

THE LIST OF RIGHTS

I. THAT THE TERRITORIES THEREFORE KNOWN AS RATT
AND NORTH-WEST SHALL NOT ENTER INTO THE C
OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA, EXCEPT AS A PROV
STYLED AND KNOWN AS THE PROVINCE OF ASSINI
RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES COMMON TO THE DI
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II. THAT WE HAVE TWO REPRESENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA:
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III. THAT THE
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MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA

ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013



THE SUM OF \$80,000
BY THE DOMINION GOVERNMENT TO THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE OF

VI. THAT DURING THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS, THE PROVINCE OF ASSINIBOIA SHALL
NOT BE SUBJECTED TO ANY DIRECT TAXATION EXCEPT SUCH AS MAY BE IMPOSED
BY LOCAL LEGISLATURE, FOR MUNICIPAL OR LOCAL PURPOSES.

VII. THAT A SUM OF MONEY EQUAL TO EIGHTY CENTS PER HEAD OF THE POPULA-
TION OF THIS PROVINCE BE PAID ANNUALLY BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT
THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE OF THIS PROVINCE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE
NATION'S

OUR TIME HAS COME



OUR VISION

Together we will continue to build a strong Métis Nation

OUR MISSION

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

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. We believe we are continuing to build on the foundation for future generations;
2. We believe in fairness and respect for all people;
3. We believe we need to work in unity and harmony;
4. We believe all Métis people are part of the nation;
5. We believe in Métis participation in building our nation;
6. We believe in encouraging and assisting Métis people to achieve their goals;
7. We believe in honesty and professionalism;
8. We believe we will abide by our governing structure; and
9. We believe we will achieve self-government.

THE LIST OF RIGHTS

AS DRAWN BY THE EXECUTIVE OF LOUIS RIEL'S PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, 1869

- I. That the Territories heretofore known as Rupert's Land and North-West, shall not enter into the Confederation of the Dominion of Canada, except as a Province; to be styled and known as the Province of Assiniboia, and with all the rights and privileges common to the different Provinces of the Dominion.
- II. That we have two Representatives in the Senate, and four in the House of Commons of Canada, until such time as an increase of population entitle the Province to a greater Representation.
- III. That the Province of Assiniboia shall not be held liable at any time for any portion of the Public debt of the Dominion contracted before the date the said Province shall have entered the Confederation, unless the said Province shall have first received from the Dominion the full amount for which the said Province is to be held liable.
- IV. That the sum of Eighty Thousand (\$80,000) dollars be paid annually by the Dominion Government to the local Legislature of this Province.
- V. That all properties, rights and privileges engaged [sic: enjoyed] by the people of this Province, up to the date of our entering into the Confederation, be respected; and that the arrangement and confirmation of all customs, usages and privileges be left exclusively to the local Legislature.
- VI. That during the term of five years, the Province of Assiniboia shall not be subjected to any direct taxation, except such as may be imposed by local Legislature, for municipal or local purposes.
- VII. That a sum of money equal to eighty cents per head of the population of this Province, be paid annually by the Canadian Government to the local Legislature of the said Province; until such time as the said population shall have reached six hundred thousand.
- VIII. That the local Legislature shall have the right to determine the qualification of members to represent this Province in the Parliament of Canada and in the local Legislature.
- IX. That in this Province, with the exception of uncivilized and unsettled Indians, every male native citizen who has attained the age of twenty-one years, and every foreigner, other than a British subject, who has resided here during the same period, being a householder and having taken the oath of allegiance, shall be entitled to vote at the election of members for the local Legislature and for the Canadian Parliament. It being understood that this article be subject to amendment exclusively by the local Legislature.
- X. That the bargain of the Hudson's Bay Company with respect to the transfer of the Government of this country to the Dominion of Canada, be annulled; so far as it interferes with the rights of the people of Assiniboia, and so far as it would affect our future relations with Canada.
- XI. That the local Legislature of the Province of Assiniboia shall have full control over all the public lands of the Province and the right to annul all acts or arrangements made, or entered into, with reference to the public lands of Rupert's Land, and the North West now called the Province of Assiniboia.
- XII. That the Government of Canada appoint a Commission of Engineers to explore the various districts of the Province of Assiniboia, and to lay before the local Legislature a report of the mineral wealth of the Province, within five years from the date of our entering into Confederation.
- XIII. That treaties be concluded between Canada and the different Indian tribes of the Province of Assiniboia, by and with the advice and cooperation of the local Legislature of this Province.
- XIV. That an uninterrupted steam communication from Lake Superior to Fort Garry be guaranteed, to be completed within the space of five years.
- XV. That all public buildings, bridges, roads and other public works, be at the cost of the Dominion Treasury.
- XVI. That the English and French languages be common in the Legislature and in the Courts, and that all public documents, as well as acts of the Legislature be published in both languages.
- XVII. That whereas the French and English speaking people of Assiniboia are so equally divided as to number, yet so united in their interests and so connected by commerce, family connections and other political and social relations, that it has, happily, been found impossible to bring them into hostile collision- although repeated attempts have been made by designing strangers, for reasons known to themselves, to bring about so ruinous and disastrous an event- and whereas after all the troubles and apparent dissensions of the past- the result of misunderstanding among themselves; they have as soon as the evil agencies referred to above were removed- become as united and friendly as ever- therefore, as a means to strengthen this union and friendly feeling among all classes, we deem it expedient and advisable- that the Lieutenant-Governor, who may be appointed for the Province of Assiniboia, should be familiar with both the French and English languages.
- XVIII. That the Judge of the Supreme Court speaks the English and French languages.
- XIX. That all debts contracted by the Provisional Government of the Territory of the Northwest, now called Assiniboia, in consequence of the illegal and inconsiderate measure adopted by Canadian officials to bring about a civil war in our midst, be paid out of the Dominion Treasury; and that none of the members of the Provisional Government, or any of those acting under them, be in any way held liable or responsible with regard to the movement, or any of the actions which led to the present negotiations.
- XX. That in view of the present exceptional position of Assiniboia, duties upon goods imported into the province, shall, except in the case of spirituous liquors, continue as at present for at least three years from the date of our entering the Confederation and for such further time as may elapse until there be uninterrupted railroad communication between Winnipeg and St. Paul and also steam communication between Winnipeg and Lake Superior.

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I wish to welcome you to the 85th Annual General Assembly of Alberta's Métis people. The Métis Nation of Alberta has the distinction of being the oldest representative organization of Métis people in Canada. For 85 years, Métis people in this province have strived to make a better life for our families wherever we reside.

From its humble beginnings in 1928, Métis leaders of earlier years worked diligently to ensure that our place in Alberta and Canada was recognized; that our identity as Métis people would be preserved for all generations to follow.

In 2013, we continue to build a sound and transparent governance, developing partnerships and relationships. In this issue, I am pleased to provide you an opportunity to find news of activities from our department sectors and affiliated institutions.



As the President of today's Métis Government here in Alberta, I know only too well the sacrifices and determination of former leaders. I too strive to lead our great Nation in this province of plenty, but that doesn't come without its challenges.

One of our biggest challenges continues to be our Harvesting Rights. The case – R. v. Hirsekorn – is a harvesting rights “test case” for Alberta Métis in our ongoing hunt for justice in the courts. Although the Alberta Court of Appeal refused to overturn the conviction of Métis harvester Garry Hirsekorn for hunting in the Cypress Hills in 2007, I believe that ultimately we will have our constitutional rights recognized and affirmed. We are now more determined than ever. Because of its importance to the entire Métis Nation, our Métis lawyers have been instructed to ask the Supreme Court of Canada to hear this case.

Although I had high hopes for a redesigned Alberta Cabinet, the MNA continues to have other challenges that directly affect Métis people in the province. Although we have had a Framework Agreement since the late 1980s with previous Alberta premiers, present day government leaders are not so amenable to honor this long-standing agreement with the Métis in Alberta. One area that was covered under this agreement was Education – unfortunately this funding was cut and no longer available as an MNA sector agreement. On the federal funding areas, we continue to receive federal funding from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada – formerly Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Here too we are experiencing significant challenges in funding cuts.

All of these challenges do not deter us. We have not existed as a Nation for 85 years because we give up easily. Thank you to all our members, staff and volunteers who work daily to fulfill our vision of “a Strong Métis Nation embracing Métis rights.” With great honour, I continue to fulfill the role and responsibility you have bestowed upon me as your President. Collectively, as a Nation of people, we work together for a future that our former leaders would commend.

The AGA is a wonderful time to meet with friends and family and to remember those who have passed away- elders, veterans and members who have left their indelible mark on our Nation.

Take the opportunity this weekend to thank Regional President Karen Collins, Vice-President Shirley Benson and the Region 2 Regional Council for hosting the 85th Annual General Assembly.

Please join me in expressing our sincerest thank you to the City of Cold Lake for donating the use of this beautiful Cold Lake Energy Centre for our AGA.

It is my express wish that you will take time to greet one another, to celebrate our uniqueness and to participate in our business meeting for the betterment of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Please practice safety while you are here and when travelling home.

Sincerely,

Audrey Poitras
President of Métis Nation of Alberta

It is indeed a pleasure and an honor to welcome you to the 85th Annual Assembly here in beautiful, historic Cold Lake. We are pleased to see you here in Lakeland County, an area that has been populated by the Métis for almost 250 years. This area, between Cold Lake and the North Saskatchewan to the South was once a major hunting and trading area with both the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company owning trading posts. The Métis were here for many years prior to the traders setting up shop in this region. Long before Peter Fiddler came here to map the region and set up a trading post.



I am pleased to report that under the current elected leadership, the Métis Nation of Alberta remains strong and vibrant and we continue to advance our political and social agendas, particularly with the various industrial leaders that work in our Regions. Even though the Provincial Government has not fully established a Métis Consultation Policy, several of the major industry players now include the Métis Nation of Alberta in its "consultation process." Most of these major industry companies understand that the Métis are rights-bearing people and strongly support Métis Consultation. The list of Métis-friendly companies is growing quickly and it is a pleasure to stand beside our Regional representatives as we work together to benefit all the Métis people in our province.

Since being elected your Provincial Vice-President in 2011, I have taken great pride in being your representative at the "Board Room table." Be it the Provincial Council, oil or pipeline companies, community leaders or government, I represent you in an honest, honorable and transparent manner. I sincerely appreciate the support, advice and counsel given to me by the many seniors and members of our mighty nation. I am proud of our people; with their respect for our culture and each other, I don't believe there is any other race in the world that maintains their cultural roots like the Métis. I particularly see this when I travel around the province speaking at gatherings or graduations. It is wonderful to see the local communities maintaining the traditions and passing on this knowledge to our youth.

As I had mentioned in my 2012 greeting, education is quickly becoming a major factor in our success and this is evident in the high number of Métis students graduating from high school, post-secondary, and graduate school. The determination to succeed and the thirst for knowledge show the strength of our youth and their parents. And as I have said before, it is remarkable how we Métis can meet the challenges of the 21st Century and still hold so close our heritage and traditions.

Thank you all for attending our Annual Assembly. Remember that even though the Assembly is a time for conducting our nation's business, it is also a time for us to get together to renew friendships and participate in our cultural events. Have fun and don't be afraid to get jigging when you hear the fiddles play.

Sincerely,

Toby Racette
Vice-President of Métis Nation of Alberta

LETTERS FROM DIGNITARIES



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE



I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 85th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA).

Earlier this year, our Government and the Métis Nation renewed the 2008 Métis National Protocol and signed a new Governance and Financial Accountability Accord that will improve transparency and predictability and establish a process for Canada and the Métis Nation to move forward on a range of key issues.

Canada's Métis heritage forms an important part of our history. Since 1928, the Métis Nation of Alberta has worked diligently on behalf of its members to promote their political, social, and cultural interests. This event provides an ideal opportunity to discuss the valuable work of the MNA and its role in fostering positive change for the community. I am certain that this year's assembly will prove to be enlightening for all involved.

Please accept my best wishes for a productive meeting.

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.

OTTAWA
2013



Premier of Alberta

Office of the Premier, 307 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada

Message from Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC Premier of Alberta



On behalf of the Government of Alberta, I am pleased to bring greetings to all of the participants of the 85th annual assembly of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Alberta is proud of the deep roots that Métis people have in our economic, social and cultural history. Métis people helped to build and to shape our province. They were vital to the early fur trader economy and were instrumental in establishing communities such as Lac La Biche and St. Paul des Métis.

Today, Métis people continue to make significant contributions to our province. Alberta is proud to be home to the largest Métis population in the country. The young and rapidly growing population of Métis people is vital to the Alberta's future growth and prosperity.

The Alberta government is committed to working with the Métis Nation of Alberta in supporting the social, economic and political aspirations of Métis people.

I wish you an exciting and productive annual assembly.

Alison M. Redford, QC

August 8, 2013



Greetings from Genia Leskiw, MLA for Bonnyville-Cold Lake

As the MLA for Bonnyville-Cold Lake, I have seen firsthand the tremendous positive impact of the Métis people in our communities as well as the continued growth and development of our settlements. It has been a historic year for our Métis communities as we continue to strengthen and develop our partnerships

designed to help them grow. Our province is filled with economic opportunities for all Albertans, and I am so glad to see the Métis communities in my constituency thriving.

It is an honour to represent the Bonnyville-Cold Lake Métis communities in the Alberta Legislature and I wish nothing but more success in the years to come.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Genia Leskiw".

Genia Leskiw
MLA for Bonnyville-Cold Lake

Greetings from President Clément Chartier Métis National Council



Congratulations to members of the Métis Nation of Alberta and President Audrey Poitras as you gather to celebrate the 85th Annual General Assembly in Cold Lake, Alberta.

On behalf of the Métis National Council, I am honored to welcome delegates, Elders, youth and especially Métis veterans as you prepare to meet on this historic occasion.

In March, the Métis National Council hosted a joint Métis Nation of Alberta and British Columbia Métis Nation Regional Economic Development Engagement Session, in follow-up to last years joint session in Grande Prairie in order to foster better business relationships between Métis business, industry and governments.

I was very pleased to see the two Governing Members enter into a formalized business relationship through an MOU which signals a growing era of our Métis governments working more closely together regardless of provincial boundaries. In this connection, the announcement that Apeetogosan will extend its services into northeastern BC was groundbreaking.

As we move towards the potential adoption of a Métis Nation Constitution in December, I encourage delegates at this assembly to lend their support and encouragement to the MNA leadership to adopt the draft Constitution at the December 7-8, 2013 MNC General Assembly.

With respect to Métis rights, I, as do all Métis Nation citizens and leaders, wish you great success in the *Hirsehorn* Alberta Court of Appeal process, and look forward to its eventual victory in the Supreme Court of Canada.

I wish you a productive assembly and hope you enjoy the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Clément Chartier, QC
President



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



MAYOR COPELAND, COLD LAKE

To the Métis Nation of Alberta,

It is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome on behalf of the City of Cold Lake to all participants of the Métis Nation of Alberta's 85th Annual Assembly.

We are proud as a council, and as a community, to offer the Cold Lake Energy Centre as a venue for the assembly.

The Métis culture, traditions and history run deep in our area. It is a great privilege for all our residents to take part in hosting the assembly. This opportunity allows us to share in a rich culture that has helped shape our region and will continue to make great contributions, not only in the Lakeland, but throughout the Province of Alberta.

It is my hope that the 85th Annual Assembly is a memorable meeting and a vibrant cultural celebration for all who attend, and that all participants enjoy their stay in our beautiful City.

Best regards,

Craig Copeland
Mayor

A Message from Brian Storseth Member of Parliament for Westlock, St. Paul



Greetings!

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to congratulate you on your 85th Annual Assembly.

The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) has a long and rich history of which you should be very proud. The MNA has played an integral role in advocating on behalf of the Métis people of Alberta, working with all levels of government to positively affect policy changes, and improving program and service delivery. Working alongside its members, the MNA continues to promote the diverse culture and facilitate the advancement of Alberta's Métis.

The massive growth in membership in the MNA in the recent years is a testament to the great work this organization does.

Congratulations once again on this remarkable milestone.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Storseth'.

Brian Storseth
Member of Parliament for Westlock – St. Paul

A Message from Bruce Dumont President of Métis Nation British Columbia



Madame President Audrey Poitras
 Métis Nation of Alberta

Taanshi Kiyawow, Ta'wow Petigwe, Bonjour, Bienvenue

Greetings Madame President, delegates, leadership and staff of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

It is my honour to extend greetings on behalf of the 8,000 plus Métis Citizens, Board of Directors and staff of the Métis Nation British Columbia and congratulate you and the Métis Nation of Alberta on your 85 years of continued success and longevity.

As with any great purpose and goal in mind the past years have come with their share of challenges and obstacles. As proud Métis people we are not unfamiliar to challenge or hardship but our perseverance and determination throughout our history has dictated many successes. The recent victories of the Federal Court case Canada v. Daniels and the more recent Manitoba Metis land claim case is a true testament of this. We are Métis and we are not going anywhere. We will preserve and we will continue to build on this great nation and fight for the inherent rights of our Ancestors, ourselves and our children to follow.

Métis Nation of Alberta is also a testament to the achievement of these challenges and successes. For 85 years, the leadership of the MNA along with the assistance and skill of their staff who work tirelessly to reach the objectives of your Métis communities are to be completely commended in this regard.

Every year we look forward to celebrating the progress of our great nation and to look past previous challenges to welcome new opportunities ahead. Through collective dedication and vision, you, your leadership and MNA citizens will continue to fight for your rights, health, education, and overall betterment of your nation.

The Métis Nation British Columbia sincerely values the relationship it has with the Métis Nation of Alberta and we look forward to more future collaborative opportunities.

I wish the MNA great success on their 85th Annual AGA, and to you, your board and your nation all the best.

Ekoushi maaka!
 Ki'nass koumitinowow!



Bruce Dumont, President
 Métis Nation British Columbia

The Métis Nation British Columbia, first incorporated under the Society's Act on October 23, 1996, is recognized by the provincial and federal government and the Métis National Council as the official governing organization in the province of British Columbia, representing over 8,000 provincially registered Métis citizens and a population of over 60,000 self-identified Métis people.



GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT DAVID CHARTRAND, LL.D. (HON) MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION

To our brothers and sisters in Alberta, we offer our best wishes and greetings as you meet at your 85th Annual Assembly. The accomplishments of the Métis Nation of Alberta are beneficial to our Nation. On behalf of the Métis citizens of Manitoba, I would like to thank you for your leadership on many national issues. Governing ourselves is not something we do once a year – it is something we must do every day. But when we see each other at our governing assemblies, it gives us the pride necessary to continue the battles that every Métis generation has had to take on.

Our great leader, Louis Riel defended our people and our rights and continues to give us inspiration as we continue our path to nationhood. In 1875, he wrote: “Pray that God may preserve the little Métis nation, and cause it to grow and remain faithful to its mission. During five years that I must pass in exile, I have only this to say to the Métis: remain Métis, and become more Métis then ever”.

On behalf of the Manitoba Métis Federation government, best wishes for a successful and prosperous assembly.

“Believe in Yourself – Believe in Métis.”

Meeqwetch,

A handwritten signature of David Chartrand in black ink. The signature is stylized, with the first name 'David' written in a cursive script and the last name 'Chartrand' written in a more formal, slightly cursive script. There is a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

David Chartrand, LL.D. (hon.)
President of Manitoba Métis Federation

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF MÉTIS NATION SASKATCHEWAN



Tansi, Edlanate, good day Métis Nation, and welcome Alberta citizens, leaders and delegates to the Métis Nation of Alberta Annual General Assembly. It is my honour to bring greetings on behalf of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan's citizens and the Provincial Métis Council.

On the anniversary of your 85th Annual Assembly, it is my honour and privilege to address citizens of the Métis Nation of Alberta who have provided great leadership to the Métis across the homeland. From the Big Five Métis leaders in the 1940s, to your present leader, President Audrey Poitras, have all played a significant role in the advancement and accommodation of Métis rights in Alberta and across Canada.

As the years unfold, many of you will look back on your involvement with Métis Nation of Alberta and I believe you will feel a sense of satisfaction because you were part of a team that brought the Métis in Alberta to a place of prominence and respect. Your grandchildren and their grandchildren will be taught about the times of struggle and the times of celebration for Métis in Alberta. They are the ones who will inherit what we, together, build in unity, honour and respect.

