

Otipemisiwak (oh-t-paym'-soo-wuk) - In Michif: The Independent Ones

Volume 5 Issue 1 - Summer 2008

# Otipemisiwak

VOICE OF THE MÉTIS NATION IN ALBERTA



## Crown has Duty to Consult Métis Nation

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**CFCW Title Sponsorship, Rocky Mountain House Cultural Program**



Otipemisiwak:  
oh-t-paym'-soo-wuk  
Michif:  
"their own boss,  
the independent ones"

**Feature Photo (left):**

The Métis Urban Housing Corporation, an affiliate of the Métis Nation of Alberta, paid tribute to longtime employee Art L'Hirondelle in Lac La Biche on June 18, 2008 by naming the MUHC affordable housing multi-unit building in his honour. Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras, Art L'Hirondelle's daughter Renita and Executive Director Darlene Lennie were on hand at the unveiling of the building dedication. Art L'Hirondelle was a role model for hard work. He was always the first person to arrive at MUHC and always the last person to leave. Art had the ability to fix anything and if there was a task that needed solving he could solve it. Art was born in 1938 and grew up in Lac La Biche. He passed away November 27, 2007 and he is greatly missed by Métis Urban Housing and the Métis Nation of Alberta community. A scholarship was also created to honour Art.

**On Our Cover:**

Métis beading on display as one of the many exhibits at Métis Crossing.

Cover and Feature photos by Charity Sokolan

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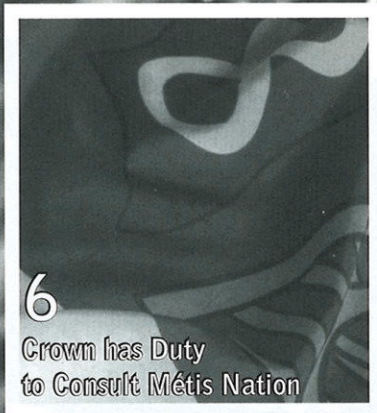
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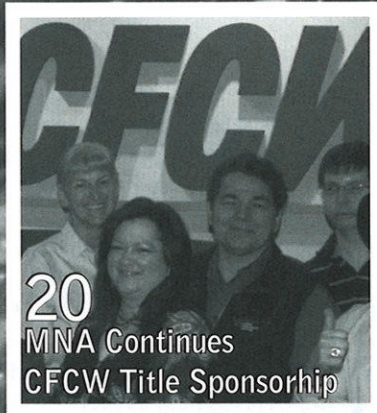
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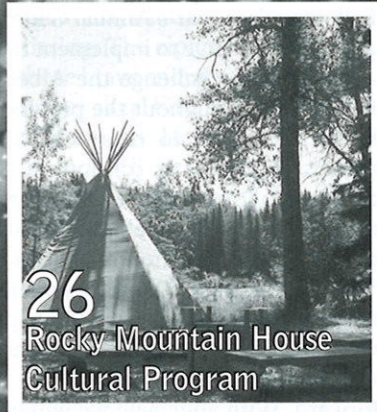
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**Otipemisiwak**  
*The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta*

Otipemisiwak is the only Official Magazine of the Métis Nation of Alberta

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**Otipemisiwak**  
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We encourage Métis to make submissions to our Nation's official magazine in the form of photos and articles telling stories about the events and people in your community.

**Deadline for submissions is September 6, 2008**

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# President's Message

**I**t is once again summer and the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) is as busy as ever.

Following last year's Annual General Assembly the MNA was given the directive to implement the MNA Action Plan, part of which was to challenge the Alberta government by holding Fall Hunts throughout the province. The charges from those hunts are going to court and the research and evidence gathering process is continuing. Recently the MNA held a community meeting in the Cypress Hills area to discuss how the MNA was proceeding with these cases and what the people in the community can do to help. Our lawyers Jean Teillet and Jason Madden explained they were looking for stories, historical articles and people who are from the area. I want to thank everyone who came out to the meeting and I want to thank everyone who has brought information forward. With your help we will ensure that Métis rights are recognized and respected in this province. The Cypress Hills case is not only for the Cypress Hills area, it is for all Métis in Alberta.

Speaking of the Annual General Assembly, this year the AGA will be held in Red Deer from Aug. 7-10. This is your chance to learn about the exciting things the Métis Nation of Alberta is doing across the province. The Annual Assembly is a chance for us to hear reports from all our departments, celebrate our culture, and connect with each other on a personal level. The business portion of the Assembly will be Aug. 9-10 with reports from the executive officers, special resolutions, as well as an update of the developments on harvesting and the duty to consult.

Along with the Assembly there will be Region 3's Youth and Elders Conference held in conjunction with the Annual



Photo by Monique Devlin

Assembly. I invite those of you between the ages of 15-29 to come out to Red Deer to participate in this event. There are many fun and educational activities planned over the course of the conference. This will be a great place to meet new friends, or reconnect with old ones and to learn more about the different career options available. We have the sign up information available on our website ([www.albertametis.ca](http://www.albertametis.ca)).

Once again three years have passed and it is election time. There is still time to put your name forward if you are interested in running for a position on the Métis Nation of Alberta Provincial Council as President or Vice President of your region, or for President or Vice President of the province. Nomination forms will be accepted until Aug. 2. And even if you do not plan on running in the election, please plan on voting. The advance poll is Aug. 23 and the election day is Sept. 2. Polling stations are yet to be announced, but keep checking the MNA website and your regional office for updates. Your regional office receives all notices of events going on at the MNA. Your old red and white cards are still valid for this election, as well as the New MNA membership card.

Looking to membership we just surpassed 10,000 new card holders this past quarter. Our 10,000th card holder, Sandy Challifoux, is a long time aboriginal activist and proudly tells his family story in this issue. Congratulations Sandy. As of April 2009 the old red and white card will no longer be accepted so please continue to update your files and get your new membership card.

This past June was a historic occasion for Aboriginal people in Canada. Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, issued an apology on June 11 to Residential School survivors. It is a positive step in the healing process and it is important for the Government of Canada to acknowledge Residential Schools were wrong. The debate

should not be over whether the apology was sincere or not – it should be about what the next step in the healing process should be between the Canadian Government and the Aboriginal people of Canada. The apology is an acknowledgement of Residential Schools being wrong and accepting that setting up these institutions is part of the reason for many problems faced by Aboriginal people across the country. The MNA is committed to helping Métis people learn about their history, culture and practicing their rights.

I invite you out to Métis Crossing on Aug. 23-24 to celebrate Voyageur Days and to try out the new zipline at the crossing. The zipline is the first in Alberta and for those brave enough to give it a try, I encourage you to get a real bird's eye view of the crossing. Launched on July 16 the zipline looks like a lot of fun and will be a one of a kind experience. Also Métis Crossing has their website updated at [www.metiscrossing.com](http://www.metiscrossing.com).

Métis Urban Housing (MUH) is celebrating 25 years and what a feat it is. MUH has provided affordable housing to Métis for a quarter century. The demand for affordable housing continues to grow as housing prices have inflated to prices that were unheard of 10 years ago in Alberta. Congratulations to the MUH staff for their dedication to helping people have a place to call home. The Métis Nation of Alberta goal is to give people a hand up rather than a hand out and MUH exemplifies this philosophy.

Please have a safe and good summer with your friends and family. I hope to see you out at the assembly.

Respectfully yours,

Audrey Poitras, President  
Métis Nation of Alberta

## Strengthening Our Métis Rights

# Update on Métis Nation's 'Hunt for Justice'

I am writing to provide Métis Nation of Alberta citizens an update on our ongoing Métis rights 'hunt for justice' in Alberta.

The MNA continues to actively defend all of our harvesters who have been charged by the Alberta Government, while following our MNA Harvesting Policy.

We have over seventeen Métis harvesters charged now, with this number increasing each month.

The Alberta Government has charged Métis Elders, entire families, single mothers, community harvesters and Métis youth. Moreover, we have charges from across the province; Lac La Biche, Valleyview, Breton, Fort MacMurray, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Cochrane, Hinton, and Red Deer are just some of these locations.

Our Métis lawyers, Jason Madden and Jean Teillet, have advised me that the Deputy Chief Judge of the Alberta Provincial Court has now designated one Judge, the Honourable Judge John Maher, to case manage (i.e. oversee) all of the Métis harvesting cases. Based on this development, all of the existing Métis harvesting cases and all future cases will be moved to Edmonton (Sherwood Park) and overseen by Judge Maher there.

This is a positive development because it has alleviated the pressure the MNA has had in having to arrange for agents to make court appearances for our harvesters, as the various charges come up in court locations across the province. As well, all of the matters moved to Edmonton will be adjourned, pending the outcome of our test case, so we will not have to proceed with defending cases across the province. Equally important, Judge Maher is attempting to make the management of these charges as efficient as possible, so we are able to have our day in court sooner rather than later.

Currently, our legal counsel is attempting to arrive at an agreement with the Crown on what charges will proceed as a consolidated 'test case'. Since the Alberta Government is taking the position that there are absolutely no Métis rights in central and southern Alberta, we have confirmed that we will be combining existing cases out of the Cypress Hills region and Lethbridge.

We are also attempting to consolidate charges we have from the Calgary and Buffalo Lake areas into the 'test case'. Presently, the Crown is resisting this, since it will likely ensure than any decision will

have to deal with a larger Métis community, rather than simply a localized one around Medicine Hat. However, since including the charges from the Calgary and Buffalo Lake areas will not increase the amount of evidence that will have to be presented or the court time needed, we are hopeful an agreement to include these charges will be reached.

It is also important to note that our Métis rights 'test case' will also directly challenge Ted Morton's unilateral and arbitrary Métis Harvesting Policy currently in place in northern Alberta. Ted Morton's policy attempts to limit Métis harvesting practices, customs and traditions to 170 km circles around select "Métis communities". If we are successful in our 'test case', Ted

Morton's arbitrary circles would disappear.

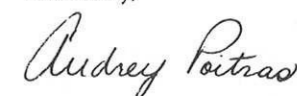
As well, a key part of our research and legal argument in the 'test case' will be that Métis are interconnected throughout northern, central and southern Alberta and that Métis have historically and continue to harvest throughout Alberta, as a part of our way of life.

Therefore, a win in the 'test case' will be a win for all Alberta Métis. This approach is similar to what other Métis governments have done in pursuing their test cases. For example, the Métis Nation of Ontario took the *Powley* case out of Sault Ste. Marie as a test case, the Manitoba Métis Federation took the *Goodon* case out of southwestern Manitoba for all Manitoba Métis, etc.

As more information on our 'test case' becomes available, I will continue to provide MNA citizens with updates. As well, a more detailed update will be provided to Métis citizens at the MNA Annual General Assembly in August.

Finally, please remember to review the MNA Harvesting Policy before you go out harvesting, and, if you are charged, please ensure you forward all information to the MNA Head Office to the attention of Robert Lee, so we can ensure we are aware of all existing charges and ensure your charges are consolidated with the other cases in Edmonton.

Sincerely,



Audrey Poitras, President  
Métis Nation of Alberta

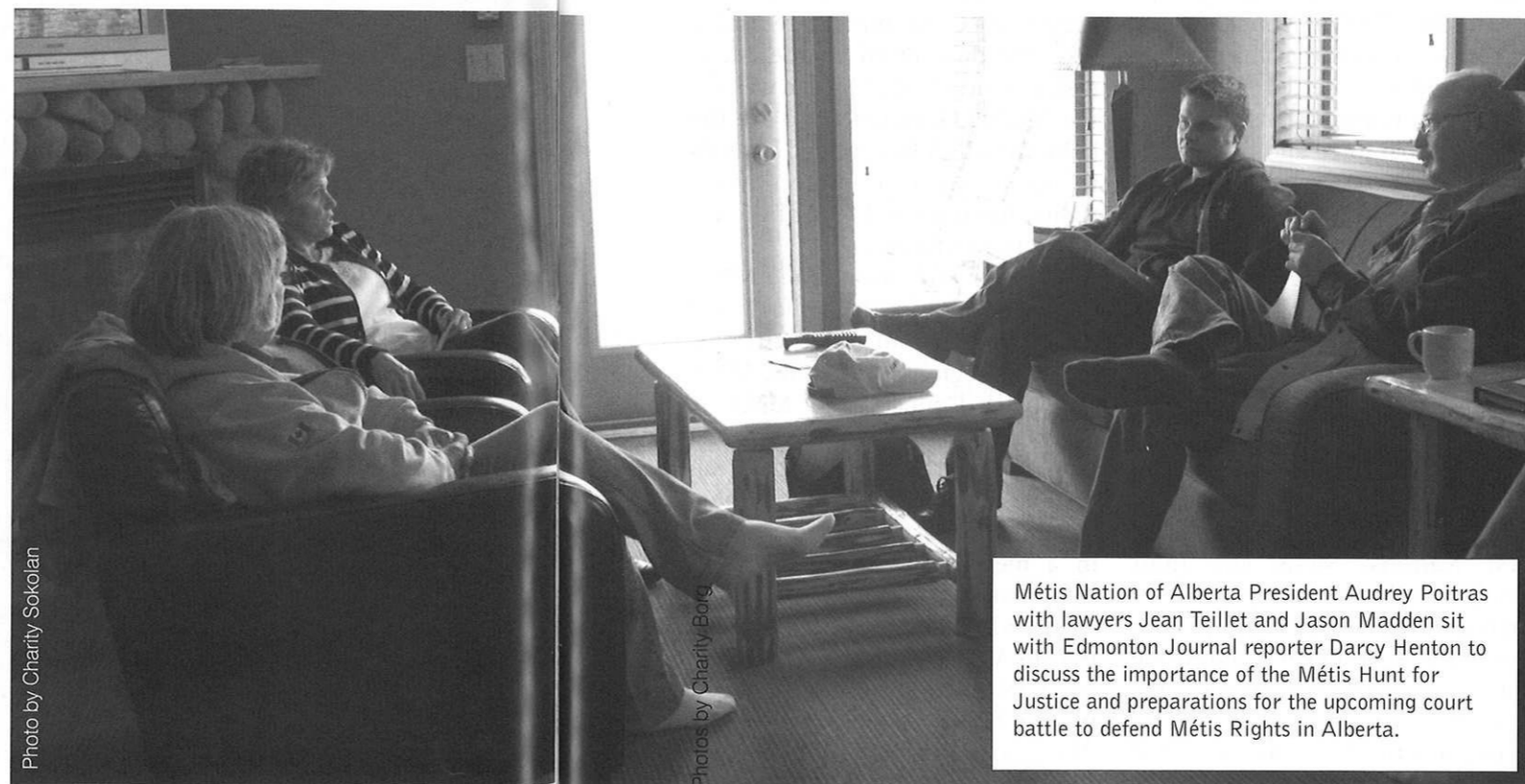


Photo by Charity Sokolan

Photos by Charity Boies

Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras with lawyers Jean Teillet and Jason Madden sit with Edmonton Journal reporter Darcy Henton to discuss the importance of the Métis Hunt for Justice and preparations for the upcoming court battle to defend Métis Rights in Alberta.

# Crown has Legal Obligation to Consult

By Charity Sokolan and Jason Madden



Members of the Métis Nation of Alberta learn why governments are required to consult Aboriginals.

Increasingly, oil sands development projects have many Aboriginal communities concerned about the cumulative effects of these projects on the health, well-being and long-term sustainability of the lands Aboriginal peoples have relied on for generations. Trees that clean carbon dioxide out of the air have been torn out for construction of industrial projects. Holding ponds are full of toxic water that recently wiped out hundreds of migrating ducks. People from the Fort Chipewyan area are suffering from higher than average cancer rates. Were the Aboriginal peoples who live in the northeast section of Alberta properly consulted by the government before their traditional hunting, trapping and fishing territories were affected by development? Many say they were not.

The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled in three separate court cases (Haida, Taku River, and Mikisew Cree) that the Government

of Canada and all provinces, including the Alberta Government, have a legal duty to consult and accommodate Aboriginal groups when the Crown considers or authorizes actions that may impact established or asserted Aboriginal and Treaty rights. This duty has constitutional force and flows from the honour of the Crown and s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. Based on the landmark *Powley* case, this duty is owed equally to the Métis.

