

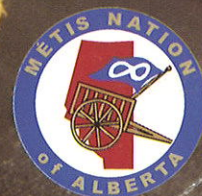
# Otipemisiwak

*The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta*

Harvesting Rights  
Agreement

Louis Riel Day

Membership and  
Registry



Issue 4, Volume 1, October, 2004



# Otipemisiwak

*The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta*

Otipemisiwak is the Official Magazine of the Métis Nation of Alberta

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Métis Musicians Ray St. Germaine on guitar and Garry Lee on fiddle.

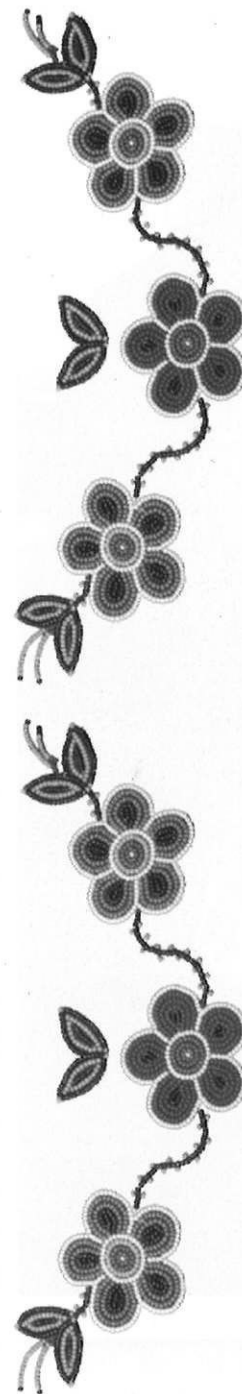
Otipemisiwak:  
oh-t-paym'-soo-wuk

Michif:  
"their own boss,  
the independent ones"



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Beadwork by:  
Julie Wasp-Colin from Assumption, AB



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# 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. The next edition of Otipemisiwak will focus on Métis identity and what it means to be Métis.

**Deadline for Submissions is December 3rd**

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

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Otipemisiwak: The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta  
Volume 1, 4th Edition - October, 2004



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

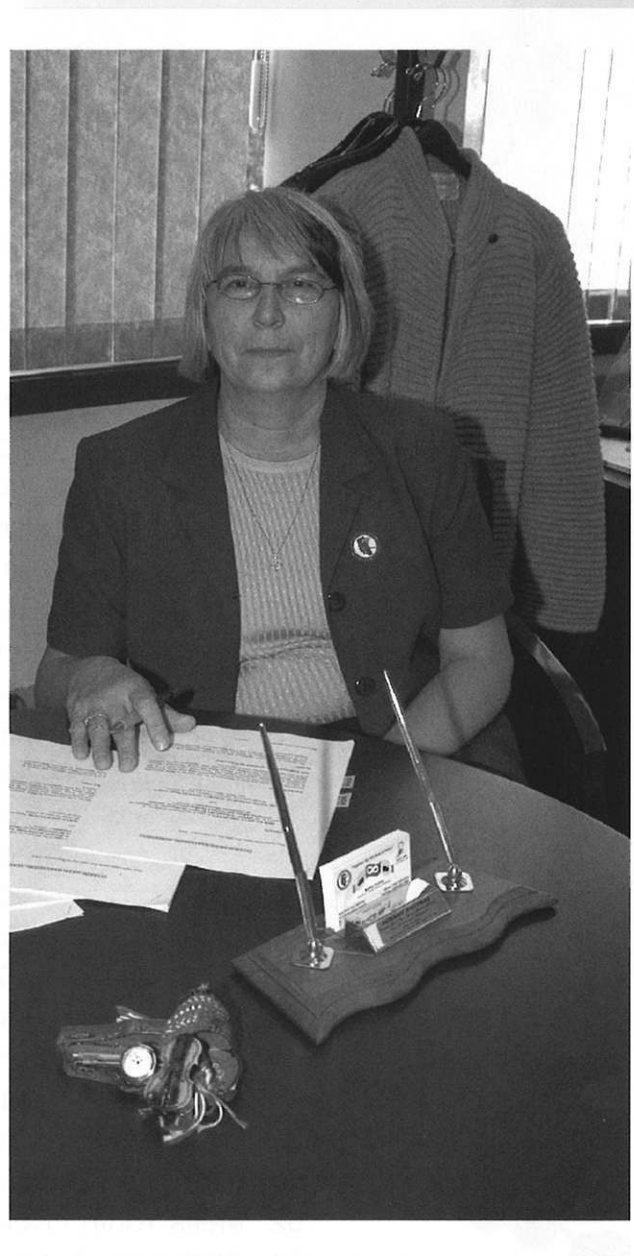
Welcome to another edition of our official magazine, Otipemisiwak-Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta, a printing that celebrates recent achievements we have made on behalf of Alberta Métis, particularly with the signing of the *Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement*. Signing the Agreement means Métis harvesters will no longer have to resort to the age-old practise of hiding their moose under a tarp and sneaking it home in the dead of night. We can hold our heads high and hunt with pride, knowing that law enforcement agencies will now respect our right to harvest. We are reclaiming our dignity.

The Métis Nation of Alberta signed the Agreement in the company of Elders, the Provincial Council, Minister Pearl Calahasen, friends of the Métis Nation and the staff at the Provincial Office in Edmonton. I would like to share with you the remarks I made on that most historic occasion:

"October 1, 2004 is an extraordinary and exciting day for the Métis Nation of Alberta and for the Government of Alberta. Today, our respective governments are signing an agreement of historic significance, an Agreement that delivers to Alberta Métis the right to harvest with dignity.

As President of the Métis Nation of Alberta, I am honoured and privileged to sign this agreement of behalf of our Métis people.

But first, I'd like to acknowledge the people who have poured an enormous amount of work into negotiating and writing this Métis Harvesting Agreement.



The Métis Nation of Alberta extends its collective appreciation to our legal team, Cynthia Bertolin and Bob Butler for their enthusiasm, their commitment, and their expertise in negotiating the Métis Harvesting Agreement with the Government of Alberta.

Our Nation is extremely appreciative and thankful to our Minister of Métis Rights, Cecil Bellrose for his insight, his experience, and his optimism. Right from the start, Cecil believed it was possible to ensure that our Métis right to harvest could be implemented across the

province through an Agreement such as this.

I am pleased to congratulate the Honourable Minister, Pearl Calahasen and Alberta for becoming the first provincial government not only to negotiate, but to sign a Harvesting Agreement with a governing member of the Métis National Council. Less than a year ago, we pledged that our governments would come to an arrangement to accommodate the Métis right to harvest, and I'm proud to say that we have come through on that commitment. I believe that Alberta has set a new benchmark for building positive relationships within the Métis Nation.

I also acknowledge the level of professionalism and efficiency demonstrated by the negotiating team acting on behalf of Alberta: Neil Redikopp and Wendy Fayant from Aboriginal Affairs; Deryl Empson and Bruce Mayer from Sustainable Resource Development; and Kurt Sandstrom and Angela Brown from Alberta Justice.

Together, the Métis Nation and Alberta have successfully charted our way through a new area of law using an approach that's innovative, efficient, and respectful. We recognise that by signing this Harvesting Agreement we are giving life to a document that will continue to grow through our ongoing discussions and further negotiations towards reaching a final agreement. I also thank our Provincial Council members for your continued support and respect for the successful negotiating process that brings us together today.

I look forward to building on the level of

diplomacy, willingness, and mutual respect we have enjoyed with Alberta following the Supreme Courts decision in Powley last year.

The Métis Nation of Alberta is committed to building on the Interim Harvesting Agreement by continuing the dialogue and setting new standards for other provinces and governing members of the Métis National Council to refer to.

It warms my heart to know that today our Métis harvesters will be able to hold their heads high when they say, "I am Métis" and know that our constitutionally protected right to hunt is respected in Alberta. And today, we are proud to be signing the start of another remarkable chapter in the history of the Métis Nation of Alberta."

Respectfully yours,

*Audrey Poitras*  
Audrey Poitras, President  
Métis Nation of Alberta



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



## Congratulations to the Vice President

On behalf of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Provincial President Audrey Poitras extends congratulations to Vice President Trevor Gladue on his recent appointment as Chairman of the Northern Lakes College Board of Governors.


Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Learning, appointed the MNA's Vice President to his new role on the board on August 24 replacing Frank Chalifoux who served two terms as the college's board.

"Mr. Gladue has a long and proud history serving his community and has shown strong leadership skills," said Dr. Oberg. "He will bring in-depth knowledge and a wealth of experience to his role as board chair, which will benefit the students and staff of the college for years to come."

In addition to his current position on the MNA Provincial Council, Trevor has been actively involved in various community, First Nations and Métis projects. He has served on the board of directors of the Slave Lake Business Development Corporation,

as chairperson for the planning committee for the MNA General Assembly, and on the steering committee for the Faculty of Education's Institute for Olympic Education, Circle of Champions at the U of A.





**"Working With You!"**

**Trevor W. Gladue**  
Provincial Vice President

100 Delia Grey Building  
11738 Kingsway Ave  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5G 0X5

Tel: (780) 455-2200  
Toll Free: 1-800-252-7553  
Fax: (780) 452-8946  
Email: tgladue@metis.org

## Genealogy Workshops

Organized by the Métis Nation of Alberta  
Historical documents and scrips can be made available to help you search the roots of your family tree.



Genealogy workshops will be held on Wednesday, November 10, 2004 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Provincial Office building in Edmonton. The workshop is free and our staff genealogist will be on hand to assist in the search of your family tree.

**For more information, call Beatrice  
(780) 476-2715 or 1-800-252-7553**

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## Métis Nation of Alberta Firefighting Training Program Breaks New Ground

by Guido Contreras



Role models come in all shapes and sizes. They all have one thing in common: they are our unsung heroes. You see them because they show how things "could be". You emulate them because they inspire pride in our culture, communities, and the Nation.

So, the Labour Market Development Unit is seeking to contribute to creating these role models by setting up a 46-week training project to train Structural Firefighters with an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) designation. This is the first project of its kind to be attempted in the province; a full course of Métis men and women who will one day be role models for others in their community.

The project, still under negotiation, will bring together 16 people ages 18 to 29 from across the province to Vermillion and is scheduled to begin in February of 2005. These 16 individuals will be trained in all aspects of fire fighting and will receive a 1001 Structural Firefighting Designation. This internationally recognized certification will allow participants to apply to all fire stations in North America. In addition, the project will also provide participants with an EMT designation, allowing them to work on ambulances. This follows the integration of fire halls with ambulance response in the same building.

In order to qualify for this training you will need a minimum of Grade 12, a Class 5 driver's license and to be in excellent physical shape. All candidates will need to pass a demanding physical test, provided by colleges and fire departments across the province. In addition, successful candidates will have to pass a security-screening test.

While in Vermillion, course participants will be housed at the college dormitories. The project will include a 12-week practicum that will take place in communities across the province, likely in the candidate's own community.

So, if you think this is something for you, or you know someone who would make a good firefighter, go to your nearest Métis Employment Services Centre, register and tell them you are interested in this program and in becoming a role model for other Métis.



LMD Managers Guido Contreras and Sharon Sawchuk from Region III with MNA President Audrey Poitras







## On This Day

By Miss Rene Ladouceur

On this day we remember those who fought and died for our country

On this day we remember our peace and freedom

On this day we remember the promise of glory

On this day we remember those who fought on the front lines.

On this day we remember those who lay in the bloody trenches

On this day we remember those who fought knowing danger lay ahead.

On this day we remember those who did not come home

On this day we remember the orphans and widows.

On this day we remember Flanders Field where the blood red poppy grows

On this day I remember the soldiers who fought for my freedom as I listen to the trumpets and prayers

On this day I will always remember.

before going away to war.”

Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras remarked on the contributions Métis Veterans made at great personal cost to themselves, their families, and their communities. “Even though our Métis soldiers fought in every war that Canada has participated in, their contributions continue to be forgotten by the Government of Canada. The Métis Nation of

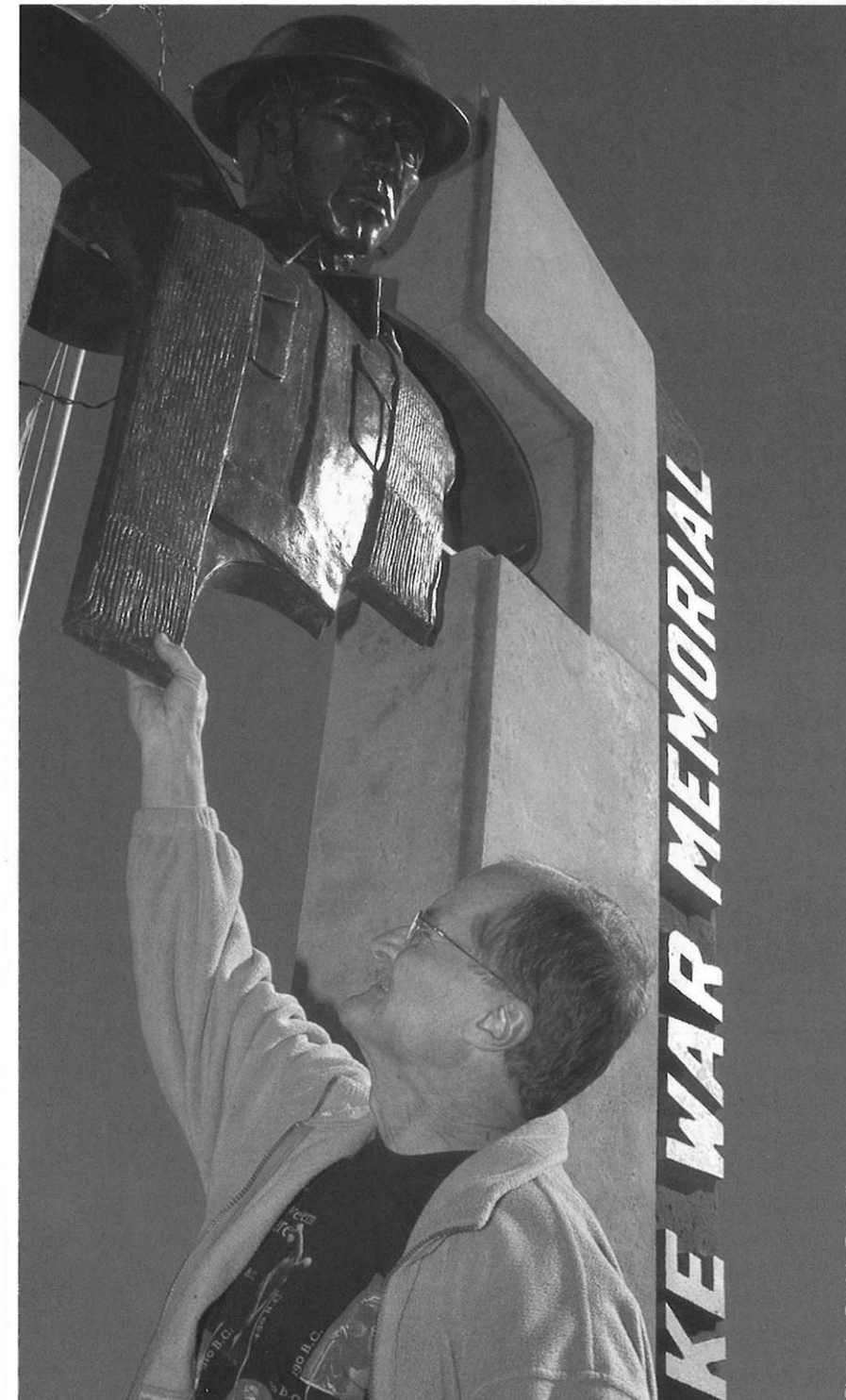
Alberta and the MNC's Board of Governors are committed to working to ensure all our Métis Veterans receive the recognitions you rightly deserve. Recognition should come not only from our Métis communities but most especially from Canada.”