On behalf of my wife Betty Garr, our children, grandchildren and Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, I extend congratulations, and may God bless you and your families.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Doucette
President of Métis Nation Saskatchewan



A message from Gary Lipinski,
President of the Métis Nation of Ontario,
to the delegates of the
2013 Métis Nation of Alberta
85th Annual General Assembly

I am pleased to bring greetings from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to the delegates of the 85th Annual General Assembly (AGA) of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA). I would like to thank President Audrey Poitras for inviting me to extend greetings and for incorporating this message in your annual report.

President Poitras and I have been able to foster a very positive and productive relationship between our two governments, and in 2010, I was very pleased to sign with President Poitras, a Memorandum of Understanding between the MNO and MNA.

The MNO greatly admires the work being done by the MNA, particularly in the areas of Métis rights, Métis culture, healing and wellness, governance, registry, economic development and prosperity. Combining this critical work with celebrations of Métis culture and heritage will make your Assembly a very special event.

I wish MNA AGA delegates all the best during their important deliberations and congratulate MNA – Region 2 for hosting this historic event.

The MNO values its strong relationship with the MNA and looks forward to continuing to work together to advance the Métis agenda across the homeland.

Sincerely,



Gary Lipinski,
President,
Métis Nation of Ontario



Welcome from Municipal District of Bonnyville

On behalf of the Municipal District of Bonnyville Council I want to welcome all representatives to the Metis Nation of Alberta 85th Annual Assembly.

We are proud to be a part of the hosting region for this Annual Assembly. As a neighbouring municipality to the Elizabeth Metis and the Fishing Lake Metis settlements, we have a long history of project partnerships with these members of Metis Nation of Alberta.

I know that you will be focusing on extensive business matters during the four- day Assembly. I hope that all participants will take some time to relax and enjoy all that our region has to offer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Rondeau".

Reeve Ed Rondeau
Municipal District of Bonnyville



ALBERTA NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRES ASSOCIATION

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Aboriginal Friendship
Centre of Calgary

Athabasca Native
Friendship Centre Society

Bonnyville Canadian
Native Friendship Centre

Canadian Native
Friendship Centre

Cold Lake Native
Friendship Centre

Edson Friendship Centre

Grande Prairie
Friendship Centre

High Level Native
Friendship Centre

High Prairie Native
Friendship Centre

Hinton Friendship Centre

Lac La Biche Canadian
Native Friendship Centre

Lloydminster Native
Friendship Centre

Mannawanis Native
Friendship Centre

Napi Friendship
Association

Nistawoyou Association
Friendship Centre

Red Deer Native
Friendship Society

Rocky Native
Friendship Centre Society

Sagitawa
Friendship Centre Society

Sik-oo-kotoki
Friendship Society

Slave Lake Native
Friendship Centre Society



On behalf of the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA) it gives me great pleasure to provide this message of congratulations to the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) on the anniversary of its 85th Annual General Assembly.

The ANFCA is proud to support the provincial Métis organization, its provincial

board members, and the work it does to advance the rights of Métis people in the province of Alberta and in Canada. The constitutional rights of Métis people have advanced significantly over the past 85 years, but there is still much work to be done to advance the cause of the Métis and successfully achieve equity in today's society.

Legal results have recognized Métis hunting and harvesting rights; however, the MNA continues to hold the court accountable for these decisions that ultimately value and respect Métis Albertans. The ANFCA supports the MNA on this issue and will attempt to relay timely information and updates to Métis people living in rural and urban communities where Friendship Centres are located.

The ANFCA is also pleased to see the work that the MNA does in the promotion of youth leadership through the Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth program. It is the Métis youth of this province that will carry on the work of the MNA in future years to ensure that the Métis community remains vibrant and attuned to the needs of Métis people in Alberta.

It is my sincere hope that the MNA continues to prosper for another 85 years, providing political representation for the Métis Nation within Alberta. Best of luck and rest assured that I remain committed to supporting the MNA and the work the organization does on behalf of its citizens.

In Friendship,

Merle White
President of Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association

PRESIDENT WHITE, ANFCA

MINISTERIAL REPORTS

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH



As minister of Children and Youth, I am both pleased and honored to hold this responsibility. I strongly believe that despite our challenging times, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to give our children and youth opportunities to succeed in life, breaking the barriers against them and working together with our community partners to help build them a stronger and brighter future. I am happy to lead our government strategy and objective to do our part in ensuring that every child and youth has the opportunity to achieve their full potential. I am also proud to provide this report which details the progress we are making as a collective force with enhancing the connection of Métis children, youth and families to their community and culture, as well as improving access to existing programs for our higher risk youth and Métis families affected by violence.

I would like to thank our membership, and president Audrey Poitras for placing their confidence in me, and I can only hope to maintain the efforts that have preceded me up to this point. I promise to continue with advances to improve partnerships and relationships that will ultimately benefit our children and youth.

WE ARE HELPING OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACHIEVE SUCCESS THROUGH THE FOLLOWING TECHNIQUES:

1. The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) developed a partnership with Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) in Region 3 regarding their Métis children in care. The CFSA currently list their number of Métis files at 80. MNA and CFSA developed a partnership protocol as well as a position profile, policies and procedures, and a training module for this specific position. It was very difficult to find a suitable candidate, as our head office is in Edmonton and the posting was for Calgary. Once we filled the position it became evident that more support was required to ensure that the Métis members were receiving the correct information. Meetings were held with CFSA to discuss a possible renewal of position; however, they were unwilling to contribute. Throughout this position, the MNA received 13 self-identified files for registration purposes. MNA is a member of CFAN and EFAN
2. An information booth was stationed during Métis Week, November 11-19, 2012, Prevention and Early Intervention Framework, October 30-31, 2012, and at the Building Futures Together 2013 Annual Conference in Edmonton, April 19-20, 2013. We also provide information to Slave Lake CFSA, Hinton and Edson CFSA, as well as the Aboriginal Initiatives office, and MNA Regions 1, 3, 4 and 6.
3. We represented Métis youth at the National Métis Women's Conference on March 15-17, 2013.
4. We attended the 5th International Conference on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, February 27-March 2, 2013, FASD Education and Training Forum, Feb 4-5, 2013, and Looking through the Lens FASD, March 27-28, 2013.

OUR COMMITTEES

We are active members of the following committees:

1. Human Services Aboriginal Competency Committee
2. Human Services Métis and Non-Status Indian Bursary Program
3. Aboriginal Day Committee
4. Aboriginal Service Delivery Framework
5. Métis Steering Committee
6. Awareness and Prevention Committee CMC
7. Education and Training Committee CMC

EDMONTON FETAL ALCOHOL NETWORK (EFAN)

Sixty individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) or those supporting individuals with FASD have been supported throughout the 2012-2013 fiscal year. We identified that the support required and the referrals that members received were in the areas of housing, social skills, CFSA, mental health, education, and legal services.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Registrations:

- 9 active files from Region 4
- 2 applications from Region 1
- 11 applications from Region 3
- 16 applications from Region 4
- Total applications: 29
- 18 new application files
- 6 ongoing new files

HELPING WITH THE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION OF FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD)

1. Developed tools for communities' booklet which highlights FASD. The kit includes FASD information in the form of fact sheets, brochures, posters, PowerPoint slides, and other resources.
2. Developed a learning series presentation called "Through a Métis Lens." The presentation included information on the MNA, culture, and FASD. It is available on the CMC website for viewing.
3. Developed and launched a data collection tool specific to FASD. This collection tool will provide statistics on our MNA members regarding FASD and also track members that are requesting services and support. This will generate specific Métis data on FASD that is currently untraceable with Alberta Health Services and Health Canada.

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS FOR ABORIGINAL YOUTH PROGRAM

There have been a number of noteworthy achievements with this program, such as:

- Criminal Record checks for youth intervention have been added to CCAY agreement.
- Addition of valid driver's license and abstract.
- Addition of first aid training.

The Métis Nation of Alberta's Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth (CCAY) program is a funding stream of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth has seen many changes in the past 10+ years, most recently having been transferred from Canadian Heritage to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, and being realigned to the Government of Canada's priority of Aboriginal participation in the economy. The Métis Nation of Alberta, through our agreement with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, enabled the participation of urban aboriginal youth in the economy by providing support to projects that:

- Engage urban aboriginal youth and other stakeholders in planning, developing and delivering programs and services to reduce barriers to urban aboriginal youth participation in the economy.
- Projects and programs that support urban aboriginal youth in reducing barriers to their participation in the economy.
- Cultural and language development, preservation, and revitalization in relation to the above mentioned initiatives and projects.
- Projects that assist urban aboriginal youth in realizing their leadership potential through volunteer and social enterprise activities.

Aboriginal youth were involved in the management of each project through a Youth Project Selection Committee (YPSC). The YPSC consisted of a Métis youth age 18-24 from each Region, who is responsible for reviewing and recommending proposals for submission to the Department of AANDC.

Projects that received funding for the 2012-2013 year are as follows:

- Métis Nation of Alberta Region 1
- Métis Nation of Alberta Region 2
- Métis Nation of Alberta Region 5
- Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6
- Shining Mountains Living Community
- Sturgeon School Division
- Victims Services Unit - RCMP
- Aboriginal Arts Council of Alberta
- Miywasin Society of Aboriginal Services
- Métis Nation of Alberta Local Council Chinook 1880

Over the last few years, receiving funding to administer to community projects has been a huge issue, resulting in projects being delayed or cancelled.

“I am deeply committed to improving the economic and social conditions of our communities and families”

MÉTIS RESOURCE

- Presentations were held in Cold Lake, Slave Lake, Aboriginal Initiative Office, Hinton, and Edson.
- Ongoing support for families in the areas of health, finances, food bank, and legal assistance (lawyers).
- Sitting on a Delegation plus Committee. This committee meets in Bonnevillie, and the initiative is to provide enhanced learning to new case and present case workers that are able to provide meaningful understanding of the different cultures with children, families, workers, and support networks, as well as communities.
- Continue to bridge the gap between the CFSAs with the registration process. Have been going to the offices that have a high volume of Métis children in care and assisting the staff by purging through the files and filling out the MNA’s registration package, as well as leaving a list for the staff to obtain the proper form to complete the registration. In most cases, the information that we are requesting is the long form birth certificate, and four generation family tree. These two items are where our gaps are as they are not easy to obtain. Thirteen files in the Slave Lake office have been worked on, and one file of those thirteen has been completed with the assistance of the case worker to obtain the necessary forms. We continue to work together to complete the outstanding files, as this will take time.
- Attend the Aboriginal Coalition Committee on a regular/monthly basis. This committee has a number of organizations at the table to enhance programs, services, and resources offered by service providers to the aboriginal, Métis, and Inuit children and families in Edmonton. We are committed to finding solutions to address the areas of support to children and families who require services, intervention, and advocacy.
- The first Tuesday of every month we attend EFAN meetings to gather information from other organizations to help support families and communities with FASD. We also have different working groups to brain storm ways to get the information out to everyone. I sit with the children’s group and we develop tip sheets on different topics about children, i.e. helping your child be successful in group sporting activities, and managing feelings. We have also developed a calendar with statements such as: ‘you can’t compare an apple to a pear,’ ‘you have to take care of yourself before you can take care of others,’ and ‘FASD: more than meets the eye,’ followed by points of information. At Christmas time we also decorate and auction off a Christmas tree.
- Participate in the MNA Cultural Team to develop fact sheets to pass on to CFSAs, families, foster parents, kinship, staff, youth, and communities in order to educate them about the history and culture of the Métis people—specifically, how it was then and how it is now. We have also developed a calendar with the knowledge of history

depicted.

- Attended two FASD conferences as well as Prevention and Early Intervention Framework with Region 7, and within Region 7, the Aboriginal Forum Committee (growing our relations).
- I have a long term commitment to moving forward, and therefore hope to increase our efforts to create more partnerships across the not-for-profit and private sectors, and across all levels of government, to help build better communities for our children, youth, and families with stronger safety nets and tools to help them succeed and prosper in today's society.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- It is important for us to be more active in removing barriers and increasing opportunities for our people as a whole.
- To be active early on in children's lives, to give them the best start and support them throughout their developmental stages, and to ensure that they reach their full potential as adults.
- Focusing on lifting childrens potential continues to make a real difference in the lives we touch and should be seen as an investment in their future as well as ours as they become our future leaders.
- By providing a full range of activities that offer support and tools, we can achieve our goals for strategic enhancement in the lives of children, youth, and families.

CONCLUSION

As part of my ongoing commitment to create more opportunities for our children, youth and families, we need a re-vamped or up-to-date action plan that will support our higher risk members in building skills that will improve their lives and help them to contribute to their families and communities. I would like to find lasting solutions as a collective force, including the communities, non-profit organizations and private sector businesses, as well as governments to fight and leverage our people as productive and active members of their communities. Public consultation is a key requirement in this process. The voices of our people who are at higher risk must be included in the task of renewing our strategies to address the existing and future needs of our children.

I am deeply committed to improving the economic and social conditions of our communities and families. We must continue to focus on the importance of this—communities, supporting our children, youth and families, and collaborating with a broad range of stakeholders and partners to see their goals achieved. The ongoing economic challenges demand that we move forward with determination, innovation and vigor to renew hope in our membership and succeed in making a lasting difference in the lives of children, youth and families.

I would like to thank and acknowledge those individuals and organizations in our communities who work tirelessly on behalf of our people and membership. Your actions and leadership are realizing the strategy to better serve children, youth and family, and giving them the opportunity to achieve his or her full potential to both contribute to and participate in a healthy community and culture. We must all continue to work together to find lasting solutions. I

am pleased to present this report and look forward to achieving continued success over the coming years.

Sincerely,

Carol Ridsdale
Minister of Children and Youth
Vice-President of Region 6

MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND RECREATION



The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Cultural Team came together in 2010 out of shared interest and belief in the importance of promoting the uniqueness of our history and culture. To this end, the Team has worked to gather research- including photos, newspaper articles, and books relative to key historical events, governance and settlements, traditions, lifestyle, and culture of our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. Over the past year, the Team has extracted research material such as Hudson Bay Co. records, journals of fur traders and travelers from the Provincial Archives of Alberta, the Glenbow Museum, and various libraries throughout Alberta. The Team has compiled this information into a series of fact sheets, which we share with our friends, family,

government partners and academia; over the past year, approximately five-hundred cultural information packages have been shared throughout Alberta. All the research and artifacts are stored in the Genealogy Research Centre (GRC) in the provincial office in Edmonton, and as always, we welcome and encourage visitors to stop by to tour the centre.

The Team continually works to develop unique and practical ways to share our history. For instance, one way in which we have chosen to highlight our culture is through our annual calendar. Each year, we come together to develop a theme for the calendar. In 2012, we highlighted Métis families, and this year we have chosen to highlight significant Métis communities. Each calendar month boasts a picture of the historic community and a brief synopsis of events happening in the area, as well as known family connections to the location. One of our proudest achievements is the traditional Métis family home display in the provincial office in Edmonton. The Team transformed a vacant office space into a traditional Métis family home reminiscent of the late 19th century. The cabin is outfitted with a traditional cooking and sleeping space, authentic furs, clothing, and beadwork.

“The Team continually works to develop unique and practical ways to share our history.”

Métis Week takes place in November of every year, and is a time to celebrate our accomplishments, remember and recognize our heroes, and showcase our culture. Highlights of events hosted by the provincial office included the 2nd Annual Louis Riel Commemorative Walk, which is a six km trek through the beautiful roads near East Hastings Lake in memory of the journey of Riel’s family, friends and soldiers to his funeral. The walk was followed by a mass at St. Margaret’s Church and a light lunch and children’s crafts at Deville North Cooking Lake Hall. Another key highlight of the week was the Louis Riel Commemoration in the Legislature Building Rotunda. The commemorative event included representatives from the RCMP, veterans and members of the Canadian Armed Forces, City of Edmonton and Edmonton Police Service. This was followed by the MNA Open House at the provincial office where Métis artist displayed their work.

Our commitment to promoting the uniqueness of Métis culture has not gone unnoticed. In the fall of 2011, the MNA was invited to be part of the Aboriginal Cultural Framework Advisory Committee under the Ministry of Human Services. Our role on the Committee is to inform the Métis cultural component for cultural training for child and family employees within the Ministry. We have also displayed our work at conferences such as the Alberta Genealogical Society, Building Our Relations- Child and Family Service Authority Aboriginal Day in Stony Plain, Building Our Relations- Aboriginal Forum, and Capital EX.

Sincerely,

James Atkinson,
Minister of Culture and Recreation
Vice-President of Region 4

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT



Greetings delegates and friends of the Métis! On behalf of the MNA Provincial Council and in my capacity as Minister of Economic and Resource Development, I am pleased to provide you with this update on various activities that have occurred under my portfolio for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

"I am extremely proud of all of my Métis brothers and sisters that continue to foster excellence in the areas of commerce and entrepreneurship."

Alberta is robust with both economic and resource development. In making this statement, I proudly reflect back to the history of our ancestors and the pivotal role the Métis played in the development of Canada from a constitutional and governance standpoint, and also more directly related to my role as your Minister of Economic and Resource Development, the area of commerce. The Métis were drivers of economic development in the pre-Canada territory of Rupert's Land and undeniably made the most of all the resources available to them.

Today, the resources available to our Métis entrepreneurs have changed; but just as they have done for the past 300 years, we continue to make the most of the resources available to us. The evidence of this was apparent at the recent joint Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) and Métis Nation of British Columbia (MNBC) Regional Economic Development Engagement Session held in Vancouver this past March. The event began with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the MNA and MNBC that officially binds our two governments with a focus on working together to advance the economic position of both organizations as well as our Métis citizens. Discussions at this event included tactics in the area of negotiating impact benefit agreements with industry, and an opportunity for both the MNA and MNBC to let industry know what our expectations are when we are impacted by various development projects. The Regional Economic Development Engagement Session was an excellent opportunity for the entire MNA Provincial Council to learn, network and most importantly bring information back to their respective Regions and Regional Councils.

Métis economic development and participation in the Canadian economy was also the focal point at the National Métis Economic Development Symposium hosted by the Métis National Council. Similar to the above mentioned event, the Symposium involved Métis leaders, provincial and federal governments and senior representatives from a broad range of industries. Topics of discussion and strategizing included encouraging successful and sustainable Métis entrepreneurship, ways to engage with the private sector in resource development and the need to increase Métis participation in the workforce.

I am also happy to report that we are making steady progress under MÉTIS Corp., the new business development arm of the MNA head office. Our safety equipment product offerings have been formalized and a business plan

has been completed. In the coming months we will hold a public launch and begin to aggressively market. I am also currently investigating a partnership opportunity in the area of environmental sciences. Industry relations continue to be a key part of my portfolio, and similar to last year, I am happy to report that we have excellent results provincially, regionally and locally under our Memorandum of Understanding with TransCanada Pipeline. The overarching principles of this relationship are what have made it a success and we are using these as a template for the development of similar agreements that we are currently negotiating with other industry partners such as Enbridge.

While the above mentioned is not an exhaustive list of activities or initiatives, it serves to reflect the overall vision and direction of past and future activities under my ministerial portfolio.

I am extremely proud of all my Métis brothers and sisters that continue to foster excellence in the areas of commerce and entrepreneurship. The values of determination, resilience and hard work of our ancestors are evident of your success as the Métis continue to be catalysts within the Canadian economy.

In closing, I would like to thank President Poitras for her support and trust in my ability to oversee this important file. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Provincial Council colleagues for their wisdom and support, as well as to acknowledge the efforts of all the staff of the MNA and our affiliates.

Sincerely,

Toby Racette
Minister of Economic and Resource Development
Vice-President of Métis Nation of Alberta

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND RESEARCH



RUPERTSLAND INSTITUTE – MÉTIS CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

REPORT ON 2102-2013 EDUCATION WORK PLAN

For the past several years, the reports from this ministry have focused heavily on the employment and training aspects of RLI. This year I would like to turn my attention to Métis education and advanced education as the primary focus for this year's report to our constituency. Please review RLI's Annual Report to the community for further information regarding education, training, and research. Some of you may have heard that the MNA has given RLI a much broader mandate in the area of education, including K-12 responsibility. To that extent, we have been very busy

introducing these new responsibilities to the RLI Board and bringing RLI forward to government committees and processes calling for Métis collaboration and input.

In July 2012, RLI hired its new Associate Director of Métis Education, Dr. Yvonne Poitras Pratt. Since then, she has worked to create, develop and implement a work plan that has been disseminated to a variety of audiences, including: RLI senior management, RLI Board of Governors, and the Government of Alberta (specifically, Alberta Advanced Education and Enterprise, Alberta Education, and, subsequently, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Services). While this work plan has been described as ambitious by several readers – particularly in light of the abbreviated work year – the rationale behind many of the activities was to establish an informed and factual (or evidence-based) foundation upon which future educational activities could be built to support the overall success of Métis learners in Alberta.

