On the cover...

Members of the Métis Association, now the Métis Nation of Alberta, meeting with Members of the Legislative Assembly in Edmonton, 1932, the year the association was formed.

Back row (left to right): MLA Joseph Miville Déchêne, Felix Calhoun, MLA Leonidas A Giroux, Peter Tomkins Jr.

Front row: Secretary Jim Brady, Rev. Father Fahler (OMI), President Joe Dion, Bishop Guy, Malcolm F. Norris and Peter Tomkins Sr.

Dedicated in Memory of Region 4 Elder, Marge Friedel

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Publication:

Design by Jennifer Anslemo, Communications

Printing by Burke Group (burkegroup.ca)
Our Vision
A strong Métis Nation embracing Métis rights.

Our Mission
To pursue the advancement of the socio-economic and cultural well-being of the Métis people of Alberta.

Our Guiding Principles
• We believe in the National definition of Métis
• We believe in continuing to build our foundation for future generations
• We believe in fairness and respect for all people
• We believe in the need to work in unity and harmony
• We believe in Métis participation in building our nation
• We believe in encouraging and assisting Métis people to achieve their goals
• We believe in honesty, integrity, and professionalism
• We believe we will achieve self-government, and
• We believe in our Métis rights as recognized and affirmed in Section 35 of the Constitution Act (1982).

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Message from the President

Welcome to the 84th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA)! For the past 84 years, Métis people from across the province have gathered to reconnect politically and socially, to celebrate our past and embrace our future.

This year, the Athabasca region is hosting our members, creating a great opportunity to showcase the rich heritage the Nation has in the area, and to discuss the progress the MNA has made in the past year.

Without sound and transparent governance, we simply would not be able to improve governance, partnerships and relationships for our people. In the pages that follow, you will find news on the progress from all of our department sectors and the affiliated institutions of the MNA.

My hope is not only to showcase our work for the year, but also to inspire an even greater push to move the MNA’s vision forward. This is our Assembly! Let us seize the opportunity to turn our challenges into opportunities, and turn our accomplishments into a better life for our Nation. Let us always keep the best interests of the strong and proud Métis at heart.

I would like to thank the Métis people of Alberta for once again placing their confidence in me to lead our nation. The election brought new and returning members, and I feel that together as a team, we have a good foundation to meet the challenges our population faces.

Some of our biggest challenges, and always at the top of our agenda, are Harvesting Rights for our people. It is a long battle, but the MNA will continue to stand united on Métis rights, and we look forward to our Court of Appeal date.

Onto some good news: Peace River MP Chris Warkentin recently announced the Government of Canada has earmarked $425,000 to address the issue of elder abuse among our people. The Métis Local 1990 of Alberta (Grande Prairie) will receive the funding to develop an information kit in English and Cree to raise awareness and provide support for people who may be victims of elder abuse. This is a big step forward for our elders, who play such a sacred and significant role in our communities.

Premier Alison Redford’s restructuring of the Cabinet team should mean more attention paid to Aboriginal communities. The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations, now a stand-alone ministry, was previously included with the Ministry of Intergovernmental, International and Aboriginal Relations. As a stand-alone Ministry, we are hopeful that the government of Alberta can now focus more on our people, with a concentrated, strong fiscal framework. I have had an opportunity to meet with Minister Robin Campbell and look forward to working with him to move the Nation forward and putting more focus on the issues that matter to us.

The Boyle Renaissance project is also making headway, with the second phase officially underway. The $22 million, 90-unit, 120,000 square foot complex will focus on the needs of Aboriginals, seniors and people with disabilities. The developer, Métis Capital Housing Corporation, is contributing $6 million to the project, to try to improve housing conditions by offering an alternative to mainstream housing. We are eagerly anticipating the opening, in November 2013.

These are but a few of many accomplishments for our Nation; I invite you to read through the report to find out about what is happening in your Region, and the Nation as a whole.

I would like to thank all of our staff, members and volunteers across the province that have given so much to help move the dream for the Métis Nation of Alberta forward.

The AGM is a wonderful time when we get to meet with many of our members, friends and family that we do not get to see often throughout the year, but on the same measure, it is also a time when it becomes painfully clear how many of our Elders, Veterans and many members that have passed on.

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to our dear friend, Region 4 Elder Marge Friedel. We greatly appreciate all of the hard work Marge has done for our Nation, and we will continue to fight for her, and the rest of the community.

It has been a real honour to serve as your President for the past 16 years. You are the reason we fight, and the reason we make big strides. Together, we can do even more, and I look forward to meeting you all again next year to reconnect, and to share our triumphs.

Please join me in thanking Regional President Willie Landstrom, Vice-President Diane Scoville and the Regional Council for the planning of all the cultural activities this year.

This weekend, let us celebrate with our family and friends. I wish everyone a safe travel home.

Audrey Poitras
President
Greetings from
Vice President Toby Racette

It is a pleasure and an honor to greet you and to welcome you to the 84th Annual Assembly. We are indeed pleased to see you here in Athabasca, one of the most beautiful historic sites in our Province.

David Thompson first came to Athabasca Landing in 1799 and charted the water way that had been used by the Aboriginal people to move goods both North and South. In 1877 the Hudson Bay Company established a trading post at the "Landing" and it has been a going concern ever since. The Métis were here from the onset, bringing prosperity and notoriety to the Region and our people, in conjunction with all the fine folks of Athabasca, continue to do so today.

The Métis Nation of Alberta is strong and vibrant and continues to advance its political and social agendas. This is being accomplished through the strong leadership of the representatives that you, the citizens of our Nation have elected. Since this Council was elected in September of 2011, there has been a strong sense of unity within the Regions and a renewed sense of dignity and respect as our Provincial Governance moves forward.

Our interaction with the Federal and Provincial Governments strengthens daily as do our relationships with the various industries within our Province. Many of the big oil industry players openly acknowledge our inherent rights and their duty to consult and the list of Métis friendly companies grows exponentially.

As I travel around the Province, I am so proud to see how the citizens in our “Locals” continue in our traditions and display their respect for our many seniors and their support of our youth. The strength of our citizen groups and their accomplishments are a great source of pride for myself and the other elected representatives of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Education has become a major factor in our success and I am thrilled to see the number of our Métis students graduating from High School, Post Secondary and Graduate School. I doubt that there is any other cultural group in our Country that has been able to meet the challenges of the world today and still hold so close to its heritage and traditions as we the Métis. I am Proud to be Métis and I am proud to work for you.

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity you have given me by electing me as your Provincial Vice-President and I pledge to continue working with you the Citizens of the MNA, the Regions and Locals, our Governments and all Industries throughout the Province.

Vice President Toby Racette

President’s Message

Congratulations to the dedication and foresight of our Métis leaders who had the wisdom in the 1930s to establish the organization which continues to grow stronger each year.

As the first year in the Decade of the Métis Nation (2011-2020), the year 2011 was dedicated to paying tribute to our Métis veterans. At the 2011 Back to Batoche Days celebration we brought together 14 Métis veterans from across the Homeland for a commemoration ceremony in their honour. Métis WWII veterans were presented with the Order of the Métis Nation – the highest, most prestigious honour awarded by the Métis Nation. These individuals have shown exemplary dedication to the betterment of the Métis Nation and to Canada. Our Métis governments will continue to seek proper recognition and compensation for these men and women. It was many of these brave men and women who were the backbone and architects of the Métis movement when they returned from service in the 1940s.

As well, in December 2011 at the National Workshop on a Métis Nation Constitution, we also honoured Korean War Veterans, many of whom were and continue to be, active members in the Métis movement.

This year’s theme is Celebrating our Métis Nation Culture and Language. Two of our most gifted culture and heritage expressions are Métis music (the fiddle) and dance. When one looks to the Métis in Alberta, this rich tradition of fiddle music and dancing is very much alive and well. We must continue building on these strengths, joining Elders and youth in the continuation of their practice, the central pillar of our people, the Métis Nation.

I look forward to continued work in collaboration with MNA leadership in the areas of Métis governance, constitution reform, economic development and Métis rights, and look forward to the successful conclusion of the Hinsdall case. This is an important and meaningful time for the Métis Nation and I extend my sincere best wishes to all Métis in Alberta at your Annual General Assembly and in your ongoing dedication in the pursuit of our existence as a distinct people and nation.

Sincerely,

Génel Charrurier, QC
President
Métis National Council
I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 84th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

The Métis played an important role in developing and shaping Alberta. For over eight decades, these assemblies have offered an ideal chance to participate in the process of advancing issues of importance to the Métis of Alberta and to ensure that Métis culture and traditions are passed down to succeeding generations. I know that you will make the most of this opportunity to network with your peers and to plan for the upcoming year.

I would like to commend the members of the Métis Nation of Alberta for working hard to preserve the rich and unique Métis culture. I would also like to highlight Métis Crossing, which is a remarkable example of the MNA's efforts. This national historic site provides visitors with a chance to witness Métis history and life in Alberta, while offering Métis a place where they can tell their stories and celebrate their heritage.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I offer my best wishes for a most memorable and productive assembly.


OTTAWA
2012

Brian Jean, QC
Member of Parliament
Fort McMurray - Athabasca

Letters

To the Métis Nation of Alberta
On the Occasion of Your 84th Annual Assembly

Tirai, Bonjour and Greetings,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Athabasca for your 84th Annual Assembly. This is a wonderful opportunity for participants to dialogue openly, to plan for the future and to celebrate with colleagues, family and friends.

Our Government is very proud of the strong, evolving relationship between the federal and Métis governments and we recognize the important role intergovernmental partners such as the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) have in producing concrete opportunities for all Métis people. MNA has a long history of successfully advocating on behalf of, and meeting the needs and aspirations of Métis people in Alberta.

I’d like to take this opportunity to recognize President Audrey Poitras, as the long-standing, dedicated and tireless advocate of Métis issues for many years. Congratulations on your recent National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation award for your work in the Métis community.

I wish everyone a very memorable and successful cultural celebration and annual meeting. It is with gratitude that we recognize your commitment, dedication and sacrifice for our nation. We look forward to a future of continued cooperation and meaningful change.

Thank you. Merci. Mungawenoch.

Brian Jean, QC, MP
Fort McMurray - Athabasca
Greetings from the Honourable Robin Campbell
Minister of Aboriginal Relations

Métis Nation of Alberta Association 84th Annual Assembly
August 2012

I am pleased to bring greetings on behalf of Aboriginal Relations to all of the participants of the 84th annual assembly of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Alberta is proud of the deep roots that Métis people have in Alberta's economic, social and cultural history. Before Alberta became a province, Métis people were integral to a vibrant fur trade economy, and later helped to establish communities such as Lac Ste. Anne, St. Albert, and St. Paul des Métis.

Today, as in the past, Métis people continue to make significant contributions to our province. The young and rapidly growing Métis population is vital to the competitiveness and continued prosperity of Alberta, and we are proud to be home to the largest Métis population in the country.

The Alberta government is committed to working with the Métis Nation of Alberta in supporting the social, economic and political aspirations of Métis people. By making Aboriginal Relations a stand-alone ministry, Premier Redford reaffirms the Alberta government's commitment to Métis people.

I wish everyone a productive and inspiring 84th annual assembly.

Robin Campbell
Minister of Aboriginal Relations.

"Métis people continue to make significant contributions to our province..."

On behalf of the Town of Athabasca, I am pleased to welcome the Métis Nation of Alberta to our community. Thank you for honouring Athabasca with your decision to hold your 84th Annual Assembly here with us.

Your time with us will be busy but I sincerely hope that you might take time to enjoy the many amenities and attractions that the greater Athabasca area has to offer.

May this 84th Annual Assembly bring forth great things for the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Very best regards,

Dr. Roger Morrill
Mayor, Town of Athabasca

"Thank you for honouring Athabasca with your decision to hold your 84th Annual Assembly here with us..."
...we hope this event serves to highlight our storied past, as well as pave the way to a thriving future.

It is your impressive dedication, perseverance and collective vision that drive the true success of your Nation.
I am pleased to report that the MNA and the Regions have been working very diligently towards moving forward the Child and Family Services sector. We are very committed to our Children, Youth and Families. We meet regularly to discuss the current programs that are available to our Métis families. I am very happy to be selected as the Minister of Children and Youth and will ensure that our Ministry continues to make significant progress.

Carol Ridsdale
Minister of Children and Youth

The Ministry of Children and Youth

Over the next three years, the Ministries objectives are to equip Métis children, and families with the tools necessary to achieve a successful future—thus resulting in strong families and communities, overall. To this end, the Ministry is committed to ensuring an improved quality of life for the wellbeing of our children and strong and productive Métis communities overall. Recognizing the inherent possibility within existing programs and the prospects of new and exciting initiatives, the priorities outlined in this report are aimed toward enhancing these objectives.

In order to meet the aforementioned goals and objectives, the Ministry recognizes it must work collaboratively with other MNA Ministries, federal, provincial and municipal partners. There are a number of challenges we must work to address. First and foremost, the number of Métis children in the Ministry of Human Services care is of particular concern; at present there are approximately 670 Métis children in care throughout Alberta. Next, we have witnessed cyclical nature of Métis children coming into and out of foster care. Finally, relatively little to no cultural supports exists to facilitate and accommodate the needs of Métis children and families in care.

In order to see where we are going, we must reflect on the achievements of the past. Over the past year, a number of significant advancements have been made. First, we have secured funding for the Provincial Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) initiative. The main goal of this initiative is to ensure FASD supports are accessible throughout the province. We are working to achieve this goal through the expansion of the Métis Resource throughout the province. This approach is unique in that the role of the Métis Resource has been expanded to provide FASD supports to the child, the child’s family and support network.

To this end, we have also been working to develop capacity through partnership creation with the twelve Fetal Alcohol Networks in the Province. To date we have one formal agreement with the Edmonton Fetal Alcohol Network (EFAN). This partnership has provided us with the opportunity to provide FASD support to the Edmonton and area Child and Family Service Authority.

Through our partnerships with Child and Family Service Authority region 6 and 7, we have worked to ensure cultural supports are available. The Métis Resource provides cultural supports to the CFSA staff, foster parents and others as requested. Some of the cultural supports include presentations, cultural resources (fact sheets, posters) particularly in regard to Métis history. Our Métis Resource work to ensure Métis children in care develop and maintain connection to Métis culture by ensuring children have cultural work plans on their file; and provides option for CFSA to participate in Métis week events and other activities throughout the year. This objective was the primary motivator for the formation of the MNA’s cultural team.

Through the Public Health Surveillance Program, we are working to develop baseline information on the health status and health service use of Métis Albertans. One central tenant of the report is the lack of Métis children registered with the MNA. We are working to develop a strategy to this end to ensure that Métis children become registered with the MNA.

Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth 2011-2012

The Métis Nation of Alberta through our agreement with the Department of Canadian Heritage was able to improve the cultural, social, economic and personal prospects of the Urban Aboriginal Youth through the 16 projects funded throughout the Province for the 2011-2012 year. The Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth (CCAY) projects provided Aboriginal youth with accessible, community-based culturally focused projects for Aboriginal youth aged 10-24 that promoted:

- Cultural Development
- Community Engagement
- Leadership Development
- Life Skills and Wellness

Aboriginal youth were involved in the management of each project through a Youth Project Selection Committee (YPSC). The YPSC consists of a Métis youth aged 18 – 24 from each of the respective Regions, who are responsible for reviewing and recommending proposals for submission to the Department of Canadian Heritage. As well as, attending any monitors in their area when they are available.

Each year there are issues in trying to recruit enough youth representatives from each region. It is recommended that each Region be responsible to recruit a minimum of two Métis Youth for YPSC to ensure there are sufficient representatives to meet quorum at meetings.
Projects that were recommended for funding for the 2011-2012 year are as follows:

- Métis Nation of Alberta Region 1: Youth in Action
- Métis Nation of Alberta Region 2: Hidden Talents
- Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3: Power of Our Youth Through Mentoring and Culture
- Métis Nation of Alberta Region 5: Aboriginal Youth Cultural Development
- Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6: Who Am I?
- Métis Nation of Alberta Local 1990: Culturally Inspired Youth
- Métis Nation of Alberta Local 1994: Homework Connections
- Métis Nation of Alberta Local 2003: Cultural Mentorship Program
- Métis Crossing Foundation: Youth Leadership Team Project
- Miywasin Society of Aboriginal Services: Aboriginal Youth Development
- Dreamspeakers Festival Society: Capturing Culture on Film
- Sturgeon School Division: Heartbeat of Mother Earth
- Sturgeon Victims Services RCMP: Soaring Eagles
- Métis Settlements Youth Network Society: Tapwe Warriors

Over the past two years receiving funding in order to run projects has been a huge issue, resulting in projects being delayed or cancelled.

As of April 1, 2012 the complete CCAY file has been moved from the Department of Canadian Heritage to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AAND). The fiscal period of 2012-2013 will be a transition year with AAND as they work to develop policies and procedures for CCAY.

Ministry of Culture and Recreation

Welcome to the Métis Nation of Alberta’s 84th Annual General Assembly, hosted by MNA Region I. I would like to commend the Region for much of its hard work organizing this year’s AGM.

As Minister of Culture and Recreation for the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), I am charged with preserving and providing culturally correct information about Métis history and culture and recreational opportunities for all Métis in the province. With such a great task given to me it is a difficult to pursue projects and programs because of the lack of finances available.

Culture

Since being appointed Minister of Culture and Recreation, much of my work has been to provide guidance and support to the MNA’s Cultural team and Métis Crossing. The greatest challenge will be to find ongoing funding for the ministry and Métis Crossing.

The MNA cultural team is currently working on these in-house initiatives:

- Research and referencing historical and cultural material
- Developing fact sheets
  - Who are the Métis?
    - Métis Governance: Provisional Government, 1885, Provisional Government 1886, St. Albert 1870
  - Religion- An Introduction, Baptisms, Marriages, Pilgrimages.
- Métis heroes
- Governance
- Religion and lifestyle
- Currently working to research and complete fact sheets on the following: Holidays, St. Francis Xavier- Grant Town, Buffalo Hunt, Travel, Language, Livelihood/Occupation, Historical Settlements, Dress, Food and Entertainment.
- Calendar
  - Calendar for 2012 complete; however, given fiscal constraints it was decided to forgo 2012 calendar and develop calendar for 2013 with distribution in August
  - Continue to purchase books, and print relevant articles - ongoing
- MNA cultural booth at CFSA Aboriginal Day in Stony Plain, on June 15th
- MNA Cultural Booth at Capital Ex
- National Day of the Flag
  - Proposed activities yet to be confirmed
- Box/Basket Social
  - Planning started
Recreation

Recreation, the MNA continues to research and provide guidance on provincial Aboriginal boards for sports councils. The ministry will soon recommend a member at large to sit on the board of the Indigenous Sports Council and the Edmonton Aboriginal Sports Council. The ministry will still look for federal opportunities for funding recreational opportunities for Métis in the Province and opportunities to find recreational opportunities for those who require help and assistance for medical conditions such as, diabetes and high blood pressure.

