

Otipemisiwak (oht-paym'-soo-wuk) - In Michif: The Independent Ones

Otipemisiwak

The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta

Métis Nation and
Government of Canada
Sign Historic Framework
Agreement

Alberta Fish and
Game Association
Regrets its Negative
Media Campaign

Métis Nation of Alberta
Centennial Journey 2005
Come Join the
Métis Wagon Trek



Issue 2, Volume 2, May, 2005

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Photo by Patricia Russell

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Beadwork by Annie Beaulieu, Hay River, NWT

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

*Michif:
"their own boss,
the independent ones"*



Canadian Heritage Patrimoine canadien

Seven-year old Autumn Joy Thibeault was among the celebrants at a special dinner held to honour our Aboriginal veterans. Her grandfather is Métis Veteran and Elder Vic Letendre.

Otipemisiwak

The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta

Otipemisiwak is the only Official Magazine of the Métis Nation of Alberta

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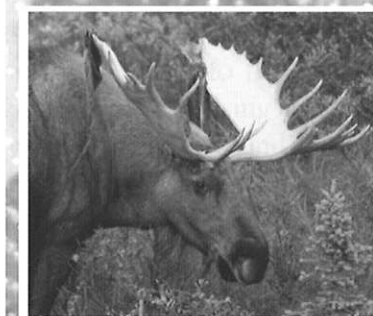
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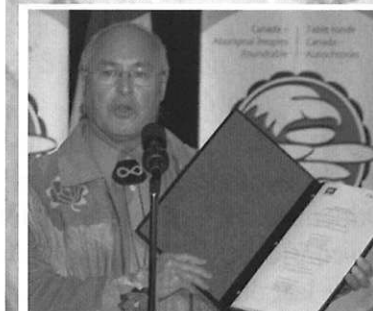
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*MNA Centennial
Journey 2005 - Come
Join the Métis Wagon Trek*



*Alberta Fish and
Game Association Regrets
its Negative Media
Campaign*



*Métis Nation and
Government of Canada
Sign Historic Framework
Agreement*

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.

Deadline for submissions is July 8th

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President's Message



Well, here we are about to turn the pages and jump into another exciting edition of Otipemisiwak-Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta. I'm confident you'll find this edition just as interesting as the last one and who knows, you might see yourself in any one of the many pictures inside.

Before I share with you the business of the Métis Nation, I want to tell you a story about my grandchildren. Cody and Kaitlin have a wonderful and innocent ability that all children seem to have, its an ability to put things into perspective in a special way that endears our children to us and helps to ground us, the adults, back into the reality of our day to day lives.

I received the honour of representing my fellow Métis citizens by sitting at the dinner table with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II when she came to Edmonton recently. My staff was so excited. And when word got out that I was to sit at the Queen's table for the State Dinner, Métis called in to our office with their kind words. (By the way, thank you again.)

My darling grandchildren also knew about the

dinner and they knew the colour of the dress I planned to wear; I described it to them as shiny, light blue. Well, that evening when the evening news started on television, my grandchildren were so excited. They rushed to the TV pointing at the screen and said, "Look, look there's Gramma wearing her sparkly dress! But who's that lady sitting across from Gramma?" I laughed and laughed when I heard about their reaction.

I am honoured to have sat at the Queen's table representing Métis in Alberta and in Canada. I want you to know that I am equally honoured to sit at a table crowded with Métis sharing fresh bannock, a hot pot of tea, and lively conversation.

I'm looking forward to visiting with you at the Annual General Assembly this summer which is being planned in Peace River. The anticipation is building steadily, especially since the theme of the event is to honour our Métis veterans. Region 6 President Sylvia Johnson and her staff have a rock-solid schedule of events in the works as you'll see when you read the assembly update inside the pages of the magazine.

Another exiting event I hope to see you at is the opening of phase one of Métis Crossing in August. Look inside the magazine to see how the event will be the culmination of a number of large-scale activities such as a canoe expedition down the North Saskatchewan River, a Métis wagon trek from Batoche that's growing to regimental proportions, Alberta's Centennial celebration, and the greatest activity: the combined efforts of Métis people who have believed and worked toward the realization of a dream represented by Métis Crossing.

A great deal has happened on the Métis political front since I last wrote to you in Otipemisiwak. Most notably, the Canada-Métis Nation Framework Agreement recently signed with the Government of Canada. I was so proud of the President of the Métis National Council Clément Chartier in his passionate address. President Chartier held up the agreement and said, "Our people have waited a long time for this, I never thought I'd see it happen in my lifetime." Our Métis history shows the truth of his statement. We have waited, waited for more than one hundred years for Canada to recognize the Métis Nation. The Framework Agreement is a milestone because it commits Canada to dealing with the Métis on a nation-to-nation basis, it is what Riel envisioned more than a century ago and our ancestors dreamed of. Please take the time to read the agreement; it's available on our Internet website at www.albertametis.com.

I want to assure each of you of my unwavering commitment to protecting our Métis rights, particularly our harvesting rights as represented by the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement we have with Alberta. Our Multilateral Working Group and our communications staff are dedicated to ensuring the public and interest groups are aware of the facts surrounding the agreement. They have been working hard to dispel the negative and incorrect information you may have seen in the media suggesting the Métis Nation of Alberta is over-run by people wanting to apply for membership just so they can go hunting. We know this is not the case. You know in your heart that

Métis are coming home to the Nation because they are proud to know that our rights are finally being recognized, that we are recognized as one of Canada's Aboriginal people's whose ancestors helped to build this great country.

The 'Métis Rights Crew' as they're come to be known, are working to bring clarity to the issue of whether or not Métis can fish for food using a rod and reel. It is a contentious issue right now and I assure you that my staff is working to resolve the difference in the understanding that exists, between the Métis Nation and the provincial government.

I want to extend my personal congratulations to our Labour Market Development Unit for the conclusion of negotiations for the 52-million dollar Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement I recently signed with Canada. It is through the diligence and professionalism of every member of the staff, from the MNA Labour Market Development Minister Sylvia Johnson, to Director Lorne Gladue, to the Regional Managers, the Employment Counselors, to the person who answers the telephone in our Métis Employment Centre's that the Métis Nation of Alberta continues to be looked upon as a role model and regarded as one of the most successful AHRDA holders in the country. Every person has a role to play in that success and I commend each of you.

I send my best wishes to those Métis who are shut-in and my sincere condolences to Métis families that have lost loved ones recently. Remember the importance of hugging our children, fair play, respecting our Elders and protecting our Métis Nation.

Respectfully yours,

Audrey Poitras

Audrey Poitras, President
Métis Nation of Alberta



Greetings from the Vice President

Over the last year we, as a Métis Nation in Alberta, have witnessed great changes and experienced tragic losses. We have said goodbye to many old friends and with open arms we say hello to the new.

We have seen tremendous outcomes for the Métis Nation of Alberta, through the hard work and determination of everyone involved. We are seeing real results from the Powley case decision with the precedent-setting Alberta Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement.

With the acknowledgment of our harvesting rights, membership processes have changed and once again the MNA takes the lead in developing a registry system for our membership that is unparalleled in any government or private sector.

The year also proved positive for Labour Market Development. It continues to provide employment opportunities for our members and to build on skill development. There has also been great work done in

our health sector with FASD and Diabetes, and improvements in our education sector that allow us to better address the needs of our children and to provide them with the opportunities and skills they need to thrive in today's world.

It is my privilege to acknowledge these successes with you and pledge to continue to further advocate success in all of these areas in the future.

Best Wishes.

Trevor W. Gladue
Provincial Vice President



Notice of General Election 2005*



Notice is hereby given that a GENERAL ELECTION of all Elected Officers of the Métis Nation of Alberta Provincial Council will be held on Tuesday, September 6, 2005. This includes the offices of President, Vice-President, six (6) Regional Presidents, and six (6) Regional Vice-Presidents.

An Advance Poll will be held on Saturday, August 27, 2005. Voting will be by secret ballot in the elector's polling subdivision. Polling Station locations will be posted in the communities, regional offices, and at the Provincial Office. Polling hours on Election Day and the Advance Poll will be 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

To be an eligible elector, each member must be properly registered with the Métis Nation of Alberta. Please Note: There will be no vouching at the election. Application for membership is made at the Electors respective Regional Council Office or Provincial Head Office.

Nominations Open: Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Nominations Close: Friday, July 29, 2005

Last day for Withdrawing Nomination: Sunday, July 31, 2005

Posting of Notice of Poll and Candidates: Monday, August 14, 2005

Posting of List of Electors: Monday, August 14, 2005

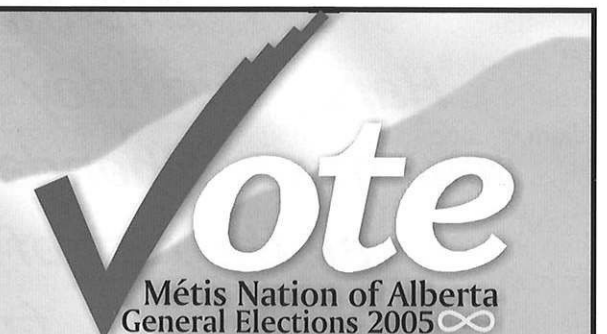
Advance Poll: Saturday, August 27, 2005

Election: Tuesday, September 6, 2005

For further information, contact your Regional Council Office, Provincial Head Office, or the Chief Electoral Office.

*Official Notice Issued by the Métis Nation of Alberta Chief Electoral Officer, Bruce Gladue, June 3, 2005.

Chief Electoral Office
Inglewood Building
Suite #305
12308 111th Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5M 2N4
Phone: (780) 452-8235 or (780) 452-8239
Fax: (780) 452-8279
Email: bgladue@metis.org



Update your Métis Nation of Alberta Membership

Count Yourself In

Call the MNA Registry to ensure your membership file is up to date.
1-800-252-7553 or 780-455-2200

#100 Delia Gray Building 11738 Kingsway Avenue Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5 www.albertametis.com

*Congratulations,
Terra Haugen!*



On, April 7, 2005, Terra Haugen of Region IV won \$77,777 on a SPECIAL 7 Scratch-n-Win Lottery Ticket!

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

*15-year old Justin
Francin from Edmonton
is in the birthday corner
this month.
Happy Birthday from
your mom, Rhonda and
all the rest of your
family.*

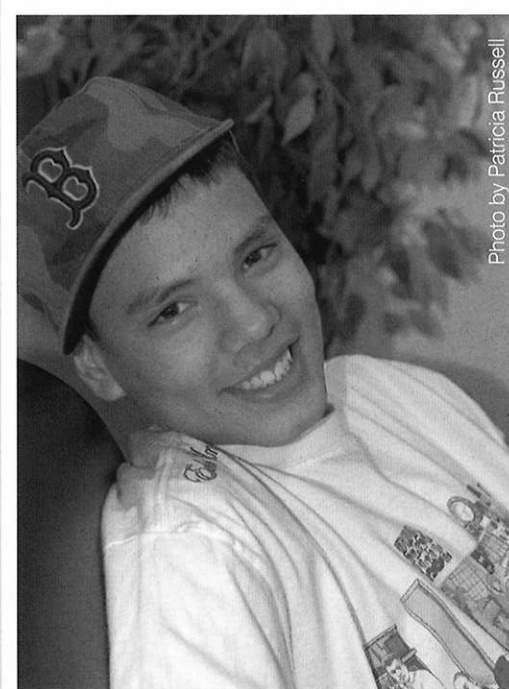


Photo by Patricia Russell

Trudeau Scholarship Recipient Researching The Strengths of the Aboriginal Family

by Naomi Gordon

Recipient of the 2004 Trudeau Scholarship, Patti-Anne Laboucane-Benson sets her sights on implementing positive success models of Aboriginal families into current public policies within national and international governing bodies.

Her doctoral research, *Aboriginal Family Resilience: Promoting Cultural Survival and Community Health*, which earned her the Trudeau Scholarship, examines the success of the aboriginal family unit, how success is interpreted by the family, what has worked and how culture is preserved. She aims to develop a framework of resilience for Aboriginal families that can be adapted for other indigenous cultures.

Laboucane-Benson says although family resiliency, the ability for persons to recover from risks, stresses and traumas and experience positive life success, has been studied for over two decades, the majority of research has centred on non-Aboriginal middle class families; a framework she feels is not applicable or representative of the Aboriginal family.

Included within her research is the concept of spiritual ecology, an indigenous science that looks at the relationships between religions, spirituality and the environment to address problems or issues.

She says it will involve "the way indigenous people learn knowledge and how they transmit knowledge," which lends to learning about Aboriginal families. "I hope to utilize traditional values" by looking at how "traditional values apply in contemporary ways...how we express ourselves as aboriginal people has changed...culture continues to evolve."



Photo courtesy Patti Anne Laboucane-Benson

Patti-Anne Laboucane-Benson, a Métis recipient of the prestigious Trudeau Scholarship and her son Gabriel

Her current doctoral research was conceptualized from her Masters thesis on what success meant to Aboriginal young offenders. "Working with youth led me to look at resilience and family."

She says her work is inspired by her connection to the Aboriginal community. She is a Métis and self-identifies as Métis, which guides her fight for the people that she feels connected to. Her body of work focuses on changing perceptions and policies surrounding negative Aboriginal portrayals.

"I wouldn't be doing this work if it wasn't for powerful spiritual mentors in life and connecting with who I am as a Métis person has changed how I see the world."

Her field research will begin late this summer when she will gather her findings from across national Aboriginal communities.

Métis Crossing Update



by Juanita Marois

Where to start? Each time I sit to write an update for Otipemisiwak, this question is the first one that crosses my mind. There are so many things happening at Métis Crossing it seems impossible to share them

all with you, but let's begin.

What was once a dream is quickly becoming a reality! All winter the Board of Directors was hard at work directing the vision for site development. And, spring work has begun with lots of energy. The hillside in front of the stage is being landscaped so that all can sit in green grass to enjoy entertainment on the main stage (that is, if you can sit with the fiddle playing!). The riverfront trail is being built to stroll

along and enjoy the view. It will also lead to the york boat landing. In addition, a small campground is being built so some can spend the night. Most importantly, a washroom building will be completed for your seating enjoyment!

