

Otipemisiwak

The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta

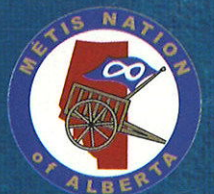


Métis Success
at the Canada - Aboriginal
People's Roundtable

Louis Riel
Needs No Pardon

Getting Ready for the
76th Annual
General Assembly

Focus on
Métis Winners



Issue 2, Volume 1, May, 2004

Otipemisiwak

The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta

Otipemisiwak is the Official Magazine of the
Métis Nation of Alberta

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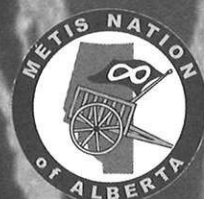
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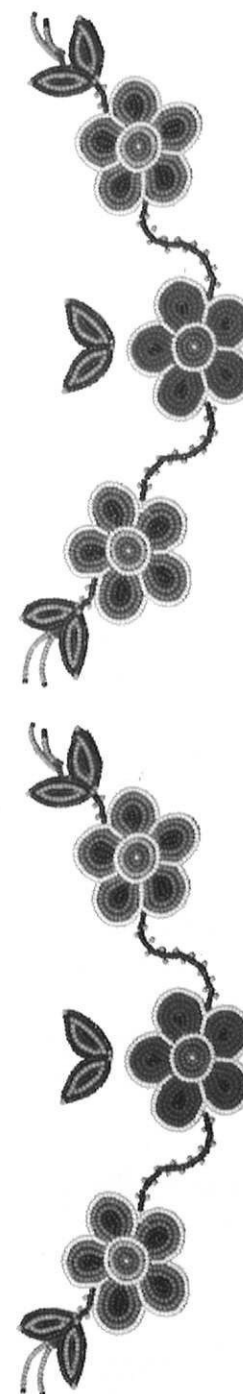
Omission:

Otipemisiwak - Voice of the Metis Nation in Alberta, Premiere
Edition, page 24. The timeline listing the presidents of the
Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) is missing one photograph.
Gerald Thom served as President of the MNA from 1993-1996.
The editorial committee apologizes for this unfortunate
oversight.



Front Cover Photos by **Patricia Russell**
Prime Minister Paul Martin and Métis National
Council Vice President Audrey Poitras
Jose Kusugak, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami; Métis
National Council Vice President
Audrey Poitras and Assembly of First Nations
Grand Chief Phil Fontaine

Beadwork by:
Julie Wasp-Colin from Assomption, AB



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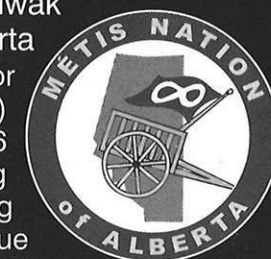
Otipemisiwak

The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta

We encourage Métis to make submissions to our
Nation's official magazine in the form of photos and
articles telling stories about the events and people in
your community. The next edition of Otipemisiwak will
focus on Métis identity and what it means to be Métis.

Deadline for submissions is July 12

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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 Powley 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 its ruling in *R. v. Powley*, in September 2003. The Powley 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 Powley, 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. Convictions determined more than one hundred years ago when Louis Riel declared us a Nation and Gabriel Dumont took up the charge.

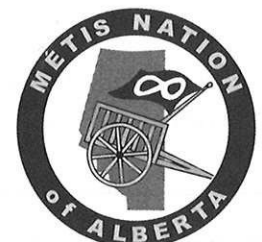
I am celebrating with you, my fellow, Métis. Celebrating the achievements of a Nation.

We are winners.

Respectfully yours,

Audrey Poitras

Audrey Poitras, President
Métis Nation of Alberta



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

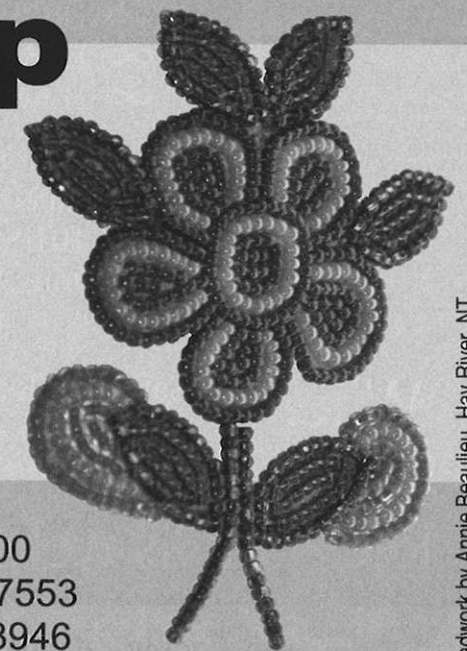
Update your Métis Nation of Alberta Membership



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

Membership Department

#100 Delia Gray Building Phone: (780) 455-2200
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Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5 Facsimile: (780)452-8946



Beadwork by Annie Beaulieu, Hay River, NT

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



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



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

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 MNAA 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 Delia Gray Building
11738 Kingsway Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 0X5
Fax: (780) 452-8946

Bev New, Secretary
Métis Nation of Alberta



Region V Preparations Underway for the 76th Annual General Assembly

Article by Bev New
 Photos by Ron Harrison

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, (790) 891-2267; Noralta 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 arena.

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.

Metis Nation of Alberta 76th Annual Assembly August 12-15, 2004

DRAFT AGENDA

Thursday, August 12, 2004

6:00 PM Métis Business Mixer

Friday, August 13, 2004

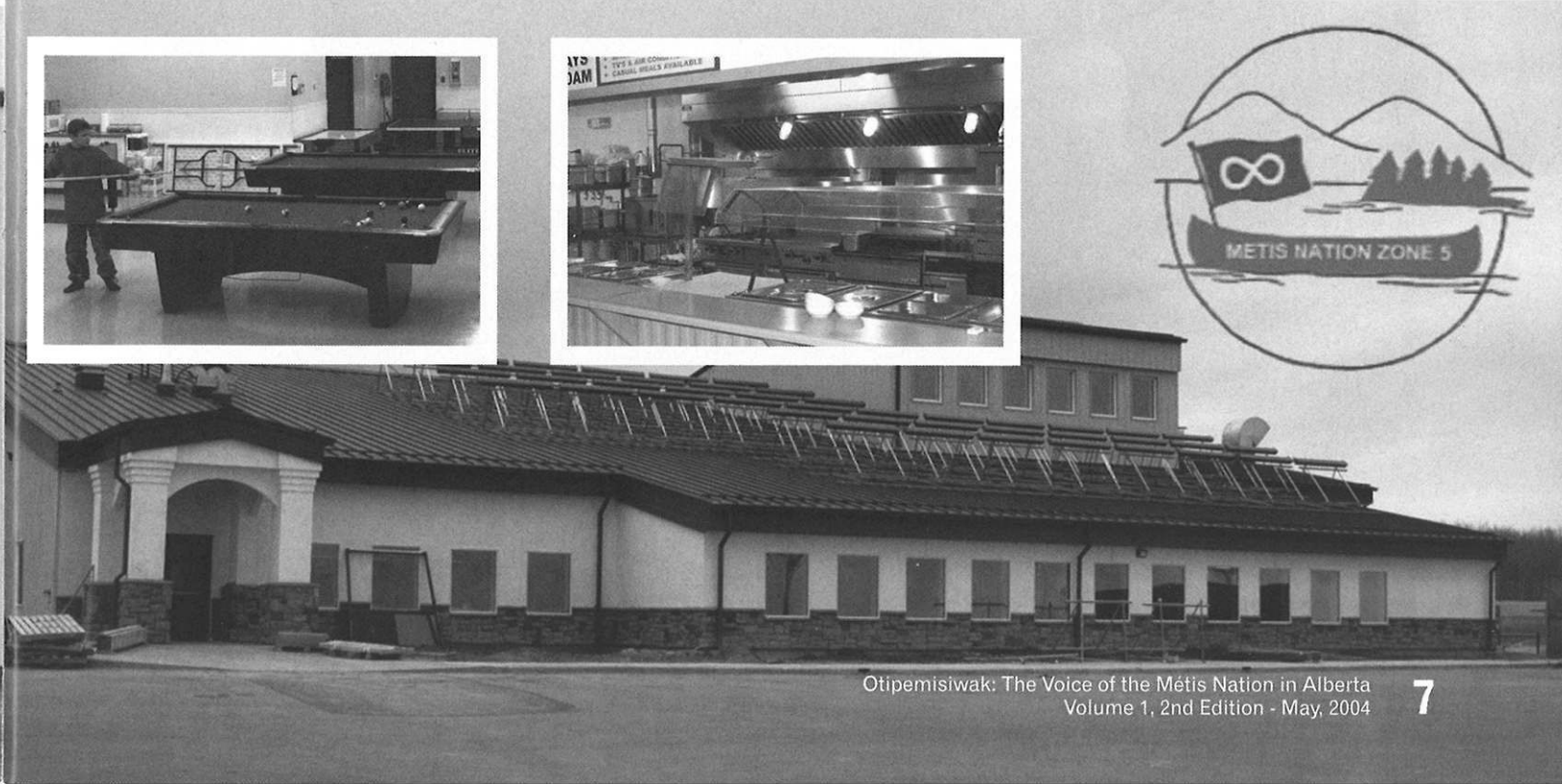
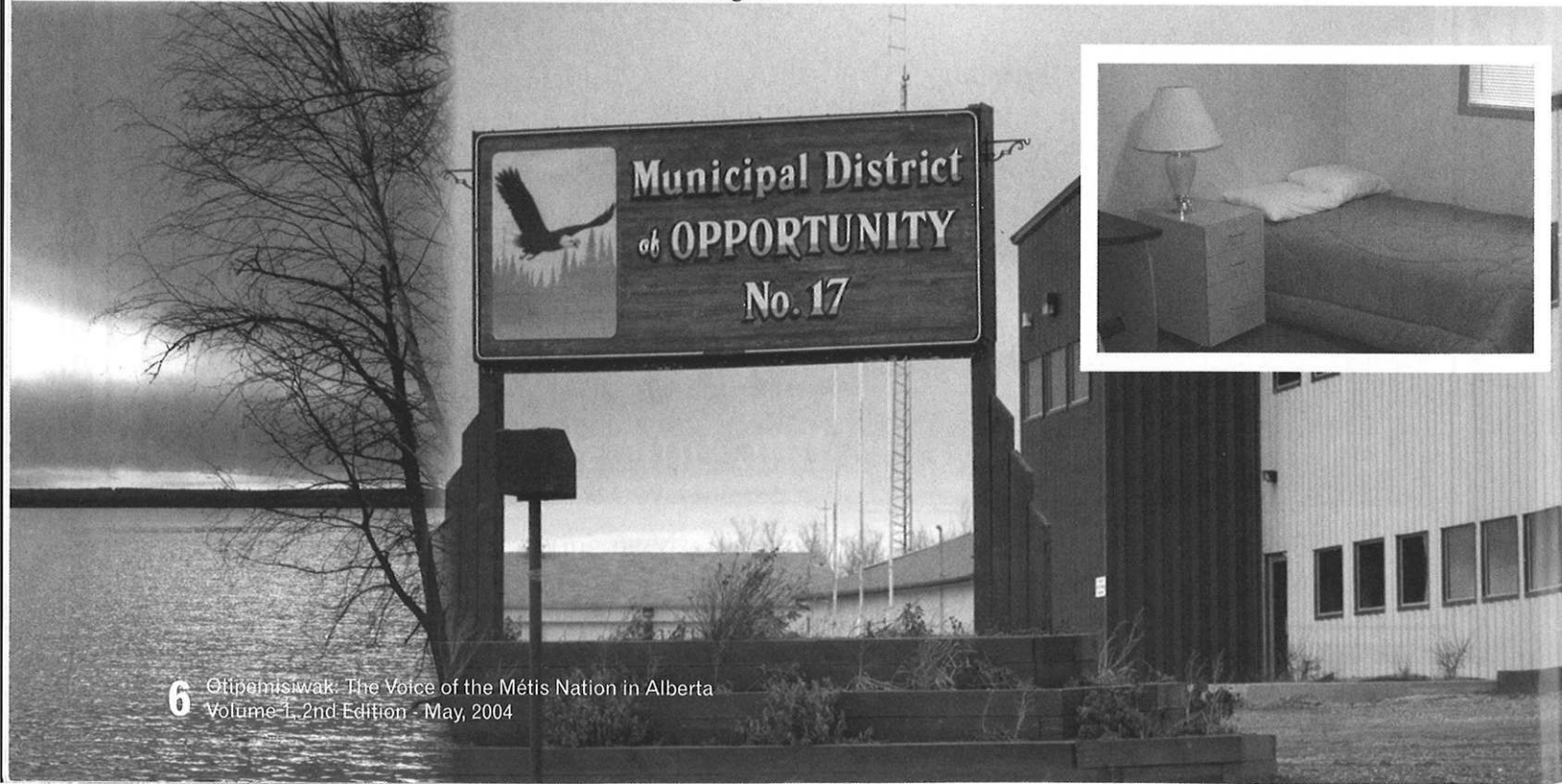
8:00 AM Booth Set Up
 8:30 AM Registration
 9:00 AM Workshops
 10:00 AM Trade Show & Craft Fair
 12:00 PM Lunch Break
 1:30 PM Workshops Continue
 4:00 PM Parade Opening Ceremonies
 6:00 PM Elders' Banquet - 55 years & older (free)
 8:00 PM Entertainment by Last Call

