Otìpemisiwak
The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta

Métis Success
at the Canada - Aboriginal
People's Roundtable

Louis Riel
Needs No Pardon

Getting Ready for the
76th Annual
General Assembly

Focus on Métis Winners

Issue 2, Volume 1, May, 2004
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We encourage Métis to make submissions to our Nation’s official magazine in the form of photos and articles telling stories about the events and people in your community. The new edition of Otipemisiwak will focus on Métis identity and what it means to be Métis.

Deadline for submissions is July 12
President's Message

Welcome to another edition of our official magazine, Otipemisiwak-Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta, an edition celebrating a wide-range of Métis accomplishments and winners. From silver medal hockey players, to award winning Métis youth, entrepreneurs, women, and to Métis winners on a national scale, socially and politically; this edition of our magazine is a celebration of our success as a Nation, individually and collectively.

As we discuss amongst ourselves the accomplishments we, as a Nation of respectable Métis are realizing, we would be remiss to overlook the predictions of our esteemed Métis leader and hero, Louis Riel, who said “My people will sleep for one hundred years, when they awake; it will be the artists who give them their spirit back.”

I believe in the truth of his predictions as they can be applied to all Métis; artists, children, men and women alike. The awakening Riel spoke of is now. Never before have Métis been so successful in winning what has been long overdue: recognition and respect acknowledging we are a distinct society of productive and wholesome peoples; indeed, we are the true Canadians.

Never before have Métis received the courtesy of acknowledgement from a Prime Minister while in office. Never before have Métis been specifically mentioned in key federal government documents such as the Speech from the Throne and the Federal Budget. Never before have Métis been invited to and treated with the dignity and respect due to our Nation, as we have in these past few months.

The Pouley decision from the Supreme Court of Canada last fall marked the “turning point!” for Métis, to which the Prime Minister of Canada has given his commitment. This defining moment in our history came from the highest possible level of decision in Canada, the Supreme Court in it's ruling in R. v. Pouley, in September 2003. The Pouley decision recognized our distinct existence as an Aboriginal people and affirmed what Métis have been saying all along: we were here first and we have inherent rights.

For over more than 100 years, numerous Government doors have been slammed shut to Métis. Government officials outright ignored us or said discussions with us were pointless because they believed we did not have the same rights afforded to the Inuit or First Nations of Canada.

Since that decision, doors previously closed to Métis, are swinging wide open.

From the Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable, invited by the Prime Minister himself, to Multilateral Discussions involving all levels of government, on Métis harvesting rights and other implications of Pouley, Métis are making progress like never before.

Métis leaders are now invited to meetings with all levels of government officials; from the Prime Minister to federal ministers, deputy ministers and other government executives, my schedule as your President has never been so full. Every relevant department in government is reviewing the place of Métis in their policies. Almost suddenly, we Métis cousins are on the dance cards of federal, provincial and municipal leaders alike.

But the reality of it all is this: Métis have always known and believed sincerely in our justification and in our identity as a Nation. It took a bit longer for the rest of Canada to acknowledge that we were right in the first place and to acknowledge the truth of our convictions. Conclusions determined more than one hundred years ago when Louis Riel declared us a Nation and Gabriel Dumont took up the charge.

I am celebrating with you, my fellow, Métis. Celebrating the achievements of a Nation.

We are winners.

Respectfully yours,

Audrey Poitras
President
Métis Nation of Alberta

Update your Métis Nation of Alberta Membership

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

Membership Department
#100 Delia Gray Building Phone: (780) 455-2200
11738 Kingsway Avenue Toll Free: 1-800-252-7553
Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5 Facsimile: (780)452-8946

Stay in touch with the Métis Nation of Alberta by updating your mailing information
Vice President's Message

As vice president of the Métis Nation of Alberta, it is an honour to share with you the Métis Nation of Alberta's official magazine, Otipemisiwak. I commend the Provincial Council decision to take steps towards keeping our Métis citizens informed. Through our Magazine, Métis will have an opportunity to keep informed on the current state of the Métis Nation, read community success stories and find out what services are available to you through the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Thank you, and have a great read. Long Live the Métis Nation.

Trevor W. Gladue, Vice President
Métis Nation of Alberta

NOTICE TO MEMBERS
Notice of Meeting

Métis Nation of Alberta Association Annual Meeting
August 14 & 15, 2004
Wabasca, Alberta

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 76th Annual Assembly of the
Métis Nation of Alberta Association will be held on
August 14 & 15, 2004 in Wabasca, Alberta

Bev New, Secretary
Métis Nation of Alberta

Deadline for Resolutions

Special or Extraordinary Resolutions for the
76th Annual Assembly of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association,
to be held in Wabasca, Alberta, August 14 and 15, 2004
must be received at the MNAAA Head Office,
no later than July 9, 2004 before 4:30 P.M.

Please send your resolutions to:

Special / Extraordinary Resolutions
for the 76th Annual Assembly
Attention: Wilma McHale
Métis Nation of Alberta
100 Delta Gray Building
11738 Kingsway Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 0X5
Fax: (780) 452-8946

Bev New, Secretary
Métis Nation of Alberta

Métis Regional Council - Zone IV
Local Incorporation Workshop

What: In conjunction with the Métis Nation of Alberta, Zone IV will be
hosting an information workshop for Métis Locals in Zone IV:
~ How to incorporate a Local
~ How to maintain your Local
~ How to revive a Local

Where: Canadian Native Friendship Centre
11205 101 Street
Edmonton, AB

When: Saturday, June 12, 2004
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend

For our catering needs, please confirm your attendance with
Gail at (780) 944-9288 or 1-888-588-4088
Region V Preparations Underway for the 76th Annual General Assembly

Organizers in Region V are getting ready to host the Métis Nation of Alberta’s 76th Annual General Assembly in Wabasca, Alberta from August 12 to 15, 2004.

Region V President, Bev New and the Regional Council are preparing to welcome hundreds of Métis to a weekend of business mixed with entertainment and fun for all ages. President Bev New says the steering committee has been working on this event for the past few months to ensure everyone has a great time.

The weekend events begin on Friday with a series of workshops held throughout the day, a trade show and craft fair in the afternoon and a parade through Wabasca, starting at the bridge and ending at the Community Hall. If you’re interested in taking part in any of these events, please contact the Region V office for more information or to register.

An Elders’ Banquet is planned for Friday evening with entertainment by a band called, “Last Call”. Saturday starts with a pancake breakfast before the commencement of business on the meeting agenda. Another banquet is planned for Saturday evening with music from the “Lakeside Country Band”. Assembly planners are pleased to announce that both evening functions will be alcohol free and families are encouraged to attend.

A number of accommodation options are available in the Wabasca area. Call early to book your rooms at any of these facilities: the Riverside Inn, (780) 891-2020; Jennifer’s Open Camp and RV Park, (780) 891-2267; Norval Lodge, (780) 891-3962 or the Canada North Camp, (780) 891-3391. The facilities available include food services, private baths, shared laundry, sauna and a swimming pool, depending on the selected locations. Campgrounds will also be available for those who prefer to pitch a tent and enjoy the outdoor experience. Showers and other amenities are available in the community area.

Wabasca is a full service community accessible by road via highway 813 off highway 2. The drive from Edmonton takes about four hours.

The July edition of Otipemisiwak will have full coverage of the issues up for discussion at the annual assembly including the Special Resolutions. The president and council of Region V would like to thank the Municipal District of Opportunity #17 Reeve, Paul Sinclair and council for their assistance in providing the facilities, assistance with the planning and for participating with the steering committee meetings.

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**DRAFT AGENDA**

**Thursday, August 12, 2004**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Métis Business Mixer</td>
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**Friday, August 13, 2004**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Booth Set Up</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Trade Show &amp; Craft Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>Workshops Continue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Parade Opening Ceremonies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Elders’ Banquet - 55 years &amp; older</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Entertainment by Last Call</td>
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**Saturday, August 14, 2004**

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Pancake Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Opening for Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Business Meeting Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>Meeting Resumes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Banquet and Show Case</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Entertainment by Lakeside Country Band</td>
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**Sunday, August 15, 2004**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Pancake Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Meeting Continues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Closing Remarks</td>
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Traditional Métis Dancers
Disciplined and Energetic

The Kikino Northern Lites Dancers are an enthusiastic troupe of young people from the Kikino Métis Settlement who have an eagerness for keeping alive the vital tradition of Métis dance.

These energetic dancers are favourite entertainers at numerous Métis functions in Alberta and across the country. The young jiggers and reelers performed recently at the National Métis Rights Conference and at the Alberta Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards in Edmonton.

Traditional costumes worn by our ancestors and donned by these young men and women add to the authenticity of the vigorous and disciplined Métis dance performance. Young men dressed in suspended wool trousers and sporting felt caps, typically worn by our Grandfathers, draw proud memories from audiences as the dancers sweat through a series of traditional steps and fancy footwork such as the Red River Jig, the Duck Dance, the Reel of Eight and Drops of Brandy. They never miss a beat.

The dance troupe has been around for 26 years, originating from the Métis Cultural Awareness Program on the Kikino Métis Settlement, an initiative designed to pass on to our young people the traditions of spirited dance, an important element of our Métis culture. Members of the performing group may have changed over the years but the traditions remain strong and true to the preservation of our culture under the dedicated guidance of Métis elders and the direction of former Northern Lites Dancers, Denise and Gerald White.