One of the major goals of Métis Crossing is to share our Métis story with all people. An important step to achieve this goal is the involvement of our people and communities in the planning, building and operation of this site. Many Métis individuals and contractors have begun to volunteer their time, skills and equipment to complete projects. Many more are needed: carpenters, painters, plumbers, labourers, etc. A Métis work weekend is being planned for early June. During this weekend, we will gather as a community at Métis Crossing to paint buildings, clear trails and celebrate. If you would like to participate in this weekend, or at another time call our Project Manager.



This story will also be developed through a process of historic research. The Heritage Community Foundation has been hired to complete this work. This organization has had an ongoing partnership with the Métis Nation of Alberta for the development of Métis in Alberta, the first on-line Métis encyclopaedia. Visit them at www.albertasource.ca/Metis. A draft of the research papers are also reviewed by a volunteer focus group who provide input to the content and tone of the research to ensure that it reflects the spirit of the Métis. This research will be the base for Métis Crossing programs and exhibits.

Ensuring the future of Métis Crossing is an important consideration of all planning activities. One of the major issues for this site will be staffing, and plans are underway to ensure that trained Aboriginal people are available to work here in 1 year, 10 years and beyond. An initiative has been developed with the Lakeland College, Métis Heritage Alliance, the Buffalo Spirit Alliance and Métis Crossing to introduce two Aboriginal tourism programs at Lakeland College:

- Aboriginal Tourism Interpreter Certificate (1 year)
- Aboriginal Tourism Management Diploma (2 years)

With the support of Alberta Economic Development, course curriculum is under development for a fall 2005 program start. If you, or someone you know are interested in training for the Aboriginal tourism industry, please call Juanita Marois with Métis Crossing (453-0277) or Kathy Champigny with Lakeland College (416-8869) for more information.

Fund development, as always, has been a major focus of work ... and these efforts continue to be successful! Financial commitments have been received from

- Terasen Inc.
- Alliance Pipeline Ltd.
- Western Lakota Energy Services Inc.

We are particularly excited that Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. has sponsored a york boat! We extend our sincere thanks to each of these organizations! Your contributions demonstrate continued commitment to work with our Métis communities and share in our successes!



Above: Gayle Desmeules, Homer Poitras, and Lloyd Norris enjoy a day at Métis Crossing

Facing Page: George Vass, Joey Hamelin, President Audrey Poitras, Gayle Desmeules, and Juanita Marois. Apeetogosan presents a cheque to Métis Crossing sponsoring the construction of a york

Now, the fun stuff! Planning for the Métis Centennial Voyage is well underway. Welcome to Kim Mueller who has been hired as a contract Event Coordinator for this event! The Voyage will begin in Edmonton on August 24 as a brigade of york boats and voyageur canoes leave the city to travel along the traditional highway (North Saskatchewan River) to arrive at Métis Crossing on August 26. August 26 will feature a celebration at the Crossing that has not been paralleled elsewhere. The banks of the North Saskatchewan will come to life as Métis people, Albertans, Canadians and others gather to celebrate Alberta's birthday and our Métis heritage. Watch for more information in the next edition of Otipemisiwak. If you cannot wait, Kim can be reached at 455-2200.

As always, Métis Crossing belongs to you! Please share your ideas, information and questions!

Juanita Marois
Métis Crossing Project Manager
E-Mail: jmarois@metis.org
Telephone: (780) 453-0277
Toll Free: 1-800-252-7553

Métis Nation of Alberta Centennial Journey 2005 Come Join the Métis Wagon Trek



by Marilyn Underschultz

The Métis Nation of Alberta is planning a Wagon Trek, in conjunction with the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, as part of Alberta and Saskatchewan's Centennial celebrations.

This historic Centennial event is being held to acknowledge the contributions of Métis people not only to the province of Alberta, but also to this great country of ours. It will focus on culture, language and learning the rich traditions of our Métis generations of today and yesterday.

The 10 day trek will be in conjunction with a national effort planned by Métis organizations from Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Our Journey will begin at the Alberta/Saskatchewan Border, near the Onion Lake First Nations, and travel through to Heinsberg where we will then travel on the Iron Horse Trail, an historic trail that was well travelled during the first years and well beyond Alberta becoming a province in 1905. Along this trail we will be encouraging participation from all the surrounding communities to join in the celebrations that will be taking place each night of the trek

The Alberta contingent will be joining up with approximately 150 people, 200 horses and 30 wagons travelling from Batoche, Saskatchewan, and another 10 more wagons travelling from Manitoba. It is our plan to join the Trek with 40 people, 50 horses and 10

wagons and travel onward to our final destination at Métis Crossing.

Métis Crossing is a major initiative of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) and it will be the premiere centre for Alberta Métis cultural interpretation, education, gatherings and business development. The 512 acre site will be designed to engage and excite visitors to promote an appreciation of our people, customs and celebrations.

All wagons will assemble at the Alberta/Saskatchewan border and await the arrival of the Saskatchewan crew. Drivers will be responsible for getting the rigs to the designated site. The Saskatchewan crew will provide a wagon master and a captain will be chosen from Alberta to take care of the day to day operations of the trek. A kick off celebration will take place at the Alberta-Saskatchewan border, with dignitaries, media, and community members.

Individuals who wish to join the Trek for a day are encouraged to do so to promote an appreciation of our people, customs and culture. There will also be a sponsored community wagon available to youth groups, elders and any other community group that otherwise would not be able to experience this type of adventure for a day.

Events, consisting of story telling, dancing, singing, workshops on Métis history, culture and the Michif language, will take place each night of the trek. All surrounding communities will be invited to attend. A detailed description of each evening entertainment will be available in the near future.

There will also be a youth component to the trek as several youth from all three provinces will be invited to ride along the whole 30 days of the journey. These young people will be encouraged to record in journals the stories of young and old, and what this journey means to them. The stories will then be published as our contribution to Alberta's Centennial celebrations. The Métis Nation of Alberta Youth Council members are also planning a special project in conjunction with this event to include an additional 60 Métis youth participants from across Alberta. It is their hope that this project will provide leadership training, cultural education, and an opportunity for community involvement. A provincial Métis youth leadership camp is scheduled to be held at the site during these festivities so that many of our young people may participate as part of this celebration.

This Métis Centennial Journey will end on August 26, 2005 and coincide with the major celebrations at

Métis Crossing. The final number of participants in the trek will count 50 plus wagons, numerous outriders and Red River Carts, along with a team cart drawn with Oxen.

The entire event will be captured on film for generations to enjoy. A film crew will be taking live footage everyday that will be made into a Centennial Legacy documenting every step of the trek, the good times, the hard times, and how we all came together to work as a team to make this the Centennial Event for 2005.

The Métis Nation of Alberta is proud to sponsor the first 10 Métis participants who register to join the Trek; however, there will be a minimal registration fee for those who wish to join the trek as well, a detailed outline of these costs are listed in the application form.

For more information and details please contact Marilyn Underschultz at the Métis Nation of Alberta Head Office; contact information is also on the application form.

Come out and enjoy the adventure of a lifetime for a day, an afternoon, or experience the whole 10 fun-filled days. Come and celebrate with us!

Would you like to be a part of History? Do you own a horse and wagon?

*Then come and join our historic
Centennial Journey Métis Wagon Trek.*



To sign up or for further information please contact:
Marilyn Underschultz
Métis Nation of Alberta
11738 Kingsway Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 0X5
Phone: 780.453.0281
Fax: 780.452.8946
Toll Free: 1.800.252.7553
Email: munderschultz@metis.org
Website: www.albertametis.ca and
www.saskmetiswagon.ca



The Métis Nation of Alberta in conjunction with Saskatchewan Métis Wagon Adventures is planning a Wagon Trek from Batoche, Saskatchewan to Métis Crossing, Alberta on July 24, 2005 to August 26, 2005. A part of the Centennial Celebrations for 100 years!

The Métis Nation of Alberta is searching for Métis horse and wagon teams to participate in this historic event. The Métis Nation of Alberta will sponsor the first 10 teams to sign on to the Trek. Entrees after the first 10 will be responsible for a registration fee with the Saskatchewan Métis Wagon Adventures. Alberta participants will be joining the Saskatchewan crew at the Alberta / Saskatchewan Border on August 14, 2005.

AlbertaSource.ca
Alberta's Online Encyclopedia

Alberta: How the West was Young
The Métis in Alberta
St. Vincent and St. Paul

For more information visit www.albertasource.ca, call 780-424-6512 or email information@albertaheritage.net.

CREATED BY THE:
Heritage COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
2005 Alberta Centennial
It's our Heritage 100 years strong

MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA CENTENNIAL JOURNEY 2005 WAGON TREK APPLICATION FORM

PART I - APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town / City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Facsimile: _____

E-Mail: _____

PART II - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

LIABILITY: If you are under the age of 18, a waiver signed by a parent or legal guardian is required. Participants under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

HEALTH: Anyone who has a medical condition or serious allergies will be requested to report any conditions to the Medical personnel on hand, plus provide the names and full addresses for next of kin and family physician. The Medical officer will determine whether participation is recommended.

PROVISIONS: Portable water for horses and participants; portable toilets; feed for horses; three full meals per day; entertainment; souvenirs of the trek; transportation of participants or animals when required; medical attention; and veterinarian services.

Please note: Feed will be provided for the horses in the form of pellets, if you wish to provide feed yourself it will be at your own expense. All horses must be shod.

*Saskatchewan Métis Wagon Adventure will be providing all the provisions for the Trek

PART III - PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

1. I will be participating as a: _____ Horse and Rider _____ Wagon Teamster _____ Number of Horses

2. If you are a Wagon Teamster, how many individuals are in your group? _____ What are their names?

Would you be interested in accepting additional individuals to ride with you for a day? YES / NO

Indicate whether this is your first wagon trek, or list other wagon treks you have participated in:

3. If you are participating as a Horse and Rider, will you be travelling alone? YES / NO

If NO, which Wagon and Teamster group will you be travelling with? _____

4. If you play a musical instrument or have a special talent that you would be willing to share as part of the campfire entertainment, please indicate what instrument you play, or what talent you would like to share with the group.

PART IV - REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fees are set on a daily rate to cover the cost of services provided listed in Additional Information. Additional participants can register daily with officials of the Trek.

*Please note that the Métis Nation of Alberta is sponsoring the first 10 wagons and 20 riders who register for the Trek, the registration fee applies to those who still wish to join the trek after the registration has been filled.

For further information please contact:
 Marilyn Unterschultz
 Métis Nation of Alberta
 11738 Kingsway Avenue
 Edmonton, Alberta T5X 0G5
 Toll Free: 1.800.252.7553 Fax: 1.780.453.8946
 Direct Line: 1.780.453.0281 Cell: 1.780.920.1322



Educational Website Promotes Métis in Alberta

by Naomi Gordon

The history, culture and achievements of Métis in Alberta can be accessed by the global community at the touch of a button, thanks to The Métis in Alberta, a new educational website launched on March 29.

"It is by observing the past that we gain the greatest glimpse at our future. A future for our people to shape and inherit," says Métis Nation of Alberta president Audrey Poitras.

The Métis in Alberta website is one of 30 websites on AlbertaSource.ca, the future Alberta Online Encyclopaedia, created by the Heritage Community Foundation.

"I view this as just the beginning. Cultural empowerment is what the project is about," says Heritage Community Foundation executive director Adriana Davies. "Métis people can really stand proud."

The site contains over 175 pages of content ranging from the early beginnings of the Métis to modern times, providing a host of in-depth information from politics to sports. Included on the site are over 500 images, audio clips and video clips.

Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan, MNA President Audrey Poitras, Alberta Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Pearl Calahasen, Councillor Michael Phair, and MNA Vice-President Trevor Gladue were all on hand at the official launch held at the main NAIT campus.

"As Albertans we should be very proud that our province is taking a real leadership role in getting our history...of who we are as Albertans online," says Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan. "Metis have played an important role in Canadian history."

The website can be viewed at www.albertasource.ca/metis.



Top: (left to right) HCF Executive Director Adriana Davies, Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan, MNA President Audrey Poitras and HCF Vice-President Satya Das watch as President Poitras cuts the ribbon to the new website. Above: Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan gives opening remarks at the official launch of the Métis in Alberta website.

The Métis Nation of Alberta's 77th Annual General Assembly

by Naomi Gordon

The town of Peace River, which is nestled in a valley framed by rolling hills and picturesque railroad bridges, will be the backdrop to the MNA's 77th Annual General Assembly.

The Assembly, which will be held at the Travellers Motor Hotel, will begin on Thursday, August 11, 2005 and wrap up on Sunday, August 14, 2005. Region VI President Sylvia Johnson says, "Métis should come to Peace River this summer prepared to have a really good time... We always put on a gala celebration and we mean to do it again this August."

Registration will open on Friday at the Travellers Motor Hotel. This year's theme for the AGA and the Saturday night banquet will be "Honouring Our Métis Veterans."

The town of Peace River boasts a healthy population of more than 6000 and is known to have pleasant weather in the summer months. It is also a town that acts as a "regional trade and service centre to north-western Alberta," with a majority of the businesses based in the natural resource sector.



Back Row (left to right): R. VI Vice-President Louis Bellrose, and Local 205 President Ken Evans
Middle: Robert Fergusson, Local 1929 President Bill Descheneaux, Local 78 President Ruth Kidder, R. VI President Sylvia Johnson, Cadotte Lake Local President Darlene Cardinal, and Paddle Prairie Local President Nora Calliou.
Front: Elder Minnie Belcourt (sitting), and Local 1990 President Angie Crerar.