The Métis National Council continues to advocate on behalf of Métis Veterans who have not yet been compensated or officially



Top: Members of the Royal Canadian Army Cadets formed the Colour Party beside the War Veterans Monument. Cadets Guy Delorme, Jordan Larocque, Justin Larocque and Taylor Ladouceur  
Bottom: The Honourable Pearl Calahasen and Parade Commander Don Turcotte inspect the ranks.

recognized by Canada after serving in international conflicts where Canadian troops have been present. The outstanding matter was discussed with Prime Minister Paul Martin and the (former) Minister of Veterans Affairs John McCallum during the Aboriginal People's Roundtable held in Ottawa in April.



Artist Herman Poulin created the memorial using granite, bronze and barbed wire describing the project as, “Tense. The measurements between the two granite pillars had to be precise otherwise the bust would not fit.”

The Métis Nation of Alberta pays respect to all our Métis veterans who have served in the Canadian Armed Forces during peacetime and crisis such as the Boer War, World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Persian Gulf Crisis and in the United Nations peace keeping contingents. Our veterans include the current members of the Aboriginal Veterans Society of Alberta who are:

Hugh Belcourt  
Robert Berrard  
Glen Bottineau  
Henry Cunningham  
Miles Daigneault  
Norbert Jebeaux  
Chester Knutson  
Oscar Lacombe  
Stanley Laliberte  
Donald Langford  
Conrad Letendre  
Victor Letendre  
Irwin L'Hirondelle  
David Parks  
Eddy Picher  
Richard Joseph Poitras  
Stan Shank  
Sam Sinclair  
Chester Whelan  
John White  
Wesley Whitford

Many other Alberta Métis served in the Canadian Forces during times of crisis and we would like to add their names to our list of honoured veterans. Please call the editor of *Otipemisiwak-Voice of the Métis Nation of Alberta* if you would like to share that information for the next edition of our Nation's official magazine. Remembrance Day Services will take place throughout the country on November 11.



# Harry W. Daniels

1940 - 2004, In Memoriam

by Patricia Russell

On behalf of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), President Audrey Poitras extends condolences to the family of Harry W. Daniels, who passed away on September 6, 2004. President Poitras says, "We offer our prayers and ask for strength for the Daniels family as they deal with the pain of mourning. It's certainly a loss that's felt by Métis people all across the Homeland. Harry Daniels was a hero and a genuine champion of our rights, a remarkable man to whom we give credit for adding "Métis" to the Constitution which led to the end of our days as the forgotten people."

The inclusion in s.35 of the Constitution is the basis of last year's unanimous Supreme Court decision in *Powley*, upholding the Métis right to harvest, which led to the groundbreaking Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement between the MNA and the Government of Alberta.

"Section 35 has implications that will be felt for generations," said Métis National Council (MNC) President Clément Chartier, "It will continue to be a significant building block in strengthening the Métis Nation and will be Mr. Daniels' legacy to the future generations."

Mr. Daniels spent his political career advocating on behalf of the rights of Métis and non-status Indians. He held executive positions with the Council of Young



Canadians from 1975 to 1981 and served as President of the Native Council of Canada from 1997 to 2000.

As a noted author, Mr. Daniels published several written works on Métis rights, including "A Declaration of Métis and Indian Rights" (1979), "We

Are the New Nation" (1979), and "Native People and the Constitution of Canada" (1981). He led

During negotiations of the Constitution Act (1982) Mr. Daniels was asked, "Who are the Métis?" Mr. Daniel's famous response, "We know who we are; we know the generations of discrimination we have endured; we don't need anybody to tell us who we are. If you identify as Ukrainian or Italian, we don't question who you are or try to tell you who you are. We self identify, just like everybody else in this country."

two national commissions, one on justice and another on Aboriginal, Treaty, and Constitutional Rights.

The Métis National Council honoured Mr. Daniels for his lifelong contributions to the Métis Nation in an inaugural presentation of the *Order of the Métis Nation*. "The Métis National Council instituted the *Order of the Métis Nation* this year to recognize the significant and historical contributions of

our Métis citizens. There was no doubt that Harry Daniels would be one of its first recipients," said President Chartier.

A memorial service and celebration of the life of Harry W. Daniels was held at Regina Beach on September 16; the date would have been his 64th birthday. His partner Cheryl, sons Michael, Conway, Gabriel and Alexandre and daughters Chantelle and Chigal, survive him.

Harry Daniels will share with Louis Riel the honour of having introduced the rights of the Métis people in the Constitution of Canada: Riel in s.31 of the Manitoba Act (1870) and Harry in s.35 of the Constitution Act (1982).

PAUL L.A.H. CHARTRAND  
College of Law, University of Saskatchewan

## COMING SOON

The Métis Nation of Alberta is producing an informational video about the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement and the impact the *Powley* decision has had on Alberta Métis. The video will be available for distribution in March 2005.



Look for updates on the production of the video in the next edition of *Otipemisiwak* and on our official Internet website at [www.albertametis.com](http://www.albertametis.com).



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# Louis Riel Day and Métis Week 2004

by Patricia Russell

The flag of the Métis Nation will rise once again over Alberta communities during Métis week, commemorating the anniversary of Louis Riel's death. A special ceremony will be held inside the Alberta Legislature building in Edmonton on November 16th and will include a performance of *Louis Riel's Last Address to the Jury* by actor Bill Baergen. The ceremonies will begin at 11:00, which coincides with the time of Riel's execution in 1885.



Photo courtesy the Glenbow Archives

In addressing the jury at his trial, Louis Riel stated, "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."

Métis from across the Homeland gather on November 16<sup>th</sup> to pay respect to the memory of Louis Riel and his legacy to the Métis Nation: his vision of a rights-bearing people distinct from other Canadians; a dignified Nation of Métis.

This year's Riel Day and Métis Week celebrations are poignant in light of the recent signing of the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement between the Métis Nation of Alberta and the province. The Agreement acknowledges that Métis are a rights-bearing people, recognized in the Constitution (1982) and provides a mechanism through which Alberta Métis can exercise the right to harvest the traditional food supply - echoes of the cause championed by Riel more than a hundred years ago.

A non-aboriginal jury tried Riel on a charge of

high treason in a Regina courtroom in July of 1885. The jury found him guilty and recommended mercy; a recommendation the judge overlooked sentencing Riel to hang instead. Despite an outcry for clemency from across the country and internationally, the Canadian Government, led by Prime Minister MacDonald, carried out the grisly sentence on November 16 outside the RCMP barracks in Regina.

119 years later, the Métis Nation flag will be hoisted during commemorative ceremonies held in Riel's honour across Canada and throughout the province of Alberta, in Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Slave Lake and other communities.

Check with Regional and Local Offices of the Métis Nation of Alberta for information on Métis Week events planned in your area.

# Delia Gray Memorial Gala



Tracee McFeeters  
Executive  
Administrative Assistant

Each year on November 16<sup>th</sup>, the Métis Nation of Alberta pays tribute to Mrs. Delia Gray by hosting the Delia Gray Memorial Gala. Mrs. Gray was the first Provincial Elder and Advisor to the Provincial President and Vice President. She had just begun her second term as Provincial Elder when she humbly passed away on November 12, 1999. Mrs. Gray was very passionate about the Métis people and she touched many lives during her lifetime.

In November of 2000, the Métis Nation of Alberta honoured the memory of this great lady by renaming our Provincial Head Office Building the "Delia Gray Building." At the same time, the Delia

Gray Memorial Scholarship was established to continue with Mrs. Grays' vision of educating our Métis Youth.

Members of the Gray Family select two recipients for this prestigious scholarship based on the educational goals of each candidate. The two recipients are each awarded a \$1000.00 scholarship at the Delia Gray Memorial Gala.



Photo Submitted by the MNA

This year marks the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Delia Gray Memorial Gala. Please join us on November 16, 2004 as we honour and celebrate the life of this great woman. This year's event will take place at the Italian Cultural Centre, 14230 133 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta. The Gala will start at 6:00 p.m. with dinner; scholarship presentations and entertainment will follow. Tickets for the event can be purchased from the Provincial Head Office.



Photos by Patricia Russell

Left: MNA President Audrey Poitras describes Sydney MacDougall as a "wealth of knowledge and information who saw a lot of history in the development of the Métis Nation during his 13 years with Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Ltd."

Right: Director of the Tripartite Action Centre, Irene Collins, knew how much Senior Tripartite Policy Advisor Bob Butler would appreciate an extra huge block of his favorite chocolate as a 'going away gift'.

## Staff Appreciation

Staff at the Métis Nation of Alberta's Provincial Office held a special get-together for two members of the team who are moving on to other opportunities: Bob Butler, who worked for three and a half years as a Senior Tripartite Policy Advisor and as a negotiator working on the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement and Sydney MacDougall, who worked with Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc for 13 years. MNA President Audrey Poitras thanked Bob and Sydney for their years of service to the Nation and wished them well in their new endeavours.



# Métis Week 2004 Schedule of Events

## November 14-20, 2004

Sunday, Nov. 14

### Métis Week Mass (R4)

St. Margaret's Church,  
Edmonton, 11:00 AM  
- Historic Site Designation  
- Presentation to Friends of St. Margarites Desville  
Directions:

- Take Sherwood Park Freeway East (Wye Road - Secondary Highway 630) for 35 km, take Wye Road exit just before railway crossing to range road 203, 1.2 km to church.

Potluck lunch to follow  
For more information, contact 944-9288

Monday, Nov. 15

### Flag Raising Ceremony and Proclamation (R4)

City Hall, 1 Sir Winston Churchill Square, Edmonton,  
11:30 AM - 2:30 PM  
- Entertainment  
- Honouring Métis Contribution to 100 years of Edmonton  
For more information, contact (780) 944-9288

### Flag Raising Ceremony (R3)

City Hall, Calgary, 12:00 Noon  
- Open House to follow at the Region III Regional Office at 1B, 3110 14 Avenue NE, Calgary  
For more information, contact (403) 569-8800

### Flag Raising Ceremony (R3)

City Hall, Lethbridge, 10:00 AM  
For more information, contact (403) 328-7828

### Genealogy Workshop (R4)

11724-95 Street, Edmonton  
- Learn to complete your own family tree  
- Historical documents on site available for viewing  
For more information, contact (780) 944-9288

Tuesday, Nov. 16

### Louis Riel Commemoration (R4)

Alberta Legislature Building,  
Edmonton, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM  
- Special Guest Dr. Bill Baergen - Louis Riel's Last Jury Address

### MNA Open House (R4)

Delia Gray Building, 11738 Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton,  
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

### Michif Cultural and Resource Institute (R4)

St. Albert City Hall Celebration  
- Entertainment / Refreshments  
For more information, contact Sharon at (780) 458-9176

### 2004 Delia Gray Memorial Gala (R4)

Italian Cultural Centre, 14230 - 133 Avenue, 6:00 PM  
Tickets \$25.00 each  
For more information, contact Tracee at (780) 455-2200 or 1-800-252-7553

### Employment Service Centre Open House (R3)

#5-2611 37 Ave SE, Calgary  
For more information, contact (403) 250-8902

### Louis Riel Day Celebration (R5)

- 11:00 - Group march from the Region V Regional Office to the centre of town in Slave Lake for a flag raising ceremony  
- Open house to follow at the Region V office  
For more information, contact (780) 849-4654

### Open House (R1)

- Bannock and fish lunch, 12:00  
For more information, contact Christine or Rick at (780) 623-3039 or 1 800 638-5704

Wednesday, Nov. 17

### Métis Urban Housing Open House (R4)

11922 - 121 A Avenue, Edmonton,  
10:00 AM - noon  
For more information, contact (780) 452-6440

### Inglewood Building Open House (R4)

Apeetogosan and Métis Employment Services Centre, 12308 - 111 Avenue, Edmonton,  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
For more information, contact George at (780) 452-7951 or Trent at (780) 423-2237

### Tail Creek Cemetery Cross Erecting Ceremony (R3)

Highway 11, approximately 30km west of Stettler, 1:00 PM  
For more information, contact (403) 569-8800

### Open House (R6)

9621-90 Avenue, Peace River,  
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
For more information, contact 1 800 668-5319 or (780) 624-4219

### Métis Genealogy (R6)

9621-90 Avenue, Peace River,  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
- Beatrice Demetrius, Facilitator  
For more information, contact 1 800 668-5319 or (780) 624-4219

### Registering Locals Through Corporate Registry (R6)

9621-90 Avenue, Peace River,  
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
- Irene Collins, Facilitator  
For more information, contact 1 800 668-5319 or (780) 624-4219

Thursday, Nov. 18

### Sun & Moon Visionary Christmas Arts and Craft Show Kick Off (R4)

Polish Hall downstairs, 10962 - 104 Street, Edmonton, 10:00 AM  
- Aboriginal Artisans from across Canada  
- Show runs Nov 18-21  
For more information, contact (780) 433-3097

### Métis Child & Family Services (MCFS) Open House (R4)

10437 - 123 Street, Edmonton,  
12:00 - 2:00 PM  
- Entertainment  
- Stew & Bannock  
For more information, contact Mary at (780) 452-6100

### St. Albert Michif Museum Open House (R4)

9 Mission Avenue, St. Albert,  
2:00 - 4:00 PM  
For more information, contact Sharon at (780) 458-9176

### Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. Business Mixer (R3)

Coast Plaza Hotel, 1316 - 33rd Street NE, Calgary, 6:00 PM  
For more information contact (403) 569-8800

Friday Nov. 19

### Harvesting Rights Workshop (R4)

11724 - 95 Street, Edmonton,  
10:00 AM - noon

### Bannock & Jammer (R4)

11724 - 95 Street, Edmonton,  
Noon - 4:00 PM  
For more information contact (780) 944-9288

### Bannock & Movie Night (R4)

- Métis Youth Event  
6:00 - 11:00 PM  
Please register with Amanda at (780) 455-2200

### Métis Child & Family Services (MCFS) Calgary Fruit and Bannock Sale (R3)

This lunchtime event will raise money for the Region III Childrens' Christmas Party  
To have lunch delivered, call (403) 240-4642

### MNA Seniors' Supper (R3)

Executive Royal Inn, 2828-23 Street NE, Calgary  
For more information, contact (403) 569-8800

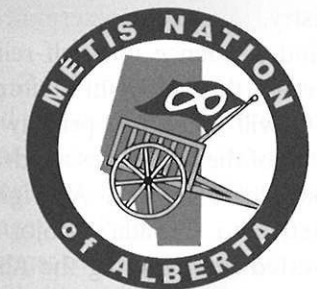
Saturday, Nov 20

### Youth Day Carnival / Festival (R4)

Fort Edmonton Park Hanger, Scarecrow Festival,  
12:00 -4:00 PM  
For more information, contact Kim at (780) 455-2200

### MNA Annual Fun Day for Children (R3)

Crossroads Community Hall, 1803 - 14th Avenue NE, Calgary, starting at 10:00 AM  
- To be followed by a traditional supper and dance for the whole family



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

1 800 252-7553

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### Métis Nation of Alberta Region I Annual General Meeting

Conklin, Alberta  
Saturday, November 6  
10:00 AM  
Conklin Community Centre

For more information, call Rick or Christine at (780) 623-3039 or 1 800 638-5704

## MÉTIS WOMEN 39-WEEK BUSINESS PROGRAM

at NAIT includes training in administration, microcomputers and accounting.

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Phone (780) 963-7333 by August 13, 2004 for more information or check out: <http://www.nait.ab.ca/asokan>



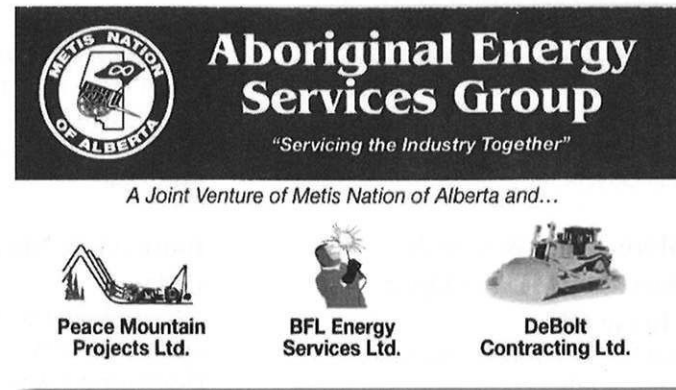
# Métis Nation of Alberta Forms Energy Services Joint Venture

by Patricia Russell

**M**étis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras announced the formation of a joint venture agreement between the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) and three oil and gas service companies: Peace Mountain Projects Ltd. of St. Albert, BFL Energy Services Ltd. of Bonnyville and DeBolt Contracting Ltd. of DeBolt, near Grande Prairie. The agreement was signed on October 20, 2004 and results in a joint venture called the "Aboriginal Energy Services Group (AESG)."