As with all things historically Métis, our form of traditional dance stems from a combination of cultures. The lively reels and fancy footwork comes from the French culture and is mixed with storytelling formations drawn from the traditional Indian Pow-Wow. These movements, performed to sparkling and vivacious fiddle music, become the basis of Métis traditional dance.

The current generation of the Kikino Northern Lites Dancers include: Mary Quinn, Trevor Quinn, Trevor White, Tessa Whiteford, Lyndon (Spanky) Collins, Nadine Gladue, Caitlin Raye, Lance Boucher and Victoria Bruno.

Discussions may lead to
Interim Policy for Métis Harvesters by Fall Harvest

"The world has changed for the Métis Nation as a result of the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling in the Powley case," said Cynthia Desmeules Bertolin, a Métis lawyer working for the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) on this issue, at an April meeting in Calgary updating Métis on the status of hunting and other rights in the province.

Bertolin says, "Although Métis have some recognition of harvesting rights in law, we don't have anything in policy yet. Until Métis hunting is formally recognized in policy in Alberta, Métis people are still subject to the enforcement of offences under the Alberta Wildlife Act. The multimodal and bilateral processes are the means through which a future Alberta Métis policy will be developed." Bertolin says discussions are currently underway between the Métis Nation and the Province of Alberta to determine how the Supreme Court's ruling in Powley will be applied to Métis hunters in the province. The government of Alberta and the Métis Nation of Alberta have set a goal to have a policy in place for the next harvesting season.

Bertolin, along with Bob Butler, lawyer and consultant for the MNA and Bob Butler, lawyer and Senior Policy Advisor on Justice Issues with the MNA.
Senior Policy Advisor on Justice Issues with the Métis Nation of Alberta, gave a presentation to about 50 Métis on the implications of the Powley case in Alberta. Bertolin and Butler represent the MNA at the Métis Caucus and in the Multilateral Discussions on harvesting.

The leadership of the Métis Nation of Alberta remains committed to ensuring Métis harvesters continue to practice conservation and restraint this hunting season. MNA President Audrey Poitras says, "I'm confident Métis harvesters will continue to practice reasonable hunting methods in keeping with our traditions. The Métis Nation of Alberta is committed to developing a mutually agreeable arrangement with the Government of Alberta which will allow Métis harvesters to exercise their right to hunt without fear of prosecution or harassment."

Bertolin and Butler say the protocol arrangement currently under discussion with the Alberta government will likely require that Métis harvesters have proof of membership in the Métis Nation of Alberta. Both lawyers stress the importance of Métis harvesters ensuring their membership, genealogy and address information is current with the MNA's membership department.

Membership application forms are available from the MNA's Provincial Office in Edmonton or from any of the Regional Offices located in Lac La Biche, Bonnyville, Calgary, Edmonton, Slave Lake or Peace River. Applicants must have a framing size birth certificate or baptismal certificate, indicating the names of parents, one piece of photo identification and a completed family tree listing ancestral birth dates and places. The process can take between 4 and 6 weeks to complete. A uniform definition of 'Métis' was adopted across the Métis Nation homeland by each Métis National Council member organization through 2002 and 2003 and was brought before the Métis Nation of Alberta's Annual General Assembly in 2003 and adopted for Alberta.

Questions about membership, harvesting rights or Métis harvesting policy can be directed to the Provincial Office of the Métis Nation of Alberta at (780) 455-2200 or toll free at 1-800-252-7553.
Métis Child and Family Services Plans National Aboriginal Day Event for Children

Métis Child and Family Services Society is partnering with the Red Road Healing Society to host an event at Borden Park in Edmonton on June 26, 2004 from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. in celebration of National Aboriginal Day. We are planning to have a main stage presentation of Aboriginal talent. Our goal is to get as many children and youth performers as possible.

There will be crafts for people to try as well as hands on fun in trying the traditional drumming, dancing and games. Traditional story telling will be held in our teepees. There will be free bannock, and for a minimal charge of one dollar, we will be selling Indian tacos, hot dogs, hamburgers and pop. We will be renting a canopy so that as much of this event as possible will go on, rain or shine.

The web site for national and local events and information on National Aboriginal Day is http://www.aime-imac.gc.ca/ndae/c.html.

June 21 was chosen as National Aboriginal Day because of the cultural significance of the summer solstice (first day of summer and longest day of the year) and because many Aboriginal groups mark this day as a time to celebrate their heritage. Setting aside a day for Aboriginal Peoples is part of the wider recognition of Aboriginal Peoples' important place within the fabric of Canadian society and their ongoing contributions as First Peoples. As Governor General Adrienne Clarkson said: "It is an opportunity for all of us to celebrate our respect and admiration for First Nations, for Inuit, for Métis for the past, the present and the future."

Métis Crossing - National Aboriginal Day Family Picnic

The Métis Nation of Alberta is hosting a National Aboriginal Day family picnic at Métis Crossing located 12 km South of Smoky Lake Alberta. Youth are the focus of the event, and everyone is welcome to take part in the celebration.

Activities and entertainment will include, a barbecue lunch, traditional games, a hike, musicians, elders story telling, Métis crafts, guest speakers and horse and buggy rides.

The Métis Nation of Alberta is arranging limited transportation to the site of the family picnic. Métis living in Edmonton who need a ride should call the Métis Nation before June 15, 2004 to reserve a seat on the bus.

People who are interested in taking their own vehicle, are welcome to do so. Please call the Métis Nation of Alberta to let us know the names and ages of guests at the picnic so we can plan to bring enough food for everyone.

All Attendees Should Register with the Métis Nation of Alberta

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, June 20th
10:45 am People arrive MNA Head Office (11738-Kingsway Avenue) and board the bus
11:00 am Bus departs for Métis Crossing
12:00 am Bus arrives at Métis Crossing
12:30 pm Barbeque Lunch is served.
1:00 pm Activities start
3:00 pm Talent Show (singing, Jigging, Fiddle & Guitar)
5:00 pm Activities End / Charter bus arrives
6:00 pm Bus arrives at Métis Nation of Alberta and everyone goes home.

For more information please call Kimberly Mueller or Amanda L'Hirondelle at the Métis Nation of Alberta toll free 1-800-252-7553

Métis Youth Conference

June 17 - July 5, 2004

The Métis Nation of Alberta is planning a Youth Conference to help Métis Youth ages 15-17 develop some direction towards a career path, to promote cultural awareness and to have some fun. Guest speakers will promote careers possibilities such as RCMP, firefighting, and health, Social Services, Canadian Forces and the trades. Daily cultural activities will include storytelling with Elders, a Louis Riel performance, Métis Fiddling and dancing.

This 9-day outdoor training experience emphasizes teamwork, personal growth and skill development. Increased self-esteem and personal accomplishment go hand-in-hand with the program objectives. First Aid and CPR training, wilderness first aid training, survival skills, map and compass skills, problem solving, group dynamics, games training, hiking, horseback riding, climbing, caving, and canoe certification are just a few of the opportunities.

Eligible participants must be Métis living off settlement, a resident of Alberta, entitled to work in Canada, between the ages of 15-17 and currently enrolled in school. The application deadline is June 5. Each Region has three openings for this camp and we are asking the candidates to provide letters of reference from their community in support of their application (after June 5 all openings will be on a first come first serve basis).

If you are interested in participating or getting more information, please contact Kim Mueller or Amanda L'Hirondelle at (780) 455-2200.

Fort McMurray Métis youth, Crystal McEachern, on a canoeing excursion last summer at Blue Lake near Hinton, Alberta
Business Funding Opportunities
Through Apektogosan (Métis) Development Inc.

Did you know that there is government funding assistance available to you if you are 35 years old and thinking of starting a business? In May of 2003, Aboriginal Business Canada increased the age limit for the Youth Program from 30 years less a day to 36 years less a day to access a grant up to a maximum of $75,000 towards the development of a viable business.

At Apektogosan (Métis) Development Inc. we can help you access this program. What you need to do is complete a Statement of Intent either available through our office or through the Aboriginal Business Canada website at www_abcbce.gc.ca. Complete the form in full detail and send it into our office at #302 12308 111 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5N 2N4.

A representative of Aboriginal Business Canada will communicate with you on your business proposal and will evaluate your application. If you qualify, the program funding assistance will cover a percentage of the costs of creating a business plan, initial operating costs, purchase of equipment, leasehold improvements, inventory and numerous other related items. You will be expected to provide 10% cash equity into the project and generally, Aboriginal Business Canada will provide a contribution in the range of 40% of project costs.

For example, if you require 100-thousand dollars to start a business, under this program you’ll have to demonstrate that you have access to 10-thousand dollars. Aboriginal Business Canada will provide a contribution of 40-thousand dollars and you come to Apektogosan for the remaining 50-thousand.

That’s an encouraging possibility for young entrepreneurs to consider.

If you are interested in learning more about this program or any other services that Apektogosan provides, please see our ad in this edition of Otipemisiwak. Call or email us at: office@pektogosan.ab.ca and we’ll be pleased to help you get started.

Métis Economic Development Opportunities

Apektogosan (Métis) Development Inc. announced in the spring of 2003 that they were offering competitive commercial mortgages to all of their qualifying clients. These mortgage loans require a minimum equity of 25% with advances up to a maximum of $250,000 and an amortization of 15 years with fixed and floating interest rates. For those commercial mortgage requests where the equity is not quite 25% we will consider other fixed assets as additional security on an exception basis.