Some governments are moving forward on taking this constitutional duty seriously. In November 2007, the Government of Canada announced it was moving forward on developing an Action Plan on Consultation and Accommodation that would include First Nations, Métis and Inuit groups, as well as provinces, territories and industry groups. The goal of the Action Plan is to provide consistency across the country when it comes to consultation and accommodations – something that

was lacking before.

Unfortunately, in Alberta, the Alberta Government has not moved forward on seriously dealing with consultation obligations owing to the Métis people. While it has developed and implemented a First Nation's Consultation Policy (which has received millions of dollars of funding over the last few years), it continues to refuse to recognize its consultation duties to the Métis Nation, even though it is clear that Métis have rights throughout the province.

Over the last year, the leadership of the MNA has become increasingly concerned about the lack of consultation occurring with rights-bearing Métis across the province. Métis harvesting practices, Métis access to their traditional territories and Métis cultural and spiritual places continue to be impacted by the Alberta Government's refusal to take the duty owed to the Métis people to heart. Rather than wait for the Alberta Government to see the light, the MNA has decided it needs to act in order to protect Métis rights, interests and way of life for generations to come.

Similar to how the MNA developed a Harvesting Policy based on the input from Métis citizens, Locals, Regions and the MNA Provincial Council, the MNA is moving forward on developing an MNA Consultation Policy that can then be used to defend Métis rights and ensure consultation takes place in a meaningful way with Métis rights-holders.

In order to start the discussions, the MNA held workshops in Calgary and Edmonton in April of this year. It also hopes to hold workshops throughout all parts of the province

throughout 2008 in order to provide Métis citizens with information on the Crown's duty to consult, but to also get input into an MNA Consultation Policy.

At the workshops, the MNA's legal team of Jean Teillet and Jason Madden explained what consultation and accommodation is, why it is important, and the steps the Métis Nation needs to take to get to a MNA Consultation Framework. Copies of the presentation from the sessions are available on the MNA's website, [www.albertametis.ca](http://www.albertametis.ca), as well as available by contacting the MNA's Head Office, but here

are a few highlights from the presentation and the workshops.

"A good consultation process results in informed decision making in a manner that furthers everyone's interests," explained Teillet. "It is a process of give and take, and, it is a process that takes time."

"On the other hand is accommodation. Accommodations flow from consultation. Accommodations are meant to achieve a balance of Métis rights and interests with government, industry and non-Aboriginal interests. An accommodation may take many forms such as: the modification of a project to minimize harm to Métis traditional harvesting areas, like changing the route of a road; protocol to involve Métis in a project's development, implementation and monitoring; impacts and benefits agreement that provides, among other things, compensation for the loss of traditional practices; or it could be other innovative initiatives that minimize the negative affects of the project on the rights, interests and way of life of the Métis community."

The ultimate purpose of consultation and accommodation is to protect Métis rights, interests and way of life. In order to do this, Métis need facts: about what the projects are; where the Métis rights and interests are on the land; about sites and locations that are important to Métis culture; and about whether the project will actually affect Métis rights, interests and way of life.

"Before you demand or negotiate

an accommodation, focus on establishing a relationship with the government and the proponent," said Madden. "This will enable a process to get underway that will make it possible to get the facts that are needed like understanding Métis traditional land use in the area, assessing the cumulative effects of projects, etc. Once Métis get the facts, then you are well-placed to assess whether there are impacts on the community and what accommodations are needed to minimize impacts."

Effective consultation and accommodation is a five-step process.

The first step of proper consultation is notice; this includes directly informing the rights-bearing Métis community at the local, regional and provincial levels.

The second step is securing capacity and funding, which requires the Crown and/or proponent to provide financial support in order to do proper research and to get legal advice.

The longest step is the third step, which includes information exchange. Experts are hired to do research and mapping studies, and

Talking to a few select members from a Métis community is not sufficient enough for proper consultation.

interested parties get together to exchange their information.

The fourth step is understanding effects. In this stage, the community along with an expert will decide whether impact of a project has a minimal or maximum amount of impact on a community. This step combines all the research and mapping studies to conclude how and where the project will affect Métis rights, interest and way of life.

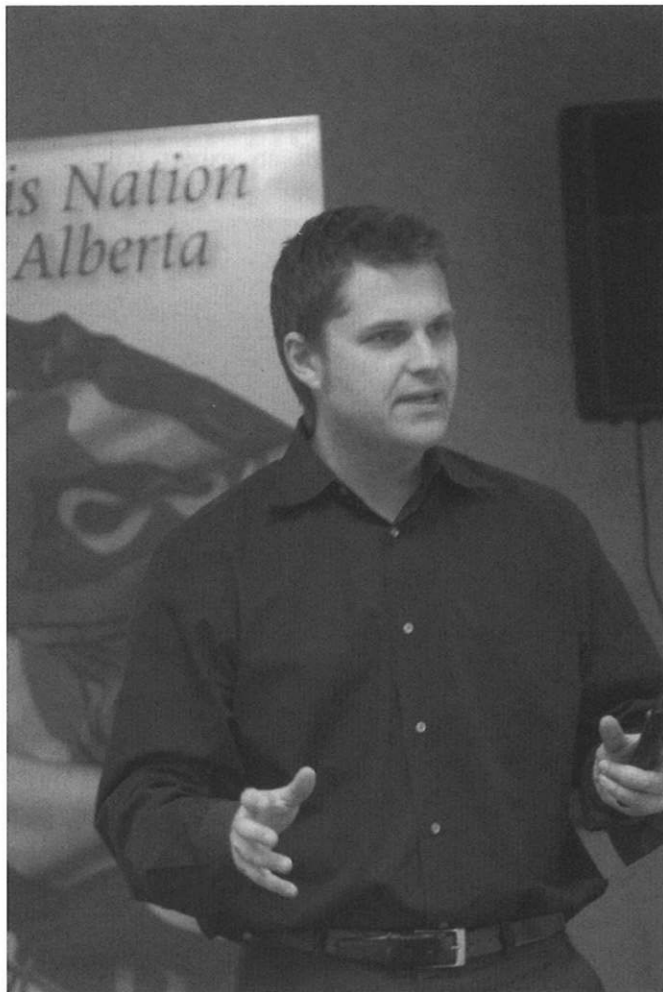
The fifth and final step is accommodation. The expert report prepared in step four is provided to government, developer and

interested parties to discuss potential accommodations to a project. The ultimate goal of accommodation is to ensure the affected Métis community is not damaged or that there is minimal impact on rights, interests and way of life.

Talking to a few select members from a Métis community is not sufficient enough for proper consultation.

"Métis rights are collective rights," said Teillet. "Because it is the Métis community that holds rights, it is the community that needs to be consulted with respect to the potential impacts on Métis rights and interests. The duty to consult and accommodate is not fulfilled by government or proponents talking to individual Métis citizens or individual Métis elders or harvesters. There is a need to consult the Métis community, as represented by Métis governance structures."

Developing a MNA Consultation Framework is important as it determines a process to be followed when it comes to consultation and accommodation.



Photos by Charity Sokolan

Left: Jason Madden presenting at the April 26 Duty to Consult Workshop in Edmonton.  
Right: Jean Teillet presenting at the April 19 Duty to Consult Workshop in Calgary.

“There is a need to build sustained capacity at the local, regional and provincial levels in the MNA in order to effectively deal with consultation and accommodation issues in a sophisticated manner,” said Madden.

“Project-by-project and year-to-year funding does not accomplish this. A MNA Consultation Framework would focus on building sustained, long-term capacity in this area.”

The MNA Consultation Framework should take into consideration that Métis are a mobile people who have

**Development needs to occur in a sustainable way, which respects Métis rights, interests and way of life.**

traditionally moved throughout their traditional territory. A purposive framework should not penalize Métis for moving throughout the province or inter-provincially. A MNA Consultation Framework should also provide opportunities for efficiencies in managing consultation and accommodation processes. This

may include building on best practices, creating a clearinghouse of research and maps that Locals and Regions can access, and establishing effective communication tools to engage Métis rights-holders. A MNA Consultation Framework is a way to establish a protocol for consultation and accommodation for the MNA.

“A Consultation Framework would set out a process for government and industry to follow when engaging and consulting with the Métis in Alberta,” said Teillet. “For example, rather than

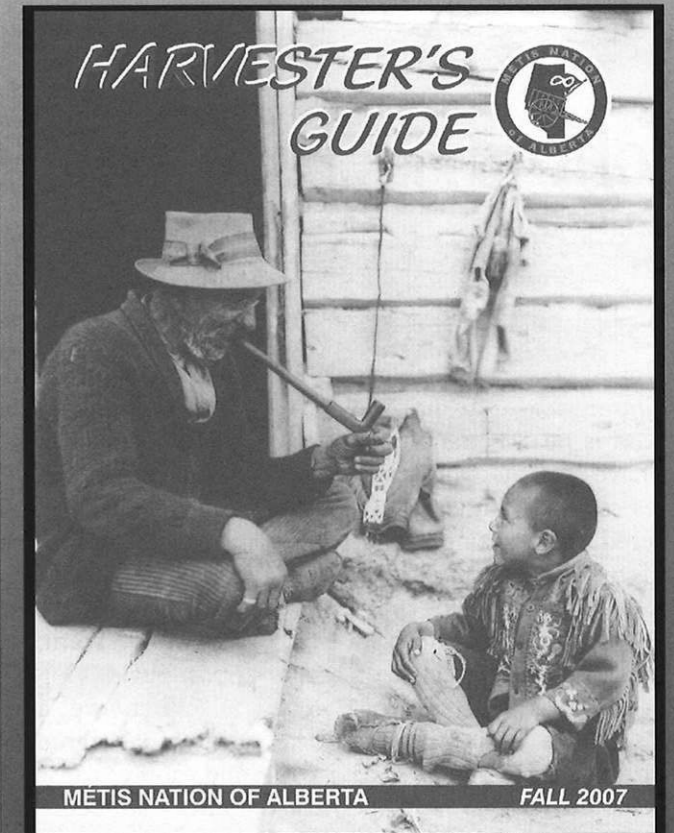
“reinventing the wheel” every time an MNA Local or MNA Region receives notice from the government and/or proponent, a mutually agreeable MNA process would be triggered to effectively respond to and assess the information in a timely manner.”

The ultimate responsibility lies with the Crown to consult Aboriginal communities prior to a project taking off.

Recently, the Chipewyan Prairie Dene First Nation in northeastern Alberta have taken the Alberta Government to task for their failure to fulfill their duty to consult. On June 4 of this year, the First Nation announced they were suing the Alberta Government for approving the MEG Energy Corporation's Christina Lake Regional Project, Phase 3 without proper consultation. The land in dispute is traditional hunting and fishing ground for the Chipewyan Prairie Dene First Nation. The result of this case will likely impact all Aboriginal peoples because it challenges what the Alberta Government is currently doing in relation to consultation and accommodation.

It was clear from the workshops that Métis are equally determined to have their rights respected and to be consulted by the Alberta Government. There was overwhelming support for the MNA to move forward in these areas to advance the Métis Nation's rights agenda. Métis citizens raised concerns about the effects of the oil sands, pipelines, upgraders and the potential for nuclear power in the province. Even more concern was raised about the lack of information Métis have about what is happening on their traditional lands and what this may mean for future generations. Participants stressed they were not adverse to development in Alberta, but that development needed to occur in a sustainable way, which respected Métis rights, interests and way of life.

Based on the direction from Métis citizens, the MNA will continue to move forward on this important topic. Updates will be provided in future magazines and it is hoped that province-wide consultations will be undertaken this year in order to arrive at a MNA Consultation Framework to protect Métis rights in the province.



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# Scholarly Rights Discussion at U of A

By Charity Sokolan

Even though it is etched into the Canadian Constitution Métis have rights as aboriginal people, the battle is continuing and does not look like the end is near. A panel of experts who have dedicated their lives to the issues surrounding these rights gathered at the Campus Saint Jean to discuss the contemporary and legal issues surrounding the Métis.

The University of Alberta hosted a two day event called *Laurent Garneau and the Métis* on April 10-11. Part of the workshop had a roundtable discussion on contemporary legal and political issues concerning the Métis today in Alberta. Involved in the round table were Professor Catherine Bell of the Faculty of Law at the University of Alberta, Audrey Poitras President of the Métis Nation of Alberta, and Elmer Ghostkeeper Councillor of the Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement Council.

"When I use the word contemporary, I do not mean new issues," said Professor Bell. "[These are] issues we have been facing in Canada for some time."

To explain some of the history behind some of the legal issues of the Métis, Bell cited the life of Laurent Garneau. He was born into a family of fur traders with his father being in charge of the North West Company's post in Sault Ste. Marie. Garneau fought for Louis Riel during the Red River insurrections of 1869-1870, moving on to homestead in Strathcona in 1874. Shortly after arriving he spent six months in jail for refusing to obey martial law. Chief Papasschayo took him in and Garneau homesteaded much of the land that is current day land of the University of Alberta and

Old Strathcona. Garneau made his way through life fur trading, wood cutting, ranching and land speculation. A land dispute drove Garneau to spend the rest of his life in St. Paul des Métis.

Garneau spent many different times during his lifetime standing up for his rights and fighting to be recognized as Métis. The Métis are still overlooked when governments say they want to work with Aboriginals.

"When we are talking about Aboriginal rights they are generic and apply to First Nations and Inuit," said Bell. "Certain rights are founded on customs of First Nations and Inuit. These rights are both historic and contemporary."

In early debates the topic of rights were based on whether Métis

had a distinct culture.

"Both sides of the debate felt they were in the right," said Bell.

The debate of Métis having a distinct culture extended beyond Métis being written into the Constitution under section 35, it continued until the Supreme Court of Canada ruling in the *Powley* case affirmed Métis people have rights as a distinct group of people.

Stemming from these rights there became a need for consultation.

"It [the crown] must conduct itself in honour and faith," said Bell.

Alberta was the first province to negotiate a harvesting agreement with its Métis citizens, and was also the first province to arbitrarily declare the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement null and



Elmer Ghostkeeper addresses what it means to describe one's self.

void. President Poitras explained the agreement. Poitras was the interim president of the Métis National Council when the September 2003 decision on the *Powley* case affirmed Métis people are guaranteed rights under the Constitution.

"This has to mean something on the ground for Métis people," explained Poitras as her initial reaction to the *Powley* decision.

Following the decision the MNA met with various ministers in the government and in 2004 the IMHA was signed.

"We wanted to make sure not to leave anyone out," she said. "We felt it was working very well."

The IMHA worked very well for the two and a half years it was in place. The ultimate goal of the IMHA was for Métis harvesters not to be penalized for practicing their inherent right to harvest for food for their family or to feed others in the community. Rules laid out in the IMHA emphasized the need for conservation and respecting hunting regulations. The IMHA discouraged trophy hunting as it is not a traditional practice of Métis people to do so. While Ralph Klein was premier of Alberta the IMHA worked well.

Following Klein retiring from politics a competition for the top job in Alberta was on with three main contenders trying to convince the masses they were the best man for the job of premier: Ed Stelmach, Jim Dinning and Ted Morton. Stelmach won out of the three contenders; however Morton campaigned to tear the IMHA up as soon as he was premier. Even though Morton did not become premier of Alberta he was given the posting of Minister of Sustainable Resource Development and fulfilled his objective of ripping up the IMHA. However he is advocating for more hunters as well as hunting on Sundays.

Since the Alberta government



Law professor Catherine Bell discusses the legal issues faced by Métis people.

cancelled the agreement the MNA has implemented their own harvesting policy similar to the IMHA with the goals of conservation and providing for family and community. Currently the MNA is preparing to take several test cases to court.

Ghostkeeper's presentation was on who are the Métis and who is responsible for defining them.

"Métis people as an Aboriginal people are the most requested to self-identify," he said.

Ghostkeeper believes that the reason Métis people are asked to identify who they are is the possibility that leaders can deny them their Aboriginal rights if they are not able to explain who they are as a people.

"One of the most difficult thing anyone will face in the journey of life

is to self identify," said Ghostkeeper.

When Ghostkeeper has asked other people outside of the Métis community they often identify themselves through their parents, occupation, gender or even disease.

"I know from my experience it is very difficult to verbalize identity, let alone self-identify," he said. "You can not describe them even though you know who you are."

The three perspectives on history, rights and identity are pieces in the puzzle of self-determination and independence of the Métis people. By knowing who the Métis are and where they have come from as people will only enhance the possibilities and opportunities with rights, independence and self-sustainability.