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Website: www.afsc.ca

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Phone: (780) 618-3299 or 1-800-332-8383
Website: www.atb.com

Bank of Nova Scotia
10037-100 Street
Phone: (780) 624-3490 or 1-800-472-6842
Website: www.scotiabank.com

CIBC
10010-100 Street
Phone: (780) 624-5450 or 1-800-465-2422
Website: www.cibc.com

Accommodations

Peace Country Development Corporation
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Website: www.peacecountry-cfdc.com

Royal Bank
10036-100 Street
Phone: (780) 624-1650
Website: www.royalbank.com

Toronto Dominion
7816-100 Avenue
Phone: (780) 624-2652 or 1-866-567-8888
Website: www.tdcanadatrust.com

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(780) 624-2020 or 1-800-661-5897

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(780) 624-3621 or 1-800-661-3227

McNamara Hotel
10022 100 Street
(780) 624-2545

Third Mission Heritage Suites
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Western Budget Motel
7701-100 Avenue
(780) 624-3445

AGENDA

MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA'S 77TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AUGUST 11 TO 14TH, PEACE RIVER, ALBERTA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2005

7:00 PM	Wine & Cheese - Hosted by Framework	Traveller's Ballroom
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FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2005

9:00 AM	Trade Show and Craft Fair MNA Sector / Department Workshops Youth Conference	Traveller's Peace River Room Peace River Room River Front Park Gazebo
6:00 PM	Peace River Local 78 BBQ	River Front Park Gazebo
7:30 PM	Youth Concert in the Park "Shut Up" Story-Telling Contest (1st, 2nd, 3rd Prizes)	River Front Park Gazebo Traveller's Ballroom
8:30 PM	Métis Country Music	Traveller's Ballroom

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2005

9:00 AM	Grand March and Opening Ceremony	Traveller's Ballroom
10:00 AM	Youth Conference Continues Business of the MNA	River Front Park Gazebo Traveller's Ballroom
10:00 AM	Youth Conference Continues Business of the MNA	River Front Park Gazebo Traveller's Ballroom
4:30 PM	MNA Business Closes for the Day	
6:00 PM	"Honouring Our Métis Veterans" Banquet "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" Fashions by Youth	Traveller's Ballroom Traveller's Ballroom
9:00 PM	Dance and Music by Mike Gouchie, Aboriginal Country Music Award Winner	Traveller's Ballroom

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2005

7:30 AM	Free Breakfast	Traveller's Ballroom
9:00 AM	MNA Business Continues Presidents' Forum Message from the Vice-President Closing Ceremony	Traveller's Ballroom

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Notice of Meeting

Métis Nation of Alberta Association Annual Meeting
August 13 & 14, 2005
Peace River, Alberta

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association,
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 77th Annual Assembly of the
Métis Nation of Alberta Association will be held on
August 13 & 14, 2005 in Peace River, Alberta



Bev New
Secretary
Métis Nation of Alberta

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Deadline for Resolutions

Métis Nation of Alberta Association
Annual Meeting
August 13 & 14, 2005
Peace River, Alberta

Special or Extraordinary Resolutions for the
77th Annual Assembly of the Métis Nation
of Alberta Association, to be held in Peace
River, Alberta, August 13 & 14, 2005 must
be received at the MNAA Head Office, no
later than July 8, 2005 before 4:30 p.m.

Please send your resolution to:

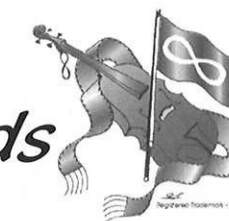
Special / Extraordinary Resolutions
for the 77th Annual Assembly
Attention: Tracee McFeeters
Métis Nation of Alberta
100 Delia Gray Building
11738 Kingsway Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5G -X5
Fax: (780) 452-8946



Bev New
Secretary
Métis Nation of Alberta

Region III

Entrepreneurial Leadership Awards



by Naomi Gordon

The 7th Annual Métis Entrepreneurial Leadership Awards, held in Calgary on April 29, honoured the accomplishments and contributions of Métis business people in Southern South - Central Alberta.

"I'm proud to know people in the community and across the Homeland that have skill," says Métis National Council President Clément Chartier, who was in attendance at the event. "We owe it to ourselves, our children and future generations to work as hard as we can to make it a better place for them and Canadians in general."

The awards, which started in 1999, were conceived by MNA Region III president Ephram Bouvier as a means of recognizing and supporting Métis businesses in the Region. An event which has grown considerably in respect to the number of recipients and award categories says, MNA Region III vice-president Marlene Lanz.

Calgary Fort MLA Wayne Cao congratulated all recipients and extended his comments to the entire Métis

Nation. "We have learnt from the Métis people, the true Canadians, combination of both sides, and you have built this Nation."

Other dignitaries who attended the awards ceremony included MNA president, Audrey Poitras; Calgary Police Service Deputy Chief, Rick Hanson; ADM Aboriginal Affairs, Ken Boutillier and Brooks/Strathmore MLA, Lyle Oberg.



Photo by Naomi Gordon

The 7th Annual Metis Entrepreneurial Leadership Awards Recipients
Back (left to right): Jeff Poitras, Jeremy Thompson, Barry Bellerose, Dennis Pommen, Charles Lambert, Phillip Maurice, Phil Renaud, and Toby Racette.
Front: Mary Sutton, Region III Vice-President Marlene Lanz and Trish Brown.

2005 Award Recipients

Entrepreneurial Leadership Awards
Mary Sutton - Cruz n Coffee and
Toby Racette - EarthCare Environment Services Inc.
Youth Entrepreneurial Leadership Award
Jeremy Thompson - Lube X
Recognition of Success in Corporate World Award
Phillip Maurice - Vice-President, Norwest Labs
Recognition of Contribution and Support to the Métis
Community Award
Dennis Pommen - Pommen and Associates
Calgary Police Services

Recognition of Success and Contribution to Métis
Business Community Award
Barry Bellerose - Executive Computers
Charles Lambert - Quality Air and Heating Ltd.
Jeff Poitras - Autumn Contractors Inc.
Gordon Campbell - Campbell's Cats
Trish Brown - Real Estate Investments
Youth Award
Phil Renaud - All Seasons Rentals

"Angels Among Us" The Tenth Annual Esquao Awards

by Naomi Gordon

The 10th Annual Esquao Awards celebrated the achievements of 24 remarkable Aboriginal women in an elaborate gala, which was held on May 5 at the Edmonton AgriCom.

"This celebration is especially significant in 2005 in honouring the Aboriginal women who are our Centurians in the hundredth year of the Province of Alberta. Their courage and longevity are very significant to all of us," wrote Muriel Stanley Venne, president and founder of the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women.

The institute, which has presented more than



Photos by Patricia Russell

Top: Isabel Longmore receives the award for Lifetime Achievement from MNA President Audrey Poitras and MLA Maruice Tougas
Above: Bella Gladue, Mary Benoit, and Flora Cardinal receive the Centenarians award, the celebrations of 100

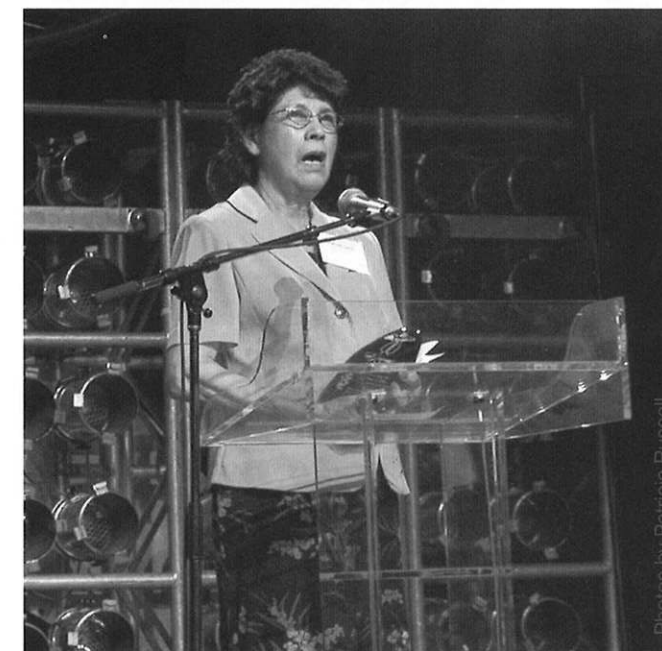
200 awards over the ten years to outstanding Aboriginal women, honours the selected women for their significant accomplishments in: business, community involvements, education, health and medicine, culture, performing arts, social services, lifetime achievement and aspiring youth.

In a written message, Prime Minister Paul Martin writes "You have gathered to pay tribute to several outstanding Aboriginal women who have made valuable contributions to improving their communities. I would like to congratulate them," further noting the recognition of the "women who are celebrating their 100th birthdays this year. They are, indeed, sources of strength, wisdom and pride for their communities."

Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras says, "The Esquao Awards offer an opportunity to showcase the great achievements and contributions made by Aboriginal women. It is a terrific event that allows us to celebrate the accomplishments of our female role models."

This year 11 of the 24 recipients were Métis women: Nora Chapdelaine, Dorothy Chartrand,

Murleen Crossen, June Cardinal-Howse, Sophie Dion, Beatrice LeBoeuf, Isabel Longmore, Elsie Strenstrom, Rickie Lyn Stephien, Laurie Lee Thompson, Wendy Walker



Photos by Patricia Russell

Sophie Dion receives the award for Community Involvement

The 2005 Esquao Award Recipients

Aspiring young Woman
Award
Rickie Lyn Stephien

Business Award
Velma Dumont

Community Involvement
Award
Murleen Crossen
Sophie Dion
Nora Chapdelaine
Yvonne Oshanyk
Margaret Simpson

Education Award
Edna Arcand
June Cardinal-Howse
Laurie Lee Thompson

Health and Medicine
Award
Kathleen Cardinal
Alice Reid

Lifetime Achievement
Award
Annie Bear Shin Bone
Leonie (Lee) Willier
Dorothy Chartrand
Isabel Longmore

Madge McRee Memorial
Culture Award
Isabel Auger
Rose Auger
Mary Brown
Olive Manitopyes

Performing Arts Award
Wendy Walker
Edna Rain

Social Services and
Advocacy Award
Elsie Strenstrom
Beatrice LeBoeuf

Centenarians
Mary Benoit
Bella Gladue
Flora Cardinal

The Old World Meets the New Winter Survival Camp

by Naomi Gordon

The snow pounded down, stinging any skin that was exposed to nature's artillery. Nothing escaped the blowing wind and numbing conditions of a less than gentle reminder that humans are, ultimately, at the mercy of nature's power. On this particular day it was also a reminder to twenty-four urban Aboriginal youth of how early communities survived.



Top: Fourteen year old Stanley Baxter braves the chilly weather with layers of modern clothing.

Above: Students take turns manning the camp fire that is used to cook all the meals.

For four days in February, Ben Calf Robe students from grade 6-9 stepped out of their comfort zones and familiar neighbourhoods to participate in a winter survival camp held at Métis Crossing. Activities focused on traditional survival techniques and cultural components such as beadwork and Aboriginal mysticism. It was also a time that allowed students to be introspective, to direct attention away from the hustle of urban life.

Principal Bryan Richardson says this was an opportunity for students to better understand their Aboriginal cultures, while learning how to survive in the bush. "Whatever the kids put in they get ten times back, psychologically, physically, emotionally and spiritually," says Richardson.

Although camp fire tales were far removed from voyaging expeditions and hunting exploits, the buzz around the fire was a mix of contemporary metaphors on old world techniques - in particular how to light a fire with one match. It was the topic on everyone's minds and provided a powerful insight into a world which the students have only read about, but on this day could experience first hand.

In one word Stanley Baxter, a Métis student, captured the elation and feelings of accomplishment shared by all who were huddled around the fire: "awesome."

Although Baxter was not new to the bush his face glowed with excitement. His uncle has taught him traditional harvesting techniques, which he values. Yet, like many urban youth there is a lack of

transportation and access to the bush, leaving their knowledge in corners of the mind sitting dormant, until experiences like this rekindle that interest and knowledge. "It feels good to get back into this and to be out here," says Baxter.

Richardson commented that the camp can also elevate self esteem, because many students who may not excel in the books excel in this environment.

The camp, which is an initiative of the Métis Nation of Alberta UMAC department, was designed with the hopes of allowing students an opportunity to exchange and understand First Nations and Métis cultures.

The first year's programming was orchestrated by the UMAC department, while this year's planning was done by the school, with UMAC staff on hand and a host of teachers from Ben Calf Robe to supervise the 24 youth.

Although Richardson believes all the students deserve to participate in the camp program, it is not possible as of yet. Those who were chosen had to meet criteria established by the school, which included love of culture, attendance and academics.



Students and teachers from Ben Calf Robe School enjoy a hearty lunch break after returning from a strenuous nature walk.

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Robert Lopatynski, a grade eight student, who hopes to be able to participate again next year, echoed much of what others were saying. "It is important to learn about our Aboriginal side so that we can keep the knowledge."

The camp may have only been a four day journey, but it was a journey that opened the eyes of youth to a world that survived because of traditional knowledge. Knowledge these 24 youth will carry with them even when fire comes from a lighter and the river flows from a tap.



Alberta Fish and Game Association Regrets Its Negative Media Campaign

by Patricia Russell

Executive members of the Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA) expressed regret to the Métis Nation of Alberta for the negative information campaign their organization launched against the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement (IMHA).

At a meeting called by the Métis Nation of Alberta in early April and attended by 8 members of the Fish and Game Association's executive, the Association's First Vice President, Maurice Nadeau said, "On behalf of all of us, I am personally somewhat ashamed of what happened. If we knew in the beginning we'd have taken a different approach." Nadeau was referring to his organization's negative media campaign, which suggested the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement would create thousands of new Métis harvesters that could hunt without regard for conservation measures.

Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras invited members of the AFGA Executive to the MNA provincial office to set the record straight on what the

harvesting agreement means and to address the associations misplaced concerns as to its possible impact on wildlife resources. MNA Minister of Métis Rights Cecil Bellrose also attended the meeting.

President Poitras successfully challenged the accuracy of each topic brought forward by the AFGA Executive. Most notable among their concerns is the exaggerated number of Métis harvesters in the province. Poitras brought the number into perspective by emphasizing that for many Métis, the Powley decision and the harvesting agreement are affirmations of the provincial and federal governments recognition of Métis rights.

"Métis are coming home to the Nation because of the recognition because they want to take their rightful place in a proud Nation of Métis people," says Poitras. "Since the days of Dumont and Riel, we have maintained that we have certain rights as Aboriginal people and the Supreme Court affirmed our position. Having the right to harvest does not mean we all exercise the right. We're not all hunters, but we're

certainly proud to know that if we wanted to exercise that right, we can."

Fewer than 10% of the Métis Nation of Alberta's membership are active hunters. That's approximately 3-thousand Métis.

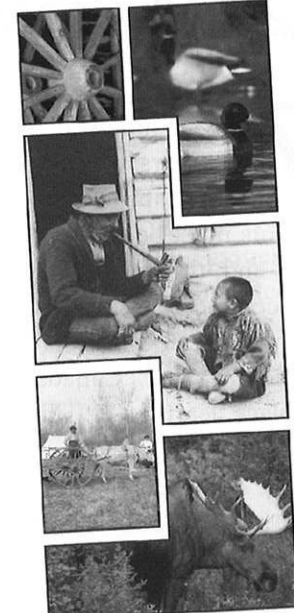
President Poitras also clarified the association representatives understanding of the agreement as it relates to hunting for food. "Subsistence harvesting rights are about hunting for food. Métis harvesters know that and they understand the importance of maintaining the food source using sound conservation practices. In fact, they are the same conservation practices that non-Aboriginal harvesters follow."