As such, this report will provide the reader with an update on activities outlined in the Associate Director's 2012-2013 annual work plan, and will provide background and context for any initiatives that may have been delayed throughout the past two quarterly reports.

STRATEGIC GOAL # 1: To establish a planning process and policy framework that involves Métis communities and serves to form the basis for decisions and actions related to new and existing initiatives in Métis education, and to ensure an adequate factual base is in place for such decisions and actions.

- Objective: to support the educational aspirations of Métis people informed by factual data and the input of an educational advisory committee.
- Since the beginning of her employment at Rupertsland Institute, Dr. Poitras Pratt has amassed a growing collection of educational resources in an effort to determine how past education policies, including the First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Policy Framework 2002 have ultimately served the Métis learner population across the province of Alberta. A summary document spanning the period from 2002-2012 has recently been completed. It examines a host of provincial government policies aimed at the FNMI (K-12) learners from a Métis perspective. In tandem with this policy review, she has also gathered a growing num

ber of relevant textbooks, academic articles and resources with a view to establishing a useful collection of Métis education resources.

As part of this information gathering, Dr. Poitras Pratt also attended several provincial government and other affiliated committee meetings that focus on FNMI Education. The following committees, for instance, target either the professional development of educators teaching in high aboriginal population schools, or the review of current Alberta high school credentialing requirements:

- o Alberta Regional FNMI Professional Development (PD) Consortia.
- o Review of Alberta High School Credentialing Requirements, Curriculum Standards & Stakeholder Engagement Planning and Standards Sector, Education Program Standards & Assessment Education.

In each case, RLI was able to bring forward issues and concerns voiced from a Métis perspective. While these committees serve as important policy arenas for Métis-specific concerns to be heard, it should also be noted that there is a very real challenge in collecting Métis-specific data around K-12 learners. RLI has been told on several occasions that the Alberta Government currently holds a policy of “no disaggregation of FNMI learner data” that would allow Métis-specific data to be drawn out as there are purportedly a number of First Nations’ sensitivities around the release of disaggregated information and community-specific findings. Thus, the goal of setting achievable metrics, or measurable outcomes, in the realm of improving Métis student learner outcomes remains, at least for the time being, an intangible goal.

Despite this challenge, Dr. Poitras Pratt believes that it is vital to establish a strong Métis presence within Alberta’s learning community. As our recent review of Alberta’s education policies reveals, the ‘M’ in FNMI Education is repeatedly neglected, ignored or seemingly tagged as an afterthought (typically when RLI draws attention to this fact).

In her short tenure, Dr. Poitras Pratt has made contact with both the public and separate school boards of the two largest urban centres in Alberta, namely Edmonton and Calgary.

These urban centres were chosen as an initial starting point for RLI education activities due in large part to their high Métis resident population, and from a practical stance of focusing in on existing and established connections within these communities. To date, Dr. Poitras Pratt has met with the following representatives who work within the FNMI area of these school groups:

- o Trustee Cindy Olsen - Edmonton Catholic School District; the Council of Elders and ECSD;
- o Eileen Marthiensen, Program Coordinator, Edmonton Public School District; First Nations Métis Inuit Diversity and her team of fourteen FNMI Coordinators/Liaisons;
- o Mark Berger, Supervisor, Calgary Catholic School District; First Nations Métis Inuit Instructional Services and Dr. Andra McGinn, Superintendent of Instructional Services; and,
- o Chris Scout, CBE System Specialist for Aboriginal Education, Calgary Board of Education.

As a direct result of these initial meetings, RLI was invited to and got involved in several district-wide activities including:

- o An invitation to present information on Rupertsland Institute on March 7, 2013 to the External First Nations, Métis and Inuit Advisory Committee of the Edmonton Public School District (whose “aim is to collaborate, share wise practices, programs, resources, services and initiatives”);

- o An invitation to present on Digital Connections with Métis Elders at the Calgary Catholic School District's student-led First Nation, Métis and Inuit Youth Conference held on March 13, 2013;
- o A presentation on the possibility of a digital storytelling workshop to the ECSD Council of Elders on March 8, 2013; and
- o Designed, planned and hosted a pilot initiative from March 25-28, 2013, entitled "Digital Storytelling with FNMI Youth and Elders," in collaboration with Edmonton Catholic School District's (Native) Council of Elders

While these several activities are evidence of a growing relationship with school authorities within the larger urban centres, it should be noted that present and future initiatives suffer from the absence of an RLI Education Advisory Committee. Our Human Resources manager and I completed a posting to recruit Education Advisory Committee members in early October 2012, but this posting has been suspended until such time as RLI governance issues have been resolved. Moreover, the challenge of meeting the

- o An invitation to present on Digital Connections with Métis Elders at the Calgary Catholic School District's student-led First Nation, Métis and Inuit Youth Conference held on March 13, 2013;
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Despite the lack of staffing coupled with considerable funding delays by the Alberta Government, it is also true that Rupertsland Institute has made significant inroads into Alberta Education. Within the next year, my hope is to submit at least one academic article for future publication within a relevant academic journal on the topic of Métis education within Alberta. This initiative would allow us to reach a broader audience and to bring Métis concerns within education from a Métis perspective to future educators and students.

STRATEGIC GOAL # 2: To engage Métis citizens and communities on an ongoing basis, as well as leaders and other professionals in education, in a dialogue to gain a better understanding of immediate needs and future aspirations of Métis citizens regarding K-12 education in Alberta.

- Objective: to improve the success rates of Métis learners within the K-12 education system through community-led support and direction.
- As noted in the previous section, the quantitative goal of improving the overall success rates of Métis learners remains problematic in our present policy environment – at least in terms of measurable outcomes or until such time as Alberta Education sees fit to release disaggregated data on FNMI learners.

Despite this lack of Métis-specific data, RLI has started the important task of engaging the Métis people of Alberta in a dialogue around the topic of education. The dialogue started at last year's Annual General Assembly in

Athabasca (August 2012) where Dr. Poitras Pratt spoke with many Assembly attendees about RLI's new mandate in education. Those initial discussions were broadcasted further by her presentations at two MNA regional AGMs in Region 3 and in Region 4 and within RLI's community engagement sessions. In these sessions, our community was asked to think about the role of education, and what successes and challenges we have faced as Métis learners. RLI also made a promise that a second phase of the community engagement/consultation would be a more in-depth discussion on the topic of education.

*"[I]t is vital to establish a strong Métis presence
within Alberta's learning community."*

RLI hosted a public celebration of Métis learner success stories through its inaugural RLI Recognition Dinner hosted at the Sutton Place in Edmonton on November 14, 2012. Over 290 people representing post-secondary partners, industry, government, and the Métis community at large attended this evening gala to celebrate the education success stories of over fifteen Métis students/clients sponsored or funded through Rupertsland. This event will replace the Alberta Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards as RLI attempts to celebrate Metis-specific successes as we move forward.

In terms of a wider approach to community engagement, Dr. Poitras Pratt also took an active role in designing, planning and facilitating the first phase of a two-phased approach to community engagement and consultation with Métis community members throughout the province. At these meetings, she presented information on RLI's mandate in education, answered questions from the attendees on the topic of education, and distributed information on our MEF Métis Scholar Awards. The communities visited were as follows:

- o Grande Prairie (held October 10, 2012; thirty-six participants)
- o Fishing Lake Métis Settlement (held October 18, 2012; twenty-two participants)
- o Pincher Creek (held October 25, 2012; seventeen participants)
- o Medicine Hat (held November 27, 2012; twenty participants)
- o Lethbridge (held October 24, 2012; twelve participants)
- o Lloydminster (held December 12, 2012; ten participants)
- o Grande Cache (held October 18, 2012; thirty-six participants)
- o High Level (held October 24, 2012; three participants)
- o High Prairie (held October 29, 2012; fifteen participants)
- o Peace River (held October 23, 2012; eighteen participants)

After completing the sessions, RLI was able to collect, compile and analyze the information collected from the Métis community on the topic of education. While the information warrants a deeper analysis, a rudimentary analysis of community feedback is contained within the Phase I Métis Education Report.

In a continuing effort to cultivate a set of culturally appropriate community engagement activities, RLI also took part in the Foundations for Education Success - Parental and Community Engagement two-day workshop facilitated by Andrew Elias Management Systems Inc. December 3-4, 2012. This workshop focused on the sharing and discussion of best engagement practices with a group of six educators and other professionals involved in aboriginal education. A set of briefing notes, including a set of culturally appropriate engagement activities, has been drafted from this two-day session and serves to inform RLI management on engagement activities as we move into 2013-

2014.

STRATEGIC GOAL # 3: Engage in collaborative partnerships that support and improve lifelong educational outcomes for Métis people.

- Objective: to further advance the educational outcomes for Métis citizens in the realms of early childhood and adult education (lifelong literacy programming) through alternative programming models.
- This goal extends the scope of the K-12 educational realm noted above to a much broader demographic as it involves early childhood and adult learning. While many of the activities noted in Strategic Goal 2 were developed within the K-12 realm, it needs to be pointed out that many community sponsored/attended events are naturally inclusive of a much larger learning group. Some examples of community-based activities that RLI has either been invited to/initiated/or attended include the following:
 - o The presentation of information on RLI Education at the Edmonton Aboriginal Youth Leadership program in December 2012;
 - o The presentation of information on RLI Education at a Grandparent's Circle (Edmonton Catholic School District) in January 2013;
 - o Sponsored table for 8 FNMI students and 2 staff members from Edmonton Catholic School District at the RLI Recognition Dinner on November 14, 2012;
 - o Attendance at the Ben Calf Robe Christmas Concert (grades K-7) in December 2012; and
 - o Delivered keynote address on the value of education at the MNA/MNBC Economic Development Conference in Vancouver, BC on March 26, 2013.

A larger collaborative partnership that Rupertsland Institute is currently involved with is the Aboriginal Workforce Strategy Steering Committee led by Alberta Advanced Education and Enterprise. The working group is comprised of representatives from the five orders of government (First Nations, Métis, Government of Alberta, Government of Canada and municipal government), as well as representatives from an urban aboriginal organization and an industry association. The goal is to identify policies, actions and initiatives that will increase the participation of aboriginal people in the labor market and economy (Draft Aboriginal Workforce Strategy, 2012-2013, p.1).

- o **PURPOSE OF THE ABORIGINAL WORKFORCE STRATEGY (Steering Committee)**
 - Bring together representatives from the five orders of government (First Nations, Métis, Government of Alberta, Government of Canada and municipal government), as well as representatives from an urban aboriginal organization and industry association to identify policies, actions and initiatives to increase the participation of aboriginal people in the labor market and economy.
 - Determine funding commitments from different stakeholders to implement initiatives under the Aboriginal Workforce Strategy.
 - Develop and pilot innovative projects that will improve education, training and employment outcomes for aboriginal people in Alberta.
 - Align provincial actions with local initiatives determined through the updated community plans.
 - Support collaborative community planning committees to implement the actions identified in the Aboriginal Workforce Strategy (Draft Aboriginal Workforce Strategy document, 2012-2013, p.1).

Through the combined efforts of the Associate Directors, Dr. Poitras Pratt and Guido Contreras (Research and Professional Development), the associated readings, presentations and requested feedback from GOA have taken up a considerable amount of RLI's time. Yet it is also largely through this group that RLI has now formalized the involvement of the GOA in a RLI-led initiative entitled "Bridging the Aboriginal Education Gap in Alberta." The two Associate Directors have also worked closely to commission the noted educational study. The target audience for this study assumes a wide community readership, inclusive of all aboriginal groups as well as mainstream. The study has allowed RLI to form a closer working relationship with the GOA and has also permitted RLI to successfully launch the meaningful involvement of the Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research (RCMR). Under the direction of Dr. Chris Andersen of the University of Alberta, aided by the Centre Administrator Erin Konsmo, the RCMR is currently fostering its own collaborative ventures. As one example, RCMR is now collaborating with The Kule Institute for Advanced Study on a real-time research project entitled 'Métis in the Courts') – see <http://www.kias.ualberta.ca/>.

Several other collaborations of interest have taken place within the Métis homeland. Namely, RLI met with the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) during the early stages of RLI's plans to replicate the GDI education study undertaken by Dr. Eric Howe. RLI publicly acknowledged GDI's role as a pathfinder in this research area, and for its support of our own similar endeavor. In March 2013, Dr. Howe presented on behalf of the RCMR at the Métis National Council's Annual General Meeting. His presentation fostered a national interest in this education-based study. As a second point, the Métis Nation of Ontario (the Chair and Director of Education) recently interviewed RLI on our governance structure within the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Other collaborations have occurred at a provincial level. In light of the current shift of provincial responsibility for RLI Education from Alberta Education and Enterprise and Advanced Education to the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Services branch, and the several introductory meetings that have been held with these various provincial stakeholders – we are, in essence, expanding our overall government network contacts.

As mentioned previously, RLI funding to support Métis education did not arrive during the 2012-2013 fiscal year; but despite this deficit, a number of meetings have been held with an evolving group of government stakeholders, including:

- o Alberta Education FNMI Services Branch - Linda Pelly and Sandra Skare;
- o Alberta Education Minister's Chief of Staff - Tom Bradley;
- o Alberta Enterprise & Advanced Education ADMs Gord Johnston, Maryann Everett, and Dan Rizzoli; and
- o Alberta Deputy Premier – Thomas Lukaszuk.

At these meetings, the RLI CEO has raised discussions on developing a MOU between the Alberta government and the Rupertsland Institute similar to the government-First Nations MOU on education. Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education are exploring this possibility on behalf of its departmental colleagues.

Extending its collaborative partnerships to a new realm in advanced education, Dr. Poitras Pratt was asked to teach a university class on the topic of Métis politics at the Faculty of Native Studies at the U of A. The class included a majority of Métis undergrads who expressed to their appreciation of the inclusion of a Métis studies class within the Faculty of Native Studies. This teaching opportunity also fostered a much greater collaboration between the Native Studies faculty and staff at the University of Alberta, including the RCMR and staff at RLI.

STRATEGIC GOAL # 4: Expand the offerings of awards, bursaries and scholarships available to Métis students, and investigate award programs to determine the status and extent of Métis student access.

- Objective: to increase financial support for Métis learners pursuing post-secondary studies.
- RLI has collected broad information on the eleven existing post-secondary endowment agreements, and entered this information into a collective spreadsheet. We have also collected detailed information from each endowment including: financial performance, a listing of award recipients (name/program/year of study/value of award/academic standing, and contact information) and developed a template for reporting the information and sent this out to each post-secondary partner. This standard format allows for easy comparison of an endowment's performance against the others and a more in-depth look at where our Métis students are studying and including programs of study.

In September 2012, RLI organized and facilitated a meeting with its post-secondary partners to discuss challenges and to share best practices amongst the MEF - Métis Scholar Award stakeholders. This meeting was seen as a culminating activity to a report on the MEF Endowments undertaken by Loraine Steele in the spring of 2012. The Associate Director has drafted a report that will provide a list of recommendations to improve student access to MEF Awards for our post-secondary partners. This report will also include input gathered from the following meetings and/or events held after the post-secondary partners' meeting:

- o hosted a promotional event on the "Métis Scholar Award" at NAIT (along with MTE and MNA staff);
- o held a Joint Partnership Review meeting with NAIT in January 2013;
- o met with Bev M. and Darlene P. of Portage College (Lac La Biche campus) on February 27, 2012; and
- o On-going communication with other post-secondary partners as requested.

The following institutions were either wrapping up or negotiating endowments with RLI (at time of writing)

Post-Secondary Institution	MEF Contribution	Matching Contribution	Total Endowment
Athabasca University	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$400,000
Lethbridge College	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$500,000
Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) -- Pending future discussions	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$600,000
2013-2014 Additional Endowment Values	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$1,500,000

RLI's original strategy which is to target those post-secondary institutions with the higher/highest Métis student enrollment numbers has been challenged with the withdrawal of Access to Future Fund and is having a considerable impact on many post-secondary institutions' ability to match RLI contributions in order to set up an endowment

agreement.

This strategy had included information from the table provided below which is a rough estimate of Métis students attending these various institutions. The reader should note that several factors may implicate these numbers, including: voluntary self-disclosure of Métis identity, the number of campuses that comprise each institution, full-time versus part-time students, etc.

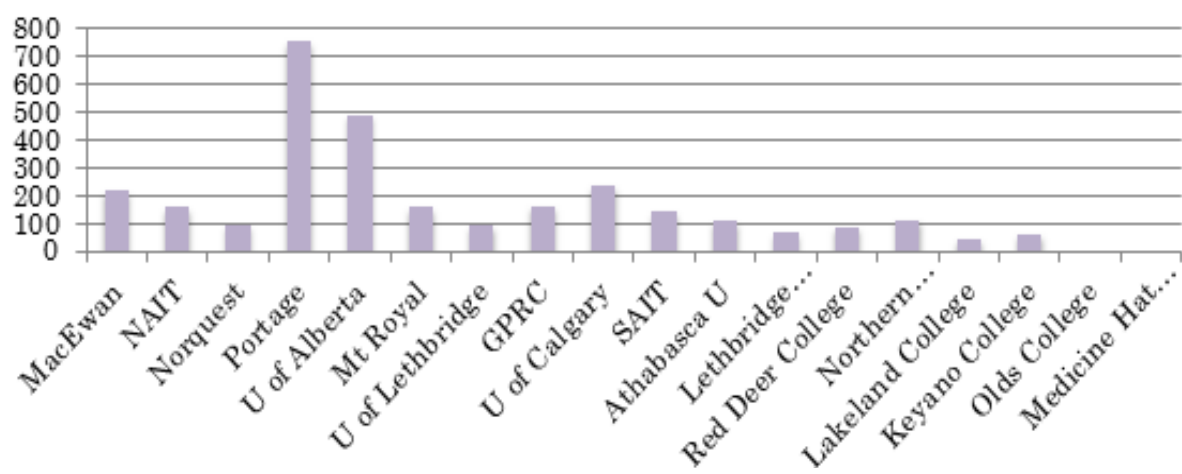
With RLI’s effort to increase Métis student access to the MEF awards, Dr. Poitras Pratt has worked alongside the RLI Communications Manager to produce an MEF Métis Scholar Awards Booklet. The booklet has proven to be a very popular publication. It has been handed out at each community engagement session and is now increasingly requested by our MTE staff and our contacts within the K-12 realm. The printed information on our endowments has also been placed within our newly developed RLI website, thus making the endowment information available to online audiences. RLI then equipped the education area of the RLI website with new or relevant information, and has provided progress updates as required on the Métis education mandate.

While these initiatives are directed at student audiences to increase Métis student access to financial support, the real challenge is to meet the numerous requests from Métis community members, industry, and post-secondary institutions with a staff of one. As such, a number of requests to set up alternative scholarship and/or quasi-endowment opportunities, specifically with APEGGA and WISEST, have been delayed.

STRATEGIC GOAL # 5: To institute policies and practices that promotes viewing Métis education from a holistic perspective.

- Objective: to advance a holistic, or Métis, perspective within organizational models.
- As noted in Strategic Goal 1, a considerable delay in posting for members to the Métis Education Advisory Committee, including that of a youth and elder representation, has been delayed due to changes in Board’s Governance Committee.

**Metis students in post-secondary schooling
across Alberta**



Nevertheless, Dr. Poitras Pratt has made a concerted effort to involve both youth and elders in RLI community-based activities. The digital storytelling workshop recently hosted by Rupertsland at the Sacred Heart Learning Centre on March 25-28, 2013, is a recent example of how FNMI youth and elders can be brought together in a meaningful and culturally enriching workshop.

STRATEGIC GOAL # 6: To seek additional human and financial resources in order to accomplish Métis education initiatives.

- Objective: to further advance the strategic goals identified by RLI through increased support and funding opportunities.
- Funding under the Alberta-MNA Framework Agreement is, and has been a historical challenge for the MNA. As was expected, the foundational annual funding of \$75,000 for Rupertsland's education activities did not arrive until April 15th of the new fiscal year. Funding plays a critical role in being able to get things done. Not having the GOA funding in place only serves to delay much needed work for the Métis as an unrepresented demographic at Campus Alberta. Going forward, it is our hope that this challenge will resolve itself as begin to produce results under annual work-plans.