Poitras says, "The Métis Nation of Alberta is committed to maximizing the Aboriginal presence in one of Alberta's economic cornerstones, the oil and gas industry. And we're determined to continue promoting the independence and self-reliance among Aboriginal Albertans through joint ventures such as the AESG." AESG will make it a priority to ensure at least one-quarter of the employees are drawn from the local Metis workforce. The 25% Aboriginal content in AESG is attractive to Canada's major oil and gas producers interested in increasing the Aboriginal presence in the industry.

Métis Nation of Alberta Minister of Economic



Development, Karen (KC) Collins says the companies in the joint venture will provide a full range of services and expertise. "Peace Mountain is skilled in pipeline construction; BFL specializes in metal fabrication and trades; DeBolt is known for heavy construction and earthmoving, and the MNA has the capacity to provide a skilled Métis labour force," says Collins. "This joint venture is a good example of how we can work together in the interest of the collective good and at the end of the day it's all about Métis people taking care of themselves by ensuring we have jobs in the regions for our skilled



Al Olszowka, BFL Energy Service; MNA Region II President Karen (KC) Collins; MNA President Audrey Poitras; Alberta's Minister of Economic Development Mark Norris; Bill Blach, Peace Mountain Projects and Dave Holinaty, DeBolt Contracting

Metis workforce." Collins predicts the joint venture will enable the partners to earn up to \$5-million dollars in contracts in the oil and gas industry.

During the signing ceremony, Alberta's Minister of Economic Development, Mark Norris, added his support to the joint venture saying, "There are no shortages of work coming your way. Alberta's economy is absolutely on fire and we don't see it slowing down. This is not smoke and mirrors, these are solid jobs. And from a business perspective, this joint venture is going to work." Norris says, "Premier Klein is aware of this joint venture

and you certainly have his support. This joint venture is all about the things we speak of-free enterprise, entrepreneurship, and jobs."

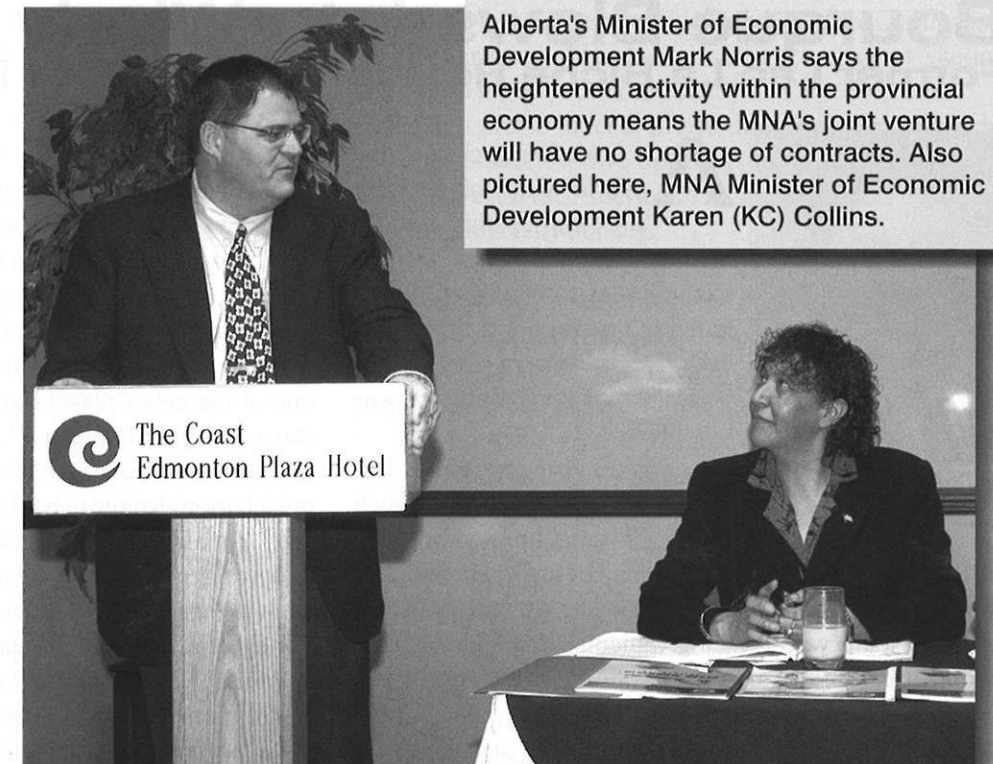
Members of the Métis Nation of Alberta's Provincial Council, Alberta Cabinet Ministers, MLA's, and representatives of Canada's major oil and gas producing companies also attended the signing ceremony.

One of the stated goals of the MNA is to pursue the advancement of the socio-economic and cultural well being of the Métis people of Alberta. To that end, the MNA developed a Strategic Economic Development Plan in a partnership with Alberta's Ministry of Economic Development a few years ago. The plan identifies twelve sectors in Alberta's economy where opportunities exist for greater Métis involvement, opportunities that should lead to sustained self-sufficiency for the Métis people of this province.

The MNA is already involved in two of those identified sectors, tourism and the oil and gas sector, with our Métis Crossing Cultural and Historic Interpretive Centre, and the Drilling Rig. Métis Crossing, near Smoky Lake, is one of the most historic and serene sites in the province, and when the development is complete, it will be THE place for people to come and experience the spirit and culture of the Métis people.

Also, the Métis Nation of Alberta has been successful in acquiring a double telescoping Drilling Rig

Alberta's Minister of Economic Development Mark Norris says the heightened activity within the provincial economy means the MNA's joint venture will have no shortage of contracts. Also pictured here, MNA Minister of Economic Development Karen (KC) Collins.



in the spring of 2002. Our rig is under contract to EnCana Corporation and managed by Western Lakota Energy Services Ltd. The Métis Rig is 100% owned by the MNA and is primarily staffed by Métis people including the Rig Manager and Driller. This rig is acknowledged to be amongst the highest performing of any of EnCana's rigs worldwide. It's a concrete example of how successful our Nation can be when using the right combination of ingenuity, opportunity, reasonable risk, and foresight.

For more information about the Aboriginal Energy Services Group, please contact: Larry Doupe at (403) 608 8560 or James Buchanen at (780) 826 7304.

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# Bourque Blows into Windy City

## Former Lac La Biche Resident on Cusp of NHL Dream



David Paul,  
Lac La Biche Post

As Canada marched to the World Cup of Hockey title earlier this month, millions of Canadians were glued to their television sets, anxiously hanging on every odd-man rush, every shot, every save, every bodycheck. Rene Bourque was no different.

The 23 year-old former Lac La Biche resident sat on his couch at his Chicago home, watching ESPN2 and cheering on his home country. He was also rooting for his friend Dany Heatley, the embattled Atlanta Thrashers star who is facing vehicular homicide charges in the United States after the car he was driving crashed, killing teammate Dan Snyder.

On this particular night, as Heatley and his Team Canada colleagues battle the Czech Republic in a gut-wrenching semi-final game, Bourque is really hoping his former University of Wisconsin linemate can put one in the back of the net.

"He's coming close," says Bourque, talking with the game still on in the background. "He's snakebit tonight."

Bourque remembers Heatley, who would go on to play for Canada's world junior team, taking him under his wing when he arrived at Madison, Wisconsin in 2000 for his first season with the Badgers.

"It was an honour to get to play with him," says Bourque. "He was unbelievable with the puck. He's one of the most gifted kids I've ever seen and he's a great kid. It's unfortunate what happened to him."

Bourque may soon have the opportunity to convey his sentiments face to face, as he lines up opposite his ex-teammate. The former Lac La Biche minor hockey and University of Wisconsin star is on the cusp of realizing his NHL dream, after signing with the Chicago Blackhawks as a free agent last July.

"I had a chance to sign with several other teams but Chicago was the best fit," says Bourque. "They have a young team."

After putting his name on the dotted line, the 23 year-old spent the rest of the summer getting in shape, attending a prospects camp and working out with some of the veterans on the Hawks.

When contacted by the *Lac La Biche Post*, Bourque was scrimmaging with longtime NHLers Curtis Brown and Eric Daz, who offered words of encouragement to

their young linemate.

"They just told me to play my own game and to have fun," says Bourque. "It's been good."

Heady stuff for a man from small-town Alberta, who first started playing hockey at age four. Playing in the NHL was not at the forefront of his mind as he rose through the ranks, even though he notes he was always one of the better players on his team. It wasn't until he started playing Bantam AA in Fort McMurray at age 14 that he started to dream about lacing up the skates in the most famous league in hockey.

"I realized to make a move, I had to put a lot of effort into it and try and get as far as I can," he says.

At the same time, he was not about to jeopardize his academic education. Instead of playing Junior hockey, he attended Notre Dame - a private Catholic School in Regina famous for churning out good hockey players.

"My parents always stressed the educational element when I was younger," remembers Bourque.

He even turned down several overtures to play for the Western Hockey League's Saskatoon Blades,

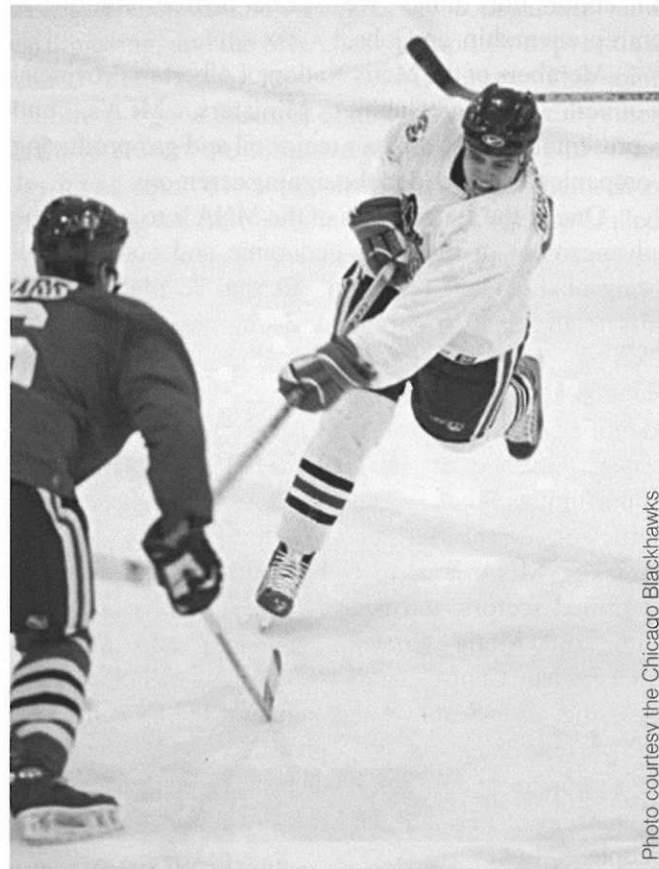


Photo courtesy the Chicago Blackhawks

Rene Bourque signed with the Chicago Blackhawks as a free agent last July

realizing if he signed on he would jeopardize his chances of receiving a National College Athletics Association scholarship to play in the United States.

The move paid off in spades. The determined young man received offers from 20 American colleges, finally accepting a full scholarship from the University of Wisconsin. Four years later, he graduated with a business degree and a hockey experience he will never forget.

"I'm glad I went the college route," he says. With the NHL in full lock-down mode at the moment, it is unlikely Bourque will be playing for the Blackhawks in the next little while. He is much more likely to suit up for Chicago's farm team in Norfolk, Virginia this fall instead.

In the grand scheme of things, this is a minor setback for the determined player who never admits defeat. After all, he has overcome broken bones, the death of a close friend, and the challenges of balancing his hockey career with his education to make it to the big show.

His rise to the top may have been far from meteoric but his careful, calculated approach has brought him further than most players ever dream.

The 6'3", 217 pound Bourque developed into the quintessential power forward during his time with the Badgers, improving his point production and increasing his penalty minutes every year. He led the team in goals, assists and points in both 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, scoring 36 points in 42 games during his senior year.

"Rene is one of those players that comes around every once in a while," former St. Albert Saints general

manager Marcel Viveiros told journalist Marc Ciampa in a 1999 interview. "He has good size and great skating ability and is good with the puck."

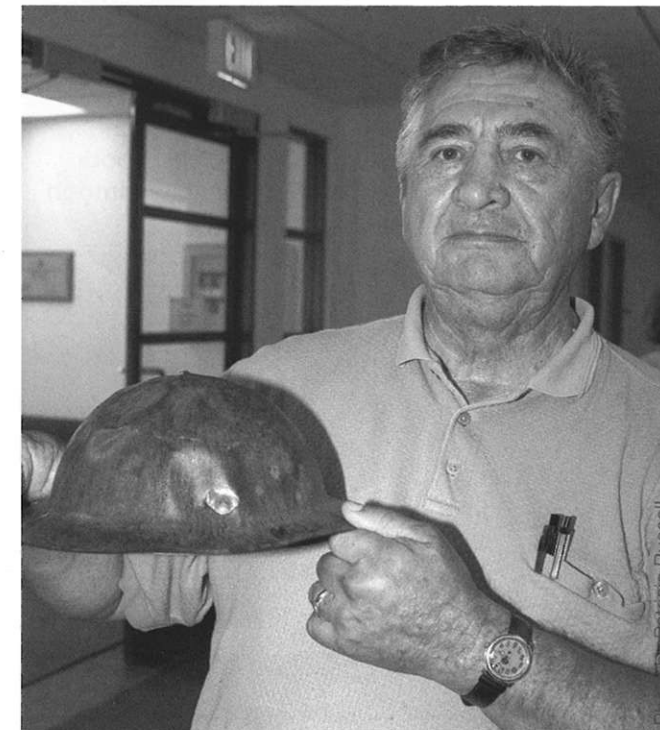
High praise indeed, praise that Bourque realizes he has a lot of work to live up to. He knows playing in the NHL and even the American Hockey League is a big step up from university hockey.

"Guys are a lot bigger and stronger up here - and they're definitely smarter with the puck," he says.

If he makes it to the NHL, Bourque promises he will not forget where he came from. He appreciates all the support he receives from family and friends back home in the Lac La Biche area and is pleased to see other players such as Buffalo Lake's Darren Reid, signed by the Tampa Bay Lightning last spring, also realize their NHL dreams.

"I pretty much grew up on hockey, playing on the outdoor rinks," he says. "Everybody loves hockey up there. There's a lot of support and that's just great."

**Editor's Note:** Since this article appeared in the *Lac La Biche Post*, Rene Bourque continues to build on his 'hot rookie' reputation while playing wing for the Norfolk Admirals in Virginia during the labour dispute between the NHL and the players association. In Norfolk's October 20 game against Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, Bourque assisted with the first goal and then scored the last two goals in the 4-3 overtime win.



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Region VI Vice President Louis Bellrose holding the helmet his father wore as a soldier serving in the First World War in Europe.



# Métis Nation Included in Proposed Federal Aboriginal Health Blueprint

by Patricia Russell

**M**étis Nation of Alberta (MNA) President Audrey Poitras welcomed the Prime Minister's proposal of an inclusive Aboriginal health package announced in Ottawa on September 14, 2004. The Prime Minister met with the leaders of the three national Aboriginal organisations prior to the start of the First Ministers Meeting on Health in Ottawa. Poitras says the Prime Minister's inclusion of the Metis Nation as equal partners in federal Aboriginal health programming is an historic "First Step" towards altering Canada's policy on Metis health issues.

"Governments must understand the Métis Nation and courts will no longer accept federal and provincial policies that ignore the Métis," said MNA President Audrey Poitras. "We take the announcement as a reflection of this new reality and look forward to working in partnership with Canada and the province to deal with the Métis health care crisis."