Poitras explained that when it comes to fishing with a net, Métis fishers receive a Domestic Fishing License from the Alberta government. The license indicates precisely which lake the net will be placed in. If the lake is closed because of conservation reasons, during spawning season for example, then it's closed to Métis fishers as well.

The Supreme Courts ruling in Powley clearly states the forces that can infringe upon the Aboriginal right to harvest are: (i) valid conservation restrictions that are intended to protect or repopulate a species and (ii) safety issues, and (iii) health concerns. The Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement reflects that reality.

Within days of the meeting, Region 2 President Karen Collins received a letter from the First Vice President of the Alberta Fish and Game Association, which read, in part, "Many things were shared from both sides of the table and sense of common direction was evident. There were some concerns put to rest on both sides and recognition that continued communication is desirable. The facts as presented by the MNA did provide some comfort and reassurance, something that certain Ministries of our Provincial Government, by indifference, failed miserably at."

AFGA President Randy Collins, 1st Vice President Maurice Nadeau, 2nd Vice President Quentin Bochar, Environment Chair Andy Boyd, Fishing Chair Vern McIntosh, Hunting Chair John Kyndesen, Executive Vice President Martin Sharren, and past President Ray Makowecki attended the meeting.



Métis Harvesting Rights in Alberta

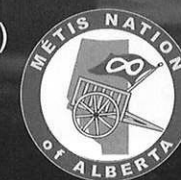


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Request your free copy of Métis Harvesting Rights in Alberta from the Métis Nation of Alberta.



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MNA Labour Market Development Unit 52-Million Dollar Agreement



"The economy of the 21st century will need workers who are lifelong learners, who can respond and adapt to change. Canada's labour market programs must be transformed to meet this challenge. To this end, the government will work with Canadians, provinces, sector councils, labour organizations and learning institutions to create the skills and learning architecture that Canada needs, and to promote workplace learning. This will include building our knowledge and reporting to Canadians about what is working and what is not."

(Speech from the Throne, 2002:
The Canada We Want)

Working under the President of the MNA the Minister of Labour Market Development and the Director of Labour Market Development (LMD), Lorne Gladue takes his job seriously when it comes to representing the interests of the MNA and the Metis Human Resources Development Agreement (MHRDA). Actually, when it comes to program innovation, leadership, and strategic orientation, the MNA-AHRDA is often upheld by Government and other

colleagues within the AHRDA community as a model of excellence in Aboriginal Human Resources Development.

In the past two years leading to the signing of the MHRDA, Lorne Gladue and his staff at the MNA Labour Market Development Program worked diligently, strategizing and negotiating the MNA position on a number of issues and challenges that ultimately led to the signing of a new Agreement with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada on March 31, 2005.

Considering the magnitude of negotiation issues and challenges presented along the way, this was no easy task for Lorne Gladue and his Labour Market Team, but they took it all in stride as part of their many responsibilities and programs obligations which forms part of their day-to-day activities.

Renewal Process

In 2002, HRSDC and the five National Aboriginal Organizations established a "Renewal Committee" with the mandate to co-manage the consultation and renewal process and to make recommendations to HRSDC on



Right: MNA Minister of Labour Market Development, Sylvia Johnson; MNA President Audrey Poitras; and Dave Phylipot, HRSDC Representative sign the new Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement

the next generation of the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy (AHRDS).

As a result, the five national organizations including the Metis National Council (MNC), the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Taparistat Kanitami, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples and the Native Women's Association of Canada, appointed a total of 11 representatives to what was known as the AHRDS-Renewal Committee (the ARC), with the MNC garnering three seats under which they appointed David Boisvert (MMF), Wenda Wattayne (MNC), and Lorne Gladue (MNA) as the three representatives.

Consultations on AHRDS Renewal involved a two-prong process. In the first stage, HRSDC held Open Forum Consultations in cities throughout the country including: Moncton, Vancouver, Regina, Montreal, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Sault Ste-Marie, Iqaluit and Halifax. These began in the fall of 2002 and were completed in February 2003. As part of the Open Forum consultation process, separate forums for non-affiliated Urban AHRDAs were held including one for the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Council of Champions (commonly referred to as the Sector Council Secretariat) and one for the National Aboriginal Resource Allocation Model (NARAM).

In the second stage, Aboriginal constituency-based consultations were conducted by each of the National Aboriginal Organizations and in this case, the MNC-Renewal representatives consulted with agreement holders and AHRDA staff from the MNC Governing members on November 17 & 18, 2002 in the city of Winnipeg.

Once both phases of consultation were complete, the MNC-Renewal representatives drafted a position paper on behalf of the Métis Nation, which was presented at a national AHRDA conference held in Ottawa on March 15-16, 2003. The national conference presented results of the two-prong consultation process, and the MNC representatives presented a common position on behalf of the Métis Nation in a document entitled "Moving Forward."

As part of the renewal process, the second round of AHRDS required Cabinet approval. On the basis of renewal discussions, negotiations and the national consultation process, a Memorandum to Cabinet was prepared and submitted by HRSDC at the end of January 2005. At that point, the work of HRSDC and the AHRDS Renewal Committee was left in the hands of Cabinet review, in Ottawa.

Although the Renewal Committee was not directly involved in the drafting of the Memorandum, David

Boisvert and Lorne Gladue were instrumental in dealing with Treasury Board guidelines affecting AHRDA contribution agreements and other major recommendations like increased funding to AHRDS, Métis access to the Child Care funding, the NARAM distribution model and the Métis National Accord on AHRDS.

AHRDS Implementation Issues

The next step in the renewal process required consultation on AHRDS implementation issues. At a March 26, 2003 meeting, HRSDC Aboriginal Relations Office (ARO) Ottawa announced its proposal to hold a series of workshops on AHRDS implementation issues. These were:

- AHRDA Contribution Agreement Template



Back Row (left to right): R I Manager Mark McCallum, Contract Officer Dawn Darrington, R VI Manager Janet Gardner, and Director's Assistant Roxanne Ropchan
Row 2: R IV Manager Trenton Zazulak, Disabilities Coordinator Gregory Humphrey, and R III Manager Sharon Sawchuck
Row 3: Youth Coordinator Kim Mueller, SR Admin Officer Debbie Munroe, and R II Manager Belle Dy-Reyes
Row 4: R IV Manager Lorna Lang, Region V Manager Evelyn Drewniak, and SR Admin Officer Terra Haugen
Front Row: Program Coordinator Joan Isaac, Director Lorne Gladue, and Region III Manager Guido Contreras

(terms of the Agreement);

- Accountability Framework (results under the Agreement);
- National Aboriginal Resource Allocation Model (money distribution).


What should be noted at this stage is that these were not mutually agreed implementation issues, instead ARO decided to sidestep the Renewal Committee by going directly to a cluster of ARHDA holders to organize/sponsor these workshops. The urgency at ARO to meet deadlines dates for Treasury Board and Cabinet submissions seemed to drive the undertaking by ARO. No background on what ARO wanted was discussed. MNC assumed that these were consultations to which ARO was somehow committed, and were to form part of the Treasury Board submission once Cabinet reviewed and approved the renewal of AHRDS.

Although the Renewal Committee felt rushed into these workshops, it essentially gave the approval for ARO to go ahead with the planned workshops. Workshops on the "Templates and on Accountability Framework" were amalgamated into one workshop in Montreal on May 12, 2003, while three national allocation model (NARAM) workshops were held separately in June 2003 at three locations: one in the East (Toronto) June 4-5; one in the North (Yellowknife), June 12-13; one in the West (Edmonton), June 18-19, 2003.

Since these were very contentious issues, the MNC representatives requested a Metis-specific track for consultations on implementation issues and prepared a proposal to ARO to fund this activity. ARO agreed to fund MNC to conduct this work, and the work was carried out by David Boisvert, Lorne Gladue, and the Métis Human Resources Development Agreement Working Group. This group, along with the MNC Minister of Social Development, collectively decided MNC's approach to the implementation issues placed before the Métis community and other Aboriginal leadership.

Renewal Process Results

With respect to the AHRDA Contribution Agreement Templates, the MNC representatives successfully negotiated a Métis-specific template, which is now called the Métis Human Resources Development Agreement (or the MHRDA). The MHRDA was negotiated line-by-line, clause-by-clause and in some cases, respecting reference to the "Métis Nation," word-by-word. The new MHRDA carries a tighter framework around flexibility but also carries some new




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features including the option to fund post-secondary schooling for Métis clients.

The Accountability Framework remains a very contentious segment of the MHRDA Template, with the MNA disagreeing to the design of what should be measured and how things should be measured. Unlike most AHRDAs, the MNA-MHRDA has had the benefit and experience of participating in absolutely every national evaluation since 1996, and to that extent was looking to enhance the overall performance of AHRDS by seeking certain definitions and measurements around client interventions and client action plans. However, other AHRDAs were not prepared to go there, so this outstanding issue will continue to be negotiated in the future with HRSDC who has agreed to re-open discussions around this particular issue.

Under the National Aboriginal Resource Allocation Model (the NARAM), a number of distribution models were reviewed by all AHRDAs in Canada. This is where the money is distributed to Aboriginal communities across the country, so this was a very hot issue to deal with. The MNA Provincial Council and the Labour Market Development Unit have always remained steady in their position since 1999, and that is to have HRSDC apply 2001 Census data against the existing nine variables under NARAM, and to have this model applied

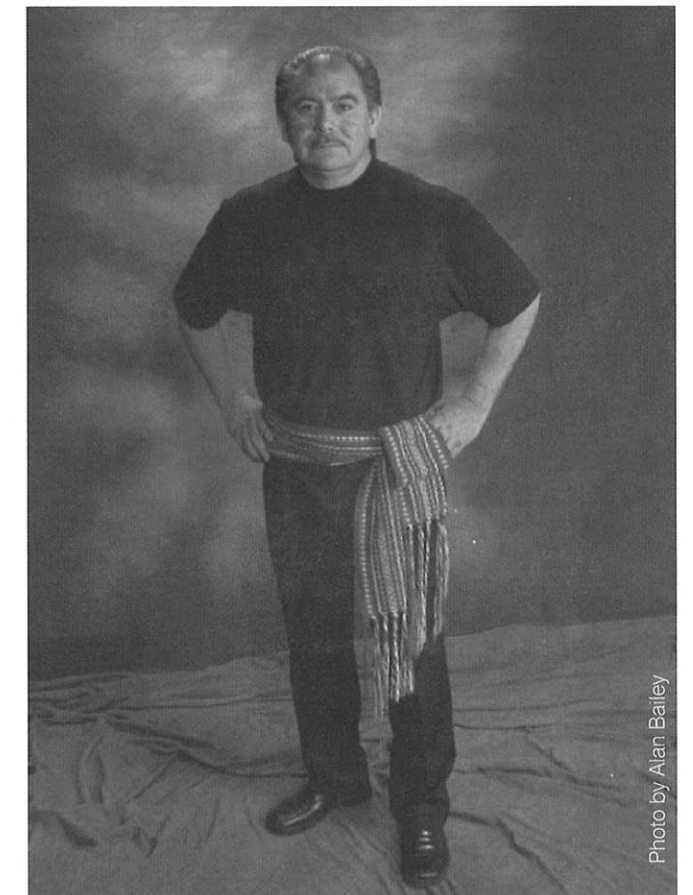
to all levels of funding including the funding split between the MNA and the Métis Settlements.

At one point HRSDC acted arbitrarily and instituted a six-variable model which would have had a negative effect on Alberta funding, but through MNC representatives' action and intervention from our national portfolio holder, David Chartrand (President-MMF), HRSDC rescinded its decision and re-instated status-quo NARAM until a new model can be agreed to in the next coming months.

As for the Métis-split, the MNA was finally successful in negotiating the application of NARAM to the division funds with the Métis Settlements, giving the MNA equitable access to AHRDA resources for the first time since 1996. The MNA will now have an MHRD Agreement totaling \$52 million over a 4-year period ending March 31, 2009.

Although the privilege to represent the MNA and the MNC on all levels of AHRDS negotiations was given to the LMD Director, Lorne Gladue, he would prefer to defer all MNA-LMD successes first of all to the MNA President Audrey Poitras who allowed the LMD team all the discretion and flexibility it required to do its work, and to the Minister of Labour Market Development, Sylvia Johnson, who provided the political support to the LMD in times of difficult negotiations, and ultimately, to his beloved Labour Market Development Unit who provided collective team support to all positions taken forward on behalf of the MNA. Some LMD staff played a closer role than others and these included Guido Contreras, Joan Isaac and Dave Ward, but the Labour

Market Team will always include both the Labour Market Development Unit and all Métis Employment Services located through-out the province of Alberta.



MNA Labour Market Development Unit Director, Lorne Gladue



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MNA Labour Market Development Unit Emergency Services Technology Program



by Guido Contreras
LMD Manager, R III

On April 1, 2005 the Métis Nation of Alberta in conjunction with Fire etc and Lakeland College marked the official opening and recognition of Battalion Six. This program started March 21, 2005 with twelve young Métis

realize the spotlight is on us since we are the first through. I'm sure there will be many more to come as we get the word out," he said, as quoted in the Vermillion Standard Newspaper.

An opening prayer and wishing the students well was given by Region II Elders Francis Dumais and Robert Cardinal followed by speakers such as Karen Collins, Region II President, Ephram Bouvier, Region III President, Mark Lee, President of Lakeland College, and Judy Harvie from the Fire Commissioner's office. Numerous Fire Chiefs throughout the Province attend this event as well as a Representative from Syncrude out of Fort McMurray. Mr Lorne Gladue and Ms. Joan Isaac were also in attendance from Head Office. Lorna Lang, Sheila Wabasca and Belle Dy-Reyes were on hand to support their clients that are attending this program.

This program is in partnership with the Government of Alberta and the Métis Nation of Alberta Labour Market Development Program.

from various regions throughout Alberta.

These 12 students will be taking place in a 46-week training program for entry level careers as structural firefighters and emergency medical technicians.