As your minister in Culture and Recreation I will continue to work to promote our Métis Culture and the development of a strong cultural policy for the MNA.

James Atkinson,
Minister of Culture and Recreation

Ministry of Economic and Resource Development

Greetings to all the delegates, family and friends of the Métis Nation, thank you all for taking the time to attend the 2012 Annual Assembly. Your continued participation, guidance and council are what keep the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) alive and viable.

The reporting period for this Assembly is quite short since the election was conducted in September of 2011, and with many new members, the assignment of Ministries took longer as elected members’ experience and areas of strength were assessed.

During the last term, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed between TransCanada Pipelines Limited and the MNA.

The purpose of this MOU was to establish a cooperative process for the development of a mutually beneficial long-term relationship between TransCanada and the MNA on behalf of the Alberta Métis Community. And secondly, to establish a process to facilitate engagement, communications and consultation, where appropriate between TransCanada and the MNA on behalf of the Alberta Métis Community regarding existing TransCanada facilities and proposed TransCanada projects.

This is one of the most progressive agreements that the MNA has entered into. TransCanada is an honorable corporate body who acknowledges the Métis as one of Canada’s three Aboriginal People and recognized their duty to consult with the Métis. This agreement and process was a bit slow off the mark but now that we have our Community Liaison Officer (CLO) in place, the consultation process is flowing smoothly and our Regions and Locals have bought into the process and are taking advantage of consultation with TransCanada through our CLO.

The process is working so well, that other Oil, Gas, Pipeline and Electric Transmission companies have asked to meet with the MNA to discuss this MOU and see if they might enter into a similar MOU with the MNA.

The Métis have always been entrepreneurs and played a vital role in the development of Canada, even before Canada became Canada. The Métis were skilled buffalo hunters, voyageurs, interpreters but most importantly, they were highly skilled traders. They learned quickly how to exploit natural resources like the meat of the buffalo, fish and furs and due to their mixed blood, they understood both societies and were able to work with both cultures and build successful trade relationships. This continues today with many Economic opportunities becoming available to we Métis. In the old days, the Métis would meet after the hunt and talk about trade opportunities and we still do this, not after a hunt but in the form of Strategic Business Conferences and Economic Summits.
In March, the MNC organized the Economic Development Summit 2012 at beautiful Grand Prairie, Alberta. The Summit was attended by numerous Métis Businessmen and Entrepreneurs from the Métis Nation of B.C. and the Métis Nation of Alberta. The Federal Government and the Provincial Government had strong representation at the Summit as did many of our Industry Partners. At the Summit, we were able to review and learn more about:

- Partnerships and Joint Ventures
- Métis Procurement and the Private Sector
- Access to Business and Start-up Capital
- Labor Market Opportunities
- Northern Gateway

This Summit was a wonderful opportunity for us Métis business people to share ideas, share success stories and plan for the future. It was the first joint secession I can recall where our brothers and sisters from MNBC could sit with us and talk business and it won’t be the last.

The Economic Development Summit also brought us success in another business opportunity. We invited a representative from Equity International Holding Inc. to attend the Summit with us and for him to see the quality of the Métis entrepreneur and to display to him the advantages we would have in working together in a strategic alliance / Joint Venture.

This has now become a reality. In May, we formed an arm’s length Joint Venture company with Equity International that will conduct business under the name Métis Corp. The MNA owns 51% of the shares and Equity International own 49% of the shares.

Although still in its infancy, Métis Corp. has been developed to fill a large gap in the delivery of Aboriginal professional services to Industry in Alberta. It is apparent that there is a need for an Aboriginal organization with a group of technical service professionals who could provide Project Management, Logistics, Environmental Services, Engineering Services, Consumables and more, for a wide range of businesses in Alberta. We are currently developing a business model to form a safety supply company and provide our own branded safety products to industry in Western Canada. We are also exploring the possibility of providing our own branded medical supplies to Alberta Health Services. As mentioned, we are just getting Métis Corp. started but we have had hundreds of years of business experience, so I am confident in saying, “the future looks bright”

I would like to thank President Poitras for having the confidence in me to handle such an important portfolio and I pledge to work hard to help build a strong Nation. I would also like to remind the citizens of the Métis Nation of Alberta, we are here to promote your businesses and to help nurture and grow any business ideas you may have.

Toby Racette  
Minister of Economic and Resource Development

Ministry of Education, Training and Research

Greetings! It is an honor and privilege to provide a ministerial introduction for the report to the membership for Education, Training and Research.

This ministry is a new direction for the Métis Nation of Alberta as it is now the collective approach for addressing the longstanding issue of education for Métis people in Alberta. It is an exciting time as the team of Rupertsland Institute (RLI) embarks on the huge task of ensuring the strategic plan encompasses the wide range of lifelong learning. The Board of Governors is comprised of individuals whose backgrounds of vast knowledge, honed skills and experience provide well thought out direction and guidance to the professional, qualified and efficient employees of RLI. The staff is committed to embracing the path that will engage their participation for developing and implementing the program areas for the “new” responsibility of K-12 learning.

The Métis Nation of Alberta is a signatory to the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Protocol with the Province of Alberta. This agreement can be a useful tool for RLI to expand our network and learn new and innovative means of enhancing the existing systems to better meet the needs of Métis learners, educators and school boards in this province.

Post secondary institutions in Alberta have become valued partners through Memorandums of Understandings and Endowment Agreements for Métis attending their educational institute. These scholarships and bursaries have eased the financial burden for many Métis students and are designed to be available for years to come. The financial assistance to Métis students does not end there. Métis Nation of Alberta affiliates Apeetogosan, Métis Urban Housing Corporation and a number of the regional councils also have programs for financial assistance.

The attached annual report will provide you with an overview of the year’s activities, programs and operations of the Education, Training and Research initiatives and successes.

I would like to express thanks to President Poitras and the Provincial Council for the confidence and trust for the mandate of Métis education to Rupertsland Institute. Education and lifelong learning are the foundations of our Nation and our future generations. I look forward to the challenges, growth and accomplishments that will be achieved by the Métis steering the education of our own.

Respectfully,
Karen (KC) Collins  
Minister of Education, Training and Research
The Rupertsland Institute is part of the Métis public service under the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA). It has a mandate to deliver education, training, and research initiatives on behalf of the Métis citizens. The narrative report below outlines the key activities under the Rupertsland Institute for the 2011-12 fiscal year.

Introduction
The MNA has made the transition from being more than just a representative body; it is an organization that is responsible and accountable for the on-going delivery of programs and services. As an organization, it continues to develop the Métis public service, and has made significant strides and has been very successful at incubating initiatives that grow to become full-fledged affiliates of the organization. Each affiliate enjoys its own service mandate and Board of Directors and the Rupertsland Institute, is the most recent affiliate born with the mandate to become the education, training and research arm of the MNA.

Métis Education and Advancement
Under the RLI Memorandum of Association (2010 bylaws), the MNA granted RLI a limited mandate on post-secondary education. The objectives are to engage both federal and provincial governments, learning institutions, industry and the Métis community, to promote partnerships and to enhance education, training, and employment opportunities for Métis students attending post-secondary schooling. To do this, the education division of RLI would administer all post-secondary endowments created under the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Métis Education Foundation.

In 2011-12, the MNA Provincial Council passed another resolution granting RLI an expanded mandate on education. This would include the education responsibilities for Métis children attending school from kindergarten to Grade 12. The expanded mandate reflects the Provincial Council’s desire to collect all organizational efforts regarding education and to merge these efforts under “one roof.” As such, the RLI organizational chart has been revised to reflect the expanded mandate and has added as a division called “Métis Education and Advancement” to its organizational structure. It also means the work plans of RLI will now include the activities of this new division, and for this purpose the funding typically in place at the education sector of the MNA will now be transferred to the RLI for April 1, 2012 programming.

To get the mandate off the ground RLI staff worked with the MNA President to request meetings with the ministers of Alberta Education and Advanced Education and Technology, and subsequently attended meetings with the Minister of Education and the Deputy Minister of Education. Other meetings at the officials’ level were also held with Alberta Advanced Education and Technology to discuss RLI’s mandate on education and the future possibility of a MOU between RLI and the Alberta Government departments of Education, Advanced Education and Technology and Human Services. If signed, a MOU would help guide RLI annual work plans on education over the next three years. In addition, a joint strategy of this nature would bring together Alberta’s policy initiatives on Aboriginal education (FNMI policy) and Labour Force Strategy (Connect the Dots) into one model. In the 2010-11 annual report to the Assembly, it was stated that RLI had secured five post-secondary endowments on behalf of the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) and that another four endowments were in the process of negotiation. These new endowments are now in place which brings the total to nine and meetings are under way with the Athabasca University (AU) to discuss the possibility of creating endowment “number 10” at this university. The AU is very open to such a partnership and at the time of writing, future meetings are planned with AU to bring forward its Métis student enrolment counts for group review and further discussion.

With respect to how well the existing endowments are doing, a consultant was hired to determine how the MEF endowments are doing relative to student access. The interim report from some institutions seem to reveal that student knowledge of, and access to endowments is a growing challenge and this may be indicative of misaligned marketing. As such, RLI is re-aligning a strategy for the marketing of endowments and may include this endeavor under the proposed MOU with Alberta Advanced Education. A full report will be forwarded once the research is completed.

RLI continues to receive numerous invitations at this time of year to attend graduations throughout the province as well as many other meeting and conference requests. Of particular interest are those that come from post-secondary institutions to attend receptions for the recipients of Métis Scholar Bursary Awards. It is a great experience to see and hear from the students who have benefited from the work that has been done on endowments and how much these students really appreciate the awards.

Métis Training to Employment
The Métis Training to Employment program is the most well-known service delivery arm of Rupertsland Institute. Its objects are to identify and promote actions that improve skill levels and employment opportunities for Métis people, and to manage and deliver programs that enable Métis individuals to pursue training and/or education, and to find productive and well-paying occupations and employment.

Aboriginal Skills Employment and Training Strategy (ASETS)
As reported last year, the labour market development program formerly held at the MNA is now under the stewardship of RLI which is the signatory to the ASETS (AHRA) Agreement effective October 2010. As a national program under HRSDC, ASETS is based upon three pillars: 1) demand-driven skills development; 2) partnerships, and 3) enhanced accountability. The Métis Training to Employment (MTE) program follows the same principles established by the MNA under the former Labour Market Development program and maintains a commitment to excellence, program accountability, partnerships, and demand-driven skills development under the ASETS. In the same fashion, the organizational structure allows for standardized client service delivery through a network of Métis Training to Employment Services (MTES) centres, while centralizing financial and administrative accountability at the RLI head office.

MTE Objectives:
• To assist Métis individuals to prepare for, and find and keep employment, thereby resulting in client self-sufficiency and savings to income support programs;
• To ensure that Métis, Métis youth and Métis persons with disabilities access a fair share of MTE resources as they prepare, find and keep employment;
• To create labour market programs that are designed to meet the needs of the Métis community and industry, and that are accountable to the Métis Nation, and its funding agencies;
• To create and make available a distinct set of diversified network of Métis employment services comparable to mainstream services and to locate these services as close as possible to the Métis client community; and,
• To stimulate, mobilize, and encourage industry and other community partners to act in partnership with the Métis Nation of Alberta on labour market related issues and/or activity designed to increase Métis participation in the economy.
MTE Services continued to work with Métis clients who are seeking assistance in a number of areas, with the objective of producing a trained, self-sufficient client with enhanced prospects for a job.

From April 1st 2010 to March 31st 2011 a total of 707 clients had started a skills enhancement intervention, which is down slightly from the 800 clients reported in the last fiscal year.

From the total, a number of Métis clients were involved in project-based training. For the calendar year however, the finance department prepared 993 T-4As for sponsored clients and/or students, while 66 T-4s were prepared for staff.

A new mobile MTE Services vehicle was fully outfitted with computers and equipment and has begun operating on a regular rural route.

Rather than dispose of the old mobile unit, RLI made the decision to update and operate the unit as an urban MTE Services unit on a trial basis. It will be available for special events and will go to different schools, and urban locations in the cities of Edmonton and Calgary.

RLI has also begun the process of having new exterior signage installed with the RLI logos at each MTE location, and has continued renovation upgrades at some locations.

In February 2012, RLI presented a proposal to MNA Provincial Council to allow for the transfer of KETO Inc. assets to the RLI MTE program administration. Approval was eventually granted from the KETO Board on behalf of MNA Ministries. A new unit called KETO Data Services has clients in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, NWT and Nunavut. Revenues generated under the KETO system will help offset KETO administration costs.

Research and Professional Development

Until recently, the research and Professional Development Services arm of RLI served under MTE operations on the organizational chart. With the changes made to KETO and the expanded mandate on education, the organizational chart required some revisions as well. Effective April 1st RLI will lift this function from MTE operations and place it under the Research arm of RLI.

The new division will be called Research and Professional Development (RPD).

The RPD division will also provide administrative support and/or materials support to the Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research (RCMR) as was agreed under the ASETS agreement. As follow-up, RLI suggested, clarification from the department in regard to the RCMR agreement between RLI and the University of Alberta. As well, all labour market development research coming from RLI will be directed through the RPD division and will be offered to the RCMR as commissioned research opportunities.

With the three new divisions or units at RLI including Métis Education and Advancement, Research and Professional Development, and KETO Data Services, RLI will now have five Associate Directors each of whom will report directly to the Director of Operations at RLI.

During the Mid-Year dialogue with HRSDC, RLI identified a number of items that required clarification from the department in regard to the ASETS agreement. As follow-up, RLI suggested, and HRSDC agreed, to sponsor a workshop that would include all Alberta ASETS technicians to provide a forum for dialogue with HRSDC officials on items of concern under the MYD including other areas of concern. RLI is scheduled to serve as co-chair at this forum and has placed Client Data Management (KETO) on the agenda.

At a higher level, the RPD Associate Director continues to represent RLI interests at the national level with the Métis Human Resources Development Agreement (MHRDA) Working Group.

This Working Group represents the Métis National Council’s collective interests on Aboriginal labour market programming and not only negotiates the ASETS templates for contribution agreements, but also the national architecture on ASETS structures and processes, which in turn feeds into Treasury Board submissions to Parliament regarding this program.

Changes to Rupertsland Institute Board of Governors

Like most governance structures, the face of RLI’s Board of Governors changes from time-to-time, as BOG members resign or leave for various reasons. The current make-up of the nine-member Board of Governors is as follows:

**Rupertsland Institute Board of Governors**

- Métis Member and Chair: Dr. Tracy L. Friedel (PhD; Associate Professor, University of British Columbia)
- Métis Member and Executive Director: Dr. Halal Banting (PhD; Former President and Chief, Métis National Division)
- Ex-Officio: Audrey Paulee, President, Métis Nation of Alberta
- Ex-Officio: Karen Collins - MNA Ministry for Education, Training and Research
- Ex-Officio: Dr. George Paulin (PhD; Associate Professor of Research, University of Alberta)
- Ex-Officio: Dr. Nathalie Kerfoot (PhD; Assistant Professor of Native Studies, University of Alberta)
- Private Sector Member and Treasurer: Don Stimson (BBA; CPA; partner, Peterson and Walker Chartered Accountants)
- Government of Alberta: John Phillips (BBA; B.G.A.) Chair, Alberta Law Enforcement Review Board
- Métis Member and Secretary: Bruce A. Belcourt (PhD Hon; CM, LLD (hon))
- Ex-Officio: Dr. Herb Friedel (PhD; Director, Gladue - Aboriginal Relations Specialist – Energy Resources Conservation Board

*Note: Rupertsland Institute will provide their 18-month annual report at the MNA AGM.*
Ministry of Environment and Water

As a fairly new member to the MNA Provincial Council, I would like to extend my appreciation to members who have placed their trust and confidence in me to perform the dual roles of vice-president and Minister of Environment and Water. Over the past eight months, we have worked on a broad range of matters from Crown-Métis relations and legal issues, internal and external policy matters, partnerships, consultation, traditional land use studies to identifying historic communities.

As I work on building a portfolio for the MNA and members within, I dedicate my efforts to the principles of honesty, transparency, accountability and strengthening relationships with First Nations and Métis settlement neighbours across the province. There are numerous organizations throughout the province that do require representation from this organization, and I sincerely encourage members to come forward and participate. On the other hand, there are members doing some great work out there today and I would like to hear from you! In the read that follows, you will learn about the organizations that I am currently involved with and brief updates about those that continue to involve members at their tables. Mark your calendars with the upcoming events and community information sessions.

In the next few months, I will work on meeting regional project obligations and also be looking to capture the attention of government committees and sub-committees to ensure that the Métis voice is heard during this transition of restructuring inter-governmental policies, programs and services.

The Minister of Environment & Water for the province of Alberta is mandated to work on some very significant plans and we want to participate in the Joint Canada-Alberta Implementation Plan for Oil Sands Monitoring. The Governments are working together on a phased and adaptive approach to strengthening environmental monitoring programs for air, water, land and biodiversity in the oil sands region. They are moving along with an integrated system that sets potential outcomes resulting from resource development and the social license to develop resources. Regional plans and the Regulatory Enhancement Project, including the development of a single regulator for oil and gas, are well underway.

A world-class monitoring system, an expanded market system that develops new access (e.g. through pipelines and rail) to markets outside the United States are initiatives that have not involved the MNA, to my knowledge. We would appreciate involvement and active engagement during the process so steps can be taken to ensure that there is not only representation, but results that includes Métis interests.

With respect to the duty to consult, in 2011, the updated guidelines for federal officials to fulfill the legal duty to consult were released to federal officials. These guidelines provide clear direction on the government-wide responsibility of departments and agencies to fulfill this obligation. It is my belief, and that of many others in Canada, that the legal framework for Canada’s relationship with Métis people will evolve over time and the end result will be a Métis-specific Consultation and accommodation course of action.

The governments have been guided by the courts and will continue to be guided by the courts with respect to Métis consultation, harvesting, rights, and land claims. In 2008, the federal government began a process to address the duty to consult and accommodate in a more complete response. The engagement on consultation and accommodation initiatives being undertaken are based on court decisions that require governments to ensure that Aboriginal perspectives are considered when projects will have an impact on Aboriginal ways of life.

And so, it is with determination that the Métis people of Alberta voice our concerns to ensure that any project takes into account its effects on non-renewable natural resources. The MNA is committed to monitor industry and government through its negotiations against long-term negative impacts from development and to engage wherever possible to be proactive for the benefit of our environment and communities.