## Giving Seniors a Home

By Charity Sokolan

Downtown Edmonton's Boyle area is not only getting a facelift, it is being renewed with the Boyle Renaissance project.

Part of this revitalization includes the involvement of the Métis Urban Housing Corporation (MUHC) that will see the building of a new affordable housing complex for Métis/Aboriginal seniors.

"We are quite excited about this initiative," said Darlene Lennie, executive director for MUHC. "Each day we hear stories at MUHC of seniors worried about rent increases hitting an already tight budget. There is a need to provide people with the basic need of shelter – especially to seniors."

The vision of the project is to provide affordable bachelor, one and two bedroom units for Métis and Aboriginal seniors in downtown Edmonton. The affordable housing complex will have 60 units making space for up to 100 individuals.

"As our list of people seeking an affordable housing unit continues to grow, so does the cost of living," said Lennie. "We are working with the other partners of the Boyle Renaissance project to achieve the goal of providing affordable, sustainable and adequate housing for the needs of Aboriginal people."

MUHC currently manages 881 housing units across Alberta in 14 communities providing housing to over 3,000 people. The cost of the Métis/Aboriginal Seniors Housing initiative is estimated at nearly \$12



Above: Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Yvonne Fritz speaks at the Boyle Renaissance press conference April 29, 2008 in Edmonton.

Right: Plans for the future Boyle Renaissance project in Edmonton.

Photo by Charity Sokolan



million. The project is currently in the planning stages.

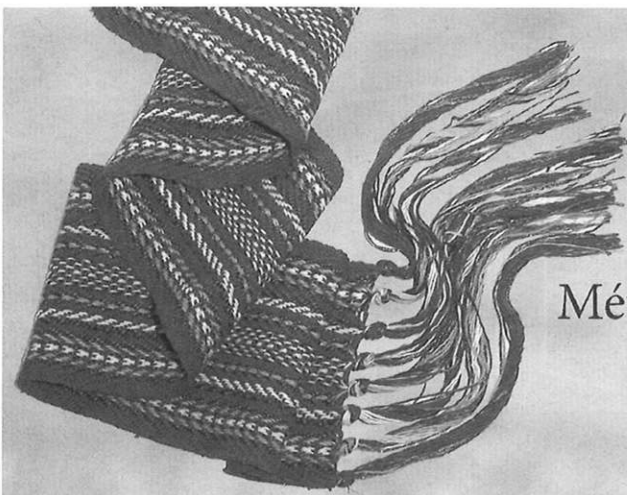
There are two other aboriginal initiatives being planned for the Boyle Renaissance project. One is another Aboriginal seniors supportive housing complex with 75 units planned providing housing for up to 150 people. The other project is to build a 15,000 sq. ft. Aboriginal Welcome Centre. The Aboriginal Welcome Centre will provide a central location hosting celebrations, gatherings and meetings.

The Boyle Renaissance is another step in the direction of revitalization for the City of Edmonton, partnering with established organizations to see the dream become a reality. Other partners with the Boyle Renaissance are: Edmonton Oilers Foundation, Edmonton YMCA, Capiat Health, Canadian Paraplegic Association, UMISK Affordable Housing Society, and Edmonton People in Need Shelter Society.

An unveiling of the Boyle Renaissance project was held during a news conference on April 29.







Métis Capital Housing Corporation  
is proud to introduce a  
Home Repair Loan Program  
for Métis people

*Are you Métis?*

*Own your own home?*

*Need help with repairs?*

Then Métis Capital Housing Corporation  
has the program for YOU!

***Introducing a home repair program  
designed specifically for Métis people.***

Métis Capital Housing Corporation

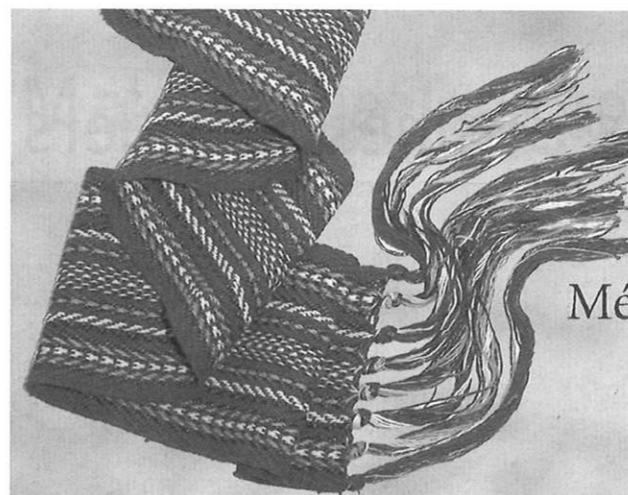
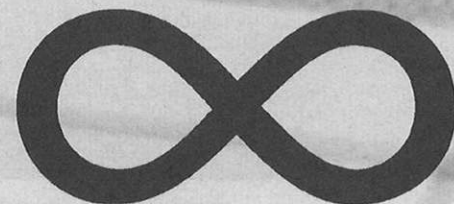
Head Office: Edmonton, Alberta

11922 121A Street T5L 0A2

Phone: (780) 452-6440 Fax: (780) 452-1076

Toll Free: 1-877-458-8684

Online: [www.muhcab.ca](http://www.muhcab.ca)



Métis Capital Housing Corporation  
is proud to introduce a  
Mortgage Loan Program  
for Métis people

*Are you Métis?*

*Dream of owning your own home?*

*Need help with the down payment?*

*Do you qualify for bank financing?*

Then Métis Capital Housing Corporation  
has the program for YOU!

***Introducing a Mortgage program  
designed specifically for Métis people.***

Métis Capital Housing Corporation

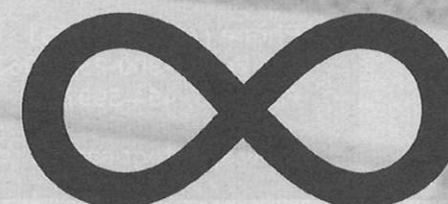
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# Region 3 Honours Métis Business Leaders

By Charity Sokolan

**M**étis business leaders from Southern Alberta were honoured for their contributions and recognized for their efforts to improve the Alberta economy last Friday evening at the Entrepreneurial Leadership Awards.

The gala event brought together Métis entrepreneurs on April 18 in Calgary to highlight the achievements of the Métis business community.

"It is important to recognize our business leaders as they are the ones who continue to drive our economy forward," said Audrey Poitras, President of the Métis Nation of Alberta. "By recognizing and supporting Métis businesses we are proud to say our entrepreneurs are helping to keep our Alberta economy strong."

This year marked the 10 year anniversary of the Entrepreneurial Leadership Awards hosted by Region 3. Each year the awards gala has continued to grow and flourish.

"The innovation and intelligence to see business opportunities in the marketplace are the core spirit of entrepreneurialism," said Marlene Lanz, President of Region 3 Métis Nation of Alberta. "All our award recipients exhibit these traits and we are proud to honour their contributions."

The Alberta economy is built on the entrepreneurial spirit. The award recipients have made a positive contribution to Alberta's growth.

*And the Winners Are...*

**Entrepreneurial Leadership Award (Female)**  
Karla Jones, Jones Geomatics Ltd., Calgary

**Entrepreneurial Leadership Award (Male)**  
George Clark, CARES Ltd., Calgary

**Youth Entrepreneurial Leadership Award**  
Preston Berry, Three Trees Contracting Ltd., Water Valley

**Success in the Corporate World**  
Sharon Goulet, City of Calgary

**In Recognition of their Success and Contribution to the Métis Business Community**  
Jim Short, Liberty Tax, Lethbridge

Billy Gladstone, Gladstone Water and Septic Systems Ltd., Airdrie

Kim Leblanc, Silver Tip Mechanical, Pincher Creek

Al Dumont, Dumont Technical Services Ltd., Sundre

**Contribution and Support to the Métis Community**  
Devon Canada Corporation

**Support and Service to the Métis Community**  
Métis Urban Housing Corporation, accepted by Ila Vivier

# Making the Trek to Big Valley

By Charity Sokolan

**F**or people looking for a green mode of transportation this summer, they need look no further than the County of Stettler this July. The Red River cart does not emit any greenhouse gas emissions, requires no fossil fuels, and is built from 100 per cent biodegradable material. All it takes is fuelling up a horse or ox and it is ready to hit the trail.

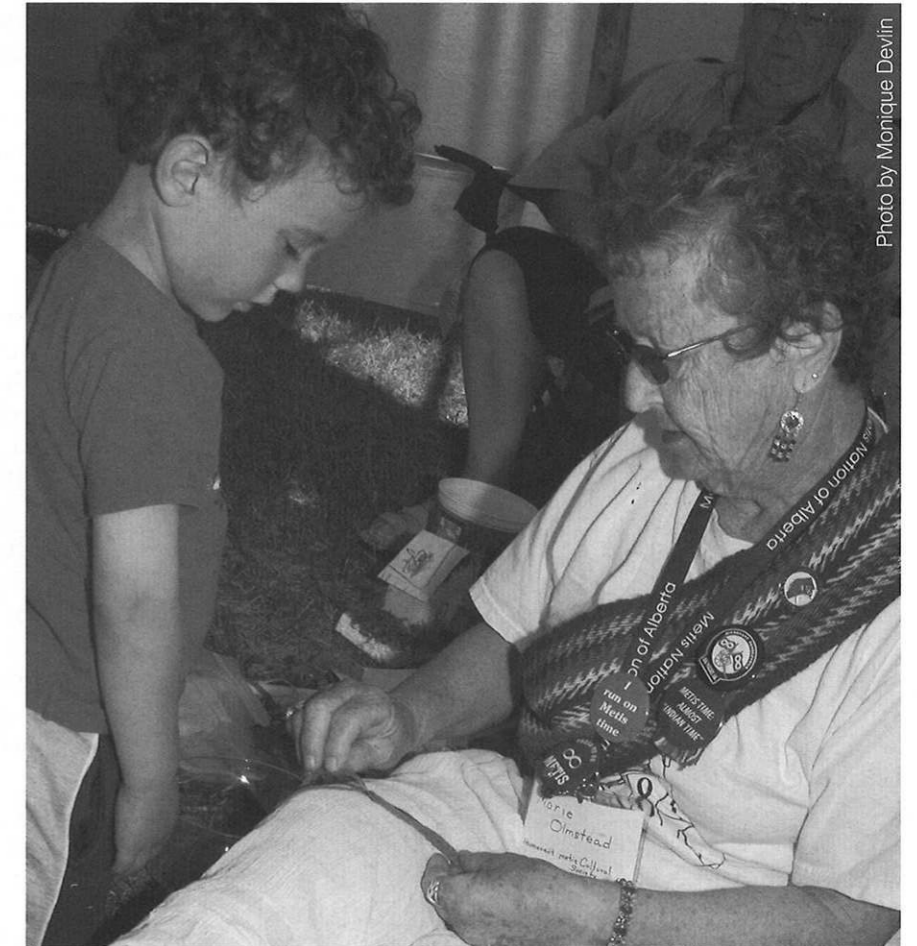
To make the Hivernant Rendezvous a memorable experience, the Hivernant Métis Cultural Society (HMCS) decided to add in a wagon trek as part of the Métis experience for youth looking for adventure.

"We are thrilled to be adding the wagon trek this year," said Al Therrien, president of HMCS in Big Valley. "Each year the Hivernant Rendezvous grows bigger than the year before. The wagon trek is part of that growth and we are looking forward to seeing as many faces out as possible this year."

The trek will begin at the Content Bridge Campground then pass by the Tail Creek Cemetery and end at Big Valley in time for the Hivernant Rendezvous. The trek will be an old-time Métis journey over the rolling prairies filled with stories, songs and good times.

"What a way to start the Hivernant Rendezvous! I look at the way we live today and when it comes down to it, not many of our youth have ever experienced what it is like to spend a night under the stars or travel without a motorized vehicle. Many youth have not lived off of campfire food. Nothing tastes better than bannock made over the fire. It will be an experience to remember for years to come," said Therrien.

"The total distance of the trek is approximately 60km and part of that distance will be travelled over the old Indian trail used by the



Marie Olmstead from the Hivernant Métis Cultural Society captivates her young audience as she demonstrates traditional Métis art forms.

Hivernant Métis of Tail Creek and Content," said Therrien. "This trail was scouted for us by Dee Ness who spent the biggest part of his life in the Tail Creek, Content and Big Valley areas and in spite of what Ted Morton may say, was home to approximately 2,500 to 3,000 Métis who wintered over here, attended school here, and made a life for themselves here."

Upon arriving in Big Valley, the Hivernant camp will be set up for youth to explore their Métis heritage. There will be demonstrations on how to make bannock and competitions like the tomahawk throwing contest during the August 1-4 long weekend. There will also be a genealogy workshop so

youth can trace their roots.

The Hivernant (or hunting camp) will be set up just like a mid-1800s hunting camp. Many of the volunteers will be dressed in clothing from the era.

The cut-off for registering for the Wagon Trek is July 20, so the organizers can ensure there will be enough wagons and supplies for anyone interested in participating. There is a strict no alcohol, no drugs, no politics policy that is put in place to make the family event fun for everyone. For more information or to register for the Wagon Trek or the Hivernant Rendezvous contact Al at: alherr@telus.net or (403) 934-5987.

## Become a business owner

If your goal is to become a business owner, be your own boss and dictate your own financial path, we can possibly be the answer to your dreams. We can help you build a realistic business plan that will assist you in creating a viable and profitable enterprise. We will also help you in applying for a government contribution that will assist with some of the financial costs of getting started. We will assist you by providing a loan to cover the balance of your start-up costs.

Call or write to us today! Our staff will be more than pleased to help you realize your goal of becoming a business owner.

Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. provides repayable term loans for all types of business enterprises including Commercial Mortgages. Part of our role within the Métis Nation of Alberta is to assist individuals in applying for federal funding support through the various contribution programs of Aboriginal Business Canada.

Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. & Pinnacle Business Services Ltd.

#302 - 12308-111th Avenue  
Edmonton, AB  
T5M 2N4

Phone (780) 452-7951  
Toll Free 1-800-252-7963  
Fax (780) 454-5997

www.apeetogosan.ab.ca

# Next Steps in FASD Programs

By Eileen Mustus

The Métis Nation Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Project is presently working with Alberta Youth & Children's Services in developing enhanced services and partnerships throughout Alberta. The goals of the project will continue to follow the MNA's original FASD Work Plan but will now also align with Alberta's plans for a cross-ministerial approach that will develop service partnerships in:

1. Awareness & Prevention
2. Assessment & Diagnostic Services
3. Enhanced Supports for Individuals, caregivers, families across the lifespan

The other common principles that will guide the service networks include:

- Promote support based on the individual's strengths;
- Address needs across the lifespan without age barriers;
- Build on existing service agencies to address identified individual & community needs;
- Be respectful of a wide range of perspectives (including traditional beliefs, backgrounds etc);
- Training & education to improve knowledge and community linkages; and
- Share expertise, best practices, materials and resources

## Alberta's Multi-Level Approach

You may have read in 2007 the Alberta FASD Cross Ministry Committee was established to move the FASD agenda forward by developing a government wide 10-year FASD Strategic Plan for the prevention and management of FASD in Alberta. As co-chairs, Alberta Children's Services proceeded by developing and enhancing Seven FASD Service Networks with leadership teams throughout Alberta. Since then there are plans for two more Service networks. As part of the Network planning and development each Network submitted a proposal to deliver identified FASD programs and services. From this funding the Métis Nation submitted a proposal for a FASD Specialist Resource worker that will provide improved services for the Métis members affected by FASD in the Edmonton region.