One of the students, Fred Bickell, a member of battalion six, was excited about the opportunity that lies before him and his classmates.

"It's an awesome opportunity. Your resume is that much bigger when you leave here. The course itself isn't going to be a cake walk. We've got to work hard." "I



Vermillion EST Program Class with Region III Urban Manager Guido Contreras, Region III Rural Manager Sharon Sawchuk, Manager Joan Issac, and Judy Harvie from the Fire Commissioner's Office

Métis Nation and Government of Canada Sign Historic Framework Agreement

by Patricia Russell and Robert McDonald

President of the MNC, Clément Chartier and the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians Andy Scott signed the Canada-Métis Nation Framework Agreement signalling the beginning of a new nation-to-nation relationship between Canada and the Métis Nation. It was signed during a Policy Retreat between the federal Cabinet Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Aboriginal leaders on May 31, 2005 in Ottawa.

MNC Vice President and Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) President Audrey Poitras describes the agreement as historic because it translates into a remarkable improvement in how Canada deals with the Métis Nation. "The Framework Agreement affirms Canada's recognition of the Métis Nation as a distinct Aboriginal people. This is very important to our people. Further, it recognizes the Métis Nation and the national governance structure of the Métis National Council, along with the Métis Nations regional government," says Poitras.

The agreement will identify and implement initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for Métis people within Canada. MNC Vice President Poitras says, "These are achievable objectives. They are real commitments for federal support in areas such as the devolution of suitable programs and services. It's a commitment for support in areas such as housing, health, education, and economic development."

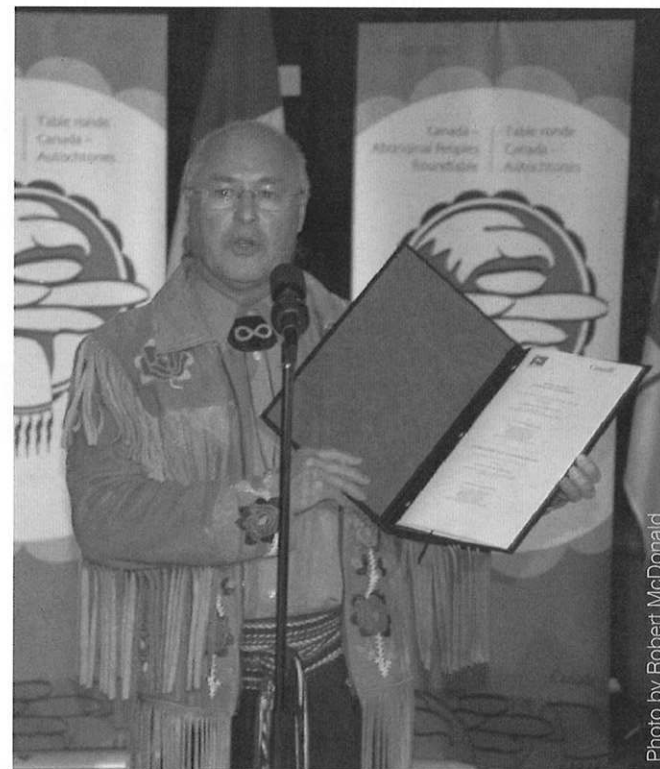
The Agreement will also address the implementation of the Powley decision, including Métis harvesting; providing support for enhancing the electoral and governance capacity of the Métis Nation and its Governing Members.

One of the objectives of the Métis Nation Framework Agreement is to develop and establish negotiations processes to address the Aboriginal rights of the Métis Nation.

Poitras says, "This will allow us, Canada and the Métis Nation, to develop a relationship together

rather than using the courts to define the relationship. Frankly, this is in the best interest of the Government of Canada, the Métis Nation, and all Canadians. It is in the tradition of Canadian values."

Specifically, new federal policies will be developed to resolve issues relating to Métis lands as well as Métis specific and comprehensive claims. President Chartier adds, "The Framework Agreement commits Canada to finally establishing effective rights-based negotiation processes with us. This is timely and prudent. For example, in a recently released report the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples urged Canada to establish a Métis land claims process. As well, a trial date for the Manitoba Métis Federation's land claim



MNC President Clément Chartier holding a signed copy of the Canada Métis Nation Framework Agreement



Finance Minister Ralph Goodale, MNC Vice President Audrey Poitras, and Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand

has now been set for April 2006. Instead of denying the existence of Métis rights, which was the approach employed by Canada as the Powley case moved its way up to the Supreme Court of Canada, the Framework Agreement sets the groundwork for a pro-active and reconciliation-based negotiations process to be implemented."

For many years, based on numerous mandates from the Métis National Council's General Assembly, the Métis Nation has pressed the Government of Canada to sign such a Framework Agreement. Last year, at the Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable,

the Métis Nation has negotiated with Minister Andy Scott, in his capacity as Federal Interlocutor for Métis, to formally capture this recognition as well as set out a process to build a new government-to-government relationship between the Métis Nation and Canada.

"With the Prime Minister's recognition of the Métis Nation, a strong signal was sent to our people that real change, based on recognition and respect, was attainable. The Métis Nation Framework Agreement formalizes this recognition and lays the foundation as we collaboratively move forward on



Federal Interlocutor Andy Scott, MNC President Clément Chartier, and Prime Minister Paul Martin

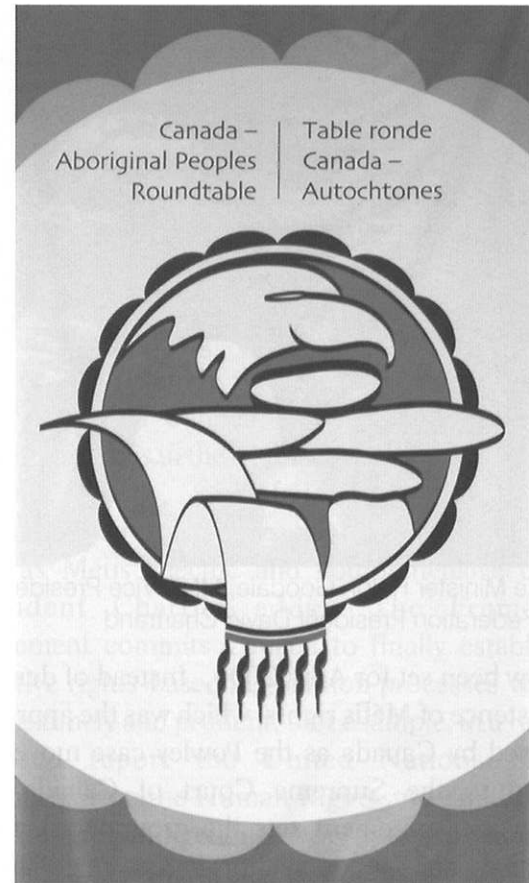
Prime Minister Paul Martin took the bold step of publicly recognizing the Métis Nation. This acknowledgement of the Métis Nation's existence, from a sitting Canadian Prime Minister, was unprecedented. Moreover, at the Roundtable, Prime Minister Martin committed to entering into a Framework Agreement with the Métis Nation.

As a result, over the last year, the leadership of

strengthening our relationship," stated Métis National Council President, Clément Chartier.

Minister Andy Scott added, "Throughout the Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable process, the Métis National Council has emphasized that recognition is a necessary component to renewing the partnership between Canada and the Métis people. The Métis Nation Framework Agreement, which I signed today with President Chartier, responds to this. Further, the Métis Nation Framework Agreement will act as an important foundational piece as we move forward on strengthening this relationship as well as closing the gap between Métis people and other Canadians. I am very proud of and committed to seeing the objectives of this Framework Agreement realized."

MNC Vice President Poitras says, "We are truly committed to building upon the new relationship the Prime Minister has initiated with the Métis Nation and will work diligently to ensure our mutual objectives within the Métis Nation Framework Agreement are realized for the benefit of our people."



Prime Minister Paul Martin Receives Order of the Métis Nation



President of the MNC, Clément Chartier has presented the prestigious "Order of the Métis Nation" to Prime Minister Paul Martin following the historic federal Cabinet Committee Policy Retreat in Ottawa.

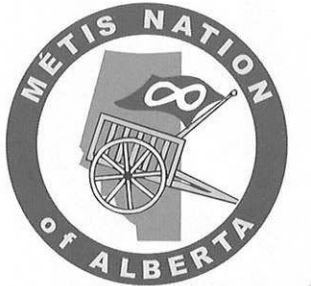
Prime Minister Martin joins a small and distinguished group of leaders to receive the award, which is presented to those people who have played a major role in moving the Métis agenda forward.



MNC President Clément Chartier shakes Prime Minister Paul Martin's hand at the Canada - Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable

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Alberta Aboriginal Veterans Remembered and Commemorated

Photos by Naomi Gordon

by Naomi Gordon

A gathering of veterans, family, and invited dignitaries assembled near the steps of the Alberta Legislative Assembly in a commemoration ceremony for Alberta's Aboriginal veterans who served Canada in times of war and peace.

"On the battlefield there are scenes of death and violence, sites of heroism and sacrifice for the protection of freedom and democracy...we are grateful for the sacrifices you have made," says Councillor Ron Hayter.

"We are so proud of our people that served in the Canadian army," says National Aboriginal Veterans Society President Sam Sinclair.

The ceremony was held on April 30 at the Legislative grounds in front of the monument for Aboriginal veterans. The monument was unveiled on

September 17, 2004 as a dedication to those who gave their lives and for those who returned home.

Aboriginal Veterans Society of Alberta president Vic Letendre says many Aboriginal veterans felt that there was nothing for them in Edmonton and came to the idea of erecting a monument for all Aboriginal veterans.

"We are getting to that age that there are not many of us left, we got to have something to leave a legacy behind," says Letendre.

The veterans themselves contributed a large portion of the funds needed to purchase the monument but received additional funding through the provincial government and fund raising activities.



Left: Veterans listen to speeches paying respect to those who gave their lives and those who returned home.

Right: Invited guests and speakers (left to right): Minister Pearl Calahasen, Councillor Ron Hayter, MMF President David Chartrand, Jason GoodStriker, MNC President Clément Chartier, and MNA President Audrey Poitras.

Top: Alberta Aboriginal veterans stand proudly before the monument at the Alberta Legislative grounds.

Honouring Our Métis Veterans A Soldier's Tale

by Naomi Gordon

Clifford Smith moves strategically to his favourite chair in a shuffle step approach. A methodical movement he's mastered over 50 years after having his right knee blown out by a bullet. He shifts to counter his weight and slowly eases into "his" chair, which was passed down to him from his father.

"This is my father's chair, if you want to sit on it you have to be careful," said the Métis World War II Veteran, with a boyish grin. At 84, his calm and slightly mischievous disposition, slick charm and courteous manners make him an extremely likeable character. But underneath the likeability, there is something deeper hidden behind soft brown eyes that pull you in.

Reminiscent of the Alice in Wonderland tale, where Alice went tumbling down the rabbit hole, falling deeper and deeper into a well, but having time to stop and look around, "down, down, down...four thousand miles down," falling into a world that Clifford Smith and millions of soldiers and civilians tumbled into a reality where everything is upside down. "It was terrible...you weren't human if you weren't scared," said Clifford.

He repositions on "his" chair, which creaks and groans, whispering stories of bygone years. All around him are memories, behind him pictures of his family, warming the white walls of his home in Fort Vermillion, Alberta. In front of him, a sepia toned photograph of



Photo courtesy Clifford Smith

Photo by Naomi Gordon

Left: The young Private, Clifford Smith, and Right: Clifford Smith as he is today, young and vibrant at 84.



MNA President Audrey Poitras, Clifford Smith and MNA Region VI President Sylvia Johnson

him as a young soldier. His eyes lock in on the photo. Through the window, bursts of sun fall across his face, somewhat diffused by the naked lilac branches outside. A ray of light breaks from the pack and heads for those eyes that are a capsule to the past, sparking the journey "down, down, down," to a time and tale that weaves in and out of World War II battles and of his lonely voyage home after the War.

Born in 1921 to John and Madeline Smith of Stony Point, Clifford was raised a traditional Métis. He grew up working the fields, as did many young men of that generation, but by the summer of 1942 he decided to enlist with the Canadian forces.

"A lot of boys left to go to war...there wasn't a lot of money in farming, then...but you had to be in A1 shape to join."

After joining the 49th Edmonton Regiment (renamed the Loyal Edmonton Regiment) and completing basic training in Edmonton, he moved on to Calgary for advanced military training. Before he knew

it, he was aboard the Queen Elizabeth sailing towards Scotland. Once on dry ground the barrage of training continued for Clifford, assault tactics, mortar blasting, everything and anything to prepare the soldiers for a journey that many never returned from.

He's standing at his front door, gazing onto lands that reveal the brilliance of simplicity. Streaks of golden hues from the winter sun, contrast the white caps of snow crowning the Peace Country landscapes. Shades of muted pink, purples and oranges mingle amongst the blue of the sky casting long shadows over poplars and spruce trees that frame the countryside. Peace Country- a place where vastness brings serenity and the cycle of life and death is natural, without human interjection; a suiting place to retire for a man that has seen the dark contrast of war.

It was July 10th, 1943 when allied forces invaded Sicily, an assault dubbed 'Operation Husky', a tactical plan to regain control of most of the Mediterranean and to force the Germans to pull troops from the Eastern Front to defend the Southern areas, which would alleviate pressure on the USSR. Allied forces landed on Pachino beach with minimal resistance, allowing troops

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to start the march inland. That ease would end on the morning of July 15th when allied forces were met with heavy resistance, hit with German artillery and tank divisions.

"We were put on a ship...I wake up one morning and (am) told that we're going to Sicily, landing on Sugar Beach." He remembers six-foot waves crashing onto the ship, a prelude to the coming months of his service in Italy. "For six days there were no shots fired on the ground...there were tanks and then everything exploded, Germans started firing, for one month there was heavy firing, never any rest...it was terrible."

Allied forces pushed on, Canadian troops including the Loyal Edmonton Regiment advanced towards the city of Etna. "Mount Etna was the last battle before we were pulled out for a one month rest. We got the name Red Devil, we were good fighters, Canadians were able to hold the towns we took."

World War II War correspondent Ross Munro wrote, "According to one captured German officer, his men have high praise for the Canadians, whom they recognize by the red patches on their sleeves. 'Other troops lay down and take shelter when our mortars are fired,' he said, 'but the Red Patches keep coming. The Red Patches are devils.'"