On a positive note, Alberta’s ongoing engagement with Métis is also helping the province to identify geographic areas where the Métis exercise Rights and Traditional Uses on record. Knowing which region and Locale to notify and consult on specific resource development projects is a crucial step to effective and meaningful consultation.

We contend with standard timelines, notifications and work hard to identify potential adverse impacts before the normal regulatory project approval timelines apply and opportunity passes us by. Alberta’s regulatory approval processes often consider the efforts of Proponents to address Métis concerns by making changes to projects aimed at minimizing impacts on Rights and Traditional Uses.

Energy Resources Conservation Board – Acknowledges Métis in Directive 056

“The ERCB’s Directive 056: Energy Development Application and Schedule deals with the requirements and procedures for filing a license application to construct or operate any petroleum industry energy development that includes facilities, pipeline or wells.

Section 2 Participant Involvement: is an umbrella encompassing all aspects of the public, industry, and regulator interactions and communications. While the three main participant groups in energy development are industry, the public, and the ERCB, it is recognized that
other groups also have a stake in energy development. All requirements and expectations detailed in this section apply to personal consultation and notification with all potentially directly and adversely affected persons, including First Nations and Métis. These requirements and expectations apply to the licensing of all new energy developments, as covered in Directive 056.

In 2.5 Expiry of the Personal Consultation and Notification Program, part (56) the applicant must attempt to address concerns/objections and answer questions raised by members of the public, industry, government representatives, First Nations, Métis, and other interested parties throughout the lifetime of the project.” Learn more at ercb.ca

Specific information about a Métis community’s contemporary practices of traditional uses greatly aids Alberta in effective resource management decision-making and in the consultation process. Specific Métis traditional use information provided to Alberta also helps the government protect significant sites from development and builds a foundation for future consultation activities. Broad-based studies and project specific ones are benefiting MNA and Locales to exercise their rights and contribute to the practice of environmental stewardship.

The information and perspective on wildlife species that the Métis bring forward cannot be found in published science literature.

Learn more about the projects in your region's backyard and determine your role in environmental stewardship and TK work, I suggest that you call your region or Local leaders. Get involved and leave your legacy for generations to come.

The MNA’s actions on economic priorities and initiatives are opportunity driven, result focused and partnership based. We are preparing Métis individuals for sustainable, meaningful employment by supporting demand-driven skills development and fostering partnerships with the private sector, provinces and territories, while emphasizing increased accountability and concrete results. Even more important, the lives of Métis people are being improved, prospering from new opportunities every day.

Regional business mixers are a great way to involve the Métis business community, entrepreneurs and individuals looking for career direction or employment with industry members. Plan to attend the next one in your region today!

**Métis National Council Environment**

As one of the duties of MNA Minister for Environment and Water, I sit on the Métis National Council Environment committee who met in March 2012. The MNC reported on national and international activities, including updates with the National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk; Land Matters Group Steering Committee on National Energy Board, United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, Climate Change, Global Mercury, Canada’s proposed National Conservation Plan; Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, as well as the anticipated effects of the federal budget.

Meeting outcomes included recommendation that the MNC Board of Governors express Métis concerns to the federal government at the dismantling of the environmental review process without any form of consultation. Environment Canada and Fisheries and Ocean Canada have invited Métis to review the draft federal policy agreements.

The Committee expressed interest to work together in developing a more effective process in Traditional Land Use management, such as a common mapping mechanism that will be uniform across the Homeland while enhancing opportunities for continued practice of traditional uses and constitutionally protected rights.

This group meets once a year and plans to use an e-conferencing service to work on governance policy initiatives as well.

**North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance - NSWA**

North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) is a non-profit society whose purpose is to contribute to the protection of water quality, water supplies, ecosystem function and improved watershed health through the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders and interested individuals.

On June 20, 2012 the NSWA hosted their 12th Annual General Meeting in Nisku, AB. There were over 60 attendees at this very successful event. I am pleased to inform members that I will be representing the MNA as a Board of Director for a new two year term (2012-2014).

During the AGM, two milestone documents were released for the NSWA: the final Integrated Watershed Management Plan for the North Saskatchewan River in Alberta, along with the Atlas of the North Saskatchewan River Watershed in Alberta. Learn more: nswa.ab.ca

**Upcoming Events - This is your opportunity to get involved!**


**Update on the Final Recovery Strategy for Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population**

Environment Canada began the consultation period in August, 2011 and ended it on February, 2012. Consultation is a legal requirement under Canada’s Species at Risk Act.

Due to the high volume and nature of comments received regarding the proposed recovery strategy for the Woodland Caribou, Boreal population, and ongoing consultations with Aboriginal communities, which have included Métis, Environment Canada will post a delayed strategy later than they intended.
LICA's primary role is to work collaboratively with its stakeholders to ensure that industry development is managed responsibly, to facilitate each party's voice at the table when community, industry and government meet to discuss issues concerning our environment and resource development in the LICA geographic area. I have been involved with LICA for over three years, where I have held seats on the Board of Directors, Beaver River Watershed Alliance, Education and Information Committee and Airshed Zone, as the Métis Nation of Alberta Zone II representative.

**Beaver River Watershed Alliance - BRWA**
The Beaver River Watershed Alliance (BRWA) is an independent standing committee of LICA, which also incorporates the participation of individuals and organizations from the broader BRWA membership.

**Cumulative Environmental Management Association - CEMA**
CEMA is a multi-stakeholder society that is a key advisor to the provincial and federal governments committed to respectful, inclusive dialogue to make recommendations to manage the cumulative environmental effects of regional development on air, land, water and biodiversity. **CEMA currently has representation from Region I MNA and 7 Locals within the Wood Buffalo region.**

The Traditional Environmental Knowledge Advisory Committee (TEKAC) completed important projects this year, as well as holding a successful event for Aboriginal members of CEMA. The Bibliography Update of CEMA's TEK Research Database, in partnership with the Athabasca River Basin Research Institute at the Athabasca University, is complete.

**Community Advisory Board - Enbridge Northern Gateway Project**
Region II has been part of the Enbridge Northern Gateway CAB around its inception several years ago. I participate as an Alternate Board member and represent north eastern Alberta. There are 5 CAB’s along the route from several communities. CAB’s provide the opportunity for communities to discuss the proposed pipeline project. Once a year Enbridge brings all the CAB members together to meet and have discussions and provide learning opportunities.

I welcome your ideas and your involvement in all aspects of the tasks and responsibilities entailed in the environment & water portfolio: shirleybenson@sis.net.

Sincerely,

Shirley Benson
Minister of Environment & Water

"Habitat loss emerged as the most common threat to Canadian wildlife, underscoring that all species, not just our own, need a healthy home in order to thrive."

_**Conservation Strategy for Southern Mountain Caribou in Canada’s National Parks - Parks Canada**_
The Conservation Strategy for Southern Mountain Caribou in Canada’s National Parks will guide Parks Canada’s caribou conservation actions. Parks Canada is actively seeking feedback on this strategy to ensure that the best possible management decisions are being made in support of Southern Mountain caribou conservation.

_The MNA has been invited to participate in community sessions later this Fall in north east and north western Alberta to give members an opportunity to voice their concerns and contribute to the strategy; watch for notices in regional offices!_

The success of protecting this iconic species at risk depends on cooperation and efforts from many partners, including other governments, private sector, researchers and scientists, recreationists, and the public who join us in treasuring and protecting Canada’s National parks and threatened species.

_**Lakeland Industry & Community Association - LICA**_
Lakeland Industry & Community Association (LICA) is a not-for-profit society that is a multi-stakeholder partnership between community, industry and government. LICA is a member of Synergy Alberta, formed to support the efforts of community-based synergy groups across Alberta.
Ministry of Forestry and Lands

The MNA in the past several years has had a contract with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development to recruit and dispatch Crew members of both Type 1 and Type 2. This year in Region 5, we administered a Type 0 contract. A Type 0 contract is exercised as a starting point for most contractors starting out. From an Economic and Development standpoint, Region 5 has hired an affiliate Registered Forestry Technician, named Perm Seusihei. Perm has a contingency of several G.I.F. System, for mapping in Alberta. Perm has mentioned to me that he has 200,000 tree seedlings ready for Reforestation in the oil and gas sector in early July of this year 2012. Pipelines and Leases for both oil and gas sector.

The MNA in the past has never had a Portfolio holder to carry out Lands as part of a Portfolio. As part of my Portfolio, in Region 5 I have been working with the Trappers Mandate and exercising the Rights to Métis Trappers as a whole and exercising rights as a Métis person in general. After all the mandate was written in 1980, where oil and gas industry have never compensated Trappers for the most part in my region, as far as other Regions are I will start to comprise a list of other trappers in other Regions. As a Minister of Forestry and Lands, this would be key from both past and present to see how they were treated and how their livelihoods were changed and altered because of our ever so changing Global Economy.

In closing on June 6th 2012, I met with Ghostpine Environmental Services LTD. and G.C.L Contracting representatives’ in Central office. The affiliation of both parties involved will resonate what I have been striving for the MNA to work towards a Stewardship of Environmental job scope for each Region in the Province.

As Minister of Forestry and Lands, I will be striving to combine Forestry and Lands as a stewardship approach to stakeholders of both Government and Industry players of our Global autonomy or economy. One of the Pools that Alison Redford and PC constituents are consulting right now is Alberta Resource Stewardship. Community initiatives in this sector, will enhance the Regional communities own Stewardship Programming. It would be better coming from our council as a whole entire nation however.

In closing as Minister of Forestry and Lands the MNA needs to be the Aboriginal Stewardship that Government of both Provincial and Federal levels need to hear from and Ghostpine Environmental Services can provide that. Region 5 has started to let industry know about our Stewardship work already.

Darrell Ghostkeeper
Minister of Forestry and Lands

Ministry of Health and Wellness


The Action Plan will delineate the means by which the Ministry will respond to the needs of Métis children, families and communities in Alberta.

The Ministry recognizes that a number of programs sit on the parameters of a number of different Ministries, but also jurisdictions; therefore a commitment is required between this Ministry, the Ministry of Seniors, and the Minister of Child and Family Services and our provincial and federal partners to work together to ensure our families and communities are equipped with the tools necessary for a successful future; namely security, education and health.

The Ministry is committed to ensuring health and wellness programs incorporate the cultural and social realities of our Métis communities. To this end, this Ministry has a keen interest and enthusiasm in pursuing the development of a responsive, accessible healthcare service delivery model, like a Family Care Clinic (FCC) to support Métis communities with a focus on health promotion and chronic disease management. In acceptance of this, the Ministry acknowledges that it is paramount that new programs continue to be met in an effective and efficient manner, which does not compromise the successful implementation of the Métis Nation of Alberta’s mandate. To this end, the Ministry will work to implement a Health and Wellness policy to guide decisions and priorities relative to the sector; and (2) a Métis Health and Wellness Advisory Committee to oversee and prioritize health and wellness activities and ethical considerations for the community.

The year 2011-2012 has been monumental for the Ministry. Significant advancements have been made in regard to Métis health research and data collection; and program and service delivery. We have made a key contribution to Métis health data collection and research with the first evidence-based Métis population health report Health Status of the Métis Population of Alberta.

Further, we have begun to extend opportunities for partnership to Alberta Health Services to ensure health programs and services are accessible and relevant to the socio-economic realities of Métis Albertans. We have extended our capacity to provide relevant and culturally appropriate support to those affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) to children, families, child and family service providers and health practitioners by expanding the role of the Métis Resource worker to support the MNA Region 3 area.

To this end, we recognize these achievements have provided us with the opportunity to lay the foundation for fundamental changes to the way provincial and federal partners respond to
the needs of our Métis families and communities. The Ministry is committed to continue to work to ensure the betterment of our Métis children, families and communities and the overall wellbeing of the Métis Nation.

Marlene Lanz
Minister of Métis Health and Wellness

Accountability Statement
This Action Plan was prepared under my direction, taking into consideration the Métis Nation of Alberta’s Bylaws. All of the Ministry’s fiscal implications of which I am aware have been considered in preparing this Action Plan.

The Ministries priorities outlined were developed in the context of the Métis Nation of Alberta’s Strategic Plan and fiscal plans.

I am committed to addressing the steps laid out in this Action Plan by entering into cross-ministerial planning wherever appropriate.

Origins and Actions
Healthy Families, Strong Communities, Promising Opportunities: 2012-2015 Action Plan, will delineate the means by which the Ministry of Métis Health and Wellness will respond to the needs of Métis children, families and communities in Alberta. The Action Plan will provide a clear framework for Métis Nation of Alberta decision makers, program coordinators, and community and government partners to pursue appropriate initiatives to safeguard the health and wellbeing of Métis Albertans including:

• Community Engagement & Awareness Promotion
• Stakeholder Engagement
• Métis Health Research, Data Collection and Analysis
• Programs and Services

The Ministry of Métis Health and Wellness: an overview
Partners
The Ministry of Métis Health and Wellness works collaboratively with a broad range of partners including:

• Métis Nation of Alberta Provincial and Regional Councils
• Métis Nation of Alberta Ministries
• Métis Nation of Alberta administrative departments
• Academia, industry and business sectors

For budget reporting purposes, the Ministry consists of the following reporting entities:

• Métis Provincial FASD - Provincial - Child and Family Service Authority
• Edmonton Fetal Alcohol Network - Provincial
• CFSA 6 and CFSA 7 Métis Resource - Provincial - Child and Family Service Authority
• Métis Public Health Surveillance Program – Federal, Public Health Agency of Canada
• Métis Public Health Surveillance Program – Provincial, Alberta Health and Wellness
• Services to Children and Family, Provincial - Ministry of Human Services

It is my intention as the Minister responsible to continue to seek other Health and Wellness programs and services that will support and enable us to continue being ‘a strong Métis Nation embracing Métis rights’.

Moving Forward
The Ministry of Health and Wellness’ approach builds upon the conceptualization that health is a community priority with interventions premised on a unified plan based on community input. Therefore, a formalized framework to guide health and wellness decisions including, a clearly defined policy, mission and goals is necessary.

Policy
A policy premised on the goal of supporting and improving the overall health and wellbeing of Métis Albertans will enable MNA decision makers to have stewardship over health and wellness outcomes for our families and communities. Moreover, it will allow us to make decisive recommendations to government partners, service providers and educators on guiding principles; and provide a framework for ongoing assessment of the relevance health and wellness programs and services.

Mission
Predicated on the principles of fairness, equality and inclusiveness, the Mission of the Ministry of Métis Health and Wellness is to provide culturally appropriate, self-directed health and wellness opportunities to address the mental, physical, emotional, and social requirements of Métis individuals, families and communities.

Goal
The goal of the Ministry is to work to support and improve the overall health and wellbeing of Métis families, and communities in Alberta.
Greetings! Firstly, I would like to introduce myself, my name is Joseph (Joe) Pimlott and I am the Vice President of Region 3 and the new Minister of Justice. I live in Calgary and have for the past 25 years. This is my first term in office and I am quite excited and proud to be able to serve the Métis people of Alberta as the Regional representative and Justice Minister.

I believe that we need a strong Justice Ministry in the MNA. Having multiple arms and areas of expertise is the key to a successful Métis Nation. It is imperative that we have a voice in all areas of the Justice Realm. From a local level to working with all parts of the Provincial and Federal Government, but also our Métis issues we are battling, and I plan to work hard with the other Ministers to get results.

Since my inception as Minister I have begun to establish and integrate myself into society. I have had the Honor of travelling to Saskatoon to be a part of the Métis Residential Schools Conference with some of our delegates and survivors. It was one of the most moving experiences I will never forget.

I am also working with the Alberta Restorative Justice Committee to produce a Justice Conference in Calgary in the coming months.

I am also working with multiple committees to battle homelessness in our Province and look forward to more endeavours that I can contribute to for the Métis Nation.

I believe that when we take on these portfolios, we also take on the hopes and dreams of our Métis Nation. I am honoured to be Minister of Justice and will do my best to work for the Métis people of Alberta.

Joseph Pimlott
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Métis Rights and Registry

Métis Rights Update

In June 2011 the Alberta Court of Queen’s Bench heard our Appeal in our Métis harvesting test case – R. v. Hirsekorn. The decision was handed down by Judge Ted Fisher on December 1, 2011 wherein Mr. Hirsekorn was convicted for hunting without a licence near Cypress Hills. While we were disappointed with this decision, we always knew this was a ‘test case’ and it would be an uphill battle as we pursued our hunt for justice.

In January 2012, the Alberta Court of Appeal agreed to hear our appeal. Since January 2012, our lawyers – Jean Teillet and Jason Madden – have been working to prepare our appeal. In May 2012, several groups, including, the Métis National Council, the Blood Tribe and Siksika Nation applied to the Court and received Intervener status.

Our lawyers have now completed their written arguments. For those that are interested, you can obtain a copy of the written arguments which are available at www.albertametis.com.

We expect to have an exact date for the hearing of our appeal very soon. Given the fact that Alberta and the Interveners still need to file their written arguments, it is likely we will not have a hearing of our appeal until January or February 2013.

While our Métis harvesting rights appeal is ongoing, the “parking lot” of Métis harvesting rights cases at Sherwood Park Provincial Court continues to be adjourned pending the outcome of the appeal.

In addition to our harvesting rights case, we are eagerly awaiting a decision from the Supreme Court of Canada in the Manitoba Métis Federation Land Claim Case. As you know, the MNA intervened in this case before the Supreme Court and stressed the need for Métis land rights to finally be dealt with. It is likely this decision will be handed down in the Fall of 2012, and we will keep all members updated.

For those who can, please consider making a donation to support our fight for Métis rights. Donation cheques made payable to the “MNA Harvesters Defence Fund” can be mailed to the MNA Head Office at 100, 11738 Kingsway Ave, Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5. As well, donations can be made on-line at www.albertametis.com.

Registry Update

2012 marks the eighth (8th) year the Métis Nation of Alberta Registry Department has been in operation. Our Registry continues to build improvements in processes, capacity building and tools to ensure that we are capturing statistical information regarding the citizens of our great Nation. The Registry is now creating partnerships with other MNA departments in statistical data gathering, specifically in the areas of Health and Wellness and Services to Children and Families.

Under my direction, the Métis Nation of Alberta continues delivering a central registry for granting membership that was started in 1991 – the same year that we proclaimed ourselves a Nation and changed our name from the Métis Association of Alberta to the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Our Métis definition has undergone several changes since we established a central registry. Additionally, the processing of granting membership cards has also gone through major changes, especially since 2004.