The advantage of having a commercial mortgage from Apektogosan rather than many other Commercial Mortgage Lenders is that we will permit pre-payments without interest penalties. We also can make the repayment schedule fit your cash flow schedule.

Our interest rates are lower than many second and third mortgage agencies. If you are looking at consolidating your outstanding business loans utilizing the equity in your commercial building, possibly we can be of assistance to you and with a more flexible interest rate.

If your company is having difficulty in accessing additional term financing through your bank or credit union, possibly we have the solution for you. All we need from you to get the process working is a completed loan application form along with two or three years financial statements. Generally we can have an answer back to you within three working days, depending on volume.

For existing businesses, we may not need a full business plan; however, if the company is experiencing financial difficulty, we will want to work with you to determine how a refinace or additional cash injection into the company will improve the operation. It is a matter of your providing our office with enough information in order for us to determine the viability of your company.

For those entrepreneurs struggling to make ends meet and do not have a commercial property that they can pledge, we will look at the equity you may have in your personal residence as well.

A real property report and qualifying appraisal will assist our office in our decision making. You will find that our staff wants to help you, and we will do our utmost to do so but we need your support in gathering all of the required information in a timely manner.

For those Métis business people that are looking at expanding their company or looking at lowering their fixed operational costs, possibly we can be of assistance. Look for our ad in Otipemisiwak and give us a call today.
Economic Development
News from Region III

During February and March, Community Consultation Workshops were held in Brooks, Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Rocky Mountain House, and Stettler to plan the Regions Economic Development and Labour Market Development activities for the next several years. Survey forms were distributed to Métis people across Region III at the same time. Feedback received indicated a significant level of interest in self-employment through business. As well, there was interest expressed in small business training.

Changes to Aboriginal Business Canada programs make getting into business easier by providing a grant of 25-40% of eligible costs to start or acquire certain types of businesses including:
- Youth businesses - the eligible age is now 18 to 35 years, up from 29 years.
- Tourism Initiative - expanded from just Aboriginal tourism and Eco-tourism to include other types of activities generating at least 60% of revenue from tourists.
- High Knowledge businesses - may now be considered
- Manufacturing Projects - transforming raw materials into new products may now be considered.
- Business Opportunities Linked to Major Resource Developments (usually in remote areas) may be considered.

Other programs may help to expand or modernize existing businesses. Further information is available on Aboriginal Business Canada’s website at www.abcbic.gc.ca, or from the Regional Economic Development Officer.

The Métis Entrepreneurial Program, which provided 12 weeks of small business classroom training, is no longer available from the MNA’s Infiniti Business Training Services. However, if there is enough interest, Region III may consider looking for ways to make this program available to Métis people who are unemployed, underemployed, or employment threatened and who wish to start his or her own business.

Interested in learning about investing money? A group of Region III members is about to incorporate the MNA’s Investment Fund Inc. This idea was proposed by Paul Bercie, the former Economic Development Sector Advisor for the MNA, who felt that it would be a good way for people to learn about the stock market and how to invest in it and other things. It is hoped that after starting a chapter in Calgary, the idea will spread throughout the province and enable people to begin investing amounts as affordable as $20 per month.

The honour of the Order of the Métis Nation was presented to Jim Sinclair, Sam Sinclair, Elmer Ghostkeeper and Harry Daniels (missing from photo) earlier this spring at the Métis Nation Rights and Self Government Conference in Edmonton. The Order of the Métis Nation is bestowed upon those Métis whose efforts exceed the call of personal duty in improving the lives of Métis in Canada.

MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA
REGION III - CALGARY

Métis Youth Dancers
Youth Jigging & Square Dance Classes
Open to Youth
Aged 8 to 18 Years Old
Cost Free!

No previous experience needed, for more information please contact
Karen Acuna @ 720-5588

MÉTIS NATION REGION III
2ND ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
Friday, June 25, 2004
at the Lakeside Greens Golf Course

$200 per person
$40 per dinner for non-golfers

Texas Scramble
Friday, June 25, 2004
8:00 AM Shotgun Start
Registration from 6:30 - 7:45 AM
Lakeside Greens Golf Course
(located on west side of Chestermere Lake)

dress code in effect
CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

It’s time to begin gathering ideas for this year’s Klondike Day’s parade float. The annual parade is on July 22nd; the parade theme is: The Past, The Present, and The Future.

We are looking for volunteers to help us design and construct a parade float on July 21 at the MNA Head Office. If you have any ideas or would like to help us build the float, please contact Amanda L’Hirondelle at (780) 455-2200.

Big thanks to all the ambitious volunteers who came out last year. Hope to see you all again this year!

The Métis Nation of Alberta
Applauds This Year’s Graduates.

Congratulations!

Bridging the Gap
Between Aboriginal Women and the Labour Market

The mid-1980s began an unprecedented era of constitutional deliberations in Canada. These philosophic discussions served to bring Métis women together in Alberta; the result was the incorporation of Women of the Métis Nation [WMM] as a registered non-profit society in 1988. The group immediately identified training as a priority issue for its members and began work on an initiative to create a management-training program for Métis women. In September of 1990, a completed proposal was submitted to the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission [now known as Human Resources & Skills Development Canada]; the plan was to offer business courses and special workshops that focused on skill upgrading in business and dealt with issues relevant to the lives of Native women. The first Business Administration/Management Training Program was offered to a class of 20 women at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology [NAIT] beginning in August of 1991. In addition to academic courses, the students have an opportunity to participate in workshops dealing with personal and cultural issues and for many, a first opportunity to learn about Métis history. Valuable on-the-job experience is offered as part of an eight-week work placement. The first group of students graduated on May 29, 1992. Two years later, delivery of the program was switched to Asokan Project and the following year, the program became known by its name today: Business Administration/Accounting Certificate Program. Since that first graduating class, there have been nine subsequent graduations and an additional four classes that emerged from Asokan Project’s Finance and Credit Industry Training Program. In total, more than 260 Métis, First Nation and Inuit women have taken this
Métis Nation Applauds Appointment of Todd Ducharme
First Métis Appointed to the Bench

OTTAWA (May 10, 2004) — The Métis Nation applauds the appointment of Todd Ducharme as a judge of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. The appointment was announced on Friday, May 7, 2004, by the Hon. Irwin Cotler, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada.

"We are very proud and honored to see that a Métis person has finally been appointed a judge," said Clement Chartier, President of the Métis National Council. "The appointment of a Métis person is long overdue. We commend the Minister of Justice for his decision to now take the first step towards making the courts more reflective of the Métis populace by appointing a candidate as qualified as Todd Ducharme."

MVC Vice President and President of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Audrey Poitras says the appointment of a Métis person to the upper levels of Ontario’s judicial system represents another turning point in the history of the Métis Nation. Poitras says, "Justice Ducharme's appointment highlights the first-class capabilities of Métis. This is another proud day for our Nation."

"The appointment of Todd Ducharme to the Superior Court of Justice is inspiring to the entire Métis Nation", said Tony Belcourt, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. "His appointment is a reflection of not only his personal abilities and credentials, it is a positive reflection on all of us that a Métis person has finally been appointed to the bench. This is a cause for great celebration and we congratulate Todd Ducharme for this wonderful achievement."

Todd Ducharme, a Métis lawyer from Toronto, has a B.A. from McGill University, an M.A. from Yale University, an LL.B. from the University of Toronto and an LLM. from Yale Law School. He is certified as a specialist in criminal law by the Law Society of Upper Canada and has practiced both as a defence counsel and as a standing agent for the Department of Justice. In 1999, Mr. Ducharme was the first Aboriginal person elected as a Bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada. Mr. Ducharme is very well regarded in the legal community. This was evidenced by the fact that in the 2003 Bencher Election he received the most votes of any Toronto candidate, becoming the Regional Bencher for Toronto, and received the second highest amount of votes in the province as a whole. Mr. Ducharme has also been very actively involved in Toronto’s Aboriginal community over the last decade. He was the first Clinic Director of Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto and currently serves as a Director of Native Child and Family Services of Toronto.

"Justice Ducharme is a role model for me and other young Métis lawyers, law students and youth considering a legal career. He stands as an example of the talent that lies within the Métis Nation to contribute to Canada’s legal profession. It is a proud day for us," said Jason Madden, General Counsel to the Métis National Council.

For more information: Miles Morrissette
Director of Communications
613-232-3216

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Happy Birthday!!! President Audrey Poitras at her surprise birthday celebration put on by staff at the Métis Nation of Alberta's Provincial Office. Ron Harrison took charge of the barbeque, cooking enough burgers and hotdogs to feed a small crowd of guests which included Region III President, Ephraim Bouvier.
Alberta Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards

The Métis Nation of Alberta celebrated the achievements of aboriginal youth in April with the Alberta Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards given to 15 young people at a special celebration held in Edmonton.

Kim Mueller, the Youth Program Coordinator and organizer of the event, says the 15 award recipients were nominated by family, peers or community groups, in recognition of achievements in categories such as Culture and Heritage, Academic Achievement, Athletic Achievement, Career Advancement, and Personal Achievement.

The rigorous nomination process required three letters of support from community leaders, schools or organizations and a two-page description of the Aboriginal youth's achievements. The nomination required answers to key questions such as why is the individual achievement significant and how does it stand out as deserving of special recognition? What challenges or obstacles did the youth encounter and how were they overcome? What impact has the achievement had on the youth's family and community? How will the community benefit from the nominee receiving the award?