Sincerely,

Karen Collins
RLI Board member
Minister of Education, Training, and Research

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

Welcome everyone to the 85th Métis Nation of Alberta Annual General Assembly. On behalf of the members of Region 2, we look forward to spending time with each and every one of you over the next few days; please enjoy our itinerary and your stay in our beautiful Cold Lake. Another year has gone by since our last gathering in Athabasca, and now it is time to share our national, provincial and regional highlights for 2013.



An event of this magnitude would not be feasible without the kind and generous contributions of our partners: Mayor Craig Copeland and Council, Svea Pinch and staff of the Cold Lake Energy Centre, Alberta Tourism, Newcap Radio, and a number of community businesses. It is through a strong sense of Métis pride and collaboration that this event evolved – my personal thanks to President Poitras, Aaron Barner, Norma Spicer, Ron Harrison, William Landstrom, Diane Scoville and Anita, our Volunteers and staff members Leighsa, Linda and Roy.

We are pleased to announce that Regional Council Board has grown to include the new Lloydminster Local 2012, along with the Bonnyville Local 100. Shelly Wirienga and Melvin Ward have taken the role of coordinating this year's tradeshow and are ready to showcase businesses and entrepreneurs.

"I have had the privilege to meet many fine people and be a part of some significant historical moments with the Métis Nation over the past few months."

What's new to the Region are our collaborations with Region 1 and AltaLink, as well as with the Fishing Lake and Elizabeth Métis Settlements on TransCanada projects in the Métis traditional territories. We look forward to strengthening relationships every way we can!

I had the opportunity to organize the region's annual Boxing Day Talent Show and am pleased to report that the -30 temperatures did not stop people from coming. The success of this fund raiser relied on the contributions of our local industry sponsors, the great food Joel prepared topped with Heather's bannock, and, of course, a fine group of committed volunteers: Annette, Warren, Shelly, Eddy, Ruby, Sandra, Rodney; and the entertainment of Desjarlais & Company.

In our efforts to advance the region, we have been working on the development a solid business plan so we can capitalize on economic opportunity. This involved engaging in a joint venture with Major Projects Group where we work with existing partners and the Métis business community. The intent is to bring financial benefit to the region and expand our ability to bring new programming to our youth, Elders, families and individuals. While the past year has embraced new opportunity for the region, the following months will require full time commitment to ensure that these working relationships can be advanced further. We will continue to work on traditional

ecological knowledge with our industry proponents, build in new partnerships with employment and training opportunities for more members, and continue the work toward building a database system for historic data and Métis business storage and retention.

As I enter year two of my first term serving members of Region 2, I continue to remain involved with local and national boards when I can to build and promote the environment and water provincial portfolio. These organizations are Lakeland Industry Community Association Board, Airshed and Beaver River Watershed Alliance committees; the North Saskatchewan River Watershed Alliance Board and Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline Community Advisory Board. In October last year, I joined the Land Matters Group, representing the Métis Nation Council and also serve as the Alberta delegate for the MNC Environment Committee.

I would like to shift gears for a moment and say that my heart has really gone out to the people in southern Alberta and our prairie provinces, elsewhere in our Homeland where people's lives have been turned upside down by the recent catastrophic floods. I pray that mother-nature extends a compassionate hand to our lands and waters so that people can recover and heal without further harm.

What we can learn from this event is that emergency crisis response management at local and regional levels needs to be addressed before another crisis occurs. It is wakeup call, in my opinion, for leaders to advocate for the capacity to assist Métis families living in rural and urban areas to develop their own emergency response kits and plans through local municipalities and government initiatives.

Here is an excerpt from Natural Resources, Canada, 2007-2010 reports, highlighting climate change risks for the prairies on Regional Issues that is worth mentioning. Water shortages and increased aridity are the key climate change concerns on the prairies. Climate change is associated with periods of too much water. Flooding results from high intensity rainfalls and snowmelt, and is expected to become more common. Flood control will be a significant issue, particularly in urban areas. Standing waters following flood periods in association with warmer temperatures could foster the spread of vector and water borne diseases such as West Nile virus. What will it take for the federal government to take climate change seriously and engage the Métis in national environmental forums? And will the great flood of Calgary be a turning point?

I believe that now is the time for the Métis Nation to reposition ourselves as leaders in environmental protection to affirm our role and position of a rights-bearing people in the midst of a changing provincial policy and regulatory overhaul. I attend provincial forums with technical Métis members and colleagues where we promote a unified front, voice province-wide environmental concerns and push for capacity to participate meaningfully. I look forward to further enhancing these new relationships and bringing forums back to our Métis communities in the coming months.

It has just been in the past three months that the government issued a mandate to AESRD to work with the MNA so in order for us to be actively engaged, I have had to move quickly in a short timeframe to coordinate community engagement sessions where possible, meet with officials and still manage all other board commitments. We have a presence and strong interest in educating our people of all these provincial changes and capitalizing on economic opportunity so it's a step in the right direction.

We remain hopeful that a province-wide Métis consultation framework to ensure Alberta's Métis communities are meaningfully engaged, consulted and accommodated, by the Crown when Métis rights, interests and way of traditional life is impacted will eventually become a priority of the government once they address the First Nations and Métis Settlements consultation policies. I have had the privilege to meet many fine people and be a part of some

significant historical moments with the Métis Nation over the past few months. I thank the members that put me in this position and will continue to do my best to fulfill my obligations with always your best interests in mind.

Enjoy this gathering, I wish you all the best!

Yours Sincerely,

Shirley Benson
Minister of Environment and Water
Vice-President of Region 2

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS



It is with pleasure that I present to you the report on the Ministry of Health and Wellness for 2012-2013.

In reflection of the past year, it is very clear that significant achievements have been made that positively impact our goal to support and improve the overall health and wellbeing of Métis Albertans. First, I am happy report that we have made a key contribution to Métis health data collection and research with the first evidence-based Métis health report/health status of the Métis population of Alberta. The report is a product of a collaborative effort between the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), Alberta Health, Public Health Agency of Canada, and the University Of

Alberta School Of Public Health, and signifies the first critical step in a process designed to use the best available research to support programs relevant to our needs.

The research indicated in the report provides new and necessary information regarding the prevalence of chronic disease in Métis Albertans. Highlights of the report indicate that Métis Albertans report elevated levels of chronic disease, with the prevalence of diabetes, heart disease and circulatory conditions being of particular concern. As we anticipated, an initial scan of services and support offered by Alberta Health Services indicates a deficit in terms of services and programs aimed at addressing health promotion and disease prevention for Métis.

“[I]t is very clear that significant achievements have been made that positively impact our goal to support and improve the overall health and well-being of Métis Albertans.”

As such, the evidence generated via our initial assessment of Métis health provides an opportunity for innovative solution and strategies to be considered. Last year, the Ministry committed to identifying relevant health care service delivery options for Métis Albertans. It was determined that the viable option would be the development of a Family Care Clinic (FCC) to support Métis communities with a focus on health promotion and chronic disease management. So, on September 21, 2012, a letter was sent to the Minister of Health, Fred Horne, to propose this unique opportunity. A response from Minister Horne was received in early April advising that plans for the FCC's were on hold until Alberta Health finalized a process for submissions, and we were asked to resubmit at that time. It is my intent that we will pursue the development of an FCC in Edmonton this year, and will continue to work with Alberta Health to develop programs which are specific and relevant to our needs.

To this end, the Ministry remains committed to ensuring health and wellness programs incorporate the cultural and social realities of our Métis communities. As such, the Métis Health and Wellness Advisory Committee were called for in February 2012 as an essential component to improving Métis health outcomes throughout Alberta. With a membership of representatives from each Region, it is envisioned that the goal of the committee will be to provide advice on how to meet the unique health needs of each Region and share valuable information on what is working well in their communities and where opportunities exist.

In addition, over the past year we have been invited to attend a number of meetings at the national, provincial and municipal level. We bring the Alberta perspective as a member of the Métis National Council Health Committee, and have provided presentations on ministerial priorities and activities to the Greater Edmonton Health Advisory Council, and are a member of the Canadian Rheumatology Administrative Data Network, to name a few.

In the year ahead, we will continue to work to produce much needed information relating to Métis health, including two reports looking at the prevalence of cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary (COPD) in Métis and work to develop new programs to support the ongoing needs of Métis throughout Alberta.

Sincerely,

Marlene Lanz
Minister of Health and Wellness
President of Region 3

MINISTRY OF HOUSING



Greetings, and welcome to everyone attending our 85th MNA Annual Assembly.

Métis Urban Housing (MUH) and now Métis Capital Housing (MCH) have been delivering housing services to the aboriginal people since 1982. Starting out with urban houses in Edmonton and Calgary, homes were later provided in more rural areas throughout Alberta, soon totalling over eight hundred residences. Many families have benefited from our housing program—some have considered MUH their home for many years, while others have moved on to buy their own homes.

My role as Minister/Director of MUH/MCH is an appointed position by President Audrey Poitras of Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA). I attend board meetings for both MUH/MCH, and as one of the board members I am a part of the policy setting, approving budgets and financial statements. I have worked with the administrator and the other Board of Directors following the bylaws as fiduciaries of the corporation. We act in the best interests of the corporation, and we talk about situations and come up with the right solutions. We follow this process amicably and in good faith, with trust, respect and confidence in our decisions. What the Board does not do is take part in the day-to-day operations of MUH; therefore, any calls or inquiries that directly affect the residents are directed to the MUH staff and administrator.

“I think you will be as pleased as I am to realize the good that we are doing by providing the Métis people—elders, students and families—with affordable housing.”

I enjoy my role with MUH/MCH; however, I sometimes find myself short of time with my Region 6 business. I am proud of all the projects and am amazed by the multi-tasking done by Darlene Lennie, who is continuously pushing the envelope forward, taking on gigantic projects with MCH and keeping on top of MUH, all the while running and building a huge three floor office and managing a large staff.

As you look through our portfolio in the MNA annual report, you will see all the initiatives and endeavors that the MUH/MCH have accomplished and are working on. I think you will be as pleased as I am to realize the good that we are doing by providing the Métis people—elders, students and families—with affordable housing.

Best wishes and regards to all,

Sylvia Johnson
Minister/Director of Housing
President of Region 6

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

This year has been an amazing stepping stone in the hunt for Métis justice in many areas. We have had success in our courthouse proceedings over the past year and it's not over yet. Justice is such a broad term that can be used in conjunction with many topics. But when it comes to the Métis people and our Ministries, we know what it stands for, as it has touched us all in one way or another. As a Metis Nation on our devoted pursuit for justice, it is important that we continue to stand united in order to accomplish our goals for the next generation.

“From a national level, these conferences are most important in allowing those that have been silent for so long to have a voice once again.”



That being said, there were some important initiatives that I had the privilege to work on this past year:

There was a follow-up event from the Saskatoon Métis Residential School conference last year that was held in Ottawa on March 23–24, 2013. I am pleased to report that our Alberta delegates whom were both survivors and youth had the opportunity to interact with participants from across the nation and share their experiences and insights while working collaboratively with working groups at the conference. This was an emotional and ground-breaking event in which youth and survivors worked so closely on such a delicate subject. From a national level, these conferences are most important in allowing those that have been silent for so long to have a voice once again.

I have had the privilege of working with the committee for the Red Deer Residential School Conference that is to be held on June 6, 7 and 8, 2013. This is the number 4 of 4 conferences for Red Deer residential schools, and the MNA was represented at the forefront of the implementation of the conference for the inception of this year's event. The event was a great success, from the testimonials of the survivors to the hundreds of the local youth that were involved in the conference. The Métis Nation of Alberta was also represented at the evening's festivities with Métis jiggers, youth fiddlers and poets.

The implementation of a pilot project is being held at the Region 3 Calgary office, which we are in partnership with Calgary Legal Guidance (Access to Justice). The project consists of this: if there is an individual that has questions or needs legal advice about areas such as family, landlord and tenant, employment, human rights and criminal issues, then they can visit our free legal clinic once a month out of the Calgary Regional office provided by Calgary Legal Guidance, which is headed up by volunteer lawyers in those respected fields.

I have been working with the Métis Judicial Council members giving input and direction when it is required. I had to keep in mind that the MJC is a volunteer position, and deals with sensitive and complex issues. I have found that it takes time for the proper decisions to be made and I am highly impressed with what they have been able to accomplish this year.

I feel that we have just scratched the surface on working with the various departments in the justice sector. The prison system, family courts and residential school issues—there are so many areas that we as Métis people are passionate about, and we need to make sure that we continue to fight for our rights for a proper and just Métis Nation. All it takes is persistence and determination to make a change, and I continue to do what I can to make that happen. This is only the beginning. I am here to serve the Métis Nation of Alberta and am proud to be able to do so.

Submitted Respectfully,

Joseph Pimlott (Justice Joe)
Minister of Justice
Vice-President of Region 3

MINISTRY OF MÉTIS RIGHTS AND REGISTRY

The Métis Nation of Alberta Registry continues to be a leader in Métis registries throughout Canada. As the minister responsible for our Registry and identifying our Métis citizens, I continue to provide direction and leadership to the Director of Registry and the staff providing this service.

This is the first time that our federal funding department, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada are providing the Métis Nation of Alberta with multi-year core funding. With this new development, our department can continue developing procedures and standards without the concern of an interruption in funding.



Under my direction, the Métis Nation of Alberta continues delivering a central registry for granting membership which was created in 1991 – the year we proclaimed ourselves a Nation.

Several major cases that have a direct impact on our Registry have been heard by the Supreme Court of Canada. With greater recognition of our existence as aboriginal peoples, as defined in Section 35 of the Constitution Act of Canada 1982, our Registry becomes even more critical and influential in ensuring that “Métis” people residing in Alberta are identified by the comprehensive process we have established in our Registry.

“As the minister responsible for our Registry and identifying our Métis citizens, I continue to provide direction and leadership...”

The Registry department continues to improve the application process to guarantee that we are reaching as many people in Alberta who self-identify as “Métis.”

In 2006, an estimated 1.3 million people reported aboriginal identity. These populations accounted for 3.9% of the Canadian population. Among them, 785,000 were North American Indians, 404,000 were Métis and 53,000 were Inuit.

The population of 404,000 Métis citizens in Canada almost doubled between 1996 and 2006. A large part of this growth was because many people changed the way they reported their Métis identity in Canadian censuses during that period. In the coming years, the Métis population will continue to grow, but there is uncertainty about how fast this growth might occur. The growth rate of the Métis population will depend to a large extent on whether individuals continue to self-report Métis identity through an individual’s lifetime. Of the 404,000 Métis in Canada, 83,235 resided in Alberta – approximately twenty one percent.

If the Métis population in Canada continues to self-identify as they did between 1996 and 2006, it would increase to more than 850,000 people in 2031. The Métis population would be the fastest growing of the aboriginal populations, with an average annual growth rate of about 3.1%.

With the anticipated impact of our population growth as well as the recent Supreme Court of Canada decisions further acknowledging Métis in Canada, the Métis Nation Registry must play a greater role in identifying and registering our Métis people.

In 2008, the Institute on Governance conducted an evaluation of our Registry. Last year I reported on the actions taken to address the ten recommendations for improvement. This year, I am happy to report that of the ten recommendations, we have completely addressed six. The following recommendations are still outstanding:

1. That the MNA leadership establishes the roles and responsibilities of the registrar in its bylaws.
2. That the MNA adopt a plan to phase out the red-and-white laminated cards completely as soon as possible.
3. That the MNA leadership together with the registrar initiates a system of periodic review and revision of the registration process
4. That the MNA registry, in cooperation with its leadership make the existing membership appeals mechanism more accessible to unsuccessful applicants.

Together with the Registrar, I will undertake a plan to address the remaining four recommendations prior to the next evaluation scheduled for the upcoming fiscal year.

Year-to-date statistical results to March 31, 2013	
Total number of applications received	30,063
New applications received	18,276
Update applications received	11,787
Number of applications completed	23,429
Number of applications in progress	633
Number of applications incomplete	0
Number of applications denied	6,001*
Number of Metis ID cards issued	20,249

*Non-Alberta residents: 283; Incomplete mailed applications: 81; No historical link: 1,674; Failed to respond to request for more information: 3,539; On Indian registry: 26; Returned mail: 380; Voluntary termination: 12; Deceased: 6

Sincerely,

Cecil Bellrose
Minister of Métis Rights and Registry
President of Region 4

MINISTRY OF SENIORS

The Ministry of Seniors has had an exciting past year, with several events and workshops taking place. Throughout Region 1 and the province, it has been a hard year for many families, as many seniors have passed away.

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

1. **THE ALBERTA SENIORS BENEFIT PROGRAM**, which provides monthly cash benefits to more than 140,000 low-income seniors across the province.
2. **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.
3. **THE DENTAL AND OPTICAL PROGRAM**, which provides dental coverage and assistance with prescription eyeglasses for approximately 210,000 seniors.
4. **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.



The Seniors Assistant Program and its counterpart with the federal government have been extremely helpful in making information available to the seniors in our province, as well as providing support for administration staff with any forms, claims or situations that are voiced from seniors. The Region 1 office has become a hub for seniors to visit for information and support, including financial help, information about available programs, and help with daily tasks. This has been a source of pride for me, and I would like to see this happen at each Regional office. Elder abuse is still 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.

"This has been a source of pride for me..."

In November of 2012, the Ministry of Seniors was successful in its application to the Canadian Heritage New Horizons program. Through this program, we are able to bring one elder and one youth as a team from each region to take part in Back to Batoche 2013. This is an exciting initiative, as the need has been voiced over and over to have seniors and youth interact more often. This will be a worthwhile learning experience for both the seniors and the youth, and it is a program that we are looking to keep going in the future.

In closing, I would like to encourage today's youth to volunteer with seniors. The knowledge and skills that can be gained from such work is priceless, and the outlook of our youth will change indescribably. There is a fountain of knowledge and greatness in seniors that is not being taken advantage of, and I would like to see everyone take a moment and appreciate the seniors in their lives.

Thank you,

Diane Scoville
Minister of Seniors
Vice-President of Region 1

MINISTRY OF VETERANS

As a nation, one of our most precious resources is our veterans and seniors. They are the keepers of our stories and history, acting as a bridge between our past and our future. Our veterans put their lives on the line during the biggest conflicts across the globe to help make this earth a better place for all.

The Ministry of Veterans' purpose is to provide meaningful and responsive advocacy on behalf of our veterans. Our Ministry will continue to recognize and honour our heroes of the past, present and future. In the past, the Métis veterans have not always been shown the respect and gratitude they so well deserve, and while we can't turn back the clock, the Métis Nation of Alberta will forever strive to give these heroes and heroines in uniform their due recognition for all they have sacrificed. This is why in December 2012, the Métis National Council declared the Decade of the Veterans.



"The Ministry of Veterans' purpose is to provide meaningful and responsive advocacy on behalf of our veterans."

For the Annual General Assembly in 2012, Access Pipelines graciously sponsored the Elders' Lounge, making the Assembly a meaningful and comfortable time for the veterans. We would like to thank Access Pipelines for this generous contribution, as well as for their ongoing relationship with the Ministry of Veterans.

We have also been working with John McDonald to research and recognize other veterans who did not receive the Diamond Jubilee Medal. We feel that this important recognition should be awarded to all Métis veterans, as they all have taken part in the conflicts that have shaped the world as we know it today.

I would to thank each and every partner, company and person who recognize the important roles that veterans have in today's world, as well as appreciation for the sacrifices and selflessness that these individuals have shown. If everyone could take a moment out of their weekend, find a veteran and simply tell them "thank you," I believe the world would realize the gravity of conflicts and war, and hopefully we will not repeat history and learn from our mistakes.

Thank you,

William Landstrom
Minister of Veterans
President of Region 1

AFFILIATES' REPORTS

APEETOOGOSAN (MÉTIS) DEVELOPMENT INC.

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 \$8.8 million.



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, \$800,000 was expensed on the initial start-up costs while the capital pool of \$8 million was disbursed in stages.

AMDI has lent out over \$50 million since 1988 and helped in the creation of over eight-hundred Métis-owned businesses throughout the Province of Alberta, while maintaining our capital base of \$8 million. 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 with us to other Metis entrepreneurs who may be considering the first steps to becoming owners of their own business.

REPORT ON OPERATIONS

During the period of April 2012 to March 2013, AMDI approved and disbursed \$3.4 million in funding assistance to new and existing businesses, constituting a sixty-three percent increase year after year. A total of thirty-seven loans were granted at an average loan amount of \$95,594 which included twenty from Regions 1, 2, and 3, and seventeen from Regions 4, 5, and 6. Many of the new loan applicants this year took advantage of the Aboriginal Business Canada (ABC) contribution program as the contribution serves to substantially reduce debt servicing costs associated with acquiring assets required for the business's operations. Loans to businesses included, but were not limited to oil and gas construction, engineering, transport, steel fabrication, and ancillary service sector spin-offs.