Prior to 1991, the Métis Association of Alberta utilized a broad definition: A Métis is an aboriginal person who:

- Declares himself/herself to be a Métis person and
- Can produce satisfactory historical or acceptable legal proof that he/she is a Métis, or
- Has traditionally held himself/herself out to be Métis; and
- Is accepted by the Métis community as a Métis

Two types of memberships were issued mainly through Métis Locals:

- Lifetime Member – as per the foregoing definition, and
- Honourary Member - means any person appointed by the Board as a Honourary Member who shall not be entitled to vote at any meetings of the Local and shall not be required to pay any membership fees.

In 1996 the definition changed as follows:

“Métis” means an Aboriginal person who self-identifies as Métis, who is distinct from Indian, and Inuit and is a descendant of those Métis who received or were entitled to receive land grants and/or Scrip under the provisions of the Manitoba Act 1870, or the dominion Lands Act, as enacted from time to time and a person of Aboriginal descent who is accepted by the Local Community as a Métis person.

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 or community records.

The 1996 Bylaws allowed three types of Membership:

- Lifetime Member – a Métis who has received membership in the Métis Nation; or a Métis Child who has received membership;
- Associate Member - any non-Métis spouse including a common law spouse, of a Métis Lifetime member; or any Non-Métis dependent of a Métis Lifetime member
- Honourary Member - any person appointed by the Provincial Council of the Métis Nation as a Honourary Member.
The membership office was mandated to issue membership cards containing the following particulars of each person:

- the full name
- the date on which the person is admitted as a member;
- the type of membership

In spite of this bylaw requirement, “the type of membership” was never noted on the membership card prior to issuance. The same Red and White laminated Membership and ID card was used for any type membership with no distinction. Today this has resulted potentially in membership cards being issued to individuals who were Associate Members or Honourary Members with no proof of their Métis ancestry.

In 2003, the current definition of Métis which is based on the National Definition of Métis was adopted.

“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.

A Métis must provide historical proof of his or her status as Métis.

**Historical Proof**

Evidence of an ancestor who received a land grant or a scrip grant under the Manitoba Act or the Dominion Lands Act, or who was recognized as a Métis in other government, church or community records

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

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.

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

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

There is now only one type of membership – Lifetime Member. This membership is issued only after the applicant has proven their Métis ancestry through verified and thoroughly researched genealogy.

Improvements continue to be made to the Métis Nation Registry operations based on the following ten (10) recommendations made by the Institute on Governance.

1. That the MNA leadership establishes the roles and responsibilities of the registrar in its bylaws.

**Action Taken**

There was an attempt made to include the definition of the Registrar in the Bylaws with a special resolution, but it was defeated. This recommendation remains outstanding.

2. That the MNA central registry, together with the Office of the Federal Interlocutor establish a means to capture whether or not applicants are Canadian citizens.

**Action Taken**

Application forms are designed to capture this information. At the time of application, the applicant must identify whether or not they are a Canadian citizen. In the cases where the applicant is born abroad, they are required to provide a Certificate of Canadian Citizenship as part of the application process.

3. That the MNA adopt a plan to phase out the red-and-white laminated cards completely as soon as possible.

**Action Taken**

In addition to the Special Assembly convened to deal with this matter where the delegates defeated the special resolution which would have addressed this matter, every individual who had not voluntarily contacted the MNA Registry to update their files was sent a letter. A total of 23,599 letters were sent out to these individuals. 2,037 individuals (8.6%) contacted the Registry to update their files, 8,447 letters (35.5%) were returned unclaimed and the remaining 3,315 (55.9%) have not responded. This project, which cost $14,041.41 in postage costs alone, generated dismal results; still these 21,762 individuals continue to be on our Election Voters list with full membership rights.

4. That the MNA make sustained attempts to identify how its registry could be enlisted to serve further future purposes.

**Action Taken**

The Registrar and staff are looking at continuous ways to diversify the information that is collected through the Registry process to better meet the needs of Métis people in Canada. This fiscal year, it has expanded its role to gather data and exchange data in the areas of Health and Wellness and Children's Services.

5. The MNA leadership together with the registrar initiates a system of periodic review and revision of the registration process.

**No Action Taken**

Although no process has been developed that will enable the MNA leadership to review the registration process, the Provincial Council is updated on the Registry each time they request that it be placed on the Provincial Council meeting agenda.

6. That the MNA registry adjusts its application processing policy to require applicants to submit all supporting documents before it will certify their genealogies.

**Action Taken**

Policy 007 – Family Tree Verification Policy was approved by Provincial Council. This
recommendation affects 13,762 files which were approved prior to this policy taking affect.

7. That the MNA registrar, in consultation with the MNA leadership and the Office of the Federal Interlocutor draft and implement a plan to address files that lack supporting documentation linking the member to the initial Métis ancestor.

**Action Taken**
A review of the 13,762 completed files has commenced and will be conducted over the next three fiscal years.

8. That the MNA leadership establish in writing the community acceptance process that now exists in practice.

**Action Taken**
Policy 008 – Métis Nation Acceptance Policy was developed and approved by Provincial Council. The department has implemented this policy.

9. That the MNA makes sustained attempts to diversify the funding base for the registry.

**Action Taken**
The Federal Government is now core funding the Operation and Maintenance of the MNA Registry.

10. That the MNA registry, in cooperation with its leadership make the existing membership appeals mechanism more accessible to unsuccessful applicants.

**Action Taken**
Last fiscal year, the Métis Judiciary Council was officially invited to review the registration process and to work with the Métis Nation Registry to develop a membership appeals process. Although this invitation still stands, there has been no response from the MJC regarding this request.

### Year-to-date statistical results to the 31st of March 2012

| Total number of applications received | 28,566 |
| New applications received | 16,774 |
| Update applications received | 11,792 |
| Number of applications completed | 21,265 |
| Number of applications in progress | 587 |
| Number of applications incomplete | 66 |
| Number of applications denied | 5,778 |
| Number of Métis ID cards issued | 18,268 |

Cecil Bellrose

Minister of Métis Rights and Registry

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Ministry of Seniors

Tansi! Elders, Youth, Dignitaries, Ladies and Gentlemen I am pleased to present this annual report as the Minister of Seniors.

Region 1 has been hosting workshops through the Alberta Seniors Assistance Program making our seniors aware of the following programs available throughout Alberta:

**The Alberta Seniors Benefit Program**
Which provides monthly cash benefits to more than 140,000 low-income seniors across the province.

**The Special Needs Assistance for Seniors Program**
Which provides lump-sum cash payments to eligible low-income seniors to assist with allowable one-time or extraordinary expenses.

**The Dental and Optical Programs**
Which provides dental coverage and assistance with prescription eyeglasses for approximately 210,000 seniors.

**The Education Property Tax Assistance Program**
Which provides an annual rebate to senior homeowners in Alberta to cover annual increases in the education portion of their property tax.

North Eastern Alberta’s representative for this program is Mary Jane Tkachyk, and she has been doing workshops for the Region on a regular basis. Region 1 has also been able to help her do workshops with the different communities in the Region. Mary-Jane has taught Anita Hardwick our Office Administrator and I, on how to help our seniors fill out different applications and make them aware of the many different benefits available to them. One question we always ask our seniors when they are attending any kind of appointments, is someone going with you for moral support?

Some things I would like to see throughout the province are:

- Diabetic Awareness Programs;
- Alberta Health and Wellness will work in partnership with Aboriginal organizations and other key stakeholders to develop and implement a diabetes screening program for Aboriginal populations living off reserve;
- Sitting down and talking to FCSS Family and Community Support Services to see what they do for our seniors and maybe partnering with them;
- Contact Mental Health Services to find appropriate support for Seniors healthy cooking for themselves and smaller meals, foot care, living accommodations,
and other workshops on how to deal with the many issues that our seniors are facing in today’s society;
- Things you need to know when you are 64;
- Engaging with the Minister of Culture and the Minister of Health and Wellness, so we can work together to develop and deliver programs;
- Engaging our elders as facilitators in youth camps and programs, such as the very successful Youth Camp that was held in Region 1;
- Child and Family Services Kinship homes, Kookum and Mooshum caring for their grandchildren seminars and workshops;
- Friday luncheons in each Region;
- Elder Abuse: What is elder abuse? Who to contact? And when to report it.

Elder Abuse is one of the most distressing and growing issues that is facing today’s seniors. Elder abuse has devastating consequences. It jeopardizes the health and well-being of seniors and has significant implications for the health, social support and justice systems. The first step in addressing elder abuse is prevention. Educating Albertans about how to recognize elder abuse and what to do about it are important first steps to stopping its occurrence. The Government of Alberta, in collaboration with community partners and all Albertans, need to work together to accomplish this.

There are several grants available for Seniors programs and workshops through the Federal Government, one of which that has been applied for is the New Horizons for Seniors Program. This program provides three types of funding to non-profit organizations:
- Capital Assistance Funding: Supports upgrading community facilities and equipment related to existing programs and activities for seniors.
- Elder Abuse Awareness Funding: Supports projects that raise awareness of elder abuse.
- Community Participation and Leadership Funding: Encourages seniors to contribute to their communities by sharing their skills, wisdom and experience, and helps to reduce isolation.

As we look forward to our futures, it is important that we all take a minute to respect and learn about where we have come from. I encourage everyone to take some time out of our busy lives, and sit down with a senior, listen to their stories, and learn from them. The knowledge that you will learn is priceless, and the interaction for the senior is precious.

Thank You
Diane Scoville
Minister of Seniors

Ministry of Veterans

The MNA continues to work closely with our Veterans and play a role of advocacy on their behalf. Our Veterans have put their lives at risk, not only for the Métis People, but for all Canadians.

John McDonald of Aboriginal Veterans Society of Alberta said there are approximately 20-25 Métis Veterans in Alberta according to their records. Unfortunately, only 2 – 3 members are still active in the organization and it is difficult to get an up-to-date membership list. Because there are so few Métis Veterans, no special ceremonies are held here in Edmonton. Any local Veterans will sometimes take part in the ceremony that is held each year at the Butterdome. For the past couple of years it has been suggested that the Veterans take part in ceremonies in their own communities.

In July 2011, Métis Veterans from across Canada, many in their 80s and 90s who served in the Korean War and WWII were awarded the Order of the Métis Nation at ‘Back to Batoche’. As well, this award was also presented to Chuck Strahl, former Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

On December 12, 2011 Métis Veterans who served during the Korean War were honored in Ottawa at a special commemorative luncheon. The Veterans were presented with a plaque that reads: The Métis Nation is pleased to extend special recognition and appreciation for your dedicated service in protecting Canada and the World. On this, the Decade of the Métis Nation, we pay tribute to our Métis Veterans. We reflect upon Louis Riel’s vision for the Métis Nation and your honourable sacrifice as being one and the same in building a solid foundation for future Métis generations. ’It was your duty to fight – it is our duty to never forget’.

On December 6, 2011, Lloyd Joseph Poitras lost his battle with cancer. He was a WWII Veteran having served with the Calgary Highlanders Infantry 2nd Division #5 Platoon A Company from 1941 – 1945 in England, France, Belgium, Holland & Germany and was discharged in 1946.

On another sad note, we also lost Veteran Elzear (“Punchy”) Whitehead, on April 6, 2012. He served with the Calgary Highlanders Infantry 2nd Division #5 Platoon A Company from 1941 – 1945 in England, France, Belgium, Holland & Germany and was discharged in 1946.

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On another sad note, we also lost Veteran Elzear (“Punchy”) Whitehead, on April 6, 2012. He served as a paratrooper during the Korean Conflict, and has attained 13 boxing trophies, while serving in the armed forces.

The service and dedication of our Veterans will always be cherished and remembered. Let us always keep them in our hearts, as we move the Nation forward.

Once again this year the Armed Forces ‘Bold Eagle’ program is available. This is a summer employment program for Aboriginal youth who are interested in a career with the Canadian Forces. For information on the Bold Eagle program, please contact your regional office.

Access Pipeline is sponsoring the Veterans and Elders’ Lounge at the AGA with a donation of $5,000.00.

Wally Sinclair and Don Turcotte are organizing the Veterans Section of the Grand Entry at the AGA 2012.

William Landstrom
Minister of Veterans
Métis Urban Housing Corporation 
Métis Capital Housing Corporation

• Both the Métis Urban Housing Corporation (MUHC) and Métis Capital Housing Corporation (MCHC) see another successful year.
• The Board of Directors for MUHC are also the Board of Directors for MCHC.

MUHC
• Established November 26, 1982 (30 years)
• Has 652 units in 14 urban centres, under the Urban Native Housing Program funded by the Federal Government.

MCHC
• Established September 8, 2008; began operations 2009 (3 years)
• Has 211 units in 3 locations, and has various housing availability and funding partners.

1. Métis Urban Housing Corporation

Urban Aboriginal Housing Program
This is the only program that is available under MUHC. This program provides rent based on income (RGI) at 25% of total household income. Includes a fixed utility charge. CNIT levels apply to this program. This is the CMHC Funded Program.
Slave Lake
MUHC has successfully achieved the funding required to rebuild the three units lost in Slave Lake fires. The units are expected to be complete and ready for occupancy in August/September 2012.

2. Métis Capital Housing Corporation

Nihgi Métis Senior Lodge
This 40 unit lodge is located in Edmonton and provides supportive living accommodation to seniors who want to live in an apartment style facility, however require additional medical support services, meals, laundry and cleaning services.

MNA Homeownership Program
MCHC has taken on the delivery of the Homeownership / Home repair program funding from the MNA. The staffing position was also moved under the MCHC authority. This program provides down payment assistance to qualified buyers.

MNA Homeownership Program
Future homeowners!
Habitat Homeownership Program

This partnership arrangement established in 2011 provides 5 units for homeownership via the Habitat model:

1. MCHC retained ownership of units with a leasehold to Habitat
2. Five units committed, two new construction and three renovations
3. MCHC makes the referrals, however open to non-tenants
4. Option to cancel
5. Saving account for families with low income: $32,000-54,000
6. CMHC video being promoted on a National level

Métis Capital Housing Units

MCHC delivers its own Affordable Housing Program through units that are solely owned by the corporation. Provide rental accommodation at rates set to be at a minimum 20% less than market along with a fixed utility charge. Approximately 160 units in Edmonton and Calgary: these are units that transferred to MCHC from MUHC. All renovated costing an average of $30,000 – $35,000 each (windows, flooring, furnace, HWT, lighting fixtures, doors, cabinets and paint). Interiors completed first with intent to complete the exteriors later. Cost for renovations covered by sales.

The Cornerstone Project - Voyager Manor

This project was completed in September 2010 and is fully rented. This is an affordable housing project in partnership with the City of Edmonton that provided approval of approximately $2.5 million in assistance to purchase land and construct a 4plex, which resulted in 12 rentable units.

Medicine Hat Seniors Project

This project has been completed with the purchase of a duplex. MCHC assumed ownership Oct 28, 2011. This is a partnership with Service Canada who contributed the funding of $252,744 to purchase and the remainder contributed by MCHC. The cost was $271,000 and additional cost to complete some minor upgrades.

Unit under renovation for Habitat Program

Métis Nation of Alberta 2011-2012 Annual Report
BRAC Project

This initiative has been over three years in the making. It is a partnership with the City of Edmonton as an effort to revitalize the Boyle/McCauley area located in the inner city. This 90 unit project is inclusive of 60 seniors units and 30 units for persons with disabilities. Funding is being provided by the City, the Province, the Federal Government and by MCHC. The Holmes Group has been secured as the consultants on the project. The process has begun and completion is scheduled early in 2013.

Some distinctive features:

1. Boyle Renaissance Project: $22 million to build
2. 90 Seniors and Handicap units: one and two bedroom
3. Partnership: City of Edmonton, Province, Federal Government, and Disabilities Association for an advisory role on adaptability units and referrals for tenants
4. Inner City along 95 street and 104 avenue
5. Site includes 8 lots that will fall under the ownership of MCHC
6. Holmes Group hired to consult
7. Design/Build team has been selected, completed approval of suite plans
8. Co-gen system with ownership potential for MCHC
9. In-suite automation (ie: Front door camera, lighting control, motion sensors automated door lock, moisture detectors)
Let’s do it Right!

Mike Holmes, celebrity and Canada’s favorite contractor, came on board as consultant and inspector for the BRAC project. Let’s do it Right!
Affordable housing continues to be in high demand. MUHC/MCHC are actively and assertively engaged in efforts to access additional dollars and programs. We look at housing as an investment and a benefit to the economic scale to determine the overall cost of not providing short and long term solutions. With that in mind, MUHC/MCHC is establishing partnerships to address and assist families with the challenge of improving and providing affordable, adequate and sustainable social supports for continued and successful tenancy.

MUHC/MCHC Management and Board welcome these opportunities and challenges. We embrace, with confidence, the challenge of improving and providing affordable, adequate and sustainable housing to our community.

Housing statistics

MUHC
Housing Total of 2201 people
Single Head of Household make up 85% of total units and are 83% female
by Age 0-17 make up 57% of total occupants
by Age 18-55 make up 34% of total occupants
by Age 55+ make up 9% of total occupants

MCHC
Housing Total of 395 people
Single Head of Household make up 60% of total units and are 59% female
by Age 0-17 make up 51% of total occupants
by Age 18-55 make up 33% of total occupants
by Age 55+ make up 16% of total occupants

MUHC and MCHC together currently house 2596 people (including spouses and children)

Métis Urban Units are for the most part single female parents with children under the age of 17. Métis Capital is also for the most part single female parents; however there are more adults than children. There are a larger number of seniors in the Métis Capital units in comparison to Métis Urban as at age 55 most are still working.

MUHC/MCHC Management and Board welcome these opportunities and challenges. We embrace, with confidence, the challenge of improving and providing affordable, adequate and sustainable housing to our community.

History

Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. (AMDI) was created in 1984 under a Federal Government contribution agreement with Native Economic Development Program, an initiative promoted by Industry, Science and Technology. The total committed funds for the creation of AMDI was $8,800,000.

In 1988 AMDI commenced operations by providing commercial financial services and business management advisory services to Métis Entrepreneurs throughout Alberta. Under the original Federal Government Contribution Agreement, $880,000 was expended on the initial start-up costs while the capital pool of $8,000,000 was disbursed in stages.

AMDI has lent out over $50MM since 1988 and helped in the creation of over 800 Métis owned businesses throughout the Province of Alberta, while maintaining our capital base of $8M. Our success is largely due to our clients who have successfully capitalized on their opportunities. And, we know we have succeeded when many of our clients transfer their loans to banks or credit unions. The purpose of AMDI is to help Métis Entrepreneurs start or expand their business ideas and it is our hope that our clients, past and present, pass on their experience and ideas and it is our hope that our clients, past and present, pass on their experience and ideas so that many of these opportunities to translate into new projects for the 2012-13 fiscal. Delinquency remains constant year over year with approximately $48,816 of our Loans Division Portfolio considered doubtful.