## Why is there a need for Enhanced Support Services?

The following highlights some statistics on FASD in Alberta and Canada:

- 2005-2008: Average of 405 children a year with a diagnosis of FASD in Alberta Family Support for Children with Disabilities (data is unavailable for Child Intervention Services)
- 2008: Of 100 cases, 80 children in foster care are suspected of having effects of FASD
- 2008: Each year more than 3000 babies are born with FASD in Canada
- 2008: An estimated 300,000 people are living with FASD in Canada
- 2008: Over 50 per cent of prison population is affected by FASD

Other factors that can impact Aboriginal communities relate to the population increase of youth under 30 years of age in the coming years which calls for our communities to be vigilant with proactive action for prevention of critical health and social issues. As per Stats Canada 2006 data, N.A.Indian/Métis/Inuit population shows the fastest growth:

### 1996 to 2006:

Canada Total population growth:	9.5%
Aboriginal population growth:	44.9%

The Métis Nation FASD Team now consists of part-time regional coordinators in the Regions, with a provincial coordinator who works closely with these coordinators on prevention and awareness sessions, training and linkages to community support services. Jo-Ann Woloshyniuk, the MNA Children's Services Manager has collaborated in the proposal and development of the Métis Resource FASD Specialist position for the Edmonton & surrounding area (Children's Services, Region 6) and will continue to provide support in the implementation and operation of assigned caseloads. At the time of printing, the recruitment for this position is not complete but plans are to introduce the new worker at the MNA Annual Assembly in August.

If you would like a FASD workshop or information session in your community, or an information package on the Alberta Cross Ministry enhanced service plans please contact the following:

Kathy Campbell, Region I: 1 800 638-5704  
Dawn Gray, Region III: 1 800 267-5844

Florence Gladue, Region V: 1 866 849-4660  
Wendy Goulet, Region VI: 1 800 668-5319

For more information on above programs and statistics please call Eileen Mustus: 1 800 252-7553 ext 234, or visit [albertametis.com](http://albertametis.com).

Please Name these People!



Wedding Party January 12, 1915

L-R: Savard, Mary Bessette, Mary Beaudry, Eliza Mearon, Grampa Jobin, Joe Mearon, Alex Jobin, Francis Ferguson, Rosarie Ferguson, James Haggerty

The MNA Genealogy and Land Research is always looking for donations of historical material, such as old photos, letters, and other documents. Unfortunately, we sometimes are unable to identify many of the people in some of the historical photos we have, and we are looking to our readers to help us with this task. The above photo came to us from a Wedding Party taken January 15, 1915. The man on the left was simply identified as Savard. Going from left to right: Savard, Mary Bessette, Mary Beaudry, Eliza Mearon, Grampa Jobin, Joe Mearon, Alex Jobin, Francis Ferguson, Rosarie Ferguson, James Haggerty. If you, or someone you know is part of this photo, please call our Genealogy department at 1-800-252-7553. We are also looking for any stories and memories you may have!

[www.albertametis.com](http://www.albertametis.com)

# MNA Continues Title Sponsorship with CFCW

By Charity Sokolan

More Métis people across Alberta are contacting Métis Employment Services (MES) for training and educational opportunity thanks to the year-long title sponsorship with CFCW.

The title sponsorship was going so well that the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Labour Market Development (LMD) renewed the title sponsorship with Newcap Radio in March 2008.

"In March 2007 LMD was seeking new and innovative methods of reaching Métis people to market our programs and services," said Joan Isaac, Associate Director of LMD. "We approached Newcap radio, who own 32 radio stations across Alberta, and were presented with a unique marketing opportunity to become the title sponsorship of a radio station."

Compared to print advertising the title sponsorship of CFCW is a huge savings. If LMD were to run a quarter-page print ad for \$280 in member papers of the Alberta Weekly Newspaper Association (over 100) the cost for a one week advertisement would be \$28,000.

"Of the four stations available we chose CFCW because it has the largest listening audience in Alberta with over 183,000 listeners each week," said Isaac. "CFCW reaches more communities throughout the province than any other radio station, providing us with the widest possible access to Métis listeners."

Advertisements not only run on CFCW, but they also run on stations owned by Newcap all over the province. Title sponsorship does not



The Métis Nation of Alberta Labour Market Development staff meet with the morning show crew of CFCW to celebrate the renewal of the MNA LMD title sponsorship of CFCW.

mean the MNA LMD owns the radio station.

"Becoming a title sponsor means that our name and a short advertising message are aired every hour, 24 hours a day for a year, amounting to more than 8,770 produced ads," said Isaac. "In addition our logo is displayed on the broadcast station located in West Edmonton Mall and included on the CFCW website."

The partnership with Newcap also allows the MNA LMD to place more detailed ads on other Newcap stations across Alberta at a reduced rate.

"We have selected stations in 21 communities to market MES services, LMD projects, and related activities," said Isaac.

These stations include CFCW and K-Rock in Edmonton, CKSA (Lloydminster), CHSL (Slave Lake), CKBA (Athabasca/Boyle), CKVH (High Prairie), CKDQ (Drumheller), CKKY (Wainwright), CFCW/FM (Camrose), CIBQ (Brooks), CHLW (St. Paul/Bonnyville), Fox Radio (Jasper/Hinton/Whitecourt/Grand e Cache), CIZZ (Red Deer), CIQX (Calgary), CJOK (Fort McMurray), and Sun FM (Grande Prairie).

Media Release



Canada

## MNA Renews Kids in the Hall Contribution

Edmonton, AB (July, 2008) – The Métis Nation of Alberta Labour Market Development Program is proud to once again be a sponsor of the Kids in the Hall Bistro. The program is offered to youth at risk (ages 15-24) and offers a non-judgmental learning environment where youth are able to work through issues such as risk of homelessness, personal and family problems, addiction issues and employment or school related areas that may be barriers to their success.

The bistro has been in operation since June 1996. The MNA Labour Market Development program has been a sponsor since 2002-2003 as the Kids in the Hall has had a consistent Métis participation rate. Along with the Métis Nation of Alberta, Kids in the Hall is also funded by Alberta Children's Services, Muttart Foundation, United Way, Kipness Foundation, and community donations. Approximately 250-300 youth participate in the project annually.

The program consists of integrating life skills, career development workshops and education options with on the job work experience to assist participants in becoming employment and training ready. The major area the program focuses on is transferable life/work skills that will help them stabilize their lives so they can achieve their goals.

Youth participate in a work experience at the public bistro that is operated by Kids in the Hall. Youth are involved in all tasks of the bistro operation such as serving and cooking. The bistro is located in Edmonton City Hall at 1 Sir Winston Churchill Square. They are open from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm and offer a wide menu as well as catering. Please drop by, visit the project and have some lunch.

For more information:  
**Métis Employment Services**  
Phone: (780) 423-2237



*The Métis Nation of Alberta  
invites you to  
Open Your Heart  
and Home to a  
Métis Child in Need*

If you are Métis, and would like to learn about becoming a foster or adoptive parent, please contact the Métis Nation of Alberta to hear about some of the wonderful opportunities available. Enjoy the many rewards of sharing and caring for our Métis children, while providing guidance and celebrating our rich cultural traditions.

There will always be a need for Métis families who are willing to open their homes and their hearts to our children in foster care.

Our children are our future. Foster and Adoptive families touch lives daily.

Contact:

**Jo-Ann Woloshynuk**  
**(780) 455-2200**  
**toll free 1-800-252-7553**

*If you can be that  
special family,  
PLEASE CALL TODAY.*

[www.albertametis.com](http://www.albertametis.com)

# 2008 Métis Nation of Alberta General Elections

*A Message from Mr. Cliff Gladue  
Chief Electoral Officer*

Thank you, Provincial Council, for appointing me Métis Nation of Alberta Chief Electoral Officer. I will endeavour to reward your trust and confidence with diligent professionalism and ultimately, the successful implementation of the MNA electoral process.

I wish to take this time to remind members of the MNA to: "Exercise your democratic right to vote."

I will do everything within my authority to accommodate that right. I commit to ensuring member accessibility to MNA polling stations and that the MNA electoral officers are thoroughly trained and empowered to make your voting experience a pleasurable one.

An Advance Poll will be held on Saturday, August 23, 2008 for those that will not be available to vote on Tuesday, September 2, 2008, at the General Election. Polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## *Exercise Your Democratic Right to Vote!*

### **Polling Stations and Notices**

Locations of Polling Stations are to be determined and will be posted accordingly, along with all required Notices including nominations.

*Direct Enquiries to the Chief Electoral Officer at:*

**Chief Electoral Office**  
100 Delia Gray Building  
11738 Kingsway Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 0X5  
Phone: (780) 455-2200 or 1-800-252-7553  
Fax: (780) 452-8946  
Email: cgladue@metis.org

# Notice of General Election 2008\*



Notice is hereby given that a GENERAL ELECTION of all Elected Officers of the Métis Nation of Alberta Provincial Council will be held on Tuesday, September 2, 2008. This includes the offices of President, Vice-President, six (6) Regional Presidents, and six (6) Regional Vice-Presidents.

An Advance Poll will be held on Saturday, August 23, 2008. Voting will be by secret ballot in the elector's polling subdivision. Polling Station locations will be posted in the communities, regional offices, and at the Provincial Office. Polling hours on Election Day and the Advance Poll will be 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

To be an eligible elector, each member must be properly registered with the Métis Nation of Alberta. Please Note: There will be no vouching at the election. Application for membership is made at the Electors respective Regional Council Office or Provincial Head Office.

### **Nominations Open:**

Thursday, July 2, 2008 (As per Article 6.1) ...at least 30 days notice...

### **Nominations Close:**

Sunday, August 3, 2008 (Article 6.2/6.3)... at least 30 days prior to the date of election...

### **Last day for Withdrawing Nomination:**

Tuesday, August 5, 2008 (Article 11.1) ... within 48 hours from the date of closing of nominations ...

### **Posting of Notice of Poll and Candidates:**

Sunday, August 24, 2008 (Article 10.1) ... Within 21 days after the close of nominations ...

### **Posting of List of Electors:**

Tuesday, August 12, 2008 (Article 7.3) ... not less than 21 days prior to the date of the election ...

### **Advance Poll:**

Saturday, August 23, 2008 (Article 26.1) ... 10 days before the election ...

### **Election:**

Tuesday, September 2, 2008 (Article 3.1) ... first Tuesday in the month of September ...

*For further information, contact your Regional Council Office, Provincial Head Office, or the Chief Electoral Office.*

### **Chief Electoral Office**

100 Delia Gray Building  
11738 Kingsway Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 0X5  
Phone: (780) 455-2200 or 1-800-252-7553  
Fax: (780) 452-8946  
Email: cgladue@metis.org

\*Official Notice Issued by the Métis Nation of Alberta Chief Electoral Officer, Cliff Gladue June 19, 2008

## Métis Nation of Alberta 2008 General Election

# VOTERS LISTS AND MEMBERSHIP CARDS

### WILL I BE ABLE TO VOTE IN THE 2008 MNA ELECTION?

In accordance with the MNA Election Bylaws, you are eligible to cast your vote in the Advance Polls on August 23rd, 2008 and on Election Day – September 2nd, 2008 if you are sixteen (16) years old or older and you have been ordinary resident in Alberta for at least one (1) year prior to September 2nd, 2008, and you sign a declaration stating that you are not currently registered as a Status Indian under the provisions of the Indian Act.

Ordinary residence is determined by the following rules: you can have only one place of ordinary residence; your ordinary residence is the place where you live, sleep and to which, when you are absent from it, you intend to return.

It is important for you to ensure that your current address is on the voters list prior to the election date.

If you leave Alberta with the intention of becoming an ordinary resident outside of Alberta, your ordinary residence in Alberta ceases.

Declaration is the implementation of the special resolution that was passed at the 2004 MNA Annual General Meeting that enacted changes to Article 5 – Qualification of Elector. Each person casting a vote “will sign a declaration stating he/she is not currently registered as a status Indian under the provisions of the Indian Act, prior to casting his/her ballot.”

### HOW CAN I MAKE SURE THAT MY NAMES ON THE LIST OF ELECTORS?

The Chief Electoral Officer Cliff Gladue shall obtain a list of Métis Lifetime Members from the Métis Nation Registry office.

From this list, he will prepare a list of electors and satisfy himself as to the accuracy of the list of electors and he will submit a list of electors to each of the six (6) Regional Council Offices to be posted at least 21 days prior to Election Day. You should contact your Regional Council Office to make sure your name appears on the List of Electors.

If on Election Day, your name does not appear on the List of Electors, you can have your name added to the list of electors at any time up to the closing of the polling station, provided that you can present your Métis Membership & ID Card.

There will be no vouching allowed at the polling station.

### IS MY OLD RED AND WHITE MÉTIS MEMBERSHIP AND ID CARD EXPIRED?

NO. This card is the current membership and ID card and has been issued to membership applicants since 1991.

On the front of the card is:

- Your photograph,
- Your name,
- Your social insurance number
- Your date of birth,
- A signature line where you signed your name and
- A signature line to be signed by the incumbent President of the MNA.

The backside of the card has the following inscription:

- “The Bearer of this Card is recognized as a Métis under the constitution of Canada and shall uphold the Laws and By-Laws of the Métis Nation of Alberta” and
- Your membership number appears in red.

It also includes a section “For Elections Only – VOTER VALIDATION” and includes 4 red dots with the years 1993, 1996, 1999 and 2002 above each red dot. These dots coincide with the years of the previous MNA elections.

### IS MY MÉTIS CARD STILL VALID IF THERE IS NO RED DOT WITH THE YEAR 2008 ABOVE IT?

YES. This feature is for election voter validation only and does not nullify the validity of your actual Membership & ID Card. Please keep this card in a safe place, as this card is valid until new membership cards are issued by the MNA.

You are encouraged to keep in contact with the MNA Registry Department. Our offices are located in each of the six (6) Regional Council Offices and at the MNA Head Office. For more information on locations of the office nearest to you, please contact the Métis Nation of Alberta Registry Department at 1-800-252-7553.

### WHICH MNA PRESIDENTS HAVE SIGNED MNA MEMBERSHIP CARDS?

Three MNA Presidents have signed Membership and ID Cards since 1991:

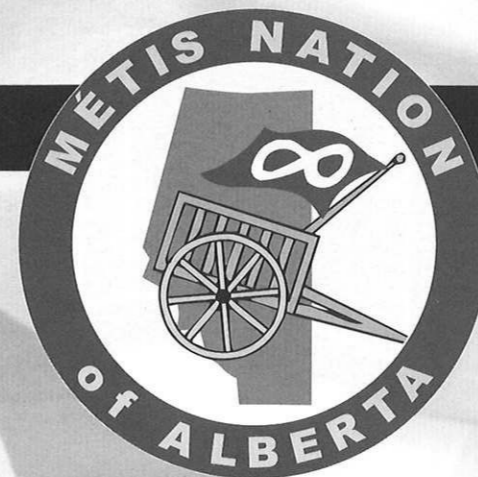
- Larry Desmeules
- Gerald Thom, and
- Audrey Poitras

Please check your Membership and ID card to confirm that one of these signatures appear on the face of your card. If there is any questionable Presidential signature, you should contact the MNA Registry Department right away at 1-800-252-7553 and ask to speak with the Registrar.

### I RECENTLY APPLIED FOR AN MNA MEMBERSHIP CARD. WILL MY NAME APPEAR ON THE LIST OF ELECTORS?

An executive officers resolution was passed by the MNA that established July 2, 2008 as the cut off date for finalizing new membership applications to the card signing stage. Cards will be signed until close of office on August 15th, 2008. If your card is signed on this date, your name will appear on the List of Electors even if you have not received your actual card in the mail.

After this date, no new application cards will be finalized until after the September 2nd elections.



### HOW CAN I MAKE SURE THAT MY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION WILL BE PROCESSED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE?

Apply in person and bring along all the required documentation to assist us process your application.

- A completed family tree dating back to the mid 1800's listing all your Métis ancestors' dates of birth, places of birth, and dates of marriages and places of marriages. The more complete genealogy information you provide, the easier it is for our genealogy research department to validate your family tree information. You may also use some other family member's family tree information provided they have given their consent to use their genealogy for other family members use.
- You must provide a copy of your long form birth certificate, which shows the names of your birth parents.
- One (1) piece of photo identification in order to swear the Statutory Declaration.

If you just recently moved to Alberta, you will be asked to provide proof of residency in Alberta for a period of ninety (90) consecutive days.

The following documents and services will be made available to you at your Regional Council office or at the Head Office in Edmonton:

- A Lifetime Membership Application;
- A Statutory Declaration – Not on the Indian Registry/Band List;
- Commissioner for Oaths services free of charge
- A Consent to Release Confidential Information;
- An Indian and Northern Affairs Canada letter consenting to conduct a check on the Indian Registry; and
- A digital picture taken free of charge for the new Métis ID cards.