In his address to the Ministers, Métis National Council President Clément Chartier described the poor health conditions that exist in Métis communities. "I see elders accepting the pain of arthritis because they cannot afford to travel to see a doctor," he said. "I see entire families plagued by diabetes, including the loss of limbs... I see communities torn apart by suicides of their best and brightest."

Prime Minister Paul Martin announced a proposal to add \$700-million dollars over the next five years to improve Aboriginal health care in



Rod Burd and his daughter, Jori Hunter enjoying good health and a sunny afternoon at Métis Crossing.

Photo by Patricia Russell

Canada. The new funding will be distributed in three areas:

- An Aboriginal Health transition fund worth \$200-million dollars
- \$400-million dollars for programs of health promotion and disease prevention focussing on suicide prevention, diabetes, maternal and child health, and early childhood development.
- \$100-million to an Aboriginal Health Human Resource Initiative to increase the number of health professionals in Aboriginal communities.

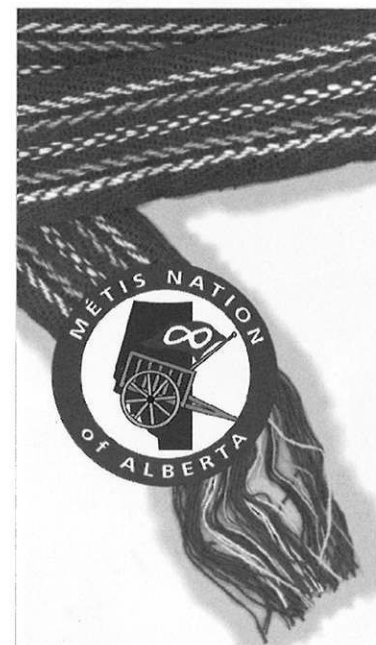
"We are looking forward to an equitable distribution of the Aboriginal Health Care Fund and to an implementation plan that respects our existing governance structure and focuses on a "Nation to Nation" approach," says Poitras.

Committing resources to dealing with Metis health care issues is part of the solution; ensuring the design and delivery of the blueprint meets the unique needs of the Metis Nation will be key to its success. It includes initiatives for improving the health standards and services for Canada's Aboriginal peoples, in

particular:

- Improved delivery of and access to health services to meet the needs of all Aboriginal peoples through better integration and adaptation of all health systems;
- Measures that will ensure that Aboriginal peoples benefit fully from improvements to Canadian health systems; and
- A forward-looking agenda of prevention, health promotion, and other upstream investments for Aboriginal peoples.

The blueprint will recognize that programs and activities to be undertaken must recognize and respect the unique, specific, and different needs of all Aboriginal peoples, regardless of age and gender. Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers responsible for Health and Aboriginal Affairs will be working in a partnership with Aboriginal leaders towards the common goal of creating a blueprint, which recognizes and respects the unique needs of Aboriginal communities. A report on the process is expected in a year.



## Métis Nation of Alberta Disability Services

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For more information, please contact the Métis Employment Services nearest you, or call toll-free **1 800 252-7553**

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Labour Market Development Program - "Working Towards a Skilled Métis Work Force"



## Métis Crossing Update

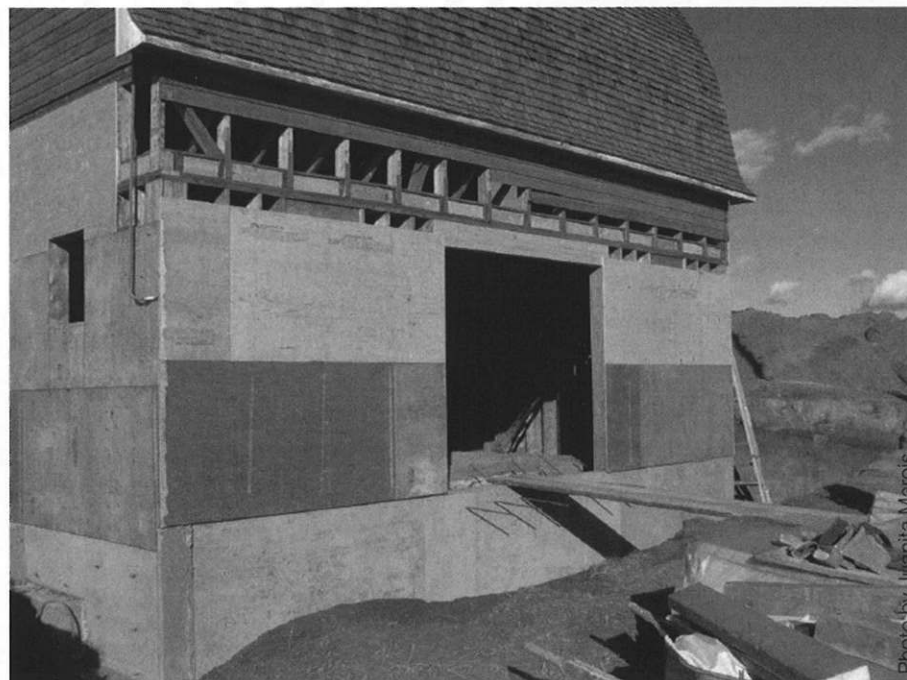
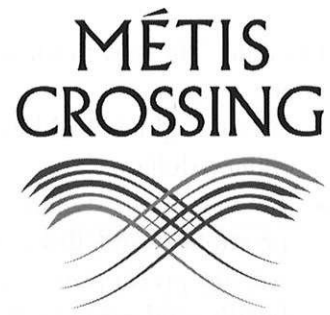
by Juanita Marois, Project Manager

**W**hat an exciting summer this has been! Métis Crossing has experienced some wonderful growth and important steps forward. Site restoration began on the historic barn and farm buildings. A new foundation was added to the barn and the infrastructure was improved to allow for maximum capacity on both levels. Keep watching for an upcoming barn dance or two!

Our machine sheds are also being restored and adapted to allow for programming and demonstration areas. In addition, the trails have been started and we plan to have a number of walking trails ready for spring.

We are phasing our construction over the next four to five years as priorities are identified and fund development allows. We have also begun to build a resource list of Métis Contractors who can be contacted for future work. Thank you to those contractors who have contacted the Métis Nation with their information; other Métis contractors are encouraged to call to have your names and skills added to our resource list.

In September of this year the Victoria Landing Development Board hosted a visioning session at Métis Crossing. A member of the Canadian Conservation Institute facilitated the session, and over 30 people attended from all across the

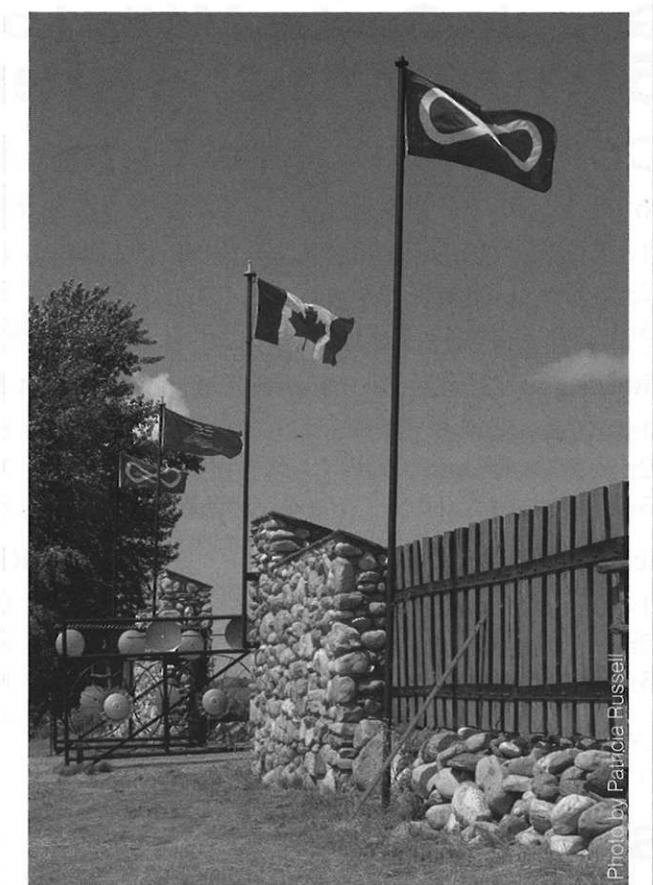


The foundation has been replaced under the historic barn at Métis Crossing. Other restoration work is continuing at the site, which is slated for a grand opening in 2005.

province. All were gracious in sharing their ideas and commitment for Métis Crossing. One of the participants followed up with a letter, which read:

*"As a curator, I was particularly excited about your process and recognized the incredible opportunity you have to truly make Métis Crossing something unique to exhibits today. You are right that a dialogue of passion and spirituality needs to continue along side of the dialogue about specifics, directions and actions. I recognize this double dialogue will be more difficult as deadlines get closer and deliverables need to be provided. Nevertheless, if both dialogues are continued, and the passion and spirituality of the participants is maintained, I am confident that the site will develop into something that is unique among any public space that I have ever visited."*

The gate at Métis Crossing welcomes visitors who come to learn about the vibrant Métis culture that's being revitalized and celebrated through the development of the Cultural Interpretive Centre near Smoky Lake, AB.



## Update your Métis Nation of Alberta Membership

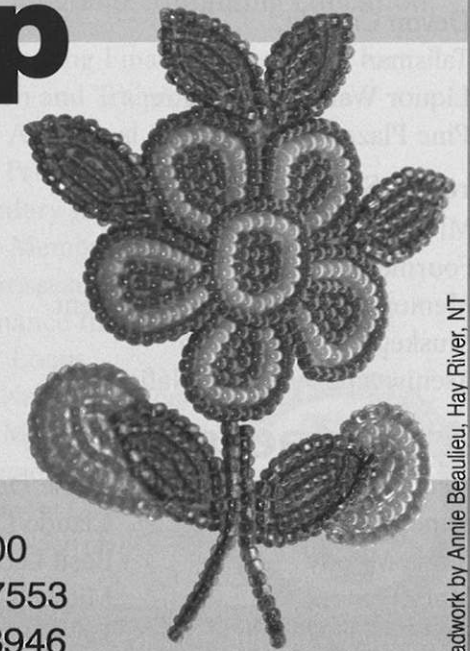


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Beadwork by Annie Beaulieu, Hay River, NT



# Grande Cache Métis Local #1994 5th Annual Talent Show

## Congratulations to the Winners



### Youth Vocals 17 & under

- 1st Cory Poitras (St Paul)
- 2nd Kelsey Poitras (St Paul)
- 3rd Chehala Leonard (Grande Cache)

### Adult Vocals

- 1st Leroy Kawawasew (Sturgeon Lake)
- 2nd Ed Poitras (St Paul)
- 3rd Ron Soto (Sturgeon Lake)

### Fiddling

- 1st Cory Poitras (St Paul)
- 2nd Ed Poitras (St Paul)
- 3rd Richard Calihoo (Grande Prairie)

### Adult Jigging

- 1st Ed Poitras (St Paul)
- 2nd Marcell Auger (East Prairie)
- 3rd Barb Goodswimmer (Sturgeon Lake)

### Red River Jig 12 & under

- 1st Leo Marcotte (St Paul)
- 2nd Kelsey Poitras (St Paul)
- 3rd Brittany Stone (Valemont, BC)

### Red River Jig 13-17 years

- 1st Cory Poitras (St Paul)
- 2nd Rosetta Mitchell (Valemont, BC)
- 3rd Kyle Goodswimmer (Sturgeon Lake)

A very special thank you to the talent show judges:  
Ursel Flett, Angie Crerar, and Gordon Poitras

### Prizes for each category:

- 1st \$300.00
- 2nd \$200.00
- 3rd \$100.00

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- Devon Canada
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- Pine Plaza Developments

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### Other Contributors

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- |                     |                  |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Josephine Mercereau | Merle Delorme    | Landon Delorme   |
| Annette Benner      | Claude Delorme   | Michelle Delorme |
| Angie Moody         | Basil Leonard    | Lea McLane       |
| Mary Hansen         | Mitchell Delorme | Summer Delorme   |
| Doreen Ouellette    | Lyn Thorhaug     | Eric Hansen      |

The President of Métis Local #1994, Al Findlay, extends a very special "Thank you" to all the talented musicians and dancers who helped to make this event successful.



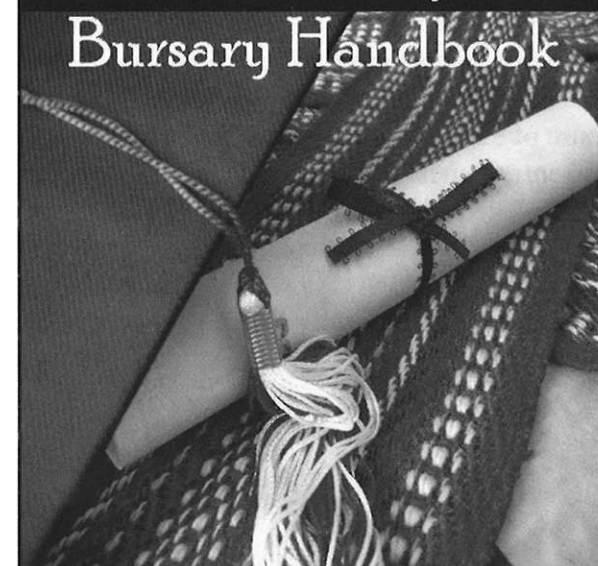
## Métis Youth Achiever Katrina Cox

by Laura McLaughlin

Artwork by ten-year-old Katrina Cox of Spruce Grove, Alberta will be featured on a special lapel pin designed for Métis Week 2004. During last year's Métis Week celebrations at the Children's Bowling Party, Katrina won first prize in a birch bark-painting contest. The new pins will be unveiled during the MNA Provincial Office Open House on November 16, 2004.

Last year's second prizewinner was six-year-old Luke Kaup, of Onoway, AB who received a cash prize.

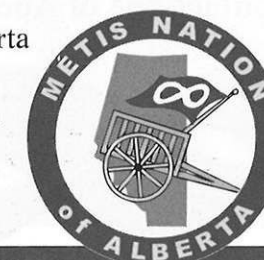
## The Scholarship and Bursary Handbook



## for Métis Students

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

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



Produced & Compiled by The Métis Nation of Alberta

For more information contact us at:  
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## Region III Back To Buffalo Jamboree

by Lorne and Barb Todd

The “Back to the Buffalo Jamboree” is an annual Métis celebration held on the Sunday of the September long weekend at the Buffalo Lake Recreation Area near Stettler. The event brings Métis and non-Métis together to share music, dancing and cultural activities at a Recreation Area that's operated by Métis Local 492.

Special guests at the event included Métis Nation President Audrey Poitras and Actor Bob Willis of Stettler, AB. Willis, costumed as Gabriel Dumont, captured everyone's interest with his historic tales of Buffalo Lake and its connection with the Métis.

The Jamboree began early Sunday morning with a pancake breakfast. The rest of the day was filled with activities such as scavenger hunts, hay rides, beading lessons and jigging lessons. The fun continued when local musicians started a jam session held in the big tent.

The Calgary Métis Youth Dancers performed a series of traditional Métis jigs and reels prior to a steak supper, which was enjoyed by approximately 150 people and prepared by Métis Local # 492 of Stettler. Dorothy Walker provided some entertainment after supper. Her performance was followed by a dance with music from a band called “Bear Claw”.



Photos submitted by the MNA



Caption Top: Popular musician Dorothy Walker was one of the performers at the annual jamboree at the Buffalo Lake Recreation Area operated by the MNA Local in Stettler.

