

Otipemisiwak

VOICE OF THE MÉTIS NATION IN ALBERTA



Group Harvests Take Place Throughout the Province



Otipemisiwak:
oh-t-paym'-soo-wuk

Michif:
"their own boss,
the independent ones"

Feature Photo (left):

Teah Gladue was rewarded for her patience during the group hunt in House River when a wild bird came and ate from her outstretched hand.

Photo by Charity Borg

On Our Cover:

These handcrafted moccasins are part of the archives found at the Medicine Hat Local 8 headquarters. They are one of the many donated items on display at the local. Other items include a buffalo hide, beadwork and other crafts.

Photo by Charity Borg

in this issue

2 *President's Message*

Strengthening Our Métis Rights

- 4 *Métis 'Hunt in the Hills' a Success*
- 10 *Métis Take United Message on Harvesting to Alberta Legislature*
- 12 *The Ewan Moberly Memorial Harvest*
- 16 *Harvester Charged in House River Moose Hunt*
- 22 *Manitoba Judge Rules in Métis Lands Case*

Building the Métis Nation of Alberta

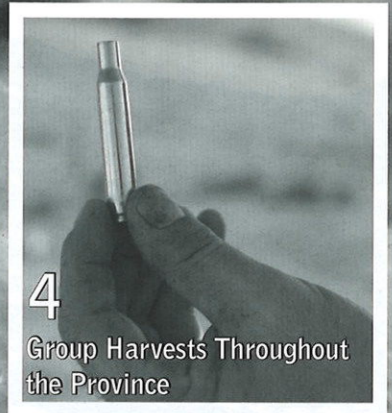
- 28 *Métis Week Ushered in by Historic Land Transfer*
- 29 *Government of Canada Supports the MNA*
- 30 *\$2 Million Endowment Program*
- 32 *MNA Announces Speakers for Upcoming Conference*
- 34 *Rick Boucher Reprimanded and Suspended Until 2010*

Celebrating Métis Culture

- 40 *Remembering Louis Riel*
- 42 *Métis Week Recognized in Alberta Schools*
- 43 *Delia Gray Memorial Gala*

Honouring Our Métis People

- 46 *Honouring the Women Who Shape a Nation*
- 50 *Getting a Headstart at the Métis Nation of Alberta*
- 56 *Métis Students' Accomplishments Recognized*



4
Group Harvests Throughout
the Province



30
\$2 Million Endowment
Program



42
Métis Week

Otipemisiwak

The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta

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

Direct any correspondence or inquiries to:

Otipemisiwak
#100 Delia Gray Building
11738 Kingsway Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5
Phone: (780) 455-2200 or
1 (800) 252-7553 (Alberta Only)
Fax: (780) 452-8946
Email: communications@metis.org
Website: www.albertamemis.com

Otipemisiwak is published bi-monthly.

No part of this publication may be reproduced without the express written consent of Otipemisiwak.

Advertising rates are posted on page 18 of the magazine, or can be obtained by contacting Otipemisiwak.

Advertisers and advertising agencies assume full responsibility for all content of advertisements printed. Advertisers also assume responsibility for any claim arising therefrom, made against Otipemisiwak.

Otipemisiwak welcomes written and photographic submissions. The editor retains the right to edit or reject all copy and photographs.

If Undeliverable, Deliver to #100 Delia Gray Building, 11738 Kingsway Avenue Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5
CANADIAN PUBLICATION AGREEMENT NUMBER 40985503

Editor: Monique Devlin
(Acting) Communications Manager

Photographer and Journalist: Charity Borg

Layout and Design: Lori Nixon
KiwiLynx Consulting

Printing: Douglas Printing

Editorial Committee:
Audrey Poitras, President, MNA
Lorne Gladue, Director of LMD
Lynda Olson, Director of Corporate Services



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.

Deadline for submissions is March 14, 2008

Otipemisiwak
Métis Nation of Alberta
Phone: (780) 455-2200 or
1 (800) 252-7553 (Alberta Only)
Fax: (780) 452-8946
communications@metis.org
#100 Delia Gray Building
11738 Kingsway Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5





President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a merry and safe Christmas season and had the chance to catch up with family and friends.

Well, 2008 is already upon us and it appears that it will be just as busy, if not busier, than 2007 for the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA). This year will be a defining one for the MNA both provincially and nationally.

At the provincial level, we are in the courts defending our Métis rights against Ted Morton's unilateral and arbitrary Métis harvesting policy. Based on the direction received from Métis citizens, we have moved aggressively forward on implementing the Action Plan on Métis Harvesting that was unanimously adopted by the MNA Annual General Assembly in August 2007.

We have stood up for Métis rights by implementing our own Métis-made Harvesting Policy. As well, in order to challenge Ted Morton's policy that attempts to decide who is Métis and who has rights in this province, our harvesters organized traditional hunts throughout the province in the fall of 2007. These hunts were an overwhelming success with hundred of citizens participating throughout the province. Within this edition of *Otipemsiwak*, we have stories and updates from many of the hunts that were held.

As a result of these hunts, close to a dozen charges have been laid against Métis men, women, entire families and Elders from northern, central and southern Alberta. The MNA is actively defending all of these harvesters. We have retained Métis lawyers, Jason Madden and Jean Teillet, to represent our harvesters in the courts. As many of you know, Jason and Jean have acted as legal counsel in various capacities in well-known Métis rights cases across the Homeland, including, *Powley* (Ontario), *Lavolette* (Saskatchewan), *Belhumeur* (Saskatchewan) and *Goodon* (Manitoba). I want to thank Jason and Jean for their commitment to advancing our rights agenda in Alberta and also for their presentation at our Annual Assembly in August. More importantly, I want to thank all of our Captains of the Hunt, Métis harvesters and the Métis citizens who came out to support our harvesters this fall. Without you, there would be no MNA or Action Plan. Your commitment to our Nation and our rights is

admirable.

In addition to the organized hunts, the MNA's leadership continues to push forward at the political level on our Action Plan. We continue to meet with Ministers and MLAs to garner support for the Points of Agreement for a Final Métis Harvesting Agreement that were reached with Minister Boutilier, but were rejected by Ted Morton. We tabled a petition with over 2,400 signatures in the Alberta Legislature rejecting Ted Morton's policy and demanding a new province-wide Métis harvesting agreement. We have increased public awareness on this issue through many media stories and opinion pieces being published in newspapers across the province. Equally important, MNA members have taken the time to write to their MLA, Ministers and the Premier about their disappointment with what Ted Morton has done. Based on all of this work, the message is clear: Métis rights must be recognized and respected by the Alberta Government.

Unfortunately, the strong pursuit of our rights agenda has strained our relationship with the Alberta Government in some areas. We have been told by some in government to "just accept Morton's policy," "be happy with what has been 'given' to us," and, "get back to the table." These positions are truly unfortunate. What has been even more unfortunate is that some Métis leaders, who have been elected to represent the rights and interests of the Métis people in this province, have decided to work against our united approach. Instead of supporting our Action Plan, they have told the Alberta Government that the MNA does not have the support of its members and that they "would get back to the table," even though their own people face charges across the province.

I reject the idea that we have to just 'accept' whatever individuals like Ted Morton think we should have. Our rights were not and are not 'given' to us by any government. We have our rights because our ancestors fought for and protected our rights. All we need from government is for them to recognize and respect our rights. Nothing more. Nothing less.

The MNA was created to protect and advance Métis rights. In the past, our leaders have never abandoned our rights agenda, even when governments have used their power against us and resources to pressure us. As the President of the MNA, I remain 100 per cent committed to ensuring Métis rights are recognized and respected by the Alberta Government. I am optimistic that all Métis leaders will soon begin to support the interests of the Métis people on this issue, not those of the Alberta Government or their self-interests. Based on the immense support the MNA has received from harvesters and rank-and-file members to date, I know that our citizens are behind the MNA as its pushes

forward on the Métis rights agenda. I also know our ancestors would be very proud that we are ensuring our rights will continue to be protected for generations to come.

Another provincial issue that has been equally challenging over the last few months has been the actions of Rick Boucher, the Vice President for MNA Region One, with respect to his breach of the MNA's conflict of interest rules. This significant issue has been the reason why the MNA Provincial Council has not been able to formally meet for much of the year and why significant amounts of provincial funding was not able to flow to the MNA Head Office this fiscal year. Based on Mr. Boucher's actions, the MNA Judiciary Council removed him as a member of the MNA Provincial Council as well as reprimanded and suspended him until 2010.

I encourage all MNA members to read the MNA Judiciary Council's unanimous and well-reasoned decision that is printed in full in the magazine. The decision clearly outlines the significant issues at stake in the Boucher matter. Contrary to how some would like to characterize this issue, it is not about personalities. It is about Métis self-government and the duties of elected officials. Either we are a respected, transparent and professional government for the Métis people, or, we are not.

I was elected to bring transparency and professionalism to the MNA. Over the last decade, we have been consistently recognized as a national leader in accountability. The claim against Mr. Boucher was about protecting the MNA's reputation and self-government. Clearly, the MNA Judiciary Council agreed. Of course, Mr. Boucher still does not agree that Métis self-government should prevail over his own self-interests. He has now appealed the decision to the Alberta courts. Rather than respecting a decision from Métis government, he is now asking a non-Métis judge to look at this issue. Unfortunately, since the MNA is still incorporated under the laws of Alberta and we do not have our own Constitution, Mr. Boucher has this option. The hearing date for this matter is currently set for February 22nd. I am optimistic that we will get a decision on that date as well so spring will be a time of renewal and growth for the MNA.

While we have some challenges on the provincial front, we also have far more successes to celebrate. For example, Métis lands – the Content Park Campground in southern Alberta – have been transferred back to the Métis Nation. The MNA recently announced a \$2 million endowment fund at Grant MacEwan College for Métis student pursuing their educational dreams. The 2006 Census shows that we have the largest Métis population in all of Canada and that more Métis people in Alberta are proud to identify as Métis. The MNA registry has

now issued its 10,000th new MNA citizenship card.

We also have many important initiatives upcoming. In February, the MNA is hosting a "Achieving Brighter Futures for Métis Communities" conference to bring together our citizens to discuss important issues like housing, health, harvesting rights and Métis self-government. In March, the Alberta Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards will be handed out. As well, in March, the MNA will also be holding a workshop on the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate Métis rights in order to begin developing a Métis Consultation Policy that will ensure government and industry respects and accommodate Métis rights and our way of life in current and future developments throughout the province.

At the national level, we also have significant events upcoming. In Ottawa on February 23rd and 24th, the Métis National Council will hold elections for National President. This election will be crucial to the future of the Métis National Council. Either the Métis Nation moves forward based on unity, transparency and accountability or we continue with the same politics as usual at the Métis National Council that has resulted in embarrassing news stories and infighting over the last few years of the last National President's term.

In this election, we need a leader with vision, charisma, presence and the ability to bring the Métis people in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia closer together, not further apart. Of course, each MNA Provincial Council member will cast their own independent vote for the National President, but I encourage MNA members to talk to their regional leaders about this upcoming election. This is an election for your National President, not just someone in Ottawa. Unfortunately, even though direction was given to the previous National President to ensure the next election was a ballot box one – that was not achieved. However, I believe this election is far too important for it to be decided in the backrooms so I encourage MNA citizens to get involved by asking questions of your leadership about this important election.

As you can see, 2008 will be another busy and important year for the MNA. I look forward to continuing to work on behalf of the entire membership as we move forward – together.

Respectfully,

Audrey Poitras, President
Métis Nation of Alberta

Strengthening Our Métis Rights



Métis 'Hunt in the Hills' a Success

By Charity Borg

The wind whipped across the rolling hills in Alberta's Badlands. The chill was a reminder that winter was on the way. But when the sun was out it felt warm as harvesters, elders and grandchildren gathered around a tent set on a ranch homestead in the Cypress Hills to share stories and songs. The reason for the get-together was to preserve traditions Métis have had for hundreds of years and to exercise the rights of the Métis to be able to hunt to feed their families.

At daybreak on the morning of Oct. 20, Garry Hirsekorn, Dave Trottier and Darcy Stach made their way into the Cypress Hills to begin their search for a deer. Garry and Trottier were the designated hunters for the group, while Stach came along to observe. The three men moved through the golden grass around the property in search of deer, and at about 9:30 a.m., they found seven deer wandering around in a herd.

"We were walking the ridge up top," said Hirsekorn, who slept very little the night before in anticipation. "We were around the bend. They jumped up and I shot a mule-doe."

The first shot was taken 75 yards away from the animal, and

after the kill had been made, the men returned to camp to await the arrival of elders, members of Medicine Hat Local #8 and the Fish and Wildlife Officers.

"Our issue isn't to hide anything," said Stach. "It's to make a statement."

This hunt was one of several

organized by appointed Captains of the Hunt with the support of Métis harvesters throughout the province and were part of the Métis Nation of Alberta's (MNA) Métis Harvesting Action Plan that was unanimously adopted by the MNA at the Annual General Assembly held in August 2007.

The group of people from the Local arrived slightly after 11 a.m., bringing food to the hunters, most notably deer stew and bannock. While waiting for the Officers to arrive, stories were told, songs were shared and two of the children who were there learned how to shoot a bow and arrow. Laughter and

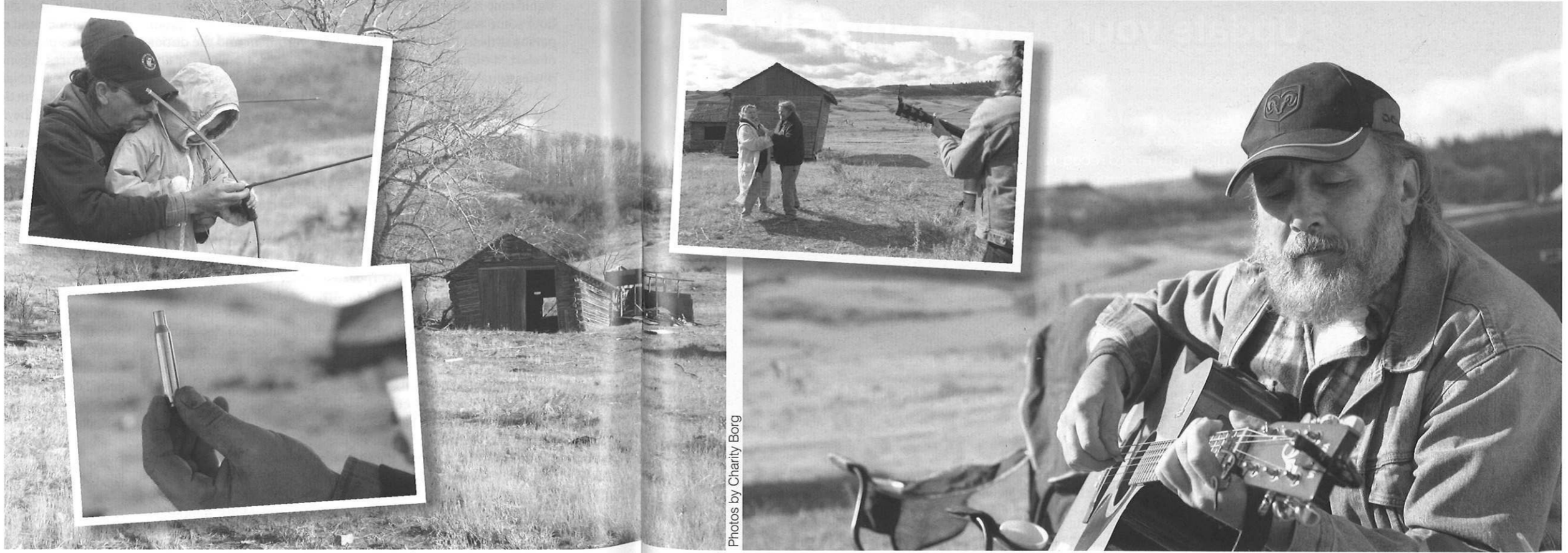
excitement filled the hills as the group waited.

At 12:25 p.m. the first of three Officers arrived. Hirsekorn, Trottier and Stach went to where the animal was, while the rest of the group of a dozen supporters awaited their return around a fire.

Hirsekorn returned to the camp

after being questioned for an hour by an Officer. He received two charges: hunting during closed season and unlawful possession of wildlife.

Trottier was questioned by the Officer and received a warning. Stach gave his statement as well. Trottier felt it was necessary to go out and harvest an animal in order to



Photos by Charity Borg

bring the case to the courts.

"We did what we had to do," he said.

The date of Hirsekorn's court appearance is February 8, 2008.

After the men arrived back at camp, the Officers followed and were invited to have something to eat and drink, the group viewed the Officers not as adversaries, but as people who were just doing their jobs.

"Over the last two and a half years, while the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement (IMHA) was in place, many of our harvesters established effective on-the-ground working relationships with Sustainable Resources and Development (SRD)," MNA Minister for Métis Rights, Cecil Bellrose, said. "Our harvesters remain committed to continuing to show respect to Fish and Wildlife Officers in the field, regardless of their Minister's ill-conceived policy."

Ed Pirogowicz, an Officer from

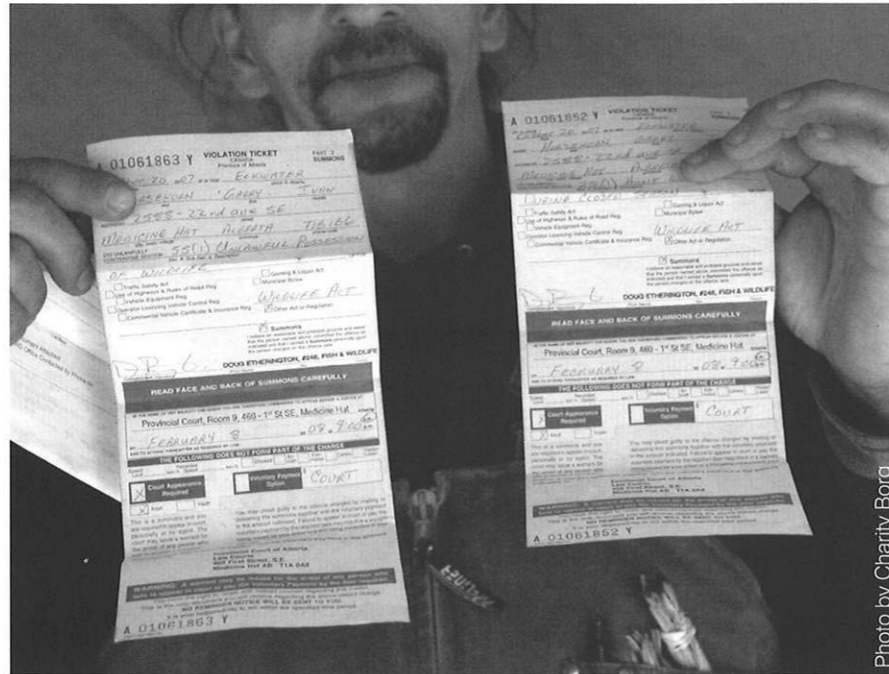


Photo by Charity Borg

Calgary, travelled to the hunt in case the media were there. The event was kept low-key.

"It's a long process now," said Pirogowicz.

The animal in question will be

held in a freezer as evidence. In the future, the fate of the animal may be incineration or else it may be given away as meat.



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 number to confirm the status of your membership file.