Saturday, August 14, 2004

7:30 AM Pancake Breakfast
 9:00 AM Opening for Meeting
 10:00 AM Business Meeting Begins
 12:00 PM Lunch Break
 1:30 PM Meeting Resumes
 6:00 PM Banquet and Show Case
 8:00 PM Entertainment by Lakeside Country Band

Sunday, August 15, 2004

8:00 AM Pancake Breakfast
 9:00 AM Meeting Continues
 12:00 PM Closing Remarks



Traditional Métis Dancers Disciplined and Energetic

Article and Photo by Patricia Russell

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

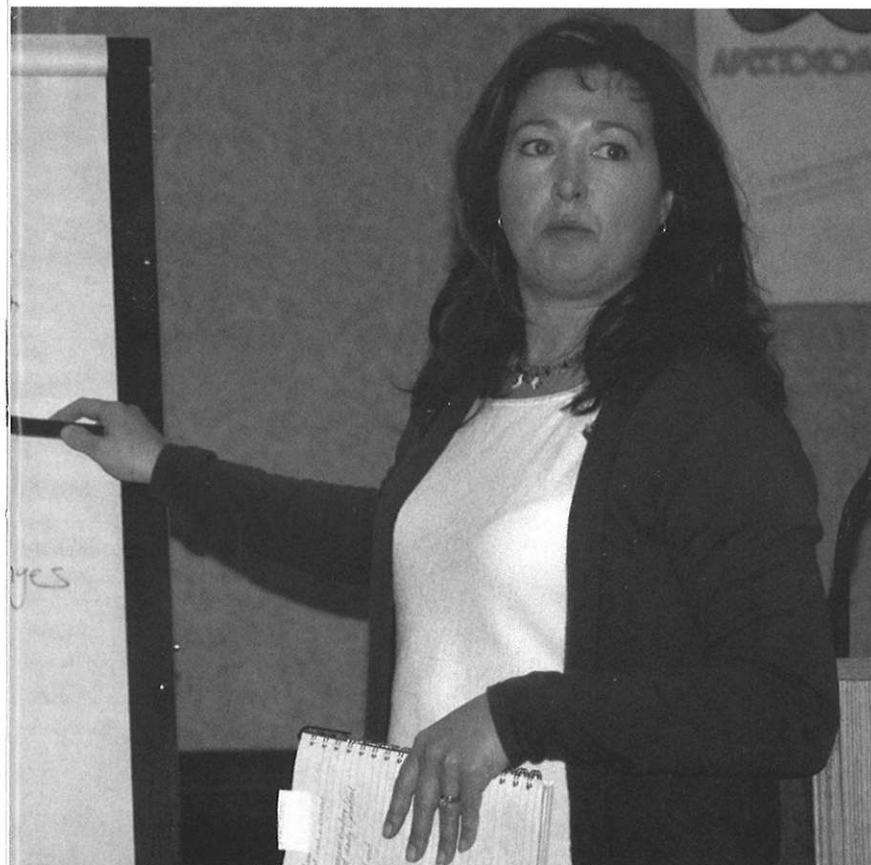
Article by Patricia Russell and Bob Butler
Photos by Patricia Russell

"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 multilateral 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



Cynthia Desmeules Bertolin, 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 NATION OF ALBERTA LEADERSHIP



Audrey Poitras
President

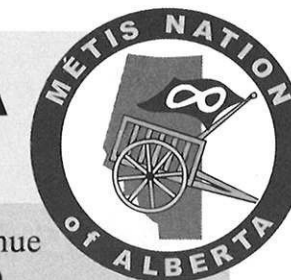
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Fax: (780) 452-8946

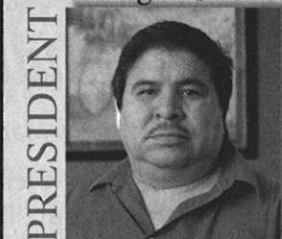


Trevor W. Gladue
Vice President

MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA REGIONAL LEADERSHIP



George Quintal



PRESIDENT

Rick P. Boucher



VICE-PRESIDENT

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PO Box 1350
Lac La Biche, AB T0A 2C0
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Karen (KC) Collins



PRESIDENT

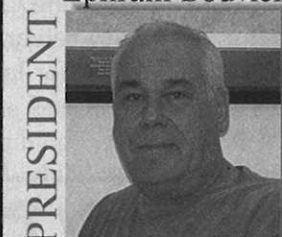
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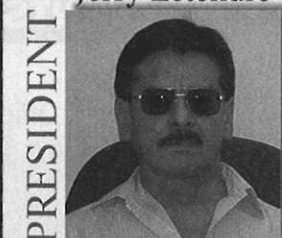
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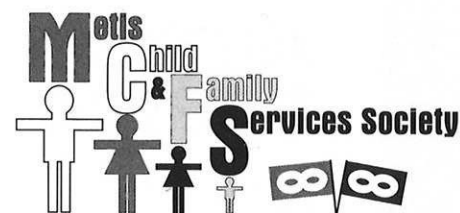
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Toll-Free 1-800-668-5319

Métis Child and Family Services Plans National Aboriginal Day Event for Children



Article by Mary Dion

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 tee pees. 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.ainc-inac.gc.ca/nad/ife_e.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 barbeque 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.

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

All Attendees Should Register with the Métis Nation of Alberta

Métis Youth Conference June 17 - July 5, 2004

Article by Kim Mueller, Photo courtesy the MNA

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.

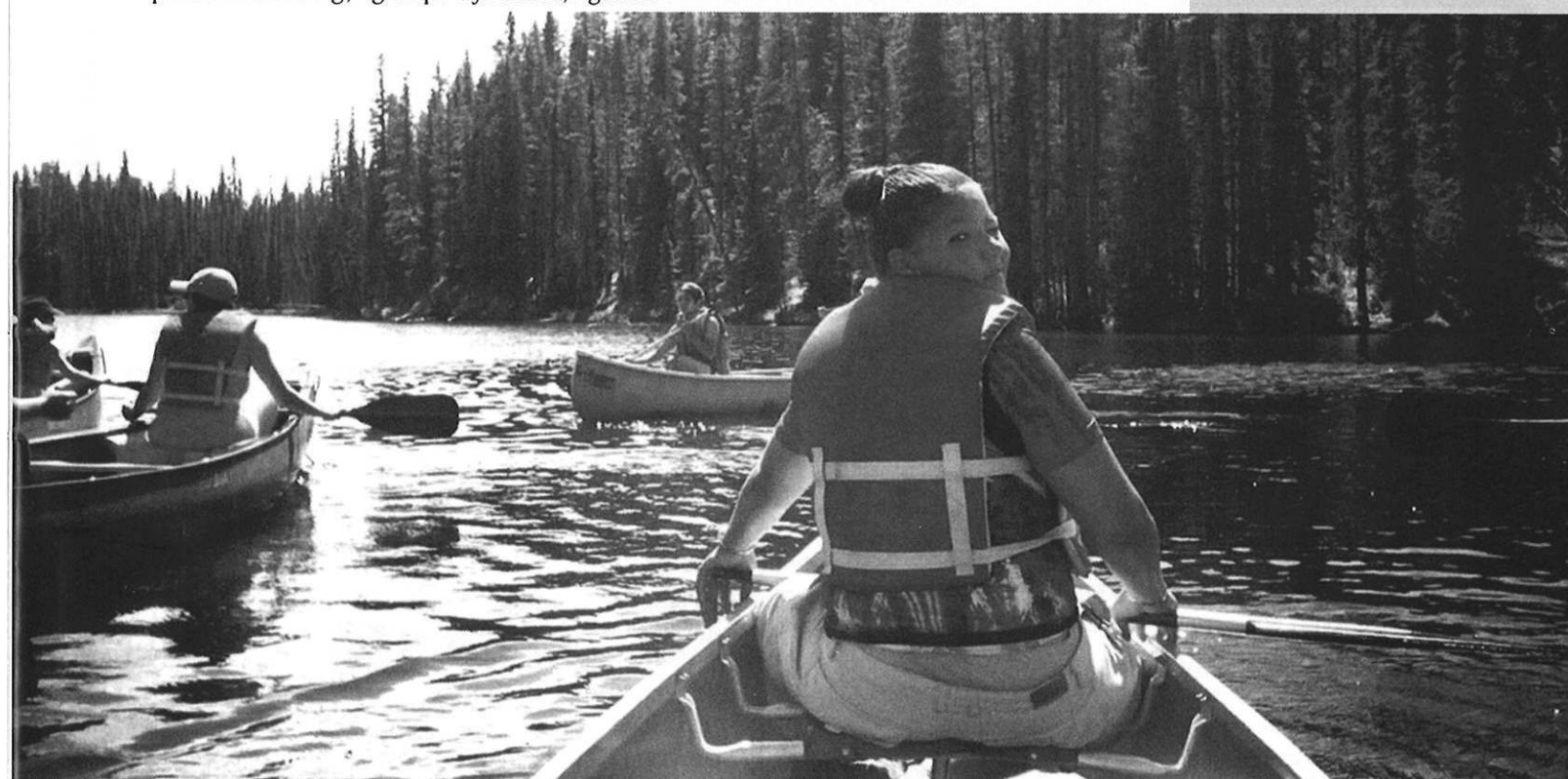
Eligible participants must be Métis living off settlement, a resident of Alberta, entitled to work in Canada, between the ages of 15-17 and currently enrolled in school. The application deadline is June 5.