Clifford's words tumble deeper into the well, jumping to his first memory of falling ill. "It was so hot, the weather was terrible...one morning I woke up and couldn't breathe, they took me into the tents, but they couldn't understand me." Clifford was transported to the 14th General Hospital and while recuperating missed the invasion in Catania.

After returning from the hospital, Clifford along with 22 others from the Loyal Edmonton Regiment, were placed with the West Nova Scotia Regiment. "The West Nova Scotias came along and said they were out of strength and asked for men for a couple of days."

He moves back to "his" chair, nursing his knee, an injury that never completely healed leaving a constant reminder of the fractured images, muffled screams and whispered prayers, still in vivid colour, ingrained forever in his memory.

"It was at the Cross Roads of Ortana; just on the outskirts that I got shot...it was the heaviest fighting...The medic wrapped up my knee and left, our troops had to move on to take Ortana I was left, alone."

Torrential rain turned the battlefield into sloughs and for Clifford the sting of pelting rain, layers of mud and the pinging of artillery fire in the distance, his only companion. For 24 hours he laid alone with hand on

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- The Métis Nation of Alberta Labour Market Development Program Employment Assistance Service Centres

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rifle, listening waiting praying. Fear slid in like a vicious avalanche cascading over thoughts surfacing from the darkest recesses of his mind; never being rescued or being captured by enemy forces.

As the fighting moved further away, his hope resurfaced as he saw villagers coming out of nearby caves. "I started hollering for help...men and women began to come towards me...one woman began to cry." The next thing he remembers is being on a stretcher with the English 8th Army. From there he was taken to the First General Hospital in Naples, cocooned in his blood and mud soaked uniform for the three days. He was transported to the 14th General Hospital in Avellino, where he stayed for five months. His recovery took him to the Adriatic Sea and then onwards to England, until after the invasion of France.

His long journey home would begin by setting sail westward bound to Halifax on The New Amsterdam. He sailed into port in June of 1944 to waiving Canadians and the music of bands. It was a homecoming full of warmth and appreciation, yet the further west he travelled fewer and fewer recognized the soldiers return. When he stepped off the train in

Edmonton, not one soul was there to greet him, "It felt terrible." When he arrived in Peace River he was met by Bishop Sovereign the only person he encountered since Halifax who offered him shelter, food and some pocket money.

Loneliness and isolation relived for a man, like many Aboriginal veterans, who fought for a freedom in a time when liberation was still an honourable word. They gave everything, willing to give the ultimate sacrifice and in return be given nothing but an occasional glance from a passer-by and a lifetime of haunting memories.

Clifford was fortunate; he found solitude beyond the eternal landscapes of Peace Country. He found his love and his companion and married in 1948, where they would have eight children.

Let that solitude continue, for when you can no longer stand, let us catch you. When your memories darken with scenes of tragedy, let us clear your eyes. You have carried the burden. The least we can do is thank you now; we shall always remember all who sacrificed both soldiers and civilians. Perhaps one day we all will stop tumbling "down down down... to a world that is upside down."

The Women of the Métis Nation Promoting the Métis Women's Perspective



by Rosemarie McPherson

The Women of the Métis Nation (WMN) is a women's collective body representing the Métis Women from the Métis National Council (MNC) and its Governing Members, mandated by the government of the Métis Nation as a lobbyist and

advocacy body recognized to speak and represent the Métis women's agenda and perspective nationally.

In 1999, Métis women came together to form the Métis Women's Secretariat within the MNC, to facilitate their full and equal participation within the structures of the Métis Nation. Since that time, several forums and annual assemblies have taken place, and the secretariat's role within the MNC has evolved. In April 2005, Métis women adopted the name Women of the Métis Nation, to better reflect the central role of women within the Nation.

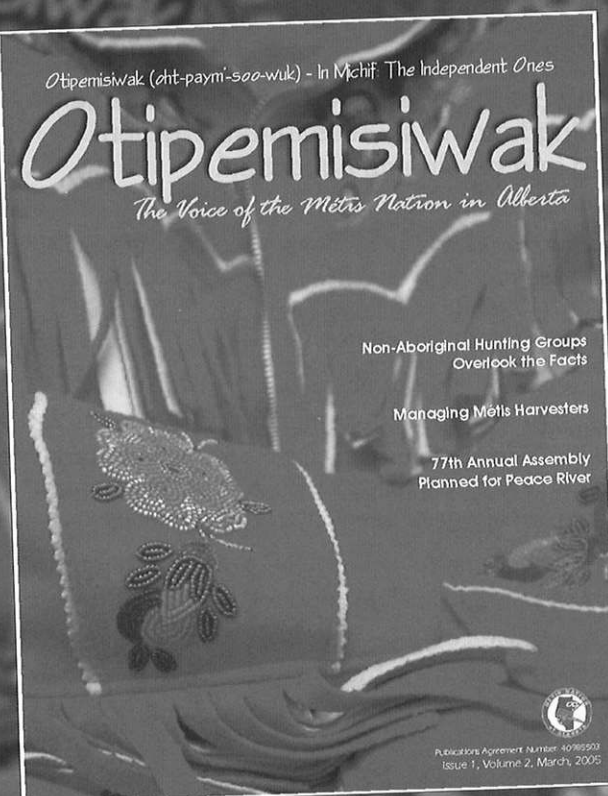
The WMN is made up of a representative Métis woman from each of the MNC's five Governing Members (elected by province-wide ballot-box elections), along with a National Spokesperson, who is elected by delegates at an Annual General Meeting. Rosemarie McPherson of Manitoba was acclaimed National Spokesperson for an additional three-year term in April, 2005.

In the fiscal year 2004-2005, the WMN formalized its structure and role within the MNC through the adoption of a Protocols and Principles document. At the National Métis Women's Forum, held April 12 and 13, 2005, some fifty delegates, representing all five Governing Members, re-confirmed their commitment to the organization and made sure that the document, which outlines the WMN's mission, vision, purposes and decision-making processes, reflected their views and ideas. Once ratified by the MNC Board of Governors, this will provide a formal framework for the WMN's democratic structure and

practices and will serve as a guide for the WMN and for the MNC itself.

As your National Spokesperson, I will continue to work hand-in-hand with the MNC Board of Governors to ensure that Métis women's views are included wherever the Nation's voice is heard.

Work plans for this year's contribution agreements are currently being drafted. The WMN is hoping for sufficient funds to allow for staff resources within the MNC in order to facilitate the accomplishments of its goals. There are also plans to include a communications component in order to increase the visibility of the WMN and to improve its networking capabilities with Métis women throughout the Homeland.



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Deadline to apply is June 30.

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Métis Nation President Invited to Dinner with the Queen

by Patricia Russell

When Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II visited Edmonton in May for Alberta's Centennial Celebration, the Métis Nation of Alberta was on the guest list for each of the official Royal events.

President Audrey Poitras received five invitations, including an invitation to the State Dinner held by Prime Minister Paul Martin, the Premiers

Dinner, and three VIP receptions held by the Government of Alberta.

The greatest honour came when the Prime Minister's Office called the Métis Nation of Alberta requesting President Poitras to sit at the head table with the Queen during the official State Dinner.

Executive secretary Tracee McFeeters, who took the call, says, "The magnitude of the request was unbelievable and it left me speechless; it was such an important opportunity for our President, I was so proud of her." McFeeters says it was the best phone call she's ever had the pleasure of receiving. "It was an incredible feeling to know that I was going to be the one to tell Madame President that she would be having dinner with the Queen."

The day before the State Dinner, numerous Métis braved the cold, wet weather to sit in the stands



Alberta Premier Ralph Klein introduces President Audrey Poitras to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II during the 2005 Royal Visit

Photo courtesy the Government of Alberta

at Commonwealth Stadium for the Centennial Celebration kick-off. Poor weather prompted organizers to cancel some of the entertainment, but the drizzle and shortened program did not discourage Region 4 Elder Marg Friedel from attending. Marg wrapped a blanket around her shoulders, put on a clear plastic rain poncho, and popped open an umbrella in a losing battle to stay dry. "I saw Her Majesty when she visited Edmonton many years ago. I'm very excited to be here to see the Queen again."

Métis youth Kim Mueller and MNA Local 1990 President and Elder Angie Crerar were among the well-wishers lined up on the field at Commonwealth Stadium to greet the Queen. Mueller gushes with pride saying, "As the youth representative for the Métis Nation of Alberta I was thrilled to have the opportunity to greet the Queen during her Centennial visit. To me, this was such an honour and a privilege because few people in Canada will ever have that opportunity. It was equally important to me that the Métis Nation of Alberta had a presence or audience with the royal family and I was so very proud to have this privilege along side an Elder and our President, Madame Poitras. I will be telling the story of that day



Left: These Two Métis veterans were among the many who weathered the storm in the stands at Commonwealth Stadium.

Right: Region IV Elder Marg Friedel braved the cold for her second chance to see the Queen in Edmonton.



Métis RCMP Sgt Dan Bradshaw had the honour of marching on parade for the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh

Photo by Patricia Russell

to my friends and family for years to come."

Some members of the MNA Provincial Council including regional Vice Presidents George Quintal and Rick Boucher, and MNA Vice President Trevor Gladue had a bird's-eye view of Her Majesty from their seats on the field.

Region 6 President Sylvia Johnson, who was a guest in the VIP section of the field, describes the event as, "Wet, windy, and cold. But it was wonderful, just wonderful to have the opportunity to stand a foot away from the Queen -twelve inches- to represent Métis. The Queen saw Métis standing there wearing our sashes proudly. There were Métis in the stands, on the field, in the parade; our Regional



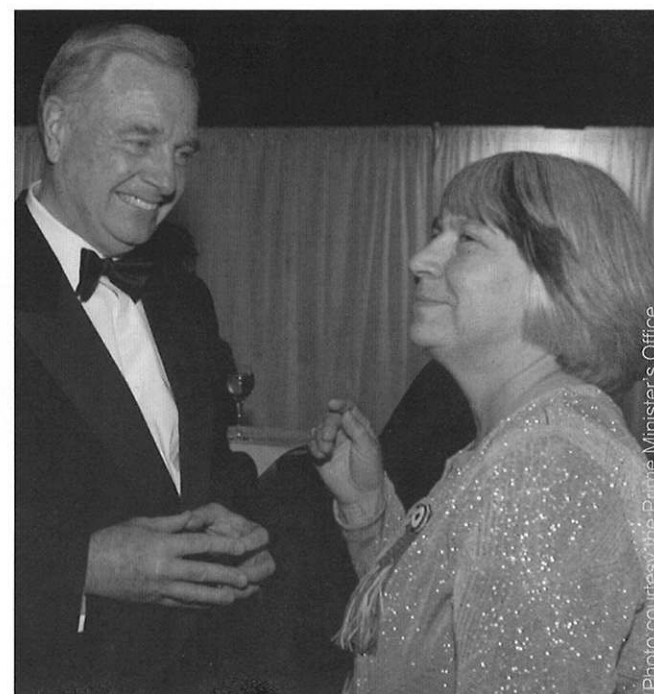
Photos by Patricia Russell

Elders, our local presidents were there and I was very proud to represent Region 6."

President Johnson went on to say, "And it was most fitting that the Métis were there to see the Queen and to celebrate Alberta's Centennial. Who should celebrate Alberta more than the Métis? I mean after all, the Métis were here long before there was an Alberta to even celebrate. After the Rebellion, our ancestors were chased away from Red River and had to hide in the bush up north because of the bounty placed on their heads. This is where they stayed to rebuild their lives. And that was long before Alberta became a province."

The following day, in the first speech to the legislature by a reigning monarch, the Queen included the Métis in her tribute to Alberta's pioneers. "When looking back on the story of Alberta, we see it extend well before 1905. It is indeed the story of Canada. Your First Nations peoples inhabited the prairies over ten thousand years ago, living in harmony with nature then as they do now. By the 1800s, these first citizens, along with the Métis, were joined by explorers, homesteaders, and railway

workers from all over the world. They had a dream to build homes in a land where freedom reigned."



Prime Minister Paul Martin and MNA President Audrey Poitras share a light moment during the VIP reception

Photo courtesy of the Prime Minister's Office

MÉTIS OPPORTUNITY INC.

Employment Opportunities for Type II Firefighters for 2005 Season

Métis Opportunity Incorporated is running four Type II Wildland Firefighting Contracts for the 2005 Forest Fire Season. Through these contracts we hire Type II Firefighters to work as members, sub-leaders and leaders. The type II firefighters require the following safety tickets:

- Type II Crew Member Fire Training Course
- Standard First Aid
- TDG Ground
- TDG Air
- WHMIS
- ICS 100
- Type II Physical Fitness Test from the current year

Certification that is an asset but not required is:

- Woodland Chainsaw Ticket
- ATV Operator
- Valid Alberta Drivers License
- Type II Leaders Training
- H₂S Certification

We hire firefighters who meet the required criteria. If you have a Drivers License you are paid at a higher rate of pay. Anyone interested in working should contact our office at (780) 944-9288 or 1-888-588-4088. If you require a Physical Fitness Test or need to complete your TDG Air or Ground we will be able to assist you.

Photo by Kyle Sanguin/PPA-J/ Library and Archives Canada

Métis Youth Honoured to Receive Duke of Edinburgh's Award

by Naomi Gordon

While in Edmonton for Alberta's Centennial celebrations, His Royal Highness Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, awarded 110 young Canadians with their Gold Awards of Achievement at the Duke of Edinburgh's Award event held at City Hall on May 24.

The recipients, who came from across Canada, were awarded for attaining personally established goals in the areas of Skill Development, Community Service, Physical Fitness and Adventurous Projects. All 110 Gold Award recipients received their certificates from HRH Prince Phillip, who took time to speak with many of the youth, including Shawn Beazley and Justin Ouellette, both Métis youth from Alberta.

"I hope you remember what you did to get it," says HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, during his remarks to the recipients. He continued to offer thanks and praise to both the award recipients and their families for their dedication and hard work.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award was founded in 1956 in the United Kingdom by HRH Prince Phillip. Today, over 100 countries participate in the programme which encourages both personal and community involvement and development with and by youth. Since the Award was introduced to Canada in 1963, over 300,000 young Canadians have participated, with approximately 25,000 actively involved today, including 5,000 registered in Alberta alone.



HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh hands out certificates to Gold Award recipients at Edmonton's City Hall.