1-866-88METIS (1-866-886-3847)

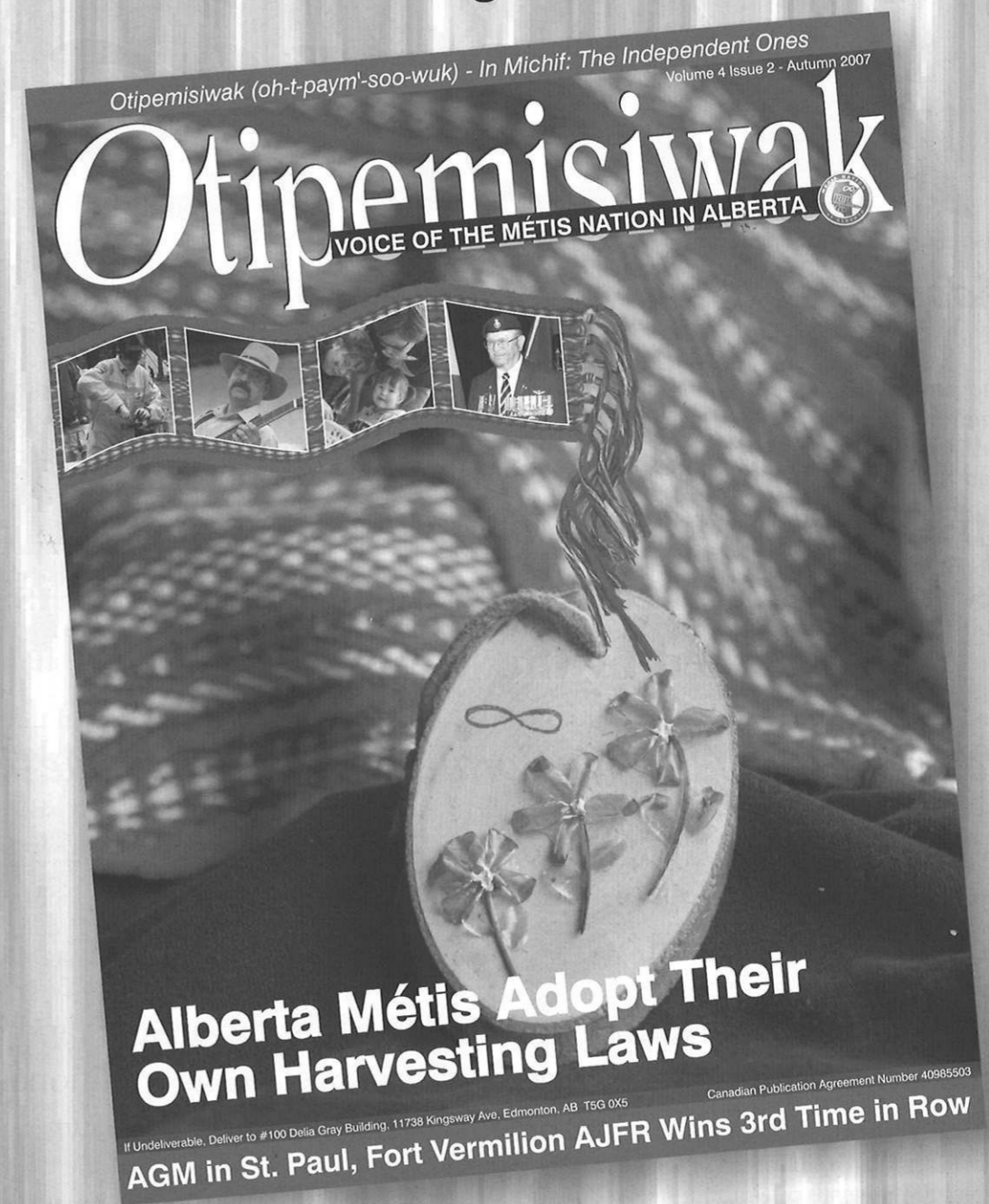
1-866-678-7888

1-800-252-7553

#100 Delia Gray Building - 11738 Kingsway Avenue - Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5
www.albertametis.com



Otipemisiwak - Nominated in 11 categories of the Western Magazine Awards



Otipemisiwak: The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta is free to members of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Get your name onto the list of subscribers by sending your mailing information to:

Otipemisiwak
Métis Nation of Alberta
communications@metis.org

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

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.

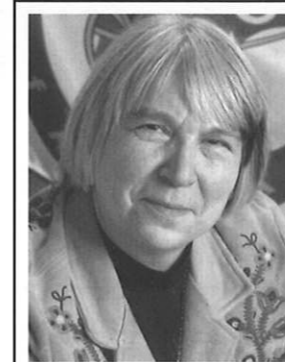
1.3 "Historic Métis Nation Homeland" means the area of land in west central North America used and occupied as the traditional territory of the Métis or Half-breeds as they were then known.

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.

Morton Misses Mark... Again

(This letter was printed in the Edmonton Journal, Dec. 28, 2007)



By Audrey Poitras

Last week, Ted Morton, Alberta's Minister for Sustainable Resource Development (SRD), announced changes to Alberta's subsistence harvesting licenses. Essentially, these changes allow any Albertan, who is able to prove to SRD that they are poor or handicapped, to be eligible for a free hunting license anywhere in the province. Mr. Morton suggests that these changes are a "goodwill gesture" to Métis harvesters.

Unfortunately, like many government policies developed without the involvement of the affected Aboriginal peoples, Minister Morton's new policy misses the mark. Métis do not have constitutionally protected harvesting rights because we are poor or handicapped. We have these rights because harvesting is integral to our unique culture as an Aboriginal people. Harvesting has been a historic tradition of our people since before Canada was formed. Our people continue this practice today as a means of sustaining our distinct identity and nurturing our special relationship to the land. This is why our rights are protected in Canada's Constitution.

Based on this constitutional recognition, the Alberta Government has an obligation to accommodate our rights within its fish and wildlife laws. The Supreme Court has said these accommodations cannot be arbitrary or discretionary. Naturally, since our rights are affected, we must be involved in how these accommodations are arrived at. In order to avoid conflict and costly litigation, partnership and compromise is required on all sides.

The Métis Nation has consistently shown its willingness to work collaboratively with the province in order to arrive at a mutually agreeable accommodation. In September 2004, we signed the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement with the province which worked well for over two years. In August 2005, we agreed to renewed negotiations towards a final agreement. In

May 2007, we arrived at points of agreement for a final agreement with Guy Boutilier, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, who was tasked to lead these renewed negotiations on behalf of the Alberta Government.

Unfortunately, these joint points of agreement were rejected by Mr. Morton and he implemented a unilateral 'Métis Harvesting Policy' effective July 1st, 2007. As a result, the Métis Nation is defending our harvesters against Alberta's unconstitutional laws and policies in the courts. The Métis, as taxpayers and citizens of this province, believe in, support and abide by Alberta's laws. However, on the flip side, Alberta's laws must accommodate our harvesting rights in order to be constitutional.

Métis rights have been recognized in Canada's Constitution for over 25 years now, but our harvesters are still treated like criminals when they are exercising constitutionally protected rights. Understandably, our people become frustrated when they see politics trump our rights. Challenging Alberta's laws in court is not our preferred choice in resolving this issue, but what other option do we have when negotiated points of agreement are ignored and Métis harvesters are being charged?

Prior to last week, Minister Morton has pushed ahead without any regard to the Métis point of view. However, implicit in his recent announcement, he has acknowledged that his unilateral policy is not working and that a province-wide solution is needed on Métis harvesting. Even though Mr. Morton's announcement on subsistence licenses fails to address Métis harvesting rights, we are optimistic that the Minister's new tone and stated goodwill is an opportunity to make real progress in the new year. The Métis Nation will never turn away from goodwill, if that goodwill is sincere.

As such, I will be writing to Minister Morton to request a meeting with him in the new year. I hope his goodwill will include implementing the points of agreement that are already supported by Minister Boutilier and many members of the Alberta Legislature. In the spirit of the Christmas season, the Métis Nation is optimistic that the new year will bring a renewed partnership with the Alberta Government on this issue that is of fundamental importance to the Métis people.



Métis Take United Message on Harvesting to Alberta Legislature

Press Release

Edmonton, AB (November 29, 2007) – Today Pearl Calahasen, the MLA for Lesser Slave Lake, tabled a petition in the Alberta Legislature on behalf of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) in support of the Alberta Government respectfully accommodating Métis harvesting rights.

The petition, which was signed by approximately 2,400 Albertans, read:

We, the Métis people of Alberta and friends of the Métis, urge the Government of Alberta to continue to accommodate Métis harvesting for food, throughout the province of Alberta, through a negotiated harvesting agreement with the Métis Nation of Alberta. This agreement should build upon the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement and allow for Métis harvesting to continue to take place where there is a Métis tradition of harvesting (excluding occupied Crown lands and private property where permission has not been obtained).

...

"I hope the Alberta Legislature hears the voices of the Métis people and our friends living throughout this province through this petition," MNA President Audrey Poitras said. "The message is clear: Ted Morton's unlawful, unilateral and regressive policy on Métis harvesting must be torn up to make way for a new approach that is based on respect, reconciliation and the rule of law. Mr. Morton's actions continue to tarnish the Alberta Government's well-earned reputation of being a leader in Crown-Métis relations and respecting Métis rights in this country."

The Métis people have a long history of using petitions to assert their rights and draw attention to

injustices perpetuated against them across the Métis Homeland.

"Like our ancestors before us, the Métis Nation continues to use this means of respectful protest in Canada when our rights are being ignored by government. We only hope the Alberta Government will respectfully listen and act, rather than continuing with Ted Morton's current approach," President Poitras added.

MNA Minister for Métis Rights, Cecil Bellrose explained that Métis rights do not depend on Ted Morton's politics.

"Since Mr. Morton has decided to ignore his Ministerial responsibilities to protect Alberta's wildlife and act unilaterally, the Métis people have ignored his policy and have continued to harvest this fall, just as we have done for generations," Minister Bellrose said.

The MNA wants to work with the Alberta Government to implement the Points of Agreement reached between the MNA President and the Minister for International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations in May of this year, instead of ignoring Alberta's unconstitutional regulatory regime.

"We call on members of the Alberta Legislature to support us in arriving at a partnership on Métis harvesting, rather than Mr. Morton's strategy of confrontation and litigation," added Minister Bellrose.

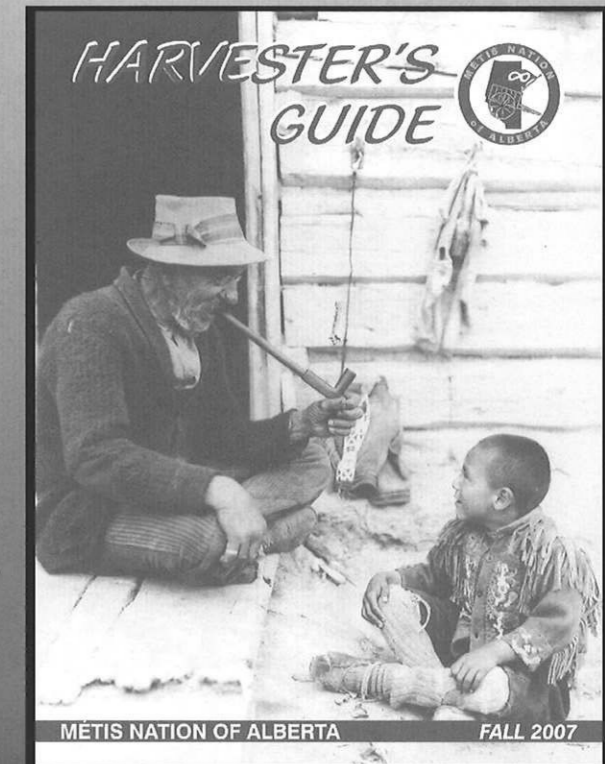
"The MNA remains committed to working with the Alberta Government in partnership on Métis harvesting," President Poitras concluded. "The MNA has written to the Alberta Government outlining how good faith negotiations can resume on Métis harvesting. Until then, the MNA will continue to stand united on Métis rights by implementing our Action Plan and defending Métis harvesters against Ted Morton's

Background on Métis Harvesting in Alberta

In September 2004, the MNA and the Alberta Government entered into an Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement (IMHA) to accommodate Métis harvesting rights throughout Alberta based on the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in the *Powley* case. The IMHA worked effectively for over 2 ½ years.

In August 2006, the MNA and the Alberta Government engaged in renewed discussions for a longer-term agreement. Based on these negotiations, the MNA President and the Minister for International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations reached Points of Agreement for a new arrangement in May 2007. Unfortunately, Ted Morton, the current Minister for Sustainable Resource Development refused to work with the MNA to implement these Points of Agreement and cancelled the IMHA. Morton then adopted a unilateral and regressive policy on Métis harvesting in July 2007. This policy excludes Métis living in central and southern Alberta, ignores the Alberta Government's own research on Métis claims and draw arbitrary lines that limit traditional Métis harvesting practices.

In August 2007, the MNA Assembly unanimously rejected Ted Morton's policy. Since with the cancellation of the IMHA, Alberta laws do not accommodate Métis harvesting, the Assembly adopted its MNA Harvesting Policy and Métis harvesters will continue to exercise their constitutional rights pursuant to the MNA Policy, regardless of Ted Morton's policy. The MNA will support Métis harvesters who are following the MNA Harvesting Policy and charged by SRD. As well, the MNA Assembly adopted an Action Plan on Métis Harvesting that focuses on four areas: exercising Métis rights, defending Métis rights, political action on Métis rights and public education on Métis rights. For copies of these documents or more information visit www.albertametis.org.



Request your free copy of the *Métis Nation of Alberta Harvester's Guide* from the **Métis Nation of Alberta.**



Phone: (780) 455-2200 or
1 (800) 252-7553 (Alberta Only)
communications@metis.org

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





The Ewan Moberly Memorial Harvest

By Monique Devlin

On a crisp October morning I made my way from the blaring city lights of Edmonton to quiet, snow-covered mountains near Hinton. It was an early morning, which meant that I hit the mountains at about the same time as the rising sun. Early by my standards, but late enough in the day for me to have missed my chance to talk to the majority of the harvesters involved in one of the first Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) group hunts before they set off for the day.

Most had spent the night in the modern camp, where teepees, tents (both trapper and nylon) and travel trailers were haphazardly spread beneath the trees.

When I arrived there was only a handful of people left in the camp; most were already out combing the backcountry for elk or deer—food for the upcoming winter. Although the first snowfall would still be a

month away in Edmonton, everything, including the harvesters' tents, was covered in a thin layer of already melting snow. It was chilly, but a large fire was being stoked. There was hot tea and coffee along with all sorts of homemade treats sitting in the kitchen tent on the hill.



Top: Wayne and Matt Roberts return to the camp.
Above: Blanche Joachim cooks bannock in the kitchen tent for a midday meal.

Shortly after I had arrived, Blanche Joachim started frying bannock in hot oil over the kitchen burner. There was a rich tomato based soup to soak it in so when the hunters drifted in hungry for lunch there was plenty to warm their bellies.

Unfortunately, while the communal spirit of the group hunt was alive and well, it was hard to get away from one of the key reasons we were gathered there. One from this group of citizens was expecting to get charged with hunting without a license, hoping to challenge the unilateral and legally unenforceable policy recently adopted by Ted Morton, the current Minister for Sustainable Resource Development (SRD).

"Ted Morton is going to have to realize that he cannot abolish Métis rights on a whim," Cecil Bellrose, MNA Minister for Métis Rights said. "The Métis people have been in this

province, exercising our rights, long before Ted Morton ever stepped foot in Alberta. We will be here, exercising our rights, long after he is the Minister of SRD. It is unfortunate that he has politicized this issue, rather than truly caring about the future of Alberta's natural resources by ensuring Métis rights are accommodated within Alberta's regulatory regime."

Each hunt was organized by appointed Captains of the Hunt with the support of Métis harvesters throughout Alberta. The hunt in Hinton was held in honour of the Métis families who were forced out of present day Jasper about 100 years ago and is named after one of the Métis leaders of the time, Ewan Moberly.

"Ewan was a natural leader of the Métis at the turn of the century," Ron Jones, the Captain of the Hinton Hunt said.

The hunts were a part of the MNA's Métis Harvesting Action Plan that was unanimously adopted by the MNA Annual General Assembly held in August 2007.

"We were extremely excited to be host of one of the first traditional Métis hunts," Jones said. "The Métis people have a long history of working together to provide for our families and the Métis Nation as a whole. This hunt is a part of that long tradition. It also provided our people an opportunity to share in our unique culture and pass our traditions on to the next generation."

Late in the afternoon, Jeanette McLelland shot a small deer, and on her way back to camp, was pulled over by a Fish and Wildlife Officer.

"They were waiting for us," she said. "They stopped everyone coming either way."

McLelland was charged with unlawful position of wildlife and for not tagging her animal. She is expected to have her first court date in February.



Top: Matt Roberts saddles up his horse before going back out to look for deer and elk.
Bottom: Collette Walker, President of the Hinton local, looks over the camp area before returning to scout for animals.



The Métis Nation of Alberta needs your help! Métis harvesters are being forced into Alberta's courts to defend their constitutional right to harvest for food. The MNA Harvesters Legal Defence Fund has been established in order to help offset the costs associated with this defence.

**MNA HARVESTERS
LEGAL DEFENCE FUND**

Send your donation to:
MNA Harvesters Legal Defence Fund
c/o MNA Communications
11738 Kingsway
Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5



Métis Hunters Fight for Harvesting Rights



By Leah Dussault

I wrote up this report for a current events assignment in my Social Studies class. I believed that an issue like this would be important because it affects so many people. I was hoping that I could make my classmates aware of what is going on beyond what they usually hear on the news or read in the papers.

Being Métis myself, it was very important to me that my people are making an effort to keep their rights, and I wanted people to know about it. Even though the assignment was never accepted for marks (I didn't have a newspaper article to go along with it), I don't regret doing all this work because it opened my eyes to the affairs of Métis people, and made me more aware of things that are going on. I was very impressed with this protest and I hope to attend another hunt in the future.