Mueller says hundreds of youth nominations from across the province were received making it very difficult to determine the winners of each award. So difficult, in fact, that Mueller and other organizers decided to add one more category called “Walking the Red Road” acknowledging the personal tribulations of Lennie Laboucan, from Slave Lake, Alberta.

Other winners include: Justin Weber, from Cold Lake; Dusty Rain, from the Louis Bull Band in Hobbera; Tyrel Geiger, from Mayerthorpe; Joshua Elnquist, from Mayerthorpe; Toni Sinclair, from Cold Lake; Kyle Stone, from the Saddle Lake First Nation; Aaron Dawson and Quincy Rabbit, from the Louis Bull Band in Hobbera; Crystal Anne McCullough, from Edmonton; Reymonde Thompson, originally from the Kikino Métis Settlement; Kristopher Stainsky, from Mayerthorpe; and Matthew Wildcat, from the Ermineskin Band in Hobbera. The youngest award recipient, Tessian Scanie, from the Cold Lake First Nation, received an encouraging standing ovation from the crowd as she accepted her award for Junior Volunteer Achievement.

Tom Gostieaplee and Kim Mueller served as Masters of Ceremony for the evening. Words of encouragement and presentations were given by the Métis National Council President, Clément Chartier; Métis Nation of Alberta President, Audrey Poitras; and MNA Vice President, Trevor Gladue; the Honourable Pearl Calahasen; Chief Rose Laboucan; Gilman Cardinal; Clayton Kootenay; Darlene Bruce; Clinton Soto; Kris Gladue; Amanda L'Hirondelle and Sandy Bellabeau.

The very talented Métis fiddler, Homer Poitras, Region II Vice President, led the crowd of participants in the Grand March entrance. The Kikino Northern Utes Métis Dancers, a youth choir from the Assiniboine Academy and the Amiskwaciy Academy and the Amiskwaciy Singers, provided additional music and entertainment.

MNA President Audrey Poitras and MNC President Clément Chartier had the honor of presenting some of the awards at the Alberta Aboriginal Youth Awards ceremony held in Edmonton.

Presenters and proud recipients of the Honor of the Sash. Kris Gladue, Roxanne Ropchan, MNA President Audrey Poitras, Amanda L'Hirondelle, MNC President Clément Chartier

10-year-old Tessian Scanie, from Cold Lake, Alberta, is the proud winner of the Junior Volunteer Services Award presented by Chief Rose Laboucan. Sally Scanie, from the Cold Lake First Nation, helps Tessian to the stage.

Justin Weber, age 19, from Cold Lake, Alberta receives the Senior Community Leader Award from Métis Nation of Alberta President, Audrey Poitras.
Dusty Rain, age 18, from the Louis Bull Band in Hobbema, Alberta is the recipient of the Senior Culture and Heritage Award presented by Sandy Bellabone from the Royal Bank.

Tyrel Geinger, age 16, from Mayerthorpe, Alberta is the winner of the Senior Athletic Achievement Award presented by Clinton Soto.

Quincy Rabbit, age 15, from the Louis Bull Band in Hobbema, Alberta receives the Junior Personal Achievement Award from presenter, Gilman Cardinal.

17 year old, Crystal Anne McCallough from Edmonton, Alberta receives the Junior Career Advancement Award from presenter, Amanda L. Hirondelle.

15-year-old Joshua Elmquist, from Mayerthorpe, Alberta is the recipient of the Junior Culture & Heritage Award presented by Clayton Kootnay.

24-year-old Toni Sinclair, from Cold Lake, Alberta receives the Senior Academic Achievement Award from Métis National Council President, Clément Chartier.

Ms Reymonde Thompson, age 25, receives the Senior Career Advancement Award from presenter and MC, Tom Ghostkeeper. Ms Thompson was raised in the Kikino Metis Settlement.

Lenny Labelle, age 16, from Slave Lake, Alberta receives the Senior Personal Achievement Award: Walking the Red Road from Métis Nation of Alberta Vice President, Trevor Gladue.

18-year-old Kyle Stone, from the Saddle Lake First Nations, receives the Senior Volunteer Award from presenter Darren Brule.

Aaron Dawson receives the Senior Personal Achievement Award from Métis RCMP Constables, Holly and Jennifer Mueller.

16 year old, Kristopher Statnyk, from Mayerthorpe, Alberta receives the Junior Athletic Award from presenter Kristopher Gladue.

20 year old, Matthew Wildcat, a member of the Ermineskin Band in Hobbema, Alberta receives the Senior Community Leader Award from the Honorable Pearl Calahasen.
Employment Service Centres
Helping You Find the Job that Works

Doug Rimmer, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Communications with Human Resources & Skills Development Canada made an impromptu visit to Métis Nation of Alberta’s Employment Services - Edmonton in late March. Kris Gladue, Community Liaison Officer at the Region IV employment centre, toured the Assistant Deputy Minister and the President of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Audrey Poiriers through the facility describing the available services.

The Region IV Centre is the largest Métis Employment Services (MES) centre in Alberta, one of 17 sponsored by the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA). This Employment Centre is responsible for one-third of the Métis Nation’s Labour Market Development because of the large concentration of Métis in Edmonton.

Our centres provide "status-blind" delivery of services to all Aboriginal peoples in greater Edmonton. The First Nations AHRDA service provider in Edmonton is Oteenow Employment & Training Society (sponsored by Treaty 6 & 8) and we have a Memorandum of Understanding with them so First Nations & Inuit clients can access their programs through our centre. Oteenow has a similar Employment Centre in Northeast Edmonton where Métis clients can access MNA programs. Consequently, all Aboriginal peoples in Edmonton are serviced by these two organizations.

Our staff are available to assist the 20 to 40 clients who visit our centre everyday by offering front-end client services; including: computers with Internet, phones/fax, and job board, community board & resource library. Clients receive assistance in developing resumes/cover letters on computers and instruction on how to use the Internet for job searches and career investigations. Our centre holds workshops every Tuesday and Thursday on job search techniques and résumé and cover letter writing. All services are free of charge.

In taking a holistic career development approach to providing service to our clients, we must be knowledgeable about other community services to assist our clients outside of our services. Therefore, we are well connected to the community and to local government services, and our community board displays current programs of other service providers. Our resource library is continually updated with training/education programs/calendars, career development and job search tools, and employer information. Postings on the job board are geared towards our clients’ job targets and often include postings from employers looking specifically for Aboriginal workers.

Career Counsellors assist clients by conducting Needs Determination interviews to assess their needs in four Employability Dimensions: Employment Maintenance, Career Decision Making, Skill Enhancement and Job Search.

Any issues affecting a client’s ability to obtain and maintain employment or training are addressed at the onset of case management and may include referral to other organizations. Our ESC has two counselors to work with persons with disabilities and coordinates with our provincial Disabilities Coordinator who is responsible for arranging occupational assessments and liaising with other medical professionals and respective government programs. We often help clients through these issues, at the same time addressing their needs in other employability dimensions.

The leadership of the Métis Nation of Alberta believes strongly that this holistic model of employment service delivery leads to greater success with client outcomes within the AHRDA programs. To ensure that quality assessments are being done, there is a great deal of investment in capacity building workshops for our staff in areas of assessments and connector data entry. We continually look to partner with community agencies, government and employers.

The Métis Nation of Alberta has 17 Métis Employment Services centres in Alberta offering assistance to Aboriginal people in the province. Please see our advertisement in this issue of Otipemisiwak for information on how to contact an employment centre near you.

Assistant Deputy Minister of Communications with HRSD,
Doug Rimmer and Community Liaison Officer, Kris Gladue

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Community liaison officer, Kris Gladue offers advice to Métis Employment Service client, Ameda Marty. The Edmonton centre at 12308-111 Ave is one of 17 Employment Service Centres across the province run by the Métis Nation of Alberta.
Until August 2, 2004
Where are the Children? Healing the Legacy of the Residential Schools.
A photographic exhibition at the Provincial Museum of Alberta relating the history and effects of Canada's Residential school system on Aboriginal people.
Contact: 1-866-578-7777
The museum is located at 12845-102 Ave, Edmonton.

June 9-10, 2004
Métis Nation of Alberta Region I Golf Tournament, Lac La Biche, Alberta.
Contact (780) 623-3039 or 1-800-638-5704 for more information.

June 12, 2004
History in the Hills hosted by the Mijwosin Society and Métis Local #8, Cypress Hills, Alberta

June 12, 2004
Regional Métis Nation of Alberta 18th Annual General Meeting, Peace River, Alberta 10:00 AM at the North Peace Catholic Conference Centre, 10307-99 Street, Peace River AB. Call (780) 624-4212 or 1-800-668-5319.

June 12, 2004
University of Calgary's Annual Native Graduation Banquet and Pow-Wow
Red & White Club, O-Centre, McMahon Stadium, 1833 Crowchild Trail NW, Calgary, Alberta
Contact Donna Meckling to volunteer at (403) 220-6034 or email meckling@ucalgyc.ca.