Middle: Local musicians started a jam session in the big tent at the “Back to Buffalo Jamboree”

Bottom: MNA Local 492 served a delicious steak dinner enjoyed by approximately 150 people at the “Back to Buffalo Jamboree”



# Harvesting Agreement Comes Through for Alberta Métis

by Patricia Russell

The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) President Audrey Poitras is proud to announce Alberta Métis can now exercise their constitutionally protected right to harvest year-round without having to buy a hunting license. The mutually negotiated Agreement went into effect on October 1, 2004 and recognizes the Métis right to hunt, trap, and fish on harvesting lands within the province of Alberta. The MNA signed the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement (IMHA) with the Government of Alberta's Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Pearl Calahasen, in a quiet ceremony at the Provincial Office in Edmonton. President Poitras says, "A year ago, with the Supreme Court ruling in *Powley*, we asked our Métis people for patience and at that time we made a commitment to have a mechanism in place by the next harvesting season so our people could go hunting with dignity and pride. I'm very pleased to say, 'Here it is.'" Bilateral negotiations between the MNA and the Alberta Government began soon after the unanimous ruling from the Supreme Court of Canada in *R.v. Powley* last September. The groundbreaking decision affirmed Métis have harvesting rights protected

by Section 35 of the Constitution Act (1982). Like all Albertans, Métis harvesters will continue to abide by safe hunting practices and conservation laws. "Métis are conservationists," says Poitras, "We believe in the wise use of our natural resources by ensuring that fish and wildlife stocks remain healthy for the benefit of our children and grandchildren.



A statue of Métis hero, Louis Riel, was the centerpiece on the table where MNA Minister of Métis Rights Cecil Bellrose signed the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement.

That's how our ancestral and communal hunting practices work. Our traditional harvesting practices are good examples for hunters across the country to follow." MNA Minister of Métis Rights, Cecil Bellrose, who also negotiated and signed the document, echoes Poitras' remarks saying, "As responsible Métis, we have to be mindful of the importance of protecting our traditional food supply. Take only what you need to feed your Métis family. Our right to harvest comes with certain responsibilities and we can't take advantage of them or abuse them."

The IMHA applies to all members of the Métis Nation of Alberta. Instead of buying a hunting license, Métis will identify themselves by showing Wildlife or other law enforcement officers their current MNA membership card.

Laws concerning gun registration and licensing remain in effect. Gun licensing fees will be waived if applicants identify themselves as Métis harvesters when applying for a license from the Canada Firearms Centre. Information on Canada's Firearms Law is available at 1 800 731 4000.

The Métis Nation of Alberta and the provincial government committed to negotiating a final harvesting agreement. Some uncertainty in the application



Top: The Honourable Pearl Calahasen Minister of Aboriginal Affairs signed the Harvesting Agreement on behalf of Alberta. Bottom: President Audrey Poitras with part of the legal team that negotiated the Harvesting Agreement. Lawyers Neil Reddekopp and Wendy Fayant from Aboriginal Affairs and Cynthia Bertolin, Lead Negotiator for the MNA.





MNA Region II Elder Francis Dumais was among the guests invited to watch the signing of the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement, the first of its kind in Canada. Region VI Vice President Louis Bellrose, MNA Disabilities Coordinator Gregory Humphries and Apeetogosan's George Vass were among the crowd in the room.

technicians will be available to discuss a range of issues with members. The meetings will be an opportunity for members to relay to the leadership the various scenarios they may encounter or require clarification about how the Harvesting Agreement applies to hunting, fishing, and trapping. Discussion and workshops on the Membership and Registry, governance, and the Métis Nation Constitution will also take place. Check with your Regional and Local offices for dates and locations of the community meetings.

Poitras says, "This Agreement is of historic proportion and is a significant milestone for Métis people. It is the first Agreement of its kind to not only be negotiated but also signed off between a provincial government and a governing member of the Métis National Council."

Métis harvesters with questions about the Harvesting Agreement are encouraged to call the Regional or Provincial Offices of the MNA. Information is also available on our official Internet website at [www.albertametis.com](http://www.albertametis.com).

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of the Agreement exists in a number of 'grey areas'. For example, early in October there was uncertainty regarding whether or not Métis can fish using a rod. The issue has been resolved with the understanding that the Department of Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) will not enforce Domestic Fishing Regulations upon Métis fishers. President Poitras says it's reasonable expect there will be 'grey areas' yet to be resolved, "The Métis Nation and the Government of Alberta made a commitment to design a harvesting agreement in a relatively short period of time, a year. If our negotiators looked at every possible situation our Métis harvesters might encounter in the field, we'd still be at the negotiating table. The input we receive from our members will help us in our work towards a final agreement." Towards that end, the MNA is planning to hold a series of community consultations and information sessions within the six Regions where leaders and



## Frequently Asked Questions Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement

### What does this Agreement mean for me?

The Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement means members of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) can exercise their right to harvest without having to buy a hunting license.

### What kind of harvesting is recognized in the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement?

The Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement (IMHA) recognizes that Métis have the right to harvest through hunting, trapping, and fishing and applies to animals, fish, and fowl.

### When?

Alberta Métis can harvest year-round, unless there is a closure for conservation reasons in a particular hunting zone as prescribed by the Regional Offices of Alberta's Department of Sustainable Resources Development (SRD), which would apply to all Albertans, including Métis. Alberta Métis are not limited to harvesting seasons, nor are they limited to or prevented from hunting on certain days of the week.

Conservation closures may restrict the right to harvest and may take the form of restrictions on a type of animal, its size, or its age. Conservation based restrictions may also be in the form of harvesting quotas, an area of land, or for a period of time. For example, if a particular hunting zone is closed for a period of time, all Albertans, including Métis, must abide by that closure.

### Where?

The Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement applies to "Harvesting Lands" within the provincial borders of Alberta. The IMHA recognizes that Alberta Métis can harvest on all **UNOCCUPIED** provincial Crown lands, but NOT if there is activity or development on the lands that would make harvesting unsafe. Alberta Métis can harvest on all **OCCUPIED provincial** Crown Lands, such as wild land parks, natural zones and some types of provincial parks and other protected provincial areas that have areas designated as harvesting zones. Alberta Métis must register with Provincial Park offices before harvesting may commence on those lands. Alberta Métis can harvest on **PRIVATE LANDS** or leased land with the permission of the owner/occupants/leaseholder.

The IMHA does not apply to land within National Parks at this time.

### For what purpose can Métis harvest?

The Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement recognizes that Métis can harvest for subsistence. 'Subsistence' includes food, clothing, shelter, ceremonial, religious, and cultural pursuits. The IMHA recognizes that Alberta Métis can share their harvest between members of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

### Conservation and safety:

Provincial laws and rules regarding conservation and safety apply to all Albertans, including Métis. Harvesting must conform to existing laws/rules pertaining to safety, such as not hunting at night or shooting across a road. All Albertans, including Métis must abide by conservation-based guidelines/restrictions that are determined regionally by SRD and may be in the form of restrictions on a type of animal, its size, or its age. For example, conservation guidelines pertaining to deer hunting in a particular region may indicate a harvesting limit to animals bearing three or more points on its antler. All Albertans, including Métis harvesters, must abide by such guidelines.

Please check with the regional offices of the Department of Sustainable Resources Development or Fish and Wildlife for updates on conservation issues.



## Can Métis transport harvested fish, fur, or fowl out of the province?

Harvested game, fish, and fowl must remain within the provincial borders of Alberta.



## What other licenses are required?

All applicable licenses, registrations, and qualifications are required when purchasing/using firearms, ammunition, and other weapons such as crossbows for harvesting. Alberta Métis will not have to pay the firearms license or gun registration fees if they self-identify as subsistence harvesters when applying for licenses. Métis harvesters fishing with a net must have a Domestic Fishing License, which is available from Fish and Wildlife Offices. No fee will be charged for this license.

Other applicable licenses are required when engaged in any commercial harvesting activity, or when using a motorized vehicle or boat, or in other situations where licenses are necessary.

## Do quota restrictions apply to Métis harvesters?

Alberta Métis are exempt from entering draws; however, during the period of time specified in a draw, Métis receive priority allocation of that particular species. Otherwise, with the exception of conservation restrictions, Alberta Métis are not limited to a quota of harvested animals, fish, or fowl. Please check with the regional SRD offices for more information.

## Who can harvest under the MHA?

The IMHA applies to all members of the Métis Nation of Alberta and to people who are eligible to be members of the Métis Nation of Alberta. Detailed information about the MNA membership application process, including the application forms, is available through our Internet website at [www.albertametis.com](http://www.albertametis.com) or [www.albertametis.ca](http://www.albertametis.ca). Métis from other provinces or territories do not qualify under the IMHA.

## How will Métis harvesters be identified?

Fish and Wildlife and law enforcement officers will recognize the current Métis Nation of Alberta membership card as valid proof that a person qualifies as a Métis harvester. Alberta Métis without a valid membership card will have to prove their Métis status to enforcement personnel through other means.

## Do I have to get a new MNA card?

The MNA is encouraging members to contact the Membership Registry to ensure all the necessary documentation we require to prove you are Métis, such as a birth certificate and a valid family tree is in your file. Law enforcement personnel will not recognize MNA cards issued prior to 1991. A card issued prior to that year may not be a visual match the current membership card. Please contact the MNA Registry at 1 800 252 7553 or 780 455 2200.

## What actions should I take if charged with a harvesting-related offence?

Fish and Wildlife and other law enforcement officers will provide Métis harvesters with a consent form, which allows for the exchange of information between the MNA and law enforcement officials. Métis harvesters MUST SIGN AND IMMEDIATELY SEND the consent form to the MNA Provincial Office in Edmonton.

## How do I apply for membership with the MNA?

Membership information is available on our Internet website at: [www.albertametis.com](http://www.albertametis.com) or [www.albertametis.ca](http://www.albertametis.ca). Information is also available through the regional offices and provincial office of the Métis Nation of Alberta.



## Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement

*Members of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) can harvest (hunt, trap, fish) year-round on harvesting lands within the province of Alberta:*

### All occupied Crown Lands

- Some Provincial Parks
- Park must have a designation or area that allows harvesting
- Métis harvesters must register with Park staff before hunting

### All unoccupied provincial Crown lands

- NOT if there is activity or development that would make harvesting unsafe

### Private Lands

- With permission from owner, occupant, or leaseholder

### Applies to land within the province of Alberta

### Does not apply to land within National Park boundaries

For more information contact:

### Métis Nation of Alberta

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

Phone: (780) 455-2200  
Toll Free: (800) 252-7553  
Fax: (780) 452-8946



### Sustainable Resource Development - Regional Office Contacts

#### Northwest Region

Fairview	780 835-2737
Fort Vermillion	780 927-4488
Grande Prairie	780 538-5265
High Level	780 926-2238
High Prairie	780 523-6520
Manning	780 836-3065
Peace River	780 624-6405
Red Earth	780 649-3853
Slave Lake	780 849-7123
Spirit River	780 864-4101
Valleyview	780 524-3605

#### Northeast Region

Athabasca	780 675-2419
Bonnyville	780 826-3142
Cold Lake	780 639-3377
Edmonton	780 427-3574
Fort McMurray	780 743-7200
Lac La Biche	780 623-5247
St. Paul	780 645-6313
Smoky Lake	780 656-3556

#### Southwest Region

Barrhead	780 674-8236
Blairmore	403 562-3289
Canmore	403 678-2373
Claresholm	403 625-1450
Cochrane	403 932-2388
Drayton Valley	780 542-6616
Edson	780 723-8244
Evansburg	780 727-3635
Fox Creek	780 622-3421
Ghost	403 678-5508
Grande Cache	780 827-3356
High River	403 652-8330
Hinton	780 865-8264
Nordegg	403 721-3965
Pincher Creek	403 627-1116
Rocky Mountain House	403 845-8230
Stony Plain	780 963-6131
Sundre	403 638-3805
Swan Hills	780 333-2229
Whitecourt	780 778-7112

#### Southeast Region

Brooks	403 362-1232
Calgary	403 297-6423
Camrose	780 679-1225
Cardston	403 653-4331
Coronation	403 578-3223
Drumheller	403 823-1670
Foremost	403 867-3826
Hanna	403 854-5540
Lethbridge	403 381-5266
Lloydminster	780 871-6495
Medicine Hat	403 529-3680
Olds	403 556-4215
Oyen	403 664-3614
Ponoka	403 783-7093
Provost	780 753-2433
Red Deer	403 340-5142
Stettler	403 742-7510
Strathmore	403 934-3422
Vegreville	780 632-5410
Vermilion	780 853-8137
Vulcan	403 485-6971
Wetaskiwin	780 361-1250



# Métis Nation of Alberta Registry and Membership

by Patricia Russell

The phones have been ringing off the hook since the President of the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Minister of Métis Rights signed the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement with the Government of Alberta. Phone records are clear indicators of the increase; on one particularly busy day, early in October, the membership staff received more than 200 calls. Furniture in the reception area had to be moved out of the room to accommodate the number of applicants coming into the building.

The Director of Tripartite Action Centre, Irene Collins, anticipated the increase saying, "We've hired

more staff at the Provincial Office and provided resources to the six Regions to accommodate the increased traffic in our Registry." Membership personnel from the MNA Regions were in Edmonton recently for training on the new database and information storage system and for certification as Commissionaires of Oaths. The additional staff and training means applications for membership can be processed more efficiently at the Regional Offices in Lac La Biche, Bonnyville, Peace River, Slave Lake, Calgary, and Edmonton.

The application process begins with initial



Membership applications can be processed at all of the MNA's Regional Offices with the assistance of Derek Bouvier (R3), Liz McSweyn (R5) and Gloria Rondeau (R6), Millie Lansing (R1) (front) and Provincial Office Membership Team Leader Rhonda Franson (back) Missing from photograph: Kathy Larocque (R2) and Gayle Johner (R4)



Photo by Patricia Russell

Director of Tripartite Action Centre Irene Collins increased the staff in the Membership Department to accommodate the significant jump in applicants.

contact made through any of the Regional Offices, either in person or by telephone. Application packages are available at these locations or on the Métis Nation of Alberta's Internet website at [www.albertamétis.com](http://www.albertamétis.com).

Some Métis who have membership cards are asking why it's necessary for them to go back into the Registry to check the accuracy of their membership files. It's important to note that the Registry requires specific documents in each members file to prove the MNA card-holder is a rights-bearing Métis, in other words the Métis Nation must be able to prove the members fit the definition of Métis. The definition is in line with the nationally accepted definition of Métis and was passed at the Annual General Assembly held in Edmonton in August 2003. (See back cover)

Family genealogy is key to the membership process, all cardholders are required to submit a completed family tree listing ancestral birth dates and places. Showing proof of eligibility for membership in the Métis Nation is an unavoidable and necessary requirement for all members. The Membership policy statement reads:

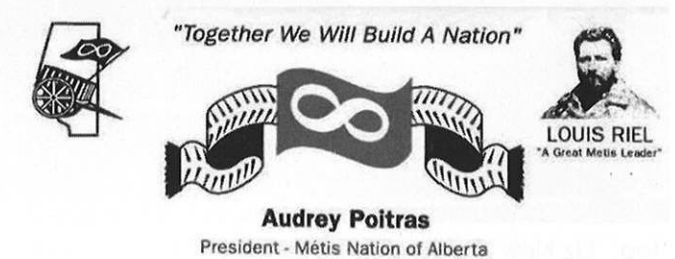
"A Métis must provide historical proof of his or her status as Métis by providing evidence of an ancestor who received a land grant or a scrip grant under the Manitoba Act or the Dominion Lands Act, or who was recognized as a Métis in other government, church, community, or any other historical records. Historical proof must be in the form of a verified family tree detailing the genealogical ancestry of the person applying for Métis status. People applying for Métis status must provide proof of who their parents are by a long form birth certificate or a baptismal certificate or other acceptable records."

Under the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement, the MNA membership card will identify rights-bearing Métis. The centralized registry system used by the Métis Nation of Alberta is among the most advanced and secure systems used by a non-profit agency in Canada. The stringent application process will prevent fraudulent abuse of our hunting rights by non-Métis hunters.

The MNA has access to live birth records and can help Métis offset the cost of getting a birth certificate. To waive the fee, applicants must give the MNA permission to access this personal information on their behalf; otherwise, applicants will have to absorb the fee, which can be prohibitive in some cases.

A certified Genealogist is on staff at the MNA Provincial Office and can offer some assistance to applicants as they research their family trees. Also, the MNA holds monthly genealogy workshops and has access to an abundant source of historical documents.