Métis Hunters Fight for Harvesting Rights

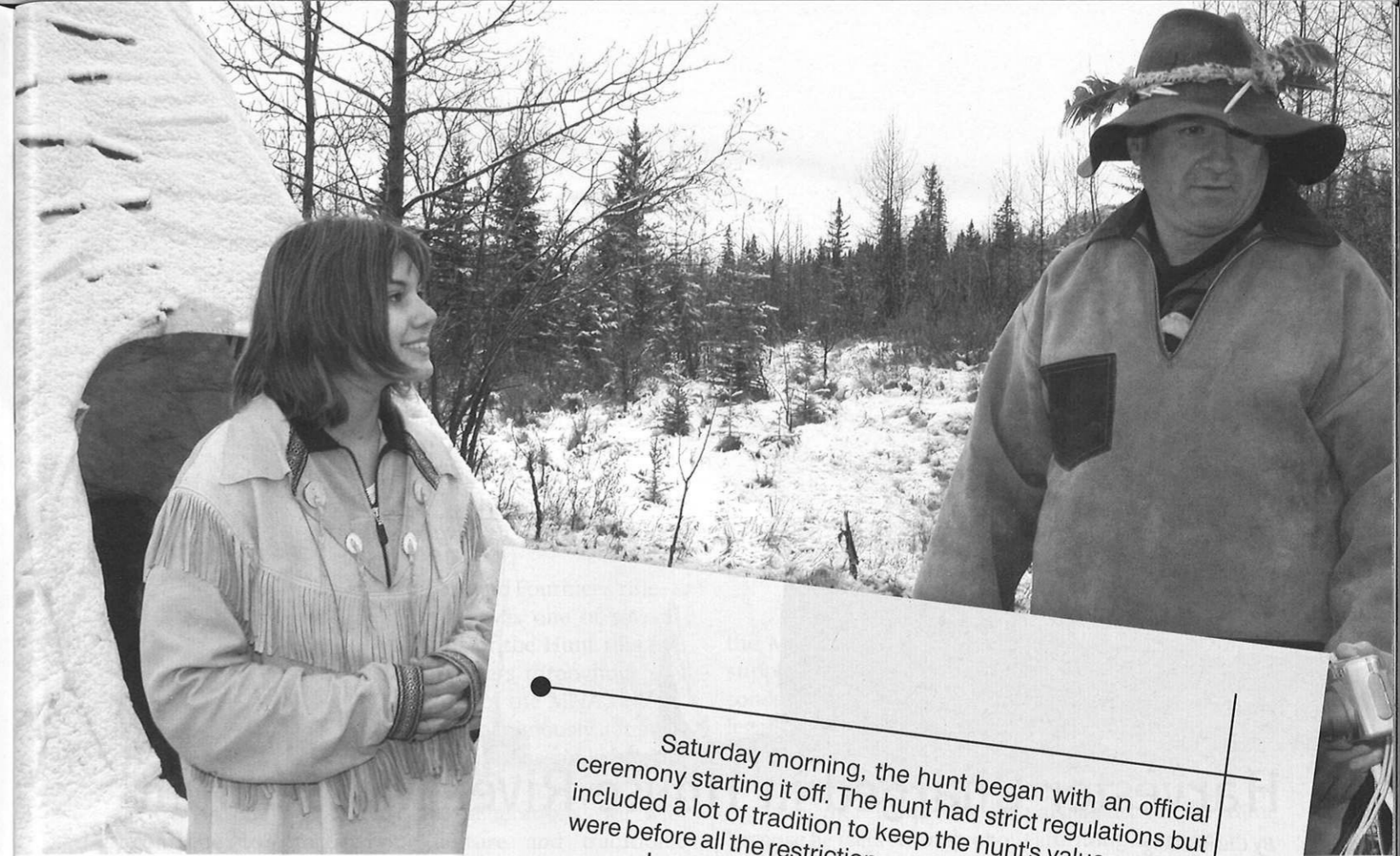
by Leah Dussault

Who: Government of Alberta, Ted Morton (Alberta Minister for Sustainable Resources Development), Métis Hunters, Métis Nation of Alberta, Hinton Foothills 2005 Local.

When: October 19-21st.

Where: West of Hinton.

What: On July 1st 2007 Ted Morton rejected the Points of Agreement for a Longer Term Métis Harvesting Agreement and put in place a one-sided Métis Harvesting Policy that doesn't include Métis in central or southern Alberta. The policy restricts Métis harvesting practices and tries to create a system in which Ted Morton and his Wildlife Officers decide who is Métis, and who has rights. Last weekend, 40-50 Métis Hunters and members of the MNA and the Hinton Foothills 2005 Local gathered for the Ewan Moberly memorial hunt to protest. The plan was to get caught hunting and then continue the fight for Métis rights in the court date which was settled on by the Fish and Wildlife Officers.



Leah Dussault interviews David Robinson, after trying on a jacket he had made for him by local artisan Faith Tombes.

Saturday morning, the hunt began with an official ceremony starting it off. The hunt had strict regulations but included a lot of tradition to keep the hunt's values as they were before all the restrictions on Métis harvesting.

Later that night a member of the communal hunt shot a deer and charges were laid. Jeanette McLelland and her husband Doug will be going to court on February 6, 2008. Many people involved in the event were excited. Ron Jones, the Captain of the hunt, said he was "very excited" and stated that he would go to great lengths to defend his rights as a Métis citizen of Alberta.

This hunt was not the first of its kind, and communal hunts such as this will continue until the Métis get their hunting rights back. Earlier, there were hunts (with charges laid) in Blairmore and Cypress Hills.

Why is this important?

Many Métis feel that their rights were stolen away. This form of civil disobedience is a way to feel liberated for them. Being Métis and knowing people that are Métis; this affects me and many other residents of Alberta.



Harvester Charged in House River Moose Hunt

By Charity Borg

Larry Fournier woke up on the morning of Nov. 3 to a clear sign that winter had arrived. There was a dusting of snow on the ground along the House River. Today was also the day Fournier was to make history for the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA). Today was the day Fournier would harvest a moose.

At the camp a group of about 15 harvesters were gathered. The group was anxious to exercise their constitutional right to harvest to feed their families. While most people refuse to camp in sub-zero temperatures, these Métis harvesters paid homage to their ancestors. Staying overnight in the cold was a way to connect to the Métis of yesteryear, who lived off the land using the available resources respectfully. A teepee was erected for people to gather in to keep warm away from the wind; with a fire built inside its walls to keep the hunters warm.

After lunch, Fournier's hope of

getting a moose was still there. It may have been hard to leave the warmth of the flames, but daylight is shorter when there is snow on the ground, so shortly after arriving at the camp, Fournier and his team headed out once more to find an animal.

"We were on the road for half an hour," said Fournier. "Then a cow-moose was spotted."

The team first spotted the cow-moose eating in a swampy area, but

she began to wander closer to the poplars and spruce as the hunters drew closer. After the hunters tracked the moose to the surrounding forest and were able to move in, Fournier took his shot. After dressing her out, he returned to camp to share the news with those who were patiently waiting and then called the local Fish and Wildlife Officers.

"We waited in camp for them to show up," said Fournier. "It was



Top: Traditional tents and teepees that could be heated by wood were used as shelter. Above: Jordan Reeves plays with one of the dogs brought along to the camp.

dark when they showed up, but everyone in camp wanted to be there when I was charged."

When the signature white pick-ups with a green logo on the side arrived, Fournier was ready to go. They went back into the bush where the moose lay and Fish and Wildlife Officers proceeded to question Fournier.

"I was being as friendly and cooperative as possible," said Fournier. "[We] went back to the truck and they asked me a couple of questions."

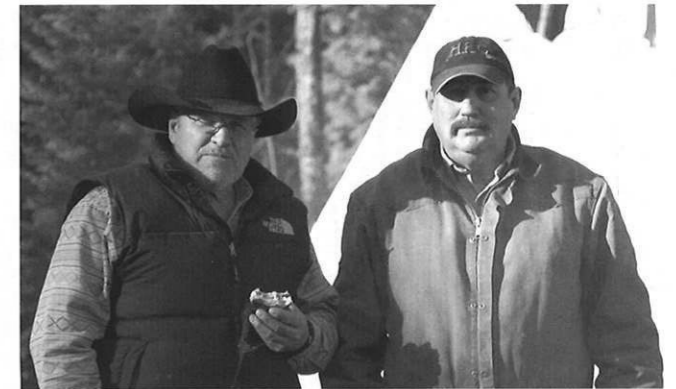
The Officers charged him with hunting without a license, illegal possession of meat and hunting out of season. The only charge that stuck was the hunting without a license charge and the court date is scheduled for February 2008.

"When he asked me for my license I gave him my Métis card," said Fournier.

The officers seized the moose and Fournier's rifle.

The hunt near House River was one of several organized by appointed Captains of the Hunt this fall with the support of Métis harvesters throughout the province. These hunts are a part of the MNA's Métis Harvesting Action Plan that was unanimously adopted by the MNA at their Annual General Assembly held in August 2007.

"As our people have for generations, we will continue to practice our culture and traditions throughout the province by providing food for our families and Elders this fall," MNA President Audrey Poitras said. "I want to thank the Captains of the Hunt and our harvesters for working with the MNA's leadership in organizing these traditional hunts. Based on the MNA's Harvesting Policy and the direction from



Above: Ron Jones stands with Wayne Roberts.

Bottom: The hunt was also a time for families to connect and share their love of the outdoors. From Left to right: Larry Fournier, Colin Campbell, Gerald Gladue, Teah Gladue, Treena Gladue and Vern Campbell.

the MNA Assembly, the MNA will stand behind and support our harvesters as they exercise their constitutional rights, regardless of the unilateral and legally unenforceable policy adopted by Ted Morton, the current Minister for Sustainable Resource Development (SRD)."

Fournier came out to participate in the hunt because he feels strongly about affirming his rights.

"I believe that Alberta is our Métis homeland. I feel we should be able to hunt in Canada. Canada is our homeland," said Fournier.

The outcome of the Nov. 3 hunt and other fall hunts will take place over the next few months starting with the first court appearances in February.



Photos by Charity Borg

Otipemisiwak

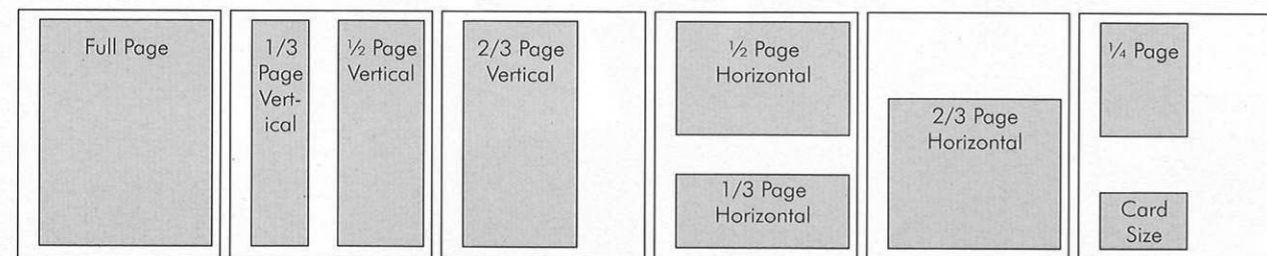
The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta

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.

	AD DIMENSIONS		RATE PER ISSUE
	width	depth	
Centrefold	15½ inches	9½ inches	\$1,470
Full Page	7 inches	9½ inches	\$788
2/3 Page Horizontal	7 inches	6¼ inches	\$590
2/3 Page Vertical	4½ inches	9½ inches	\$590
½ Page Horizontal	7 inches	4¾ inches	\$513
½ Page Vertical	3½ inches	9½ inches	\$513
1/3 Page Horizontal	7 inches	3 inches	\$395
1/3 Page Vertical	2¼ inches	9½ inches	\$395
¼ Page	3½ inches	4¾ inches	\$263
Card Size	3½ inches	2½ inches	\$133



Phone: (780) 455-2200 or 1(800) 252-7553 (Alberta Only) Fax: (780) 452-8946

Email: communications@metis.org

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

Métis Harvesting Traditions: Helping Those in Need

By Monique Devlin

For Wayne Roberts, harvesting is both a way to honour his Métis heritage, and help provide for the less fortunate individuals in the community.

"I am not looking for food for my family, but I am harvesting for those families that need the meat."

Roberts is of the opinion that killing for fun is just plain wrong. The actual word he uses is "sick" He can not understand the appeal of someone taking the life of an animal for sport, or for the sole purpose of using its horns, antlers or head to decorate a wall. For him, the only acceptable reason to kill an animal is for food for his family or for less fortunate individuals who would otherwise go without.

"When I see the spark go out of an animal's eyes, I take responsibility," he said. "It has been many years since I shot an animal and didn't feel bad."

On the first weekend of December, Roberts shot a bull moose about an hour outside of Cochrane in the Foothills-Rocky View riding. His hope was that he could send the meat home with a young single father who had



Photo by Monique Devlin



Top: Brian Hamelin, whose property near Cochrane was used for the base camp, carries a Métis flag.

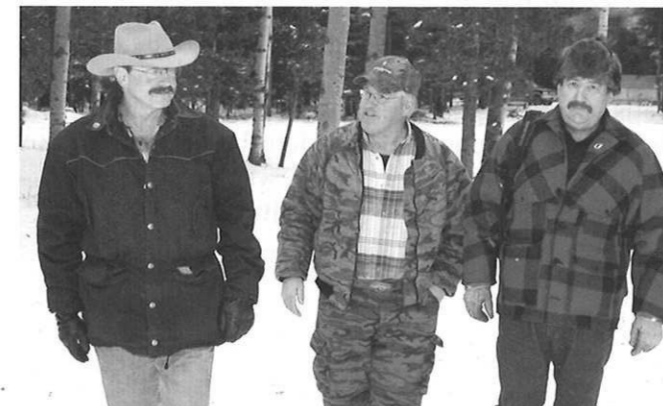
Above: Rae Cervo shows Jordan Reeves how she handcrafts moccasins.

participated in one of many group hunts that took place across Alberta in late 2007. He knew it wasn't a likely proposition because the full animal had been seized in every other group hunt that had taken place since the unanimous passing of the Métis Harvesting Action Plan during the 2007 Annual Assembly of the MNA.

"I shot that moose, and I felt bad for that moose. It's too bad I could not just give that young fellow the hind quarters" Roberts said, referring to the single father.

While the Fish and Wildlife Officers who came to lay the charges sympathized with Roberts, they indicated that they had to follow their own procedures and that involved taking the full animal; however both were hopeful that something could be worked out so that the animal did not go to waste.

Roberts felt bad that he was unable to help the young man and his family, but he realizes that the MNA group hunts go beyond just one family, that in fact, it is about protecting the rights of Métis people across the Province of Alberta and thus helping many families.



Left: Guy L'Heureux, Ron Jones and Wayne Roberts representing the south, central, and northern parts of Alberta respectively have put countless time and resources into organizing the various group hunts throughout the province.



Right: Fish and Wildlife officers Stan Howes and Kerry Rodneski introduce themselves to the harvesters gathered on Hamelin's property.

Métis Citizens Speak Out on Harvesting

November 14, 2007

Honourable Guy Boutilier
Minister of International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations
423 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Boutilier,

Thank you for your reply on behalf of Premier Stelmach regarding my letter to him of August 10, 2007 about the Government of Alberta's suppression of my aboriginal rights. In your role as Minister of International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations it appears that you intend your relation with the Métis people to be one of conflict. Your government's narrow interpretation of previous court decisions has no vision of where further court decisions will lead. It challenges a part of the Métis people to be charged and taken to court in order to assert their rights. A forward thinking government should be able to see where this conflict will lead, find some common ground and negotiate a settlement.

The government's restrictive position that harvesting rights may only be exercised by Métis with connection to historic communities in areas around those communities is regressive and treats many Métis with prejudiced. I have heard on the radio of a government plan to train aboriginal people to help relieve some of the employment shortage that Alberta is experiencing. What incentive is there to join the workforce if one loses their Aboriginal rights when they move to Calgary to work in industry?

You mentioned that the IMHAs were found to be unenforceable so your government struck them down, but your unilateral policy is even less enforceable. All of the present laws are still in place that prevent all Métis harvesting and it is only a very complicated and convoluted policy that guides the actions of officers not to charge Métis harvesters in some circumstances. Any Métis may be charged and items seized at any time depending upon the Officer's interpretation of this complex policy that is meant to suppress as much Métis harvesting rights as possible. You also stated in your letter that because you could not resolve in negotiations who has Métis harvesting rights and where they could harvest before the deadline, the IMHAs were revoked, when actually you had set a deadline to revoke the agreements then invoked a unilateral policy that was not negotiated.

You say that Métis harvesting rights remain intact and that the Government of Alberta respects Métis people's constitutional right to harvest. Your government has done its utmost to restrict this right to the absolute minimum and has even added more conditions than the Powley decision interpreted. I have my Métis Nation of Alberta membership card which I had to prove my genealogical connection to the historic Métis community to get. I pass the Powley test as a Métis but your policy says that I am not a Métis that has aboriginal rights here in southern Alberta where Métis people lived and harvested before the province of Alberta was created. My ancestors traveled between Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta according to Hudson's Bay Company records and they hunted all along the way. Your government policy says that I cannot travel more than 160 kilometres from my historic community just because one court decision used a reference to a historic community to justify the Métis aboriginal rights in that particular set of circumstances. Where do you think other court cases in different circumstances might lead?

I was at Minister Ted Morton's public meeting at Bragg Creek on August 30, 2007, where he stated that his new policy for Métis harvesting was unanimously approved by the Conservative Caucus. I believe that being a Minister; you are also a member of this Caucus and therefore support Ted Morton's policy. As minister of IAR it is unfortunate that you have made Métis rights a political issue just to satisfy Ted Morton's leadership campaign promise to the Alberta Fish and Game Association to eliminate Métis harvesting rights. Ted Morton has stated that Métis found harvesting outside of this policy will be charged for poaching. It is too bad that your Government believes in challenging aboriginal people to fight for their constitutional right in the courts, and then calls them poachers when they do so. Is it your intention to continue to support this conflict situation? A negotiated harvesting agreement that looks forward to where these court battles will likely end is a far better way to build aboriginal relations than the path that you have chosen to follow with Ted Morton.

I read the introduction of the Honourable Guy Boutilier as the new minister of International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations in the March 2007 issue of the Otipemisiwak (the official Magazine of the Métis Nation of Alberta). In it you mentioned the strong mandate that the Premier had given you on Aboriginal issues and you listed several key areas that you would be focusing on. The issue of negotiating a long term harvesting agreement with the Métis was obvious in its absence from your list. You stated in your letter that you remain committed to maintaining a dialogue with the Métis people and are optimistic that future agreements can be reached. Your words do not sound very committed and your actions seem even less committed. Any future agreements reached look to be very far in the future after many court battles and much conflict. Do you presently plan to resolve this conflict situation and reach a negotiated agreement or are you content to sit back and leave things to be fought in the courts at great expense over the next several years? If you do have a plan to resolve this conflict out of court I would like to know what that might be. I would hope that it has some substance and not just hollow words.

Thank you once again for answering my previous letter on behalf of Premier Stelmach; I look forward to your reply to my letter to you.

Sincerely,
Pat Ronald

Manitoba Judge Rules in Métis Lands Case

Alberta Métis Offer Unwavering Support to Manitoba Métis Federation's Land Claim Case

Press Release

The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) offered its support to the citizens of the Métis Nation living in Manitoba following the release of the written decision of Justice Alan D. MacInnes of the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench, in the *Manitoba Métis Federation et al v. Manitoba and Canada* case ("the MMF case").

"For generations, the citizens of the Métis Nation living in Manitoba, through their representative body, the Manitoba Métis Federation, have made significant sacrifices in order for the Métis Nation to have its day in court in the historic MMF case. On behalf of Alberta Métis, I want to thank the Manitoba Métis community for its resilience and determination in seeking justice for our people. While the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench did not deliver justice today, our collective pursuit of justice with respect to Canada and Manitoba's obligations to the Métis people is far from over," said MNA President, Audrey Poitras.

Poitras added,

"Our people should remember that First Nation litigants in landmark cases such as *Sparrow*, *Delgamuukw* as well as the recent *Haida Nation* and

Mikisew cases all lost before lower courts. This is a consistent reality when new and groundbreaking legal arguments are put before lower courts by Aboriginal peoples in Canada. The MMF case is one of those landmark cases and it is likely that real justice will not be delivered to the Métis Nation until we have our day before the Supreme Court of Canada several years from now."