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.



Kim Mueller is the Youth Program Coordinator with the Métis Nation of Alberta's Labour Market Development Unit.



Fort McMurray Métis youth, Crystal McEachern, on a canoeing excursion last summer at Blue Lake near Hinton, Alberta

Business Funding Opportunities Through Apeetogosan (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 Apeetogosan (Metis) 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.abc-eac.ic.gc.ca. Complete the form in full detail and send it into our office at #302 12308 111th Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5M 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 Apeetogosan 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 Apeetogosan provides, please see our ad in this edition of *Otipemisiwak*. Call or email us at: office@apeetogosan.ab.ca and we'll be pleased to help you get started.

Article by George Vass

Métis Regional Council Zone IV of the Métis Nation of Alberta



11724 95 Street
Edmonton, AB T5G 1L9

Phone (780) 944-9288

Fax (780) 455-5546

Toll Free 1-888-588-4088

Web site: www.metiszoneiv.com

Email: zoneiv@telusplanet.net

Zone IV provides a wide range of programs and services specifically designed to respond to the needs of Métis people in our area including:

- ∞ Political Representation and Advocacy
- ∞ Cultural Awareness
- ∞ Labour Market Development Unit
- ∞ Métis Nation of Alberta Employment Assistance Service Centres in Hinton, Edmonton and Whitecourt
- ∞ Literacy Project Society for Métis Literacy
- ∞ Métis Child and Family Services
- ∞ Youth Cultural Camp (Drayton Valley)
- ∞ Economic Development
- ∞ Proposal Selection Committee
- ∞ Asokan
- ∞ Tender Ties
- ∞ Riel Institute for Education & Learning Society
- ∞ Métis Homelessness Program (Urban)
- ∞ Crime Prevention and Awareness Program (Urban)
- ∞ Métis Youth Programming
- ∞ Cultural Events
- ∞ Metis Opportunities Inc. [MOI]
- ∞ Cultural Preservation

Métis Economic Development Opportunities

Apeetogosan (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 Apeetogosan 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.

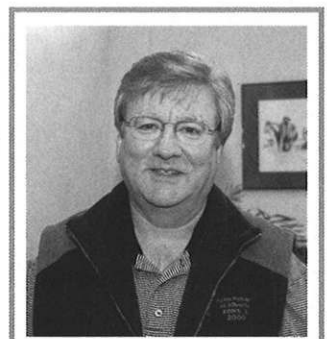
If your company is having difficulty in accessing additional term financing through your bank or credit union, possibly we have the solution for you. All we need from you to get the process working is a completed loan application form along with two or three years financial statements. Generally we can 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 refinance or additional cash injection into the company will improve the operation. It is a matter of you 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.



Article by George Vass

APEETOGO SAN (MÉTIS) DEVELOPMENT INC.



#302, 12308 - 111 Ave.
Edmonton AB T5M 2N4
Phone (780) 452-7951
Toll Free 1-800-252-7963
Fax (780) 454-5997



"Together We Will Build A Nation"



Audrey Poitras

President - Metis Nation of Alberta

11738 Kingsway Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5G 0X5

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



"Working With You!"

Trevor W. Gladue
Provincial Vice President



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

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



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.

Article by John Parkins,
Economic Development Officer

Other programs may help to expand or modernize existing businesses. Further information is available on Aboriginal Business Canada's website at www.abceac.ic.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 Infinity Investment Fund Inc. This idea was proposed by Paul Bercier, 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.

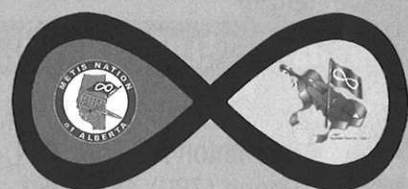
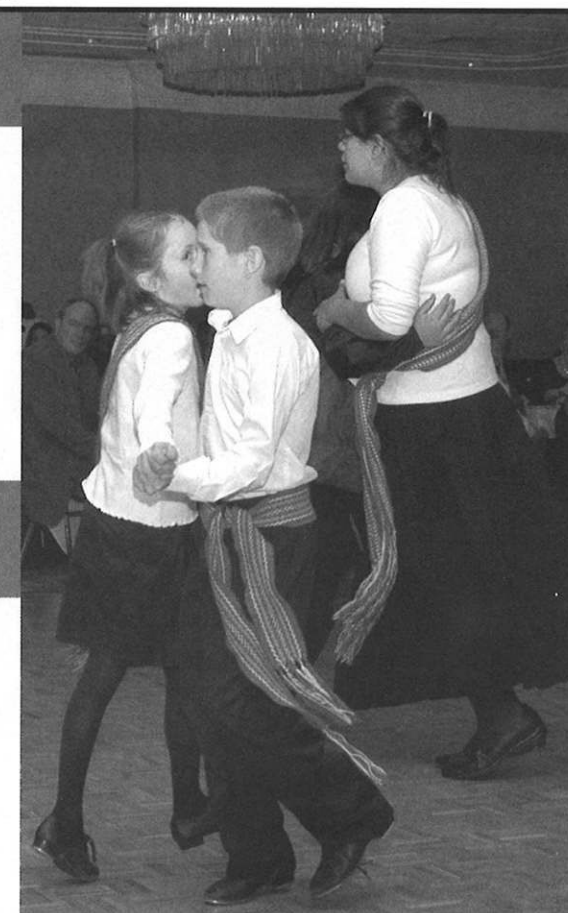
MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA REGION III - CALGARY



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 @ 720-5586



MÉTIS NATION REGION III 2ND ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, June 25, 2004
at the Lakeside Greens Golf Course

Dear friends:

We are pleased to invite you to participate in our 2nd Annual Golf Tournament. I hope that you will be able to join us in a wonderful day of golfing, networking and socializing.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the money raised from this tournament will be used to support 'The Aboriginal Youth Mentoring Program' and 'The Métis Nation Benevolent Fund.'

We look forward to seeing you at this worthy event.

Sincerely,
Ephram Bouvier
President
MNA Region III



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

Texas Scramble

Friday, June 25, 2004

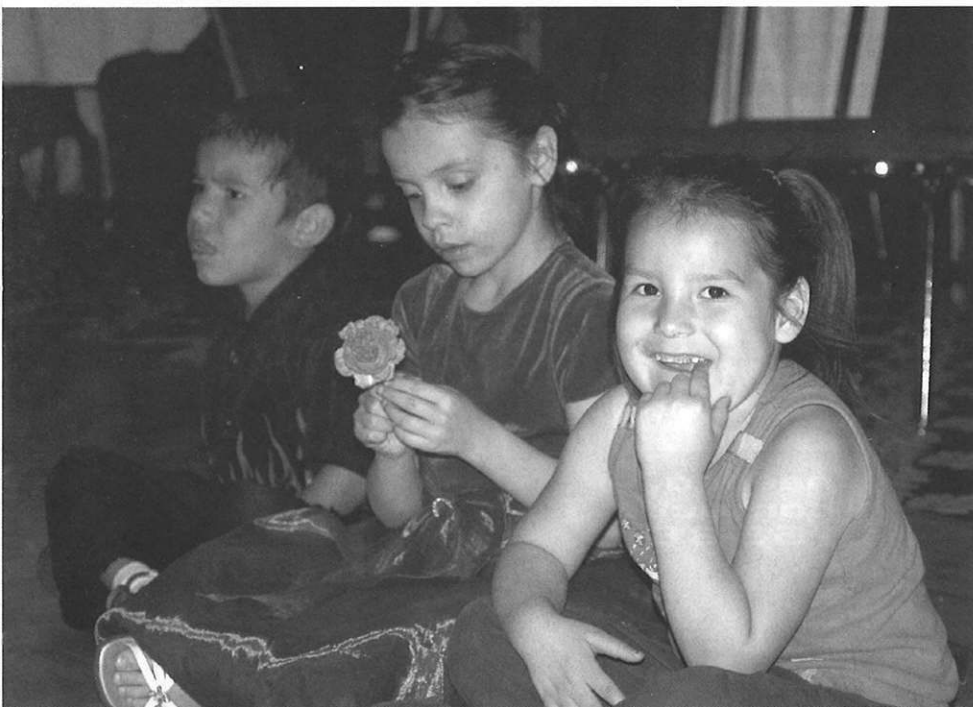
8:00 AM Shotgun Start
Registration from 6:30 - 7:45 AM

Lakeside Greens Golf Course
(located on west side of Chestermere Lake)

★ dress code in effect ★



Gail McKenzie gets an autographed copy of *Otipemisiwak*-Voice of the Metis Nation in Alberta from our president, Audrey Poitras. Copies of our official magazine are available at all regional offices, employment centres and Locals. Call 1-800-252-7553 or (780) 455-2200 to add your name to our mailing list.