Our current work in progress stands at \$3.4 million as of April 1, 2013, and we expect many of these opportunities to translate into new projects for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Delinquency remains constant year after year, with approximately \$49,980 of our Loans Division Portfolio considered doubtful.

OTHER INVESTMENTS

MÉTIS ENTREPRENEURSHIP FUND INC.

In conjunction with the Métis National Council, the three Métis Capital Corporations in western Canada and the federal government have established a loan pool that is 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 three 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 bylaws. For the 2012-2013 fiscal year, two loans were conducted out of the MEF Fund, comprising \$556,400 and leveraging \$750,000 in AMDI commercial financing. Both AMDI and MEF loans are performing. While take-up has been slow to start, the Fund is doing exactly what it was designed to do, which was to allow the three ACCs to participate in larger projects. Out of our office, for example, we have another two projects in the evaluation stage that we hope will come to fruition during the 2013-2014 fiscal year where MEF has the potential to leverage an additional \$600,000 to \$700,000 in commercial financing from AMDI. As anticipated, we are excited about taking 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 (PROGRAM DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP)

For over twenty 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. As a consequence of this relationship AMDI has qualified as a key Program Delivery Partner to AANDC's Small Business Development Program. For the 2013-2014 fiscal year, AMDI will be responsible for direct delivery of \$1.2 million in equity previously known as Aboriginal Business Canada (ABC). Under AMDI delivery, we have renamed the program – Métis Entrepreneurs Assistance Program, or, MEAP, which provides the window of access to capital to all Alberta Métis entrepreneurs. As you might imagine, this means a lot to AMDI as it ensures better service to our clients and solidifies expectations on timing and capital availability. We often speak of AMDI's single window delivery model. Direct delivery of the small business equity program for Métis entrepreneurs serves to enhance our single window model even further.

PINNACLE BUSINESS SERVICES LTD.

Pinnacle staff provides applicants an opportunity to access government programs available through AANDC 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 Ltd. 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 formalizing 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 twenty-one business plans for clients, thirteen of which attracted commercial financing from AMDI while the remaining eight 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 thirty-seven clients.

EXTERNAL DELIVERY OFFICER (XDO)

The External Delivery Office (XDO) to Aboriginal Business Canada is an arrangement we have had with the federal government for over fifteen years. Since inception, our XDO has delivered over \$10 million 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 2012-2013 fiscal year, our XDO completed thirteen commercial/business plan/aftercare project authorizations with a total committed dollar amount of \$836,000 averaging approximately \$64,000 in non-repayable contributions to Métis entrepreneurs. AMDI participates as much as possible with Aboriginal Business Canada's Contribution program as program criteria have become more inclusive in terms of eligibility. Looking forward to the 2013-2014 fiscal year, however, our XDO has identified work-in-progress of \$1.1 million. Accordingly, we look forward to continuing this relationship and expanding our activities by aggressively marketing the opportunities that the new Program Delivery Partnership provides. If you would like to learn more about what products and services the Métis Entrepreneurs Assistance Program offers, I encourage you to contact our office.

CLOSING REMARKS

It was, overall, a fantastic year for AMDI with continued loan growth and positive net earnings. AMDI, along with its clients appears to be capitalizing on renewed growth in both the oil and gas and construction industries. While the economy continues its recovery, we have developed new program initiatives with other Métis capital corporations and the federal government such as the Métis Entrepreneurship Fund, and additional developmental lending support spearheaded by the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association (NACCA). 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 an integral role in the growth of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

ALBERTA MÉTIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As in the 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, as well as attendance at the 84th Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Annual General Assembly in order to provide information on Alberta Métis Historical Society activities, and attendance at seniors' cultural presentations such as the one in Grande Prairie.

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 of Alberta and its affiliates. This collection was donated to Métis Crossing and has enhanced 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 General 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 will form part of the cultural exhibit at the site 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.

During 2012-2013, Alberta Métis Historical Society participated in various fundraising events associated with culture, history and youth. Registration was provided for Métis youth to attend the Dreamspeakers Festival Society Youth Day and support was provided to the Georgina Donald Memorial Event for the purpose of encouraging youth to participate in the jigging contests.

Sincerely,

James Atkinson

President of Alberta Métis Historical Society

CREE PRODUCTIONS

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

Cree Productions has been very active and has over eighty 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 fifteen 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 2008-2009, Cree Productions added a display case at the MNA Head Office to showcase Cree Productions wares. In 2012-2013, 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

Other products:

Sashes

MNA clothing
MNA flags
MNA pins
Lapel sashes

These resources may be accessed by contacting Cree Productions at:

Metis Nation of Alberta - Cree Productions
#100, 11738 Kingsway Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5

Phone: 780-455-2200
Toll Free: 1-800-252-7553
Fax: 780-482-7213

MÉTIS CROSSING

INTRODUCTION

Our seventh season of operations started on May 17th, 2012, closing on September 4th, 2012 for the season. Brenda from Mahikan Trails was here for a week in May to conduct staff tour guide training. The zip line training was conducted by Dryden Card again this year.

We held two Michif Language Advancement Camps, with a total of twenty-three youth. They learned words in Michif and conducted a tour for the families and elders using Michif words to describe artifacts, animals, and plants. The camp also included activities such as tracking animals, making bows and shooting arrows, setting snares, playing some Métis games such as “sticks,” finding plants to name in Michif, jigging, and aboriginal movie nights. They all enjoyed the projects. A full final report is available for the Board of Directors, as all of the reporting for the project has been completed. There will be a call for proposals again in late October or early November, and I have talked to our program officer for Canadian Heritage about expanding on youth language camp for next year; she looks forward to working with us again.

Aboriginal Day was celebrated at the last minute due to financial issues. We had 112 people in attendance. Unfortunately, we did not have dancers, but we did have the “Fiddlin Kiddlins” and a fiddle player perform for the event. A mere four days of advertising for the event does not draw a very big crowd. Due to short notice, our Board was unable to attend the event, with the exception of our elder Lloyd Norris. We would like to extend a thank-you to Lloyd for coming out and participating.

I asked Angie Crerar to give greetings on behalf of MNA, which she was very proud to do. She did a great job at the last minute. We need to be more financially prepared next year for these events. I will look into funding for next year that has to be applied for in December. I will ask friends that are on the committee for the Grande Prairie Aboriginal Day to guide me in the right direction to apply for funding for Métis Crossing. I will also ask the Mayor in Smoky Lake and the County of Smoky Lake to help fund one of our community events.

Voyageur Days was also celebrated at Métis Crossing. The weather did not cooperate and we were very short-staffed, but we did have a total of 183 people in attendance during the two days. There were a lot of children and seniors on Sunday, as the weather was a bit better. I would like to see if one of the larger sponsors, such as Suncor or Atco would sponsor this event in the future. I will contact the larger companies for sponsorship as well.

The facilities and programs at Métis Crossing for this 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's services (washrooms, parking lots, shower house)
- Zip lines
- Farm machinery display
- Two 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 had a problem with cougars hanging around so we did not hold the nature walk with guests the last three weeks.

STAFFING

Finding staff for the season was a real challenge. The interpreters and zip line guides all started their training in May and continued through to the first week of opening. The staff was let go on the last day of our season, and I finished the majority of close-up duties myself. It is so hard to find Métis staff as there are not many local Métis individuals. This required me to hire from a distance, which had its fair share of issues when it came to travel and accommodation. The staff turnover was huge. There was only me and two others who stayed the whole season. We also had a part-time maintenance worker who kept the lawnmowers and whipper-snippers going. He also did most of the maintenance in the wash-houses. The equipment at the Crossing is not in very good shape, so a full time maintenance person would be an asset.

All of the staff was responsible for the daily site cleaning of all facilities and set up for guests. They prepared any materials or supplies that were needed for the tours, and they also mowed grass and raked it up when there were no customers. The zip line guides were responsible for daily, weekly, and monthly maintenance of the zip line. They were also trained to help out with the tours, as there were not enough designated staff members to take over that area. All staff and management worked weekends and all I could promise each person was one day off during the week unless it got rained out. We had many compliments on how clean the washrooms were and how nice the grass was because it was always raked after mowing.

DAILY OPERATIONS

We were open every day from 11:00 am to 6:30 pm for the season. Tours and zip line rides were given as required, as opposed to scheduled times. Pre-booked tours were very popular with the schools in the area. When the staff was not working with customers, they were working on site maintenance. We always have two zip line guides working every day in order to keep it in operation. Most of the time we only have two zip line workers and one tour guide on duty. The gift shop was handled by the project leader, or by myself. Daily tracking was done in the gift shop for daily visitation, camping, and zip lining.

Regular site admissions for the season were as follows:

- Family: \$15.00
- Adult: \$7.00
- Youth/Elder: \$4.00
- 6 & Under: Free

ZIP LINES

We had 381 customers on our zip lines this season compared to the 745 in 2011. This is a decrease of 364 people. I do not know the exact reason for this, but the weather—especially the wind and the thunderstorms—played a huge role in the decline of zip line business. Sadly, the decrease in zip line business hurt the Crossing. Regular price of \$39.95 is the same as last year, with some promotional pricing for groups. We gave the school groups a rate of \$19.95 per person, only if they had been promised from last year's price, otherwise we gave them fifteen percent off. Ten or more people who pre-book get fifteen percent off for zip lining, and six to nine people pre-booked get ten percent off.

VISITATION

The summer season 2012 had more visitors than in the past four years. Total visitation was up by 1246 guests from last year. Regular daily visitation numbers more than doubled. Our special event totals are down for Aboriginal Day and Voyageur Days. We did not have a special event in July, except the first day of our Michif camp. We counted the Michif camp as a special event. Weather, lack of advertising, and the abundance of other events in the area at the same time definitely played a factor in our low numbers for special events participation.

We had fourteen school/youth groups visit Métis Crossing this season. Some only came for the tours and some for both tours and zip lining. We had five adult groups come for tours and zip lining. We had two schools cancel their bookings because of the bad weather. We also had two seniors' groups out for the tours, as well as one special needs group. We also had a family reunion which brought 161 people to the Crossing.

VISITATION TOTALS

GROUP VISITORS OF THE SEASON

- Edgerton School, 18 tours
- Lac La Biche Job Corp, 23 tours
- Lac La Biche Schools, 2 separate days tours, 97 and 100 students
- Buffalo Lake Headstart, 16 tours
- Ashmont School, 36 tours and 18 zip lines
- Lena McInroy (FCSS), 14 tours
- Lamont High School, 4 tours, 7 zip lines
- Del Gravice School, 13 tours
- Vilna School, 11 tours, 8 zip lines
- Waskateneau Holy Family Catholic School, 58 tours
- Boyle School (Gr. 9), 7 tours, 9 zip lines
- Boyle School (Gr. 6), 17 tours, 14 zip lines
- Smoky Lake Colony School, 11 tours
- North Edmonton Seniors Association, 28 tours
- Elk Island Youth Ranch, 4 tours, 6 zip lines
- Boyle Youth Centre, 11 tours, 13 zip lines
- Pound Makers, 24 tours
- Métis Cultural Youth Camp, 18 tours, 16 zip lines
- Lac La Biche Native Friendship Centre, 5 tours, 3 zip lines
- Edmonton Aboriginal Seniors Centre, 12 tours, 6 zip lines

- Aboriginal Day brought 112 people to Métis Crossing
- Michif Camp counted as a special event, with 28 people in July, and 108 in August
- Voyageur Days brought 96 people in July, and 87 in August

Month	Regular Visitation Guests				Special Events Guests				Total Guests			
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012
February	0	0	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	0
March	0	58	110	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	110	0
May	373	280	101	162	0	0	0	0	373	280	101	162
June	736	818	462	1,145	234	239	56	112	970	1,057	518	1,257
July	377	531	376	1,176	296	362	215	28	673	893	591	1,204
August	375	596	605	760	910	692	263	288	1,285	1,288	868	1,048
September	101	57	90	43	0	0	0	0	101	57	90	43
October	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1,962	2,340	1,772	3,286	1,440	1,293	534	428	3,402	3,633	2,306	3,552

CAMPGROUND

There was a significant increase in campground usage this year from last year. We had twice as many campers as last year.

CAMPGROUND TOTALS

Month	R.V.				Tent			
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012
May	42	13	23	16	0	15	3	5
June	61	22	13	80	3	23	3	10
July	67	85	34	125	9	44	7	4
August	87	166	43	137	10	21	8	23
September	13	10	11	8	1	0	1	0
TOTAL	270	296	124	366	23	103	22	42

*Please note that these numbers do not include campers that staff used during working season (two campers).

CONCLUSION

Overall, it was a very good season for us newbies that had to learn as we went along. Our guests came from Britain, Germany, and many of our guests were from the local area as well as Edmonton, Grande Prairie, and British Columbia. The staff continues to receive compliments on the way they maintain the grounds, their customer service, knowledgeable tours, clean washrooms, clean shower trailers, and especially the raked up grass.

INTERPRETIVE CENTRE REVENUE ONLY

Year	Revenue	Include Lease Payments?
2007	\$26,423.00	?
2008	\$29,751.34	Does not include land lease payments
2009	\$49,863.88	Does not include land lease payments or sale of hay
2010	\$52,198.83	Does not include land lease payments
2011	\$51,332.80	Does not include land lease payments
2012	\$68,633.63	Does not include land lease payments

*2012 Interpretive Centre revenue up \$17,300.83 from previous year.

MÉTIS JUDICIARY COUNCIL

The Provincial Métis Judiciary Council (MJC) is made up of six members, one selected by the Regional Council from each Region who serves a term of three years, as per Métis Nation of Alberta Association (MNAA) bylaws. The MJC can carry out adjudication of complaint submissions or request for opinion with a quorum of fifty percent plus one 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 evidence 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 power of the Métis Judiciary Council is outlined in Article Thirty of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association (MNAA) bylaws; they may be summarized briefly as:

- The Judiciary Council reviews and decides all matters pertaining to the following:
 - o Membership where there is a dispute;
 - o Election bylaws where there is a dispute;
 - o Suspension and reinstatement of rights of Métis members; and
 - o Matters concerning conflict of interest and other matters as outlined in the bylaws.

To obtain a full listing of the MJC mandate please see MNAA 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. However, the MJC was notified that due to budget constraints with the Métis Nation of Alberta, the Judiciary Council was without a budget from July 2012 to December 2012; consequently, the MJC had to suspend operations during this period.

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 effective manner.

This term, the MJC sat from June 30, 2012 to July 1, 2013. There have been a total of eight complaint submissions and two requests for opinion on matters concerning the MNA bylaws this term. This has developed into five 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 five dockets reviewed and determined this past year, four remain outstanding. The MJC is currently scheduled to continue review and determination of these dockets.

There have been two sessions of the Métis Judiciary Council since June 2012 to work on all business of the Council. There were a supplementary thirty-four 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 five 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, all MJC members continue to be appointed for three years as per the MNA bylaws Article Twenty-Nine – Metis Judiciary Council. On April 14, 2012 all MJC members affirmed, and in some cases re-affirmed the “official oath.” Unless a Métis Judiciary Council member leaves, these positions will be effective until April 15, 2015.

Sincerely,

Current Métis Judicial Council Members:

Region 1 MJC Member, Evelyn Webb
Region 2 MJC Member, Robert Cowden
Region 3 MJC Vice-Chair, Larry Doupe
Region 4 MJC Chair, Dale Friedel
Region 5 MJC Member, Ken Shaw
Region 6 MJC Member, Marge Mueller

MÉTIS NATION HOLDINGS LTD.

HISTORY

In 1997, the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) took an inactive but current company called Métis Nation Productions and renamed it Métis Nation Holdings Ltd. The MNA holds one-hundred percent of the shares. This entity holds title to two properties: the MNA Provincial Office on Kingsway Avenue and the Métis Urban Housing property. It also has fifty percent 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 Head Office.

11738 KINGSWAY AVENUE – MNA PROVINCIAL OFFICE, DELIA GRAY BUILDING

In January 1997, the building that the Métis Nation of Alberta 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 Delia 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 spaces 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 began with a vision of energy efficiency. 2008-2009 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 2010-2011 renovations were completed. The 2011-2012 fiscal year saw modest upgrades to the building's exterior as well as the ongoing operation and maintenance. 2012-2013 continued with the exterior upgrades program, paint and finish within the interior, some modifications to the air conditioning for the server room as well as ongoing operation and maintenance.

11922 –121 A STREET – LARRY DESMEULES BUILDING

On May 1, 1999, Métis Nation Holdings Ltd. 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 Ltd. from the Royal Bank.

Once again, no MNA program funding was used in the purchase. Lease payments cover all costs associated with the building, as this was a requirement put down by the MNA Board. The building has a clear title as of May 2009. Future plans called for additional renovations to help with increased growth of MUHC and MCHC, and during 2008-2009, conceptual drawings for the addition of an administrative wing were developed and a development permit was obtained. During the fall of 2010-2011, zoning issues were negotiated, a building permit was granted and construction began in October of 2010 on a 10,000 sq. ft. addition, which was completed in April 2012. The 2012-2013 year saw the interior of the old warehouse and the majority of the old office space demolished. An upgraded, insulated warehouse with a sprinkler system is now in place, and the remainder of the old office space has been converted to file storage. The roofing on the warehouse was also replaced, and landscaping and final building inspections were completed and passed.

12304 –111 AVENUE – METIS VETERANS BUILDING

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 Ltd. and Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc., which holds fifty percent of the shares in the building. The 2011-2012 major repairs to the building included a vinyl roof membrane, and in 2012-2013, several leases were renegotiated at increased rates, a major replacement of the entire heating, cooling and ventilation system was undertaken and several tenant space upgrades were completed

OTHER ACTIVITY

While not owned by the Métis Nation Holdings Ltd., 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 projects of the MCHC, and renovations connected with Rupertsland and some of its MES Centres

MUCH/MCHC

MÉTIS URBAN AND CAPITAL HOUSING SEE ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

- MUHC was established on November 26, 1982 – thirty years ago.
- MCHC was established on September 8, 2008 and began its operations in 2009 – three years ago.
- Métis Urban Housing Corporation has 663 units in 14 fourteen urban centres under the Urban Native Housing Program funded by the federal government.
- Métis Capital Housing has 278 units in two 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, and is funded by CMHC. This program provides renting costs based on income (RGI), at twenty-five percent of the total household income. The renting costs also include a fixed utility charge. CNIT levels apply to this program.



2. MÉTIS CAPITAL HOUSING CORPORATION

NIHGI MÉTIS SENIORS LODGE

This forty-unit lodge is located in Edmonton and provides supportive living accommodations to seniors who want to live in an apartment-style facility; however, the resident seniors do require additional medical support services, meals, laundry and cleaning services.

ditional medical support services, meals, laundry and cleaning services.



MNA HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM

MCHC has taken on the delivery of the Homeownership Program with funding from Métis Nation of Alberta. This program provides down payment assistance to qualified homebuyers. The total budget for the Homeownership Program is \$150,000 per year.

MNA HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

This program provides assistance to homeowners who are in need of repairs to their homes. Assistance is only provided for capital items that are considered health or safety hazards if not replaced/repaired. CNIT levels apply to this program.



HABITAT HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM

This partnership was established in 2011, and the program provides five units for homeownership via the Habitat model.

1. MCHC retained ownership of units with a leasehold to Habitat for Humanity.
2. Five units committed – two new construction and three renovations.
3. MCHC makes the referrals; however, it is open to non-tenants.

4. Option to cancel.
5. Savings account for families who are the very low income -\$32,000-\$54,000.
6. CMHC video is being promoted on a national level.



A unit under renovation for the Habitat Program.

AWARDS

- Metis Capital Housing received two awards in 2012. The National Philanthropy Day Award is celebrated across North America to recognize the vital role philanthropy and generosity plays in our communities. The award is to publicly acknowledge, praise and honor those for philanthropy and goodwill. MCHC received the award in the area of social services which recognizes people and groups who have engaged in acts of charity, and give their time and services to ensure that the immediate needs of vulnerable populations within our community are being met. This award was for our partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

NATIONAL ACCLAIM

- Voted ‘The Best in the World for Over 50 Housing.’
- Testimonies claim that MUHC and MCHC are:
 - o “The most outstanding developer of affordable barrier-free housing for seniors in the world!”
- Profile appears in the Canadian Business Journal. This can be provided at the AGM.