"The MNA continues to offer its unwavering support to the Manitoba Métis Federation in this historic litigation. As a people, we always celebrate our collective wins together, but, just as important, we rally together when we face temporary setbacks in our pursuit of justice for the Métis Nation," concluded Poitras.

The MMF case was filed in the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench in 1981. The case is about whether Canada and Manitoba fulfilled their obligations to the Métis people in relation to the *Manitoba Act's* commitments to establishing a Métis land base, as set out in sections 31 and 32.



Top: MNA Region 2 Vice President Homer Poitras marching to the Winnipeg courthouse beside fellow Métis, Rene Therrien, Sierra Noble, and Will Goodon near the start of the case. Bottom: More than 100 Métis, including MNA President Audrey Poitras marched from the Manitoba Legislature building to the courthouse to witness the start of the historic court case.

The MMF asked the court to make declarations that: (1) in 1870 Canada and the Métis reached a treaty, (2) Canada and Manitoba failed to fulfill their obligations to the Métis that are set out in *Manitoba Act*, (3) Manitoba's taxation of Métis lands granted pursuant to s. 31 of the *Manitoba Act* was unconstitutional, (4) several statutes and Orders in Council made by Canada and Manitoba in relation to Métis lands were *ultra vires* or unconstitutional.

The MMF case did not ask for specific lands to be returned to Métis

or for a specific sum of money. However, the purpose of the requested declarations would bring about a situation where Canada and Manitoba would enter into negotiations with the MMF in order to address the unfulfilled obligations to the Métis people. This type of negotiation process is similar to what governments have already done with Indian and Inuit peoples through specific claims processes (i.e. addressing unfulfilled Crown obligation or fiduciary duty breaches) or comprehensive claims (i.e. negotiating modern day land

claims or treaties to address rights, lands, compensation, etc.), as a part of the reconciliation process that is mandated by s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and the honour of the Crown.

On Dec. 7, 2007, Judge MacInnes of the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench delivered a 394 page decision in which he dismissed the MMF's claim in its entirety. The MMF has announced it will be seeking leave to appeal to the Manitoba Court of Appeal immediately.

Alberta Caribou Committee Meeting



The Métis Nation of Alberta hosted a meeting of the Members of the Alberta Caribou Committee (ACC) in November. The ACC is made up of representatives from government and industry, researchers and other interested stakeholders to examine ways to better protect and conserve the dwindling number of woodland caribou in Alberta.

Photo by Monique Devlin



Sampling on Wabamun Lake February 11 to February 29, 2008

Please be advised that from February 11th to February 29th, 2008, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Environment Canada will be conducting a comprehensive sampling program on Wabamun Lake, Alberta.

The majority of the sampling work will be conducted in three main shoreline areas, which will be clearly marked for your safety. It is requested that all members of the public stay away from the sampling areas during this time period for safety reasons.

In addition, approximately 50 holes will be drilled in the ice across the rest of the lake. These holes will be clearly marked for easy identification.

You are advised to use caution around these areas.

Thank you for your cooperation.

For any questions or concerns, please contact Fisheries and Oceans Canada at 780-495-4220.

Échantillonnage sur le lac Wabamun du 11 au 29 février 2008

Soyez avisé que du 11 au 29 février 2008, Pêches et Océans Canada et Environnement Canada réaliseront un programme d'échantillonnage détaillé sur le lac Wabamun en Alberta.

La majorité de l'échantillonnage sera réalisé dans trois rivages principaux, lesquels seront clairement marqués pour votre propre sécurité. On demande à tous les membres du public de se tenir éloignés des secteurs d'échantillonnage au cours de cette période pour des raisons de sécurité.

De plus, environ 50 trous seront percés dans la glace du reste du lac. Ces trous seront clairement marqués afin de faciliter l'identification.

Nous vous prions d'être prudent dans ces secteurs.

Nous vous remercions de votre coopération.

Si vous avez des questions ou des préoccupations, veuillez communiquer avec Pêches et Océans Canada au 780-495-4220.

Please Name these People!



The MNA Genealogy and Land Research Unit 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 first communion ceremony at the St. Bernard Mission in Grouard. While we do know the name of at least one person in this photo, we are looking to identify as many as possible. 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 or memories you may have!

∞ Jobin Reunion ∞

**June 28th, 29th, & 30th, 2008
Batoche, Saskatchewan**

This reunion was inspired after a historical research was launched some years ago, tracing back to Charles Jobin who came to Canada in the 1600's. In 1835, Ambroise Jobin Sr. left Quebec for the Red River area in Manitoba. There he married Marguerite Mandeville, a Metis woman. They had four sons and five daughters who were all born and baptized at St. Charles Parish in Manitoba. Ambroise Jr. was born at Sawridge, NWT. He was shot near the historical rectory at Batoche and died a few days thereafter. Three of Ambroise's brothers also assisted Louis Riel in the 1885 battle at Batoche.

For more information please go to the coming events section at www.albertametis.com or contact **Dorothy Bateman** at dibateman@shaw.ca or (780) 465-7149 to register.

Building the Métis Nation of Alberta

Métis Flags Fly Over Edmonton and Calgary During Métis Week

By Monique Devlin

This November, the Métis flag was proudly waving out in front of Edmonton City Hall announcing the official proclamation of Métis week in the capital city. While the day after Remembrance Day was officially a civic holiday representatives from the Municipal and Provincial government still gathered alongside representatives from the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) to celebrate one of the most revered weeks in the Métis Calendar.

"On behalf of the Métis Nation, here in Edmonton, and throughout this province—I want to thank you councillor Ron Hayter, Mayor Stephen Mandel, and the City of Edmonton for flying the Métis flag of the Métis Nation and proclaiming this week Métis week," MNA President Audrey Poitras said.

Before the flag was raised, Councillor Hayter read from the official proclamation heralding in Métis Week. His greeting and thanks to the Métis people of the city were followed by Minister of International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations Guy Boutilier's words of welcome.

"On behalf of Premier Stelmach and all the members of the Legislative Assembly the Province of Alberta is stronger because of the

leadership and the work of your elders and so many others have done in building a stronger Alberta, and President Poitras thank you for your leadership in terms of working together in partnership as we move forward," Boutilier said during the ceremony.

On the same day, in Southern Alberta, politicians and Métis citizens alike gathered at Calgary City Hall for a concurrent flag raising there. The City of Calgary has been declaring the week surrounding Riel day as Métis Week since 1993 and this year was no

exception

City of Calgary Councillor Bob Hawkesworth and the new Police Chief, Rick Hanson both were on hand to kick off the city's Métis Week festivities.

Métis Week recognizes the

anniversary of Riel's execution over 120 years ago when the Métis Nation felt its greatest loss. But at the same time, Métis Week is for celebrating the gains our Métis people have made over the generations. Métis Week

celebrations took place all across the Métis homeland from Ontario to BC and the Métis Flag was raised in several Alberta cities, towns and educational centres in respect and celebration of Métis week.



Métis Week Ushered in by Historic Land Transfer

By Monique Devlin

Nevis, AB (November 13, 2007) – On the first day of Métis Week 2007, the County of Stettler signed an agreement to transfer the ownership of the Content Bridge Park Campground to the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA).

The Campground, situated on the banks of the Red Deer River, was once home to the Tail Creek Métis Settlement, the largest community west of Winnipeg. Region 3 of the MNA has managed the site for the last two summer seasons, and plans to continue improving and developing the site, adding a Métis cultural interpretive component to share the history and culture of the Métis people with fellow Albertans

and tourists from across Canada and the world.

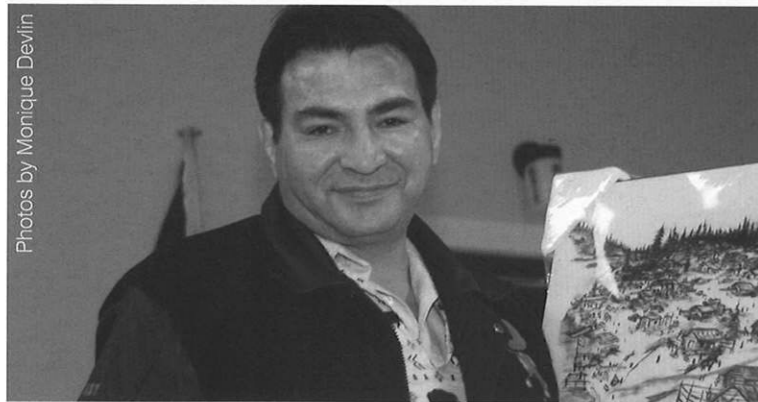
"This is the first time we have had something like this to kick off Métis week," Audrey Poitras, President of the MNA, said. "The Métis have a strong and proud history all over Alberta and this is a wonderful opportunity to develop such a rich, historic parcel of land into a cultural destination."

The County of Stettler approached the Region to manage the Content Bridge Campground after The Stettler Métis local successfully rejuvenated and managed the nearby Buffalo Lake Campground.

"I would like to thank the County of Stettler for working so

diligently with us and recognizing our commitment to enriching the area," Marlene Lanz, the President of Region 3, said. "While this transfer will greatly benefit the Métis Nation, it will also provide benefit to the County, through increased tourism revenue and recognition."

The Content Bridge Campground is near the Tail Creek Cemetery and Boss Hill, a former wintering village, both of which are protected by provincial legislation as Métis Historic Sites. Region 3 also has a partnership with Parks Canada to deliver a Métis Interpretive Project at Rocky Mountain House National Historic Park.



Top: County of Stettler Councillors, MNA R3 President Marlene Lanz, and MNA R4 President Cecil Bellrose look on as MNA President Audrey Poitras and Stettler County Reeve Vic Carey sign the paperwork on the historic land transfer.

Bottom: Métis Artist Raymond Lambert poses with one of two sketches he developed of the site; the first depicts the Tail Creek Settlement as it would have appeared in 1874, while the second shows a vision for the site's future.

Right: Entertainment for the event included a reenactment of Riel's last address to the jury by Dr. Bill Baergen and traditional fiddle music and jigging by the Calgary Métis Junior Star Dancers.



Government of Canada Supports the MNA

Submitted

On behalf of the Honourable Josée Verner, Minister of Canadian Heritage, Status of Women and Official Languages, Laurie Hawn, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence and Member of Parliament (Edmonton Centre), announced funding for the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Funding of \$315,000 will go toward activities that preserve and promote Métis language, culture, and heritage. It will fund a three-year project that includes the publication of a book called *Michif in Alberta*, the organization of linguistic immersion camps, and support for a provincial conference about the Michif language.

"The Métis people have a rich cultural heritage," said Minister Verner. "We are proud to support this organization to ensure that they continue to have a voice in Alberta and in Canada."

"Our Government is committed to enabling Aboriginal people to fully participate in the social, political, economic, and cultural life of the country," said Mr. Hawn. "We are pleased to support the Métis Nation of Alberta."

"Unfortunately, as many of our



Laurie Hawn, Edmonton Centre MP with MNA President Audrey Poitras as members of the media look on.

Elders pass away without sharing their language with the next generation, a part of our history is slipping away," said Audrey Poitras, President of the Métis Nation of Alberta. "It is up to us to protect this important part of our heritage, and this funding from Canadian Heritage will assist us in doing exactly that."

The Government of Canada has

provided this funding through the Aboriginal Peoples Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage, which supports the full participation and cultural revitalization of Aboriginal people in Canadian society. It enables Aboriginal peoples to address the social, cultural, economic, and political issues affecting their lives.

Reminder New and Existing Membership Applicants

It is your responsibility to keep your membership address and telephone contact information current.

Telephone: **780-455-2200**

1-866-678-7888

Facsimile: **780-452-6035**

Please contact our office with any changes as they occur.

Thank You!

Registrar and Staff of the Métis Identification Registry

\$2 Million Endowment Program

By Charity Borg

Métis students attending Grant MacEwan College will have \$2 million more to follow their dreams, thanks to a newly created endowment fund established through a partnership between MacEwan and the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA).

The Métis Scholar Awards are the result of the endowment which will see about \$100,000 a year in scholarships provided to students attending MacEwan. The first scholarships (totalling about \$40,000) will be awarded during this Winter 2008 semester.

The endowment was created

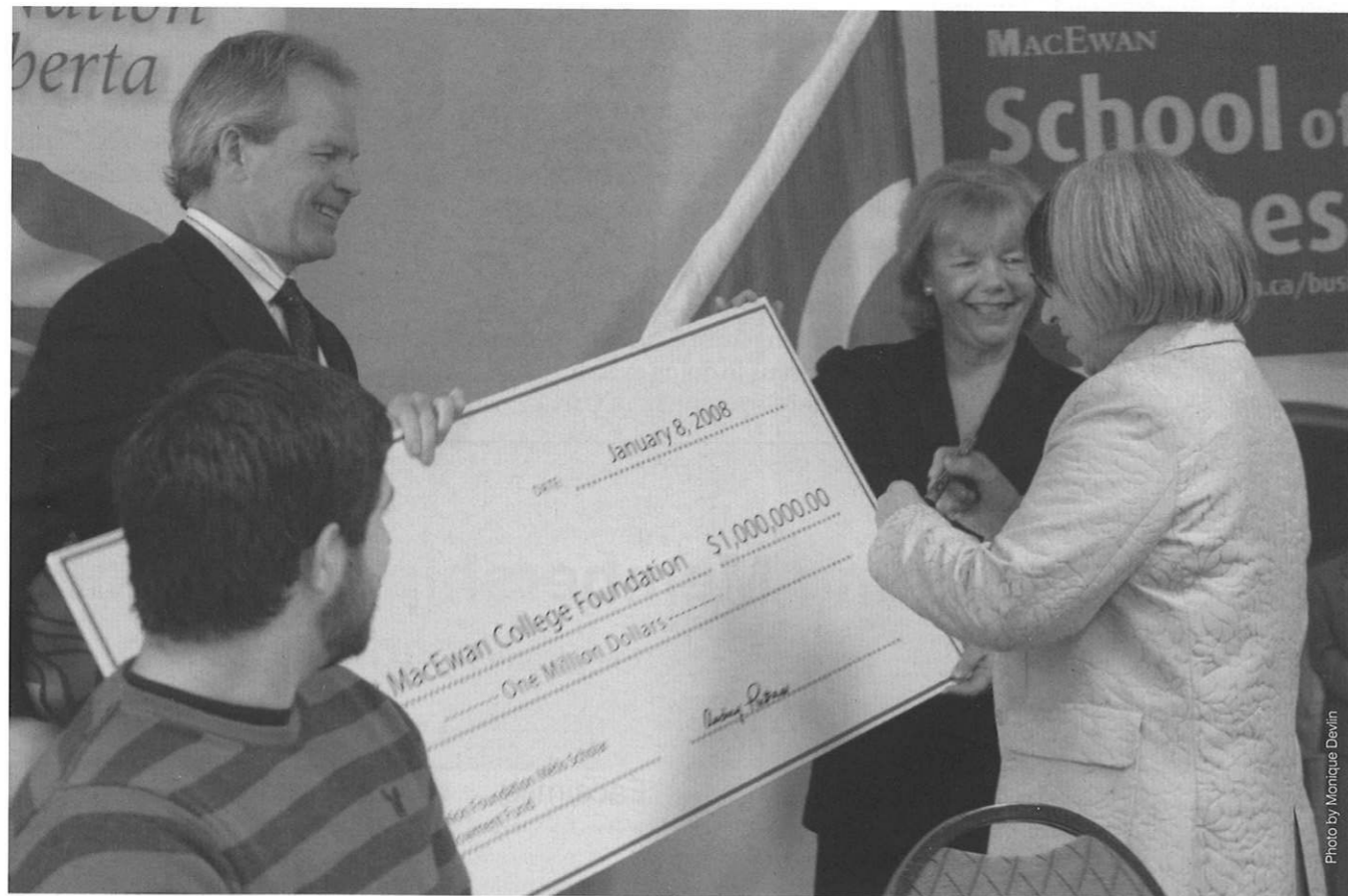
through a \$1 million contribution from the MNA's Métis Education Foundation with funds being matched by MacEwan through the Government of Alberta's Access to the Future Fund. The fund allows the province to match contributions dollar for dollar made to post-secondary institutions in Alberta.

"The Métis Scholar Awards are designed to encourage and assist Métis students in financial need to achieve their highest academic potential," said Audrey Poitras, MNA President. "This partnership with MacEwan is a first step in creating a permanent award

program for Métis students in Alberta. The MNA would like to thank MacEwan for being the first post-secondary program to partner with the MNA to establish this endowment fund."

Métis student Brandon Parenteau, is pleased to have more funding options available to him.

"It's a big opportunity and huge stepping stone for Métis youth for perspective students from all across Alberta to come and have a financial incentive to get a diploma, get a degree," said the second year MacEwan commerce student. "I enjoy the small class sizes, it's a really friendly atmosphere, and it's a



MNA President Audrey Poitras signs a presentation cheque of \$1 million for the endowment fund, held by Eric Young, the Chairman of the MacEwan Board of Governors and Janet Paterson-Weir, MacEwan Provost as MacEwan student Brandon Parenteau looks on.



Left: Sylvia Johnson, MNA Minister of Labour Market Development, presents Eric Young, the Chairman of the MacEwan Board of Governors, with a signed jersey from Edmonton Oiler, Sheldon Souray. Right: MNA President Audrey Poitras shakes hands with MacEwan Provost, Janet Paterson-Weir, who presented her with the Grant MacEwan Story.



good place to learn. I'm having a lot of fun and I'm learning quite a bit."

The scholarships range from \$3,000 to \$4,000 for students in an undergraduate degree, while the award amount ranges from \$1,500 to \$2,000 for students enrolled full time in diploma or certificate programs.

"MacEwan is moved by the generosity of the MNA. The Métis

Scholar Awards created by this endowment will mean students who want to earn a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree will have the opportunity to do so with less financial woes," said Dr. Paul Byrne, CEO and President of MacEwan.

Currently there are about 150 Métis students attending MacEwan, a number that is projected to

increase in future years.

While the deadline for this year's awards has already passed, next year Métis students can apply for the Métis Scholar Awards a number of ways. Students may fill out an application at: the Students Awards Office at any MacEwan Campus; MNA Métis Employment Services offices; or online at www.albertametis.com.

Métis Nation of Alberta Labour Market Development Program

Provides tuition, fees, books and income support for Métis students entering Post Secondary programs that are:

- ∞ Less than 52 weeks in length
- ∞ A 2-year college diploma program
- ∞ The last year of a university degree
- ∞ Apprenticeship technical training



Call Métis Employment Services at
1-888-48-METIS
(1-888-486-3847)
to find out more about Post
Secondary support for Métis students.
Call now as deadlines apply.

"A Skilled Métis Labour Force"

MNA Announces Speakers for Upcoming Conference

Lieutenant Governor Norman Kwong and Senator Claudette Tardif slated to speak at Stronger Together: "Achieving Brighter Futures for Métis Communities."

Press Release

The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) is pleased to announce that Lieutenant Governor Norman Kwong will be providing opening remarks during the Stronger Together: "Achieving Brighter Futures for Métis Communities" conference. The event, which runs from February 13 - 15th, 2008, will also feature Senator Claudette Tardif as a keynote speaker.