June 19, 2004
The Edmonton Aboriginal Children's Chorus Summer Concert
2:00 pm Sacred Heart Church, 10821-96 Street, Edmonton, Alberta
Tickets $5.00 - available at the door
For more information call (780) 906-1923

June 20, 2004
Métis Nation of Alberta Family Picnic
Please call to confirm your attendance: 1-800-252-7553 or (780) 252-7553

June 21, 2004
National Aboriginal Day

June 25, 2004
Métis Nation of Alberta Region III 2nd Annual Golf Tournament, Lakeside Greens Golf Course, Calgary, AB
$200 per person, includes dinner. Call Marlene Lanz for more information at (403) 569-8800

July 2-6, 2004
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) International Conference, Edmonton, AB
Call for more information: (604) 681-2153

July 8, 2004
Aboriginal Healing Foundation National Gathering "Healing the Legacy" Day of Commemoration
Shaw Conference Centre, 9779 Jasper Ave., Edmonton, AB
Contact Sophie Courchene at 1-866-778-4610 or visit www.ahf.ca for more information.

July 16, 2004
Métis Nation of Alberta Region I First Annual Andy Collins Memorial Golf Tournament, Bonnyville Golf and Country Club, Bonnyville, AB.
Registration: 9:00 AM. Shotgun Start: 10:00 AM
$500 per team of 4 includes 18 holes of golf, cart, prizes and dinner.
For more information contact Homer J. Poitras at (780) 826-7483.

July 24-29, 2004
Lac Ste. Anne Pilgrimage
Volunteers needed. Contact (780) 924-3231 or (780) 460-6935 or email iap@interbaun.com

July 26-30, 2004
Healing Our Spirit Residential School Conference, Dismal Lake, AB
Contact Shirley Armstrong at (780) 483-1183 or email shearmst@collect.co.ca or Marcelle Rose Willier at (780) 355-3836 or email abh@disnipple@hotmail.com

August 12-15, 2004
Métis Nation of Alberta's 76th Annual General Assembly Wabasca, AB
Contact Regional V at 1-866-849-4660 or (780) 849-4654

August 20-22, 2004
Asokan Project (NAT) Reunion Weekend, Edmonton
For more information, please contact Tracy Friedt, Asokan Project at (780) 471-7584.

Talented Métis musician, Donny Gladue came to sing and celebrate the launch of the Métis Nation's official magazine, Otipemisiwak - Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta. Copies of the magazine are free to members of the Métis Nation of Alberta. Please call 1-800-252-7553 or (780) 455-2200 to put your name on our mailing list and to update your membership information.

To include your community events in the calendar, please call 1-800-252-7553 or email communications@metis.org
Until August 2, 2004
Where are the Children? Healing the Legacy of the Residential Schools.
A photographic exhibition at the Provincial Museum of Alberta relating the history and effects of Canada's Residential School system on Aboriginal people.
Contact: 1-866-578-7777
The museum is located at 12845-102 Ave, Edmonton.

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Metis Nation of Alberta Region I Golf Tournament, Lac La Biche, Alberta.
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Metis Local #8, Cypress Hills, Alberta

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August 12-15, 2004
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Asokan Project (NAT) Reunion Weekend, Edmonton
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Making History: 
The First Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable

Métis National Council Vice President Audrey Poitras says she's "Encouraged by the Prime Ministers commitment to designing an action plan 'with' rather than 'for' Aboriginal people to improve quality of life conditions for Métis and other Aboriginal Canadians." Poitras' remarks came at the end of an historic Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable convened by the Prime Minister and attended by more than 70 Aboriginal leaders and 20 federal cabinet ministers.

In her opening remarks to the Roundtable, Poitras said, "Today, we stand before you once again asserting our nationhood, but on a different footing in light of the Powley decision. Our governments, as the only democratic and legitimate representative bodies of the Métis Nation, are ready to begin the task of rebalancing political authority and resources in order to implement Métis self-government."

The first-ever meeting between the national Aboriginal leaders and upper level government is aimed at kick-starting positive and results-oriented dialogue between Canada and its aboriginal peoples and to identify the priority areas for improving the lives of Aboriginal Canadians. The life expectancy and education level for Canada's 1.4 million Métis, First Nations and Inuit lag far behind national averages.

Martin promises a turning point has been reached in the approach Canada has been taking with Aboriginal issues to date, and commits his government to giving Aboriginal people greater authority in deciding how to improve key areas such as health care, social services, education and economic development.

Please accept my warmest regards and best wishes for a most successful and productive Roundtable.

Métis National Council Vice-President Audrey Poitras, President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami Jose Kusugak, Prime Minister Paul Martin, and Assembly of First Nations Chief Phil Fontaine.
as education, health, housing, and economic development. "No longer will we in Ottawa develop policies first and discuss them with you later. This principle of collaboration will be the cornerstone of our new relationship," said Martin.

The summit included a morning session on Métis-specific issues attended by Prime Minister Paul Martin, the Minister of Justice, Irwin Cotler, the Minister of Veterans Affairs, John McCallum, the Federal Interlocutor for Métis, Denis Codere and a strong contingent of Métis from across the Homeland.

Discussion focussed on the existing relationship between the Métis Nation and Canada during which Martin reiterated Canada's commitment to building a new relationship with the Métis Nation based on the Supreme Court of Canada's historic ruling in R. v. Powley.

Métis National Council Vice President, Audrey Poitras told the gathered officials, "We must formalize our commitment to work together. We can do this through the signing of the Métis Nation Framework Agreement. This comprehensive protocol will be the foundation upon which our new relationship will be structured."

Prime Minister Martin and Minister Codere acknowledged Poitras' remarks by committing to a results-oriented negotiation process involving a Framework Agreement with the Métis Nation.

The Minister of Justice also agreed negotiations with the Métis Nation is the more effective approach to relationship building than to continue forcing protracted litigation on inherent Aboriginal rights-based issues. The Minister of Veterans Affairs, John McCallum, also committed to dealing with compensation related issues that remain outstanding for Métis Veterans.

In addition, both the Prime Minister and Minister Codere made a commitment to finally acknowledge the contributions Louis Riel has made to Canada and to take steps to correct misinformation surrounding Riel's place in history.

The afternoon sessions were built around focussed discussions on policy relating to housing, health, education, economic development and achieving results (planning, measuring, and reporting). Each session was attended by federal government ministers with responsibility in respective areas who listened to brief overviews from representatives of the Métis National Council on existing policy areas and how they can be improved.

Further policy-related questions included:

What are some the key activities in each sector that can have the greatest impact on improving the lives of Aboriginal peoples? How can we work together to improve outcomes in these areas? What are the concrete steps and/or commitments we can make to move forward together and with partners in this sector?

Wrapping up the day-long summit, Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, Denis Codere, and co-chair of the historic gathering, said, "Since the time of Louis Riel, Métis people have had to fight for their rights. And on September 19, the Supreme Court of Canada released its first ever ruling on Métis Aboriginal rights. The Powley case affirmed that Métis are a distinct people that hold collective Aboriginal rights - a full-fledged rights-bearing people. We recognize the truth of that decision, and are turning a corner, renewing the relationship."

The Prime Minister reiterated his commitment to improving the lives of Aboriginal Canadians in a news conference outlining four specific steps his government will take. "We are committed to making whatever changes are required to get the job done. We need to see results and we need to see them as quickly as possible," Martin said.

Martin's action plan includes: a report summarizing goals outlined during the Canada-Aboriginal Roundtable discussions; an action plan from the Cabinet Committee on Aboriginal Affairs in consultation with Aboriginal leaders; additional roundtable discussions between cabinet ministers and Aboriginal experts, provincial and territorial leaders and the private sector to develop goals, and a new report to Parliament written by Aboriginal leaders ranking the governments' performance.

Martin said the report card will "tell us all Canadians how we're doing, what progress we're making, and where we simply have to do better if we're to deliver on our objectives of closing the gap for Aboriginal Canadians."

At the end of the day, Vice President Audrey Poitras described the event as, "a very exciting day for the Métis. I commend the Prime Minister for his respectful acknowledgement of the Métis Nation. This represents another important step in building our new relationship with Canada."

"...There is also no question that we need to strengthen our relationship with the Métis community in Canada. It is time to recognize the contributions the Métis Nation has made, and continues to make, to this country."

- Excerpt from the Address by Prime Minister Paul Martin at the Opening of the First Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable

Part of the Métis Delegation to the first Canada-Aboriginal Roundtable Discussion.
Back Row (left to right): Ed Borchert, Gary Lipinski, Ed Ducharme, Tony Belcourt, Philip Chartier, and Allan Morin
Front: Lorna Docken and Karen Collins
Good morning,

Elders, Prime Minister Martin, Ministers of the Crown, fellow Aboriginal leaders and invited guests, on behalf of the leadership of the Métis Nation who are here today and the President of the Métis National Council, Clement Chartier, who is recovering from recent hip surgery, I bring greetings.

For the Métis Nation, today is an historic and exciting opportunity to change the course of our current relationship with Canada. It has been over a decade since Métis leadership has had an opportunity like this to formally discuss our future with Canada. I would like to commend Prime Minister Martin for his leadership and vision in recognizing a "new beginning" is desperately needed.

And this "new beginning" comes at a time when there is a new reality for the Métis Nation and all governments in Canada. I speak of the recent decision by the Supreme Court of Canada in R. v. Powley. Not only did the highest court in this land unequivocally affirm that the Métis people have existing constitutionally protected rights, the law is very clear that all governments have an obligation to ensure Métis rights are recognized and accommodated in this country.