Other Investments

Métis Entrepreneurship Fund Inc.
In conjunction with the Métis National Council, the 3 Métis Capital Corporations in Western Canada and the Federal Government have established a loan pool that will be shared between Louis Riel Capital Corporation (Manitoba), Sask Métis Economic Development Corporation (Saskatchewan), and Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Corporation (Alberta) on a project by project basis. The purpose of the loan pool is to enhance each of the 3 Métis Capital Corporations lending capacity to be able to consider loan sizes in excess of current loan limits. We have established and incorporated the entity, its Board, and its by-laws. While we have not yet utilized the facility, Apeetogosan is currently evaluating 3 project proposals that will allow us to take on transactions each in excess of $1M. The benefit of the Métis Entrepreneurship Fund (MEF) is that we can now consider
participating in projects of this size by using our own loan fund capital in conjunction with MEF, whereas before, we could only consider projects up to $400,000. So, our hope is to take advantage of the available loan capital that MEF provides so that we can participate with the more established Métis entrepreneurs who are taking on larger opportunities.

Alternative Service Delivery
For over 20 years, Apeetogosan has provided external delivery services to Aboriginal Business Canada’s business development program. As part of INAC’s new Aboriginal Economic Development Framework, one initiative is to increase the delivery capacity of its external partners. AMDI has served as a key delivery arm to ABC INAC with demonstrated success. Currently, we are working with INAC in an effort to qualify as an Alternative Service Delivery partner for INAC’s Business Development Program. It means doing the same work as we have always done with INAC, but, with significantly more autonomy, thus enhancing further our single window, or one-stop-shop business model.

National Aboriginal Capital Corporation Association (NACCA)
As a member of NACCA, Apeetogosan shares similar financial constraints that other Aboriginal Financial Institutions confront across Canada. The current interest rate environment and the high cost of developmental lending will have the effect of, over time, eroding our lending capital. In an effort to mitigate the cost of operating in this low interest rate environment, AMDI has been working with NACCA in developing an incentive and performance based framework for government provided compensation for higher risk lending. The project is now in the design and implementation stage and the sustainability working group comprising 5 General Managers from across Canada have been working with NACCA in developing an implementation framework. The project concept has essentially been accepted by the Federal government where we are now focusing on procedures and processes that will support a performance based program that partially offsets the cost of risk to AFIs associated with developmental lending. We expect that this initiative becomes part of INAC’s overall Program Renewal process.

Pinnacle Business Services Ltd.
Pinnacle provides applicants an opportunity to access government programs available through Aboriginal Business Canada as well as loan financing from AMDI by assisting the client in developing their business opportunity into a plan of action. The primary role of the Pinnacle business consultant is to assist clients in assessing their opportunities, including identifying areas of weakness and exposure to risk and what may be required of clients to mitigate such risk. To this end, Pinnacle Business Services assists clients in evaluating whether their business opportunities have a reasonable chance of becoming successful small business ventures.

The follow-up work to assessing an opportunity is developing a plan of execution that demonstrates the opportunity and its implementation. Pinnacle assists clients in formulating their opportunity and implementation plans by helping the client develop a well prepared business plan. The business plan becomes the presentation document to financiers that demonstrates the integrity of the client’s proposal that includes an assessment on commercial viability, capital cost and financing requirements, and the client’s ability to competitively deliver the product or service under consideration.

During the year under review, Pinnacle Business Services Ltd. assisted in the development of 21 business plans for clients, 15 of which attracted commercial financing from AMDI while the remaining 6 leveraged commercial financing from other banks or financial institutions.

Aftercare is another component of services that Pinnacle provides, ensuring that clients have the appropriate accounting and bookkeeping systems in place, adequate training, and appropriate internal controls. During the year under review, Pinnacle Business Services Ltd. provided after-care services to 33 clients.

External Delivery Officer
The External Delivery Office (XDO) to Aboriginal Business Canada is an arrangement we have had with the Federal government for over 14 years. Since inception, our XDO has delivered over $9M in contributions to Métis clients comprising equity assistance for business planning, aftercare, and equity towards the capital costs associated with starting or expanding their businesses.

For the 2011-12 fiscal, our XDO completed 12 commercial/business plan/aftercare project authorizations with a total committed dollar amount of $654,000 averaging approximately $54,000 in non-repayable contributions to Métis entrepreneurs. AMDI participates as much as it can with Aboriginal Business Canada’s Contribution program as program criteria have become more inclusive in terms of eligibility. Looking forward to 2012-13, however, our XDO has already identified work-in-progress of $606,000. Accordingly, we look forward to continuing this relationship and expanding our activities by aggressively marketing the opportunities that the ABC program provides. If you would like to learn more about what products and services the ABC Program offers, I encourage you to contact our office.

Closing Remarks
It was, overall, a good year for AMDI with continued loan growth and positive net earnings. AMDI, as well as clients appear to be capitalizing on renewed growth in both the oil and gas and construction industries.

While the economy continues to recover, we have developed new Program initiatives with other Métis capital corporations and the Federal government such as the Métis Entrepreneurs Fund, and performance Based Allocation Programming. These initiatives will serve to enhance and compliment AMDI’s long-term growth initiative, providing further support to Métis entrepreneurs seeking self sufficiency.

The staff of AMDI continues to work very well together and have established a very efficient office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their hard work this past year, for Mr. Ivy’s leadership and management of the corporation, and the Board of Directors for their commitment and numerous contributions to ensuring AMDI continues to play a role in the growth of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Tom Ghostkeeper
Chair
As in past, the Alberta Métis Historical Society continues to work closely with Victoria Landing Developments Ltd. to deliver youth programming at our Métis Crossing site near Smoky Lake Alberta. The objective of the youth programming is to create awareness and to promote retention of our Métis culture and history in a fun and stimulating learning environment.

Participation in National Aboriginal Day/Family Day Picnic at Métis Crossing was undertaken. Attendance at the 83rd Métis Nation Annual Assembly in order to provide information on Alberta Métis Historical Society activities.

Work was completed on the Aboriginal Youth Mentoring Program in Region 3 that researched and manufactured replica Métis clothing for future use as a lending resource for the Métis Nation and its affiliates. This collection has been donated to Métis Crossing and will enhance the ability of the Métis Nation to portray its history at various cultural events held throughout Alberta. One such event was the Historic Fashion show at the MNA Annual Assembly in Grande Prairie.

The Métis Nation of Alberta Cultural Exhibit, which was developed in 2000-2001, continues to be located at Métis Crossing and forms part of the cultural exhibit there for the next few years until a permanent museum is built. The trailer unit originally used to house the exhibit was donated to Métis Crossing in 2009 for use in programming at the Crossing.

During 2011-2012, Alberta Métis Historical Society participated in various fundraising events associated with Culture, History and Youth and registration was provided for Métis youth to attend the Dreamspeakers Festival Society Youth Day.

James Atkinson
President

Cree Productions (1992) Ltd. was initiated to acquire, develop, redevelop and publish learning resources about Métis people intended for all students in Alberta schools. This was made possible through the purchase of the Dr. Anne Anderson Heritage and Cultural Centre and the rights to all the centre’s materials.

Cree Productions has been very active and has over 80 copyrighted resources. The most noteworthy publications are the Dr. Anne Anderson Cree/English resources, which include a Cree dictionary.

In 1997, the Métis Nation of Alberta, in partnership with Alberta Learning, redeveloped and published 15 beginner Cree/English books. These beginner Cree/English books are available through the Métis Nation of Alberta. All the learning resources have received authorization from Alberta Learning and may be implemented into curricula as approved basic resources for all schools in the province.

In 2008-09, Cree Productions added a display case at the MNA Head Office to showcase Cree Productions wares. In 2011-12 MNA staff continues to manage the business and attended a number of events to market items.

Dr. Anne Anderson Titles:
- Pet Beaver and Other Stories
- Cree Symbols
- Understanding Syllabic Symbols
- Beginner’s Dictionary
- Let’s Learn Cree
- Our Home
- WAPI
- Numbers 1 to 20 in Cree
- Numbers 1 to 1,000 in Cree
- Wild Animals in Cree
- Animals in Cree
- Insects and Spiders in Cree
- Plants in Cree
- Birds in Cree
- Opposites in Cree
- Little Hunter

Additional Titles:
- A New Nation (The First Métis)
- Métis Land Rights in Alberta
- Dr. Anne on Patience, Wisdom and Love

Affiliates
Métis Crossing

Submitted by: Corrine Card, Executive Director, Métis Crossing

Introduction

Our sixth season of operations started on May 21st, and we closed on September 5th, 2011 for the season. It was a very tense and stressful season. We did open in March this year to put on a youth camp. The Métis Youth Cultural Camp was held from March 26th to the 28th, 2011. This Métis Youth Cultural Camp consisted of outdoor survival training/animal tracks/plant identification, storytelling, bannock making, heading, crafts. We also rented out the site for a Youth Camp March 12 & 13 2011 for 30 Youth. We also hosted the CCAY Youth selection committee meetings for 3 days in February.

Brenda from Mahikan Trails was here for a week in May to do staff training. The zip line training was done by Dryden Card again this year. Hardwire Games was here in June to do the annual zip line inspection. Dryden and his zip line guides did a lot of the work that needed done by the inspection saving us thousands of dollars. Because of the inspectors trust in Métis Crossing and Dryden they agreed to let us carry out the work instead of them doing it, thus saving Métis Crossing a lot of money.

The weather caused us a lot of grief this year. We lost business due to all the rain as well as high winds.

I had applied for funding for two programs to run at the Crossing this summer. One was through CCAY and the other was through ALI. We never got the funding for either by the end of the season.

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Facilities and programs

For the season included the following:

- Historic Village
- Barn interpretive centre
- Barn meeting area
- RV Campground
- Picnic area
- Horseshoe pits
- Gift shop
- Outdoor stage
- Playground
- River’s Edge Nature Trail with interpretive signage
- Visitor services (washrooms, parking lots, showerhouse)
- Zip Lines
- Farm Machinery Display
- 2 Restored Homesteads

The programming included the Historic Village, Homesteads, and Barn and Nature tours with traditionally dressed interpreters to lead the tours and interact with visitors. The Historic Village was complete with three trapper’s tents, fully decorated with traditional props. We lost both our tips in the wind storms last year so they were not up this year. One was completely shredded, the other needs major repairs.

Staffing

Not having a Youth Program Coordinator all season was a real challenge. The Interpreters and Zip Line Guides all started in May for their training but all the staff started later than usual. The staff was also let go earlier and I finished the balance of close-up duties myself.

Staffing again was an issue. It is so hard to get Métis Staff as there isn’t much for local Métis so has to hire from a distance. Then we had to let go early and I finished the balance of close-up duties myself.

The Interpreters and Zip Line Guides were responsible for grass cutting and trimming of the site. All Staff and Management worked weekends.

Daily Operations

We were open everyday 11:00 am to 6:00 pm daily for the season. There were quite a few days that I sent all the staff home and stayed by myself because of the bad weather.

Tours were given as required not at scheduled times. Zip Line rides were also handled as required. When Staff was not working with customers they were working on site maintenance.

We always have on 2 Zip Line Guides every day in order to operate the zip line.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays you could get away with just 1 Interpreter. Other days we had 2 or 3, depending on the day and bookings.

The Gift Shop was handled by an Interpreter, or by myself.

Daily tracking was done in the gift shop for daily visitation, camping and zip lining.

We reviewed and increased some of our pricing. Camping and zip line fees stayed the same.

Regular site admission for the season was increased as follows:

- Family: $15
- Adult: $7
- Youth/Elder: $4
- 6 & Under: Free

Visitation

Our sixth season of operation was not nearly as busy as the previous year. Total visitation was down by 1327 guests from last year. Regular daily visitation was down by 56 guests. Our special event totals are down for all 3 events.

Weather and the abundance of other events in the area at the same time definitely played a factor in our numbers for both regular visitation and special events being down. The decrease in our 3 special event numbers hurt us the most. Losing 6 school bookings because of the rain definitely hurt our regular visitor’s totals. There were again more days this year that we could not operate the zip line.

We had 12 School/ Youth groups visit Métis Crossing this season. Some came for just the tours and some for both tours and zip lining. We had 2 Adult groups come for tours and zip lining. We had 6 schools cancel their bookings because of the bad weather. We also had 2 Seniors Groups out for the tours as well as one special needs group.

Visitation Totals

Group Visitors of the Season:

- MNA Region II Métis Youth - Cultural Camp
- MNA Region VI Métis Youth - Cultural Camp
- MNA-CGY Youth Selection Committee Meeting
- Aboriginal Arts Council Youth Camp
- Athabasca Regional Multiplex, Athabasca Alberta
- Boyle School
- Holy Family Catholic School
- Fort Chipewyan, St. Paul, Alberta
- H A Kostash Grade 4
- H A Kostash Grade 5
- County of Thorhild
- Town of Redwater

Affiliates

- Social Skills in the Classroom for Youth
- MLT Group Inc.
- Children and Youth Services Métis Settlements
- Seniors / Special Needs – 3 Groups

Regular price of $39.95 is the same for all 3 events.

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Affiliates

February  28                             28
March     58 110                        58 110
May       43 373 280 101               43 373 280 101
June      61 736 818 462              461 970 1057 518
July      170 377 531 376             170 673 893 591
August    569 375 596 605             1000 910 692 263
September 98 101 57 90               98 101 57 90
October   1400 1440 1293 534          2341 3402 3633 2306

Campground
There was a decrease in campground usage this year from last year. We were down by 253 campground guests. This is directly related to the poor attendance at our special events.

We didn’t have to buy fire wood this year as the staff gathered the wood from the dead trees that were cut down last fall around the site.

May      0 42 13 23 0 15 3 0 42 26 26
June     22 61 22 13 8 3 23 3 30 64 45 16
July     8 67 85 34 2 9 44 7 10 76 129 41
August   53 87 166 43 31 10 21 8 84 97 187 51
September 0 13 10 11 0 1 0 1 0 14 10 12
TOTAL    83 270 296 124 41 23 103 22 124 293 399 146

Conclusion
Overall it was a very disappointing season. Our guests came from Hungary, Saudi Arabia, USA, NWT, all across Canada as well as Local. Again we concentrated our overall efforts on superb customer service for all guests and spent a lot of time maintaining our site. Our majority of guests were from the local area as well as Edmonton. The staff continues to get compliments on the way they maintain the grounds, their customer service, knowledgeable tours, clean washrooms, clean shower trailers.

I have decided not to continue with the Music Jamboree in July and focus on the other two events. It is very hard to plan these events when we don’t have the budget to do so. I look forward to a much better season in 2012.

Interpretive Centre Revenue Only
2007 = $26,423.00
2008 = $29,751.34 Does not include land lease payments
2009 = $49,863.88 Does not include land lease payments/sale of hay
2010 = $52,198.83 Does not include land lease payments
2011 = $51,332.80 Does not include land lease payments
2011 Interpretive Centre revenue down $866.03 from previous year
Some comments taken from the zip line comment sheets filled out by customers:

- It was Fantastic. Everyone should try it at least once, twice ...etc.
- Pretty Sweet. Thank you very much for the opportunity.
- Awesome. Great Guides! Super time, will definitely come back.
- Yes it was great! Excellent instructors and hope to come back and see the deer from the line.
- The runs through the trees were awesome.
- It was the best. I would go again and again if only I could build my own.
- Most fun thing I have done all summer! Wish we come here next year!
- Awesome! Great Guides, wonderful view, great experience!!
- Ziplining was AMAZING!!
- Scared at anything - I hate heights - but it was great. Yes could do it again. Right on Zip line.
- Great Guides.
- That was AWESOME!! The guides are great - definitely going to come back with my friends.
- Was scared at first but Guides made me feel VERY comfortable.
- Definitely excellent experience.
- Very nice scenery and helpful guides. I really enjoyed it!!
- Amazing experience.
- Definitely Awesome. I loved it - I loved it - I loved it.
- FUN FUN FUN!
- Yes very much, good value.
- It was legendary!
- It’s awesome, but expanding it would be nice! Awesome Staff.
- Loved it! A great family summer activity. Thank you to the staff.
- Yes it was super fun! Great help & lots of fun!
- It was great even though the weather wasn’t. We’ll be back next year!
- Great time Good Guides.
- Lots of fun, friendly people, very cool.
- If I had one wish it would be to do that again.
- Wonderful. Guides were excellent would do it again here anytime!
- Great day of fun!
- Hell yaw! So cool can’t wait to do it again!
- Holy Yeah! Guides were so awesome and a lot of fun. Very Accommodating!
- Great Fun. Greater Crew.
- Great Staff, very friendly.
- It was thrilling.
- Very Fun, will be back.
- Very nice and informative staff.

Greetings from Interim Executive Director, Benita Galandy

Corrine Card has left her position as Executive Director at Métis Crossing to work in Slave Lake. Congratulations Corrine on your new adventure. Although the Métis Crossing is, and has been, a huge learning curve for me, I am finding the Crossing to be enjoyable. From total quietness to laughter, noise, tours and Zip lines in one minute, seems amazingly surreal.

The weather has cooperated with us most of the time since opening on May Long Weekend. We have had staff challenges, and have had to call in people to stay at the crossing to work. Since opening we have been very busy this year with over 500 tours, over 100 zipline rides, and over 150 campers in the campsite. We have only been rained out for 5 days in the past 6 weeks.

I am urging the Métis people from across Alberta to visit us more often. We only had 112 people on site for National Aboriginal Day. We will be having “Voyageur Days on August 25th and 26th. Please come out to the Métis Crossing and celebrate your culture and show ownership of the Crossing. This is a place for Métis people to gather and take pride. We will be celebrating! We are also hosting two Michif camps for ages 10-24 July 30-Aug 3, 2012, and again from Aug 9 - 13, 2012. The summer is flying by and we are looking forward to seeing you at Métis Crossing.

Historic Sites and Museums (‘000s of person-visits) 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>Aug</th>
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<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
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<tr>
<td>Visitor Attendance</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>39.2</td>
<td>36.2</td>
<td>41.5</td>
<td>65.7</td>
<td>90.4</td>
<td>175.3</td>
<td>152.8</td>
<td>64.4</td>
<td>42.8</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>752.2</td>
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| % Change | 28.5% | -15.2% | -23.4% | -13.6% | -14.0% | -8.3% | -3.1% | -17.5% | -8.6% | 1.7% | -23.1% | -11.8% | 68 Métis Nation of Alberta 2011-2012 Annual Report
In 1997, the MNA took an inactive but current company, called Métis Nation Productions, and renamed it Métis Nation Holdings Ltd. The MNA holds 100% of the shares. This entity holds title to two properties: the MNA Provincial Office property on Kingsway Avenue and the Métis Urban Housing property, and 50% of the Inglewood Centre property on 111 Ave in Edmonton.