Hannah Cardinal, Taylor Turvey and Trevor Eaton chose a central location to watch the action at the Alberta Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards held in Edmonton - On the floor in front of the stage.



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!

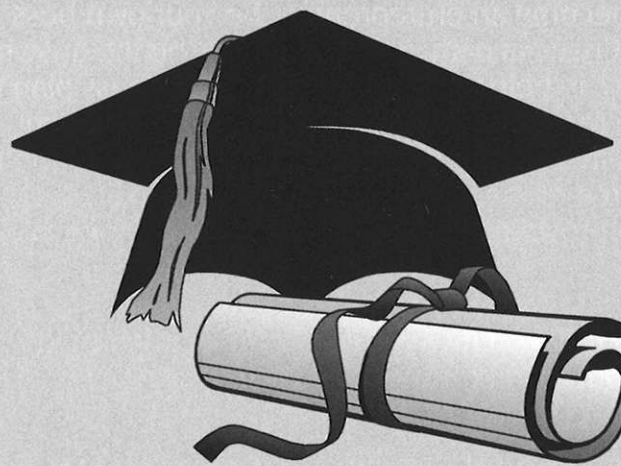


Bridging the Gap Between Aboriginal Women and the Labour Market

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 [WMN] 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

Article by Tracy Friedel and Dianne Stretch-Strang 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

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



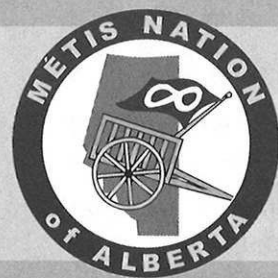
Métis Nation of Alberta
"Together We Will Continue
To Build A Strong Métis Nation."

Congratulations!

training at NAIT since 1991.

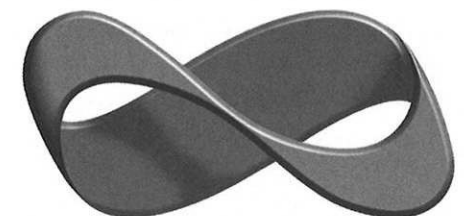
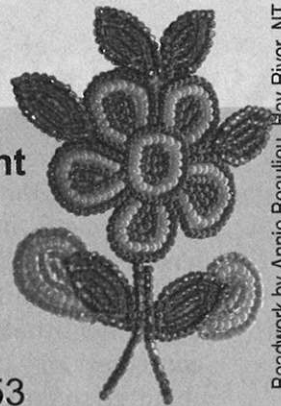
Throughout changes and challenges, Asokan Project has managed to stay true to Women of the Métis Nation's initial goal of providing an opportunity for Aboriginal women to upgrade their skills and have a better chance to compete in the workplace. Today, the *Business Administration/Accounting Certificate Program* is delivered where it all began - at the NAIT Continuing Education Centre on Princess Elizabeth Avenue in Edmonton. To acknowledge its 13-year history, in conjunction with the City of Edmonton's centennial celebrations, a reunion committee has been busy planning a homecoming event for the weekend of August 20-22, 2004. **REUNION WEEKEND 2004** will start with an informal reception on Friday night; co-hosted by the NAIT Alumni Office and a formal banquet and dance on Saturday night. There are a number of other activities also in the works. The reunion is a great opportunity for organizations and individuals to celebrate a successful Aboriginal employment initiative and to participate in the City of Edmonton's 100th Anniversary. The organizing committee wants to hear from anyone who is willing and able to provide support or who wants to get involved. For more information, please contact Tracy Friedel, Asokan Project at (780) 471-7584.

Update your Métis Nation of Alberta Membership



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

**Stay in touch with the Métis Nation of Alberta
by updating your mailing information**



APEETOOGOSAN



Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. provides repayable term loans for all types of business enterprises including Commercial Mortgages. Part of our role within the Métis Nation of Alberta is to assist individuals in applying for federal funding support through the various contribution programs of Aboriginal Business Canada.

If your goal is to become an entrepreneur, be your own boss and dictate your own financial path, we can possibly be the answer to your dreams. We can help you build a realistic business plan that will assist you in creating a viable and profitable enterprise. We will also help you in applying for a government contribution that will assist with some of the financial costs of getting started. We will assist you by providing a loan to cover the balance of your start-up costs.

Call or write to us today! Our staff will be more than pleased to help you realize your entrepreneurial goals.

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

#302 - 12308 111th Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5N 2N4

www.apeetogosan.ab.ca

Phone (780) 452-7962
Toll Free 1-800-252-7963
Fax (780) 454-5997

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".

MNC 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."

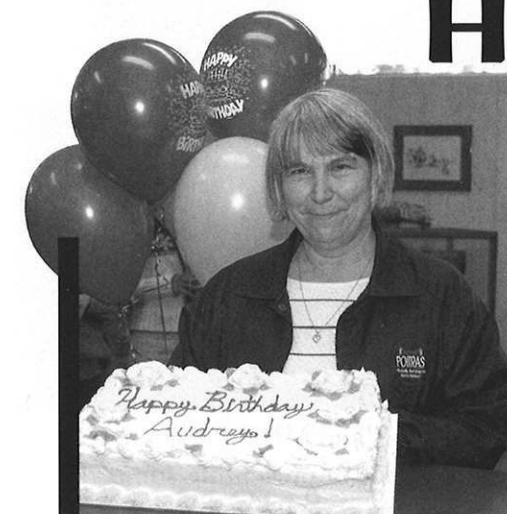
Todd Ducharme, a Métis lawyer from Toronto, has a B.A. from McGill University, an M.A. from Yale University, an LL.B. from the University of Toronto and an LL.M. from Yale Law School. He is certified as a specialist in criminal law by the Law Society of Upper Canada and has practiced both as a defence 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.

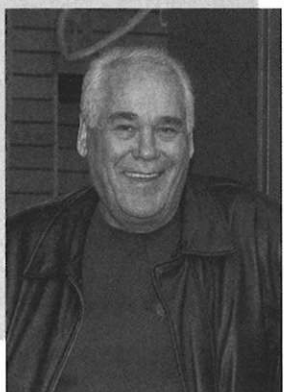
For more information:

Miles Morrisseau
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, Ephram 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 achievement. 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 Labelle, from Slave Lake, Alberta.

Other winners include: Justin Weber, from Cold Lake; Dusty Rain, from the Louis Bull Band in Hobbema; Tyrel Geinger, from Mayerthorpe; Joshua Elmquist, 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 Hobbema; Crystal Anne McCullough, from Edmonton; Reymonde Thompson, originally from the Kikino Métis Settlement; Kristopher Statnyk, from Mayerthorpe; and Matthew Wildcat, from the Erminskin Band in Hobbema. The youngest award recipient, Tessie Scannie, from the Cold Lake First Nation, received an encouraging standing ovation from the crowd as she accepted her award for Junior Volunteer Achievement.

Tom Ghostkeeper 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

Article and Photos by Patricia Russell

President, Audrey Poitras; MNA Vice President, Trevor Gladue; the Honourable Pearl Calahasen; Chief Rose Laboucan; Gilman Cardinal; Clayton Kootnay; Darren Brule; Clinton Soto; Kris Gladue; Amanda L'Hirondelle and Sandy Bellabono.

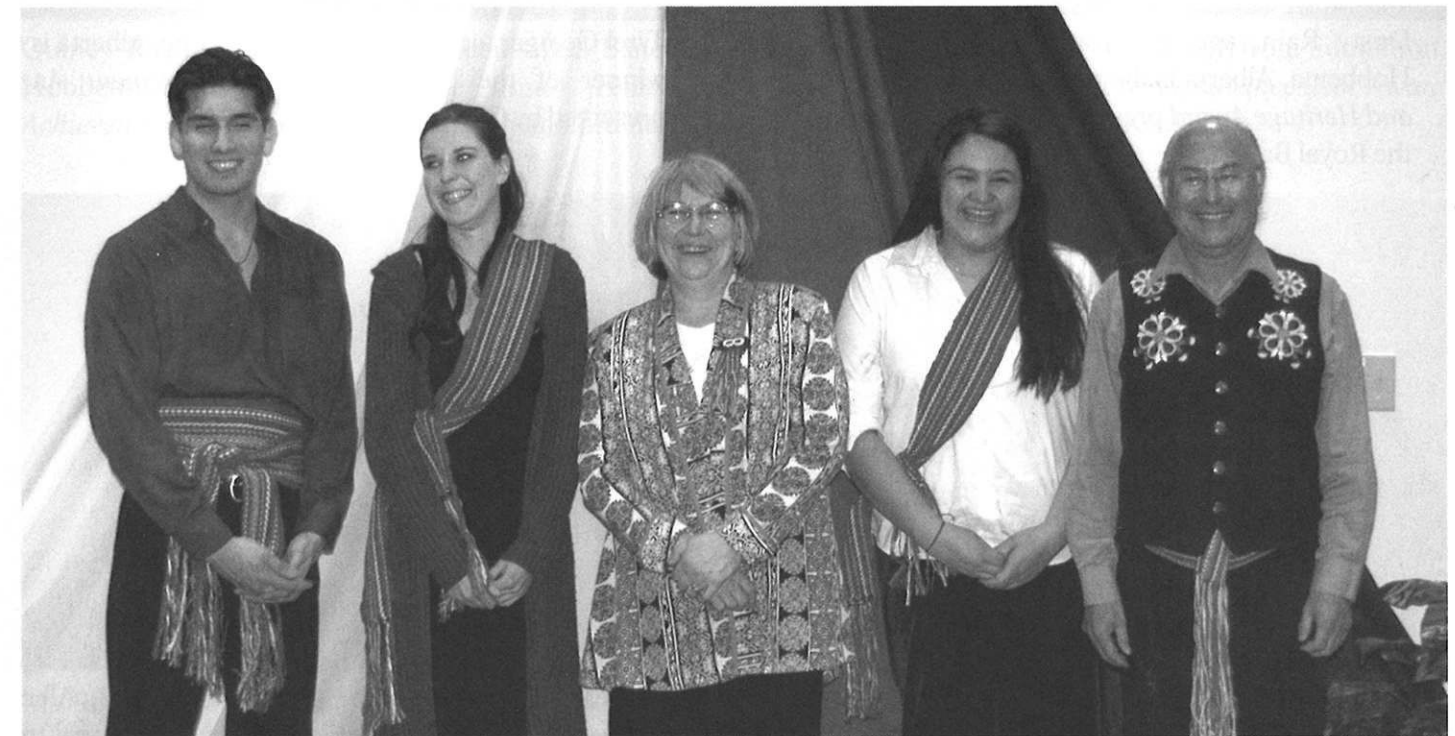
The very talented Métis fiddler, Homer Poitras, Region II Vice President, led the crowd of participants in the Grand March entrance. The Kikino Northern Lites Métis Dancers, a youth choir from the Amiskwaciy Academy and the Asani Singers, provided additional music and entertainment.