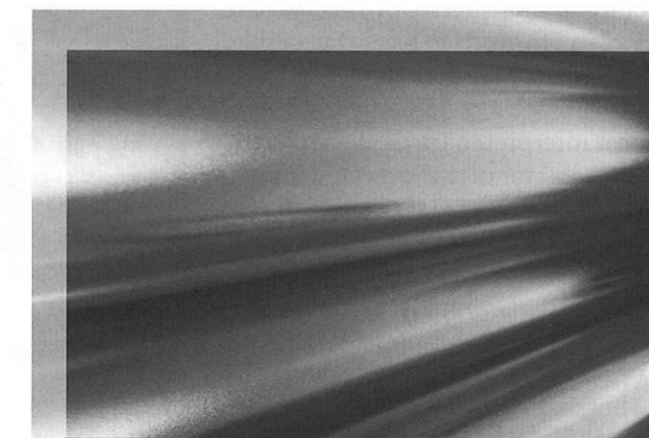
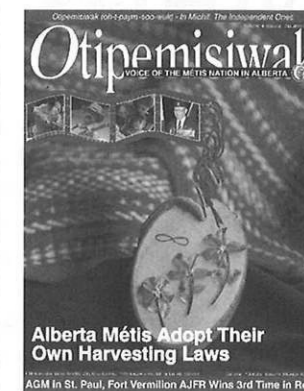
Please apply in person; this greatly speeds up the process. For any other Registry and membership related questions pertaining to MNA Election 2008, please call our Registry Department at 780-455-2200 or 1-800-252-7553.

Irene Collins, Registry Director

## Clarifications

In the Spring 2008 issue of Otipemisiwak's article “Sewn with Love” the description of boreal forest and fireplace were simply descriptive words rather than factual information the author conjured to create an image of a young child learning to sew. No ill intentions were meant in using this description.

In the Autumn 2007 issue of Otipemisiwak's article “Proud to be Métis” Art Thibert wanted to clarify that when he was young all he knew how to speak was French. When he was 14 he moved to a ranch near Cayer, MB. He lived there until he was 22 years old, that's when he moved to Winnipeg.



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# Celebrating Métis Culture



## Métis Cultural Program in Rocky Mountain House

By Bev Weber

**M**étis Local 845 signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Parks Canada to manage the Cultural Interpretive Program at the Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site for the 2008 Summer Season.

The Program has been successfully managed for the past three years by Region 3. Thank you to Marlene Lanz, Region 3 President for recommending Rocky Mountain House Local 845 to manage this cultural interpretive project. We are looking forward to a very successful season.

The season sees the return of past interpreter Travis Weber as the Coordinator of the Project, with two interpreter positions and a campground coordinator position, filled by two Métis Youth and one First Nations employee.

We have two trapper's tents set up, and the interpreters are on site Thursday through Mondays until Sept. 1. A variety of traditional activities are presented, including work on hides, drying buffalo meat, traditional games for the children, and daily bannock and Labrador Tea. The season kicked off with the season opening of the National Historic Site on May 17 and guests for the weekend were the adult and youth Calgary Star Dancers, as well

as a Trapper's Display presented by Local member, Marcien LeBlanc. Al Theiren, of the Hivernant Historic Society joined us as well, camping on site during the busy weekend. The Ruperts Land Colloquiem, an international gathering of academics with interest

in the Fur Trade era, was held in Rocky Mountain House the week prior to the opening, and Métis Local 845 was pleased to host President Audrey Poitras, and Beatrice Demetrius, the MNA Genealogist for the Annual Fur Trade Banquet. Thank you Beatrice

for bringing some of the "historic family banners" for display during the Banquet. Dinner was followed by entertainment, as well as a sampling of Métis jigging.

Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site, five km east of Rocky on Highway 11A, is the

archeological site of five fur trade posts along the North Saskatchewan River, and welcomes visitors from Canada and around the world each year. When the rivalry between the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company was at its height, at least half of Company employees were "bois-brûlé", mixed blood.

The site was also a destination for the Métis from Red River to provision the "fast food" of the fur trade: pemmican, and dry buffalo meat. These foods were distributed to many other posts by waterway. There are self guided walking trails, an interpretive centre with a newly updated exhibit, as well as Parks Canada interpreters offering presentations throughout the summer.

With the rising cost of gas, and many vacationers seeking a getaway closer to home, we look forward to seeing some of our fellow Métis in Rocky.

The Local is managing the tenting site, adjacent to the North

Saskatchewan River at the site of the Brierley Rapids, at the west end of the historic site, which is a favourite spot for kayakers, and open to the public with no bookings required.

We are also offering a teepee camping opportunity this season and request that you contact the Métis Local to book your family or group. We do recommend warm clothing, bedding and bug spray, as the teepees are set up on permanent wooden bases, thus not allowing for indoor fires. Sleeping mats, firewood and safe storage of provisions are available for campers.

For information on events, teepee bookings and group rates, email: [mail@local845.ca](mailto:mail@local845.ca) or call 403-844-4628 anytime or the Coordinator 403-846-9373 after July 10.

The registration and booking form for teepee camping is available at:

<http://local845.ca/teepee-camping>.



Photos by Marg French and Parks Canada

Left: Travis and guest working on a buffalo hide.



Insert from left to right: Scott Whiting, Site Manager, Warren Fay, Local 845 Vice President, Rob Harding, Parks Canada, and Bev Weber, Local 845 President

<b>Site Admission:</b>
Adults - \$3.90 Seniors - \$3.40 Youth - \$1.90 Children, free. Family - \$9.80
<b>Annual Pass:</b>
Adult - \$9.80 Senior - \$8.55 Youth - \$4.90 Family - \$24.50
<b>Tenting Rates:</b>
Brierley Campground: \$5.80 per person/per night (does not include Site Admission)
Tipi Camping: Adult - \$19.60 Youth - \$11.70

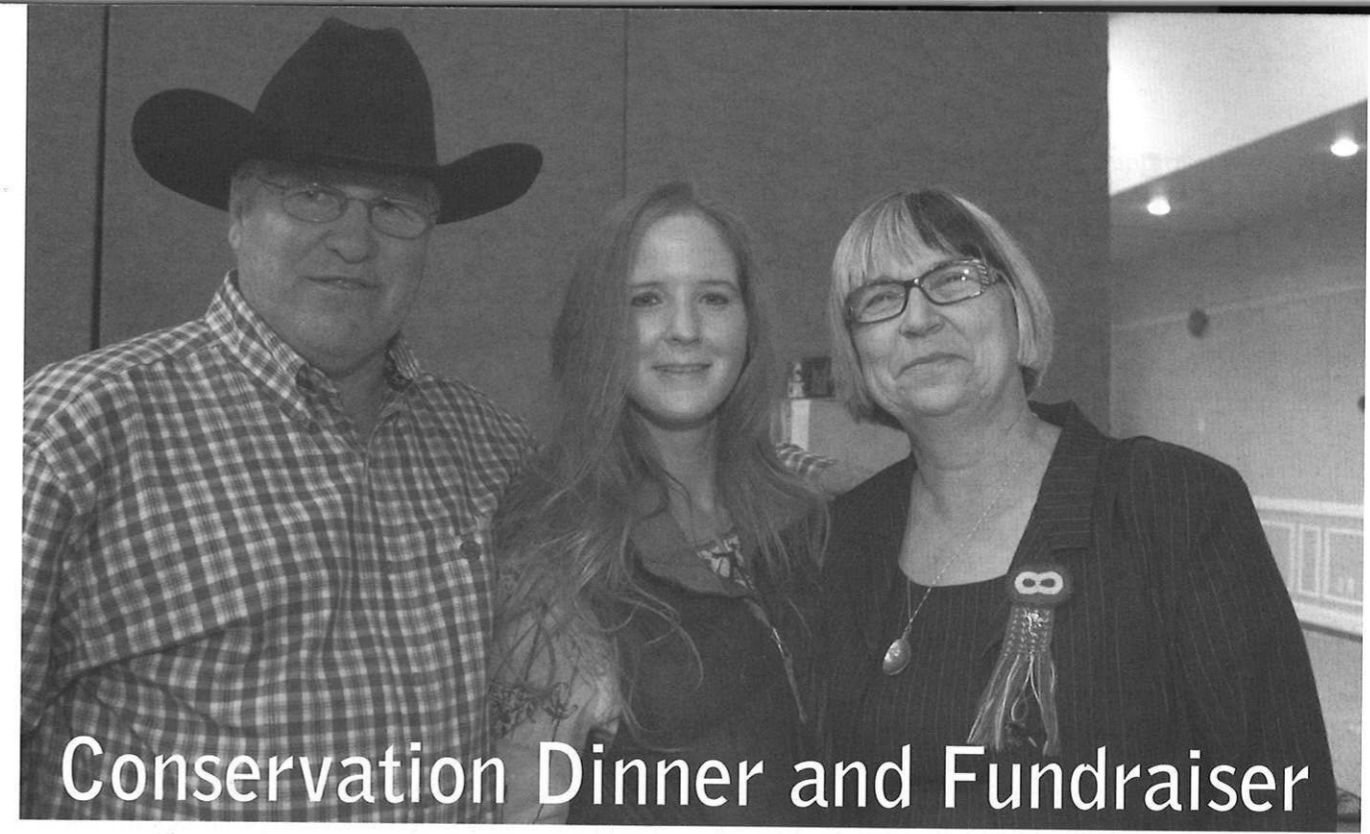
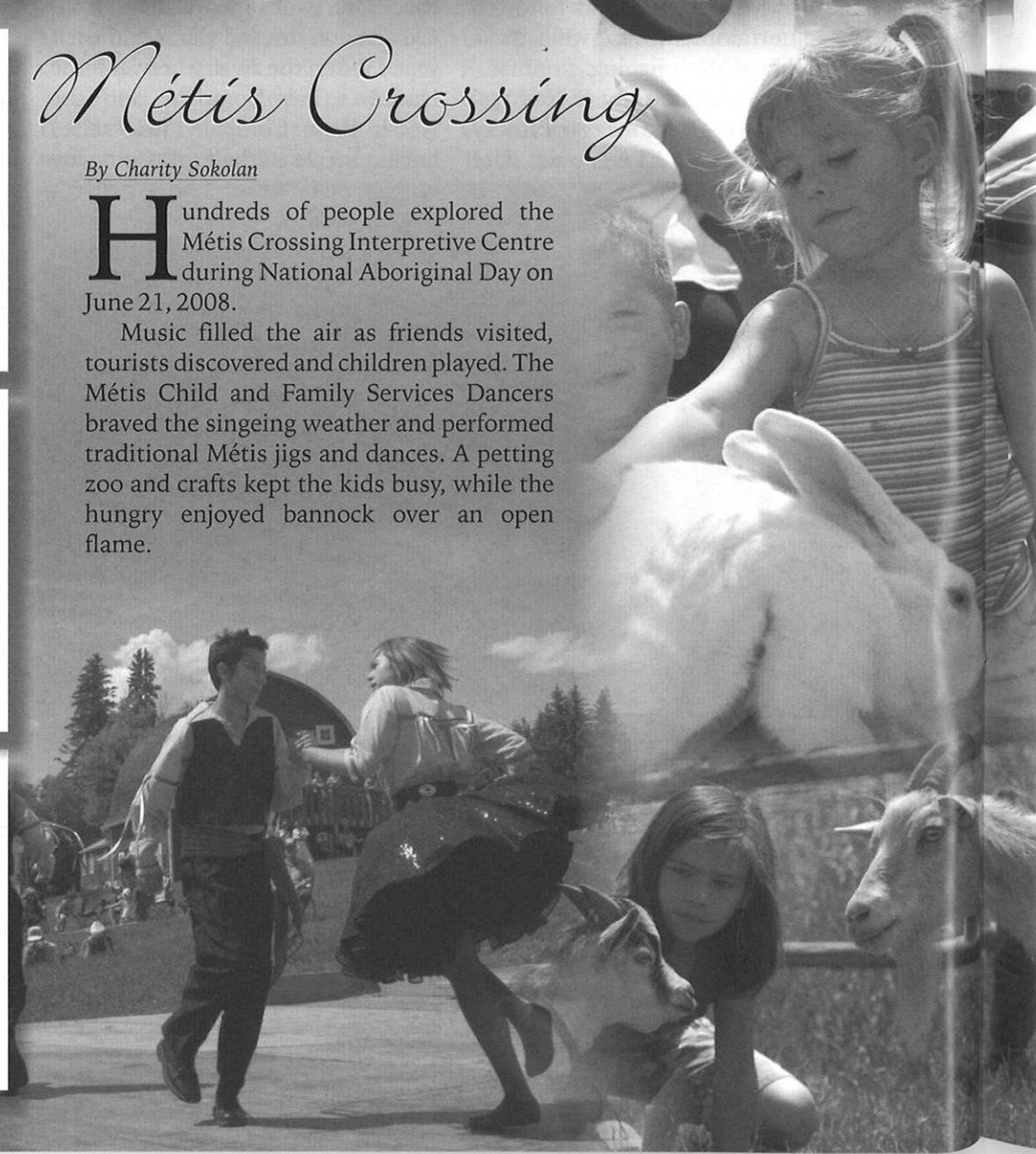
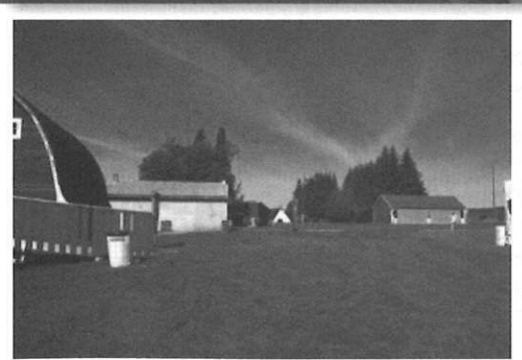
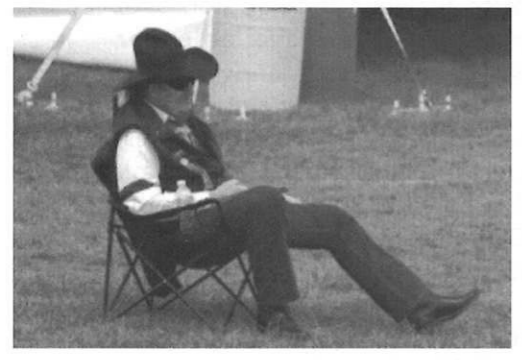
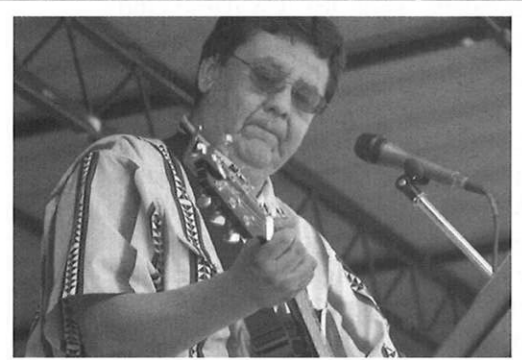


# Métis Crossing

By Charity Sokolan

**H**undreds of people explored the Métis Crossing Interpretive Centre during National Aboriginal Day on June 21, 2008.

Music filled the air as friends visited, tourists discovered and children played. The Métis Child and Family Services Dancers braved the singeing weather and performed traditional Métis jigs and dances. A petting zoo and crafts kept the kids busy, while the hungry enjoyed bannock over an open flame.



# Conservation Dinner and Fundraiser

By Charity Sokolan

**R**on and Corinne Jones and Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras attended the Willmore Wilderness Foundation annual banquet in Edmonton on March 29, 2008. The

Willmore Wilderness Foundation is dedicated to the preservation and conservation of the Willmore Wilderness area near Grande Cache.

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# Michif in Alberta

By Athena McKenzie Lothian

The Métis, being of First Nations, French-Canadian and European ancestry, were traditionally the most multilingual people on the northern plains. For almost a century, the Métis bore the stigma of being Indigenous, of having mixed ancestry, and of being rebels. The end result was a loss of heritage language retention among at least three generations of Métis, which means that most Métis are unable to have a simple conversation in Michif. Michif, a combination of Cree and French, is a language the Métis have spoken for many generations. The preservation of the Michif language is a concern in the Métis community because it is considered by many to be an endangered language.