The Inglewood property is held in partnership with Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. The holding company allows for arms-length lease transactions and limited liability.

The Board of Directors for Métis Nation Holdings Ltd. is the same as the MNA Executive.

MNA Provincial Office, Della Gray Building

11736-Kingsway Avenue.

In January 1997, the building that the Métis Nation leased on St. Albert Trail was sold. Shortly after taking possession, the new owner proposed doubling the rent, which drew serious concern from the MNA.

In response, the MNA Provincial Council issued direction to explore the purchase of our own building. It was reasoned that purchasing our own building would create program stability and potential for gain, and would meet the office needs of the MNA.

The parameters of the purchase were that ownership should cost no more than the proposed lease and no MNA program funds could be used in the purchase. After several months of research, a deal was concluded on the purchase of the building on Kingsway Avenue, now occupied by the Provincial Office. The MNA acquired the building by assuming the existing mortgage without having to make a down payment. The MNA now holds clear title to the Della Gray Building, after paying off the mortgage in September of 2004.

Renovations undertaken in February and March of 2005 have increased the amount of office space usable for program delivery and created more hospitable and welcoming space for our members and guests.

Modest renovations continued during 2006-2007 designed to provide more efficient file storage and additional office space. During 2007-2008, building modifications were begun with a view to energy efficiency.

2008-09 saw the completion of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning repair & replacement as well as the beginning of the final phase of office modifications designed to maximize the available office space within the building.

During 2009-2010 renovations were completed. The 2011-2012 fiscal year saw modest upgrades to the building exterior as well as the ongoing operation and maintenance.

Larry Desmeules Building
11922-121 A Street

On May 1, 1999, Métis Nation Holdings completed the purchase of the building occupied by Métis Urban Housing Corporation.

This purchase was prompted by the proposed sale of the building by the previous owners. Due to the foresight of the MUHC Board, the MNA was provided the right of first refusal.

The building was financed through the assumption of a mortgage and a loan to Métis Nation Holdings from the Royal Bank. Once again, no MNA program funding was used in the purchase.

Lease payments cover all costs associated with the building. This was a requirement put down by the MNA Board.

The building has a clear title as of May of 2009. Future plans called for additional renovations to help with increased growth of MUHC and MCHC.

During 2006-09, conceptual drawings for the addition of an administrative wing were developed and a development permit was obtained.

During the fall of 2010-11 zoning issues were negotiated, a building permit was granted and construction began in October of 2010 on a 10,000 sq. ft. addition.

The addition was completed in April of 2012. Demolition of a portion of the old office space and upgrading of the warehouse is slated for 2012-2013.

Métis Veterans Building
12304-111 Avenue

On November 1, 1999, Métis Nation Holdings completed the purchase of the Inglewood Centre. Tenants in the building include: Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc., Pinnacle Business Services, Edmonton Métis Employment Services Centre, Alberta Family and Social Services, City Police, the Métis Nation of Alberta Judiciary Council, Métis Veterans Society and Starbucks.

The building mortgage was paid out and a clear title was obtained in September 2010.

Property management of the building, previously contracted out, has now been assumed by Métis Nation Holdings and Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. which holds 50 per cent of the shares in the building.

Other Activity

While not owned by the Métis Nation Holdings, the company has invested considerable time and effort assisting in the purchase of the Region 1 building, the purchase and renovation of the Region 2 building, the purchase of a Local building in Region 3, purchase of the Region 4 building, the purchase and complete renovation of the Region 5 building, the purchase and initial development of Métis Crossing as well as involvement with certain of the MCHR projects and renovations connected with Rupertland and some of its MIS Centres.
To The Members of the Métis Nation of Alberta:

The Provincial Métis Judiciary Council (MJC) is made up of six members; one selected by the Regional Council from each Region and serves a term of three (3) years, as per Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws. The MJC can carry out adjudication of complaint submissions or request for opinion with a quorum of 50% plus 1 Council member in attendance. It has been determined that once the review process of a complaint submission or request for opinion has begun, only the MJC members who initially reviewed the information may carry-on the adjudication process for the remainder of the respective complaint submission or request for opinion. This procedural situation was recently upheld by the Appellate Court of Alberta.

The role and powers of the Métis Judiciary Council are outlined in Article Thirty (30) of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association (MNA) Bylaws; they may be summarized briefly as:

- Membership where there is a dispute;
- Election Bylaws where there is a dispute;
- Suspension and reinstatement of rights of Métis members;
- Matters concerning conflict of interest and other matters as outlined in the bylaws.

(To obtain a full listing of the MJC mandate please see MNA Bylaws)

The Métis Judiciary Council may call hearings to resolve disputes within the Métis Nation that fall under the mandate of the Judiciary Council. There is an established process for submitting complaints to the Council and accepted procedures that determine the complaint submissions and/or govern hearings.

The MJC operates through budget support identified in the Métis Nation of Alberta Bylaws. The Judiciary Council continues to receive support from the Métis Nation of Alberta – Provincial Council.

It should be noted that a complaint submission can be handled very quickly and efficiently if the complaint is deemed to be without merit or if the offer of mediation is accepted by the affected parties but can also be very extensive and costly if the complaint must go to a hearing.

There is no way of determining how much time or money any one particular complaint submission might necessitate, however the MJC makes every effort to deal with their duties in a cost effect manner.

This term, the MJC sat from June thirtieth (30th) of 2011 to July first (1st) of 2012. There have been a total of seven (7) complaint submissions and one (1) request for opinion on matters concerning the MNA Bylaws this term. This has developed into eight (8) Dockets in which the MJC has reviewed, sometimes requiring parties to provide further information. All of this is done to assist the MJC in coming to a Final Decision. Of the total eight (8) Dockets reviewed and determined this past year – three (3) remain outstanding; the MJC is currently scheduled to continue review and determination of these Dockets.

There have been eight (8) sessions of the Métis Judiciary Council since June 2011 to work on all business of the Council. There were a supplementary twenty-five (25) volunteer days given by the MJC Chair to meet with MJC support personnel to assist with ensuring the integrity of the Métis Judiciary Council and Métis Nation of Alberta were upheld. The complex nature of the eight (8) Dockets made it necessary for the Chairman to put in the extra time to ensure all matters before the Métis Judiciary Council were handled fairly, without prejudice and to make certain that Natural Justice was followed.

Métis Judiciary Council Members must take An Official Oath, as is indicated within the MNA Bylaws. The Oath says that as an MJC member, I will not disclose or make known any matter or thing, which comes to my knowledge, regarding my appointment to the Métis Judiciary Council. Therefore, it is unlawful for any Judiciary member to discuss with people, who are not current Judiciary members, any matter that currently sits before them. This is a very important point; confidentiality leads to an unbiased, impartial and fair response to this very important and unique institute of the Métis Nation.

During this past year, most MJC Members were selected or re-selected and Sworn-in for appointments of three (3) years as per the MNA Bylaws Article 29 - Métis Judiciary Council. On April 14, 2012 all MJC Members affirmed and in some cases re-affirmed the “Official Oath”; MNA Region 4 Elder, Gloria Laird graciously and most honourably assisted the MJC with this protocol.

Respectfully submitted this thirty (30th) day of June in the year two-thousand and twelve (2012).
Region 1

So far, 2012 has been an extremely busy and rewarding year for Region 1. Between meetings with Government and Industry, youth and community events, and volunteer programs, the staff and leadership of Region 1 have continued to support and represent the Métis Nation of Alberta in a positive way. Region 1 has been successful in purchasing the Samuel Laboucane Building, which the Region 1 office is situated in.

All Region 1 Locals have had a very busy and rewarding year. Besides being involved with Regional Council meetings and participating in regional functions, they have been making progress on their own community goals. Region 1 leadership is very much in support of the Locals taking an active role in determining their own futures. We have taken part in Strategic Planning sessions to ensure our members, Local Industry and governments and Industry get the most efficient and productive Region 1. We have aligned our mission and goals with a plan to achieve and maintain a very strong Region.

Economic and Community Development

Economic Development and Governance

Economic Development in Region 1 is one of the forefront issues facing Region 1. Encompassing the Oil Sands, Region 1 is situated in a very rich area full of opportunity. Local Industry and Region 1 have been working together and partnering toward successful and meaningful consultation of Métis people. Region 1 believes in supporting our Locals on their economic endeavours and many Locals have been very successful in engaging with Industry.

We are continually looking for ways to further our Métis members and communities, all while protecting our Traditional Territories and environment. Our Industry partners are respectful of this, and we all strive to find a balance between environmental protection and industrial development. Although this is a continued goal, Region 1 is making headway and leading the way to a more balanced and productive engagement.

Education

Region 1 has been committed to supporting its members in all educational opportunities. Whether it is Head Start, high school or post-secondary education, we find pride in the record numbers of Métis graduates, and are striving to continue the upward trend of these numbers. We engage and encourage Industry around the area to match this commitment to our students, by promoting scholarships and bursaries. Some of our Industry partners who have the same commitment to education are Alberta-Pacific, Cenovus, and Devon Canada.

The Portage College Endowment Fund created through The Métis Nation of Alberta and the Métis Education Foundation with matching funds from the Alberta Governments Access to the Future Fund awarded 5 recipients with $1,500.

This year, the Municipality of Wood Buffalo celebrated their Aboriginal Graduation and it was very successful and inspiring to see such a high number of Métis graduates. The pride and satisfaction that these graduates show is an amazing example of what our youth can accomplish when they are supported and encouraged by the community.

Lac La Biche and Athabasca County have reported that at least 50% of their Graduates are Aboriginal.

Region 1 celebrated with the Aboriginal Head Start Schools by donating Métis sashes to all 69 Graduates. Region 1 Leadership was invited to attend the graduation ceremonies in Lac La Biche and Buffalo Lake, which they thoroughly enjoyed taking part of.

Congratulations to all our grads, it was truly gratifying to be part of such extraordinary events.
Health and Wellness

Culture

Region 1 has always found as many opportunities as possible to showcase our rich and vibrant culture. Métis Week in Lac La Biche, Fort Chipewyan Métis Days, Fort McKay Treaty Days, Fort McMurray Local 193 Métis Fest, Aboriginal Day at Portage College, Anzac Métis Fest, Conklin Local 193 Métis Fest, the Voyageur Rendezvous by the Historic Portage La Biche, Canada Day at the Lac La Biche Mission and Lac La Biche Pow Wow were all events that we have participated in and enjoyed every minute of it!

Region 1 is hosting the 2012 Provincial Annual General Assembly. The town and municipality of Athabasca are proud and honored to welcome Métis from across the Province during the AGA. The theme for the Assembly is “Our Culture, Our Language,” which will be reflected in the numerous cultural activities and showcases over the course of the weekend. An exciting youth conference, with the theme of “Our Voice, Our Choice” will engage Métis youth and provide them with opportunities to interact with positive Métis role models.

Another initiative we are quite pleased about is the Métis Environmental Knowledge Project taking place throughout the Lac La Biche Region. Project Manager, Peter Fortna will be working with trained members of Region 1 to complete interviews (video and audio) of community Elders. At the end of this project Region 1 will have a publication documenting the History of the Métis people of North-Eastern Alberta.

Youth

Region 1 has been successful in engaging with our Youth, introducing them to traditional arts and crafts and encouraging pride and self-esteem. We believe that our Youth are the future and we must support them to make healthy and positive decisions. To this end, the 2012-2013 Youth Proposal focused on positive activities and relationships. Conversational Cree, tufting, moccasin making, and beadwork were some of the cultural activities that were proposed. One activity the Youth were very interested in was an Exploring Our Heritage workshop on scrapbooking. There was so much interest, that scrapbooking classes were extended and became a weekly evening activity.

Our Regional Elder, Joe Hamelin, was always available to the Youth during activities, and we encouraged all Elders who were interested in attending to come and interact with our Youth.

The Youth honoured our Elders in April during the annual Kookum & Mooshum Appreciation Dinner. Our Youth were involved in every aspect of the dinner, from budgeting to event planning, meal preparation, dinner etiquette and serving. This is the type of hands-on life experience that is invaluable to Youth. As always, we support our Youth involvement in sports by helping with registration fees in most cases.

Seniors

Seniors and Elders from Region 1 always have a strong presence in the Regional Office. Whether it is to come and have a coffee, or to find out information on governmental programs, we are happy to see such high attendance from our Local seniors.

The Alberta Seniors Benefits representative from St.Paul has trained our office staff in the different Government of Alberta financial programs available for seniors. As well, she has come to do several seminars on these programs, to answer any questions and guide our seniors into a better understanding of them.

During the week, the Region 1 office opens its doors for Seniors and Elders Lunches. We provide lunch and the opportunity for our Elders and seniors to interact with each other, play some cards and relax. These weekly events enrich the office atmosphere as well as give our Elders and seniors an opportunity to visit and meet new people.

Currently, we are planning events for Seniors through the New Horizons for Seniors Program. Our goal is to have Seniors help with the planning of original and innovative events where they can contribute their skills and wisdom.

Health

Region 1 hosted a 2 day free Diabetes screening event for the community to come get tested, educated and informed about this very predominant disease. The Mobile Diabetes Screening Initiative from the University of Alberta set up in the Region 1 office and was very pleased with the turnout of people for the screening. Education about Diabetes is one of the best preventions to this disease, and we continue to promote health and wellness in Region 1 and the Métis communities across the province.

The Leadership and Staff of the Region 1 Office would like to take this opportunity to thank its Locals, members, partners and friends for their continued support, patience and contributions throughout the year. Without you, our traditions, culture and stories would be harder to pass on to our next generation of future leaders.

Sincerely,
William Landstrom,
Region 1 President.
Region 2

Greetings!

The beauty of summer and the energy it brings to people is truly a gift to be thankful for. Once again, it is time for the Métis to gather at an assembly and hear from the Métis Nation of Alberta government on the progress and development of the past year accomplished on your behalf. We hope you find the reports informative and can appreciate that these reports can only cover the highlights of the activities throughout the year.

The Métis Nation of Alberta 2011 Elections brought another unique circumstance to our elections process. As many are aware, Zone II did not have a candidate for the first deadline date for nominations nor was there a candidate for the extended date set by the Chief Electoral Officer. This then led to the nomination process and election to occur with the Zone II annual general assembly held on October 15, 2011. Two individuals met the nomination criteria and the election was held during the assembly resulting in Shirley Bensen being elected for the position of Vice President.

Zone II Regional Council currently is comprised of the President, Vice President and the President of Local #100 (Bonnyville).

The MNA is growing, changing and developing in various aspects of our government and affiliates. Sometimes, growth requires change to adapt to the current situation. This may be an area of our governing documents that must be reviewed and revised to meet the challenges and circumstances that arise from time to time. A Bylaw Review Task Force appointed to address the resolution from the 2011 Annual General Meeting could potentially review and recommend revisions to pertinent articles that could address these circumstances.

Advancing Métis Rights and Interests at all levels continues to be a focus of Zone II. Members represent our interests and views at a number of various committees, boards and organizations. These include the Bonnyville Indian Métis Rehabilitation Centre, Lakeland Industry and Community Association; Bonnyville Youth Justice Committee; Bonnyville Interagency; Métis Judiciary Council; MUHC/MCHC; Bonnyville Bingo Association; FNMI Education workshops; and others as requested. These roles are vital to ensuring the Métis perspective is voiced at the tables.

Our regional office completed 89 membership applications; responded to 172 inquiries and assisted with 36 updates for additional information requirements and photos. Many Métis have received genealogical information from Linda who does so on a volunteer basis should members have difficulty finding their family tree data. They are grateful for her assistance and the pride of receiving genealogical information from Linda who does so on a volunteer basis should members

Duty to Consult with Aboriginal people with respect to industry and service provider proponents is continuous as the Cold Lake Oil Sands area moves ahead with resource development.

Zone II currently has ongoing communication and dialogue with 12 companies and the number keeps growing as new proponents advance with proposed projects. The relationships are at various stages as many industry corporations have been in the area for some time and others only beginning their initiatives of resource development projects.

We continue to put forward the historical and traditional ways of the Métis through traditional knowledge and use studies or other instances of mapping exercises and walk about site visits. As many are aware, it varies on the needs for a TUS, depending on the application of the proposed projects.

Our elders, harvesters and contemporary users for hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering are vital in this process. They are the knowledge holders for identifying locales that can be mapped by GPS and reflect our historic and present day use.

The economic growth in the Lakeland has not slowed down in the last number of years. Métis entrepreneurs, contractors, tradespeople and individuals searching for gainful employment are part of the discussions with industry and service provider corporations. Business mixers, contractor workshops and prequalification sessions are held with attendance of general contractors on many occasions.

This provides the opportunity for networking, partnering and promoting one’s area of expertise and service. These gatherings are timed with the stages of progress for projects, be they a SAGD, a pipeline or electrical transmission line. Periodic update meetings are held with the proponents as their projects are constructed, operating or expanding.

There are other tables that must also have Métis input. Zone II has actively participated with the LARP (Lower Athabasca Regional Plan); CRISP (Comprehensive Regional Infrastructure Strategic Plan) and the Environment Canada Caribou Study and Recommendations.

We have also advanced our interest in actively participating in the North Saskatchewan Regional Land Use Plan. These are processes of long term planning for other levels of government which are crucial to have our issues and concerns addressed at the outset.

Workshop and meetings are attended upon invitation whereas the leadership or our staff with expertise on the topic represents our office. These include Region 7 Child and Family Services; Bullying and Family Violence; Diabetes Training; Education Workshops; Portage College Advisory Committees; Arts Council; FNMI Education Forums; Youth Workshops, just to name a few.

Elders have had workshops focusing on areas that are pertinent to their lives. Facilitators have held information workshops for the Seniors Benefits Program, Elder Abuse and other programs accessible to seniors. The Seniors Horizons program was applied for and received some funds to assist in bringing our elders together for the sessions. Our van comes in very handy for providing rides to elders for meetings, site visits, medical and other appointments or errand runs. Roy Dumais makes himself available for Elders request for this assistance.

As many are aware, it varies on the needs for a TUS, depending on the application of the proposed projects. Our elders, harvesters and contemporary users for hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering are vital in this process. They are the knowledge holders for identifying locales that can be mapped by GPS and reflect our historic and present day use.
Periodic update meetings are held with other level of governments including the MP, MLA for Cold Lake/Bonnyville, City of Cold Lake, Settlements and the Zone II Presidents attended and raised questions at the provincial Cabinet Ministers Spring Tour. Remembrance Day ceremonies at Fishing Lake Métis Settlement were attended by both the President and Vice President. Friendship Centres in Leduc, St. Paul, Bonnyville and Cold Lake are part of the network for Zone II.