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.



Alberta Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards



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



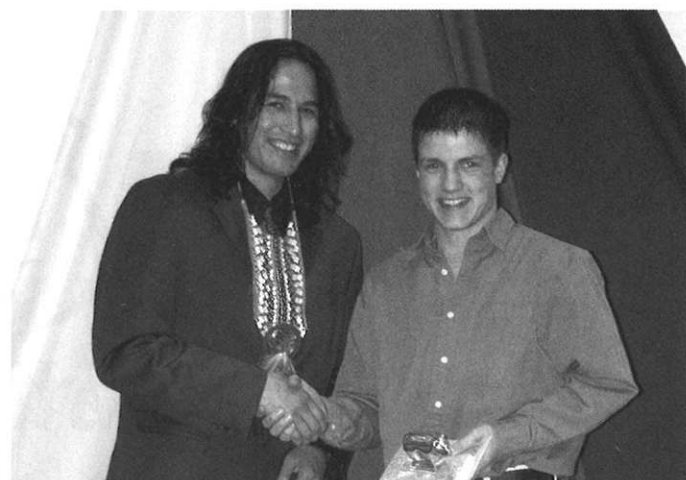
10-year-old Tessie Scannie, from Cold Lake, Alberta, is the proud winner of the *Junior Volunteer Services Award* presented by Chief Rose Laboucan. Sally Scannie, from the Cold Lake First Nation, helps Tessie to the stage.



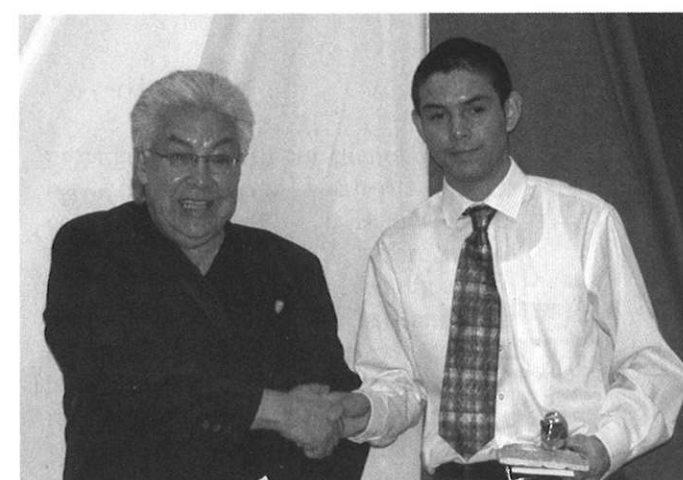
Justin Weber, age 19, from Cold Lake, Alberta receives the *Senior Community Leader Award* from Métis Nation of Alberta President, Audrey Poitras.



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 Bellabono from the Royal Bank.



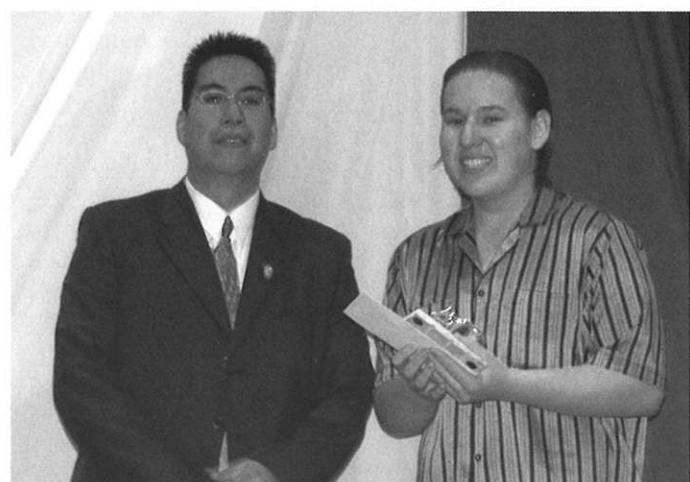
Tyrel Geinger, age 16, from Mayerthorpe, Alberta is the winner of the *Senior Athletic Achievement Award* presented by Clinton Soto.



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 McCullough 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.



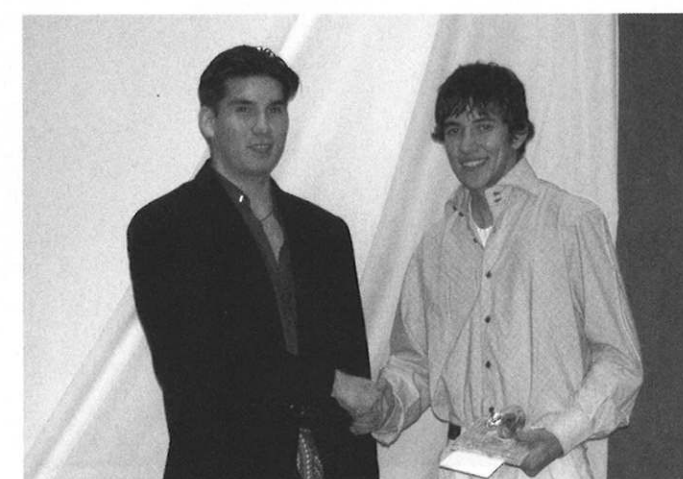
Lenny Labelle, age 16, from Slave Lake, Alberta receives the *Senior Personal Achievement Award*: *Walking the Red Road* from Métis Nation of Alberta Vice President, Trevor Gladue.



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.

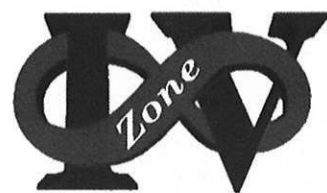


16 year old, Kristopher Statnyk, from Mayerthorpe, Alberta receives the *Junior Athletic Award* from presenter Kristopher Gladue.



20 year old, Matthew Wildcat, a member of the Erminskin 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



Article by Kris Gladue
Photos by Patricia Russell

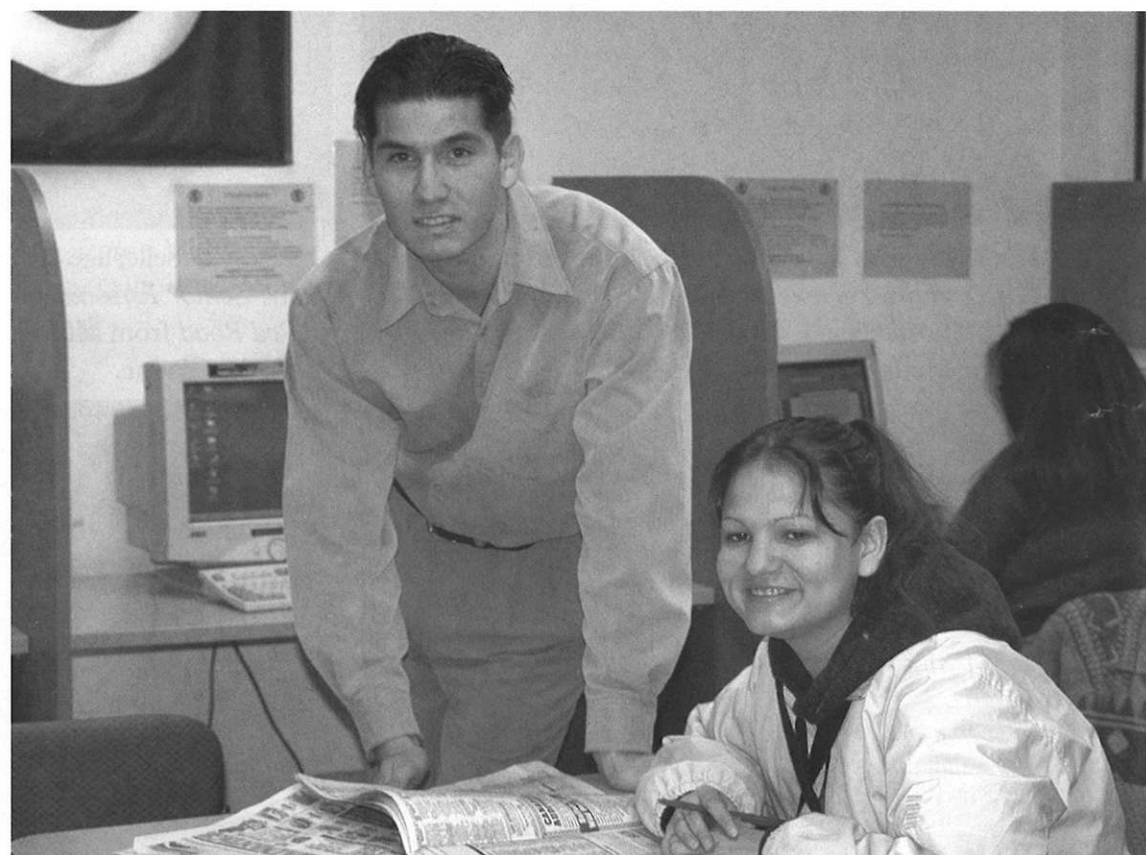
Doug Rimmer, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Communications with Human Resources & Skills Development Canada made an impromptu visit to Métis Nation of Alberta's Employment Services -Edmonton in late March. Kris Gladue, Community Liaison Officer at the Region IV employment centre, toured the Assistant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



Community liaison officer, Kris Gladue offers advice to Metis Employment Service client, Amada Marty. The Edmonton centre at 12308-111 Ave is one of 17 Employment Service Centres across the province run by the Metis Nation of Alberta.

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



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

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.

Be part of A SKILLED MÉTIS LABOUR FORCE

Employment & Training Assistance

Métis Nation of Alberta
1-800-252-7553





Talented Métis musician, Donny Gladue came to sing and celebrate the launch of the Metis Nation's official magazine, *Otipemisiwak - Voice of the Metis 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 1-800-252-7552 or email communications@metis.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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 Miywasin Society and Métis Local #8.

