches	\$1,575
2/3 Page Horizontal	7 ¼ inches	6 ⅝ inches	\$1,180
2/3 Page Vertical	4 ¾ inches	10 inches	\$1,180
½ Page Horizontal	7 ¼ inches	5 inches	\$1,025
½ Page Vertical	3 ⅝ inches	10 inches	\$1,025
1/3 Page Vertical	2 ⅜ inches	10 inches	\$790
1/3 Page Horizontal	7 ¼ inches	3 ¼ inches	\$790
¼ Page	3 ⅝ inches	5 inches	\$525
Card Size	3 ⅝ inches	2 ½ inches	\$265





Métis Regions
Showing Total
Métis Identity Population
and Member Locations



Alberta Total Métis Identity Population
 = 67,065

Legend

Total Métis Identity Population	
	2,690
	3,335
	4,980
	5,655
	19,085
	27,015

MNA Membership	
	100+
	20-100
	1-20

	Métis Regions
	Métis Settlements
	Census Subdivisions
	Skeletal Roads

Note: Total population figures have been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality.