Powley is just another affirmation of the Métis Nation's unique history, identity, culture, and special relationship to our lands. As a distinct people, we hold the inherent right of self-determination and aspire to fully implement Métis self-government within the Canadian federation.

For centuries, we have struggled with Canada on the battlefield, in the political arena, and in the courts to defend our nationhood, our lands, our rights, and our culture. From the miscarriage of justice perpetuated by the Canadian state on our leader, Louis Riel, to a fraudulent land scrip system where our people were cheated out of their lands and driven from their homes, our people have never given up their rights or determination to self-governance.

While these realities have left our people cynical of governments and the poorest of the poor in one of the richest countries in the world, the Métis Nation has never given up hope for a new relationship. In fact, these obstacles have served to strengthen our national resilience and resolve.

Today, we stand before you once again asserting our nationhood, but on a different footing in light of the Powley decision. Our governments, as the only democratic and legitimate representative bodies of the Métis Nation, are ready to begin the task of rebalancing political authority and resources to implement Métis self-government. Through our province-wide ballot box elections, our leadership receives their mandates directly from the Métis people.

Canada must begin addressing the "democratic deficit" that exists within the Aboriginal community by starting to respectfully deal with Métis governments as governments. While advocacy groups, Aboriginal service delivery organizations, municipalities and industry will play a very important role within any initiatives we undertake, Canada must respect the nation-to-nation relationship that exists between us.

To implement this nation-to-nation relationship, we, as the elected leaders of our respective governments, have the responsibility to define our relationship.

Together, we must enter a new era of pro-active and results-oriented negotiations to arrive at mutually beneficial agreements rather than continuing to be forced to use the courts at a social and economic cost of our people and all Canadians.

Through a proposed Framework Agreement between the Métis National Council and the Government of Canada, which will be tabled at this Roundtable, the Métis Nation hopes to begin dealing with our priority issues that have frustrated the relationship and continue to force protracted litigation.

A priority within these negotiations will be to address the Canadian state sanctioned injustice against Louis Riel. This stain, on Canada's history, must finally be dealt with. However, a quick-fix pardon or exoneration is unacceptable. The truth must finally come out in order to truly begin the process of reconciliation between Canada and our people.

We also call upon Canada to finally deal with Métis veterans, the only veterans group that remains to be dealt with. These brave Métis men and women served with distinction during Canada's hour of need, only to be ignored and forgotten upon their return to this country. Time is of the essence to ensure Métis veterans are finally shown the respect and dignity they so rightly deserve before justice can no longer be.
honour of Canada is at stake.

Finally, in order to truly transform the relationship, Canada must move past its pervasive programmatic stance in dealing with the Métis Nation. For us to avoid the failures of the past, the same federal bureaucracy that is responsible for the current state of affairs cannot be left to develop and implement new programming without us, while thrusting accountability for their decisions upon us.

We must be given real recognition, authority and responsibility to do what is needed. True, we cannot do it alone, but Métis governments must have real ownership and decision-making authority over new initiatives in order to ensure transparency, accountability and value.

On this front, we must cut through the "stove-piping" and "turf wars" within the federal system. We must build upon the models that work, like the extremely successful Aboriginal Human Resource Development Strategy. As a part of the recently renewed Strategy, the Métis National Council looks forward to signing a new national accord with Minister Volpe in the very near future.

In addition, throughout the Roundtable, we will be encouraging Canada to expand this devolution best practice into other priority areas for the Métis people such as health and housing.

Conversely, we must reject pan-aboriginal approaches that have always failed miserably for the Métis people. While there often is a natural desire on the part of government and the bureaucracy to implement a "one-size-fits-all" model for First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples, this is no more feasible in the Aboriginal world than developing a pan-Canadian program tailored for the unique needs of the various regions in Canada. Similarly to the respect that is shown for Canada's diversity, we must develop Métis-specific initiatives that deal with our unique realities as a people.

And finally, we must collaboratively develop an inclusive Métis-specific policy to be used throughout the federal system in order to achieve measurable results.

Prime Minister, on behalf of the leadership of the Métis Nation, we are willing and ready to rise to the challenge before us. Our people look forward to seeing real progress on the issues we discuss today. We thank you for taking the right approach of working with us. And as you said in your speech last Friday, "let the new beginning start today!"

Thank you.

First Annual Andy Collins Memorial Golf Tournament

Friday, July 16, 2004
Registration: 9:00 a.m.
 Shotgun Start: 10:00 a.m.
Bonnyville Golf and Country Club
Bonnyville, Alberta

$500.00 per team of 4
(includes 18 holes of golf, cart, prizes and dinner)
Course dress code in effect
Rain or shine or snow!!

For more information please contact: Homer J. Poitras, (780) 826-7483
Hosted by: Zone II Regional Council of the Métis Nation of Alberta
Coordinating Committee: Mel Benson, Hope Henderson, Perry Collins and Homer J. Poitras

News Release

Metis Nation of Alberta President

Delighted with Prime Minister's Acknowledgement of Métis as a distinct Nation of Aboriginal Peoples

(Edmonton, AB) April 19, 2004 – Métis leadership attending the Canada-Aboriginal People's Roundtable in Ottawa are delighted by the Prime Minister's acknowledgement of the Métis as a distinct Nation of Aboriginal people in Canada.

In his opening statement at the historic gathering, Prime Minister Paul Martin said, "There is also no question that we need to strengthen our relationship with the Métis Nation in Canada. It is time to recognize the contributions the Métis Nation has made, and continues to make, in this country." Martin becomes the first sitting Prime Minister in Canadian history to recognize the Métis as a Nation.

Audrey Poitras, Vice-President of the Métis National Council and President of the Métis Nation of Alberta says, "This a very exciting day for the Métis. Although long overdue, I commend the Prime Minister for his respectful acknowledgement of the Métis Nation."

Poitras highlighted the importance of the Prime Minister's choice of words. "For generations, Canada has not formally recognized the existence of the Métis Nation as a distinct Aboriginal people included within s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. This position can no longer be sustained with the Prime Minister's recognition of the Métis Nation. Further, with the Supreme Court's decision in R. v. Powley which affirms Métis are a 'full fledged rights bearing people', the Métis Nation is about to engage in a new and exciting journey in this country in order to finally take our proper place within the Canadian federation."

In his closing statement, Prime Minister Martin made the commitment "to have a tangible recognition of Louis Riel's contribution to the Métis Nation and to Canada as a whole."

Poitras says Canada's commitment to finally engage in a process recognizing the historic Métis leader is inspiring for the Métis in their continued pursuit of self-governance.

Poitras adds, "More than one hundred years ago, Louis Riel began the struggle on behalf of the Métis to gain the respect and recognition deserved from the Government of Canada. Today's commitment from Prime Minister Martin to recognize the contribution of Louis Riel in the creation of Canada and the Prime Ministers acknowledgment of the Métis as a Nation is a significant turning point in the relationship between Canada and the Métis."

Métis Nation of Alberta
President Audrey Poitras
Vice President Audrey Poitras
shakes hands with Prime Minister Paul Martin at the Canada-Aboriginal People's Roundtable in Ottawa

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Prime Minister Ready to Rethink Riel's Place in History

Prime Minister Paul Martin says it's time to rethink Louis Riel's place in Canadian history. His remarks came at the end of a one-day summit in Ottawa with more than 70 aboriginal leaders from across the country, including a Métis delegation led by Métis National Council Vice-President, Audrey Poitras.

In her opening statement to the Prime Minister's Aboriginal Roundtable, Vice-President, Audrey Poitras said of the renewed relationship building process between Canada and the Métis Nation, "A priority within these negotiations will be to address the Canadian state sanctioned injustices against Louis Riel. This stain on Canada's history must finally be dealt with. However, a quick fix pardon or exonerated is unacceptable. The truth must finally come out in order to truly begin the process of reconciliation between our people and Canada." The MNC says a pardon for Riel is not acceptable because he was never guilty in the first place.

There's great interest in the Liberal Caucus "to have a tangible recognition of Louis Riel's contributions to the Métis Nation and to Canada as a whole." Mr. Martin said at a press conference wrapping up the summit.

Louis Riel Needs No Pardon

In the ongoing debate surrounding Louis Riel and whether the man should be pardoned or have his conviction vacated, at the outset I must make it clear that nothing should or can be done on this issue without the full participation and informed consent of the Métis Nation through its legitimate leadership.

While there is a historic connection and debate between Quebec and Ontario, Liberals and Conservatives, Easterners and Westerners with respect to the Riel issue, this issue nevertheless remains a matter for the Métis Nation to deal with, not any one else.

Riel led a self-determining people in asserting their rights in 1869/70 by establishing a provisional government at the Red River in accordance with the international law of that time. The actions were legitimate acts of a government and, through nation-to-nation negotiations, Manitoba was brought into confederation while entrenching basic rights and promises to the Métis people within the Manitoba Act, 1870.

John A. Macdonald's actions were less noble and over the next several years Métis people were subjected to repressive actions throughout their homeland in a deliberate attempt to crush the heart and soul of the Métis Nation. Central to this was a land scheme system so corrupt and vile that judges today have taken judicial notice of this blatant and fraudulent dispossession.

Faced with this reality, the Métis of the Saskatchewan turned to Riel to assist in the struggle for the recognition of their rights; especially their land rights. This time, success was not in the cards; the resistance against this government sanctioned repression would be violently put down. As part of his manipulative actions, John A. Macdonald's national dream of a railway from coast to coast was the Métis Nation's worst nightmare.