If you have any questions about membership please feel free to contact our head office at 455-2200 or toll free at 1-800-252-7553 or call any of the



11738 Kingsway Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5G 0X5

Phone: (780) 455-2200  
Toll Free: 1-800-252-7553  
Fax: (780) 452-8946



# Métis Gather at Wabasca for 76th Annual General Assembly

by Patricia Russell



Photo by Patricia Russell

**M**embers of the oldest Métis Nation in the Homeland gathered for the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly this year in the Region V community of Wabasca, Alberta. The well-attended assembly brought hundreds of people from all across the province and filled the hotels, motels, and restaurants. The long drive into the region was not a deterrent for Alberta Métis who came from as far away as Lethbridge and points further south for the weekend event of politics, socializing, food, dance, and music.

The Assemblies are the summer rallies where we gather to take stock of the year's accomplishments, to celebrate our achievements, and to make decisions about the future of our Nation. It's a significant occasion considering it gives every member of the Métis Nation an opportunity to take



Photo by Patricia Russell

Top: Liz New and Region V President Bev New walked in the parade ahead of the well decorated regional entry, a colourful truck sporting the Metis Nation's flags.  
Bottom: MNA Vice President Trevor Gladue and Region V President Bev New welcomed hundreds of Métis visitors to Wabasca during a flag raising ceremony, which included Elders, Provincial Council members, Veterans RCMP and other dignitaries.

part in the decision making process.

The social calendar flipped open on Thursday evening when the early birds, Métis who arrived first, got together at a business mixer that was catered by Carol Letendre and held inside the community hall, the primary location for the Assembly business. A selection of workshops held on Friday ranged in topics from an update on the Métis Crossing Cultural Interpretive Centre to genealogy and membership, to education, housing, and harvesting rights. At the same time, a Trade Show featuring Métis artists, businesses, and information booths was underway inside the community arena.

The gathering kicked into high gear late Friday afternoon with a hearty parade lead by a Colour Party and marchers of Veterans, Elders, RCMP, and Métis. Decorated floats and vehicles followed behind carrying representatives of the Métis Nation, the First Nation, the municipality, community groups, and companies from the Wabasca area. Handfuls of candy were tossed liberally to children watching from the side of the road. Elders and parents were delighted to see "Bigstone Elvis" in the parade, or at least his waving hand and the glint of sunshine reflecting off the oversized, gold sunglasses. The music blaring from an amplifier strapped to the back of the car was a dead give-away. Elvis was spotted in Wabasca.

The parade route ended outside the community hall where a ceremony to welcome visitors took place at the base of the community Cenotaph. Métis Elder Eva Ladouceur sang the Canadian National Anthem as the

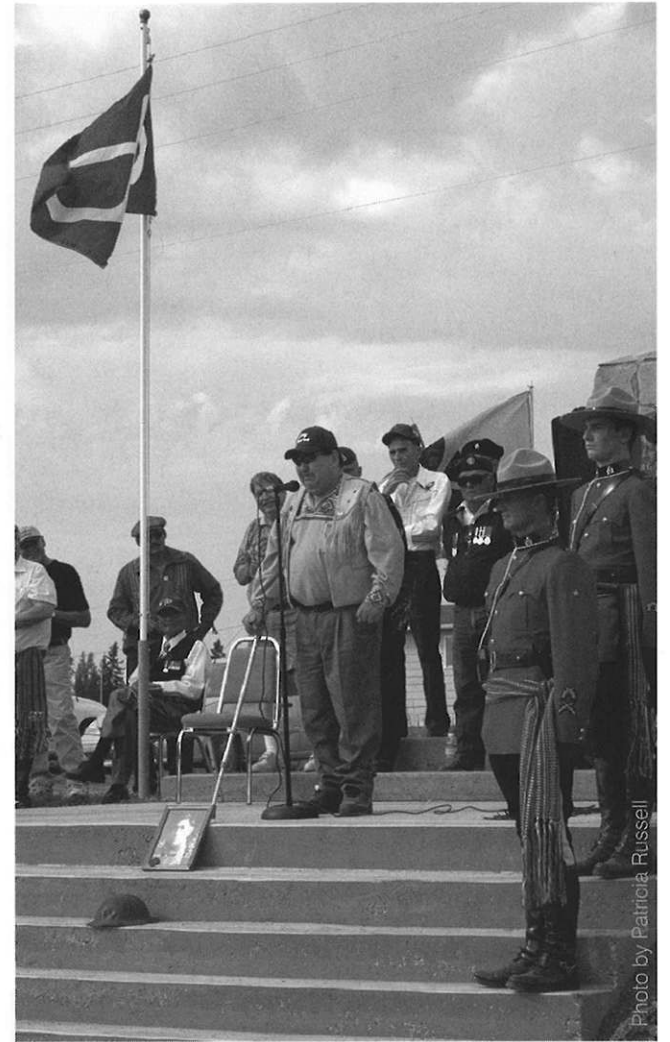


Photo by Patricia Russell

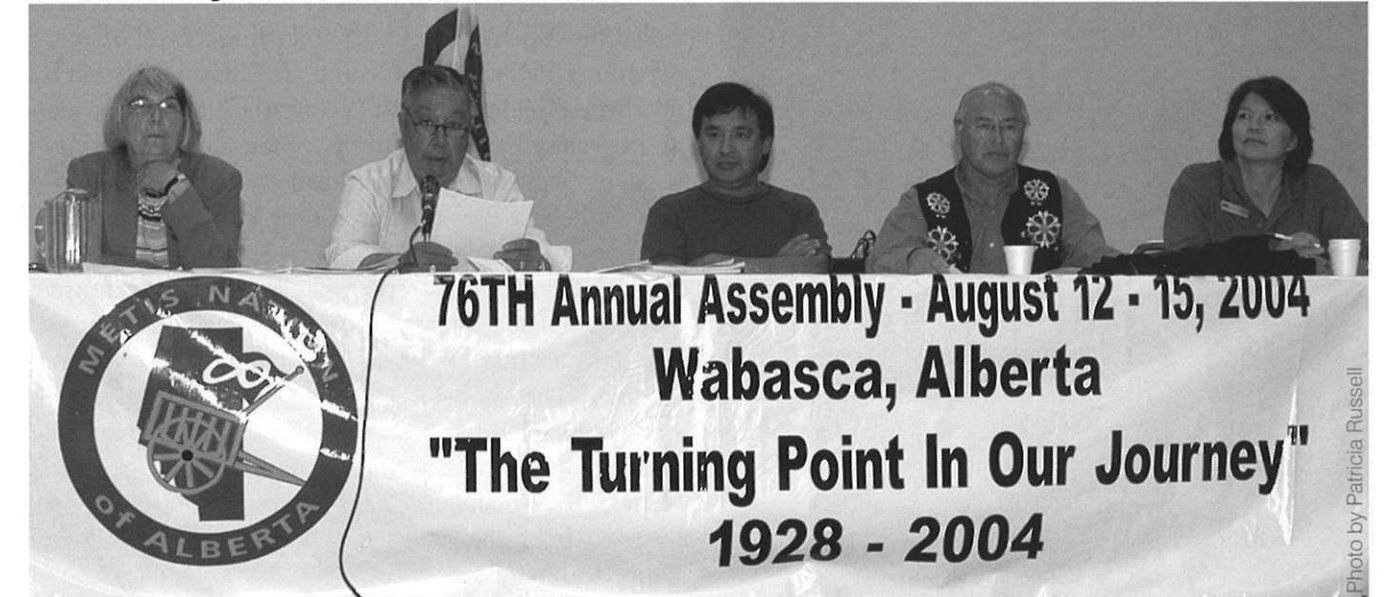
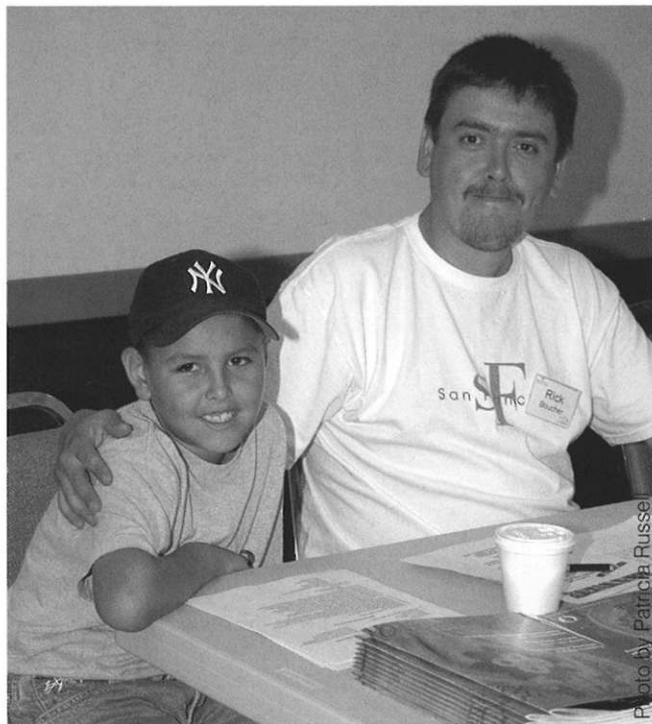


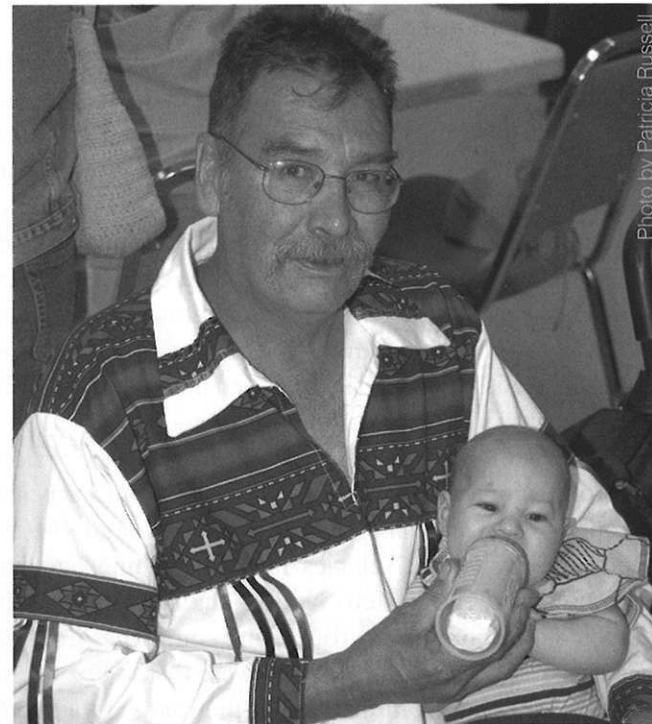
Photo by Patricia Russell

Top: A Métis Rights panel discussion included MNA President Audrey Poitras, Métis Rights Minister Cecil Bellrose, Assembly co-chair Bruce Gladue, MNC President Clément Chartier, lawyer Judy Daniels. (missing from photo: MNA Lead Negotiator Cynthia Bertolin)  
Above: Region V Vice President Peter Campion offered heart felt welcoming remarks during the flag raising ceremony.





Top Left: Region I President Rick Boucher and 8 year old Brendan Boucher greeting Métis at the registration tables.  
 Top Right: Judiciary Council Chairman, Austin Goulet from Region IV with his grandson, Trenton  
 Below: Vina Gullion and her great grandson, 1 year-old DJ Giroux, at the Friday night Jamboree.

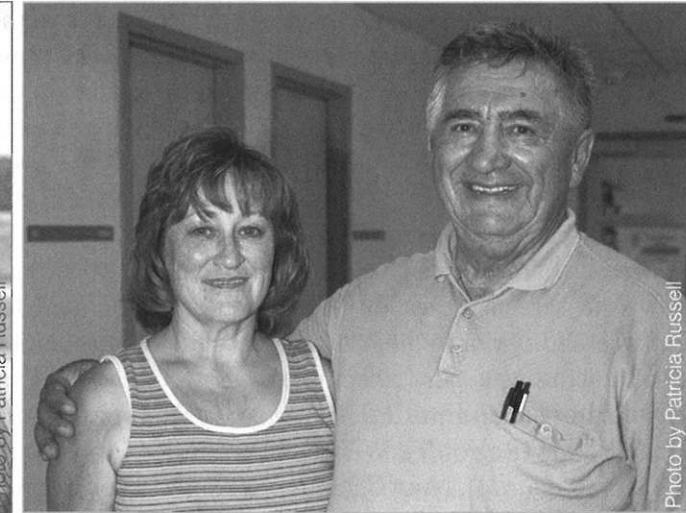


flags of the Métis Nation and Canada were raised to fly in the wind. Welcoming remarks were offered by the Honourable Pearl Calahasen, Reeve Paul Sinclair, MNA Vice President Trevor Gladue, Region V President Bev New, and Aboriginal Veterans Association President Vic Letendre. The evening began with an Elders Banquet, prepared by volunteers with the Kathleen Métis Local, which drew a crowd of more than 700 hungry people.

Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras called the Assembly to Order following a brief opening ceremony on Saturday morning. Joe Blayan (Region II) and Bruce Gladue (Region IV) were elected as chairman and co-chairman respectively to conduct the business sessions, which included detailed reports from the President, Vice President, treasurer, secretary and other Ministers of the Provincial Council.

President Poitras' report detailed a year of extensive work completed by her office, provincially and during her time as Interim President of the Metis National Council. The Annual Report detailed a year of extensive work completed by the President's Office, provincially and during her time as Interim President of the Metis National Council. The report also includes reports from each of the Ministerial Portfolios and Activity Reports from the six regions.

Highlights of the Presidents Report included an update on the success of the MNA's Drilling Rig, which is making considerable inroads in the oil and gas industry with its reputation as being one of the highest producing rigs in the entire EnCana fleet. Poitras



Above Left: Region III President Ephram Bouvier and Vice President Marlene Lanz were also at the Wabasca Assembly, along with other members of the MNA Provincial Council.  
 Above Right: MNA Region VI President Sylvia Johnson and Vice President Louis Bellrose have started planning for the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly which will happen in their region next August.  
 Bottom Left: The Wilburn Brule Memorial Dance Society provided entertainment during the Assembly parade.  
 Bottom Right: Julie Lacoursiere displays raffle prizes from Region VI. The traditional crafts were made by Julie and Sharon Wasp-Collin from Assumption, AB.

described the economic venture as, "The first profit-making venture in the 76-year history of the Metis Nation of Alberta. It will be paid off in two years and will have 11 million dollars in combined assets and retained earnings. Currently, 12 of the 15 employees are Metis, including the senior positions of Rig Manager and Driller."

Métis National Council President Clément Chartier was among the visiting dignitaries at the Assembly and led a panel discussion on the state of

harvesting rights across the Homeland. The panel included MNA President Audrey Poitras, Minister of Métis Rights Cecil Bellrose, and lawyers Cynthia Bertolin and Judy Daniels.

President Chartier remarked on the amount of positive change that's happened in the Metis Nation in the past year, "A great deal has happened since the Powley ruling. And even though the Supreme Court advised governments to get on with the business of recognizing Metis and our rights, we still have a struggle



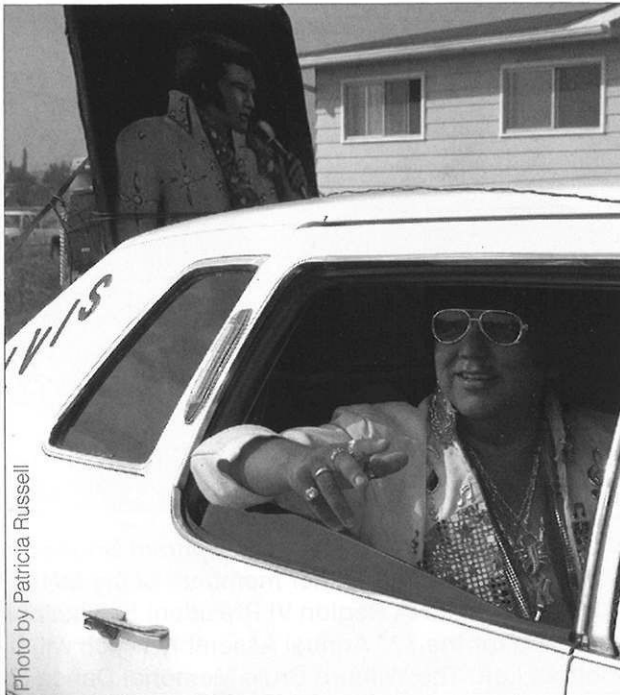


ahead. But I'm confident that with the determination of the leadership you've selected, we will be able to meet those challenges. One day, very soon, we'll be able to state to the Government of Canada, we fought the good fight and won. The future is ours."