MÉTIS CAPITAL HOUSING UNITS

MCHC delivers its own Affordable Housing Program through units that are solely owned by the corporation. Rental accommodations are provided at rates set to be at a minimum twenty percent less than the market, along with a fixed utility charge. There are approximately 160 units in Edmonton and Calgary. These are units that transferred to MCHC from MUHC, and are all renovated. The renovations cost an average of \$30,000-\$35,000 each (windows, flooring, furnace, HWT, lighting fixtures, doors, cabinets and paint). The interiors are completed first with intent to complete the exteriors later. Costs for the renovations are 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 who provided approval of approximately \$2.5 million in assistance to purchase land and construct a four-plex, which resulted in twelve rentable units.



MEDICINE HAT SENIORS PROJECT

This project has been completed with the purchase of a duplex, which MCHC takes ownership of on October 28, 2011. This is in partnership with Service Canada, who contributed funding of \$252,744 to put toward the purchase,

with the remainder of the funds being contribution by MCHC. The total cost was \$271,000, and additional cost to compete some minor upgrades.

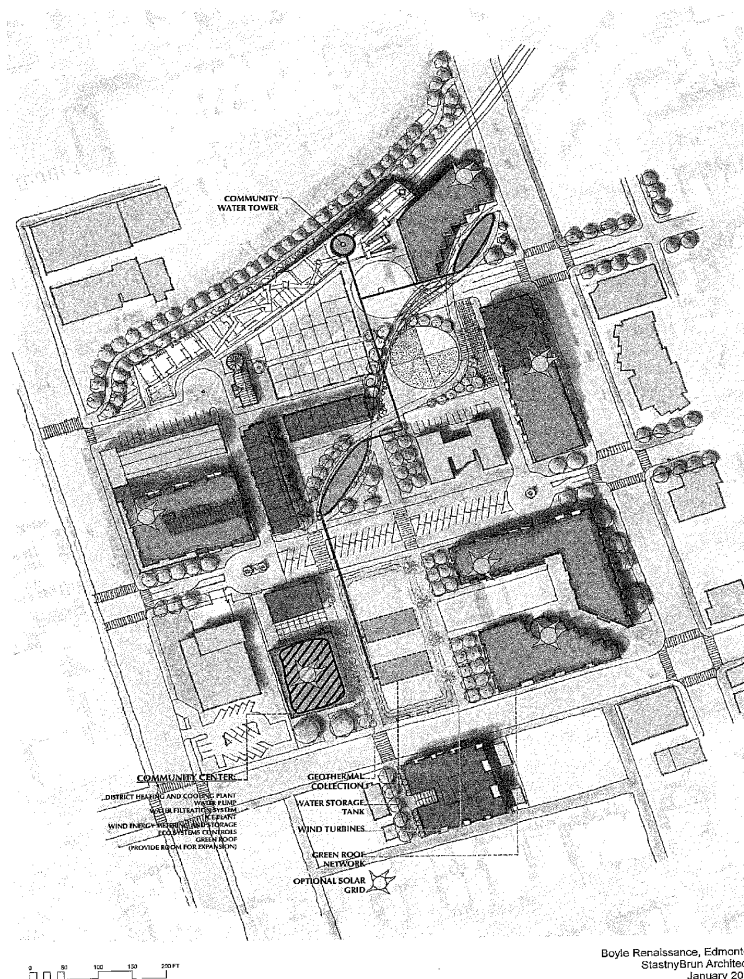


SHOWCASE BRAC PROJECT



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 ninety unit project includes sixty seniors' units and thirty units for persons with disabilities. Funding is being provided by the City of Edmonton, the Province of Alberta, the federal governments, and by MCHC. The Holmes Group has been secured as the consultants on the project. The process has begun and completion is scheduled for early 2013. Some distinctive features are:

- It took \$22 million dollars to build.
- It contains sixty seniors' and thirty persons with disabilities' units, with both one and two bedroom available.
- Partnership with the City of Edmonton, Province of Alberta, federal government, and Disabilities Association for an advisory role on adaptability units and referrals for tenants.
- We are revitalizing the inner city along 95 Street and 104 Avenue.
- Site includes eight lots that will fall under the ownership of MCHC.
- Holmes Group is hired to consult.
- Design/build team has been selected, and approval has been completed for suite plans.
- Co-gen system with ownership potential for MCHC.



- In-suite automation – front door camera, lighting control, motion sensors, automated door lock, and moisture detectors.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Métis Capital Housing Corporation has completed three new duplexes. There has been a development of two duplexes that incorporate larger units, with five bedrooms in each unit. Both units are now occupied. The other two duplexes are split – there's a three bedroom main floor living space, and then below there is a three bedroom basement suite. Responding to community requests for these types of units will continue, and there will be more units to be built as resources and opportunities present themselves.



NEW PROGRAM – FAMILY REUNIFICATION PROGRAM



This building contains:

- Two four-bedroom suites
- Two three-bedroom suites
- Seven two-bedroom suites
- Play area in the yard

STATS:

- MUHC housing total: 1780 people
- MCHC housing total: 483 people
- Total currently housed: 2263 people (including spouses and children)
- MUHC - single head of the household families make up eighty-seven percent of total units and are sixty-two percent female
- MCHC – single head of the household families make up seventy percent of total units and are fifty-one percent female
- MUHC - age 0-17 make up fifty-seven percent of total occupants
- MUHC - age 18-55 make up thirty-four percent of total occupants
- MUHC - age 55+ make up nine percent of total occupants
- MCHC - age 0-17 make up thirty-three percent of total occupants
- MCHC - age 18-55 make up fifty percent of total occupants

- MUHC - age 55+ make up nine percent of total occupants
- MCHC - age 0-17 make up thirty-three percent of total occupants
- MCHC - age 18-55 make up fifty percent of total occupants
- MCHC - age 55+ make up seventeen percent of total occupants

Métis Urban units, for the most part, house single female parents with children under the age of seventeen. Métis Capital units also, for the most part, house 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 units, as at age fifty-five most are still working.

Affordable housing continues to be in high demand. MUHC/MCHC is actively and assertively engaged in efforts to access additional funding 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 needed 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.

REGIONAL REPORTS

REGION 1

Region 1 has been extremely busy during the 2012-2013 fiscal year, learning and growing in many ways. The Regional leadership and staff have been involved with various meetings, programs, workshops and initiatives that have proven to be valuable and rewarding.



The locals have also had a busy year, with many growing and becoming self-sufficient. This is extremely positive for our Region, as this is part of the goals of the Region 1 strategic plan.

Region 1 has also created a new role in the Regional Office. This position, the Industry and Community Liaison, is an industry-funded position. The correct candidate will be required to create proposals, apply for funding initiatives, and support Region 1 leadership with industry and community programs. As well, the locals and community members have access to this position to use as a resource for their programs or any services they require.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE

Geographically, Region 1 encompasses the majority of industry development in the province. This location leads our Region to be extremely active and engaged with the current and upcoming regulatory process. Region 1 has taken part in meetings with the Government of Alberta regarding the Regulatory Enhancement Development Act (REDA) and its processes. REDA will streamline the regulatory system and is proposed to make the system quicker and easier to navigate. We are taking an active role in providing insight into this process and will continue to ensure Métis input.

We executed a three-day intensive strategic planning session, which provided Region 1 with a new direction and mission statement. The workshop was extremely important and well received, with the locals within the Region taking part, voicing their opinions and giving input on many issues and goals. The Region 1 mission statement reads as so: ‘We build strong and sustainable communities for our Métis Nation Region 1 members through self-sufficiency, recognition, consultation, negotiation and effective leadership.’

The Regional leadership also participated in the Shell Intervention, and learned a great deal about the regulatory process with industry. This was also another first step for us, and I believe it was a fantastic learning experience and it opened our eyes to see how much power we actually have if it is executed properly.

Part of the Region 1 strategic plan was to review the current governance structure and provide insights into ways that it can be improved. One of the groups that have been formed is the Region 1 Consultation Task Force, which is researching consultation efforts and developing a working system for our Region.

EDUCATION

Region 1 continues to support its members in all educational opportunities. Through scholarship opportunities and partnerships with Rupertsland Institute, we believe that education for all members is important and achievable.

The Aboriginal Head Starts in Lac La Biche, Buffalo Lake and Kikino continue to run full programs. These pre-kindergarten programs are essential to early childhood development, using the “learning through play” model that ensures both fun and learning take place.



Region 1 has attended several graduation ceremonies for high school students around the Region. The proud graduates displaying their sashes show the esteem that they have for their culture. We gift the Métis graduates from across the Region with a sash, the cultural heirloom passed down for many generations. This tradition will carry on into the years to come, with each year passing and more sashes being worn. Aboriginal graduation rates are rising and Region 1 commits to supporting the graduates in their goals.

Portage College is a beacon in the growing industry of post-secondary education, offering innovative and area-appropriate courses. Through industry partners, Region 1 has been able to offer scholarships to help ease the heavy load of post-secondary funding. This is something that will continue in the future, as Region 1 helps break down the barriers for continuing education for its members.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

CULTURE

Region 1 has always found as many opportunities as possible to showcase our rich and vibrant culture. Many activities were enjoyed throughout the Region, including Métis Week, the Annual Community Christmas Party, Local #1935 Métis Fest, and many others.

As well, elders around the Region have had many opportunities to share their traditional and environmental knowledge in various studies and workshops. Region 1 has completed two phases of the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk (AFSAR) Caribou project, with the second phase including trips to the field to observe Caribou habitat and behaviors



Also, different traditional land use and traditional environmental knowledge studies have been taking place across the Region, providing members with the opportunity to document their knowledge and share their experiences.

YOUTH



The Youth in Action Program has had many changes in the recent months, including a new Youth Coordinator and program guidelines. The direction that the program is gearing toward is getting Métis youth ready for the world through initiatives and experiences that deal with employment, skills training and education. Region 1 has also held day camps on “no school Fridays,” with different themes and experiences for them. Cultural aspects such as traditional music and dance combined with life skills such as cooking exposed youth to the different aspects of Métis lifestyles. This program will continue into the new fiscal year, with career presentations, life skills training and activities planned.

SENIORS

Region 1 believes that seniors have an extremely important role to play in our culture and that support is needed to ensure that the seniors and elders in the Region have what they need to maintain their roles. The Region 1 office opened its doors for Elders’ Lunches, an afternoon dedicated to elders and the activities they enjoy.

As well, the Government of Alberta Seniors’ Representative from St. Paul trained our office staff on the programs and benefits they offer, as well as provided seminars for seniors in the community to attend and voice their concerns and questions. This training has proven to be invaluable for our office to provide support with forms, programs and applications for seniors in an environment that they are already comfortable with.



The Region 1 leadership is pleased to hear positive feedback from the community about the friendly service that is available to seniors in the area.

HEALTH

Region1 hosted a two-day free diabetes screening event for the community to come get tested and educated 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. Education about diabetes is one of the best preventions to this disease, and we continue to promote health and wellness in Region1 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,
President of Region 1



REGION 2

On behalf of the elders, membership, staff and Region 2 Regional Council, we welcome all to the 85th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Alberta. There is much to enjoy in this part of our beautiful province, and we hope you make some time to take in the sights and amenities offered in and around Cold Lake.

It is exciting to host a gathering for Métis of all ages to come together to do business, conference with peers and learn together, network, celebrate aspects of our collective culture and, as always, meet old friends and make new ones!

As we are aware, it takes a lot of planning and organizing to bring our assemblies to fruition! We have had great cooperation, support and encouragement from the Cold Lake Mayor and Council, industry partners, community businesses, MNA head office, membership and volunteers. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to all.

I must publicly express my personal thanks to Shirley Benson, Vice President, and Linda Boudreau-Semaganis and Roy Dumais, Region 2 office staff for their commitment and dedication to ensuring the work continued in order to advance the preparations for the General Assembly. During my medical leave for four months, they picked up on all tasks, meetings and contacts that had to be addressed to move forward. With the guidance of President Poitras, Ron Harrison and Norma Spicer, the coordination and the preparations came together. All the while the regular business of the Métis Nation and our regional operations had to be fulfilled.



We are excited that the Lloydminster Local 2012 is in good standing and open for business! This brings their representative to the Regional Council table where their input is well received and appreciated. This new energy, knowledge and support will allow for greater opportunity to encompass the larger membership and their interests. We look forward to enhancing the communication and potential growth of program delivery within the Region. Both the Lloydminster and Bonnyville Locals were actively involved in the coordination of the Tradeshow. Truly an effort of cooperation!

Our role of providing Métis cultural awareness workshops and presentations are ongoing for invitations to schools, community groups and youth workshops. We would like to extend many thanks to Linda for sharing knowledge with all of the groups who invite Region 2 for presentations. Information about the Métis people of Canada is a piece of education that many Canadians must yet embrace with open minds. The recent Métis court cases and certainly, National Aboriginal Day celebrations stir the hunger for information and facts pertaining to our history, culture and traditions. There is urgency to ensure that the information is consistent and factual.

The exhibition of talent through singing, fiddling and jigging at the 26th Annual Family Boxing Day Talent Show was a success for 2012. It was well attended and was supported by the generosity of our community businesses, industry partners and volunteers—hats off to Shirley Benson for taking the lead role in planning and coordinating this awesome event.

Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth (CCAY) programming was a rush operation again for our office, just like many other proponents! We realize that the “powers that be” are in control of the delivery of the CCAY on behalf of the federal government. It is a stressful way to provide what should be a positive experience for youth. Our young people are beginning to lose confidence that their needs are being met through a youth program.



Two months, mid-winter, is not much time to gather interest, retain human resources for sharing knowledge, and encourage youth participation. The other difficulty is finding an individual who has the knowledge, skills and abilities to pull together a successful program and who wants to work for only two months. I include this feedback for the greater membership to know how and why this is not a full time program offered through the office. Also, for the readers to have a snapshot of just one of the issues that, at times, make it difficult to have smooth operating program delivery.

This year Region 2 participated in National Aboriginal Day with partnership celebrations with the Bonnyville Canadian Native Friendship Centre, Bonnyville Health Centre, and Kehewin Cree Nation. The day began with a teepee raising ceremony and feast at the hospital followed by the larger event of displays, food, pow wow dancers and a Métis traditional dance group performing numerous dances and, of course, the Red River jig! A number of school classes attended the event along with the general public making it a very large, good-looking crowd. The weather even cooperated for the day making it a huge success for all partners!



Region 2 continues to have representation on numerous boards, committees, working groups and other gatherings to provide a Métis perspective. There are instances where our participation as Métis is crucial with respect to policy, program and criteria development for various areas that will or do affect the quality of life for individuals, families and communities. We thank all of those individuals who have and continue to attend meetings, conferences and workshops on our behalf, sometimes with very short notice!

This continues to be a very busy area of the province for resource development projects, be they SAGD, pipelines or expansion projects. Region 2 leadership attempt to interact with as many industry/service companies as possible, and there are many. Through many of the projects, we have advanced on traditional land use and occupancy studies and reports. These are an important piece for gathering historic information of Métis activities over decades of living on the land, traditional and present day harvesting and gathering, and recording historic sites of economic and ceremonial significance, just to mention a few important components of a study. It becomes more apparent that our

oral history must be recorded from the elders, traditional people, and harvesters. The next generations must have means to learn and embrace their history and cultural activities of generations past. As we move forward, we must utilize the technological tools to ensure this information is captured. The elders and youth must be engaged in the process as that too becomes part of how the information gets passed on.

Region 2 embarked on a cooperative TLUS initiative with our neighboring Métis settlements of Elizabeth and Fishing Lake. This northeastern Métis collaboration is with the Lemming Lake Pipeline Project for Trans Canada. We look forward to ensuring that the project is complete with all three parties' input, and is a product that we are happy with and meets TransCanada's requirements.

Relationships with various companies are nurtured with ongoing communication in meetings, attending open house gatherings, hosting business mixers for Métis entrepreneurs and businesses, as well as referrals and encouraging Métis individuals to advance themselves with gainful employment and/or training. This area, like many others areas of the province and, indeed, Canada, are feeling the shortage of human resources to fill the varied skills and experience to meet their needs for the vast amount of positions to complete projects.

There are many young people who drop in or call our office for referrals to bursaries, scholarships and other sources of funding or for programs that will advance their education and training path. The success rate for youth attaining assistance is positive and many times, we are sought after to provide letters of support for the same.

Membership applications and genealogy search guidance is also a busy service provided through our office. We look forward to the opportunity to reach out to the various parts of the Regions with membership application days scheduled in the month to come. This is still a request from the Métis who live outside of Bonnyville and still want to update or fill out applications for the Métis identification card.

Region 2, as reported previously, signed a Joint Venture with Major Projects Group. We are moving forward with introducing our JV and advancing our profile and business plan. Contacts are being made with various companies and we are beginning to gather data on Métis businesses and tradespeople. We are persistent and believe that with our integrated services approach and unique relationship building that we will soon be granted a lucrative contract that will allow us to prove what is highlighted in our capability statement. Economic success can enable the social well-being of community while ensuring that non-funded areas of programming can be addressed. Elders', youth, healthcare and children's programming are lacking and are not at the forefront of funded areas and are therefore at times the first to be cut.

On a go-forward basis, we will maintain the existing services and programs. Our focus to advance our joint venture will require energy, collaboration and cooperation. The tasks at hand to complete and participate in studies will continue to be attended to and expanded upon. We will continue to assist with the elders programming, referrals and participation for cultural activities.

We wish you all a safe and happy summer! Travel safe and God bless.

Best regards,

Karen (KC) Collins
President of Region 2 Regional Council of the Métis Nation of Alberta

REGION 3

DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

ANNUAL ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP AWARD '13

Entrepreneurial Leadership Awards, April 27, 2012 recipients list:

ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3

- Sheri and Randy Nault - Pumpworks Services Ltd., Calgary, AB
- Jr Olsen – Olsen's Martial Arts Club, Pincher Creek

YOUTH ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

- Cole Fiddler – Northern Electric, Calgary, AB

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR SUCCESS IN THE CORPORATE WORLD

- Richard Piche – Gas Liquids Engineering, Calgary, AB

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR SUCCESS AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE MÉTIS BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3

- Travis Ronald – Custom Silver Jewelry and Art, Calgary, AB
- Marcien Lablanc – Métis Trapper, Rocky Mountain House

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR CONTRIBUTION AND SUPPORT TO THE MÉTIS COMMUNITY

Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3

- Cougar Technical Services, Calgary, AB

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR SUPPORT AND SERVICE TO THE MÉTIS COMMUNITY

Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3

- Sunrise Native Addictions Services, Calgary, AB

MIXERS

The monthly business and professional mixers are going well with 20 to 40 people attending each one. They are also helpful to our beginner entrepreneurs, as they get to talk to experienced business people. We are also pleased to have picked up some new sponsors this year.

YOUTH

EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH THROUGH MENTORING AND CULTURE

This program changed this year under the CCAY funding—the two youth programs have been combined.

- The youth in the Fiddle and Guitar Program take lessons on Wednesday evenings. These aspiring young musicians have performed at Region 3 functions, and some have been asked to play at other events in Region 3. One of our youth fiddlers has advanced so much that we have hired her to play.
- The youth in the mentoring side have anywhere from 8 to 18 youth who attend mentoring group meetings once a week. They have role models and resource personnel come to speak to them about career choices, what it takes to get into certain careers, and life skill workshops.
- We had some of our seniors come to the youth group to share the culture and knowledge.
- Many field trips were taken in the summer months, such as visits to the Edmonton Zoo and Heritage Park. The youth also volunteered at the Mustard Seed, helping to serve meals to the homeless, went to Big Valley for the Métis Rendezvous, learned to make capotes, and took part in making breakfast and running the concession.

DANCERS

- Region 3 supported the Calgary Métis Cultural Dancers who performed at open houses, Métis week flag raising, social functions, and have also traveled throughout the region to perform at Big Valley, Lethbridge, Rocky Mountain House, the Stampede and other parades. The youth attended and competed in the 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 sent out our new Who Are the Métis brochures to all municipality, 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. The celebration is based on teaching—individuals can learn to play the fiddle, guitar, bagpipes, banjo, keyboard, they can take part in beading and moccasin making, hand weaving, capote making, and drum making. They offer youth programs, jigging, seniors' events and activities, and strong advocacy for Métis cultural retention in Medicine Hat.
- We attended the Pincher Creek annual Red River Cart 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, and also participate in their Métis cultural camp, and the Great Canadian Barn Dance.
- Lethbridge Local 2003 held jigging lessons, delivered community cultural awareness, and is partners with Family Ties.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

- Region 3 now has the contract for the Buffalo Lake Recreation Area. It was a learning experience for us, and luckily we hired an excellent manager for the summer. We have already had many meetings with the government and others for improving this recreation area.
- We operated for the Métis Nation of Alberta, and the Tail Creek Campground near Stettler. Many tourists and visitors continue to return there for their annual vacations as well as to the Buffalo Lake Campground near Stettler.
- The Métis Interpretive Program started in 2004 at the National Historical Site in Rocky Mountain House and 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 845. Contact Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site for more information.
- We referred Elders to speak at schools, etc. Presentations have also been done by Marlene and Joe, as well as elder Faye Beazley, and local representatives at colleges and local events throughout the Region.