Cypress Hills, Alberta

June 12, 2004

Region VI 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 at meckling@ucalgary.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, 9797 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 II 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 for 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 isap@interbaun.com

July 26-30, 2004

Healing Our Spirit Residential School Conference, Driftpile, AB

Contact Shirley Armstrong at (780) 483-1183 or email shearney@telusplanet.net or Marcella Rose Willier at (780) 355-3868 or 1-866-355-3836 or email ahfdriftpile@hotmail.com

August 12-15, 2004

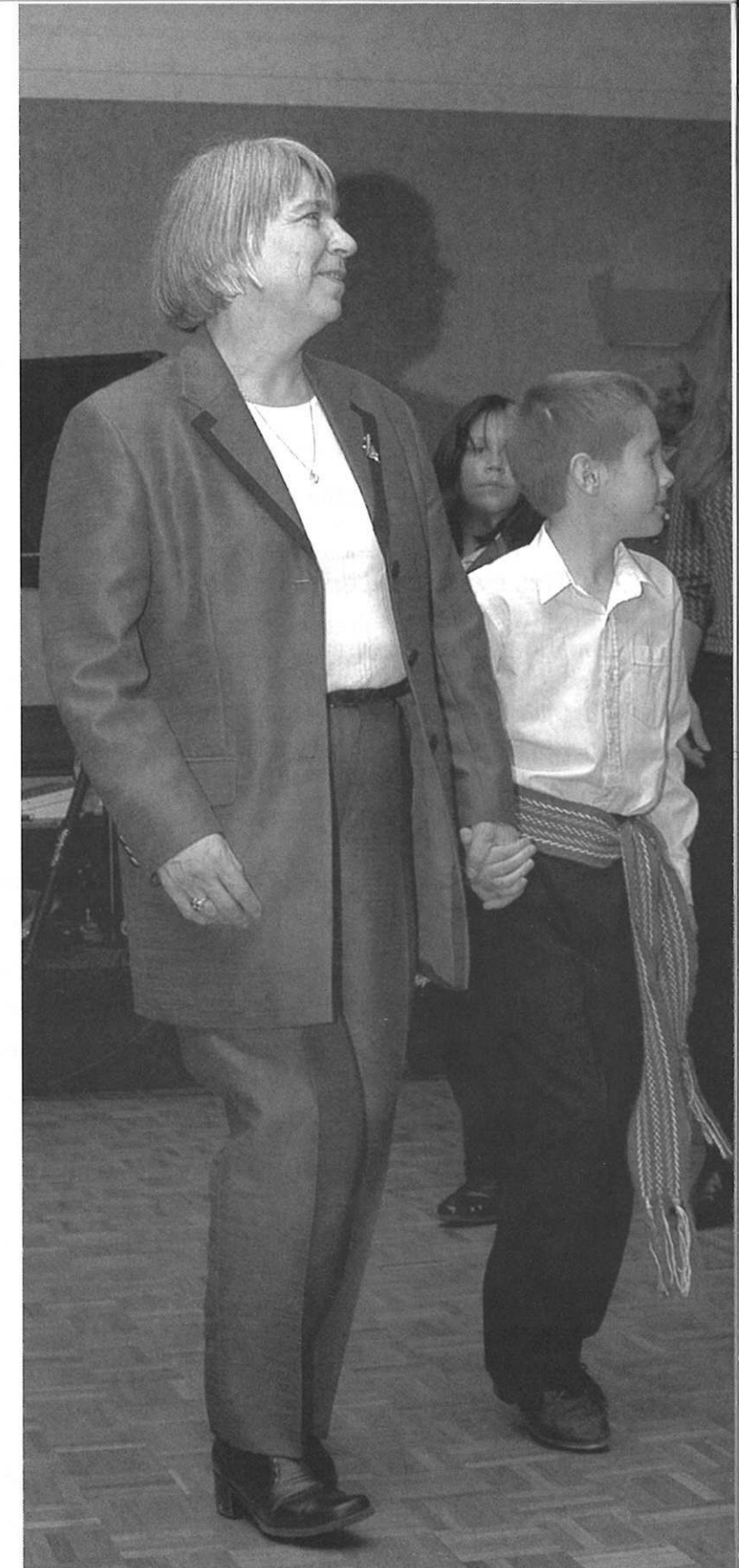
Métis Nation of Alberta's 76th Annual General Assembly Wabasca, AB

Contact Region V at 1-866-849-4660 or (780) 849-4654

August 20-22, 2004

Asokan Project (NAIT) Reunion Weekend, Edmonton

For more information, please contact Tracy Friedel, Asokan Project at (780) 471-7584.



10-year-old Métis gentleman, Christian Hazell, offered his hand to President Audrey Poitras and invited her to 'cut the rug' during the Métis Entrepreneurial Leadership Awards in Calgary. Christian is a member of the Calgary Métis Youth Dancers.



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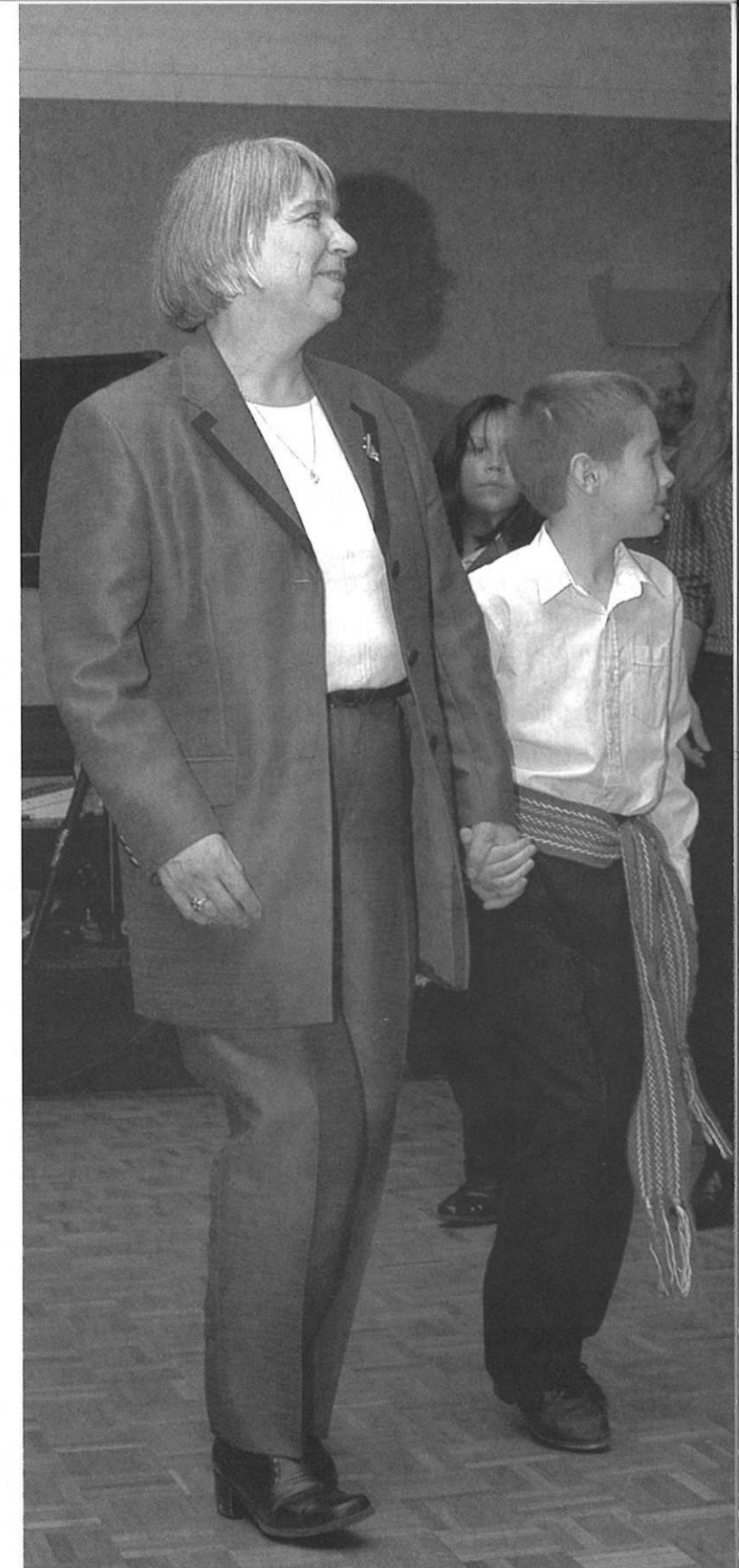
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PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable

I would like to offer my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 1st Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable in Ottawa on April 19, 2004.

This event is a perfect occasion to put into action the Government of Canada's renewed focus on Aboriginal issues. In cooperation with our partners, we are committed to see First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples participate fully in our national vitality – on the basis of historic rights and agreements – with greater economic self-reliance and a better quality of life. Our goal is to establish new directions and priorities and pave the way for future initiatives.

To meet this national priority and achieve tangible progress, the Government of Canada is determined to improve the health and well-being of Aboriginal communities across the country by working together in a renewed partnership with Aboriginal leadership. In the face of today's unique challenges and pressures, we are determined to find solutions and ensure that all Canadians receive every opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary for success. This Roundtable is an excellent opportunity to create an open and cooperative relationship between the Government of Canada and Aboriginal peoples. I would like to commend the noble efforts of everyone participating in this wonderful event.

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

OTTAWA
2004

Making History: The First Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable

Article and Photo by Patricia Russell

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



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 Coderre 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 Coderre

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 Coderre 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 Coderre, 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 card to Parliament written by Aboriginal leaders ranking the governments performance.

Martin said the report card will "tell us and 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

CANADA-ABORIGINAL PEOPLES ROUNDTABLE OPENING ADDRESS OF AUDREY POITRAS ON BEHALF OF THE MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL



Photo by Patricia Russell

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 have 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 be self-governing.



Audrey Poitras, President - Alberta Métis Nation and Vice-President - Métis National Council

Unfortunately, the written and unwritten policies of Sir John A. MacDonald and the successive unsympathetic governments continue to haunt our relationship with Canada. Today, we are still witness to the shameful legacies of these policies:

- No one in the federal government, not even the Federal Interlocutor, has a mandate to negotiate with us,
- The Métis Nation is the only Aboriginal people that are still largely a landless people within our own homeland,
- On-going jurisdictional bickering between Canada and the provinces which has left us in limbo as our children and communities fall further behind other Canadians, and
- An on-going strategy of attempting to deal with Métis as individuals rather than respecting our collective rights and well-established self-government structures.