It must be conceded that history accurately portrays that Louis Riel led the resistance in 1884/85; that blood was shed on both sides, that he opted for his day in court; that he was convicted of...
Don't pardon or exonerate Louis Riel, or vacate his conviction. That type of hollow gesture will not address the ultimate sacrifice he made. That will not remove the dark cloud hanging over Canada's head. That will not placate the citizens of the Métis Nation or lessen our resolve to achieve our rightful place within a Canada based on our fundamental rights and freedoms as a people. That is not the solution, as some may suggest.

Instead, Canada must continue to work with the people of the Métis Nation, as represented by the Métis National Council and the Métis Nation's governments from Ontario westward in order to engage the "new beginning" Prime Minister Martin proclaimed at the recent Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable held in Ottawa. Negotiations to address the historic injustices perpetrated on our people, which endure to this day, must be engaged in immediately. This negotiation process should be guided by a "Métis Nation Framework Agreement" as currently proposed by the Métis National Council.

Substantive action is required, desired and necessary. Until the rights of the Métis Nation have been successfully negotiated, symbolic action and hollow gestures on the part of the Crown with respect to Louis Riel must be suspended.

"With respect to the Métis, maybe we should start talking about Métis symbols, identification and political and cultural institutions. I believe this is a cornerstone to moving ahead, and one that should not be forgotten if we want to establish new and collaborative relationships. Louis Riel is an integral part of the heritage of Canada: for some, he remains a controversial figure. For others, he stands as the first fighter for Métis rights with Confederation. But however he is viewed - from a political or a legal perspective - there can be no denying the strength of his convictions and the deep price he generated among his people - the Métis."

- The Honourable Denis Coderre, Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians

Métis Nation Lays Out Strategy to Renew Relationship with Canada

(OTTAWA) April 19, 2004 - The leadership of the Métis Nation laid out a Métis-specific strategy to renew its relationship with Canada today during the historic Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable held in Ottawa.

Audrey Poitras, Vice-President of the Métis National Council delivered the Métis Nation's opening address at the Roundtable. "We must be given real recognition, authority and responsibility to do what is needed. We must build upon the models that work like the extremely successful Aboriginal Human Resource Development Strategy and expand it to other social and economic sectors."

Vice-President Poitras outlined the unfair and ongoing legacy of Sir John A. MacDonald that is faced by the Métis people including the fact that "No one in the federal government, not even the Federal Intergovernment, has a mandate to negotiate with the Métis Nation". As well, Vice-President Poitras stated that, "the Métis Nation is the only Aboriginal People in Canada that is still largely a landless people in our own homeland."

Central to the Métis Nation's action plan is a Framework Agreement which would engage a results-oriented negotiations process between the Métis National Council and Canada.

On behalf of the Métis Nation of Alberta, President Audrey Poitras wishes Mr. Clément Chartier, President of the Métis National Council, a speedy recovery from recent surgery.
Renewing and Transforming the Relationship between the Métis Nation and the Government of Canada

The focus of this Roundtable is to discuss the existing and future relationship between the Métis and the Government of Canada. As you heard me state this morning, the Métis National Council takes some satisfaction in the recognition that was shown us this morning. I believe that this morning is a good start to transforming the relationship between our governments. To us, that is just the beginning. Recognition of the Métis Nation and respect for our governments form the foundation upon which a new relationship can be built. It is not enough to simply state we are embarking on a new relationship; we must formalize our commitment to work together. We can do this through the signing of the Métis Nation Framework Agreement. This comprehensive protocol will be the foundation upon which our new relationship will be structured.

As part of the recognition of the Métis Nation, it is our firm position that a pan-Aboriginal approach does not work. You cannot find one-size-fits-all solutions to the difficulties facing the First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples. By finding solutions within our own Métis governance institutions, and by having the ability to create solutions tailored to the needs of the Métis, we are able to deliver superior results. Look at the successes the Métis have achieved in human resource development with the limited resources we are provided.

In every area, our governing institutions are far more efficient and effective than Canada's and the province's bureaucracies could hope to be. Each of our provincial Métis Governments boasts successes, from the Gabriel Dumont Institute in Saskatchewan, the Housing program in Manitoba, our provincial Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreements and the list goes on. Time and time again, we are able to do more with less. By joining with us in true partnership, together, we can deliver a win-win situation for all Canadians.

The Métis Nation seeks resolution to our outstanding rights issue. With the Powley decision, the Supreme Court of Canada established that the Government of Canada MUST recognize our Aboriginal and treaty rights. As always we are willing to sit down to negotiate agreements that will see our rights recognized and freely exercised by our people. While it is time consuming and expensive to take our issues through the courts, the Métis Nation is not afraid to continue to use this venue if we are not heard at the negotiating table. Remember, it is far less costly to negotiate. We believe in negotiations, in coming to agreements and in working in true partnership, on a nation-to-nation basis.

Also key to building our relationship is having an enumeration and registration of Métis people from Ontario westward. In the Powley decision, the Supreme Court of Canada has warned the Canadian Government that the 'difficulty of identifying members of the Métis community must not be exaggerated as a basis for defeating their rights under the Constitution of Canada.' Without this essential information to fully inform both the Métis governments and the Canadian government, research and planning will be largely ineffective. We must come together on this issue so that our registry is put in place so our ongoing ability to manage effectively is uncompromised.

Effectively serving our people is our first priority. The Métis National Council and our Provincial Governing Members require the capacity to effectively govern our people. This is the basis of self-government and self-determination. We can best accomplish this by coming together in the spirit of true partnership on a government-to-government basis to enhance the ability of the Métis Nation to be truly self-governing.

Roundtable Participants
Vice-President Métis National Council
Métis National Council cabinet and delegates
Hon. Rey Pagtakham Western Economic Development
Hon. John McCallum Minister of Veterans Affairs
Hon. Irwin Cotler Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Hon. Denis Coderre President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians
Hon. Brenda Chamberlain Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Queen's Privy Council, Métis and Non-Status Indians

Finally, our ability to partner with Canada is greatly compromised when we have extremely limited resources specific to the Métis and a Federal Interlocutor as our only emissary in Cabinet. Therefore, we encourage the federal government to establish a Department of Aboriginal Affairs, to work on Métis issues both independent of and equal to the efforts currently put forward on behalf of the First Nations and Inuit. While we do not necessarily advocate building the bureaucracy of government on a general basis, we certainly advocate for the recognition of Métis Affairs within Cabinet.

In looking forward to a new relationship, I believe that the agenda items I've outlined will lead the Government of Canada to a healthy and mutually beneficial relationship with the Métis Nation.
The Region III Council of the Métis Nation of Alberta paid honor to the regions Métis entrepreneurs at the sixth annual Métis Entrepreneurial Leadership Awards held in Calgary in April. Region III Vice-President, Marlene Lanz, presented awards to the surprised and deserving recipients recognizing their hard work, dedication and achievements in business.

Master of Ceremonies, Winston Wattunsee, entertained the 175 celebrating Métis with his unique brand of humour for the evening, which began with Métis Elder, Dean Franklin, offering the Opening Prayer and Dorothy Walker singing, "Proud to be Métis (Métis National Anthem)" accompanied by Dean Malcolm. Bob Wilks's energetic narrative about Gabriel Dumont captivated the audience and earned his performance a standing ovation.

Jason Madden, General Counsel for the Métis National Council, gave the keynote address, which focused on his personal experience representing Métis hunters, Steve and Roddy Powley, before the Supreme Court of Canada in the landmark case, R. v. Powley.

Other speakers for the evening included special greetings from Métis Nation of Alberta President, Audrey Poitras, MLA's John Lloyd and Wayne Cao and Judy Daniels, from the provincial government's department of Aboriginal Affairs.

The award presentations were the highlight of the evening. With regional Vice President Marlene Lanz announcing the winners, President Audrey Poitras presented individual trophies to: Rod Stagg and Brenda Holder, Métis Entrepreneur of the Year Awards; Leah Nelson and Paul Chateau, Youth Entrepreneurial Awards; Alice Bissonette, Eldon Whiteford, and Jason Wowk, each received Entrepreneurial Recognition awards. The award to recognizing successful Metis in the corporate world was given to Jim Fiddler, Assistant Vice President, Information Technology, First Calgary Savings. The final award of the evening was presented to BP Canada Energy Company for their support and contribution to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.
A Message of Appreciation

Tans!
The community of Bonnyville and surrounding areas are still hurting, grieving and beginning the process of healing from the tragedy that touched us all. Our prayers are with the families, relatives and friends; may our Great Creator bless and embrace them all with his love and understanding.

We would like to publicly acknowledge and thank all the members, especially the elders, from Zone II who have either dropped by or called to offer support. There are no words to adequately say "Thank you", just know that your presence your calls were needed by all of us under this roof. And to all of the people who share the office building with the Zone II employees, we are grateful to you and your programs for your support, your prayers and your love. We all needed to be there for each other.

When such a tragedy happens within our community it affects the Métis Nation as a collective. The loss is felt as a ripple throughout, the emotions are common and often shared and we believe that the healing must also be shared as a collective. We must all stop and have a good look to see if we are all still on the same path, we must wait for everyone to catch up and then we can all, again, begin to take those small steps forward as a collective. In unity we can reflect the love, strength and have our prayers heard.