Photo by Naomi Gordon



Justin Ouellette and Shawn Beazley show their Gold Award certificates, which were presented to them by HRH Prince Phillip.

Youth can either participate independently or through schools, university, churches or community groups such as the Royal Canadian Army and Air Cadets, Girl Guides and Scouts. The programme is open to all youth aged 14-25. There are three levels of awards, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Those who complete their goals demonstrate commitment and motivation while gaining new skills and a greater understanding of responsibility.

"Every award represents a huge commitment of time and effort toward personal development," says James Wall, President of the Alberta, Northwest Territories and Nunavut Division of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.



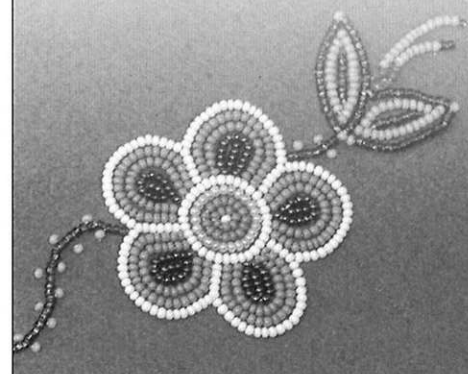
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Count Yourself In

Call the MNA Registry to ensure your membership file is up to date.
1-800-252-7553 or 780-455-2200

**Together We Will
Continue To Build A Strong Métis Nation.**



Métis Nation of Alberta Membership Frequently Asked Questions

1. WHO IS MÉTIS?

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.

2. HOW IS MÉTIS IDENTITY AND MEMBERSHIP ESTABLISHED IN THE MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA?

Métis identity is verified through Métis ancestry. By providing your genealogy we are able to determine whether or not you qualify for membership.

3. WHERE DO I APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP?

Membership applications are available in the Regional Office of the Region where you reside. For Edmonton and surrounding areas, applications can be made at the MNA Head Office.

4. WHAT TYPE OF CARD IS AVAILABLE?

Lifetime Membership. A Lifetime Member is a Métis who has received membership in the Métis Nation or a Métis child who has received membership.

5. WHAT DO I NEED TO PROVIDE WITH MY APPLICATION?

- MNA Membership Application Form
- Completed genealogy (family tree) showing your ancestors date and place of birth; date and place of marriage; date and place of death
- Copy of land scrip (if possible)
- Current picture ID
- Long form birth certificate or baptismal certificate with a wallet-size birth certificate
- Proof of Alberta residency for a minimum of 90 days

6. HOW LONG WILL I HAVE TO WAIT BEFORE I RECEIVE MY CARD?

The application process generally takes four to six weeks, however, in peak membership periods it can take up to two months for processing.

7. I HAD A CARD BEFORE BUT I LOST IT. CAN IT BE REPLACED?

Replacement cards are available if the information in your file is up to date. If there is information missing you will be required to provide it before a replacement card will be issued. There is a processing fee of \$5.00 for all replacement cards.

8. ONE OF MY PARENTS IS WHITE AND THE OTHER IS A STATUS INDIAN. DOES THAT AUTOMATICALLY MAKE ME A MÉTIS?

No. You will have to apply and prove your Métis ancestry.

9. A MEMBER OF MY FAMILY HAS A MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA MEMBERSHIP CARD. DOES THIS AUTOMATICALLY QUALIFY ME FOR MEMBERSHIP?

No. You will have to apply and prove your Métis ancestry.

10. IS A MÉTIS STATUS CARD THE SAME AS AN INDIAN STATUS CARD?

No, our cards are not called Métis Status Cards - they are Métis Nation of Alberta Membership Cards for membership purposes only. They will not entitle you to tax exemptions or health benefits.

11. WHAT GOOD IS A MÉTIS MEMBERSHIP CARD?

Membership in the Métis Nation of Alberta entitles you to participate in the political process, to vote in Provincial, Regional and Local elections and provides proof that you are one of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada under s.35 of the Constitution Act of 1982.

Métis Nation of Alberta Registry

1-800-252-7553 or 780-455-2200

#100 Delia Gray Building 11738 Kingsway Avenue Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5 www.albertametis.com

Métis National Council Holds Annual General Assembly in Calgary

by Naomi Gordon

Impacts of the Powley decision and closer ties with the Federal government were the key highlights of this year's Métis National Council General Assembly, which was held on March 19 and 20 in Calgary.

In his State of the Nation address, Métis National Council President Clément Chartier said that the Métis Nation is witnessing a new government in Ottawa. "I believe this Prime Minister, unlike others before him, has a real sense of the existence and identity of the historic Métis Nation."

He continued saying, "Moreover, in practical

terms, this Prime Minister has demonstrated a willingness to put Métis issues on the federal agenda in contrast with the wilful blindness we faced from Ottawa throughout the mid to late 1990s."

In addition to praising Prime Minister Martin and outlining the advancements made by the Métis Nation, President Chartier raised issues that need to be acted on by all governing members.

One such issue of importance is pushing ahead with Métis Rights and the implementation of post Powley initiatives. "Many governments continue to narrow their approach and understanding of Powley; however, I'm confident under mounting

pressure from across the Homeland, these governments, who have not come willingly to the table, will inevitably be forced to do so," says President Chartier.

At present the Métis Nation of Alberta is the only governing member that has secured an Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement with the provincial government.

Stemming from the Powley decision was the government's initial fiscal commitment of 20.5 million dollars, for post-Powley initiatives. President Chartier, happily, announced that the federal government was continuing this commitment by allocating 30 million dollars over a two year period.

Outside of the address to the Nation and opening remarks by invited dignitaries, day one concluded after all governing members presented status and progress reports. On a light and humorous note of the assembly, Métis Nation of Alberta Region VI President Sylvia Johnson presented all the Presidents across the homeland with a special t-shirt from MNA.



MNC President Clément Chartier, MPCBC Interim President Bruce Dumont, MMF President David Chartrand, MNO President Tony Belcourt, and MN-S President Dwayne Roth hold up their new T-shirts. The caption on the T-shirts reads: "There are two kinds of Métis. Those who live in Alberta... and those who wish they did."

It read, "There are two kinds of Métis, the ones that live in Alberta...and the ones that wish they did."

The second day of the assembly focused on the financial reports of the MNC and of the resolutions brought to the table from members across the homeland.



Photos by Naomi Gordon

Above: Major (Retired) Ed Bortchert, MNC President Clément Chartier, Veterans Larry Wilson, McElrevy, Robert Berard, Walter Schoenthal, John Cadeau, and Eugene Desjarlais.

Inset: Rene Therien leads the way in the opening ceremonies.



Photos by Patricia Russell



(Clockwise from left): Cory Poitras Grandson proudly displays his fiddle; Sylvia Johnson with her husband, Ted and Cecil Bellrose; Region III Vice-President Marlene Lanz and President Ephram Bouvier; President Clément Chartier presents Jason Madden with a President's Recognition Award for his dedicated service to the Métis Nation as a youth; and Region II President Karen Collins demonstrates her skill on the spoons.

Tackling Diabetes in the Communities

by Naomi Gordon

After the success of the Youth Diabetes Conference that was held in Edmonton in early February, the Métis Nation of Alberta's health planning committee focuses on tackling diabetes by heading into the communities.

MNA Tripartite Coordinator, Fran Hyndman, says that with continued funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada new diabetes initiatives that target smaller communities is not only realistic but the leading agenda for the 2005-2006 year.

"We are pleased for being funded again this year, and it is our 5th year of funding for Aboriginal Diabetes initiatives...we have been recognized as providing beneficial services and we hope to continue to provide services to our members," says Hyndman.

Although specific dates have not yet been selected, each MNA Region will hold one mini workshop, per region, over the course of the year. "It is an opportunity to obtain access to the people that in the past have not been able to attend the larger workshops, which usually have been held in larger cities, because of travel and other reasons that inhibit people from attending." She further stated that it also provides opportunity for the regions to be more autonomous with the programming.



Photo by Naomi Gordon

MNA Tripartite Coordinator, Fran Hyndman fields questions from the audience at the Youth Diabetes Conference.

Along with targeting smaller communities, there will be opportunity to build new partnerships with organizations in those selected communities. "We work closely with the Aboriginal Diabetes Wellness Program and the Canadian Diabetes Association and we want to expand and include smaller organizations as well," says Hyndman.

For more information about diabetes programming contact Fran Hyndman at the Métis Nation of Alberta Provincial Office.



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

Chocolate Bar Cookies

½ cup soft margarine
1 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla
¼ cup non-fat dry milk
½ cup Sugar Twin
¼ cup water
1 cup flour
½ teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
1 (2 oz) dietetic milk chocolate bar cut into ¼ inch pieces.

Combine in a bowl, margarine, egg, vanilla, non-fat dry milk, Sugar Twin and water. Beat 1 minute at medium speed. Add flour, baking soda and salt. Blend 2 minutes at low speed. Fold in chocolate pieces. Drop from teaspoon onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 25 minutes at 350 degrees.

Submitted by Odell Flett, Region 6, Fort Vermillion

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

The 2005-2006 FASD Métis Nation Work Plan includes regional action plans and strategies that continue to focus and are congruent with the needs of the Métis communities. These include ongoing FASD information and/or support group sessions, coordination of diagnostic services and testing for each region and creation of partnerships with other ministries and agencies to conduct training for the community to support children and families impacted by FASD.

We welcome the following two new coordinators who have recently joined our FASD Team:

Madeline Belanger

In Region 1, Madeline will provide FASD information and links to services as part of her

Support Worker role at Métis Child and Family Services from the Lac La Biche office. Her telephone number is (780) 623-7474.

Evelyn Marchand

In Region II Evelyn will start to establish FASD Information sessions and/or support groups, create partnership links in various communities, as well as providing individuals FASD information and resources for children and families. Her telephone number is (780) 812-3223 in Bonnyville.

Look for the FASD Link on Métis Nation's website in the coming months.

Town of Smoky Lake

The Town of Smoky Lake welcomes Métis Crossing visitors to our community. We look forward to the development of the Cultural Interpretive Centre.

Visit our friendly town especially on the following dates:

- July 29 to August 1
Heritage Days
- September 30 to October 2
Pumpkin Festival

For more information on services and community events, please call the Town Office at 656-3674 or visit our web site at www.smokylake.ab.ca



Michif - The Language of the Métis A Language in Danger

by Naomi Gordon

Revitalization and protection of the Michif language were the key issues at the 4th Annual National Michif Conference, held in Calgary on March 31 to April 2.

Delegates from across the Metis Homeland explored Michif history, over the course of three days, through an academic and cultural lens. Guest speakers primarily from the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Manitoba Métis Federation spoke on National updates and taskforce updates, with the cornerstone of the conference focusing on storytelling sessions.

"We have received tremendous feedback from participants...many commenting on the strong presence of Michif, especially with the storytelling sessions," said MNA Conference Coordinator Fran Hyndman.

These sessions were facilitated by Elders from Alberta and Manitoba who, like the title suggests, told stories in Michif. This provided participants the opportunity to hear the spoken language, an opportunity that for many was a first.

"To hear people speak Michif, how it is spoken, is so amazing," said youth participant Amy Connochie. Connochie, who works as the Miywasin Society cultural coordinator, shares the general consensus by other participants that maintaining the language is an integral key to better understanding and preserving Métis culture. "It is so important for youth and elders to get together and talk about and learn Michif...I don't want to see it die...it is a part of us, all Métis."

A sentiment advocated by the late Dr. Anne Anderson, a pioneer in preservation methods of the



Participants gather around the storytellers who engage the participants with the language of the Métis-Michif. (inset) Youth participant Amy Connochie listens attentively to proposals on the revitalization of the Michif language.

Cree language. Although Dr. Anderson's passion revolved around the Cree language, her motto "You don't know where you're going until you know where you came from," can be heard today at many Métis cultural events. It was a motto that formed from the belief that language is the key to understanding one's culture and ultimately oneself.

"I feel free, feel myself, feel Métis when I speak Michif," said Sam Dumais. However, a tone of sadness was present in his words, as he and other Elders have recognized and are taking responsibility for not passing on Michif to the younger generations.

Dumais, who was born in Cold Lake, Alberta, learnt the language from his parents and grand parents, but like many of his generation was forced to attend Indian Residential Schools where Aboriginal languages were stripped and replaced with English. He says he witnessed many who lost the language completely.

"Even after I ran away from the school and then came home years later...the older people has started to die, hardly anyone spoke Michif when I returned...only little pockets of Michif speakers," said Dumais.

He illustrates a time when Aboriginal people for various reasons adopted the English language; Dumais himself thought it would provide more opportunity for his children. "We were discriminated by both sides, it was really a struggle back then...we shouldn't lose the language; I was young then but now I know...we have to keep the language alive."

Master of ceremonies Joe Blyan summarized the collective thoughts of participants best by saying "Language is an expression of culture...when we lose language we lose culture." In the closing sessions, participants brainstormed ideas on what future steps to take for preserving Michif, many focusing on the involvement of youth and Elders.

Connochie suggested an immersion setting, a two month cultural camp, where youth would interact and learn Michif from Elders. "Youth need to get over the stereotype of the Michif language being an old language, only spoken by Elders. We need a group that can make it exciting again for the youth to re-rejuvenate their interests and passion. Allowing them to feel the passion of the Elders for their language and to recognize the importance of preserving the Michif language for future generations."

The 5th National Michif Conference will be hosted by the Métis Nation of Ontario, times and dates have not been set as of yet.

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Bow Valley College has worked with Aboriginal peoples for over 20 years. Our Aboriginal programming places great emphasis on culture and community. Located in Calgary, Alberta, we offer the following courses with an Aboriginal focus:

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Study full- or part-time to upgrade your high school level courses. In addition to the core high school level courses, Aboriginal Studies 10, 20 & 30 are also offered.

ABORIGINAL PRACTICAL NURSE PROGRAM

This program will give you the skills to work as a practical nurse in your community, with an emphasis on Aboriginal culture, spirituality and traditional healing methods. The next program begins in July 2005.

* Available at the downtown Main Campus only.

ABORIGINAL INTEGRATED TRAINING PROGRAM

Get pre-employment training plus academic upgrading, self-management skills, employment credentials, cultural activities and Aboriginal speakers.

This full-time program is offered in partnership with Metis Nation Labour Market Development and Treaty 7 Economic Development.