After a Saturday night banquet and an evening of dancing, business resumed on Sunday morning with the convening of the Special Resolutions Committee whose task it was to screen the validity of resolutions submitted for consideration prior to the Assembly (see the August edition of Otipemisiwak for a complete list). The Special Resolutions Committee was comprised of Nora Chapdelaine (Region V), Willy Landstrom (Region I), Zane Collins (Region II), Nora Callioux (Region VI) Roy Charest (Region III), Al Findlay (Region IV) and lawyer Terry Antonello.

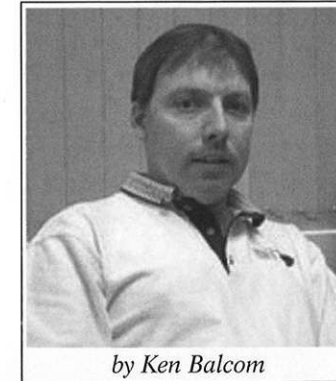
When all the business was said and done, Region V President Bev New extended her thanks on behalf of Metis in the Region to all the Elders, staff, Provincial Council members, the Provincial Assembly Coordinator Ron Harrison, and the army of volunteers who worked tirelessly to pull off a successful Assembly.

Region VI President Sylvia Johnson courteously invited Alberta Metis to her Region for the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly next summer.



"Bigstone Elvis", otherwise known as Narcis Young from Wabasca, laughs when he describes some of the hard times he's seen in his role as Elvis. During a Treaty Days Parade, the flatbed truck he was performing on ran out of gas mid-route.

## Finding Business Opportunities



by Ken Balcom

**S**o you have decided to become a budding entrepreneur and start your own business. But you ask yourself "what business should I start?" One of the most challenging aspects of entrepreneurship is

strategy of copying what has been successful may not necessarily pay off. When looking for opportunities it is important that you be open to new ideas; find new ways of looking at things. The fundamental cornerstone for any business idea is to identify 'needs and wants' in the marketplace and come up with innovative ways to satisfy those desires. One way to find 'opportunities' is challenge old ways of doing things. Here are some suggestions:

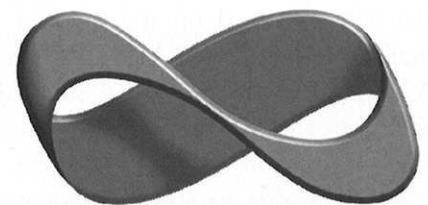
trying to identify the right business 'opportunity' for you. Obviously you want to make sure that the business you chose has every chance for success. Where do these ideas come from?

Interestingly, very often the 'ideas' that become business realities are right under our nose. The following is a brief description of some of the sources most entrepreneurs use to search for business opportunities:

- Ideas from previous employment. One recent study indicates that 60 percent of entrepreneurs have started a business that was directly related to their last job.
- Ideas from hobbies. While hobbies are things that you are willing to do at your own expense, many people have been able to create their own small businesses from their hobbies.
- Ideas from travel. Many products and services you see being offered in other places may not have been offered in your local market.
- Ideas from personal observation. Occasionally the idea for a new product or service results from keen observation of daily living situations. The idea for "Q-Tips" hit Leo Gerstenzany when he noticed his wife's efforts to wrap cotton on toothpicks to clean their baby's ears.
- Ideas from business publications & other sources. You can never do too much research. Read publications, trade journals in your field of interest.

In today's fast paced environment, the business

- Recognize patterns as they are forming. Try to notice trends before others have noticed them.
  - Combine two or more things/thoughts together. Chapters Inc. came up with the idea of combining a coffee shop and a bookstore.
  - Look for new uses for old products. Can you think of uses for scrap tires, end pieces of lumber, LP records?
  - Look at "why" people buy something rather than "what" they buy. For example, people eat at McDonalds because it is cheap and fast.
  - Look for unhappy, dissatisfied people...maybe you are one. It is a quick way to identify needs and wants that still have to be satisfied.
  - Look for happy, contented people. This may give you insight into what has worked and what might work better.
- Once you have identified an idea for a business,



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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.

If your goal is to become an entrepreneur, 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 entrepreneurial goals.

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

#302 - 12308 111<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
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# Métis Families Show Support for Region II Vice President

by Patricia Russell

Early in October, Métis Nation of Alberta Region II Vice President Homer Poitras stopped by the Regional Office in Bonnyville on his way home from a treatment session at the Cross Cancer Institute in Edmonton. Region II President Karen Collins says seeing Homer come into the office renews her sense of hope: "Homer looks healthy again. There's a spring in his step, there's colour in his face again and his hair is coming back. Short and really soft, just like baby's hair. I know because I touched it just to make sure."

Homer was always certain he would have the upper hand in his fight with cancer. At a recent meeting in Edmonton he was happy to report, "The cancer is in remission. It's cooked."

It's been several months since Homer was diagnosed with cancer, a disease that can shake the essence of life out of a person and leave a family in mourning. Since receiving the diagnosis, people close to him, such as his family and friends and his Nation, have watched helplessly as Homer went through the physically demanding treatments with radiation and chemotherapy. There's no question we struggle with a feeling of helplessness when a possibly deadly illness grabs hold of one of our respected leaders who is indeed a member of our extended family. And so we ask with genuine concern, "What can we do? How can we help?"

The answer came in the form of a fundraiser held in St Paul on August 28. Practically on the spur of the moment with one week's notice, Métis from more than a dozen communities several hundred people in total gathered in support of Homer and his immediate family. The intention was to raise a few dollars to absorb the additional cost of travel from Moose Mountain to Edmonton for treatment. The unspoken intention however, the one we don't have to use words to express, was to show the Poitras family how the Métis Nation truly cares and is willing to share the burden of anxiety and uncertainty.



Top: MNA President Audrey Poitras extended her best wishes to Homer Poitras and his family during a heart warming fundraising event in St Paul. Also in the photo: MNA Vice President Trevor Gladue, Mr. Gordon Poitras, and MNA Region IV Vice President Cecil Bellrose.  
Bottom: MNA Region II Vice President Homer Poitras is making a very strong recovery undergoing chemotherapy treatments at the Cross Cancer Institute in Edmonton.

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

The hall was packed.

And what happens when you pack a hall with spirited Métis, add some food, and stir the air with music? True to form, it was a typical Métis gathering: the energy was high and lively; the air filled with laughter, chatter, and good will. There was a silent auction, a lively auction, and 50/50 draws with the unexpected turn of winners giving back their prize money. Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras offered special remarks to a crowd of friends and family. A presentation took place where Homer received gifts and cards, including a poster-sized show of support signed by the Provincial Office staff.

The items up for auction ranged in size and value from a weekend get-away to a cabin in the woods, to beaded slippers, to an ornamental Red River Cart, to children's toys. Homer's grandchildren set up a table where they offered their personal toys for sale to contribute to their Moosum's cause. A dollar value was never the issue; the willingness of the children was priceless.

And when the band began to play that evening, Homer picked up his fiddle.

**TERRY W. ANTONELLO**  
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## COMING SOON

The Métis Nation of Alberta is producing an informational video about the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement and the impact the *Powley* decision has had on Alberta Métis. The video will be available for distribution in March 2005.



Look for updates on the production of the video in the next edition of *Otipemisiwak* and on our official Internet website at [www.albertametis.com](http://www.albertametis.com).



## Métis Locals Métis Culture Celebrated in Pincher Creek Parade

by Francis Riviere

A big effort was made by a number of the members of our Local to pull together a parade entry for the Fair and Rodeo in August held in Pincher Creek, Alberta. The construction of a banner proved to be a good time for socializing. So, we gathered in our meeting place where Gail Akitt, the president of Chinook Local 1880, produced a white shower curtain. We all brought out our felt pens and artistic talents and, after some time, a stencilled banner emerged and easily met with our approval.

Always happy for a reason to come together, our next meeting was at Sophie and Jake Hiebert's home in Pincher Creek, where we decorated Gail's car. On the car, we organized flowers, moccasins, a colourful blanket, a Métis flag, and signs that read "Métis Elder Sophie Hiebert." Sophie rode proudly in the car, sporting a set of earplugs necessary to protect against the very loud and lively music being played on the car stereo. Donna Bruder and Gail Akitt, with Dawn Lynn Hochstein, managed the banner. Several of our children, dressed in Métis garb, rode decorated bicycles. Two horseback riders completed our entry. The riders were Frances Riviere (carrying the Métis flag) and Haley Strandquist, colourfully attired in buckskin, eagle feathers, and Métis sashes, and riding an Appaloosa horse.

Before we had even managed to get our various entry sections together, Sophie was awarded a first prize for her part as our Métis Elder. She graciously donated the prize money to help pay for candy, which we threw out to spectators.

The Chinook Métis Local is very recently formed and is still going through our growing pains. Community events such as this parade bring us together to celebrate our Métis culture and give us a visible presence in Pincher Creek. This makes all our efforts worthwhile.

Right: First Parade Entry of Métis Local 1880  
Pincher Creek, Alberta



Photos submitted by Métis Local 1880

## MNA Region III Tail Creek Cemetery Cleanup

by Richard Lucier

On Saturday Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, Loren and I hopped into my beat up Métis pickup truck which was loaded with a chain saw, a ride-on lawnmower, and a push mower and headed for the Tail Creek Cemetery. We made a Tim Horton's stop and then dug my hunting partner out of bed and arrived at the cemetery to find a fair-sized crew already on site.

Several Métis from Stettler and communities north of Stettler and a group all the way from Calgary were already at work. Two more from Red Deer arrived soon afterwards. Seventeen people in total showed up to help clean up the cemetery; trees were cut, grass was mowed, and dry brush and sticks were piled up, producing a fair bit of firewood. By 11 AM, a new flagpole was hoisted and the Blue Infinity flag of the Homeland was flying over Métis territory.

The crew was tired and proud of their labours; what was an overgrown, weed-infested cemetery now looks like a park. We wish to thank everyone who helped or made a loan of machinery and tools. Region III President Ephram Bouvier, Vice President Marlene Lanz, and John Parkins from Calgary; Tina and Dean Franklin, Lorne and Barb Todd, Sharon and Don Todd from the Stettler Metis Local; Loren Borth, Barry Stanyer, Richard Lucier, Vera Larson, Jeanette Larson, and Shirley Vols from Big Valley, and Joe Chokzicki and friend from Red Deer.

We're proud to invite anyone with an interest in historic cemeteries to please drive by and have a look, or come out for our next work party. While in the cemetery, look for the headstone of Jean Batiste Vannasse who was a very famous Captain of the great Métis buffalo hunts in what is now Alberta. The Alberta hunts once rivalled the better-known Manitoba and Saskatchewan hunts.

When driving to the Tail Creek Cemetery from Red Deer, take Highway 11 east past the intersection with Highway 21. Turn right, or south, at the gravel road with the sign marked "Tail Creek Cemetery Road". The Tail Creek Cemetery is on your right and clearly marked with an overhead steel trellis.



Photos submitted by Richard Lucier

Caption Top: Volunteers from MNA Region III hoisted the Métis Nation Flag over the Tail Creek Cemetery. Bottom: The historic Tail Creek Cemetery now has the appearance of a peaceful park thanks to volunteers in MNA Region III.



## Region IV Annual General Meeting

Region IV held its Annual General Meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> in Edmonton, AB. Annual reports were tabled updating the members of the various economic, social and cultural activities the Regional leadership and staff have undertaken over the past year. A special resolution was passed calling for the MNA Region IV Council to prioritize-through community consultation-the development and community planning necessary to bring forward a new model of governance for the Region to encourage greater community involvement.



Above Left: AGM Chairperson Gary Gairdner  
Above Right: MNA Region IV Vice President Cecil Bellrose  
Below: About 40 Métis attended the Region IV Annual General Meeting held in Edmonton in mid-September.



Aboriginal Business Network Coordinator Shannon Armitage, MNA Region III Vice President Marlene Lanz, General Manager of The Business Link Rodger Cole, Conference Coordinator Stephanie Sarjas

### It's All About Opportunities

For the second year in a row, Region III Vice President Marlene Lanz acted as the MC at a gathering of aboriginal entrepreneurs called, It's All About Opportunities. The two-day conference, held at the Edmonton Coast Plaza Hotel, was organized by The Business Link Business Service Centre and geared towards offering Alberta's Aboriginal small business community practical information and advice on business development and management practises. Apeetogosan (Métis) Business Development Inc sponsored a delicious lunch on the second day of the conference.

## Diabetes Healthy Eating & Active Living

A Handy Method for Measuring Portion Size:



Fist = 1 cup  
e.g. oatmeal or pasta



Thumb = 1 oz  
e.g. cheese



Handful = 2 oz  
e.g. nuts or pretzels



Palm = 3 oz  
e.g. meat/protein dishes



Thumb Tip = 1 tsp  
e.g. butter, margarine, mayonnaise



Juvenile Diabetes Walk for the Cure at Hawrelak Park this summer in Edmonton.  
Left to right: Sharon Longmore, Kathy Karakonti, Fran Hyndman, Michelle Ingham, Tiffany Ingham



### Living Healthy with Diabetes

*Building Healthy Communities* is a collection of recipes for delicious meal options prepared by diabetics and shared with a nation. Copies of the cookbook are available from the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Call 1-800-252-7553 or (780) 455-2200

#### Beef Casserole

- 1 ½ lbs round steak
- 2 tbsp oil
- 2 medium onions
- 2 cups hot water
- 1 bay leaf
- ¾ cups diced carrots
- ¾ cups raw green beans (cut up)
- salt and pepper to taste

Dry meat with paper towel and cut up into 1-inch cubes. Heat oil in casserole dish over medium heat; add meat and brown on both sides. While meat is browning, add 1 onion which has been thinly sliced. Gradually add hot water and bay leaf. Cover casserole and simmer for 1½ hours. Add some water if necessary as meat cooks. Add second onion - quartered, carrots, and beans. Cover casserole and bake at 350°F for one hour. Remove bay leaf before serving.

Recipe submitted by Amber Flett, Region 6, Fort Vermilion, Alberta



# Alberta Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards



The Alberta Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards recognize the outstanding achievements of Aboriginal youth and share their success with others across the Province of Alberta.

## Category 1 - Culture and Heritage

This award recognizes youth who preserve and promote their First Nations, Métis or Inuit culture and heritage by developing or enhancing traditional activities such as dancing, artwork and music.

## Category 2 - Volunteer Services

This award recognizes youth who are involved in volunteer services in the community. They provide services or fundraise, which in turn contributes to enhancing the quality of community life.

## Category 3 Academic Achievement

This award recognizes youth who have made a special effort to improve or enhance their academic standing. They have completed a certified academic program or have been recognized for their academic efforts.

## Category 4 Athletic Achievement

This award recognizes youth who excel in their chosen sport. They demonstrate a healthy lifestyle and promote and raise awareness about the benefits of participating in sport.

## Category 5 Career Advancement

This award recognizes youth who have developed and implemented a course of action to help realize career goals. They have succeeded in business development or have identified or developed innovations in their chosen pursuit.

## Category 6 Personal Achievement

This award recognizes youth who have overcome challenges during the pursuit of their personal goals and betterment. They demonstrate excellent problem-solving and decision-making skills.

## Category 7 Walking the Red Road

This award recognizes youth who have overcome addictions and/or has promoted sobriety to other youth in the community.

## Category 8 Community Leaders

This award recognizes youth who demonstrate leadership in all award categories. Their leadership has had a positive impact on the community.