HOUSING

- We participate in the Aboriginal Standing Committee on Housing and Homelessness in Calgary. Joe Pimlott sits on the committee.

VETERANS AND SENIORS

- We have bi-weekly seniors lunches where we have from 25 to 50 seniors come out to the Regional office to enjoy a home cooked meal, friendship and fellowship.
- Métis veteran Bob Gray is a dedicated and strong advocate for the Métis veterans and can be seen delivering food and other essentials to them.

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

TO TRANSFER AND PRESERVE MÉTIS ELDER KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM TO CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

- The Youth Mentoring Program utilizes elders and other people of knowledge.
- We have fiddle and guitar lessons for the youth and the seniors, which occur once a week.
- We had the elders come to our youth group to share their knowledge and cultural teachings.
- We had taped some elders stories which we now have the CDs in our office for sale for those who want them.
- We have purchased Michif language tapes and materials for all to use.
- We have sashes and other Métis resources for sale in our office.
- 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.

YEARLY ACTIVITIES

- 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 receive and respond to numerous phone calls throughout the day, especially those pertaining to harvesting rights and membership issues.
- We also assisted with the Hivernant Cultural Society's Métis Celebration in Big Valley on August long weekend.
- The Society is in negotiations with the village of Big Valley to develop a permanent Métis village. They now have the Red River cart mounted on display at the Métis village site, and the Métis flag flies proudly. They have acquired a building from the County for storage.
- We had our first ever Stampede Pancake Breakfast on July 13, 2012. It was a huge success.
- We attend functions to promote the Métis at the Calgary Stampede.
- We make referrals to other agencies.
- We provide advice about programs within MNA as well as within Region 3.

- On December 14, 2012, Region 3 had their annual Share the Spirit Homeless Dinner at the Albert Park Community Center, and fed approximately 400 people with the assistance of our amazing volunteers and sponsors.
- On December 20, 2012, Region 3 had a youth and elders Christmas lunch in which our seniors and the youth came together and enjoyed a good meal with gifts and singing. The youth performed a skit for the seniors.
- On January 19, 2013, Region 3 had their annual AGM. The locals gave their reports along with delegates from Rupertsland and Apeetogosan, our auditor, and Sara Parker from MNA. Marlene Lanz and Joe Pimlott gave a report on the activities thus far throughout the Region.
- On January 19, 2013 following the AGM, there was a two dollar supper and dance held in Calgary with great music and prizes. We had a full house.

MÉTIS WEEK

- During Métis Week we celebrated the beginning of the week with flag raisings in Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, and Pincher Creek. Marlene and Joe alternated locations to attend.
- There were open houses in locations such as MCFS, Miywasin Center Local 8, Red Deer Local 492, and the Lethbridge Local 2003.
- Two major seniors' dinners in Calgary and Medicine Hat took place. The Calgary event was at maximum capacity and the Medicine Hat event was well received. They were quite successful and we will be looking at a larger facility next year.
- There was a family fun day in Calgary at the Albert Park Community Center with contests and prizes for the whole family, followed by a traditional Métis supper and dance that was filled to capacity.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I want to welcome everyone to the 85th Annual Assembly in Cold Lake, Alberta. It is a great honor to attend the Métis Nation of Alberta’s Assembly and to reconnect with people and bring forward a progress report on the issues effecting Métis people in Alberta and Canada.

We have had many significant moments in our tenure, and now we have had the good fortune to see another significant milestone that was thirty years in the making. I was very proud to see the Manitoba Métis Federation succeed in the Supreme Court case related to the issues of Métis scrip lands. As much as the work will have to continue to be negotiated, for Métis people in the future it is a significant win.

We look forward to advancing the rights of Métis with the success that we have been gaining within the courts. We have applied to have the Alberta courts and Supreme Court grant us leave in the Hirsekorn case. We are awaiting the decision at this time. Hopefully we will have the same success as the Manitoba Métis.

As for the year in Region 4, there has been a significant amount of work trying to engage industry and opportunities for economic advancement of Métis people in our area. As the resources for our political organization are marginalized by the increased cost of living in our society, we will have to find more substantial means to become self-sufficient and ensure that Métis people are a part of the growths and advantages that are within their back yard.

I look forward to seeing you all at this year’s event and I truly hope that you have an enjoyable weekend here in Cold Lake.

Respectfully,

Cecil Bellrose
President of Region 4

VICE-PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Welcome, to Cold Lake, Alberta and the Métis Nation of Alberta’s 85th Annual Assembly hosted by Region 2 of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA). This weekend, we have great opportunity to highlight the business of the past year and get together to celebrate our Métis culture and history with family and friends.

The 2012-2013 fiscal year has been no different than that of 2011-2012 in terms of finances; with federal cuts to MNA funding made by the Government of Canada, we must find other ways to address these organizational needs. Going forward, our Provincial Council must look at economic development as a way to achieve economic stability for our organizations.

I would like to congratulate the Manitoba Métis Federation for the landmark decision that was handed down by the Supreme Court of Canada, March 8, 2013.

This decision has ramifications for all Métis in Canada, and as a provincial delegate to the Métis National Council (MNC), this decision addresses Canada's failure to honor agreements made with Métis people. As a provincial delegate at the Métis National Council table, I would support a national strategy to resolve these long standing issues with the Government of Canada.

I would like to commend Region 2 and staff from the MNA for all their hard work in planning this Assembly, and all the volunteers who put countless hours in planning events and social activities for this weekend. Marsé.

Respectfully,

James Atkinson
Vice-President of Region 4

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Region 4 has a strategic plan that was developed over several years as a multi-year 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 any required changes to the strategic plan that are done through community consultations and regional council meetings. The upcoming year should have mechanisms contained within it to assist in the consultations and discussions related to updating and amending the plan.

There has been a significant lack of resources made available to the Regional Council, and the few available resources or increments in funding have been consumed at the provincial organization. A planned effort needs to be developed that will assist our organization in acquiring the resources necessary to fulfill our mandate.

The development of a strategic plan works both within and with the Provincial Office and the Framework Agreement. We always welcome feedback and input for the business plan, and in the meantime, we would look forward to hearing from the community in relation to gaps or new priorities or suggestions on means to achieve existing goals.

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 Region 4 participated in Provincial Council meetings and were involved in their provincial portfolios. In addition, President Bellrose is actively involved in the areas of Métis rights, and Métis membership/citizenship. Vice President Atkinson has been involved in the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, 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. In addition, there has been one executive meeting.

2. Urban Métis Community:

a. 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 completed mail-outs 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 assisted with the election of a new Board of Directors to oversee the Church.

c. We hosted Métis activities throughout Métis Week in November that highlighted a flag raising ceremony at City Hall to start it off.

4. Communication:

a. Communication continues to be a priority for our Regional Council. We have been working on a new website and we are hoping to be able to add to it and keep it current so that our members can stay in touch with the things we are working on. We would love to have feedback, and encourage ideas or recommendations on our website or the development of a new communication strategy.

OTHER REGIONAL COMMITTEES

Other committees and initiatives that representatives from Region 4 took part in are 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's services, housing, harvesting, membership and other issues that relate to inquiries from Métis members.
- Any others that may be required from time to time.

INDUSTRIAL ENGAGEMENT

Through activities with industry, we have been involved or engaged in several meetings or discussion in an attempt to ensure Métis interests are addressed and that opportunities will be available for our communities in the future.

The following is a list of companies that we have either met with or have worked with in an attempt to build relationships:

- Coal Valley Resources
- Northern Gateway Pipeline
- Enbridge Pipeline
- TransCanada
- Kinder Morgan
- Coal Spur
- AESO
- And other corporations from time to time.

With some of these corporations we have been able to engage in a variety of tasks such as:

- Memorandum of Understanding
- Traditional Land Use Study
- Community engagement activities
- Future potential engagement in the areas of education, environment, regulatory activities and economic development
- Relationship Agreement
- Letter of Intent

REGION 5

Our Region 5 office is located in Slave Lake on Main Street, 353 North Main. We have two employment centres located in Slave Lake and High Prairie and they are known as the Rupertsland Institute—a Métis centre of excellence. Métis Urban Housing Corporation has an office in Slave Lake at the Friendship Centre.

This past year has been very exciting in Region 5. We have completed much work and have built relationships with industry and other stakeholders throughout the communities, and we continue to offer the information we receive from government and/or other community stakeholders. We complete referrals to other organizations as needed, we advocate on behalf of our members, and we work hard to ensure our services are available.

We have assisted members in many different areas including but not limited to employment and training, housing, residential survivors applications, health, senior applications, registry, youth programs, resume development, and other areas.

REGISTRY

Our office has been busy assisting members in updating their membership cards. We need to continue to work with the provincial office to promote and assist the communities with this initiative

LOCALS

We have been talking with the different communities about starting locals, and the feedback has been that many people are not interested in having them; however, we still have many members who work with the Regional office. So I am hoping that at the Assembly community members from Region 5 will come forward with the assistance of our Regional office to develop locals within the communities.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Since the fire in Slave Lake, we have requested twenty-five percent of the trailers brought into Slave Lake so that the seniors can utilize these units as affordable housing. We continue to hope we are successful.

In the northern communities, the affordable housing is still an ongoing issue that needs to be addressed immediately. In the communities, many families are living together as there is no housing available in many areas, specifically Faust.

Our representatives of the Slave Lake Housing Authority and Métis Urban Housing Corporation continue to work in the best interest of the communities. We would like to extend a thank-you to both of them.

YOUTH

The youth programs are very exciting, as we have partnered with the FCSS and other organizations to help benefit the programs. We had stay-at-home-alone and healthy eating habits workshops, along with other workshops in other communities.

One thing I would like to point out is the purchase of the violins. Our youth are excited to learn to play and we are looking forward to showcasing the talent at future Métis gatherings.

Sports, family day, arts and crafts and other activities that were done with the youth were done with funding from CCAY. Thank you to the Region 5 coordinator and the CCAY department at the MNA head office.

Some new and exciting news is that this fiscal year we are looking at programs such as life skills, communication skills, basic banks, college tours, career counselling workshops, bursary and scholarships, and so much more. The main focus is helping the youth with important tools which will enable them to make positive choices and be productive at school, post-secondary and/or training.

We are also developing a computer lab that will be utilized by the youth within our office and also in communities.

Another important topic is suicide prevention. We have met with some communities and discussed a possible strategy, as there have been several deaths in the last year.

EDUCATION

We continue to work with different schools and we promote the different bursaries and scholarships that they have to offer. Our Vice President is on the Board of Directors for the Living Water School District, and we continue to be updated on the issues of our Métis students.

HEALTH

There are always needs to address and different issues to deal with. Some of the topics we are focusing on are diabetes, smoking, cancer prevention and information, bullying, and programs that promote children staying in school. We have partnered with other organizations to host some workshops; however, we will be providing many through our office and our local communities if they are interested.

SENIORS

We continue to assist the seniors with applications and/or other areas as identified by each individual.

Starting in September we will be having monthly lunch gatherings for the elders, as this will allow them to spend time at the office, visit, and get the assistance that is needed. We are looking to bridge the gap between the elders, youth, and members of Region 5, as well as have time to spend with the elected officials.

CULTURE AND HERITAGE

We continue to have our Métis Week celebrations which includes an open house and raising of the flag.

We celebrated our tenth annual Métis Celebration in partnership with the Northern Lakes College located in Grouard. This event brings the communities together to have dinner, a talent show, Métis dance groups, and entertainers throughout Alberta.

Aboriginal Day on June 21 is done in partnership with other organizations to ensure this is a community event.

We continue to seek funding to ensure our elders get to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Métis Nation in August.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic development has been a big focus for Region 5 during this fiscal year. We have met with many different companies and formed some partnerships. We have a work plan being developed for our Region and we will be doing a T.L.U study in this upcoming fiscal year.

We have a seat on the Community Futures Board for Lesser Slave Lake. We also continue to support Apeetogosan and Aboriginal Canada within our Region.

Region 5 is a partner to S-11 Logging, and we have had several meetings with the government as well as a company who will come in as a contractor and work within the S-11 quota. I would like to say thank-you to Big Stone Band and Trout Lake Association for the hard work and effort they continue to provide to me as the chairperson. We look forward to this up-coming year as we are very excited about work and other opportunities for our Métis members.

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HARVESTING

The harvesting issue is still before the courts and we are waiting to hear the decision. We as Métis know we are aboriginal peoples and it's unfortunate that we need to prove this within the court rather than spending this time developing a working relationship with the departments responsible.

REGION 6



TWO RULINGS IN THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA

Decisions favoring the Métis were first greeted with disbelief in our Region; but these feelings were soon replaced with jubilation. What a wonderful way to start out 2013—definitely “The Year of the Métis.” We have finally reached the highway on the journey to exoneration and rightful recognition. There were many excited phone calls from across the Region from people wanting to know what the decisions would mean to them. “What exactly does the decision mean? That Métis are now Indians?” We here in Region 6 knew that all along, but now we have government verification. As a possible result, there has been an influx of people now wanting to obtain their memberships.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

Region 6 celebrated its 25th anniversary with an Annual General Meeting and talent show. The capacity was through the roof at the ski chalet, with people celebrating with the Stan Champagne Band, good food, dancing,

jigging, fiddling, and singing. The guests were treated to an unbelievable silent auction, 25th anniversary souvenir cups, fundraising garage sale, steak dinner and five-thousand dollars in bursary funding. This year, we are celebrating our 26th AGM on July 5-6 with a campout at Camp Artaban. MNC President Clement Chartier will be in attendance along with Madame Audrey Poitras, the President of MNA. An old time dance with special tribute to the late George Jones, and horse and wagon rides will be the highlights of the gathering. Every day our office promotes, supports, and works to better the lives of people through inclusion and participation. This is made extra difficult by the lack of staff and ability to have the people needed to do the work we require. An Economic Development Officer is most needed as well a Membership Clerk.

A special highlight of our anniversary year is the forming of the Peace Métis Jiggers who have exuberantly learned how to jig and have been entertaining the Peace Country this past year. We are very proud to have a jigging group from the Peace Country. Thank you to Shell Canada, CCAY, parents and most of all the elders and the instructors who believed it could happen.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDALS

Congratulations to elder Ruth Kidder and Angie Crerar for receiving the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. Congratulations to Sylvia Johnson who received her medal from Chris Warkentin at a special ceremony in Grande Prairie. Johnson's response to the medal in the newspaper was that it was a very significant and gracious honor to be bestowed with, and it is extremely special to her as Johnson and the Queen share the same birthday, making the medal a very fitting and prestigious gift to be treasured forever.

Congratulations to Jean Johnson of Valleyview on being recognized at the Esquao Awards.

METIS HARVESTING RIGHTS

Region 6 attended the appeal in Calgary. The decision on whether Métis can harvest traditionally on the southern Alberta prairies and throughout Alberta may take many more months to decide. We in Region 6 are allowed to hunt within a 150 kilometer radius of our seventeen northern communities by filling out Fish and Wildlife forms and receiving permission to hunt based on historical ties to the land. This is acceptable to some hunters, but overall we would like to have full hunting privileges without restrictions and the ability to harvest according to our traditional ways. It is only a matter of time before harvesting will be a full right for the Métis.

MEMBERSHIP

Region 6 is pleased that the resolution we brought forward at the 2012 MNA Assembly to assist the Regions with Membership Clerks is successful. MNA administration obtained funding to assist the Regions with the capacity to have a clerk.

With the travel required throughout our larger Region, it is essential that we have this service, and I thank the MNA for their quick action to assist us.

We have proven that the need is there and the people do want their new membership cards. Plans are now underway to advertise for and employ a Membership/Communication Clerk for our regional office.

This year, the genealogy department came to our Region to assist people with their family trees and connect them to their historical roots. There is a great demand for more of these workshops and we are pleased that we will continue assisting people by having the genealogist at our AGM.

Membership is also necessary for our youth to ensure the future of the Métis Nation. We hosted three workshops in our region, providing the youth with the opportunity to know who they are, where they come from, build their family trees and to instill pride in their heritage and culture. This will then lead to the ability to get their membership card. Through this process we hope to achieve both Region 6 doubling their membership, and the youth to become card carrying Métis citizens.

INFORMED

Métis citizens are what the Region works for in all their endeavors through newsletters, phone calls, Facebook, visiting, meeting, and conferences with all industry and government. In the best interests of all our people, we want to continue lobbying and being the dependable voice of the Métis in the northwest Region. In order to achieve this, we need to have more of a relationship and commitment from the head office. It is extremely necessary for the provincial leadership to promote relationship building with the provincial government. We need to rebuild the bridge between government and the MNA so that the Métis may take advantage of the growing economic Alberta industry. For the growth and future of the Métis, we must foster relationships between government and industry. For the betterment of both economic growth in favor of industry (oil and gas), we also want the best for aboriginal communities and our people. There was a very good Economic Development Conference in Grande Prairie hosted by MNC that many of our aboriginal businessmen attended. An Economic Development Conference and AGA in Vancouver this May again hosted by MNC was very good for reconnecting us with key players from industry and government. Our doors are always open and our policy is not only “putting Métis people first,” but ensuring that we are available to assist and support as much as possible. To ensure this happens, intense lobbying with government and industry is an ongoing part of our everyday job. We need to constantly be on the lookout for opportunities to enhance our lives and to push the envelope forward.

COMMITTED

Region 6 is committed to its people by ensuring that we include everyone possible in all of our endeavors. Our vision statement says it best, which is to enhance the lives of the northwest Métis people through planning and developing programs and initiatives to promote growth and a positive lifestyle for each man, woman and child. In order to do this we must all work together to achieve this—our Regional Council and locals, as well as our communities. The utmost attention and effort will be given to programs and job opportunities in the Region now and for future generations. We actively seek out individuals from all corners of our region to include and bring in to the regional activities. Workshops were held in Grande Prairie, Manning, Peace River, Cadotte Lake, Valleyview, Fairview, High Level, etc. Of notable interest is the workshops put on by Region 6 dealing with the Aboriginal Policy Framework. MLA Frank Oberle was very pleased and publicly congratulated us on taking this initiative forward to seven communities.

With commitment and dedication, the most important is our children and youth. Region 6 has made a commitment to ensure that our Métis children and youth are not left out at our assemblies, gatherings and workshops. Promoting the Peace Métis Jiggers gives the youth an opportunity to showcase our culture and history through the eyes of the children and youth. We have had workshops which are youth-specific, ensuring that our youth throughout the Region have the opportunity to experience their history and culture, and most importantly, know who they are and be proud to be Métis. Our goal is to create and increase awareness of our growing youth population, assisting them with education, jobs, leadership and including them in beneficial programs and experiences. Preparing the youth for the future is our priority. All programs are run by staff and volunteers who give many hours of service, including weekends and national holidays. A presence from the President and Vice-President is most important and both are very visible throughout the communities. Some of the programs we hosted this year are:

- Region 6 talent show
- Spirit Seekers Conference and Aboriginal Achievement Awards
- Who Am I CCAY workshops in Peace River, Manning, and Fairview
- Métis Nation Assembly - youth payout to attend youth conference
- Watershed Project – water testing and river boat tour of the Peace River
- Fashion Show Gala – youth got to model traditional aboriginal clothing
- Remembrance Day Celebrations honoring our Métis veterans
- Tour with Rupertsland to Métis Locals – training and employment
- Halloween treats, Christmas gathering, Christmas decorating
- Métis Week open house in Peace River, Cadotte Lake, and Manning
- Youth giving back to community through dancing and jigging
- Canada Day, Nampa community celebrations
- Elders Caring Shelter activities
- Pow wow, jigging and fiddling competition
- National Aboriginal Day in Grande Prairie
- CCAY youth meetings and workshops
- Residential school conferences, youth participation

OPEN DOOR POLICY

Region 6 has always maintained an open door policy. Our members are welcome to come to our office for coffee and refreshments, pick up information, and meet with the President and Vice-President daily.