Athena McKenzie Lothian, the Métis Nation of Alberta Michif Program Coordinator is working with Alberta Michif speaking Elders in each of the six regions, Cecile Howse – Region 1, Emile Blyan – Region 2, Marge Friedel – Region 4, Esther Auger – Region 5, and Eileen Knott – Region 6 to compile and publish a list of Alberta Michif speakers. This is intended to emphasize the distinction between Michif speakers in Alberta versus Michif speakers from other parts of the Métis homeland. The Alberta Michif Speakers List will identify and honour those who are keeping the Michif language alive and help to maintain and strengthen a network of Michif language practitioners in Alberta.

The Alberta Michif Speakers List will be created after a number of interviews are conducted and recorded on audiotape. This dialogue will increase knowledge and awareness of Alberta Michif and result in a publication entitled "The Keepers of Michif". The book will be launched at a Provincial Michif Language Conference (date and location to be determined). A total of 3,000 copies of the aforementioned book will be printed and distributed to Métis Albertans, community-based organizations, and other governmental and non-governmental partners.

Another exciting activity during our three year project is a language immersion camp that involves youth and Elders. The camp activities will focus on continuing Alberta Michif language instruction and cultural teachings. The ongoing language instruction and cultural education for youth will foster networks of young speakers. The five-day camp will be held at Métis Crossing and the program of activities will feature language instruction and on-the-land cultural activities. This will support opportunities for youth to learn Michif and Métis cultural traditions from Elders.

In addition, the people who participated in the

Elder and Youth Language Camp will take part in a language immersion camp and exchange program to promote ongoing learning and development.

Finally, the MNA will host a Michif in Alberta' conference in 2010 to celebrate and showcase the successes and activities undertaken over the course of the 3-year language project. The gathering will increase knowledge and awareness about the Michif language by showcasing and celebrating activities undertaken throughout the project.

Participants at the conference will include all program contributors: youth, Elders, identified Alberta Michif speakers, invited guests, representatives of partner organizations, and supporters of Michif language preservation and promotion. We know the conference will increase awareness about Alberta Michif, strengthen networks and promote information sharing by bringing together Alberta Michif speakers from across the province.

If you have any knowledge of Alberta Michif speakers or questions about the program please contact Athena at 455-2200 ext 220 or alothian@metis.org.



Top: Marge Friedel and Alvina Strausburg  
Above: Elsie Stenstrum and Esther Auger

I am a Métis woman from Alberta and have an understanding of the Métis way which was passed down to me by my family and friends in an Aboriginal community. I was raised in Blue Ridge, a hamlet north of Edmonton where I had various contact with Métis people and Alexis First Nations. From this experience I gained insight into the Métis way being raised in a Métis family as well as spending my formative years in this community. I also spent 13 years in the Grande Prairie, Alberta area which allowed me to become familiar with the Northern Alberta culture. I am very grateful for the opportunity to interview Alberta Michif speakers and be a part of something significant for the Métis Nation.

The MNA 'Michif in Alberta' project asks the following questions which are audio taped:

1. Where is your home community? Can you share with us any Métis history in your area?
2. What did your family and community call the Métis language? Did anyone tell you where this term came from?
3. How do you say potato and tea in your Métis language?
4. Is the Métis language important to you?
5. What should we teach our youth about the Métis language?
6. How and where did you learn to speak your own language?
7. How do you feel about calling the Métis language Michif?
8. Can you please do us the honour of telling us a story in your language? Please translate your story.

The interviews will be transcribed verbatim or word-for-word to preserve the integrity of the interview. This transcript will be sent to the person



Louise Auger and Athena McKenzie Lothian

interviewed for review and their approval before being drafted into book form. We intend to publish 3,000 copies of the book and will be happy to present each person interviewed with a copy of this publication.

An Alberta Michif Speakers List will be compiled from the interviews as access to other speakers is necessary to revive the Apeetogosan/Métis/Michif language. It is important to know where our speakers are so we have a place to speak our Métis language. The 'Michif in Alberta' program can open the world of Michif speaking to our family and friends.

The interviews will also be drawn on for a research study. Themes will be gathered from data collected through the interviews and assessed to answer the research question:

- How does preserving and reviving the Métis/Michif language affect the Métis Person/Nation/Community?

The assessment of the interviews will then be written in an academic paper and presented at various language conferences. This will assist us in telling our Métis story in our own words and from our worldview.

If you have concerns about any part of this program you may contact:

**Fran Hyndman**

Senior Manager, Tripartite Initiatives  
Métis Nation of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta  
1 800 252 7553, or 780 455 2200 ext 381

Please direct your questions to:

**Athena Lothian**

Michif Program Coordinator  
Métis Nation of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta  
1 800 252 7553 or 780 455 2200 ext 220



Louise Auger and Esther Auger



# Otipemisiwak

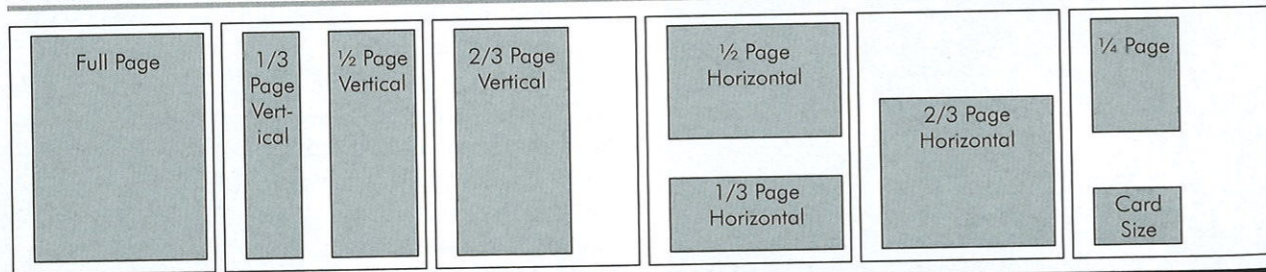
*The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta*

We encourage Métis to make submissions to our Nation's official magazine in the form of photos and articles telling stories about the events and people in your community.

## 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.

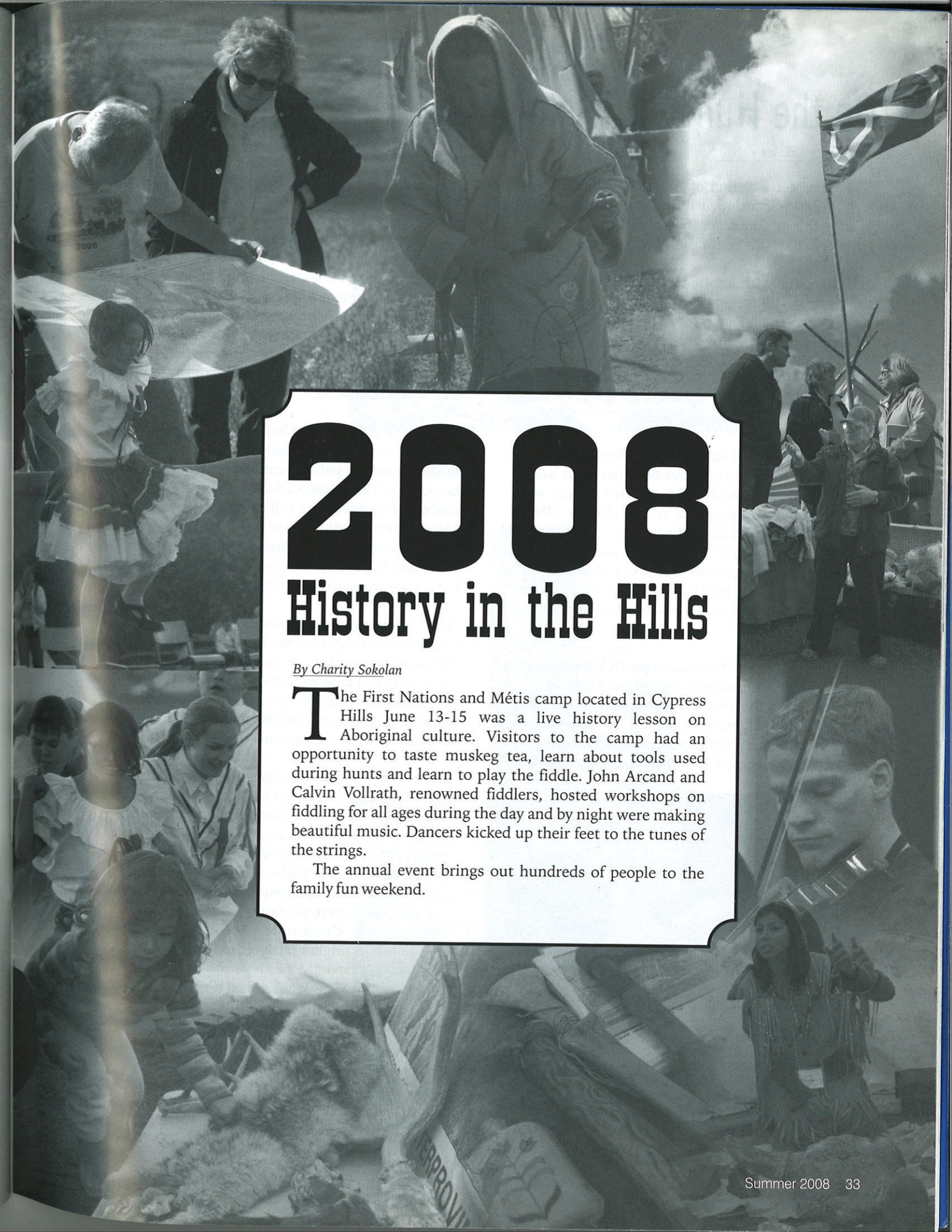
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# 2008 History in the Hills

*By Charity Sokolan*

The First Nations and Métis camp located in Cypress Hills June 13-15 was a live history lesson on Aboriginal culture. Visitors to the camp had an opportunity to taste muskeg tea, learn about tools used during hunts and learn to play the fiddle. John Arcand and Calvin Vollrath, renowned fiddlers, hosted workshops on fiddling for all ages during the day and by night were making beautiful music. Dancers kicked up their feet to the tunes of the strings.

The annual event brings out hundreds of people to the family fun weekend.

# On the Hunt for History

By Charity Sokolan

The Métis Nation of Alberta's (MNA) 'Hunt for Justice' continued in the ancient Cypress Hills with a 'Hunt for History' during the annual History in the Hills celebrations held in June.

Métis citizens with information on Métis history in the Cypress Hills region were invited to bring their stories, photos and artifacts to the June 15 meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to provide MNA members with an update on the Métis harvesting rights in the province and to gather this information from Métis community members for the upcoming Métis harvesting rights test case.

"What we're essentially proving in the upcoming test case is that Métis have always been here and have always hunted in this area," said Métis lawyer, Jean Teillet, who is acting as legal counsel for the MNA, along with Jason Madden. Jean acted as legal counsel for Steve and Roddy Powley in their landmark 'Hunt for Justice' to the Supreme Court of Canada. Both her and Jason have also acted as legal counsel in several other Métis rights wins across the Métis Nation Homeland.

"We are looking for Métis community members to share the often unwritten story of the Métis in Alberta. From the 1900s onward much of the story has not been told, but the community holds the story in the form of personal experiences and record. We need people to come forward and be willing to share



People listened intently at a workshop in Cypress Hills

their stories so the court has the full story, not just the story of government denials."

On July 1, 2007 the Alberta Government cancelled the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement (IMHA), which was in place for over 2 ½ years, and implemented its own unilateral harvesting policy disregarding several of the recommendations made in the government's own MLA Committee on Métis Harvesting report released in 2006. Specifically, the Alberta Government implemented an arbitrary policy which identified 17 site-specific Métis communities in northern Alberta and drew circles around those communities for harvesting purposes and denied the existence of Métis people and Métis rights in central and southern Alberta.

During the 2007 Assembly in St. Paul, MNA members voted unanimously to implement a Métis-made harvesting policy creating regulations for Métis harvesters. The Métis Nation also voted to hold traditional hunts in the Fall of 2007 to assert the Métis right to hunt for food in all parts of Alberta. This led to the Crown charging Garry Hirsekorn, Ron Jones and Bruce Bates, along with over 15 other Métis harvesters from across the province.

All Métis harvesting charges in the province are now being case managed by one Provincial Court Judge out of Sherwood Park. It is expected that the Métis harvesting test case will go to trial in May 2009. In preparation for the test case, the MNA's lawyers are working on gathering information and identifying community witnesses for this important case.

"I know these are hunting cases, but this is not just about hunting, if we win the hunting we win hunting, we win fishing, we win gathering, we win all harvesting related rights," said Teillet. "The case is also about recognition and respect of the Métis people. Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 is about rights recognition, not rights denial."

The MNA's legal team stressed that similar to the litigation strategies used by Métis in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, this test case is not just be about one area of the province.

"This case is not just about Cypress Hills, it's about all Métis in Alberta," said Madden. "We believe the evidence will show that the Métis have been and continue to be a mobile people. Since the Supreme Court has said that the very purpose of s. 35 is to protect the customs, practices and traditions that were integral to the Métis people. It defies logic to attempt to carve up our families and interconnected settlements across the province and to arbitrarily limit traditional Métis harvesting practices."

"If we are successful in this case, it will squarely challenge Ted Morton's flawed Métis harvesting policy in northern Alberta, just as much as it will challenge his denial of Métis rights in central and southern Alberta. Essentially, the Alberta Government's policy will be exposed for its failure to understand and appreciate the Métis people and the Constitution of Canada," said Madden.

"Government continue to attempt to divide our people up, they want to carve us into nice little 'communities' that bear no resemblance to how our people existed in the past and how they exist today. We can't accept this. When we challenge governments on this narrow view of Metis rights, we clearly have the facts of history on our side."

Madden concluded, "This case is about asserting that there are rights-bearing Métis people throughout this province and they deserve respect. They have constitutional rights that must be respected by the Alberta Government. The reality is in the past the Alberta Government has shown respect for the Métis, they've done things for the Métis, they've worked in partnership with the Métis, and, in some areas they still do. But the reality is we can't accept that one man, on a whim, get to decide who the Métis people are and where they have rights. Ted Morton made just one more bad decision as a Minister and this case will document that for all to see."

If you have stories, record, photographs or family history and you are interested in sharing that information or being a witness in the upcoming trial, please send copies of document to the MNA Head Office at #100 Delia Gray Building, 11738 Kingsway Ave, Edmonton Alberta T5G 0X5 or contact Robert Lee at 780-455-2200.



Jean Teillet explains why people's stories and artifacts are important to their harvesting case



Garry Hirsekorn

## Honouring Our Métis People

# Running in her Great-Grandfather's Footsteps

By Charity Sokolan

For several people, retracing their family heritage means going through old photographs and charting where people belong on a family tree. Sometimes it means travelling to where their ancestors lived, finding the area where their home was and even visiting the cemetery to see their final resting place. During the journey of discovery, the past is found. Ancestors could be legendary for their moonshine or philanthropy or business.

In Shannon Loutitt's case, she discovered her great-grandfather saved the town of Athabasca because he had a special talent that she did not even know she inherited: the talent to run.

The legend in Shannon's family is Billy Loutit, a Métis man from Athabasca who saved his town in the only way he could: by running for help. During the 1904 spring break-up of the river, the town of Athabasca was in dire need of emergency help from Edmonton. At the time, the Hudson's Bay Company was a major player in the community of Athabasca and the company was set to lose a great deal from the flood.

With no telegraphs or instant way to get a hold of help from Edmonton, there was only one choice for Hudson's Bay: to send a messenger.