May God bless us all!

On behalf of the Zone II Regional Council, Elders and membership,
In unity,

Karen (KC) Collins
President

Homer J. Poitras
Vice President

Ilth Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards

Three Métis from Alberta are among 14 recipients of the 11th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards. The best of the country’s Aboriginal role models were honoured for their outstanding career achievements and for their exceptional contributions to improving the lives of Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

Provincial Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Pearl Calahasen, was honored for her work in public service. Calahasen is the first Métis woman to be elected to the provincial legislature.

Muriel Stanley-Venne received the Achievement Award for her work in law and justice. Stanley-Venne is a well-known women’s rights advocate and is the founder of the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women.

Dr. Carl Union received the Achievement Award recognizing his accomplishments in promoting the development of indigenous education. Dr. Union leads the Native Studies program at the University of Alberta.

The lavish awards ceremony held in Calgary will be broadcast on CBC Television on June 21, 2004.

A Nation Mourns with You

The Laboucan family in Region IV
The Bouvier family in Region III
The Desjarlais family in Region II
The Roy family in Region IV

Back row (left to right): Muriel Stanley-Venne, Law and Justice; Chief Clarence Louie, Business and Community Development; Dr. Stanley Volland, Medicine; and Andrew T. Delisle, Sr., Lifetime Achievement Award.

Middle row: The Honourable Pearl Calahasen, Public Service; Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Environment; Dr. Lee Wilson, Science and Technology; Dr. Carl Union, Education; Basil Johnston, Heritage and Spirituality;

Front row: Susan Point, Arts and Culture; Kristinn Frederickson, Youth; Suzanne Rochon-Burnett, Media and Communications; Tina Keeper, Arts and Culture; Jonah Kelly on behalf of Osiutik Ipeelee, Arts and Culture
Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women
Ninth Annual Esquao Awards 2004
‘Angels Among Us’

The Ninth Annual Esquao Awards were presented to 29 outstanding Aboriginal women in an elaborate celebration of their outstanding achievements on May 6, at the Edmonton Agricoll.

It is our way of recognizing our own women and bringing attention to the challenges faced by Aboriginal Women,” said Muriel Stanley-Venne, the President and Founder of the Institute, which has presented more than 200 awards to Aboriginal women in Alberta. The Institute honours Aboriginal women for their significant accomplishments in areas such as: the performing arts, business, community involvement, literature and visual arts, justice, education, health and medicine, culture and lifetime achievement.

Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras says, “Talented and accomplished Métis women have been showcased through the Esquao Awards since its inception. This gala continues to be an enjoyable and uplifting means to highlight the best of our Aboriginal female role models.”

Felise Gladue received an award for her contribution and work in the field of education.

Métis Elder, Eva Ladouceur received an award for her dedication to the preservation of the Métis culture.

Muriel Stanley-Venne, the founder of the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women was on hand to introduce the Circle of Elders and to congratulate all the winners.

MNA President Audrey Poitras congratulated The Honourable Ethel Blondin Andrew recipient of the Circle of Honour Award in an Elders Blanket Ceremony.

MNA President Audrey Poitras with Esquao Award recipient. Lorraine Deschambel who was honoured for her Community Involvement.

Shirley Dion received the Lifetime Achievement Award recognizing her contributions to the Métis community.

Honoured members of the Circle of Elders, Eva Ladouceur, Evelyn Webb and Bertha Clark-Jones get ready for the Blanket Ceremony.

Mabel Goulet received an Esquao Award for Community Involvement.

Performing Arts
Priscilla Morin
Cynthia Smallboy

Culture
Helena Piper
Peggy Roberts
Eva Ladouceur

Health and Medicine
Leona Carter

Leadership
Rose Laboucan
Social Services and Advocacy
Melva Arcand
Josie Negimak
Betty Hamilton

Business
Carol Crowe
Linda Stephani
Emma Marinace

Education
Felise Gladue
Ruth Saboe
Ida Bell

Circles of Honour
The Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew

Community Involvement
Linda Bouchay-Senagor
Lorraine Deschambel
Verena White
Gerti Many-fingers
Mabel Goulet
Anne MarieAuger
Autumn Eaglespeaker

Lifetime Achievement
Shirley Dion
Theresa C. Wildcat

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Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is a medical condition describing birth defects in children whose mothers drank alcohol while they were pregnant. There is no cure for this syndrome; the damage is irreversible. Children with alcohol-related birth defects have difficulty understanding the impact of their actions and many do not learn from their past experiences. As a result, their behavior can be unpredictable and can also make them vulnerable to high-risk behavior or situations.

With the support of Alberta Children’s Services, the Métis Nation of Alberta’s FASD initiative will target provincial, regional, local leadership and community members to provide relevant, accurate and culturally sensitive supports and resources.

We have recruited a part-time Provincial FASD Coordinator who will be responsible for carrying out the goals and strategies in the FASD Work Plan 2004/2005 by:
> Providing project coordination and support to six Regional Coordinators in their communities;
> Developing and implementing an FASD training initiative through partnerships;
> Observing the ongoing development of community FASD support groups for children and families impacted by FASD;
> Participating on the Provincial Steering Committee to address FASD in the Métis community;
> Disseminating the video “Faith Like A Child” into the Métis Nation of Alberta communities; and
> Developing and conducting a survey targeting provincial, regional, local leadership and community members to determine awareness levels about FASD.

Mobile Diabetes Screening

Mobile Diabetes Screening Initiative (MDSI) is visiting the Métis Settlements in Alberta assessing people who may be suffering from diabetes and informing Métis of the complications of the disease. The mobile clinic is a joint venture between Capital Health and the University of Alberta.

Diabetes screening participants taking part can expect to have an eye examination using retinal photography, a lab assessment of blood glucose levels and a clinical assessment of their health history.

This initiative targets aboriginal people living off reserve to identify quality of life implications, raise awareness about diabetes and to better understand related complications of the disease. The long-term objective is to coordinate a multi-sectored community-based approach to address diabetes amongst the off reserve Aboriginal population in Alberta.

While the mandate for this project is to visit the eight Métis Settlements at least twice, the MDSI team is looking forward to eventually including other rural aboriginal communities on their route. MDSI has already visited Buffalo, Fishing Lake, Kikino, Elizabeth, Peewine, East Prairie, and Gift Lake Settlements; and will be visiting Paddle Prairie in early June.

For more information or to find out when this program will be in your area, contact Christine at (780) 407-7780 or Shannon at (780) 407-1627.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Internet Links

Alberta Children’s Services www.child.gov.ab.ca

The Lakeland Centre for FAS provides diagnostic services for children/adults, follow up support for families and provides information on FASD. Visit them online at www.lakelandfas.com

Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission - corp.aadac.com/women/index.asp

Health Canada This site provides from Health Canada on Alcohol and Pregnancy. Visit them at www.hc-sc.gc.ca

FASLink is the Canadian Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Internet support, information, advocacy and discussion forum. Visit them at www.acbr.com/fasi

Southern Alberta Alcohol Related Birth Injury Website offers information about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Alcohol Related Birth Injury in a format designed for quick access to information you require and quick access to links of many related sites. Visit them at www.arbi.org

FAS World Canada is an international alliance of parents and professionals who do not want to see any more children, teenagers and adults struggle with birth defects caused when their mothers drank alcohol in pregnancy. Visit them online at www.fasworld.com

FAS/E Support Network of BC was founded and is run by three women with over 65 years combined experience parenting and working with children and adults with FAS/E. Visit them online at www.fetalalcohol.com/frame-home.htm

Motherisk is an on-line source for evidence-based information about the safety or risk of drugs, chemicals and disease during pregnancy and lactation. Their web-page can be found at www.motherisk.org

Banana Muffins

3/4 cup flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/8 teaspoon baking soda
1/8 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup mashed banana
1/3 cup sugar twin
1 tablespoon skim milk
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
3 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 egg white

Combine flour, baking powder and baking soda, salt and sugar twin in a mixing bowl. Pour in mashed banana, milk, vanilla and oil. Mix well. Beat egg white and add top batter. Bake for 20 minutes at 350.

Makes 6 muffins.

Recipe Submission from Hayley Mercredi, Fort Vermilion, Region 6

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

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

Ogimismiwinak: The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta
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Left: Métis Nation Region V President, Bev New, puts on a vigorous display of her jigging talents; top left: Young dancers entertained the crowd; top right: The evening included energetic jigging competitions won by Joanne Daniels and Tommy Donald; and above: A fashion show displaying variations of Métis clothing.

76th Annual Assembly
August 12-15th, 2004
Wabasca, Alberta

Please join us for the Métis Nation of Alberta’s 76th Annual Assembly to be held in Region V, Wabasca, Alberta.

All business will take place at the Wabasca Community Hall.

Highlights:
- Métis Business Mixer
- Trade Show & Craft Fair
- Elders Banquet
- Talent Show
- Youth Dance
- Workshops

Please visit www.mdoportunity.ab.ca or www.wabasca.com for more information regarding directions, the venue location, and available accommodations. For additional information, please contact the Métis Nation of Alberta at (780) 455-2200, Toll free 1 (800) 252-7553.
National Definition of Métis

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

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

Defined Terms in National Definition of Métis

1.2 “Historic Métis Nation” means the Aboriginal people then know as Métis or Half-breeds who resided in the Historic Métis Nation Homeland.

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

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

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