"I am excited that Lieutenant Governor Norman Kwong, Senator Tardif and Minister Boutilier have agreed to become a part of our conference," Audrey Poitras, President of the MNA said. "This is about strengthening the Métis community and it is wonderful to have such strong support from the leadership on both a national and provincial level."

The conference is a follow up to last year's highly successful Time for Action "Strengthening Métis Communities" Conference, where members and friends of the Métis Community gathered to address issues facing them and their communities and the strategies needed to tackle them. This year the focus will be on what can be done to further strengthen the Métis community now and in the future.

"This conference will be about the power of teamwork, and how members of the MNA, our supporters, service providers and partners can better

work together to achieve some of our common goals," Poitras said. "In the end we all essentially are working toward the same thing—a better life for ourselves, our families and our communities."

Sessions that will be held throughout the conference include health, children's services, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, education, housing, justice and economic development.

The meeting is open to the public, but people are encouraged to register early as there is only a limited amount of space.



The Stronger Together: "Achieving Brighter Futures for Métis Communities" conference is a follow up to last year's highly successful Time for Action "Strengthening Métis Communities" Conference.

Update Your Métis Nation of Alberta

MEMBERSHIP

New Toll-Free Numbers

1-866-88METIS (1-866-886-3847)

1-866-678-7888

1-800-252-7553



#100 Della Gray Building • 11738 Kingsway Avenue • Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5 • www.albertametis.com

Stronger Together

"Achieving Brighter Futures for Métis Communities"



Date: February 13-15, 2008

Location: Chateau Louis Hotel & Conference Centre
11727 Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta

Cost: \$75.00

To register or for more information contact **Norma Spicer**

Toll free at 1-800-252-7553; (780) 455-2200 ext 226;

Email: nspicer@metis.org

Hosted by the Strategic Policy & Planning Unit

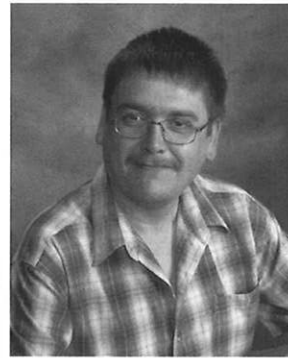


Rick Boucher Reprimanded and Suspended Until 2010

MNA Judiciary Council Finds R1 Vice-President Violated Métis Nation's Conflict of Interest Prohibitions

Press Release

This December, the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Judiciary Council issued a decision in a conflict of interest complaint filed against Rick Boucher, Vice President for MNA Region 1.



The complaint was brought forward by MNA President Audrey Poitras on behalf of seven members of the MNA Provincial Council, including the Presidents of four of the six MNA Regions.

"Now that this process is complete, I look forward to the MNA Provincial Council coming together to work on other issues that are really important to Métis people such as health, housing, harvesting and career development," President Poitras said. "This decision reinforces the need for people to respect Métis government and to work together to advance Métis government for the good of Métis people."

The complaint flows from the Provincial Council passing a unanimous motion (that was seconded by Boucher) in February 2007 that the MNA pursue a bilateral agreement with Health Canada for the delivery of the Aboriginal Health Human Resource Initiative (AHHRI), rather than entering into a sub-agreement with the Métis National Council (MNC) for the delivery of this federal program due to concerns raised by the MNA's Minister of Family and Wellness with respect to accountability issues to MNA members.

In March 2007, unbeknownst to the MNA President, the MNA Minister for Family and Wellness, the Provincial Council as a whole or the MNA Region 1 Regional Council, Boucher entered into an agreement with the MNC for the delivery of the AHHRI through Metco Ventures Inc., a private company he 100% owned as of the date of signing the agreement. The agreement provided that Metco would now deliver health programs to Métis in Alberta, rather than through the MNA.

"It is unfortunate that instead of working with and respecting his colleagues who are elected to serve all Métis people across the province, Mr. Boucher decided to pursue his own objectives," Marlene Lanz, Region 3 President and Minister for Family and Wellness said. "With this decision, I hope that the MNA can now

finalize the bilateral agreement with Health Canada that was contemplated back in February 2007 in order to increase the number of Métis health professionals in this province and improve Métis health in Alberta."

"It is a very sad day when elected officials put their own self interests above the Métis people with no regard for the future of our Nation," Sylvia Johnson, President of Region 6 said. "As leaders, we all have the responsibility to ensure that we are accountable and not have a hand in disgracing and embarrassing the Métis Nation publicly."

The MNA Judiciary Council found that Boucher "made a decision to use a company he controlled to take an agreement away from the MNA", that Boucher "owed a duty to the MNA" and that "he had no right to act on his own contrary to the motion" passed by the MNA Provincial Council in February 2007.



DOUGLAS PRINTING

Douglas Printing is devoted to providing customers with outstanding printed products and unparalleled customer service.

Phone 780.482.6026 | 10805 - 120 Street
Fax 780.488.0106 | Edmonton, Alberta
Toll Free 1.800.837.1395 | T5H 3P9

info@douglasprint.com



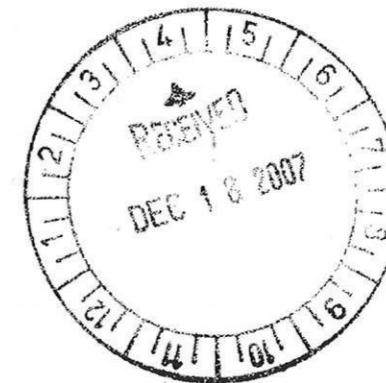
Winner of the 2002, 2003 & 2004 Consumers Choice Award for Best Commercial Printer

www.douglasprint.com



MÉTIS JUDICIARY COUNCIL

Suite #303, 12308-111th Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5M 2N4
Phone: (780) 413-8436
Fax: (780) 455-5393



VIA DELIVERY

Mr. Howard J. Sniderman
WITTEN LLP Barristers & Solicitors
Suite 2500 Canadian Western Bank Place
10303 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3N6

Your File No: 100880 HJS
Our Docket No: 007-01

Dear Mr. Sniderman:

Re: Decision of Metis Judiciary Council on Complaint Submission by Audrey Poitras re Rick Boucher.

The Complaint Submission dated May 7, 2007, submitted by Audrey Poitras to the Metis Judiciary Council regarding Rick Boucher has been concluded.

The Metis Judiciary Council has considered this Complaint Submission and the decision reached is final. This document is attached and will be distributed to the Respondent's Legal Representative.

Yours truly,

Dale Friedel, Chairperson
Metis Judiciary Council

Enclosure: 1-Decision Docket #007-01

DECISION OF THE METIS JUDICIARY COUNCIL

DOCKET NUMBER: 007-01

HEARING DATES: JULY - NOVEMBER 2007

The Metis Judiciary Council derives its authority pursuant to Article 29 and Article 30 of the Metis Nation of Alberta Bylaws. The Complaint Submission filed by Audrey Poitras on or about May 8th, 2007 regarding Conflict of Interest of Provincial Council Member, Rick Boucher was within the mandate of the Metis Judiciary Council (MJC). The MJC followed the Policy and Procedures for Resolving Disputes of the Metis Judiciary Council. These Policy and Procedures were ratified as per Article 30.1(i) of the Metis Nation of Alberta Bylaws at the 70th Annual Assembly in Slave Lake, Alberta on August 7, 8, 9 1998.

First, it should be noted that the initial date to hear this matter was set for July 20, 2007. Counsel for the Respondent was granted two (2) adjournments: one to July 30, 2007 and a second adjournment that was granted to September 20-21, 2007. Evidence was heard on these dates and the matter was adjourned for a third time due to time constraints, to November 24-25, 2007.

An Alternate Dispute Resolution process was offered by the MJC as per its Policies and Procedures for Resolving Disputes - Part IV, Article 19. This process was attempted on September 20th, 2007 and was unsuccessful. Therefore, the process moved to a Hearing status. Any matter discussed during the Alternative Dispute Resolution process was considered as stricken from the record of the Hearing proceedings.

PRELIMINARIES:

Preliminary objections raised by Respondent's Counsel were as follows:

1. That the Metis Judiciary Council Chairperson was a Director of MOI (Metis Opportunity Inc.), which is an affiliate of Region 4 Metis Nation of Alberta. It was determined through information from Corporate Registries that the Chairperson is not a Director of MOI. It was also confirmed that the Chairperson had not been involved in any meetings of MOI nor had he signed any documents regarding MOI.
2. Counsel for Mr. Boucher brought forward that the Complainant Audrey Poitras played a role in selection of the Metis Judiciary Council Members. The Metis Judiciary Council addressed the concern through deliberations that each member was selected per Article 29.2 of the Metis Nation of Alberta Bylaws, which provides that the Regional Council of each Region selects each Member.
3. That audio transcript and verbatim minutes of MNA Provincial Council meetings and meeting minutes of Metis National Council Health Minister should be subpoenaed as evidence in the Hearing. The MJC determined that since all witnesses were present at those meetings they could be questioned regarding such meetings and provide the information requested by both Counsels; therefore, audio transcripts of MNA Provincial Council Meetings were not necessary.
4. That Region 2 did not have representation on the MJC panel due to the resignation of that Region's representative. It was determined that the MJC could proceed with five (5) members, and it may proceed at a hearing as long as 50% of the Council plus 1 are present; and no new Region 2 member would be brought into the Hearing that was already in progress.
5. The Counsel for the Respondent requested that the services of a court reporter, supplied by Tarrabain and Co., be present to record the Hearing. This request was denied as per Article 10 (Recording of Proceedings) of the Metis Judiciary Council Policy and Procedures for Resolving Disputes. The MJC identified to Counsels that they provide an experienced recorder for the Hearing and that we are able to provide a transcript if required.
6. Counsel for Mr. Boucher raised concerns that the Complainant had not followed proper procedure for submitting a Complaint (identifying that this Preliminary Objection was not produced 7 days before the hearing, the MJC treated the Preliminary Objection as an "irregularity"; as per the MJC Policies and Procedures for Resolving Disputes, Article 8.2, Rules Applicable to all Hearings), suggesting that the Complainant was implying that Mr. Rick Boucher's Membership be terminated as per Article 8 of the Metis Nation of Alberta Bylaws, requiring three signatures. The Metis Judiciary Council addressed this issue in deliberations and determined that the Complaint Submission was filed appropriately in reference to Members' Rights; accordingly to Article 9 of the Metis Nation of Alberta Bylaws. The Complaint that was made alleged Conflict of Interest as a Provincial Council Member and breach of Section 9.1 of the MNA Bylaws, and did not attempt to deal with Membership under Article 8 of the MNA Bylaws.

FINDINGS:

1. Through testimony given at the Hearing, it was discovered that on February 7th, 2007, Mr. Boucher received an information package regarding the AHRI (Aboriginal Health Human Resource Initiative, hereinafter referred to as HHRI), as did all Provincial Council Members, at a Regular Provincial Council Meeting.

Mr. Boucher subsequently seconded a motion, as indicated in the minutes of the February 7, 2007 Provincial Council Meeting, **that the Metis Nation of Alberta pursue a Bilateral Agreement with Health Canada.**
2. Mr. Boucher should have been aware of concerns that existed from the perspective of the MNA Health Committee and the MNA Executive in terms of entering into an Agreement with the Metis National Council. Testimonial evidence revealed that these concerns were raised during the February 7th, 2007 Provincial Council meeting. Some of the concerns were:
 - a. That the contract signed with MNC and Health Canada (herein after referred to as the Health Agreement) in August 2006 was not made aware to the MNC Board of Governors until October 2006.
 - b. That unlike any previous agreements signed between the Federal Government and Metis National Council, the Health Agreement would give the MNC a major decision making role in the program design and management.
 - c. The Health Agreement was being executed by having training dollars go to Associations of Universities and Colleges and allowed for some other Agency to administer those training funds, thereby circumventing the Provincial Council.
 - d. The Health Agreement had no indications that it was binding upon any Governing Body; in doing so has the premise of unaccountability upon elected officials.
3. The evidence shows that on February 26th, 2007 the Provincial Council met and those minutes do not reflect any change in the direction of the February 7th, 2007 Motion for the MNA to pursue a bilateral agreement with Health Canada.
4. Knowing that concerns existed for the MNA, Mr. Boucher then entered into an Agreement with the Metis National Council (MNC) to deliver the HHRI on March 27th in Winnipeg, MB through a company he controlled ("Metco"). A press release on March 28th, 2007 announced that Mr. Boucher, "Director of Metco," had signed the Agreement. This meant that Metco would now deliver the services instead of the MNA and would also administer the funds for the entire province.
5. Mr. Boucher testified that he did not consult with the MNA President; all members of MNA Provincial Council; the MNA Health Minister and Health Committee; or Region 1 Regional Council prior to entering into the Agreement with the MNC. The Press Release of March 28th, 2007 was the first indication to the President of the Metis Nation of Alberta and numerous other Provincial Council Members in becoming aware of this Agreement. Mr. Boucher did not seek consent of the MNA Provincial Council to enter into the Agreement in place of the MNA, nor did he tell them that he was intending to do so.
6. A Corporate Registry Search shows that on March 30th, 2007 the Directorship of Metco was changed from Mr. Boucher being 100% Director and Shareholder to two other individuals. It was determined through evidence that Mr. Rick Boucher was to remove himself as Shareholder with Metco in July of 2003 at the time Metco received a loan from the MNA. At some undetermined time, Mr. Boucher became 100% Shareholder of Metco and held that sole Shareholder position and sole Director position until after the signing of the HHRI Agreement between Metco and MNC.
7. The Respondent's Counsel raised the defense that Mr. Boucher held Trust Agreements for Metco, that were signed in 2000 by Rick Boucher along with two other individuals who at that time also held Metco in trust for Region I. The MJC determined that although Mr. Boucher had signed a Trust Agreement for Metco in 2000, there was insufficient evidence provided to determine how Mr. Boucher went from 25 percent Shareholder in 2000, to 50 percent Shareholder in 2003 and yet again, how Mr. Boucher became 100 percent Shareholder and Director as of March, 2007. The Metis Judiciary Council also determined through deliberation that at no time since 2000 was there any evidence that showed Metco was still held in Trust nor were there any changes to the Trust Agreements. Conversely there was evidence that showed changes to the Shareholder's and Director's of Metco, identifying that Mr. Boucher was 100 percent Shareholder and Director at the time of signing the HHRI Agreement. Whether or not the shares were held in trust, Mr. Boucher controlled the company and used this company to enter into the agreement with the MNC in place of the MNA.
8. Mr. Boucher's Counsel also raised the defense that Mr. Boucher was acting on the betterment of all Metis Nation of Alberta members and that if he had not moved promptly to sign the HHRI Agreement, the potential of millions of dollars would be lost, which would lead to many Alberta Metis Students missing out on Scholarships and Bursaries relating to studies in the field of Health. Although Mr. Boucher feels he was acting in the betterment of Alberta Metis, the MJC determined that does not forfeit his duty as an elected Provincial Council member to disclose to all Provincial Council members his interest in Metco or the nature of his interest in signing an agreement with MNC, even while all Provincial Council members knew or should have known that motion seconded by Mr. Boucher was in support of the MNA pursuing a Bilateral Agreement with Health Canada.
9. The MJC also determined that just because Mr. Boucher thought there was a potential that millions of dollars were at risk, the fact still remains that he made a decision to use a company he controlled to take an agreement away from the MNA, an agreement where Mr. Boucher had private knowledge regarding information about the agreement. As a member of Provincial Council, Mr. Boucher owed a duty to the MNA to support its policy as expressed in the motion passed on February 7, 2007. He had no right to act on his own contrary to the motion based on information that he obtained as a Councillor. The MNA could not operate if every Councillor felt entitled to take information obtained through the MNA and then act on their own through other companies preventing the MNA from proceeding with negotiating agreements when the Provincial Council had authorized the negotiation of such agreements.

REASONS:

The Judiciary Council finds that Mr. Rick Boucher demonstrates a Conflict of Interest during the time he was in office as Vice president of Region 1 by acting as a signing authority to an Agreement to deliver the Health Human Resource Initiative from a company, Metco Ventures, of which Mr. Boucher was sole Shareholder and Director. Mr. Boucher used information he was privy to by the nature of his position and proceeded with signing an Agreement, contrary to the motion he seconded that directed the Metis Nation of Alberta Provincial Council, which he is part, to enter into a Bilateral Agreement that would allow the MNA and its executives to administer and distribute all of the HHRI funds.

The Judiciary Council finds that Mr. Rick Boucher also demonstrates a Conflict of Interest during the time he was in office as Vice President of Region 1 by not fully disclosing to all of the Provincial Council the nature or extent of his interest with regards to entering into an Agreement to deliver the Health Human Resource Initiative through the Metco Company. Mr. Boucher has demonstrated a circumvention of the political communication process of the Metis Nation of Alberta, by taking over an agreement with a company he controlled when the agreement was already being pursued by the MNA. Provincial Council members do not have the right to act on their own because they disagree with MNA Executives or the MNA Provincial Council.

These findings are a clear breach of the Conflict of Interest prohibitions under Article 22.1 and 22.2 of the Metis Nation of Alberta Bylaws. People in the position of Mr. Boucher as a member of Provincial Council harm the integrity and credibility of the entire Metis Nation of Alberta by ignoring the process for Governing affairs of the Provincial Council.

ORDER:

The Metis Judiciary Council has determined that Mr. Rick Boucher is in breach of Article 22 (Conflict of Interest Guidelines for Provincial Council Members) of the Metis Nation of Alberta. The Metis Judiciary Council has determined that Mr. Rick Boucher actions are gravely detrimental to the Nation under Article 9.1 of the MNA Bylaws.

In addition to a reprimand authorized under Article 32.8 (Metis Judiciary Council Procedure on Conflict Of Interest of Provincial Council Members) of the MNA Bylaws, Article 9 (Suspension of Members Rights), also of the MNA Bylaws, allows the Metis Judiciary Council to suspend Rights of Members, Article 7 (Rights of Members - MNA Bylaws). It is therefore the decision of the Metis Judiciary Council to suspend Mr. Rick Boucher of Lac La Biche as per Metis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws Article 7.1.4 from:

- a) the opportunity to be a candidate for an elected office in the Metis Nation;
- b) the opportunity to hold an elected office in the Metis Nation;
- d) the opportunity to be appointed to the Metis Judiciary Council or Council of Elders;
- e) the opportunity to be an employee, officer or director of an affiliate;
- f) the opportunity to receive income or reimbursement of expenses from the Metis Nation or its affiliates.

These rights are to be suspended effective immediately as per Article 9.2, of the Metis Nation of Alberta Bylaws, commencing December 18, 2007 and shall be in effect until December 18, 2010 at 23:59 hours.

ISSUES REGARDING REVENUE CANADA INFORMATION:

1. The Respondent in this case, Mr. Rick Boucher, testified before the MJC that he had no objection to the MJC examining the financial records of Metco.
2. The MJC allowed, as an irregularity, the submission into evidence of Revenue Canada information concerning Metco on November 24th, despite the fact that it was not produced 7 days before the hearing. However, the MJC did not utilize any of this evidence in its determination due to the fact that neither the Complainant nor the Respondent had the opportunity to examine or cross-examine witnesses regarding this evidence, because the Respondent left the hearing.