Linda Boudreau-Semaganis is also a member of the Elders Wisdom Circle for the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association. She is often an Elder resource person for youth workshops for neighboring Friendship Centres. Linda accepts many invitations as an Elder resource person, the recently attended the Tapestry of Women Youth Conference in Nordegg with the Métis Settlements.

Presentations for schools have been part of the role for representatives of Zone II for the past decade. These vary from grade to grade and depend on the length of time allotted for the visits. Teachers provide the current topics covered for Métis for the grade level and we accommodate the request with pertinent information. Sharing Métis history, culture, music, governance and structure are just some of the topics covered while visiting K-12 students. Schools in Leduc, Cold Lake, St. Paul and Elizabeth Métis Settlement as well as Blue Quills University have requested presentations and some of the schools have us come in a few times throughout the school term.

The FNMI Education Protocols signed by the MNA has its rippling effect in communities and local school boards. Zone II has contributed to a project for a Resource Booklet on Aboriginal people and communities for the Northern Lights School Board. This booklet will assist educators in recruiting Métis resource people for presenters in schools.

The FNMI process also invited Zone II to participate in a forum where a range of issues respecting education in community schools were advanced by parents, Aboriginal educators and community stakeholders. This information will be included in recommendations forwarded to the Minister of Education.

Zone II has Working Agreements with two companies: Big Country Energy Services LP and Major Projects Group. The intent is to successfully attain contract work in the area and work with Métis entrepreneurs, tradepeople and individuals to secure long term sustainable employment. The partners accompanied the Zone II leadership for the Métis National Council Economic Development Forum held in Grande Prairie in March 2012. This partnership continues to attend meetings, open houses and business gatherings to promote the agreements’ intent.

Once again, Zone II was well represented at the 2nd Annual First Nations and Métis Cultural Showcase hosted by Gemina Leskiw, MLA for Bonnyville-Cold Lake. This year it was held at the Cold Lake Energy Centre with over 600+ people visiting throughout the day! It was an exciting event as it provides the opportunity for the 2 Métis Settlements, 3 First Nations and Zone II communities to showcase culture, history, talent and community development at their respective booth displays. Many surrounding schools made this day a part of their fieldtrip schedules.

We continue to host monthly bingos as these funds raised are utilized to assist financially with members requests for bereavement, school fees, team sports and such. Like many communities, bingos do not raise a great deal of funds as they used to, therefore, each request is reviewed and if the funds are low…then at times we cannot help. All we ask in return is that those assisted volunteer to work at one of the monthly bingos.

Participation for National Aboriginal Day is always a day to look forward to. Many activities and functions are hosted throughout the region. Each member of the leadership and staff attempt to visit one or more of events in their town or community.

The Hidden Talents Youth Group received funding from the Community Connections for Aboriginal Youth (CCAY) for two months of operations. Like many other applicants to the CCAY funding, the announcements were very, very late and the funding flow even later! Thus, programming for youth was concentrated on for the months of February and March. Although, there was a short time to plan, Melody and Leanne, and their helpers, were awesome with activities, field trips and cultural programs for the 9th youth who participated.

One of the exciting programs was co-hosted with Métis Crossing and provided 2 weekends of Fiddle and Guitar Chording workshops for the anxious youngsters who attended. Hidden Talents also hosted one of the “Speak Out” workshops held throughout the province.

There were 2 recipients for the Andy Collins Bursary. The funds raised for this disbursement of this bursary were raised at the 8th Annual Andy Collins Golf Tournament hosted at the Grand Centre Golf and Country Club in Cold Lake. The 9th annual tournament is set for the same course and is being held on July 6, 2012. Anyone wishing to forward their name for the selection committee’s review for bursary funds is invited to contact our office.

A young Métis teacher at a school in Bonnyville approached our office for assistance in helping him raise $10,000.00 for a scholarship for Métis students in the Northern Lights School Division. Once Chris reaches his goal, this amount will be matched and the funds will become part of the NLSD disbursements for their awards! He is so close to the $10K! We wish Chris the best in attaining his goal.

We try to assist where we can, and thus, have written numerous letters of support, letters of reference and nominations for students pursuing academics, careers and bursary/scholarships. A number have been successful!

When summer is over and family holidays are a memory, it will be time for back to school and regular work schedules. It will be time to roll up the sleeves and continue moving forward.

Moving the Métis Nation forward!

We wish good health and safety to you and your families until our paths cross again.

God Bless.

Respectfully submitted;
Zone II Regional Council of the Métis Nation of Alberta Leadership and Staff
The youth attended and competed at Back to Batoche Celebration, with some of the jiggers placing first, second and third.

To market Métis Region 3 people, business and culture to the general public

- We have had our own Region 3 logo developed and trade-marked it so that only Region 3 can use it.
- We have sent out our new Who Are The Métis brochures to all municipalities, town and city offices, friendship centers and career centers, agencies and public businesses.
- The Hills Are Alive Culture Celebration was put on by the Métis Local # 8 and the Miywasin Society. This is a teaching celebration where you can learn to play fiddle, guitar, bagpipes, banjo, keyboard, beading and moccasin making, hand weaving, and drum making. They offer Youth Programs, Jigging, senior’s events and activities, among others and strong advocacy for Métis Cultural retention continue to be offered in Medicine Hat.
- Attended the Pincher Creek annual picnic which was a success. We were also able to go out and view the Red River Cart Trails that are still very much in existence.
- Lethbridge Local 2003 held jigging lessons; deliver community cultural awareness and partner with Family Ties.

Tourism Development

- Region 3 now has the contract for the Buffalo Lake Recreation Area, it was a learning experience for us but luckily we hired an excellent manager for the summer; we have had many meetings with government and others for improving this recreation area.
- We operated the Campground at Tail Creek Park near Stettler and many tourists and visitors continue to return for their annual vacations.
- We received a grant to do a tourism strategy for Tail Creek Park, John Parkins was contracted to do the strategy, and it is now complete. We are now in negotiations with Alberta Tourism to do a Region wide tourism strategy.
- The Métis Interpretive Program started in 2004 at the National Historical Site in Rocky Mountain House was handed over from the Region to Local 845 in 2008. Included in the offer was TP camping at the Riverside campground, there are traditional Métis tents available for groups and families. Proceeds from the campground benefit the Local. Contact Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site for information.

Métis Week

- The Métis flag was raised in front of City Hall where it flew for a week. The Calgary Métis Week Proclamation was presented to Vice President Joseph Pimlott. Lunch was served after the flag raising provided by the City. We ended off the week with the annual Senior’s Dinner, a Family Fun Day featuring a free lunch and our traditional Métis Supper and Dance.
- Monday also saw the Métis flag being raised in Medicine Hat by the Mayor and elder Dale
Lawrence. The proclamation was presented to Local President Jeannette Hansen. Lunch was served at the Miywasin Centre afterwards. An Elders appreciation banquet was held with the local harvesters providing wild geese, ducks, pheasants and rabbit; as usual it was packed to capacity.

- The Métis flag was also raised in Lethbridge, where Local 2003 works to promote the Métis through presentations and partnering with local agencies, educational institutions such as Lethbridge College, and Lethbridge University. Presentations were given to both institutes by Rod McLeod and Guy L’Heureux. Cultural Training orchestrated by PV Louise Saloff for Southern Alberta Child and Family Services staff.

- Pincher Creek Chinook Local kicked off a week of activities with President Marlene Lanz at a celebration at the Museum including Flag raising, jigging and the display of their newly acquired traditional Red River Cart there for the week. And a celebration in the Crows Nest Pass which included bowling, a fine meal, and recognition of those who are dedicated to the Métis cause. It was a youth initiative and the youth raffled off their crafts.

### Education

- Attended and gave out sashes to the Métis graduating students, at the Aboriginal Graduating Students celebrations at the University of Calgary and SAIT, Bow Valley College, Calgary Catholic Schools Aboriginal Graduation. Other Regional graduates were congratulated by representatives of the Locals in Lethbridge and Medicine Hat.

- LMD Project grads were supported by the Region. Make referrals to other agencies and actively promote post-secondary opportunities, youth awards as well as training and employment initiatives within Region 3.

- We refer Elders to speak at schools etc. Presentations have also been done by both Marlene and Joe as well as elder Faye Beazley and Local representatives at colleges and Local events.

### Housing

- We have Bi-Weekly seniors lunches where we have from 25 to 35 seniors come out to the Regional office to enjoy a home cooked meal, friendship and fellowship.

- We have sashes and other Métis resources for sale in our office.

- We have Bi-weekly seniors cribbage tournament in partnership with MCFS. They are held at Native Network (Ephram Bouvier) building.

- We are in the middle of a Michif Language project where some of the activities have already taken place but will not be complete until June 2012.

### Other Activities

- We have fiddle and guitar lessons for the youth and the seniors, which occur once a week.

- We moved our office on July 1, 2011 with a 6 year lease.

- We received and respond to numerous phone calls throughout the day, especially on harvesting rights and membership issues.

- We have many volunteers including elders, seniors and business people who support our events and activities and we appreciate everyone's dedication within the Region.

- We assist the Hivernant Cultural Society's Métis Celebration in Big Valley in August this year because of donations we were able to hand out scarves, toques, mitts, and warm socks.

- We had taped some elders stories which we now have the CD's in our office for sale for those who want them.

- We have been working on developing a Seniors Housing complex.

- We have the elders come to our youth group to share their knowledge and cultural teaching.

- We have many volunteers including strong volunteer), Doris Sloan and Jules Allard (volunteers at all our functions and activities).

- We attend functions to promote the Métis at the Calgary Stampede.

- Stampede Local 8008 in Calgary held elections in October 2011. Bev Weber is now President.

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Region 4

President’s message

I would like to start off with a tremendous thank you to the citizens of the Métis Zone IV for supporting me in my bid to remain the President for one more term of office. Your support and confidence in me is very humbling. I would also like to take this time to welcome our new Vice President – James Atkinson. He is a welcome addition to our Regional Council and as an active member of our community – I am sure that you will find that he brings some new ideas and thoughts as to what he would like to see happen in our Region.

The past year has seen many changes within our Region. We have lost several elders and people who have played a very large role in our Métis communities. Our Regional Elder and personal friend of my family – Marge Friedel passed away in September. In December, we lost Mr. Gordon Poitras, one of our Métis historians. In January we lost a long time supporter and friend Allan Goyer. Our past president and Gunn Local President Jerry Letendre passed away in February.

I extend my best wishes and condolences to these families and the families of others who have suffered a loss recently. These individuals have been an instrumental part of our history and we have all felt their loss.

As the Minister of Métis Rights and Citizenship I believe that it is important to realize that as we lose the elders of our community – we lose a piece of our history and the stories that are passed down through them. It is so important for all of us as Métis people to track our roots and keep information for our future generations. It is important to transfer our knowledge of our culture, history and stories to our young people so they can continue to evolve and build our nation.

I also have been the Minister involved in moving the Hirsekorn case forward. In January 2012 the Alberta Court of Appeal had agreed to hear the case. We are looking forward to have our appeal before the court sometime towards the end of this year. More information can be found on this issue under my Minister’s report.

We are trying to move forward with our business plan and building on the next steps but people’s involvement is important to succeed with that. Our report will outline some of the events and activities that we have been engaged with over the past year and some of our aspirations for the future.

I truly hope that your family and you enjoy our Annual Assembly in Athabasca and we look forward to seeing all of you over the next days.

Respectfully,

Cecil Bellrose, President

Vice-President’s Message

Welcome to Athabasca and the Métis Nation of Alberta’s 84th Annual General Assembly. Coming back to Athabasca brings back great memories; it was at an assembly here that I won my first jigging contest and sixty bucks, at that time that was huge money (lol). The politicians of the day had heated debates at the podium, made their various promises to the members, candidate’s campaigners going from camp to camp defending their candidate’s honour or simply to further elaborate promises made. The most exciting time for me was actually loading up the vehicle and heading to the assembly, for some it was a summer vacation, but for me it was an opportunity to be with other Métis people and to learn more about our culture. I’m certain many of you may have fond memories or some may be working on your first memory.

Having just 11 months into office it has been a steep learning curve and many of the funding challenges that confront our organization has been an eye opening experience for me but being a determined board we deal with whatever comes our way. I have been given the portfolio that oversees culture and recreation for the MNA and I have attended a great deal of meetings and functions that highlight the importance of Métis People in Canada. I will be working with provincial sporting organizations and groups to find recreational opportunities for Métis in Alberta.

Your participation is invaluable and providing the organization guidance will certainly demonstrate the democratic process that the Métis Nation of Alberta is so proud of, after so many years. Please enjoy your weekend and if you have any questions please feel free to approach me…

Respectfully,

James Atkinson,
Vice- President

Strategic Planning

Zone IV has a Strategic Plan that was developed over several years as a multiyear work plan which should evolve and change as the priorities and issues of the Regional Council change. There are a variety of mechanisms that are used to identify the changes required to the strategic plan that are done through community consultations, regional council meetings, Métis conferences and events and other opportunities for work plan development.

At this time resources have not been available for us to review and amend the plan in the last couple of years. We strive to attempt to garner resources to engage community but at this point it has become one of our challenges.

The development of a strategic plan works within and jointly with the Provincial Office and the Framework Agreement. We always welcome feedback and input into the Business Plan and would look forward to hearing from the community in relationship to gaps or new priorities or suggestions on means to achieve existing goals.

Respectfully,

James Atkinson,
Vice- President
Governance

Actions in Relation to our Governance Role:

1. Continued involvement in Métis Nation of Alberta and its’ governing structures:
   a. The elected President and Vice President of Zone 4 participated in all Provincial Council meetings and were involved in their provincial portfolios. In addition, President Bellrose is actively involved in the areas of Métis Rights, Métis Membership / Citizenship. Vice President Atkinson has been involved in the Ministry of Culture and the areas of Industrial Relations via the Duty to Consult and Access and Benefit Agreements for the Métis and representing the interests of the Provincial Council when necessary.
   b. The Métis Regional Council hosted one Regional Council meeting and one Annual meeting throughout this fiscal year.

2. Urban Métis Community:
   a. The Vice President – James Atkinson is seeking out opportunities to build or establish a Métis Cultural Centre in Edmonton.

3. Rural Métis Community:
   a. Métis Regional Council through Métis Opportunity Inc. attempted to work with several industrial developments to represent the interests of the Métis community throughout our Region. We have submitted mailouts and attempted to solicit resources to acquire Traditional Land Use Studies in some of the areas so that there is an understanding of how the various proposed projects may benefit or impact our communities and lifestyle.
   b. We worked with the St. Margaret’s Church by Cooking Lake this past year and there was a plaque placed there acknowledging all the individuals who were buried in the Graveyard.
   c. We hosted Métis activities throughout Métis Week in November that highlighted a flag raising ceremony at City Hall to start the week. Thanks to the staff of the Métis Genealogy Department we had a very special event that had a procession walking to St. Margaret’s Church with a horse drawn Red River Cart.

4. Communication:
   Communication seems to be one of the greatest challenges that we face in keeping members informed and current with information. We have had to let our website go because we were unable to keep it current and there were no resources to assist us in developing a better user friendly site. In addition, when it comes to giving notice or acknowledging projects updates we have no mechanisms that assist us with addressing issues to a large group. We would encourage ideas and recommendations on new communication strategies.

Committees and other Regional Commitments

Other committees and initiatives that representatives from Zone IV participated on were as follows:

• Métis Rights Panel - Métis National Council
• Provincial Executive Committee
• Judiciary Council
• Provincial Elders Group
• Métis Urban Housing
• Provincial Council Initiatives
• Advocacy and information referral in relation to Children Services, Housing, Harvesting, Membership and other issues as they relate to inquiries from Métis members.
• And others that may be required from time to time.

Committee Representatives from Zone 4

• Métis Judiciary Council
• Métis Urban Housing
• Métis Provincial Elders Council

Regions
Here at Region V we are committed to assisting our local communities and members in different matters and issues as they arise.

We have assisted members on a variety of issues such as but not limited to Employment, housing, land issues, child and family services, health, education, harvesting, membership, taxes, senior applications, residential survivor applications and others as needed.

We share the information we receive with our locals and in some cases with contact people in the communities and members who visit our office. Information includes documents sent from agencies, government, and community stakeholders.

Affordable housing continues to be an issue and we will continue to keep it as part of our work-plan. I did raise our concern of the 18 units in Slave Lake prior to the fire in Slave Lake and now there are even less affordable homes.

We do have representation on the Slave Lake Housing Authority and this is an affordable housing program. Our Rep does attend the meetings and he is there to represent the best interest of Region V.

Although Slave Lake continues to show a need for affordable housing, many single people cannot afford the rent in this community and are forced to share accommodations where we need to support programs that will assist in this matter. Since the fire in Slave Lake affordable housing has been a big issue.

In our other communities, such as Faust, Grouard, Kinuso and other areas have shown a great need for affordable housing projects. In homes that we have visit many young boys are raising families in the parents homes because there are no housing in the local communities.

For the years I have been here Region V has supported Northern Havens, Student housing and Senior housing, we will continue to support needed projects in our communities.

Youth

We continue to try and have youth activities, however funding is always an issue. With the funds received from CCAY we partnered with FCSS in a couple of the communities where the youth were provided opportunities to learn to snow shoe, home alone safety courses, hockey, and other sports.

We are looking to seek funds that would enable us to have a full-time youth coordinator who will seek partnerships in the different communities to host youth activities.

We are seeking funding to purchase fiddles and a few guitars to start having music lessons in Region 5.

This fiscal year we have applied to Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth known as CCAY. In this project we have committed to having, jigging, arts and crafts, summer camps and working with the elders and other programs.

We are excited to get started with the youth program, this will enable us to share our culture as well as allow the youth to do arts ant crafts such as finger weaving a sash, or learning the red river jig.

In the past we were able to assist with sports and medical appointments, however since the Eagle Nest Bingo closed we have not joined another association to raise funds for the project, it was 100% funded by the bingos and the volunteers who helped. As it is difficult to find volunteers we would need some individuals who could volunteer and we would then look at applying with another Association.

Seniors

We had lunch with our elders a few times and we are looking at expanding this to be monthly gathering where it will bring the elders and community members together. We need to continue with this as it gives our seniors an opportunity to visit our office and obtain assistance when needed. We continue to assist with membership, applications and other paper work necessary.

Health

We will be working collectively with Mental Health on different workshops with the Elders and the Youth and other facilitators.