The company dispatched two

messenger on horseback dispatched from Stony Creek about 80 miles north of Edmonton; the other messenger was Billy Loutit sent from Athabasca

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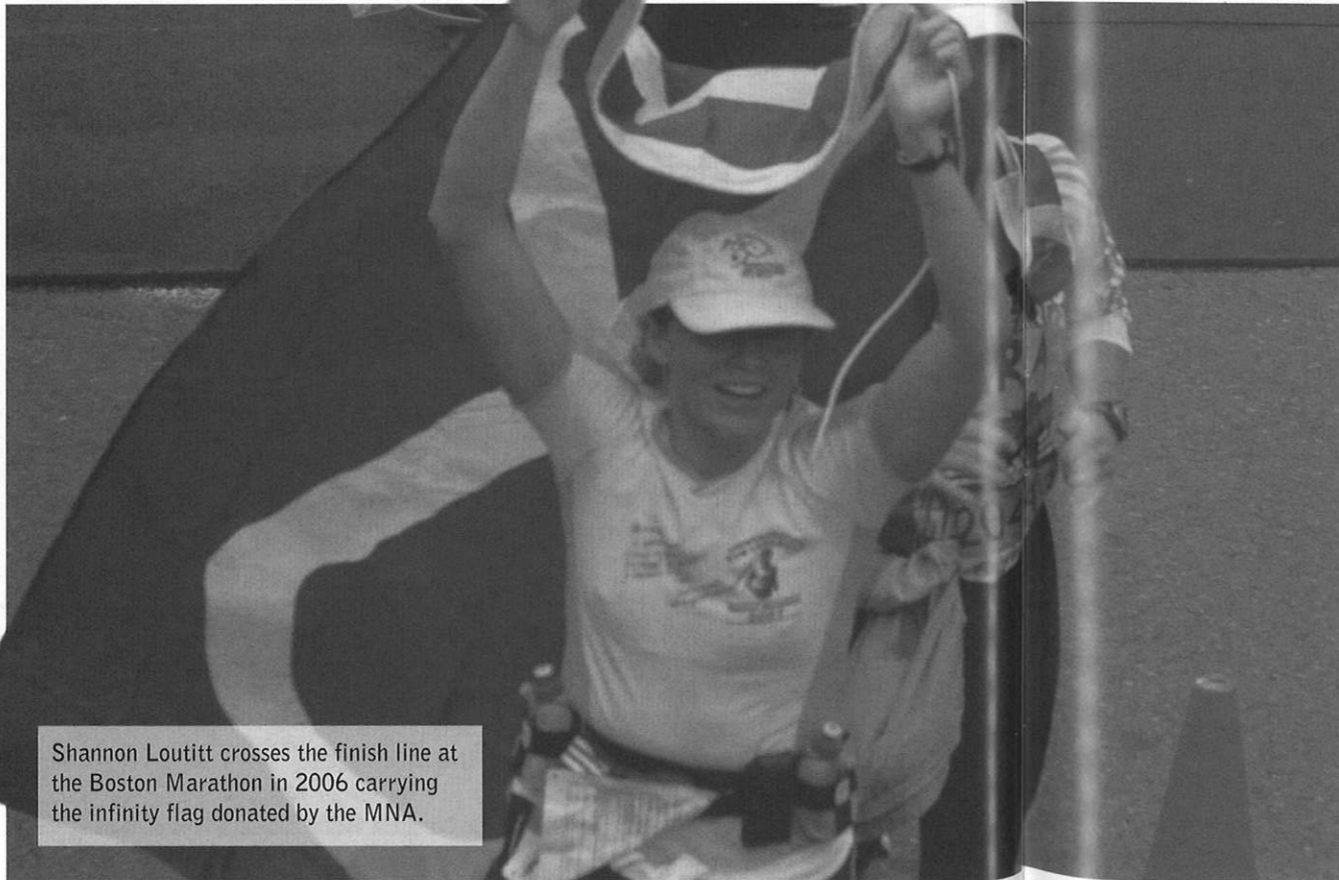
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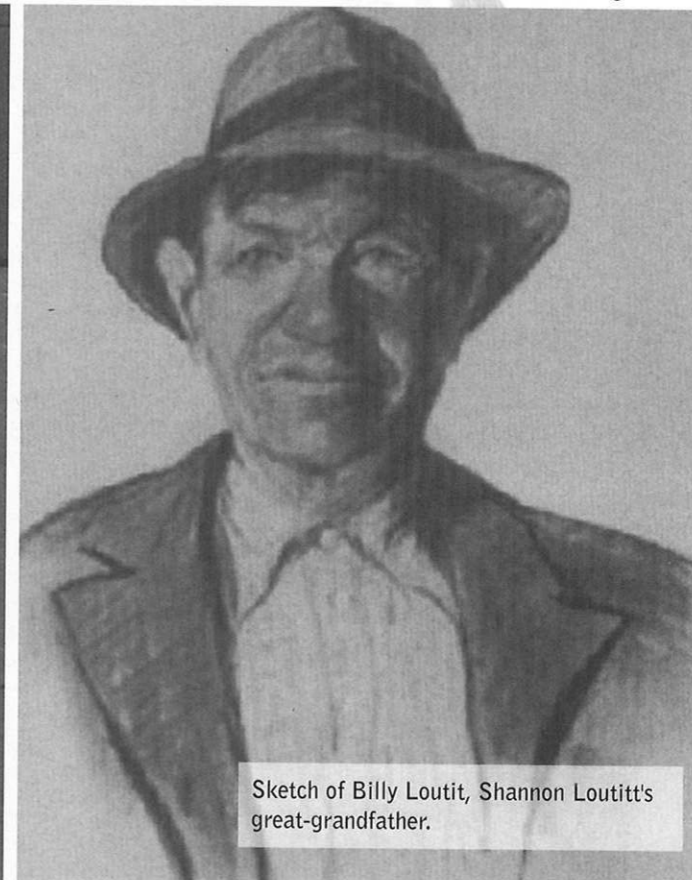
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The company dispatched two messengers: the first was a messenger on horseback dispatched from Stony Creek about 80 miles north of Edmonton; the other messenger was Billy Loutit sent from Athabasca about 100 miles north of Edmonton. It was a race of



Shannon Loutitt crosses the finish line at the Boston Marathon in 2006 carrying the infinity flag donated by the MNA.



Sketch of Billy Loutit, Shannon Loutitt's great-grandfather.

necessity. Loutit did what he did best, and ran cross-country to Edmonton, making the journey in 16 hours, while the messenger on horseback arrived an hour after Loutit did. Today, the town of Athabasca honours Billy Loutit's legendary heroics by holding a Triathlon in his name in mid-July.

On July 18, Shannon will follow in Billy Loutit's footsteps, literally, as she re-traces his race against time on the Billy Loutit 100 Mile Route.

Shannon was blown away the first time she heard this story about her great-grandfather. The story of Billy Loutit changed her life forever. While listening to this story, Shannon and her relatives made a pact to enter in the Billy Loutit Dispatch Triathlon not really sure of what they were getting into.

"When my relatives had left, I asked my husband, 'what is a triathlon?'" said Shannon.

At the time, Shannon describes how she was a couch potato who had just given up smoking. She led an unhealthy lifestyle and was overwhelmed at the idea of having to get in shape to swim 1/2 km, bike 20 km and run 5 km.

"At 32 years of age it was enough to get me off my seat and get moving, I belong to something like that and as I go along I learn so much about myself and learn a whole new life, it's a huge gift from my great-grandfather," said Shannon.

"I know it sounds ridiculous, but I tried to make it past two and half minutes on a manual treadmill – walking – four years ago."

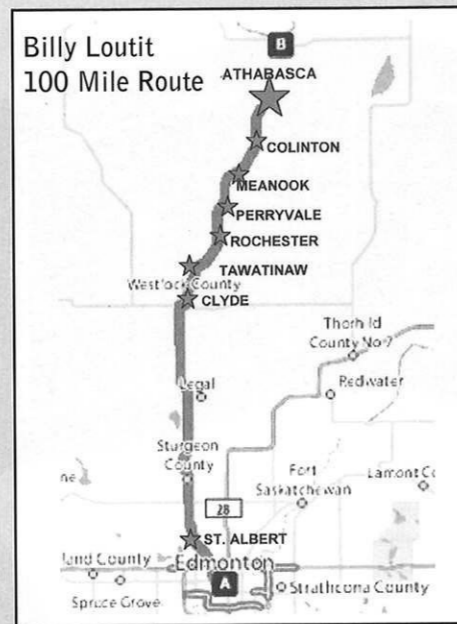
But it was a start. Shannon trained for months, transforming her metabolism from that of a couch potato into that of an athlete. While training, her relatives, who said they were going to join her in the triathlon, slowly snuck out of the race leaving her to go it alone. Word also got out to the media that a direct descendent of the man who saved Athabasca was participating in the triathlon, adding extra pressure on Shannon to finish her first triathlon.

Shannon set her heart on paying homage to her great-grandfather and did just that by finishing the race of her life, in third place. To commemorate the occasion, 32 of her relatives travelled from northern Alberta and Seattle to see the Saskatoon resident cross the finish line. After finishing this race Shannon realized that if she put her mind to something, she could do it.

Her next big feat was completing the Boston Marathon, the place where a documentary crew first gave her the idea to pay homage to her great-grandfather.

"When I went to go run the Boston Marathon there were a number of challenges during this race. Tom Harrington from the National followed us all the way from Toronto and the reason I am writing a book on this is so many things happened," said Shannon.

"He followed us from Toronto to all the way down to Boston to do a four minute segment on the National on the



## Billy Loutit Weekend Event Schedule

### Friday, July 18, 2008

- 9 am Special Gathering at Alberta Legislative Bandshell
- 10:30 am Shannon Loutit begins the 100 mile Journey from the Hudson's Bay Trading Post Memorial located on the Alberta Legislative Grounds.
- 12 pm Estimated start at St. Albert Running Room for walkers and runners to join in the journey.
- 12:30 pm Arrival outside St. Albert city limits and highway running begins continuing on Hwy. 2 for the next 40 miles.
- 6 pm Kids of Steel registration and race package pick-up in Athabasca.
- 9 pm (Estimate) Arrival in the community of Clyde and start of Athabasca Landing Trails.

(ETAs for other checkpoints are available on website)

### Saturday, July 19, 2008

- 9 am Billy Loutit Kids of Steel Triathlon begins (registration by Friday, July 18 at 6 pm)
- 10 am Estimated arrival of 100 mile runners into Athabasca
- 11 am Kids of Steel awards and prizes ceremony begins
- 5 pm Billy Loutit Adult Sprint and Olympic individual and team race package pick-ups at Pasta night location (Multiplex)
- 5:30-8:30 pm Pasta night at new Multi-plex

### Sunday, July 20, 2008

- 8 am Adult Olympic distance Triathlon start (individual and team)
- 8:30 am Adult Sprint distance Triathlon start (individual and team)
- 12 pm Triathlon awards and prizes ceremony

# 2008 Esquao Awards

By Charity Sokolan

The 13th annual Esquao Awards were held in Edmonton on May 1, 2008 at the Shaw Conference Centre. First Nations, Métis and Inuit women were honoured for their contributions to the society. The Esquao awards are hosted by the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women. The Métis Nation of Alberta congratulates all the recipients for their dedication to improving the lives of women in Canada. Photographed is Métis woman Norah Calliou giving a colourful thank you speech upon accepting her Dorothy Daniels Justice Award.

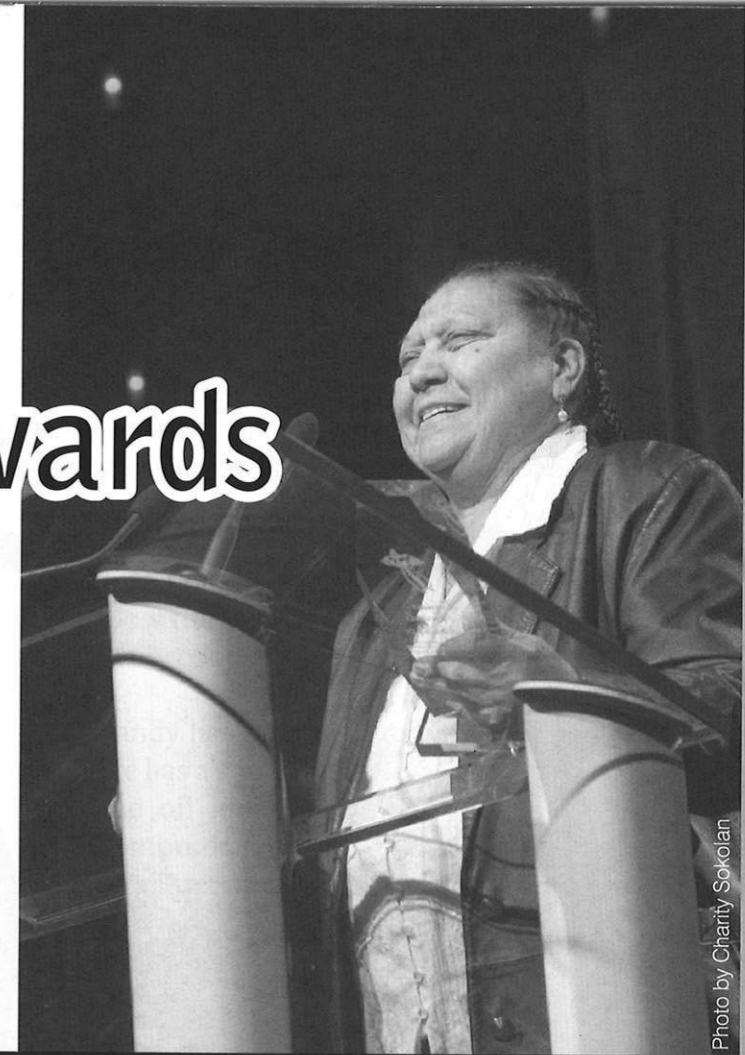


Photo by Charity Sokolan

## Update your Membership Files

What is needed for a file to be considered up to date?

- Historical proof of Métis heritage (this can be in the form of a land scrip or grant, or some other government, church, community or historical record recognizing an ancestor as Métis)
- A completed family tree of your Métis ancestors to the mid-1800s
- A long form birth certificate OR a baptismal certificate and a wallet sized birth certificate
- One (1) piece of photo identification for the purpose of swearing a statutory declaration
- A digital photo—this photo can be taken at any Regional Office or in the Edmonton Central office

Please contact your Regional Office or any of the following toll-free numbers to confirm the status of your membership file.

1-866-88METIS (1-866-886-3847)  
1-866-678-7888  
1-800-252-7553

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# Sandy Challifoux recipient of MNA new card 10,000

By Charity Sokolan



MNA President Audrey Poitras presents Sandy Challifoux card 10,000

**S**andy Challifoux is a proud Métis man and he is quite proud to hold the 10,000th new Alberta Métis card issued in the palms of his hands.

"I think we are fortunate to be Métis," he said. "As Métis people we are taught the art of work. I am forever grateful to my father for that."

Sandy, at age 71, is a man with an appreciation of what life has to offer and shares that appreciation with everyone he meets. This gratitude is a family value Sandy learned while he was growing up in McLennan.

"My father helped people all his life. I don't know how many children my father raised that weren't his," said Sandy. "When I was 38 I started getting in the helping field. We used to have kids live in the house that weren't ours. That's just how that is – they have to have some place to live. It makes me feel good I can help people."

Sandy's father did not attend school but that did not mean he was an uneducated man. He worked as a logging contractor and farmed providing for his family and taught Sandy the gift of helping.

Throughout his life Sandy has worked many jobs including work in the forestry and oil industry where he fell into the culture that often accompanies those jobs. Part of that culture included drinking. Sandy is 33 years sober and for a good portion of his life he has helped people with their own problems with addictions at Poundmaker's where he was executive director for many years. He travelled around the country setting up other treatment centres because people need a hand up rather than a hand out.

Last year Sandy changed his career to work as a railroad trainer. He has the opportunity to teach a variety of people including those who love to work outside in the fresh air; those who have not held down a job before; and those who are looking to change careers.

The railroad course is a month long and focuses on building track where students learn how to cut rail, install ties and remove ties. During the course the student lay down 200 ft of track.

"I tell them, 'you are professionals, don't let anyone tell you any different,'" said Sandy. He feels it is important to encourage his students to be proud of their work. "Of the 11 I instructed, eight of them went to work."

The transformation he sees in his students is tremendous. He had one student who lived on government subsidies for most of his life.

"He said the biggest cheque I had in my life was a welfare cheque," said Sandy. Now the student pulls in a few thousand dollars every couple of weeks from working.

Sandy has six children who he is very proud of. He has a son who is a lawyer; a son who works in the oil industry in Calgary; a son who is a computer tech; a son who works for PNR; a daughter who runs a successful home business; and a daughter who is getting into the trades. His wife is a social worker.



## Proud Métis

Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras presents Beverly Stark her Métis card in April 2007.