All Revenue Canada documents were subsequently destroyed.
3. Counsel for the Complainant and the Defendant each requested that one rebuttal witness be called; both requests were granted; however, due to the abrupt ending to the proceedings on November 25th, 2007 these two witnesses were not called to give evidence.

CONCLUSION:

The Metis Judiciary Council finds it highly unfortunate that the Respondent and his Counsel left the Hearing of their own volition on the morning of November 25, 2007. The actions of the Respondent meant that the Judiciary Council did not hear from the balance of the Respondents evidence since he chose to leave the hearing.

The Metis Judiciary Council agreed to proceed and to render a decision as per process and rendered the above final decision. The Metis Judiciary Council felt that the evidence of a Conflict of Interest was clear and that the process should not be prevented from finishing by the Respondent choosing to leave the hearing.

Dated this 18th day of December 2007.

The Metis Judiciary Council:

- Bertha Clark Jones, Region 1
- Vacant, Region 2
- Toby Racette, Region 3
- Dale Friedel, Region 4
- Ken Shaw, Region 5
- Bonnie Bell, Region

The MNA Judiciary Council also wrote:

The MNA could not operate if every Councillor felt entitled to take information obtained through the MNA and then act on their own through other companies preventing the MNA from proceeding with negotiating agreements when the Provincial Council had authorized the negotiation of such agreements.

... Provincial Council members do not have the right to act on their own because they disagree with the MNA Executives or the MNA Provincial Council. ...

People in the position of Mr. Boucher as a member of the Provincial Council harm the integrity and credibility of the entire Métis Nation of Alberta by ignoring the process for Governing affairs of the Provincial Council.

In conclusion, the Judiciary Council found Boucher's actions were "a clear breach of the Conflict of Interest prohibitions under Article 22.1 and 22.2 of the Métis Nation of Alberta Bylaws." The Judiciary Council reprimanded and immediately suspended Boucher from the Provincial Council and from holding specific positions in the MNA until December 18th, 2010.

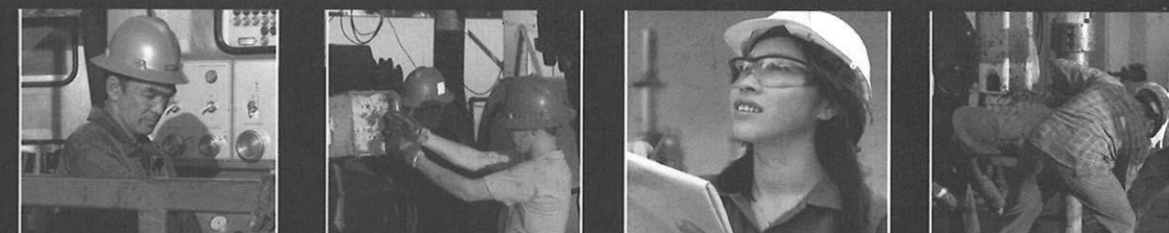
"This process shows that the MNA's self-

government is strong and that Métis leaders should be held to the same high standards we expect from federal and provincial Cabinet Ministers and MLAs when it comes to avoiding conflicts of interests. MNA Provincial Council members are here to strengthen the Métis Nation and serve all Métis people, not use information obtained through Métis government to advance their own agendas," Cecil Bellrose, Region 4 President said.

"This very serious decision of the Judiciary Council absolutely reinforces the belief of the Métis people in our government, our internal processes and the fundamental principle of good government and accountability," Karen Collins, President of Region 2 added. "The elders, youth and membership have anxiously waited for this decision. Now that it has been made, we can move on as the strong Métis Nation that we are."

The complaint was initially filed in May 2007. An initial hearing date for the matter was set for July 20th, 2007. Boucher requested and was granted two adjournments: one to July 30th, 2007 and a second adjournment to September 20th to 21st, 2007. In September 2007, evidence was heard and the matter was adjourned a third time to November 24th and 25th, 2007. The Judiciary Council rendered its formal decision on December 18th, 2007. A copy of the full decision is available at www.albertametis.com.

Oil & Gas Trades and Technology (OGTT) Bursary & Scholarship Program



The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation supports careers and life choices for Aboriginal learners. All First Nation, Inuit and Metis peoples preparing to enter OGTT studies in Alberta are encouraged to apply.
Deadline for applications - February 20, 2008

For more information visit our education program at www.naaf.ca or contact 1-800-329-9780 ext 020

Celebrating Métis Culture

Remembering Louis Riel

By Charity Borg

Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont fought the Canadian government for the rights of the Métis people and in turn for standing up for what rightfully belonged to the Métis; Riel was hanged on Nov. 16, 1885 for high treason.

Each year the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) commemorates the hero of the Métis people at the Alberta Legislature Building on the anniversary of his death.

"Riel believed in two things very deeply—he was a believer in God and he was a believer in his people, the Métis people," said Audrey Poitras, President of the MNA.

The march to the legislature was led by a horse drawn cart carrying Dr. Bill Baergen who portrayed Louis Riel for the commemoration. The cart was followed by over 100 people including military personnel, RCMP and Edmonton Police Service (EPS) members, veterans, and students.

Baergen was slowly led up the stone steps of the Legislature Building to the heavy wooden doors by a police officer. A ball and chain clamped his ankle. The reason for the drama was to emulate the experience of Louis Riel as he was

taken into the court house.

The commemoration ceremony began with the Black Light Drummer Group. The

reverberations from their instruments vibrated through the old architecture of the building. Following the drumming, Baergen

descended the incredible flight of stairs to the bottom escorted by EPS member Jennifer Lennie to recite Riel's Address to the Jury. During

Riel's trial he was encouraged to plea insanity but for the sake of the Métis people and his own pride, he was unable to ever take the simplistic

escape.

"I am glad that the Crown have proved that I am the leader of the half-breeds in the North-West. I will perhaps be one day acknowledged as more than a leader of the half-breeds, and if I am I will have an opportunity of being acknowledged as a leader of good in this great country," said Louis Riel in his Address to the Jury in 1885.

For students from Edmonton city schools it was a learning experience to see what Louis Riel means to the Métis people and to the rest of Canada.

Several dignitaries spoke during the commemoration ceremony including MLA for Bonnyville/Cold Lake Denis Ducharme, Liberal MLA for Edmonton-Decore Bill Bonko, NDP Leader Brian Mason, Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta president Jean Johnson, Métis Settlements General Council president Alden Armstrong, and MNA president Audrey Poitras.

A prayer was provided by Elder Marge Friedel and fiddle and guitar music during the march was played by Homer Poitras and Fran Sinclair.

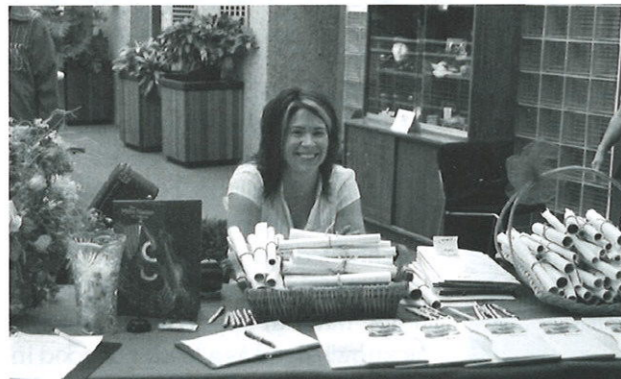


Métis Week Recognized in Alberta Schools

By Monique Devlin

It wasn't just cities and towns around the province celebrating Métis week by flying the red and blue infinity flags, many schools across the province showed their Métis pride by flying the flags and having special celebrations to honour and celebrate Métis week.

Portage College in Lac La Biche began their commemoration of Métis week by raising the Métis flag on one of three flagpoles outside the college, while Amiskwacy Academy in Edmonton invited the six Métis Nation of Alberta Regional Elders to partake in a special ceremony ushering in Métis week.



Photos by Monique Devlin

Top Left: Nadia Bourque hands out information about Métis week at Portage College in Lac La Biche.
 Top Right: Veterans and members of MNA Provincial Council stand at attention during the flag raising at Portage College in Lac La Biche.
 Bottom Left: Students at Amiskwacy Academy perform traditional Métis fiddle music and participate in some jigging.
 Bottom Right: MNA Regional Elders and Audrey Poitras were invited to share their stories while ushering Métis week at Amiskwacy Academy.

Delia Gray Memorial Gala

By Monique Devlin

She used to call it "her day."
 Each year on Nov. 16, Riel Day, Delia Gray would start her day off at the Riel Commemoration ceremony at the Legislature, then come back to the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) head office, where she would spend the day talking to everyone there—be they visitors, staff, or elected officials. She would learn what concerns were on people's minds and help teach them about Métis history and culture. Because she was the provincial Elder, she was often in the office on days other than Nov. 16, but she considered Riel Day her special day.

When she passed away on Nov. 12, 1999, it was only fitting that her

funeral was held on Nov. 16 and that family and friends were able to pay their final respects to a woman who meant so much to so many on the same day she held so dear.

"The following year, during Métis Week on this day, Nov. 16, we held a dinner and dance to honour and acknowledge the contributions to the MNA by our Elder, Delia Gray," MNA president Audrey Poitras said.

Now, every year, on Nov. 16, the Métis Nation of Alberta pays tribute to the past by recognizing the hero of the Métis people, Louis Riel and at the same time also celebrates the future, honouring Delia's memory by encouraging the leaders

of the future through the Delia Gray Memorial Scholarship.

This year, the two recipients were Rayleen Brosha and Megan Paquette.

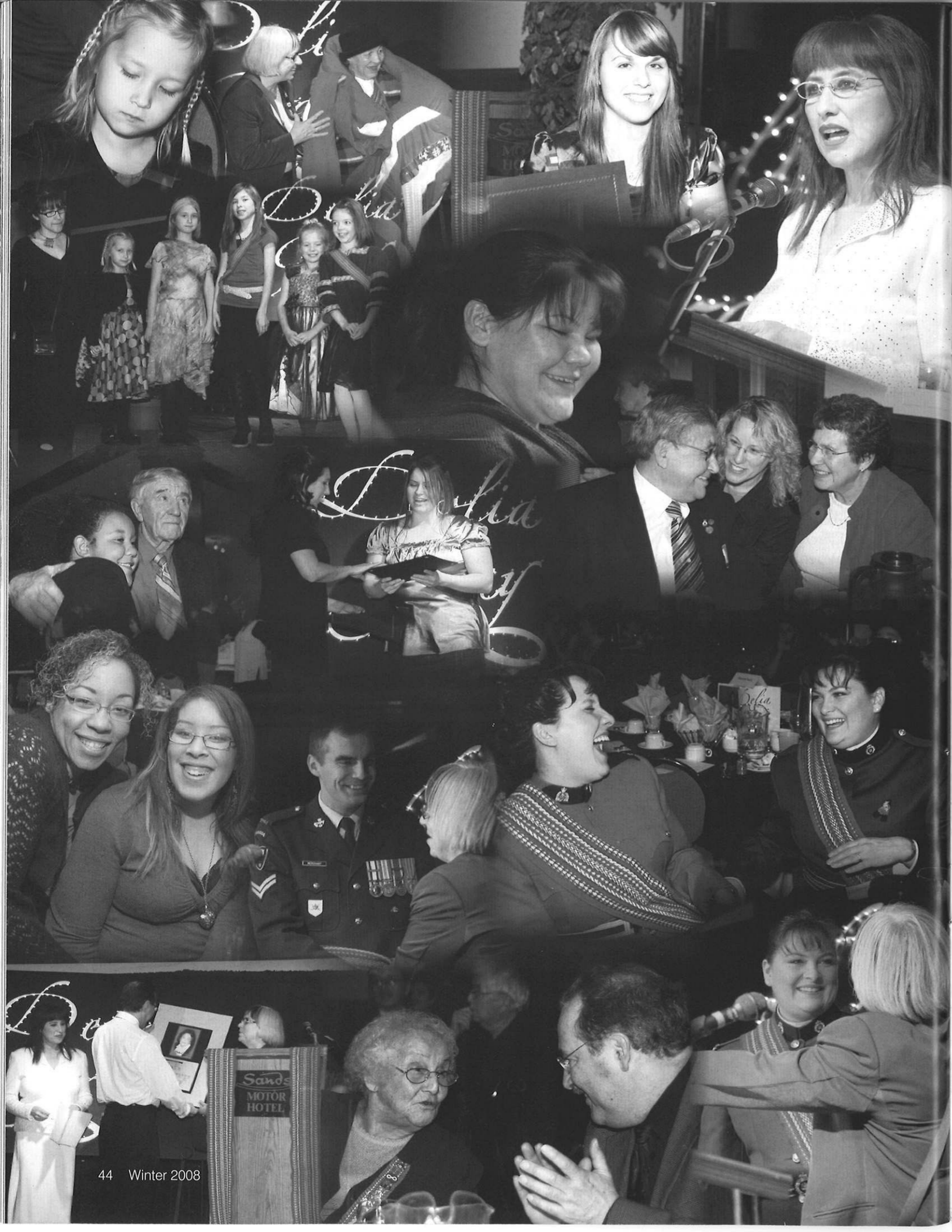
Rayleen is a student at the University of Alberta working towards her Masters of education in educational Psychology.

"Once I have graduated with a Masters Degree in Educational Psychology I hope to begin teaching either in the school boards or colleges in Alberta or British Columbia," Rayleen said about her future plans. "I believe education is a life long process that never ends. The world offers so much diversity for knowledge and I plan to pursue



Photo by Monique Devlin

Matriarchs Dee Johnston, Josephine Taylor, Sophie Hiebert, Marge Friedel, and Minnie Belcourt were honoured for their contributions to Métis in Alberta



my interests to the fullest.”

Megan is currently attending open studies at the University of Alberta, and plans to enroll in the faculty of nursing.

“I intend to work hard towards my degree,” she said. “After graduation I am looking forward to working full time in a hospital.”

In keeping with Delia Gray's strong belief in education, the gala was also used as an opportunity to award two new scholarships, the Pearl Calahasen Scholarship, and the Art L'Hirondelle Dedicated Service Scholarship.

The Pearl Calahasen Scholarship, funded by the MNA and the MNA Region six, was created to pay tribute to the work Calahasen did as a Member of Legislative Assembly for the province of Alberta. Calahasen served as Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development where she was, and continues to be, outspoken about Aboriginal education programs. She led in the development of the first Native language program and developed a Cree language program for adult students.

The first two Pearl Calahasen award recipients were Terri-Lee Dawn Spencer, who is studying to become a practical nurse at Norquest College and Joshua Stanley Littlechilds, who is studying business at the University of Alberta. Terri-Lee is the mother of four children and plans on following through with her bachelor of nursing, and eventually travel as a nurse to smaller communities.

“I have the desire to help others achieve their full potential of health and wellness. It is essential for me to achieve my career goal and to provide my children with opportunities to develop their skills and achieve their goals as well,” she said.

The Art L'Hirondelle Dedicated Service Scholarship, funded by the Métis Urban Housing Corporation (MUH), honours the devotion L'Hirondelle showed during his 22 years working at Métis Urban Housing as the manager of the maintenance department. The scholarships are available for Aboriginal students pursuing a career in the Construction Trades.

“Art L'Hirondelle started working at MUH on April 15, 1985. For 22 years Art shared his life, his wisdom, his knowledge and his great sense of humour with his colleagues and his community,” Darlene Lennie, the Executive Director of MUH said when introducing the new award.

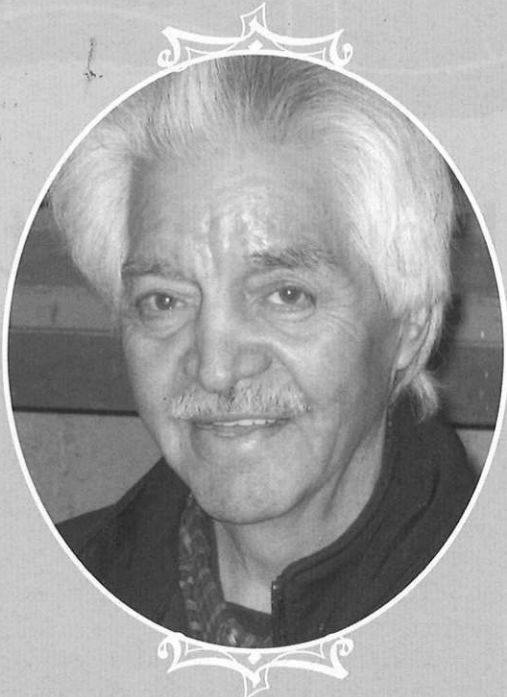
In addition to the new scholarship, MUH will be erecting a sign and naming a multi-unit complex in Lac La Biche (Art's birthplace) the Art L'Hirondelle Manor.

This year the award was presented to Elizabeth Belmore, a single mom of two, who hopes to be a carpenter and is currently attending the Norquest apprenticeship preparation program.

“My goal is to be a journeywoman carpenter and to live a fulfilling life with my two children,” Elizabeth said. “I am grateful for MUH on recognizing my efforts towards reaching my goals for employment in the construction industry. In my appreciation I would like to say thank you to everyone who made this possible.”

Pearl Calahasen officiated the evening as a master of ceremonies. By special request of the Gray family, the opening prayer was given by George Callingbull, whose mother was one of Delia Gray's cousins.

In Memory



Art L'Hirondelle
1938-2007

Less than two weeks after the first student was awarded with The Art L'Hirondelle Dedicated Service Scholarship, Art passed away at the age of 69. He will be sadly missed by his family, friends, coworkers from Métis Urban Housing and the Métis community as a whole.

Darlene Lennie, the Executive Director of MUH summed it up best when introducing the scholarship named in his honour.

“You could not ask for a better Métis role model. Thank you ever so much for the lifetime contribution you made to MUH and the Métis community.”

Honouring Our Métis People

Honouring the Women Who Shape a Nation

By Charity Borg

Each year the Métis Nation of Alberta honours the women who serve as the backbone of their communities with the annual Métis Matriarch award in Edmonton on Nov. 16th at the Delia Gray Gala.

The Métis Matriarch award is given to outstanding women in the Métis community who make the world a better place to live. The goal of the Métis Matriarch award is to recognize the unsung heroes of the Métis Nation.

Matriarchs have provided words of wisdom, shaped and created our nation, our leaders, our people, our ideas and our dreams. The award was created to ensure those who make and made our nation strong are recognized for their contributions.

Dee Johnston from Rocky Mountain House has been important to revitalizing the Métis community in Alberta's mid-west.

"Dee is a proud Métis lady, always willing to assist others and put on the tea," said Bev Weber, president of Rocky Mountain House MNA Local 845. "She is the official bannock maker for our new dance group, the Rocky Métis Dancers, and wears her sash proudly. We all love her at the Local, and appreciate everything she has done, and especially who she is."

"Dee has faced diabetes, MS, and nothing gets her down...She is an inspiration to others, and a great friend of mine."

Johnston was born and raised in Regina. She lived one year in Vancouver, one year in Winnipeg and five years in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. She then lived in Saskatchewan until 2000 and moved to Alberta. Her son Jim lives in Saskatoon; John in Regina; Coreen and Todd



Dee Johnston

in BC. There is another son, Eddy in Vancouver. Also Johnston has a stepdaughter Colleen whom she holds very dear. She has seven grandchildren at last count, four boys, and three girls. So through her lifetime and through her children, her family spans all five provinces of the Métis homeland.