Every effort is made to ensure that they are aware of our programs and discussions with government and industry, that we are listening to their input, and that they are familiar with our work on a mandate implemented by our members through our AGM.

We also work to empower the people through resources, identifying their needs, and giving them the necessary information to promote healthy growth and positive lifestyles. We put in special effort to prepare our youth for active leadership roles and to be a part of all workshop and conferences possible, whether they're local, provincial, or federal.

There are many donations throughout the year from our companies, Nesokmahtan Enterprises and Northwest Development, which assist families with sports, education bursaries, health, housing (homeless fund), and bereave-

ment. Through our companies, approximately twenty thousand dollars per year is given out in donations, community support and on our members' behalf.

Support is also given to communities throughout Region 6. This support is supplied through many events and sponsors, which include: the pow wow (fiddling and jigging contest), Sisters in Spirit, National Aboriginal Day, wagon train to Lac Ste. Anne, MS trail ride, Cadotte Lake Community Hall, School tours and conferences, sporting events, MS Society, Cancer Society, Walk for Life, Outreach, Make-a-Wish Foundation, Little People Conference, Youth Career Day, pond hockey, Canadian Diabetes Association, Royal Canadian Legion, homeless fund, Aboriginal Day, Aboriginal pow wow, Christmas Fund, Marina Brothers' Excellence in Education Fund, Grande Prairie Métis Week, Elders Caring Shelter activities, HIV North Society, Grande Prairie College, and Richard Wagemese promotion.

Also helping to support our communities are partnerships with Trans Canada, Shell, Bison Contracting, Clear Stream, DMI, PenWest, Site C BC Hydro, Northern Gateway Pipelines (CAB meetings), Alberta Government (water conversation).

Elders in our Region have benefited from our partnerships by receiving facilities such as the Elders' Shelter in Grande Prairie. We have included them in workshops, conferences, field work, monitoring, history presentations, banquets, and youth workshops. Respecting and honoring our elders for their knowledge and historical input has benefited both the Region and the elders.

Bison Contracting donated a van to the Elders' Shelter for their residents. Bison Contracting at DMI maintains a crew of 35 people that work on a full-time basis. Shutdowns employ over 300 people. Bison has expanded at the mill to manage the janitorial department.

Overall, Region 6 is pleased with their partnerships in industry. We are now entering a major initiative with first nations, settlements and industry, signing as proponent with Services Canada. The focus of this proposal will be job retention mainly with the oil and gas industry.

Our people have gone out line monitoring, participated in TLU studies, field trips and helicopter trips as well as inclusion with the oil and gas industry. Through this engagement, the Métis of this Region will engage in training and job opportunities, ensuring that we are providing every possible avenue for obtaining skills, jobs, and a better way of life for Métis families.

We promote our traditional entrepreneurs through sales of aboriginal traditional crafts, such as moccasins, mukluks, dream catchers, jewellery, and shields as well as aboriginal artifacts for our school tours.

Our elders enjoy being included in our workshops, meetings, children and youth activities, boating, field trips, and fundraising. We like to make sure that they attend as many activities as possible. Twenty elders from across the Region have enjoyed field trips, helicopter monitoring, and workshops with Northern Gateway Pipeline and Trans Canada. The elders have also benefited from programs and activity funding from these industry partners, building lasting relationships for the advancement of our people.

Our members were sent to work as much as possible, with special attention given to self-entrepreneurs. We assisted people with jobs, field work, fly overs, monitoring, training initiatives, etc. This year, the focus will be on obtaining COR safety for small businesses.

We want to capitalize on every opportunity possible, pushing industry for contracts and local hiring. The number of self-employed businesses going to Apeetogosan Development Inc. has increased. A workshop for small businesses with focus on COR safety will begin this fall with a monthly drop-in business mixer to introduce aboriginal people to the industry.

Partnerships between other Regions, MNA, MNBC, federal government and industry are also being proposed with joint agreement MOU's signed.

Our Regional Council were included in economic development, workshops, travel and input on all our activities. A motion was made at our council table proposing that we look for a beneficial real estate purchase, either in a new office facility, hall for the Métis, or other facility. The boom in the Region is encouraging to our people and our Regional Council is interested in investing in commercial real estate in order to sustain and increase our company worth.

THANK YOU

Region 6 would like to thank their elders, youth, members, affiliates, locals, government and industry for their participation in making our year quite memorable, especially celebrating our 25th anniversary—we have proudly kept our doors open for this long, and plan on keeping them open for many more years to come. We would also like to thank our affiliates who have donated money to our Marina Brothers' Bursary Fund, elders, youth, and AGM. We appreciate it very much. To the oil and gas industry, Region 6 would like to acknowledge your contributions to the northwest Region of the province, improving the lives of the Métis. We encourage you to continue, and look forward to increased consultation and involvement. Thank you to Clement Chartier and Audrey Poitras for including Region 6 people in their conferences and workshops.

And last but not least, we would like to thank Aaron Barner and the Finance Administrator of Métis Nation of Alberta for putting the most effort into communicating with us and trying to shuffle funds around on our behalf.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Johnson
President of Region 6

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS FROM THE 84TH AGA

MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA
84th ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
August 16 - 19th, 2012
Athabasca, Alberta

Summary of Motions

*Motion #1: Joe Blyan moves to cease nominations for Chair & Co Chair; seconded by Cecil Bellrose.
Motion Carried.*

The Chair appointed Mr. Chuck Isaacs as Sergeant at Arms for the business meeting.

*Motion #2: Brian Hamelin moves to adopt the agenda as presented; seconded by Melanie Omeniho.
Motion Carried.*

*Motion #3: Melanie Omeniho moves to accept the President's report; seconded by Marilyn Lizee.
Motion Carried.*

*Motion #4: Walter Andreeff moves to accept the Vice President's report; seconded by Beatrice Demetrius.
Motion Carried.*

*Motion #5: Melanie Omeniho moves to accept the Summary of Motions from the 2011 Assembly held in Grande Prairie, as presented in the 2012 Annual Report; seconded by Beatrice Demetrius.
Motion Carried.*

Motion #6:
WHEREAS the audit of the MNA 2011/2012 financial statements is not complete for this 2012 MNA AGA,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that once the audit for the 2011/2012 financial statements is complete, the audited financial statements be presented to MNA Provincial Council for approval.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that once the 2011/2012 audited financial statements are approved by Provincial Council, they be made available to MNA citizens by posting on MNA website, and copies be made available at the MNA head office and all MNA Regional offices.

AND FURTHER, that the 2011/2012 audited financial statements be brought forward to the 2013 85th Annual General Assembly of the MNA.

MOVED BY: Karen Collins SECONDED BY: Audrey Poitras Motion Carried.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION #1

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;

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;

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,

THEREFORE 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 Angie Crerar

RESOLUTION CARRIED

SPECIAL RESOLUTION #2

WHERE AS Schedule C: Election Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Article 6.4 states: A Métis Lifetime Member is eligible to be nominated as a candidate in an election if on the day his or her nomination paper is filed he or she: (a) is a Métis Lifetime Member who is entitled to hold office; and (b) is the full age of sixteen (16) years or will be that age on election day; and (c) has been a resident in Alberta continuously from the day 12 months immediately preceding the election day; and (d) has no financial debt owing to the Métis Nation of Alberta or its affiliates that is more than thirty (30) days in arrears;

WHERE AS Article 6.4 of Schedule C: Election Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association is pertaining to the election of the positions of Provincial President and Provincial Vice President, and Regional Presidents and Regional Vice President, who all make up Provincial Council for the Métis Nation of Alberta;

WHERE AS Article 42: Election and Term of the Regional Council of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws reads (1) Each of the two (2) representatives elected to Provincial Council for the Region shall be members of the Regional Council for so long as each individual is a member of the

Provincial Council, and (2) Each Local Council President shall be a member of the Regional Council for so long as he or she is the President of the Local Council; and

WHERE AS 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 Allan Scoville Seconded by Audrey Poitras **RESOLUTION DEFEATED**

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 that 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

The Resolution Committee determined this resolution to be incomplete and confusing.

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 of Alberta ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation of Alberta; and

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

The Resolution Committee determined this resolution is proper however is tied to Special Resolution #5 which has been determined to be incomplete, therefore it was not voted on.

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” as a person who self-identifies as a Métis, is distinct from other aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation of Alberta ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation of Alberta; and

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 is 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 is issued a Métis ID number.

Moved by Cecil Bellrose

Seconded by Beatrice Demetrius

The Resolution Committee determined this resolution to be incomplete.

ORDINARY RESOLUTION #1

WHEREAS since inception, Region VI of Métis Nation of Alberta has gathered 25 years of historical documentation and personal information from the Métis people of the Northwest region, this year is our 25th anniversary and we are compiling history and documentation of our people's journey to the NW region of the province;

WHEREAS Métis Nation of Alberta membership staff removed documents from Region VI that belong to the members without their knowledge or consent;

WHEREAS the people continue to come in and ask for their information and have now demand it be returned to them—there are birth certificates, photos of family members and genealogical family trees. This is family history of members that are now deceased and they—the family—have no record as they gave them to Region VI in good faith for their safe keeping; and

WHEREAS Region VI was promised the return of this information in September, 2011, and since then the MNA Registry reneged on the promise and said it was not possible to return these documents,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the people of Region VI Métis Nation of Alberta have their personal information returned to them by December 31, 2012. This information belongs to the people, not the MNA or Region VI; therefore, we would like these documents returned, and at the Annual General Meeting, report to them that these historical documents and personal information are being returned to the people from Métis Nation of Alberta through Region VI.

Moved by Sylvia Johnson Seconded by Walter Andreeff **RESOLUTION CARRIED**

ORDINARY RESOLUTION #2

WHEREAS Métis Nation of Alberta does not have membership clerks in all Regional offices;

WHEREAS membership is most important for the future of the Métis Nation of Alberta, as well as the betterment of our communities, elders and youth; and

WHEREAS as citizens of the Métis Nation of Alberta it is our duty to provide access to membership to our people and ensure that the process is as convenient and efficient as possible,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that because of the importance of our citizenship and membership to the Métis Nation of Alberta, membership clerks be installed in all Regional offices, be it full or part time, and that travel throughout the communities be made available to ensure that the Métis Nation of Alberta continues to build a strong Métis nation, ensuring that the members continue to be first and foremost.

Moved by Sylvia Johnson Seconded by Wendy Goulet **RESOLUTION CARRIED**

K. Collins Moves to adjourn the meeting 2:54 p.m. August 18, 2012

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS FOR THE 85TH AGA

Special Resolution (1)

WHEREAS Article 3.1 of the Metis Nation of Alberta Bylaws states: "Metis" means a person who self-identifies as a Metis, is distinct from other aboriginal peoples, is of historic Metis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Metis Nation; and

WHEREAS Article 3.2 states a Metis must provide historical proof of his or her status as Metis;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Metis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaw Article 6.2 be amended by adding "*by meeting all the requirements of Article 3.1 and Article 3.2*";

HEREINAFTER Article 6.2 shall read as follows:

6.2 A Lifetime Member is:

(a) A Metis who has received membership in the Metis Nation by meeting all the requirements of Article 3.1 and Article 3.2; or

(b) A Metis child who has received membership by meeting all the requirements of Article 3.1 and Article 3.2.

Moved by: Cecil Bellrose

Seconded by: Beatrice Demetrius

SPECIAL RESOLUTION (2)
For the Métis Nation Assembly
August 10 and 11, 2013

Whereas: The Métis Nation of Alberta has for many years moved the issue forward for our members of developing databases that are consistent with the National Definition of Métis; and

Whereas: The Métis Nation of Alberta has brought forward resolutions to address the issues of the old red and white cards and how there is no justifiable means to verify the red and white card holders as Métis or even individuals of Aboriginal heritage; and

Whereas: The Métis Nation of Alberta's inactive cards now sits at 23,495 of old red and white cards; and

Whereas: The Métis Nation of Alberta active security enhanced cards now are in excess of 23,826 verifiable Métis card carrying members; and

Whereas: The people of the Métis Nation have asked that a transition period would allow for individuals to access their new cards and a decade has almost past to assist them in having time to transition to the new cards;

So Therefore Be It Resolved that:

Article 4.5 be repealed and replaced with:

Member means a member of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association who has met all the requirements of Article 3.1 and 3.2.

Further Be It Resolved that:

Article 6.2 be repealed and replaced with:

A Lifetime Member is:

- a) A Métis who has met all the requirements of the Métis National Definition through the Métis Nation of Alberta Registry and is issued a Métis ID number; or
- b) A Métis child who has met all the requirements of the Métis National Definition through the Métis Nation of Alberta Registry and is issued a Métis ID number; or

Moved by Cecil Bellrose

Seconded by Melanie Omeniho

Special Resolution (3)

WHEREAS, the current term of office for the Metis Nation of Alberta Association (MNA) President, Vice-President and Regional Representatives of the Provincial Council is for three (3) years and set to terminate in September of 2014; and

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

WHEREAS, the Metis Settlements General Council's elected terms of office are for terms of four (4) years; and

WHEREAS, the cost of holding an election is quite high and increasing the terms of office to four (4) years for the current MNA President, Vice-President and Regional Representatives of the Provincial Council will create a cost savings, an extra year to plan and save and an overall better use of funds; and

WHEREAS, voter turnout at the last MNA election was low and increasing the terms of office to four (4) years for the current MNA President, Vice-President and Regional Representatives of the Provincial Council will allow for more time to plan and find the resources to develop a strategy to increase voter turnout.

BE IT RESOLVED that Article 16.2 of the Metis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws be deleted and replaced as follows:

- 16.2 (a) The President, Vice-President and Regional Representatives of the Provincial Council shall be elected for a term of four (4) years.
- (b) The term of the present President, Vice-President and the Regional representatives of the Provincial Council shall be a period of (4) years until the next election of the Metis Nation of Alberta Association which shall take place in September, 2015.

Moved by: Bev New

Seconded by: Sylvia Johnson

Special Resolution (4)

WHEREAS, the current term of office for the Metis Nation of Alberta Association (MNA) President, Vice-President and Regional Representatives of the Provincial Council is for three (3) years and set to terminate in September of 2014; and

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

WHEREAS, the Metis Settlements General Council's elected terms of office are for terms of four (4) years; and

WHEREAS, the cost of holding an election is quite high and increasing the terms of office to four (4) years for the current MNA President, Vice-President and Regional Representatives of the Provincial Council will create a cost savings, an extra year to plan and save and an overall better use of funds; and

WHEREAS, voter turnout at the last MNA election was low and increasing the terms of office to four (4) years for the current MNA President, Vice-President and Regional Representatives of the Provincial Council will allow for more time to plan and find the resources to develop a strategy to increase voter turnout.

BE IT RESOLVED that Article 17.4 of the Metis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws be deleted and replaced as follows:

- 17.4 (a) The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected for a term of (4) years.
- (b) The term of the present Secretary and Treasurer shall be a period of four (4) years until the next election of the Metis Nation of Alberta Association which shall take place in September, 2015.

Moved by: Bev New

Seconded by: Sylvia Johnson

SPECIAL RESOLUTION (5)
For the Métis Nation Assembly
August 10 and 11, 2013

Whereas: The Métis Nation of Alberta bylaws need to be consistent; and

Whereas: The Métis Nation of Alberta passed a resolution at the 2012th Annual Assembly changing 16.2 to identify that the term of office for the President, Vice President and Regional Representatives should be elected to a term of office of four (4) years;

So Therefore Be It Resolved that:

Article 17.4 be repealed and replaced with:

17.4 The Secretary and Treasurer should be elected to a term of four (4) years effective September 2014.

Moved by Cecil Bellrose

Seconded by Melanie Omeniho

SPECIAL RESOLUTION⁽⁶⁾
For the Métis Nation Assembly
August 10 and 11, 2013

Whereas: The Métis Nation of Alberta bylaws need to be consistent; and

Whereas: The Métis Nation of Alberta passed a resolution at the 2012th Annual Assembly changing 16.2 to identify that the term of office for the President, Vice President and Regional Representatives should be elected to a term of office of four (4) years;

So Therefore Be It Resolved that:

Article 29.3 be repealed and replaced with:

29.3 the Métis Judiciary Council Members will serve a four (4) year term effective September 2014.

Moved by Cecil Bellrose

Seconded by Melanie Omeniho

SPECIAL RESOLUTION (7)
For the Métis Nation Assembly
August 10 and 11, 2013

Whereas: The Métis Nation of Alberta bylaws need to be consistent; and

Whereas: The Métis Nation of Alberta passed a resolution at the 2012th Annual Assembly changing 16.2 to identify that the term of office for the President, Vice President and Regional Representatives should be elected to a term of office of four (4) years;

So Therefore Be It Resolved that:

Article 33.2 be repealed and replaced with:

33.2 Each Elder should be appointed for a four (4) year term and shall be eligible for re-appointment upon expiry of the term effective September 2014;

Moved by Cecil Bellrose

Seconded by Melanie Omeniho

SPECIAL RESOLUTION (8)
For the Métis Nation Assembly
August 10 and 11, 2013

Whereas: The Métis Nation of Alberta bylaws need to be consistent; and

Whereas: The Métis Nation of Alberta passed a resolution at the 2012th Annual Assembly changing 16.2 to identify that the term of office for the President, Vice President and Regional Representatives should be elected to a term of office of four (4) years;

So Therefore Be It Resolved that:

Article 43.5 be repealed and replaced with:

43.5 The Secretary and Treasurer should be elected to a term of four (4) years effective September 2014.

Moved by Cecil Bellrose

Seconded by Melanie Omeniho

SPECIAL RESOLUTION (9)
For the Métis Nation Assembly
August 10 and 11, 2013

Whereas: The Métis Nation of Alberta bylaws need to be consistent; and

Whereas: The Métis Nation of Alberta passed a resolution at the 2012th Annual Assembly changing 16.2 to identify that the term of office for the President, Vice President and Regional Representatives should be elected to a term of office of four (4) years;

So Therefore Be It Resolved that:

Article 61.2 should be repealed and replaced with:

61.2 The Local Council should be elected for a term of four (4) years effective September 2014.

Moved by Cecil Bellrose

Seconded by Melanie Omeniho

ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS FOR THE 85TH AGA

Resolutions to Métis Nation of Alberta

(1) Murdered and Missing Métis Women

Whereas, there have been over five hundred and sixty-two murdered and missing Aboriginal women documented in Canada and

Whereas the number continues to rise as noted since the Native Women's Association published their statistics and

Whereas the actual number could be higher than the documented cases because of inadequate police work, and cold cases,

Therefore be it resolved that the Métis Nation of Alberta Assembly support all efforts to stop the killings and violence in each region of the Métis Nation and

Therefore be it resolved that there be a study on the needs of Métis women within this province in regard to increasing the safety of all women and girls

Therefore be it resolved that the Métis Nation of Alberta endorse the International Day of the Girl and as proclaimed by the United Nations and introduced by Rona Ambrose then the Federal Minister Responsible for the Status of Women in Canada.

(2) "Remembering the Children" Society

Whereas the Métis Nation of Alberta has been involved with the working group consisting of Treaty Six, Treaty Seven, the Métis Nation of Alberta and the United Church of Canada, and

Whereas the Métis Nation of Alberta has been represented by Muriel Stanley Venne, assisted by Joseph Pimlott Vice President Region 3 and Métis Nation of Alberta has hosted the last of the four ceremonies in Red Deer Alberta, to commemorate the First Nation and Métis (Half Breed) children who died in the Red Deer Industrial School and

Whereas there is important information within our own records that would be helpful in identifying the Métis Children in this Residential School and possibly other Residential Schools,

Therefore be it Resolved that the Métis Nation of Alberta assist where possible in the work of the "Remembering the Children Society" in identifying the Métis children.

(3) Métis Cemeteries in Alberta

Whereas the Métis Cemeteries have not all been documented and

Whereas the rich history of the Métis People has yet to be completed and

Whereas there is a need to preserve and protect these important historical places

Therefore, be it Resolved that these places be recorded and documented and added to the historical documentation of the Métis People.

(4) Constitutional Workshops

Whereas the Supreme Court of Canada has found in favour of the Métis people of Canada in regard to the following:

That the Metis lands belong to the Métis People and should be held by Métis people; that Métis people should receive the same rights as Registered Indians; that the agreement between Louis Riel to grant land to the children of the Métis people by Prime Minister John A. MacDonald was never fulfilled and the Métis people should be compensated.

Therefore be it resolved that every effort be made to inform the Métis people of Alberta of the Supreme Court decisions and the implications to Métis citizens in the province of Alberta.

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