The Stark family are proud Métis and Beverly was quite excited to receive her card. Photo by Irena Collins.

# Richard McLeod

## First Métis Orthopaedic Surgeon in Canada

By Charity Sokolan

To become a pharmacist it takes years of study of how drug combinations work, what drug reacts with what, the proper usage of drugs... There is no room for mistakes in pharmacy. Working behind the drug counter would be pressure enough for most people. For Dr. Richard McLeod, the challenge of being a pharmacist was not quite what he was hoping it to be. Once Richard got into the routine of pharmacy he became restless and wanted to do something more challenging.

Richard left his first profession as a pharmacist to enroll in Medicine at the University of Alberta to train to be an orthopaedic surgeon. Currently practicing in Toronto, Richard is the first Métis orthopaedic surgeon in all of Canada.

"I always liked doing things with my hands," said Richard. "It's something very satisfying."

"You do this job and you think you are helping and doing good."

Although Richard did enjoy working in a pharmacy he wanted to do something in which he felt he could see the direct results of his work. He receives immense satisfaction from operating on his patients. Some of his patients started out with just a minor pain that grew into something more. Other patients suffered from injuries that just did not seem to dissipate. The look of relief on the faces of his patients makes everything he does worthwhile.

Recently Richard had a patient return to his clinic who had re-injured herself. It was a bit awkward for her to return, but it worked out.

"She ended up with a good result in the end," said Richard. "She was very thankful."

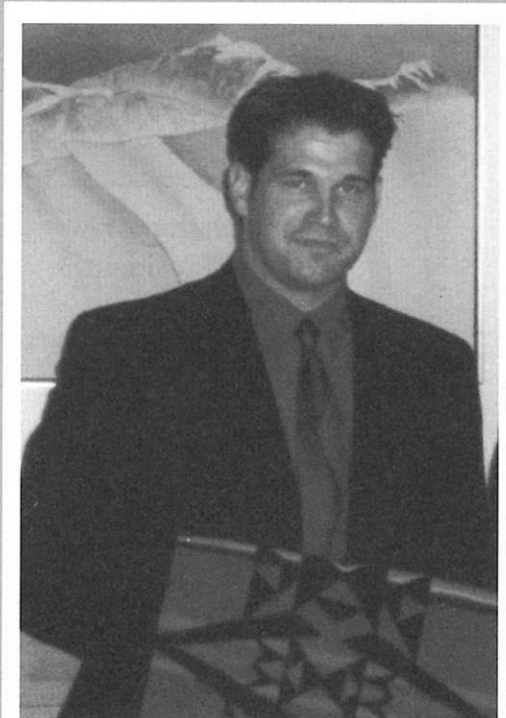
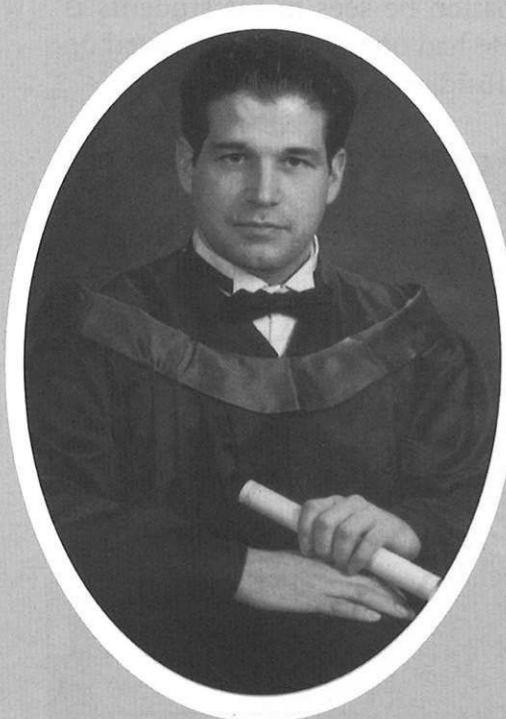
Like many Métis, Richard has lived across the country, spending most of his life in Alberta. He was born in Burns Lake, B.C. His family moved to Grande Prairie when he was four-years-old and he lived there until 1991 when he married his wife Lesley. Richard went to the University of Alberta in Edmonton studying pharmacy. He graduated in 1996.

In 2002 Richard was accepted into Medicine at the University of Alberta and specialized in Orthopaedic Surgery. A year ago he moved with his family to Toronto so he could complete his Fellowship at Mount Sinai Hospital. Richard has been married for 17 years with three children ages 11, 12 and 15. In June the family moved to Kamloops, something that has brought him full circle. He is quite happy to move back west.

With the help of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, bursaries, and of course, substantial student loans, Richard was able to complete his studies. He also received the Darcy Tailfeather award which was presented to him at an award dinner.

Richard grew up with some Métis influences in his life. He is a descendant of chief Papaschase of the Papaschase band who originally occupied the area where South Edmonton Common is today.

"I am Métis, my family is from Edmonton," said Richard. "It is something that is important to me."



Top: Richard McLeod graduating from Medicine.  
Above: Richard McLeod receiving the Darcy Tailfeather award.



## 80th Annual Assembly Metis Nation of Alberta Red Deer, Alberta

### SPECIAL RESOLUTION #1

**Whereas** Article 39.1 states that the Bylaws of the Métis Nation shall not be rescinded, altered or added to except by Special Resolution; and

**Whereas** the Métis Nation membership Registry process includes the issuance of a Certificate once the member application process is complete; therefore

**Be It Resolved that** Article 10 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP be amended by deleting Article 10.7 which reads 'any Métis who has been accepted as a Member must sign and take an oath of membership to the Métis Nation' and Article 10.8 which reads 'the oath of membership shall be attached as Schedule "A" to these Bylaws and shall form part of these Bylaws'

Moved by Cecil Bellrose  
Seconded by Marilyn Underschultz

### SPECIAL RESOLUTION #2

**Whereas** the elected representative of each Region the Regional President and Regional Vice President come to the provincial Council table for the betterment of the Métis People in their Region and

**Whereas** the Métis People of each region have the right to be represented by their elected officials and

**Whereas** it has been the past practice that the Regional Vice Presidents cancels out the Regional Presidents vote and

**Whereas** this practice is unfair to the Métis People of each Region

**Therefore be it resolved** that Article 21.5 of the MNA By-Laws be removed in its entirety and be replaced by:

Each Region shall have one vote at the Provincial Council Table and this vote will be via the Regional President and that the Regional Vice President only have a vote at the Provincial Council table when the Regional President is absent

Moved by: Bev Weber  
Seconded by: Jeannette Hansen

### SPECIAL RESOLUTION #3

**Whereas** Article 39.1 states that the Bylaws of the Métis Nation shall not be rescinded, altered or added to except by Special Resolution; and

**Whereas** Article 16.2 states 'the President, Vice President and the Regional Representatives of the Provincial Council shall be elected for a term of three(3) years';

**Therefore be it resolved** that Article 16.2 be amended by altering "three (3) years" to "four(4) years"; henceforth Article

16.2 will now read "The President, Vice President and the Regional Representatives of the Provincial Council shall be elected for a term of four (4) years";

**Be it further resolved** that in accordance with Article 39.2, this amendment will become effective upon registration with the Registrar of Corporations by the Secretary of the Métis Nation.

Moved by: Gwen Thiele  
Seconded by: Jeannette Hansen

### SPECIAL RESOLUTION #4

**Whereas** Article 39.1 states that the Bylaws of the Métis Nation shall not be rescinded, altered or added to except by Special Resolution; and

**Whereas** Provincial Council members are elected by the Métis electorate in accordance with the 'Election Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta';

**Therefore be it resolved** to amend Article 23 - VACANCY AND REMOVAL OF A PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEMBER by deleting Article 23.1(b) and re-numbering sub-articles.

Moved by: Melanie Omeniho  
Seconded by: Ian Horner

### SPECIAL RESOLUTION #5

**Whereas** Article 39.1 states that the Bylaws of the Métis Nation shall not be rescinded, altered or added to except by Special Resolution; and

**Whereas** Article 10.1 states 'Any Métis who is a resident of the Province of Alberta for a minimum of ninety (90) consecutive days shall have the right to apply for membership in the Métis Nation;

**Therefore be it resolved** that Article 5.1(b) of the Election Bylaws be amended by altering "at least one year (1) year prior" to "a minimum of ninety (90) consecutive days"; henceforth Article 5.1(b) will now read "has been or will have been ordinarily resident in Alberta for a minimum of ninety (90) consecutive days prior to the date of the election".

**Be it further resolved** that in accordance with Article 39.2, this amendment will become effective upon registration with the Registrar of Corporations by the Secretary of the Métis Nation.

Moved by Robert Lee  
Seconded by Marilyn Underschultz

These resolutions were received on or before July 10, 2008.



*Get Ahead of The Future*

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- Pre-employment services ♦
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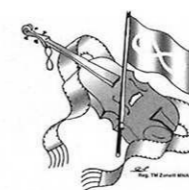
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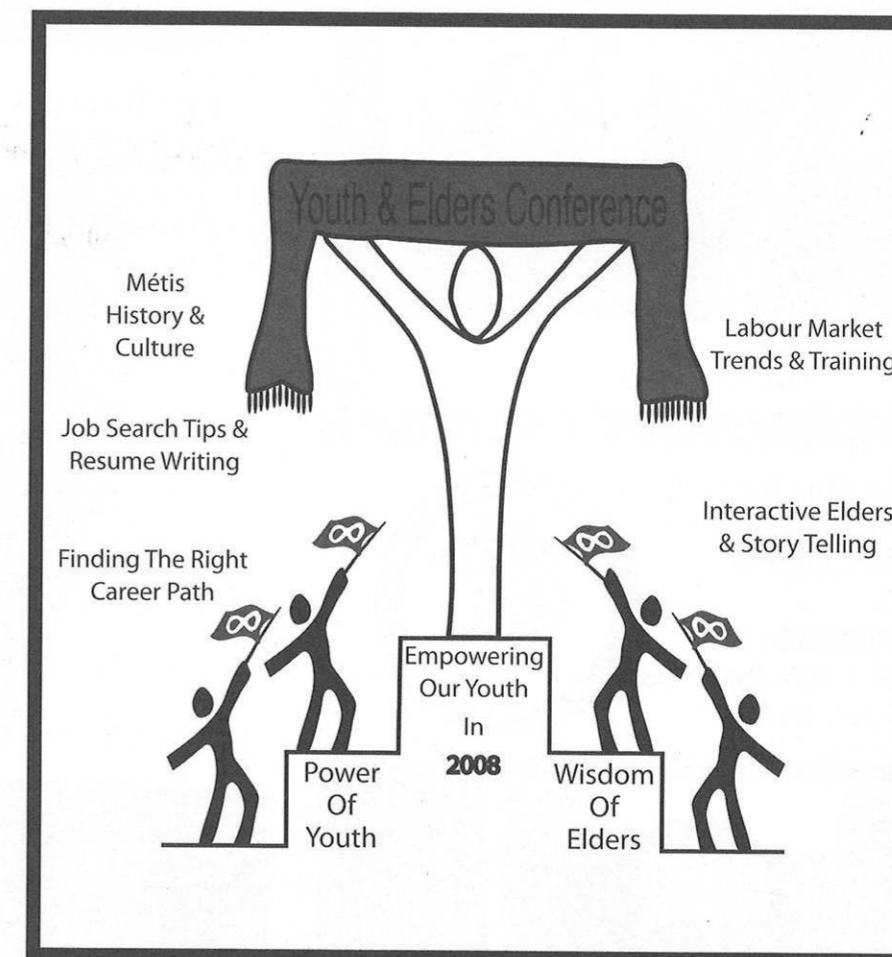


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Of the Métis Nation of Alberta  
presents

## **Youth & Elders Conference**

**Canada**

August 7 - 10, 2008  
Capri Hotel  
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Red Deer, Alberta



For more information please contact:  
**Region III of The Metis Nation of Alberta**  
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Calgary, Alberta T2E 6X8  
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Joseph Pimlott at [smoken202@hotmail.com](mailto:smoken202@hotmail.com)

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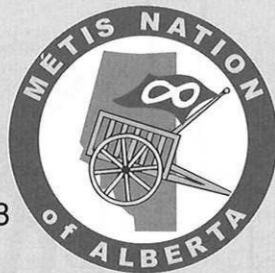


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## Charity's Case

Charity Sokolan

Hello reader. My name is Charity Sokolan and I am the new editor of Otipemisiwak. You have seen my byline in here for the last year or so as Charity Borg. I recently got married to a train maniac who collects model trains and is going beyond the model trains and is collecting railroad equipment.

In case I have not had the chance to meet you either at head office or out in the community let me tell you a little about me. I have worked for the Métis Nation of Alberta since Métis Week 2006. This was my first taste of Métis culture. I was hired for a few days to take some photos and write a couple of stories. Then I returned February 2007 to help out a few days a week on contract. Now I'm helping fill in for maternity leave.

When I am not at the Métis Nation of Alberta I am photographing weddings for To Be in Pictures studio ([tobeinpictures.com](http://tobeinpictures.com)) and for my own company Charity Borg Photography ([charityborg.com](http://charityborg.com)).

I have learned so many things about the culture and history of the Métis people. Prior to working at the MNA one of my Canadian heroes was and still is Louis Riel. To me Louis Riel is a man who saw something that was not right and stood his ground whether it was popular or not. I think that is what leadership is about, not always doing the popular thing but doing the right thing. My other Canadian heroes are Pierre Trudeau for the Canadian Constitution, Wayne Gretzky because he's a good hockey player, and the Raging Grannies because they use humour to convey their message. Humour is a powerful method of persuasion.

This summer is full of activities you and your family can enjoy. Here are some brief highlights:

- Métis Crossing is open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. until Labour Day and it highlights Métis culture and history. The Crossing is an interactive way to learn about the past and present. Aug 23-24 is

the Métis Crossing Voyage. For the more adventurous at heart there is the first zipline in Alberta. It consists of six different ziplines and you can tell me how that goes as I'm a no-fun Nancy who fears heights.

- The Hivernant Rendezvous will kick off early with a trek from the Tail Creek campground to Big Valley. The goal of the Hivernant Rendezvous is to introduce youth to traditional Métis wintering camps in slightly better weather. The journey will be made with horse and Red River carts during the last week of July.
- Rocky Mountain House has opened the doors to their interpretive centre. The Interpretive Centre is open Thursdays to Mondays until Labour Day weekend.
- The Lac Ste. Anne Pilgrimage is the largest gathering of Aboriginal people in Western Canada. Each year nearly 40,000 people make their way to the sacred waters of Lac Ste. Anne. This year the Pilgrimage is July 19-24.
- Come September it is election time again for the MNA. Cast your ballot in the advance polls Aug. 23 or else on Election Day Sept. 2.

I hope to see you out at some of these events this summer!

PS - The photo is of me going to Saskatchewan for the first time ever. Ron, Jim and I had some time before the meeting in Cypress Hills on June 15 and I had not gone to Saskatchewan before. If you happen to be in Cypress Hills and you're interested in the history of the area it is definitely worth visiting Fort Walsh, but please allow a few hours to visit the museum.

-30-

# National Definition of Métis

*As Adopted at the MNC's 18th AGA in Edmonton, AB  
September 27th - 28th, 2002*

**1.1 "Métis" means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of Historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation.**

### *Defined Terms in National Definition of Métis*

1.2 "Historic Métis Nation" means the Aboriginal people then known as Métis or Half-breeds who resided in the Historic Métis Nation Homeland.

1.3 "Historic Métis Nation Homeland" means 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.

1.4 "Métis Nation" means the Aboriginal people descended from the Historic Métis Nation which is now comprised of all Métis Nation citizens and is one of the "aboriginal peoples of Canada" within the meaning of s.35 of the Constitution Act 1982.

1.5 "Distinct from other Aboriginal peoples" means distinct for cultural and nationhood purposes.





# 80th Annual GENERAL ASSEMBLY

August 7-10, 2008, Capri Trade and Convention Centre  
Red Deer, Alberta

*Hosted by Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3 Red Deer Local 84*

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For information regarding Assembly Meeting  
or booth information please contact Ron Harrison  
at the Métis Nation of Alberta  
at **1.800.252.7553** or **780.455.2200**.

For information about  
all other activities (i.e. golf tournament, banquet) contact  
Local 84 at **403.340.2416**.