Johnston brought MNA Local 845 out of oblivion to an active busy Local. She was president for seven years and just stepped down this July. She is a Board Elder and takes care of Memberships and Registries. She is responsible for all the applications taken in Rocky and area for the past seven years. She is past Secretary of

Region 3 Regional Council. Johnston was very involved for over 20 years with the Métis in Saskatchewan before settling in Rocky in 2000.

She is a descendant of Gabriel Dumont. Dumont led a small Métis army during the Northwest Resistance of 1885. Dumont's army won the battles at Fish Creek and Duck Lake, but lost against the Canadian army during the Battle of Batoche. Dumont is regarded as important to Métis History as Louis Riel.

Johnston currently takes care of the rent and applications for Métis Urban Housing in Rocky Mountain House—for a lady who is supposed to be semi-retired she sure keeps busy.

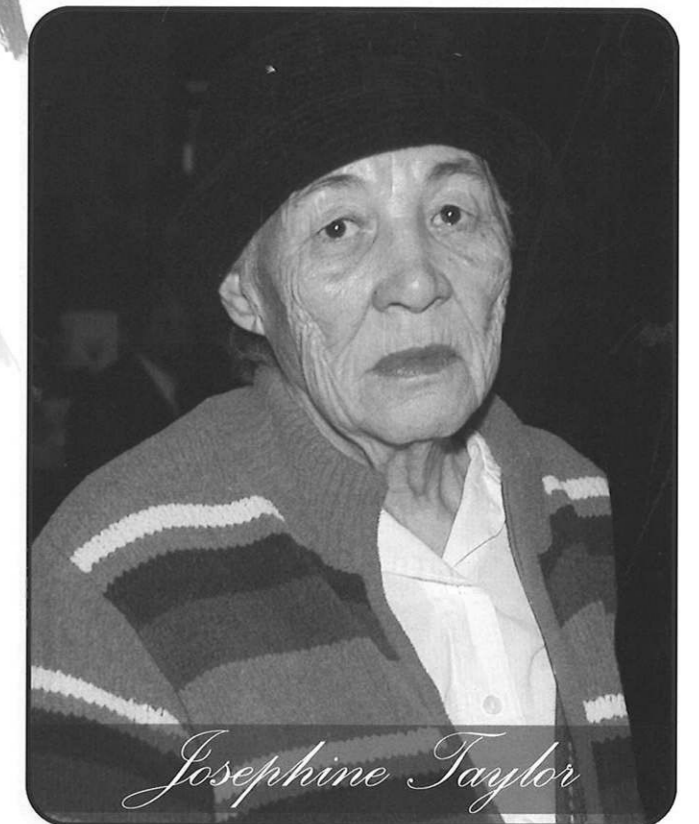
Johnston is a very proud mom and grandmother—there are rumours that a great grandchild is on the way.

"Dee is my mentor, she has inspired me to promote our Métis culture, heritage and tradition, taught me how to 'not be afraid of politics' and continues to support me as President of Local 845," said Weber.

Elizabeth Settlement resident Josephine Taylor is an outstanding leader within the Métis community who has spent many hours, days, months and years improving the lives of those around her.

"Taylor exemplifies the meaning of the word matriarch in every respect as a compassionate and caring woman who gives to the Métis community without hesitation," said Karen Collins, President of Region 2.

Taylor grew up learning Métis customs and



Josephine Taylor

traditions which she has passed on to her children.

Taylor met her life partner Edward Taylor and married in 1961. The couple had 13 children with eight of those children living today. She has 72 grandchildren and 44 great-grandchildren.

The advancement and recognition of Métis people have been a lifelong goal of Taylor's. Along with embracing her Métis heritage, Taylor has long held her Catholic faith close to her. Taylor has rarely missed a year of making the trek to the Lac Ste. Anne Pilgrimage during her 72 years on this Earth.

Taylor's home has always been welcome to anyone who has walked through the threshold of the front door. In her home Josephine has raised numerous children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Also there were a number of nieces, nephews and cousins who have lived under Taylor's roof. Sometimes people come for a day and sometimes they stay for a year. Taylor's house is always filled with love.

Having young people in her home has helped to keep Taylor feeling and thinking young. For those who have stayed or lived at Taylor's home it has always remained a place those people refer to as their home. It is Taylor's heart and warmth that draw people to return.



Marge Friedel

Edmonton resident Marge Friedel is dedicated to improving and teaching Métis culture to youth in particular.

Friedel is a student Elder and leader at the Amiskwacy Academy High School. She comes from a long and proud family of Métis.

Friedel is very humble and kind to the people around her. She tells about her family and how they were very much involved in the fur trade and the development of the area around St. Albert, Alberta. She is very active within the Métis community and she is

always seen around events in Edmonton. Marge is well known for her story-telling abilities and is always one of the first people called to lead prayers at Métis celebrations.

In her own words here is how Friedel describes the experience of being Métis:

"The Métis community is very, very, large. It's very close knit. I feel very fortunate to be a part of that community because most people, a lot of people, talk about residential schools and all of those abuse things, which my family never ever suffered. As far as I know, no one in my family went to residential school. So it didn't have that kind of impact on our family and our family was very, very close. Sort of like a real traditional family where you lived in those communities. Yeah you had your little kind of arguments, problems, but no real fighting. And any body would help you, like you became the child of the whole community. It was like you were looked after by the whole community; you were related to most of the people in there. And the few non-Aboriginal people that lived there got along really well with the other people.

"The other thing that I wasn't faced with is racism, the discrimination that a lot of our people felt because like we were very much out numbered by non-Aboriginal people, so you never felt that. It wasn't until I left there. My dad was a coal miner and he lived up in the mountains where we worked in a coal mine that's where I actually first felt discrimination like racism. I think I can call myself very fortunate that I did have those strong family ties with the traditions."



Minnie Belcourt from Valleyview has a tenacity to keep Métis culture alive.

"Minnie is shy and quiet but we feel very good just to know she is present and supportive of us. When we sit by her we are comforted by her quiet presence. Region 6 is proud to honour Minnie," said Sylvia Johnson, president of Region 6.

Minnie was born in High Prairie, later moving to New Fish Creek. She married George Belcourt and together they had 16 children. The couple has 31 grandchildren and 45 great-grandchildren.

Minnie helped her husband George run the farm near Valleyview. She still lives on the farm. All of her children are grown up and she is waiting for great-great-grandchildren. Her sister Rose Island and her daughters are around Valleyview area.

When you see Belcourt usually one of her nieces, Kathy or Clara, are with her. She is part of a traditional Métis family.



Minnie Belcourt

Belcourt is an active member of the MNA sitting as the Region 6 representative on the provincial Elders council. She has been an active and proud member of the MNA for over 25 years, and has been involved with the Métis community of Valleyview.

Belcourt always attends all Region 6 functions and every Assembly and conference held by the MNA.

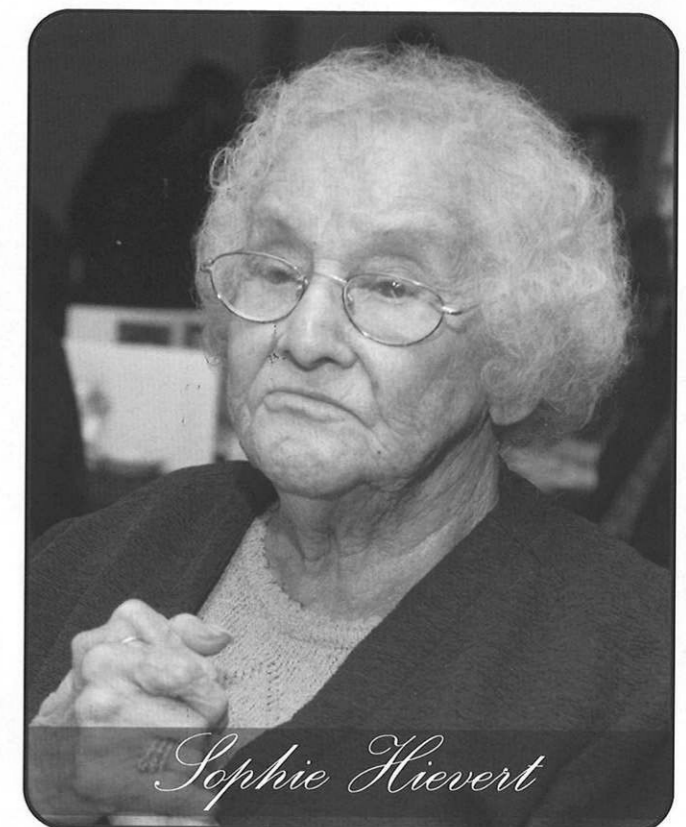


Sophie Hiebert has shaped the lives of those around her. Sophie resides in the Pincher Creek area.

"Mom is never happier than when she is with her people. She loves to watch the Métis Dancers perform and the Red River Jig is one of her favourites," said her daughter Gail McLenaghan.

"She has supported the MNA through her voice and her presence and never hesitates to bring in new members as she finds them. She is funny, she is tiny but her spark for life will live long in the hearts of the people she loved and touched."

At almost 90 years of age she is still going strong and still goes to as many functions, gatherings and meetings as she can. She is truly the heart of the Métis people.



Sophie Hiebert

Sophie was born in Winnipeg March 1918 to Bella Mitchell. Sophie married George Cheater and had five children with him. The couple divorced. She met Jake Hiebert and married him. Together they had four children. She had 13 children altogether but four are deceased. Sophie has 25 grandchildren and 41 great grandchildren and a whopping three great-great grandchildren.

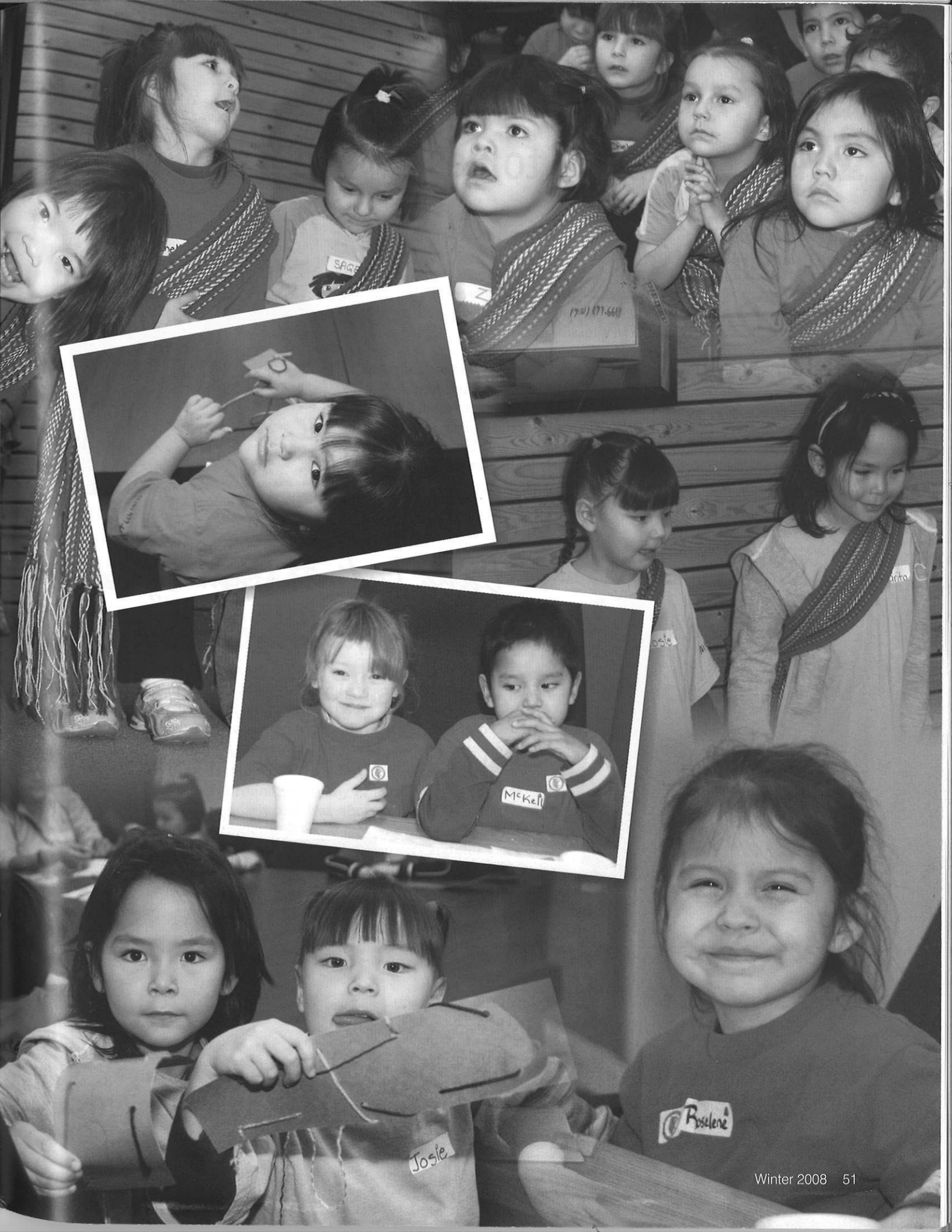
Sophie always had the wandering spirit of the Métis in her blood and lived in many places between Manitoba and Ontario.

They moved to Alberta in 1963 and settled in the Claresholm area. In 1969 they moved to Pincher Creek and then to Lethbridge in 1974.

While in Lethbridge Sophie became involved with the Napi Friendship Center. She took many courses in addiction counseling at Nechi and at the Lethbridge College so that she could help her people.

At this point she heard about the MNA and joined. She attended numerous, numerous meetings and conventions all over Alberta. She soaked up all she could learn and was elected to the Métis Senate in the mid-80's to early-90's where she always gave her heart and soul to whatever was asked of her. She even went to Ottawa as a Métis Senator.





Photos by Monique Devlin



Getting a Headstart at the Métis Nation of Alberta

By Monique Devlin

On Nov. 9, the Delia Gray Building was alive with the pitter patter of little feet as over 100 preschool children took a tour of the offices, learned to jig and tried their hands at weaving construction paper and yarn "sashes". The children were all part of the Headstart Preschool Program, which mandates itself as preparing children for a successful educational experience in partnership with their family and community. We hope to see many of those children return to the Delia Gray Building in the future as they become the leaders of tomorrow.

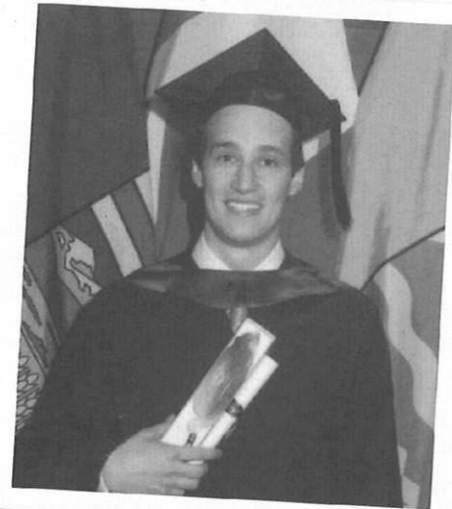
LMD Success Stories



Brandon Reid

B.Sc., Doctor of Medicine

Thank you Métis Employment Services for your tremendous support over the last year. I am very grateful for the help from Region 4, who not only supported me, but guided me toward the successful completion of my Doctor in Medicine degree from the University of Alberta. I look forward to continuing my employment with Capital Health and continuing to serve Edmontonians and Métis people in my future Family Medicine practice. Thanks again for your support.



Dana Lydiatt (Beauregard)
Library Technology

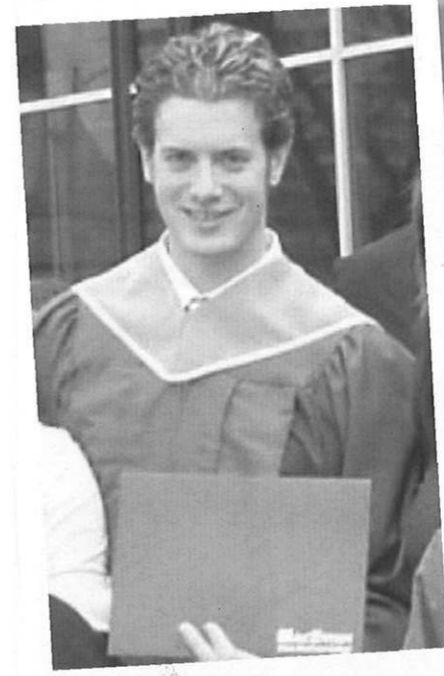
After several years of almost no work due to health reasons, Métis Nation of Alberta funded the last year of a two year program in Library Technology; I could not have completed school otherwise. Now I am fully trained for a job that is within my health abilities with St. Albert Public Schools. I am loving my new profession. Thank you.



Jessica Kerekes

Bachelor of Fine Arts

The assistance of the Region 4 Métis Nation of Alberta gave me was more than I had anticipated. They gave me inspiration both artistically and academically in my final year of Fine Arts. They cared the most and really put themselves out of their way in order to help me reach my goal. Their cheery disposition made stressful times seem like just another bridge to cross and their encouragement made succeeding worth it. If it was not for the funding I received this year, my final year would not have been the best of my education thus far. Thank you with all my heart.



Justin Yeoman
CMA Applied Degree

Through various failed attempts at obtaining funding, I struggled through school. I was making it through my program based on summer employment, athletic scholarships and the love of my family. My last year of study was a directed field study and this was the time I would require the most help. I knew that I wasn't going to be able to afford school and living and thankfully I found the Métis Nation of Alberta. Through their continuous support I have made it through school debt free and I am now employed in my field of study. The support programs developed by the Métis Nation of Alberta helped to provide me with the opportunity to succeed. I now enter the business world with a young, educated mind that is open to the value of support and leadership. Thank you Métis Nation, I appreciate your guidance and support!