Some of the workshops we are going to have are:
- Blood Related Diseases
- Smoking
- Healthy Eating
- Diabetes
- Information on Cancer and how to prevent it
- Parenting Skills
- FASD
- HIV and prevention
- Bullying
- Stay in School
- Trades Information

Culture and Heritage

We attended the MNA AGM in Grand Prairie, we partnered with Industry to cover the cost of 10 rooms for the Region 5 elders. We have done this for several years and we continue to look for financial support to assist our elders in attending.

In November of each year we raise the flag here in Slave Lake to commemorate the people who have passed away, and in the past have helped build the Métis Nation. This has been an annual event for several years, the Mayor of Slave Lake does come out to join us each year and when we are done we come back to the office for an open house and we have lunch with the people who attend.

Each year we have the Northern Métis Celebration in Partnership with Northern Lakes College. We will be hosting the 9th Annual Celebration In Grouard and at this gathering we have arts and crafts and a talent show in the afternoon for the kids then we have opening comments where different dignitaries speak then we have dinner, which is free, and then move into a talent show for the adults. I have MCd the evening event for many years and with out the committee who volunteers this event would not be possible. This event takes about 30 volunteers. Aborignal day we partnered with St. Mary of the Lakes School and the Slave Lake Friendship Centre. Here we had jigging contests, moose calling, and many children's competitions. We also had entertainment and a barbeque.
The parades in High Prairie, Slave Lake, Smith, Faust and Kinuso we will be happy to showcase our culture on a float and with fiddle music as it is expected of us as the Métis. If anyone has a truck and trailer they would like to donate for the parades please let us know, or we will have to use a truck and trailer, however we do will what we can.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with different things, so if you are interested in helping with volunteering your time please let our office know.

**Harvesting**

As many of you are aware the Métis Nation did have an interim harvesting agreement. The MNA continues to challenge the courts for our harvesting rights.

**Economic Development**

We have been meeting with different industries and we have developed a working relationship with a few groups. Our main focus has been to ensure our members have an equal opportunity for employment.

Enbridge has a big project starting and it will be going through the White Court and Fox Creek area and the president does participate with their Community Advisory Board; they will send us the information with the contracts and employment opportunities.

We will continue to work with Industry and develop working relationships to obtain employment for our members.

**Education**

Region V is forming partnerships with Alberta School Board Association at the Local Governing Level to set up transformation programs. There are Métis Members on the task force of ASBA at this time.

Region 5 will assist in promoting Rupertsland Institute to the membership.

**Locals**

We are hoping some of the communities will start locals and join our Region V Council as it is difficult to get into every community and with a local president we are able to assist in project or program development however we don’t have the man power to run programs and or services in the communities.

Kathleen local still owns the 148 acres of land that was negotiated by Region V, which took 5 years so we are proud of that as well.

**Region V Office**

Our office is open Monday-Friday 9:00AM-4:30PM and is located at 353 main Street, Slave Lake and our Phone number is (780) 849 4654.

**Membership/Citizenship**

Our membership in Region V has had some member’s renewing their cards however the new cards have been out for a few years and we encourage our members to come into the office and our Executive Director will assist you in obtaining a new citizenship card.
In Region VI, the people who reside and have history and lineage linking them back to the land through our grandfathers do have the right to harvest within a 160 kilometer radius of their traditional homeland. We have historical Métis communities throughout the region, with proven recorded history showing our people were among the first having connection and heritage to the land. This year, through our CCAY sponsorship, we received significant money to host a very successful workshop for our youth called “Who Am I?” This gathering of twenty youth and ten Elders searched and linked their genealogy to our historic past. They explored and traced their ancestors’ journey to northern Alberta.

Our Métis Business / Working with Industry
As in the past, the region has stood on the principle of fair and equal treatment for the Métis. Therefore, we ensure that Métis have the necessary rights to pursue employment, training, housing, and membership.

Consultation and meetings have been set up with Trans Canada, Site C, Terra, Shell, DMI, etc. Traditional land use studies have enabled us to gather information on trapping, fishing, hunting as well as the footprints left behind by the Métis identifying and remembering our trails, graves, flora and fauna. Our Elders and hunters have identified wintering sites for the moose and caribou, berry picking spots and medicines. Environmental issues concerning our land and water have been identified. We have been assisted with some of this work through ACME consulting. We will continue striving to be recognized stakeholders to industry and government.

By working closely with Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline we have participated in many meetings, conferences, oral hearings and field work, bringing out our Elders, hunters and present our case and our history. Employment opportunities are also encouraged as we continue to make sure that the Métis are included, heard and consulted. Our aim is to include as many of our people as possible throughout the Northwest Region as well as putting opportunity and right in the hands of the grassroots people.

Region VI has hosted a meeting to bring awareness to the possible extinction of the Woodland Caribou. Environmental issues and concerns, wildlife protection and traditional land disturbance as well as oil spills in the Northwest region are carefully watched and monitored. Proposals and programs are continually lobbied for and sought after.

Aboriginal Framework Agreement / Mission Statement / Mandate
• Region VI will assist all Métis people in becoming self-sufficient in their communities for the betterment of life.
• Development and enhance the Métis way of life, free from prejudice;
• Ensure that land claim issues in Region VI receive top priority.
• Advocate and lobby on behalf of Métis members.
• Promote awareness of the unique Métis heritage and culture
• Promote and encourage participation by Elders and Youth.
• Help define the rights of the Métis people

The Aboriginal Affairs framework agreement capacity dollars continues to be the same amount as we received 20 years ago. This makes it extremely hard to cover all office costs regional council meetings and annual general meeting, salaries for one staff member and elected officials as this was originally intended to do. We must compensate through other
programs and initiatives to assist with increased cost of operations. Even though the provincial council has continuously lobbied for a cost of living increase, and has held many meetings and workshops on the framework agreement, as we have proved that the cost of running an office, wages and utilities have more than tripled since the original grant, we have never received any additional compensation. Hence, we have had to change our strategy in becoming very creative to cover costs such as our Annual General Meeting and Regional Council Meetings and utilities. The capacity building we have based our business plan and mandate on are pretty much nonexistent and certainly unable to fulfill.

Another barrier that exists in the region is the fact that there is no membership clerk. Again, the members have to travel to Edmonton head office at their own expense as well as inconvenience. For people from north of Peace River, this is a nine hour drive. Most times the office is closed before they get there. Every effort on the part of Region VI MNA has been made to try and get a membership clerk, one who could travel throughout the Region. Many times we were promised that this would happen, yet to date we are still waiting.

Cultural Activities
Our cultural activities include Métis Week where we proudly celebrated for five days straight. Celebrations took place in Cadotte Lake where we participated in a community feast with Cadotte Lake Local through fiddling and jigging as well as children’s activities. Open house was held at our office with a stew and bannock luncheon. Grande Prairie held a Métis week supper and jigging performances. Three school tours and Métis awareness at the mall. People visiting the office received information on Louis Riel and the Métis as well as a Métis gift. The local paper did a one page write up on Louis Riel and the journey of the Métis to the Peace country.

We work with other Aboriginal groups in the region, striving to bring Métis cultural awareness to every possible event we can. By sitting on Aboriginal Interagency, we connect with the community and work together. By supporting our traditional craftpeople, we have been able to add to our cross cultural artifacts and displays. Region VI has started making dance costumes and ribbon shirts for our children and youth.

Visit our Gift Shop and Resource Room
We have grown our cultural artifacts, crafts and books for sale and Métis cross cultural activities. By purchasing handicrafts from Aboriginal people in the north we support and promote our traditional entrepreneur’s through sales of, moccasins, mitts, baskets, sashes, jewellery, ribbon shirts, dream catchers, Aboriginal resource books are all for sale.

Some fun activities we hosted were a Halloween party for children, a bbq and garage sale held by the Elders Caring Shelter, Christmas party at the office for Elders and members, Christmas party at the Elders Caring Shelter, Christmas open house party for families in our board room, family day in Cadotte Lake. Region VI sponsored a Christmas community swim at the complex.

Bursaries/Scholarships
The Region VI office offers our own “Marina Brothers Excellence in Education” bursary. Bursaries from Shell and Nesokmahtan, the total amount of Bursary donation to post secondary students is $5,000.00

Donations and Support
Donations given out by Region VI and our companies Nesokmahtan Enterprises Inc. and Northwest Development are given to the Locals, rooms and travel for MNA Assembly and Region VI AGM. Bereavement, Sports, conferences, children’s programs, jigging competitions and lessons, community activities, Sisters in Spirit Walk, Aboriginal Pow Wow, Grande Prairie Aboriginal Day, Native Hockey Tournament, emergency housing assistance, rainy day program, Aboriginal Fashion Gala, etc. This year, Christmas gift baskets and Christmas candy cups were given out to our Elders, shut-ins and members who came to see us Christmas week. Small gifts were under the tree for children who came in to the office. Four deserving families were given cheques to make Christmas a little happier and easier. We also partnered in with the food bank to help distribute toys and food. Through our homeless fund, we supported a family that burned out and another family that was homeless.

On a very sad note, Region VI has lost many of their wonderful elders this year, including our beloved Kookum Irene Cartell, matrarch of Cadotte Lake Métis community. Her support and presence at our AGM’s and Assemblies will be greatly missed. As well, we have lost our Veteran Elzear Punchy Whitehead. The gift he gave us was his wonderful personality, always teaching us about the Veterans and Remembrance Day, giving us the opportunity to know more our veterans and be proud of them. The dedication to the Métis Nation that our elders have given to us will always be cherished and remembered. Their spirit will live on as we will never forget.

Regional Council
Board of Directors
• Region VI Elder Ruth Kidder
• Peace River Local 78 President Ruth Kidder
• Fairview Local President Jim Whiteford
• Valleyview Local President Ruby Gladue
• Cadotte Lake Local President Wendy Goulet
• Fort Vermilion Local President Noreen McAteer

Appointments
• Métis Nation of Alberta Minister of Housing, Sylvia Johnson
• Métis Nation of Alberta Minister of Children and Youth, Carol Ridsdale
• Region VI Rep of Housing, Wendy Goulet
• Region VI Youth Reps, Natasha Gauthier and Stephen Malais
• Region VI Métis Judiciary Council Rep, Marg Mueller

Veteran Charlie St. Germaine
Veterans Leo Goulet and Punchy Whitehead
Elder Emery ‘Muskwa’ Poitras
Veterans Leo Goulet and Punchy Whitehead
Veteran Charlie St. Germaine

Métis Nation of Alberta 2011-2012 Annual Report
Summary of Motions

METIS NATION OF ALBERTA
32ND ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
August 31 - September 4, 2011
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Summary of Motions

MOTION #1: Melanie Omenshaw moves to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 a.m. Motion Carried.

MOTION #2: Ernie Rata moves to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 a.m. Motion Carried.

MOTION #3: Robert Lee moves to amend the agenda to add a Candidates Forum following the Treasurer's Report under Report of Officers. Motion Carried.

MOTION #4: Melanie Omenshaw moves to accept the agenda as amended seconded by Rev. Weber. Motion Carried.

MOTION #5: Melanie Omenshaw moves to accept the President's Report, seconded by Angie Cretu. Motion Carried.

MOTION #6: Melanie Omenshaw moves to accept the Vice President's Report, seconded by Louis Belleau. Motion Carried.

Motion #7: Aaron Barner moves to accept the Summary of Minutes from the 2010 Assembly in Wabasca as presented in the Annual Report, seconded by James Askerson. Motion Carried.

Note: Point of privilege – Thank you to Mariel Stanley Venne for her speech.

MOTION #8: Melanie Omenshaw moves to accept the Financial Report as presented, seconded by Shirley McDonald. Motion Carried.

Métis Nation of Alberta – 83rd Annual General Meeting
August 31 – September 4, 2011
Grande Prairie, Alberta
Summary of Motions

Ordinary Resolution #1

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Alberta, on behalf of Métis citizens, owns 100% of Métis Crossing and
WHEREAS Métis History, land, culture, heritage and language is our foundation from the past and will remain steadfast for future generations, and
WHEREAS we have been advised that Métis Crossing must raise $3.5 million dollars that will be matched by the Government of Canada

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we all as citizens, Locals, Regions and friends of the Métis Nation provide and move very quickly to assist financially or otherwise, in any way we can, Métis Crossing in achieving and attaining this goal as it will reflect to all Albertans and Canadians that we as Métis can and will meet this challenge and build our “home” that showcases and celebrates our exciting culture with the world.

Moved by Brandy Mitchell
Seconded by Angie Crear

RESOLUTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ordinary Resolution #2

WHEREAS the children of the Métis Nation of Alberta are still being apprehended at a very high rate and
WHEREAS there is a class action against the Province of Alberta to address the abuse of children in foster care, and
WHEREAS there is need to bring the Métis people together to address these issues,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED to support the Métis Kids for Us Conference planned by the Métis Mothers of Alberta this year.

Moved by Muriel Staslow Venne
Seconded by Nora Cardinal

RESOLUTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ordinary Resolution #3

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Alberta represents Métis throughout Alberta,
WHEREAS children and families across Alberta have been in need and continue to require advocacy, support and culturally based services,
WHEREAS Métis children and families are impacted and continue to be among the high statistics of Aboriginal children in need,

Métis Nation of Alberta – 83rd Annual General Meeting
August 11-14, 2011
Grande Prairie, Alberta
Summary of Motions

WHEREAS the Elder and Children and Youth Provincial Committee represent the hearts of the people, and have not had resources to undertake consultation and capacity building to develop a Provincial approach based on residential school history, knowledge and experience since June 2009,

WHEREAS consultation with industry and government is supported, but internal consultation with MNA citizens has not been given resources

AND WHEREAS children and youth are the future of the Metis Nation,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Metis Nation of Alberta direct financial resources on an ongoing basis, including Tripartite resources, to the goal of Provincial consultation within MNA families, and the development of tangible, consistent services, and capacity building based on the long-standing Committee’s initiatives and Elders direction to serve Metis Children in families in need of support in all areas of the Metis Nation of Alberta.

Moved by Bev Weber
Moved by Noreen McAner
RESOLUTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ordinary Resolution #4

WHEREAS the MNA Bylaws govern the affairs of the MNA and are meant to provide direction for all levels of the Metis Nation of Alberta,

WHEREAS there are obvious inconsistencies within the document that were created to Gover the Metis Nation of Alberta, which also contributes to misinterpretation of the said bylaws and contributes to internal conflict within the Metis Nation of Alberta,

WHEREAS the MNA Bylaws have not gone through an extensive review since they were created,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as an Ordinary Resolution; that the Provincial Council of the Metis Nation of Alberta appoints a Bylaw Revision Committee, that includes one Representative from each Region, to review and create a set of bylaws that better suits the needs of today’s Metis Nation of Alberta Government and present this new document to the 2012 Annual General Assembly to be approved.

Moved by Crandell Mitchell
Moved by Angie Cretar
RESOLUTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ordinary Resolution #5

WHEREAS the Metis Nation of Alberta recognizes the Locals in the Regions or Zones, and

WHEREAS the Locals are the foundation of the Metis Nation,

Métis Nation of Alberta – 83rd Annual General Meeting
August 11-14, 2013
Grande Prairie, Alberta
WHEREAS Article 16.2 defines the term of office for the President, Vice President and the Regional Representative of the Provincial Council as three (3) years; and

WHEREAS the cost of holding elections is extremely high and amortizing the cost over four (4) years would be more cost effective and would provide a better use of MNA funds; and

WHEREAS all the other Métis Governing bodies in Canada are elected to four (4) years terms, this includes the Métis Nation of Ontario, Manitoba Métis Federation, Métis Nation of Saskatchewan and the Métis Nation of British Columbia, and

WHEREAS the Métis Settlements General Council’s elected terms of office are for terms of four (4) years, as are the majority of First Nations Governments.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws Article 16.2 be amended by replacing “three (3)” with “four (4)” so that hereinafter Article 16.2 shall read:

The President, Vice President and the Regional Representatives of the Provincial Council shall be elected for a term of four (4) years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this amendment will become effective for the Métis Nation of Alberta Association election in September of 2014.

Moved by: Aaron Barner
Seconded by: Allan Scoville

WHEREAS Article 16.2 defines the term of office for the President, Vice President and the Regional Representative of the Provincial Council as three (3) years; and

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The President, Vice President and the Regional Representatives of the Provincial Council shall be elected for a term of four (4) years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this amendment will become effective for the Métis Nation of Alberta Association election in September of 2014.

Moved by: Aaron Barner
Seconded by: Allan Scoville
WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Alberta Association believes in equality for all Métis members.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws Article 63.1: The President of the Local Council needs to be amended to reflect equality within the Regional Council.

HEREINAFTER Article 63.1 shall read: (h) has no financial debt owing to the Métis Nation or its affiliates that is more than thirty (30) days in arrears.

Moved by: Diane Scoville Seconded by: Darrell Ghostkeeper

Special Resolution #3

Whereas Article 15.3 of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association bylaws states: Each local council shall provide direction to the regional council in regard to the policies, programs and goals of their local community, and

Whereas Article 14.1 of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association bylaws states: Each Regional Council shall govern the affairs of their Region.

Therefore be it resolved each Métis Nation of Alberta Association Region must have a minimum of four (4) legally incorporated Local councils in order for the Region to be legally operational as per the Métis Nation of Alberta Association bylaws.

Moved by: Diane Scoville Seconded by: Sylvia Johnson

Special Resolution #4

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Alberta Association is a Society registered under the Province of Alberta Societies Act Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000 Chapter S-14;

WHEREAS Article 3.1 defines “Métis” means a person who self-identifies as a Métis, is distinct from other aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation;

WHEREAS 3.2 states a Métis must provide historical proof of his or her status as Métis.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaw Article 4.5 be amended adding "who has met all the requirement of Article 3.1 and 3.2."

HEREINAFTER Article 4.5 shall read:
Member – means a member of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association who has met all the requirements of Article 3.1 and 3.2.

Moved by: Cecil Bellrose Seconded by: Beatrice Demetrius

Special Resolution #5

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Alberta Association is a Society registered under the Province of Alberta Societies Act Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000 Chapter S-14;

WHEREAS Section 9 (4) (a) of the Societies Act requires all Societies to define in their bylaws provisions for terms of admission of members and their rights and obligations;

WHEREAS Article 3.1 defines “Métis” means a person who self-identifies as a Métis, is distinct from other aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation;

WHEREAS 3.2 states a Métis must provide historical proof of his or her status as Métis.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaw Article 6.2 be amended to meet this requirement.

HEREINAFTER Article 6.2 shall read:

A Lifetime Member is:
(a) A Métis who has met all the requirement of the Métis definition through the Métis Nation of Alberta Registry and issued a Métis ID number; or
(b) A Métis child who has met all the requirement of the Métis definition through the Métis Nation of Alberta Registry and issued a Métis ID number.

Moved by: Cecil Bellrose Seconded by: Beatrice Demetrius