### Alberta Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards Nomination Form

#### Nominee

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (mm/yyyy/dd) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

#### Nominator

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to nominee \_\_\_\_\_

In which category is the nominee being nominated? (One category per form) \_\_\_\_\_

Circle age group: Junior (10-17) or Senior (18-29)

#### Submission Requirements

Step 1: Fill in nomination form. Separate application packages must be submitted for each category that an individual is nominated in.

Step 2: Write a two-page description outlining why the nominee deserves this award. Respond to the following questions:

- 1) How is the achievement significant and why does it deserve special recognition?
- 2) What were the challenges and obstacles that were encountered? How were these overcome?
- 3) What has been the impact of this achievement on the nominee's family and community?
- 4) How will the community benefit from the nominee receiving this award?

Step 3: Obtain three letters of support. Ensure that contact numbers and mailing addresses of supporting individuals/organizations are included on the letters.

Step 4: Submissions must be postmarked no later than 4:30 PM, Friday, December 24, 2004. Send submissions to:



**Youth Awards Coordinator**  
**Métis Nation of Alberta**  
**#100, Delia Gray Building**  
**11738 Kingsway Avenue**  
**Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5**

# Journey to Independence Métis Youth Program

Métis Nation of Alberta and Métis Counselling Services of Alberta

"I sat in the Sharing Circle on the first day of the Journey to Independence Métis Youth Program. We held a Pipe Ceremony and a Sharing Circle. I watched the youth as they spoke and could see how difficult it was for the young people to be comfortable talking because they were so shy. For the next 7 weeks, the youth in the program received instruction and nurturing in four areas: their physical, mental, spiritual and emotional selves. Their physical instruction involved field trips to gain a greater understanding of how different organizations fit and work together in a community. Their mental development involved classroom work and computer

instruction. They were taught about the importance of culture and practiced this in a Sharing Circle every day. For their emotional development, we helped the youth look at their own coping skills and helped them to establish long-term future goals. I saw such a remarkable difference on Graduation Night. They were able to articulate their thanks and appreciation to the Elders, the facilitators, and to each other. Seeing the change was so rewarding for me."

Marg Mueller, Northwest Regional Manager  
 Native Counselling Services of Alberta



Back (left to right): Kim Mueller (UMAYC Coordinator), Candace Mineault (student), Amanda Letendre (Co-facilitator), students Bonita Auger, Sherry Cardinal, Rilee Goulet, Crystal Cardinal, Farrah Mitchell, Brittany Mineault, Jenna Belcourt, and Clinton Soto (Courtworker)

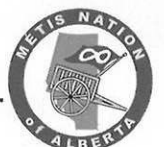
Front (left to right): Michael David (Elder), Darlene Cardinal (facilitator), students Lyle Beaulieu, Ciji Mineault, and MNA Region VI President Sylvia Johnson



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## Métis Youth 'Roughin' It Peace Island Style



Amanda L'Hirondelle  
UMAYC Project Office

In partnership with the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Métis Nation of Alberta was able to fund numerous youth projects throughout the province of Alberta. One such project, hosted by the North Peace Youth Support Association (North Peace LINKS, located in Fairview, Alberta), was the

Reward A Teen (RAT) program.

The youth in the RAT program went on a three-

day road trip this past summer. During the three days they were out boating and camping with Peace Island Tours. The participants learned about the mighty Peace River and its proud history. The youth also went hiking and rock hunting. During one night the youth slipped out of the camp and went midnight mud slinging along the banks of the mighty Peace. They were covered in mud from head to toe and sure had a mess to clean in the morning.

One of the most exciting events was a 3-hour treasure hunt on the 42-acre Peace Island. They were divided into teams, and hunted for hats and playing cards. The treasure hunt also included poem writing,



Photo by LINK staff

Back (left to right): Tara Ferguson, Jordan Holden, Michael Gulyas, Mike Gurtler, Amanda Peters, Didi Khan, Mike Wick.  
Middle: LINK Staff Jenni Fitzpatrick, Shirley Lyman  
Front: Tim Emard, Tiffany Prokopchuk

and pictures drawn that had to include one member from each group. At first, the groups were very independent treasure hunters, but after they couldn't find some items they traded secrets with other groups for the grand prize of a large bag of chips and pop, which was special because junk food wasn't allowed at the camp. The winning team was called "The Seekers" and their time was 2 hours 46 minutes.

Youth on the trip said one of the best things about the trip was the home cooked meals, and snacks. This included hamburgers, baked beans, bannock, hot chocolate, soup and sandwiches, pancakes, eggs, and sausages. Meals were prepared by Peace Island Tours. Whether the youth were walking along the shores looking for fossils or rocks, treasure hunting, or "chillaxin" (chilling and relaxing) in the teepee telling stories, the folks over at Peace Island Tours sure showed our youth a great time.

North Peace LINKS hosts various other programming throughout the year. For example:

- **General Drop In** - for youth between 13 -18 interested in social activities.
- **Informational/Educational drop in** - for youth interested in gaining skills and knowledge related to

social issues facing youth.

- **Aboriginal Mentorship** - open to Fairview and area Aboriginal Youth.
- **Invitational WOW!! Program** - separate programming for males and females, dealing with issues such as obesity.
- **Community Involvement & Volunteering** - open to all.
- **Selective & Invitational Reward a Great Youth** - for youth who have contributed in a positive way to the LINK Youth Center Project and/or community as a whole.
- **Target Youth Risk Factors** - open to all who choose to become better informed of factors contributing to youth being at risk and developing strategies for prevention and intervention.
- **Individual Referral** - for youths or their families requesting or being persuaded to seek counselling services of any kind.

For more information on the North Peace LINKS center and other Métis Nation of Alberta youth programs please contact 1-800-252-7553

## MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA REGION III - CALGARY



### Métis Youth Dancers

Youth Jigging &  
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Open To Youth  
Aged 8 To 18 Years Old  
Cost Free!

No previous experience needed,  
for more information please contact  
Karen Acuna @ 720-5586





## Aboriginal Junior Forest Rangers Program

by Janet Gardner, LMDM, Region VI

The summer of 2004 was an exciting year for 10 youth from Fort Vermilion. The youth participated in a 2-month Junior Forest Ranger Program that educates youth about the forestry industry. The project was funded by Métis Nation of Alberta Labour Market Development Region Six, and coordinated by Alberta Sustainable Resources in conjunction with LMD.

Students had an activity packed summer that included learning about wildfire operations, forest management, forest measurement, outdoor skills, recreational use of forests, timber harvesting, compass and mapping systems, and the various careers within the forestry industry.

The program also included one week of cultural learning that taught the students about medicine harvesting, traditional land use, and the importance of forests to Aboriginal communities. The students traveled to Driftpile, Alberta where an Elder taught them about medicine harvesting, and they also attended the

MNA Annual General Assembly at Wabasca.

The program weaves fun into learning by having competitions such as the annual Bull of the Woods; Junior Rangers from across the province gather at Hinton to compare notes and compete against each other. This was the first trip out of the Northern Alberta area for many of the students, and they were pleasantly surprised at the beauty of Jasper Park.

The program ended with a luncheon provided by the Fort Vermilion community. Region Six LMDM presented all the participants with a framed Certificate of Participation, and special awards were also given to the youth.

On behalf of the Métis Nation of Alberta I would like to thank all those that contributed toward making this project a success. A special thanks to Wanita Mitchell and Glenda Auger from the Fort Vermilion Family Centre for organizing the luncheon, for their generous hospitality, and for providing a meeting place for the students.

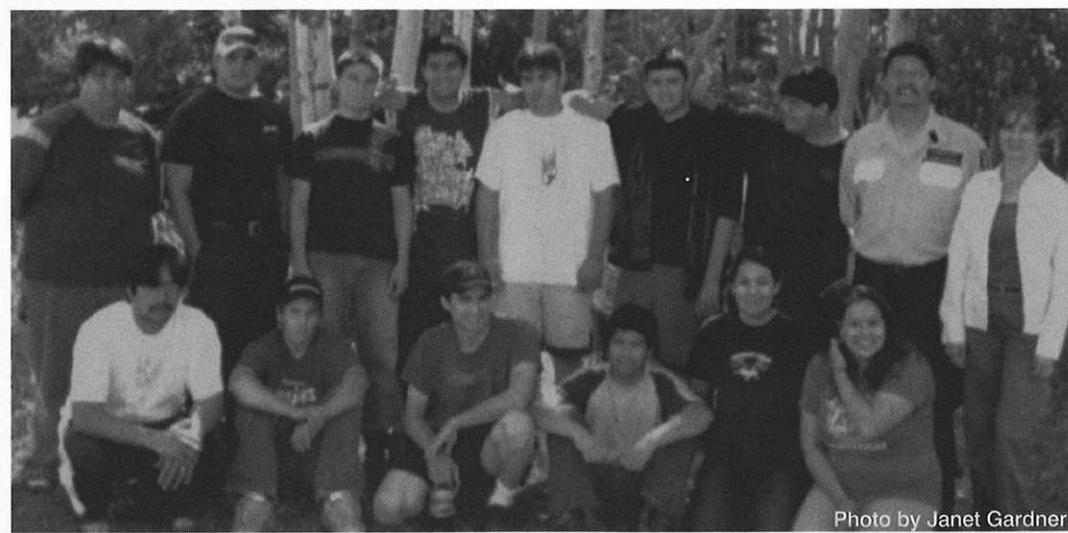


Photo by Janet Gardner

Participants in the Aboriginal Junior Forest Ranger Program held in Region VI include: Samson Hamelin, Shaun Hamelin, Keith Fidler, Mary Jo Fidler, Jared Lambert, Adam Mitchell, Anthony Mitchell, Ashley Quewezance, David Quewezance and Riley Flett. Leaders, Sheldon Clarke and Mark Kelland. Coordinators from Alberta Sustainable Resource Development are Michael Mercredi and James Atkinson and Region Six Labour Market Development Manager, Janet Gardner. Missing is project leader Tyson Lizotte



## Aboriginal Icon Competition in the Works



Maria King  
Otipemisiwak Contributor  
and Proofreader

Community tryouts will be beginning shortly for Aboriginal Icon, a musical competition designed for all interested Métis, First Nation, and Inuit individuals. Contestants will have an opportunity to let their musical talents shine in four age categories: 6 to 12, 13 to 20, 21 to 35, and 35 and

over. It is an opportunity designed to build up young people in a very positive way. The competition is to highlight kindness and compassion, and build self-esteem.

Regional tryout competitions are scheduled between January 2<sup>nd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> 2005, with semi-finals currently slated between February 1<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> in the same cities as the regional tryouts. The cities that are marked for regional and semi-final competitions are Vancouver, Edmonton, Whitehorse, Yellowknife, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax. The finals will be held in Winnipeg at the Burton Cummings Theatre on March 30, 2005, to

coincide with the Junos.

All local community winners are to receive all expense paid trips to attend the regional tryouts, paid for by the local community co-hosts, in addition to an Aboriginal Icon baseball cap, t-shirt and CD case. Semi-finalists will receive all expense paid trips to the semi-final competitions in their regions, paid for by the regional co-hosts. Semi-finalists will also receive free vocal and performance coaching, and Aboriginal Icon tracksuits and backpacks. The finalists will have their trip to the finals paid for by their respective regions, and receive more free voice and performance coaching as well as two tickets to the finals show.

The final four winners will receive recording and management contracts valued at \$45,000 each. The contracts will include the creation of a ten track CD, continued vocal and performance coaching, and an all expense paid trip to Winnipeg for a recording session. Marketing support is to be provided by Aboriginal Icon Inc. The final four will also receive two tickets each to attend the 2005 Juno Awards.

Contestants may compete in the following musical genres: country & western, r & b, hip pop, and soft/hard rock. For more information go to [www.aboriginalidol.com](http://www.aboriginalidol.com).

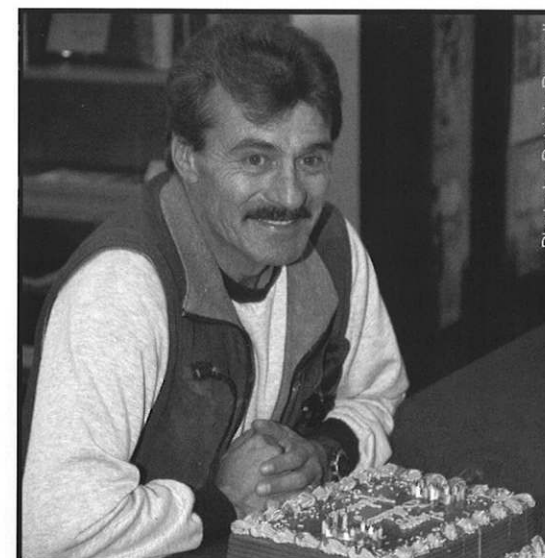


Photo by Patricia Russell

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Birthdays are hard to keep quiet at the Métis Nation of Alberta's provincial office as Ambroise Fisher recently found out when we heard it was his special day! So, out came the candles and a rousing burst of song!!

Is there a special someone in your office, your community, or family celebrating a birthday soon? Send a photo for the next Birthday Corner to the editor of *Otipemisiwak*.

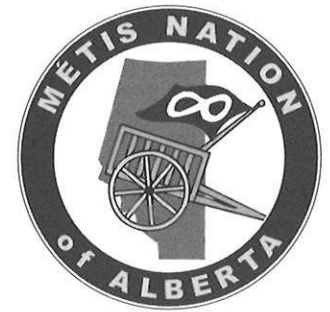
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# Otipemisiwak

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.



## Otipemisiwak: The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta

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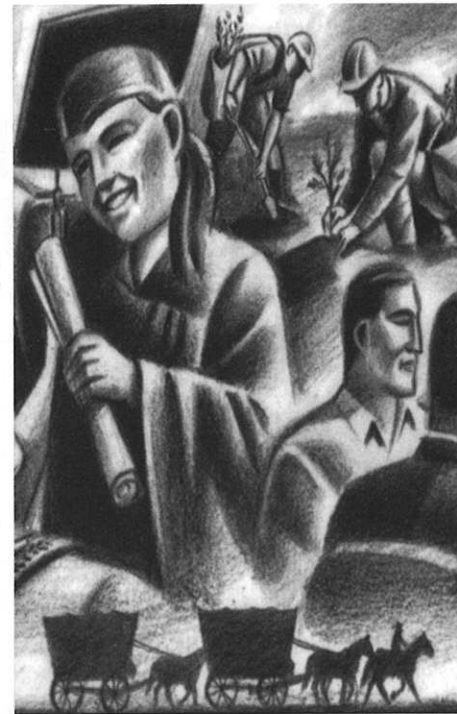
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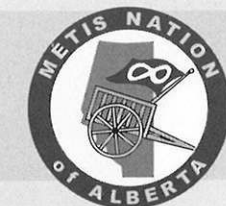
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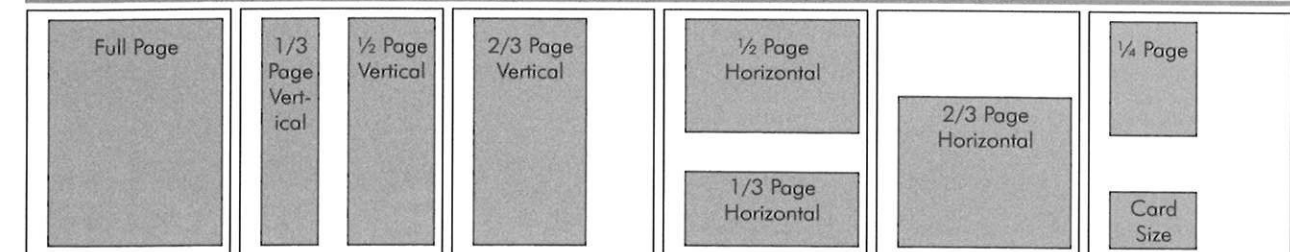


Metis Nation of Alberta  
"Together We Will Continue  
To Build A Strong Métis Nation."

## 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
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½ Page Vertical	3½ inches	9½ inches	\$513
1/3 Page Horizontal	7 inches	3 inches	\$395
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¼ Page	3½ inches	4¾ inches	\$263
Card Size	3½ inches	2½ inches	\$133





## **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.