Kylie Bateman
Dental Hygienist

I just graduated in May 2007, in Dental Hygiene. Before I even got my final results, I was offered a job and started in August, as soon as I received my licence from the College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Alberta. I'd like to thank the Métis Nation of Alberta, Labour Market Development Program and Diane Fehr for their help and support, with a special thank you to Caroline Wood, my Employment Counsellor, who checked up on me regularly and was always available to help and to answer my many questions. It is a fantastic opportunity to have financial support while going to school and I am very grateful.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



For more information on our program contact the nearest Métis Employment Services or call 1-888-48-METIS

Bonnyville Boxing Day Talent Show Winners

Senior Male Vocal "A"

1. Josh Houle
2. Archie Collins

Junior Female Vocal "A"

1. Ivy Houle
2. Shelly Angus

Senior Male Vocal "B"

1. Adler Quinney
2. Corbin Poitras

Senior Female Vocal "B"

1. Terri Kokoh
2. Marmie Quinney

Junior Male Vocal

1. Chase John

Junior Female Vocal

1. Kelsey Poitras
2. Destiny Redcrow
3. Phoenix Jacknife

Fiddle Players

1. Walter Anderson
2. Cory Poitras
3. Eddy Poitras

Senior Male Red River Jig

1. Corbin Poitras
2. Corey Poitras

Senior Female Red River Jig

1. Carol Gadwa
2. Jeanette Jacknife

Junior Male Red River Jig

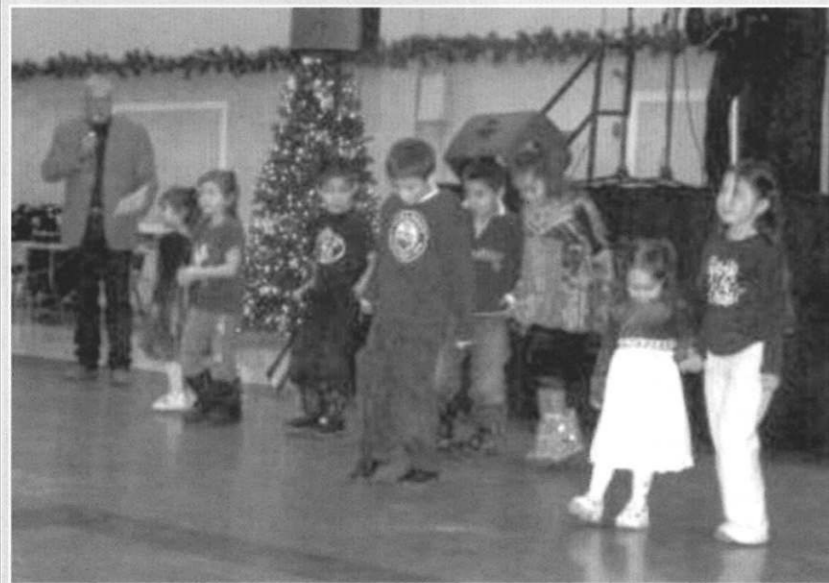
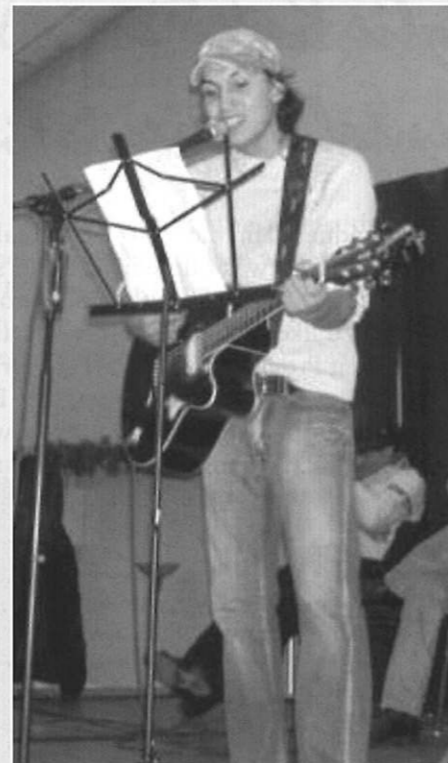
1. Ewan Desjardin
2. Zack Jacknife

Junior Female Red River Jig

1. Amanda Desjardin
2. Kelsey Poitras
3. Taylor Dumais

Golden Age Red River Jig

1. Pauline Blackman
2. Eddy Poitras
3. Emile Blyan



Left: Little jiggers showed off their footwork to the crowd.

Top: Adler Quinney took 1st place in the Senior Male Vocal "B" category.

Bottom: Corbin Poitras won 2nd place in the Senior Male Vocal "B" category.



Get Ahead of The Future

**Métis
Employment
Services**

Pre-employment services ♦

Job referrals ♦

Employment assessments ♦

The provision of labour market information ♦

Career counselling ♦

Job finders clubs ♦

Lac La Biche
Suite 106, 10107-102 Ave.
Lac La Biche AB T0A 2C0
(780) 623-2524
1-877-623-2524
Fax (780) 623-8343

Fort McMurray
Bay 301 Tamarack Village
9612 Franklin Ave.
Fort McMurray AB T9H 2J9
(780) 714-3029
Fax (780) 714-3697

Conklin (Itinerant Services)
General Delivery
Conklin AB T0P 1H0
(780) 559-8995
Fax (780) 559-8997

Bonnyville
Box 7669, 5102-51 St.
Bonnyville AB T9N 2H9
(780) 826-7368
1-877-523-7203
Fax (780) 826-7603

Calgary
#5-2611 37th Ave NE
Calgary AB T1Y 5V7
(403) 250-8902
1-877-250-4295
Fax (403) 250-2838

Lethbridge
#400, 740-4th Ave South
Lethbridge AB T1J 0N9
(403) 317-1555
Fax (403) 317-1610

Red Deer
105-4711-51st Ave
Red Deer AB T4N 6H8
(403) 358-7734
Fax (403) 358-7735

Medicine Hat
#8-3307 Dunmore Rd SE
Medicine Hat AB T1B 3R2
(403) 504-4056
Fax (403) 504-4224

Edmonton
12308-111th Ave
Edmonton AB T5M 2N4
(780) 423-2237
Fax (780) 482-2834

Whitecourt
Box 454
205 Midtown Mall, 5115 - 49 St.
Whitecourt AB T7S 1N6
(780) 706-2339
1-866-706-2339
Fax (780) 706-2366

Hinton
568 Carmicheal Lane
Hinton AB T7V 1X8
(780) 865-8229
1-888-685-8229
Fax (780) 865-8269

Slave Lake
Box 1259, 353 Main Street
Slave Lake AB T0G 2A3
(780) 849-4660
Fax (780) 849-4652

High Prairie
Box 96, 5112-49 Street
High Prairie AB T0G 1E0
(780) 523-2004
Fax (780) 523-2047

Peace River
9615 100th Street
Peace River AB T8S 1J7
(780) 624-0703
1-866-624-0703
Fax (780) 624-0693

Grande Prairie
10011-102nd Street
Grande Prairie AB T8V 2V5
(780) 539-5477
1-877-538-5477
Fax (780) 539-5261

High Level
Box 150, 9806 - 98 Street
High Level AB T0H 1Z0
(780) 841-0600
1-866-806-0600
Fax (780) 841-0601

Toll Free 1 888 48-METIS (1 888 486-3847)
or visit our website at www.metisemployment.ca

Métis Students' Accomplishments Recognized

By Theresa Majeran

It was an exciting evening at the Marriott Edmonton River Cree Resort on September 29, as the founders of Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards arrived to greet the recipients, special guests and dignitaries for the second gathering to celebrate the accomplishments of these Métis students.

The Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards were established through Canative Housing in 2001. The award founders Georges Brosseau QC, Dr. Herb Belcourt and Orval Belcourt set up the endowed fund at the Edmonton Community Foundation to provide financial support for the educational dreams of Métis Youth and mature students across Alberta.

"We wanted it to be used for post-secondary or apprenticeships in the trades, and we didn't want it to be based on good marks alone, but rather on involvement in Métis community, such as volunteerism," said Brosseau. "We have 95 per cent completion rate of students we helped. In turn, the students have improved the lives of their families and communities with their success. Students are from all age groups, fields of study and home communities."

Shaun Emes, a recipient studying Law in his second year at the University of Alberta, shared his story. He told of his struggle, both financial and emotional, when it came to getting a post-secondary education as a Métis person.

"I was extremely grateful to receive this financial award because my resources were drying up. The amount of tuition and book fees that I'd encountered to date was beginning to amount to a significant sum," said Emes.

As with most law students, he had earned a four-year arts degree before beginning his law studies.



Shaun Emes, a law student at the University of Alberta, receives a sash from Elder Marge Friedel.

Emes says receiving this award is about more than the monetary assistance, but it is also the pat on the back and the recognition. Like many other Métis students, Emes says he was undergoing a transition, coming from a traditional commercial fishing family; the life his parents and grand parents had was not going to be available to him.

"I needed to learn a new way of life. The desire to become a lawyer has been a seed growing for a long

time. It's a hard journey and it's also an expensive one," he said.

According to Emes, the support he receives from his Mother and family has been the key.

"Especially when I'm going down paths unpaved, as the first lawyer in my family, I need to be encouraged," he said.

Emes was joined by fellow recipient Lisa Squire who also spoke to the audience at the celebration, sharing her experiences after



Eighty-five past and present students were presented with sashes.

graduating from the University of Alberta with a degree in commerce.

"During my final year at university I was asked to be a role model on a Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards poster," she said. "I was delighted to be able to give something back to those who helped me to complete my education."

Squire was a student at the University of Alberta in the cooperative education program.

"I got to try many different possible careers on for size before finding something I really wanted to take off with," she said. "I have a marketing and operations management background in school but I've worked in many different roles; such as with the Edmonton International Fringe and Aboriginal Banking Corporation. Some of these job placements I got through the co-op program, others I found on my own. However, through the combination of resources, with these experiences I was able to see what was out there and apply the classroom knowledge I'd received."

Squire was recruited by Aboriginal Peoples Television Network to work as the Manager of Research.

"It seemed almost too perfect that the Manager of Research position in the marketing department combined two of my best skill sets—Marketing and Statistics.

"Before I knew it I was interviewing with the director of Marketing. He met me in the airport and offered me the position, which literally changed my life."

The celebration theme for the event was "Creating Possibilities" and in recognition of educational success, Elder Marge Friedel presented Métis Sashes; 85 past and present students were on stage at the end of the ceremony. It was like being swarmed by the paparazzi as recipients' family members rushed to the front of the room to get a picture with pride in their eyes.

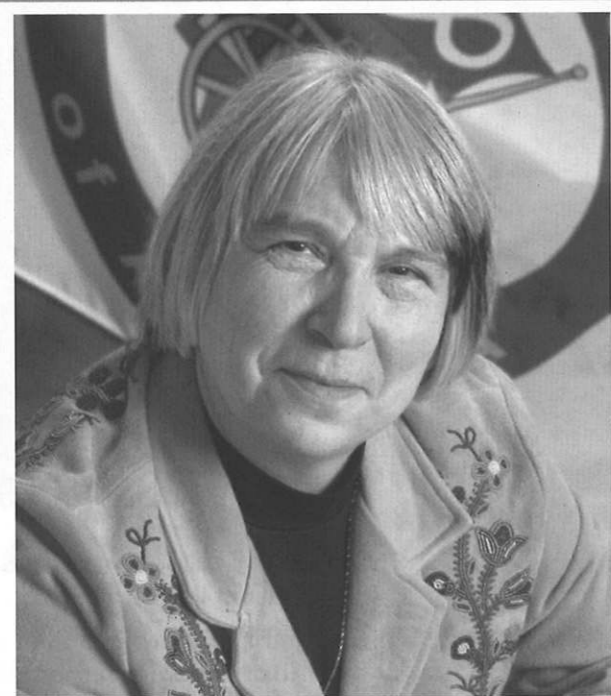
Emes realizes his educational achievements can influence other youth to reach for similar goals.

"I don't put myself out there as a role model because we're taught to be humble. But I realize others might just be inspired. Métis people throughout Alberta can look up and see it is possible to go from any back ground, such as myself who comes from a long lineage of fishermen,

and not allow it to limit ourselves. All of us have to respect the past but realize we live in a new society and we have to move on," Emes said. "As an award recipient we have a responsibility to eventually pass encouragement and lend assistance to others, and remember we are an example. The knowledge that's been made possible with the help of these awards will go back to the community."

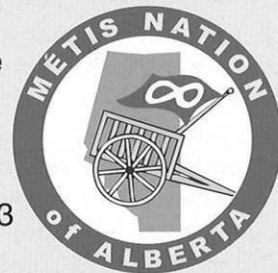
To date, the Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards have provided over \$2 million to more than 350 students in more than 100 programs of study at educational institutions across Alberta and beyond. The deadline to apply for these awards has been changed to March 31 each year and for the trades applications are accepted year round. If you are aware of any Métis in your community seeking trades training or post-secondary educational support please have them call our Communications Coordinator, Theresa Majeran, at 780-977-5515 (email: bbmetis.awards@telus.net) or call Craig Stumpf-Allen, Associate Director Scholarships, at 1-866-626-0015.

PROVINCIAL LEADERSHIP



Provincial President
Audrey Poitras

100 Delia Gray Building
11738 Kingsway Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5G 0X5
Phone 780-455-2200
Toll Free 1-800-252-7553
Fax 780-452-8946



Provincial Vice President
Trevor W. Gladue

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

Region I



President
Ken Bourque

10106-102 Avenue
PO Box 1350
Lac La Biche, AB
T0A 2C0
Phone 780-623-3039
Fax 780-623-2733
Toll Free 1-800-638-5704



Vice-President
Rick P. Boucher

Region IV



President
Cecil Bellrose

11724-95 Street
Edmonton, AB
T5G 1L9
Phone 780-944-9288
Fax 780-455-5546



Vice-President
Tim Collins

MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA

Region II



President
Karen (KC) Collins

5102-51 Street
Bonnyville, AB
T9H 2H1
Phone 780-826 7483
Fax 780-826-7603
Toll Free 1-888-826-2040



Vice-President
Homer J. Poitras

Region V



President
Bev New

353 Main Street North
Slave Lake, AB
T0G 2A3
Phone 780-849-4654
Fax 780-849-2890
Toll Free 1-866-849-4660



Vice-President
Elmer Gullion

Region III



President
Marlene Lanz

1A-4001 19th St. N.E.
Calgary, AB
T2E 6X8
Phone 403-569-8800
Fax 403-569-8959
Toll Free 1-800-267-5844



Vice-President
Joe Chodzicki

Region VI



President
Sylvia Johnson

9621-90 Avenue
Peace River, AB
T8S 1G8
Phone 780-624 4219
Fax 780-624-3477
Toll-Free 1-800-668-5319



Vice-President
Louis Bellrose



The Devlin Side

Monique Devlin

One of my pet peeves is the idea of diversity as it applies to the advertising industry.

This relates directly to one of my favourite pastimes (and yes, I am a bit of a nerd) of analysing advertising. It's not that I set out to do this, I just can't help but look at an attractive ad and begin to try and figure out why it was put together in the way that it was. I will flip through a glossy magazine or a newspaper and if a large, well produced ad catches my eye, I will start thinking about things such as why that particular person was chosen to showcase that product, and also why they are dressed in a particular way and what that says about the type of person being targeted by the advertising campaign. Little things such as a wedding ring on a finger (or lack thereof), or a poster of a grasshopper on a wall, or even the lighting will get me thinking about what the advertiser is really saying about their product and their consumer.

One thing that I definitely notice is the colour of a person's skin and their perceived ethnic background. Maybe you have noticed this too, it seems like most advertisements feature middle class Caucasian individuals, if advertisers try to integrate more "diversity" into an ad, the models tend to be either of an African background or possibly Spanish or Asian background. What I don't see, unless the advertisement is very specifically targeted that way, are Aboriginal people. Take a look in the next issue of Maclean's, Glamour, Maxim, Calgary Herald or whatever it is that you read, or watch TV commercials to try and find an Aboriginal person in any advertisement that is not specifically

targeting the Aboriginal population. You will see what I mean. It's like we are invisible as consumers.

I also find this an issue when trying to find photos online. There are companies that compile huge databases of photos that people can buy and use for advertisements or in other publications such as reports and brochures. I have tried looking up Métis and Aboriginal, and usually there are one or two pictures of a guy in a headdress or someone holding up a boomerang (as in Australian Aboriginal), but none of an Aboriginal person in a business meeting or standing in a family group (I can find many pictures of the same concept for other ethnic groups).

Granted, we all have different shades of hair and skin colour and it is not like advertisers stamp "this model is Aboriginal" or "this model has a Caribbean background" across their pages. But I just think that with the ongoing negative stereotypes out there that still surround the Aboriginal population, having a clearly Métis person in a new car ad or a First Nations person smiling away in a toothpaste commercial could go a long way.

As I said, it is a pet peeve of mine, but it also makes me wonder. With the release of the recent census figures, we know there are over one million Aboriginal people in Canada; you would think we would see a more proportional representation in the advertising world. Many of us are consumers, and many of us buy the products that are advertised. It is just too bad that when the idea of diversity comes into play, Aboriginal people are the last ones to be added to the mix.

-30-

CREATING POSSIBILITIES

Post-secondary application deadline March 31 & Trades applications accepted anytime.

If you are Métis and need financial help to pursue your education or trades training, a Belcourt Brosseau Métis Award can help. Call us toll-free, visit our website or pick up a brochure.

BELCOURT BROUSSEAU Métis Awards 1-866-626-0015 www.dollarsforlearners.com

The Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards are a program of the Edmonton Community Foundation.

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.

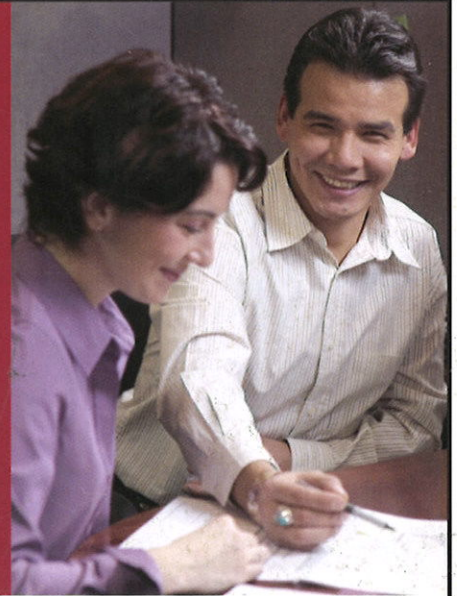
Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. & Pinnacle Business Services Ltd.

#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

A career for you. Skills for your community.



Global Operations & INTRIA (Calgary) 2008 Job Readiness Training (JRT) Program

The CIBC Career Access Program (CCAP) is a positive measures initiative to enhance employment opportunities for Aboriginal People. As part of this initiative, a free six-week Job Readiness Training opportunity is being provided to Aboriginal people in Calgary through a special partnership with JVS Toronto, Aboriginal Futures Career and Training Centre, Métis Employment Services and the Treaty Seven Economic Development Corporation. The program will commence February 2008 and pre-screening will start late November 2007.

Graduates of the program will be placed into the following type of role:

Transaction Processor

Classes will be held Monday to Friday from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. (hours may be subject to change) and all participants will receive a weekly training allowance while undergoing training. Upon successful completion of training, graduates may be placed in one of the following roles within CIBC Global Operations or INTRIA: ATM or Deposit Processing Clerk, Statement Verification Clerk, Contents Verification Clerk, Balancing Clerk, Encoder Clerk, Account Verification Officer, Operations Assistant, Records Clerk and Records Officer.

The key responsibilities of the transaction processor include transaction processing, verifying documentation, tracking and documenting detailed findings and resolving any issues to ensure compliance standards and service level agreements are being met. The role requires a high level of accuracy and attention to detail.

Top skill requirements are:

A working knowledge of Microsoft Office (e.g. Word, Excel, Outlook) including the ability to toggle between programs. The ability to balance multiple tasks simultaneously, work as part of a team to meet business requirements and process transactions accurately. Experience in a branch, banking, or items processing environment would be an asset but not required.

To Apply:

Please e-mail ccap@cibc.com or visit www.cibc.com/careers and submit your résumé to file: J1107-0113

NOTE: Participation in the CIBC Career Access Program is voluntary. Aboriginal People interested in CIBC employment are welcome to apply to CIBC jobs through our conventional recruitment process, by visiting our website at www.cibc.com, without disclosing equity group affiliation. Applicants who are not Aboriginal are also welcome to apply to CIBC jobs through www.cibc.com

*This Job Capsule serves as a summary of the position noted above. There may be other skills requirements not listed here. For the full job description, please visit our website at www.cibc.com/careers and review the opportunities currently available.



For what matters.