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. The

The Scholarship & Bursary Handbook for Métis Students

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



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

Produced & Compiled by The Métis Nation of Alberta

For more information contact us at:

(780) 455-2200 or Toll free (Alberta Only) 1-(800) 252-7553

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!!

Those of you who knew Andy know that he loved golf! This event will celebrate his love of the sport, his enjoyment of friends and good company and his passion for live music and good ole Métis entertainment and humour. We are planning to put the funds raised toward a scholarship in Andy's name.

Keep your eyes open for the poster, it will provide more details.

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

Métis 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 is 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."



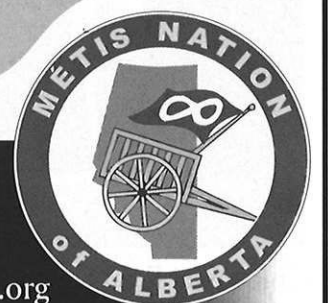
Métis Nation of Alberta President and Métis National Council Vice President Audrey Poitras shakes hands with Prime Minister Paul Martin at the Canada-Aboriginal People's Roundtable in Ottawa

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Métis Nation of Alberta

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(780) 975-4721 (cell)
(780) 452-8946 (fax)

Email: communications@metis.org



Prime Minister Ready to Rethink Riel's Place in History

Article and Photos by Patricia Russell

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 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 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.

With his remarks, Martin becomes the first sitting Prime Minister to publicly deliberate the outstanding issues surrounding Riel's rightful place in Canadian history.

In his closing remarks, the minister in charge of Métis issues, Denis Coderre, said "Riel is an integral part of the heritage of Canada. For some, he remains a controversial figure. For others, the first fighter of Métis rights within Confederation".

However he is viewed, no one can deny "the strength of his convictions and the deep pride" Riel stirs in the Métis. We have to address that situation," he added.

Coderre said he will be meeting with the Métis National Council to work out the details.

Riel and other Métis forced Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A MacDonal, to accept Manitoba as a full-fledged province. Riel was politically destroyed in a rigged trial for righteously defending Métis land from federal encroachment.

The Métis hero was hanged in 1885 for his role in the Northwest Rebellion.



Chief Phil Fontaine, Assembly of First Nations, Prime Minister Paul Martin and Vice President of the Métis National Council, Audrey Poitras

Louis Riel Needs No Pardon

Article by Clément Chartier,
President - Métis National Council

In the ongoing debate surrounding Louis Riel and whether the man should be pardoned or exonerated 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

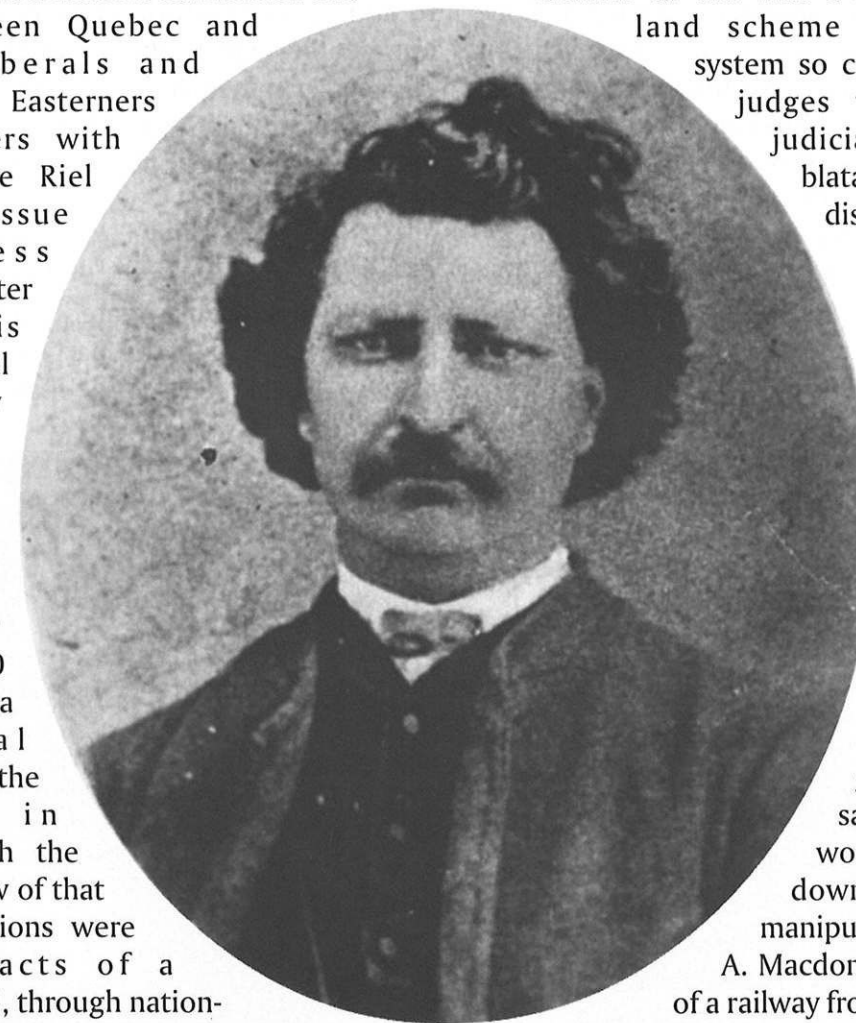
and over the next several years Métis people were subjected to repressive actions throughout their homeland in a deliberate attempt to crush the heart and soul of the Métis Nation.

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



The Métis Nation does not seek to rewrite history. This dark period in our relationship with Canada must never be sanitized. What was done to Riel and our Nation, was done. However, this does not mean that the good men and women of modern day Canada should not take corrective action of finally respecting and accommodating our legitimate rights. Our rights, as a people, to a land base and to be self-determining must finally be recognized and reconciled within the Canadian federation. This is what Louis Riel and the other Métis patriots fought and died for. This is what our leaders and people since 1885 have been struggling for.

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.

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



Riel/Dumont

Métis National Council
Ralliement National des Métis

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.

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

Miles Morrisseau
Métis National Council
Director of Communications
613-232-3216
(cell) 613-612-5753

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.



Roundtable Discussion:

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 recognitions 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 solution to the

Audrey Poitras, Vice-President, Métis National Council
President, Métis Nation - Alberta

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 boast 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 issues. 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 Diversification
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.

Above Left: The Honourable Brenda Chamberlain and President David Chartrand, Manitoba Métis Federation

Above Right: Prime Minister Paul Martin and Audrey Poitras, Vice President, MNC
Top: The Honourable Rey Pagtakham; Prime Minister Paul Martin; Audrey Poitras, Vice President of the Métis National Council; the Honourable John McCallum; Karen Collins, MNA and Philip Chartier, MN-S

Above Left: Audrey Poitras, Vice President, MNC and the Honourable John McCallum

Above Right: The Honourable Irwin Cotler, Minister of Justice and Tony Belcourt, President Métis Nation of Ontario



Region III Recognizing Entrepreneurial Leaders

Article and Photos by Patricia Russell

Male Entrepreneurial Leader



Rod Stagg, President,
Cougar Technical Services Ltd.

Female Entrepreneurial Leader



Brenda Holder, President
Mahikan Trails Inc.

Male Youth Entrepreneurial Leader



Paul Chateau, President
Calgary's Finest Values and Savings Inc.

Female Youth Entrepreneurial Leader



Leah Nelson Guay, Senior Managing Consultant
SmartStart Business Resources Inc.

Entrepreneurial Recognition Award



Marg Benson, President
Benson Management Services Ltd.

Entrepreneurial Recognition Award



Alice Bissonette, Owner
7th Heaven Antiques

Entrepreneurial Recognition Award



Eldon Whiteford, Owner
Finishing Touch Stucco Service Inc.

Youth Entrepreneurial Recognition Award



Jason Wowk, Owner
Classic Dreamscapes

Career Development Award



Jim Fiddler, Assistant Vice President,
Information Technology, First Calgary's Savings

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 Wuttunee, 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 Willis'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 Lord 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, Metis 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 Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

A Message of Appreciation

Tansi!

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!

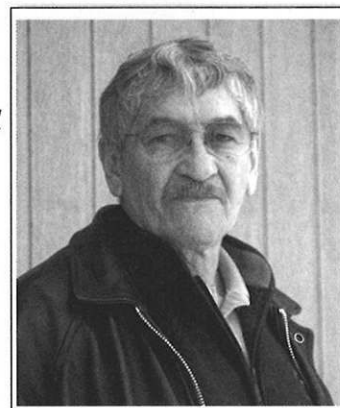
On behalf of the Zone II Regional Council, Elders and membership,
In unity,

Karen (KC) Collins
President

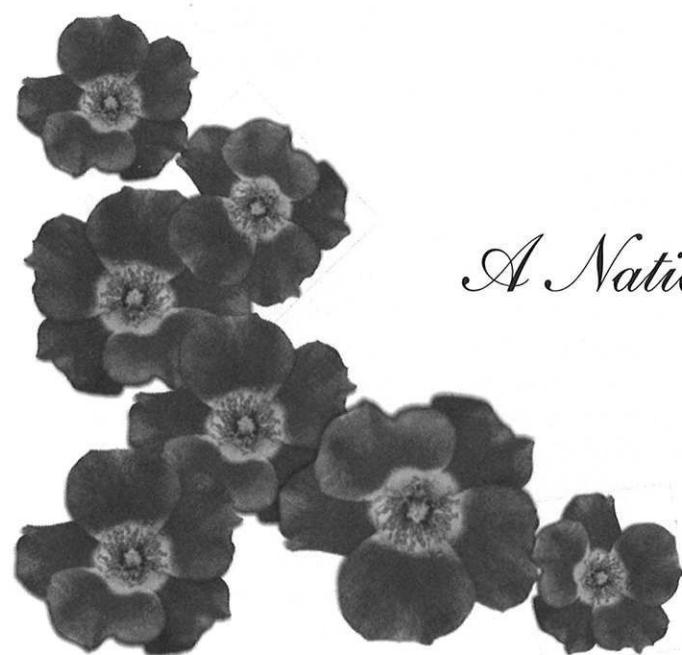
Homer J. Poitras
Vice President



*Karen (KC) Collins
President*



*Homer J. Poitras
Vice President*



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



11th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards

Article and Photo by Patricia Russell

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 Urion received the Achievement Award recognizing his accomplishments in promoting the development of indigenous education. Dr. Urion 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.



Back row (left to right): Muriel Stanley-Venne, Law and Justice; Chief Clarence Louie, Business and Community Development; Dr. Stanley Vollant, 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 Urion, Education; Basil Johnston, Heritage and Spirituality;
Front row: Susan Point, Arts and Culture; Kristinn Frederickson, Youth; Suzaanne Rochon-Burnett, Media and Communications; Tina Keeper, Arts and Culture; Jonah Kelly on behalf of Osuitok 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 Agricom.

"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

Article and Photos by Patricia Russell

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."



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



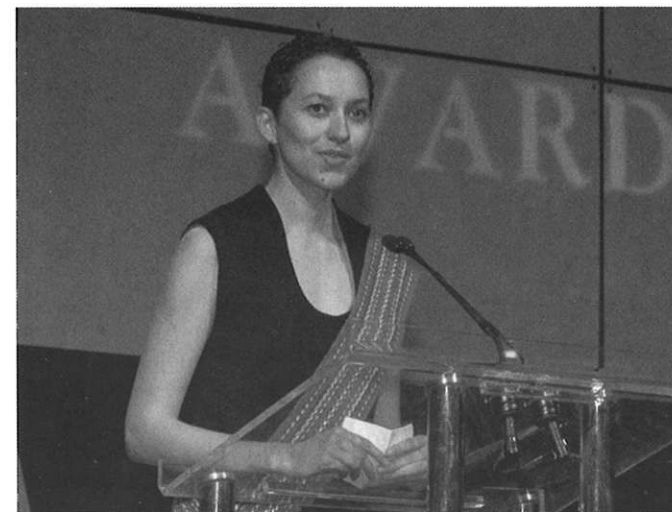
Shirley Dion received the Lifetime Achievement Award recognizing her contributions to the Métis community.



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.



Felice 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.

Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women Recipients of the 2004 Esquao Awards

Performing Arts

Pricilla Morin
Cynthia Smallboy

Culture

Helen Piper
Peggy Roberts
Eva Ladouceur

Health and Medicine

Leona Carter

Literature and Visual Arts

Betty Nordin

Youth Role Models

Lynda Dwyer
Natasha CalfRobe-Ayoungman

Leadership

Rose Laboucan

Social Services and Advocacy

Melvina Arcand
Josie Nepinak
Betty Hamilton

Business

Carol Crowe
Linda Stephan
Emma Martineau

Education

Felice Gladue
Ruth Subee
Ida Bull

Community Involvement

Linda Boudreay-Semaganis
Lorraine Deschambeau
Verona White
Gerri Manyfingers
Mabel Goulet
Anne Marie Auger
Autumn Eaglespeaker

Lifetime Achievement

Shirley Dion
Theresa C. Wildcat

Circle of Honour

The Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder



Article by Debbie Houle

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 behaviour can be unpredictable and can also make them vulnerable to high-risk behaviour 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;
- Overseeing 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.

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/fas/

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

Mobile Diabetes Screening

Article by Roxanne Ropchan, Photo submitted by MDSI

A 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.

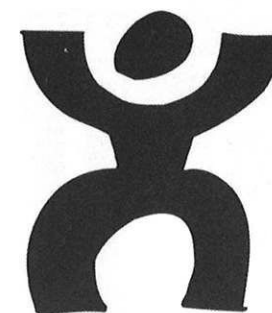
This initiative targets aboriginal people living off reserve to identify quality of life implications, raise awareness about diabetes and to better understand related complications of the disease. The long-term objective is to coordinate a multi-sectored community-based approach to address diabetes amongst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

While the mandate for this project is to visit the eight Metis 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,



Peavine, 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.



Living Healthy with Diabetes

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

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

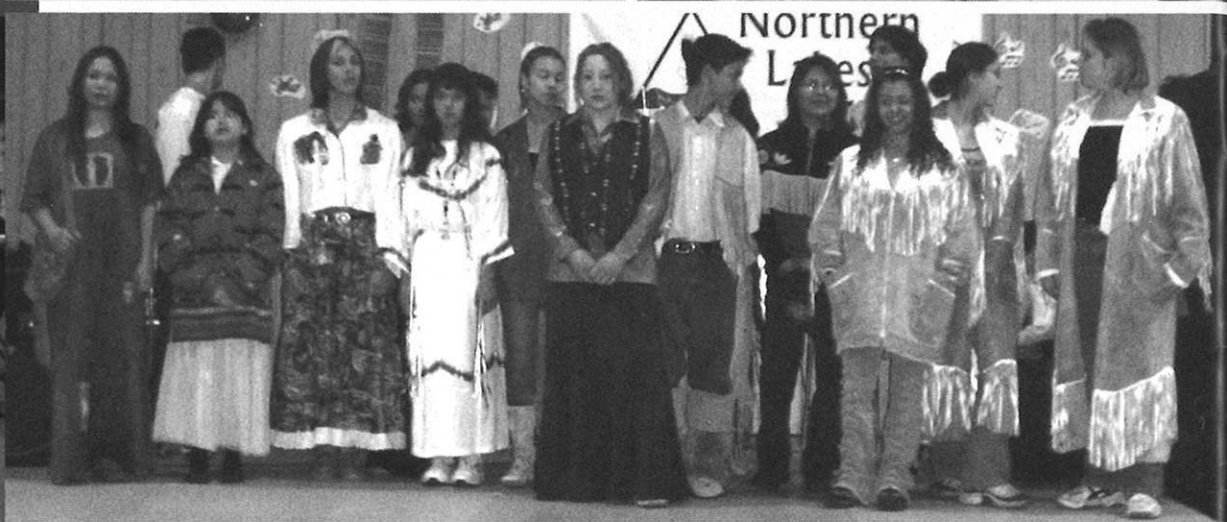
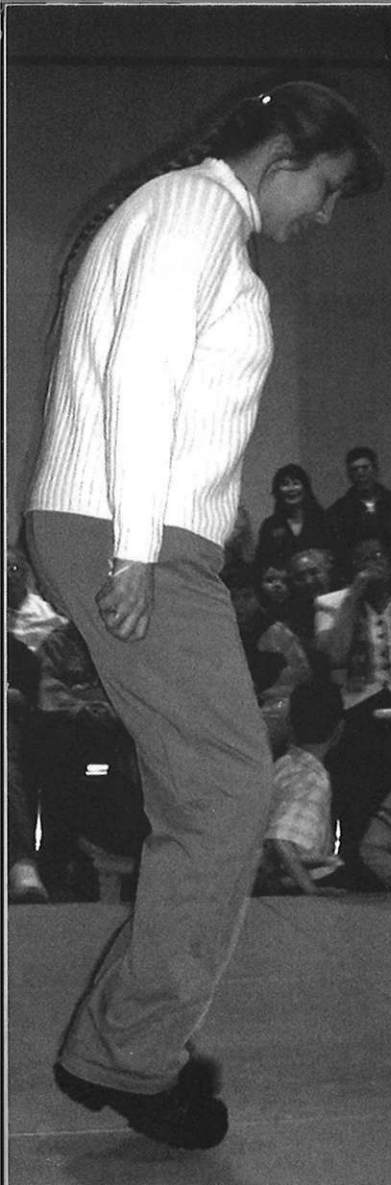
Banana Muffins

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

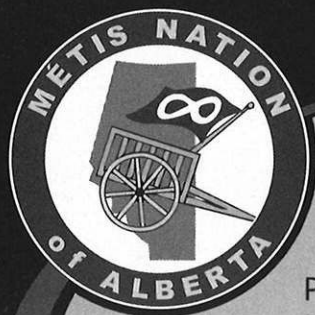
Combine flour, baking powder and baking soda, salt and sugar twin in a mixing bowl. Pour in mashed banana, milk, vanilla and oil. Mix well. Beat egg white and add top batter. Bake for 20 minutes at 350.

Makes 6 muffins.

Recipe Submission from Hayley Mercredi, Fort Vermilion, Region 6



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 Tammy 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 Metis 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:

Metis Business Mixer	Talent Show
Tradeshow & Craft Fair	Youth Dance
Elders Banquet	Workshops

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

Otipemisiwak

The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta

We encourage Métis to make submissions to our Nation's official magazine in the form of photos and articles telling stories about the events and people in your community. The next edition of Otipemisiwak will focus on Métis identity and what it means to be Métis.



Deadline for submissions is July 12

Otipemisiwak: The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta

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

Fax: (780) 452-8946

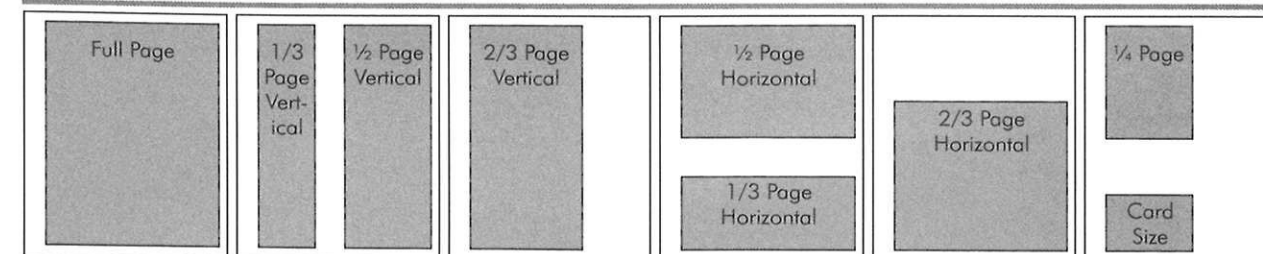
Email: communications@metis.org

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

ADVERTISING DIMENSIONS & RATES

For more information on these rates, please contact Otipemisiwak at the Métis Nation of Alberta. Note that ads appearing on the back cover are in colour and are subject to a surcharge.

	AD DIMENSIONS		RATE PER ISSUE
	width	depth	
Centrefold	16 inches	10 inches	\$2,940
Full Page	7 ¼ inches	10 inches	\$1,575
2/3 Page Horizontal	7 ¼ inches	6 ⅝ inches	\$1,180
2/3 Page Vertical	4 ¾ inches	10 inches	\$1,180
½ Page Horizontal	7 ¼ inches	5 inches	\$1,025
½ Page Vertical	3 ⅝ inches	10 inches	\$1,025
1/3 Page Vertical	2 ⅜ inches	10 inches	\$790
1/3 Page Horizontal	7 ¼ inches	3 ¼ inches	\$790
¼ Page	3 ⅝ inches	5 inches	\$525
Card Size	3 ⅝ inches	2 ½ inches	\$265



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.