ABORIGINAL PRE-TRADES PROGRAM

Get ready for a rewarding career in the trades. This program offers strong Aboriginal culture support along with training and testing for apprenticeship programs. Life skills, employment preparation, work experience, WHMIS, construction safety and First Aid/CPR are part of this exciting program. You can be working in the trades in as little as 6 months. Funding available to qualified applicants.

ABORIGINAL SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM

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Law and Order: One Young Métis Woman's Dream

by Naomi Gordon

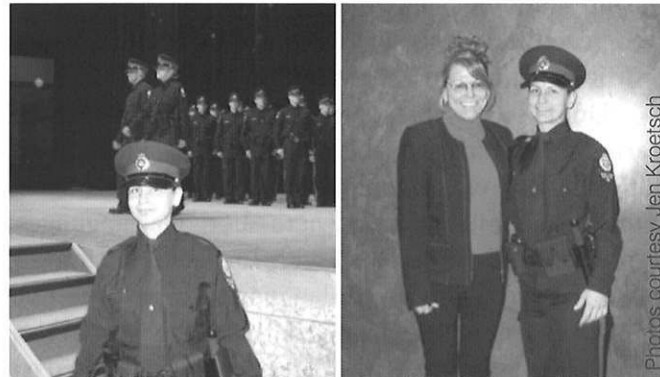
After graduating from High School, Jen Kroetsch was positive that she wanted to become a police officer - so certain that she telephoned the Edmonton Police Service and asked for a job, but to her disappointment she was told to live and experience life first.

To most that may have seemed like a setback, but to Jen it was a challenge, an outlook stemming from her attitude of never losing focus, never taking the "blindness" off. An attitude she attributes to her mother, Darlene Lennie. "She [mom] has been my influence for success and for following my dreams," says Jen.

Her attitude has taken her down less traveled paths through emotional and physical obstacles. This has given her the determination to succeed in accomplishing her High School ambition. On January 27, 2005 Jen graduated as a constable with the Edmonton Police Service.

Her first steps after high school led in the same direction as her passion - law enforcement. Funded by the Métis Nation of Alberta she enrolled in an Aboriginal training program with United Professional Services. After successfully completing the 'paramilitary' style program she was posted to Charles Campsall Hospital. "I loved the training and learning about law and combat," says Jen. However the position itself fell short of any excitement, pushing her in search of new life experiences.

At the age of 21, her lust for life led her to a less than ordinary job. She completed her Class 1 drivers training, jumped in a semi and started hauling pipes and logs between Canada and the US. It garnered her new perspectives, experiences and respect from fellow truckers. "For the most part, people were supportive and said it was good to see women out here," says Jen.



Left: Jen Kroetsch graduates from the Edmonton Police Service Training
Right: Jen and her mother, Darlene

Some of that respect not only stems from her being a woman, but her structure standing little more than 5'1". She comments that she has been conscious of her size but quickly notes that she's "like a little stick of dynamite." Around 2002, to champion her self esteem and build strength she began learning Grappling, an element utilizing many martial arts where handling the opponent and using gripping techniques is employed over striking techniques, and kick boxing. "I find the weak points in life and try and fix them...size can be a hindrance...learning self-defence has paid off."

Yet like many surprises that life offers, an unexpected diagnosis would take Jen away from the open road and throw her into an emotional and physical battle against Cancer.

In 2000 she was diagnosed with Cervical Cancer, a diagnosis that took her through a battlefield of emotions and physical strain. It tested her determination, but in the end her attitude prevailed as did her fight against Cancer. "Through everything I never let anything stop me to see the light at the end of the tunnel."

In 2002 she enrolled in the Aboriginal Police

Studies program at Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton, a program she feels better readied her for both the academic and physical tests of police training. After completion of the course Jen was accepted into the RCMP Summer Student Program.

Although she concentrated on the RCMP for a period of time, she began to shift focus back to the Edmonton Police Service. Her application was accepted for training and during the pre-hire phase she worked with the Sexual Assault Section. Through vigorous training and a level two sprain in her ankle, she fulfilled her leading passion, graduating on January 27 of this year.

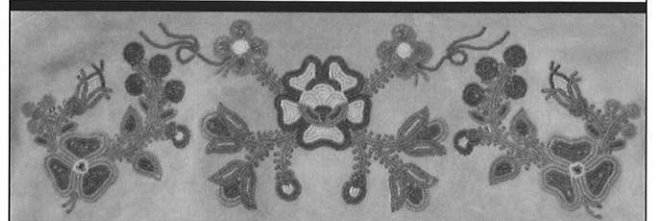
"I love every aspect of policing...helping people." "I approach policing as me, I don't put on a uniform and change...I have had success dealing with people as myself," says Jen.

Her present goals are to focus on the now and absorb as much information as she can, but would like to further her education at some point.



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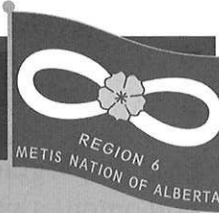
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Friday, April 15th, 2005



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Preschool

Devon Gardecki
Maggie Sommerville

Junior

Ryland Boisvert
Avery Boisvert
Shelby Dechant
Brett Nickleson
Erik Nickleson
Sarah Schmidt
Coralee Whitehead

Intermediate

Marissa Geldart
Spencer Holmes
Theo Horner
Sara Johnson
Petie Mierau
Abby Ann Redman
Braden Schram
Marcus Sommerville
Paige Stewart
Ketchup Dance Group
Argentina Tango
An African Dance

Teen

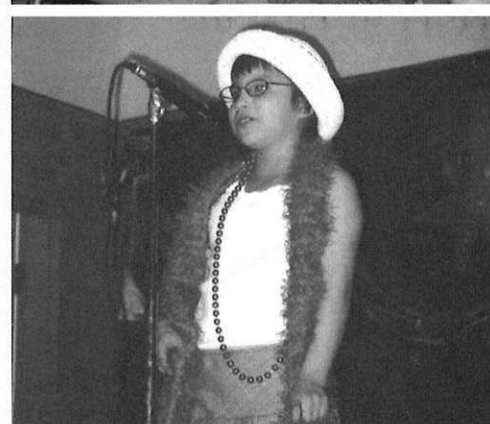
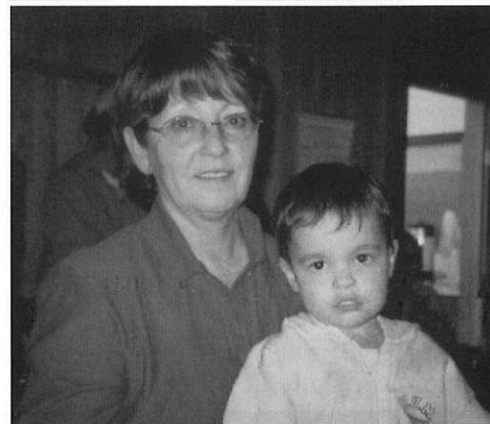
Kendra Basco
Cody Boos
Jolene Froese
Kyle Froese
Layne Rohachyshyn

Adult

Charlene Cuteri
Bobby Dodds
Lena Fazaskas
Allan Gairns
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Métis Nation of Alberta Zone 6

Judges

Deanna Somerville
Bernadette Sallis
Sylvia Johnson
Shirley Nickleson
Carol Knauft
Amanda Wood
Ken Ashworth
Herb Simpson

Top to Bottom:

People enjoying the Talent Show (left to right): Harry and Pat Reinders, Longtime Volunteer Award Recipients; Ron Sharp, Sheila Reinders, and Florence Sharp

Grandma Beryl Wood and Grandson Richard

Lorraine Burroughs and Beryl Wood: Deadwood Talent Show Coordinators

Junior Performer Coralee Whitehead, reciting "My Relatives"

Aboriginal Perspectives 10 Wins Best Educational Book Award

by Greg King

The new textbook, *Aboriginal Perspectives 10*, won Educational Book of the Year at the Alberta Book Awards held on May 14 at the Hotel Macdonald.

The book was heralded as an information resource that was long overdue and was eagerly anticipated by Métis and First Nation communities. *Aboriginal Perspectives 10* beat out many educational books, including university level texts.

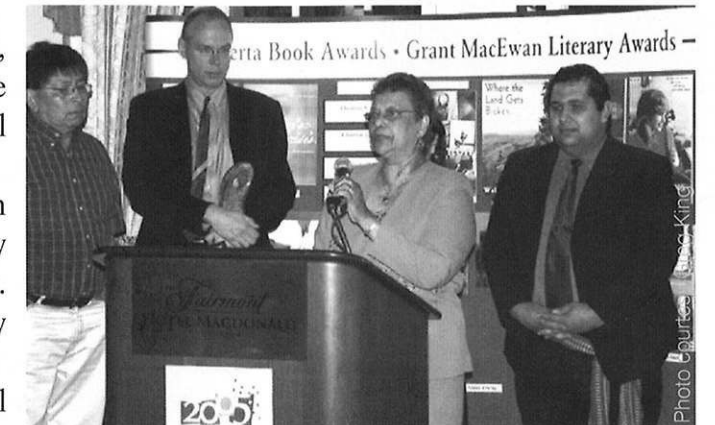
The textbook will be used for the Aboriginal Studies course that was created in 2002 for grades 10, 11 and 12. Until now, there has been no textbook for the course. During the past school year, Aboriginal Studies was offered province-wide and should be available to any student wishing to take it.

The text has raised interest country-wide as calls from several other provinces inquiring about the textbook and its availability have confirmed that it is the first of its kind in Canada. While many history texts exist, the strengths of the *Aboriginal Perspective* books lie in their accessibility, breadth of content, and a balanced perspective.

Duval House Publishing, along with its partners, the Métis Nation of Alberta, Northland School Division, Tribal Institute of Treaty Six and the Kainai Board of Education, accepted the award that evening.

The Métis Nation of Alberta, as a publishing partner, worked with Duval House to provide contributions, consultation, and validation of the content in the text.

While the grade 10 book is the text that won the award, the other two volumes for grades 11 and 12 will be competing for the award next year.



(left to right): Bernie Makokis, Treaty 6; Glen Rollans, partner with Duval House Publishing; Annette Ramrattan, Superintendent of North Lands School Division; Greg King, MNA Education Sector Advisor

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A Member of the Grande Prairie Global Housing Initiative

2005 Métis Nation of Alberta General Elections

A Message from Mr. Bruce Gladue Chief Electoral Officer

Thank you, Provincial Council, for appointing me as the Métis Nation of Alberta's Chief Electoral Officer. I will endeavour to reward your trust and confidence with diligent professionalism and the successful implementation of the MNA election process.

I wish to take this time to remind members of the MNA to: "Exercise your democratic right to vote".

I will do everything within my authority to accommodate that right. I commit to ensuring member accessibility to MNA polling stations and that MNA electoral officials are thoroughly trained to make your voting experience a pleasurable one.

An Advance Poll will be held on Saturday, August 27, 2005 for those of you who will not be available to cast your ballot on Polling Day which is Tuesday, September 2, 2005. Polling stations on the day of the General Election will be open from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Exercise Your Democratic Right to Vote!

Polling Stations and Notices

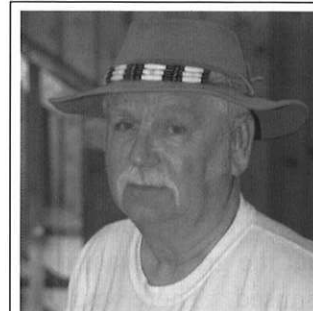
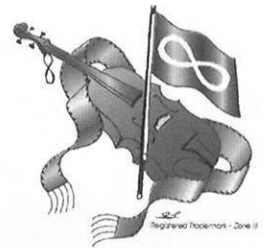
Locations of Polling Stations are to be determined and will be posted accordingly, along with all required Notices including nominations.

Direct Enquiries to the Chief Electoral Officer at:

Chief Electoral Office
Inglewood Building
Suite #305
12308 111th Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5M 2N4
Phone: (780) 452-8235 or (780) 452-8239
Fax: (780) 452-8279
Email: bgldue@metis.org

Vote
Métis Nation of Alberta
General Elections 2005

The "Spring Break Up" Dinner and Dance at Big Valley



by Richard Lucier-Larson

Spring Break-Up' dinner and dance was held in Big Valley to raise funds for this summer's Hivernant Rendezvous, where over 90 people attended the evening's event.

A Prayer by Elder Pearl Steffler-Vannasse started the night, followed by a delicious meal put on by volunteers from the Hivernant Cultural Society.

Ephram Bouvier, MNA Region III President and MNA Region III Vice President, Marlene Lanz gave welcoming speeches.

The President of the Hivernant Cultural Society, Marie Olmstead, started the entertainment by introducing our MC for the evening, Alex Courtoreille of Rocky Mountain House. This was followed by the entertainment of the Karen Acuna Métis Youth Cultural Dancers of Calgary and Dr. Bill Baergen, who presented Louis Riel's Last Address to the Jury which was well received. He was given a standing ovation.

Next on the agenda was a Métis fashion show, the brainchild of Shirley Vols. There were some surprising fashions well displayed by semi-professional models, some from as far as Ponoka.

We had door prizes and danced to some of our best Métis musicians, Gary Lee on fiddle and Ray St. Germaine on Guitar.

A surprise guest was Jess Lee, a Métis singer and songwriter, who entertained all with "Métis Rose" and three more tunes.

Alex and Sheila Courtoreille gave us the song "Frozen Bannock sandwiches" and a couple of superb displays of dancing.

Throughout the evening Alex told many well-received jokes and picked on one of his poor cousins from Big Valley.

There was enough food for anyone wanting seconds and dancing till everyone was tired. Overall, a good time was had by all.

Surtout Liberté



Top: The Karen Acuna Métis Youth Cultural Dancers of Calgary entertained the audience at the 'Spring Break-Up!'

Above: Métis singer and songwriter Jess Lee makes a

Photos courtesy Richard Lucier-Larson

Government of Canada Wants Your Input On Nuclear Fuel Waste Management



by Maria King

The Government of Canada is attempting to put together a strategy on how best to store nuclear fuel waste, and they are asking for Aboriginal feedback. On November 15, 2002 the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act came into effect. The purpose of the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act is to make a decision on what would be the best way to dispose of nuclear waste long-term. This Act was developed in consultation with the public, and it was decided that the Government would seek out valuable participation from Métis, First Nations and Inuit people.

In order to create nuclear power, uranium must be mined first. Once uranium is mined, it is converted into uranium dioxide powder. This powder is eventually pressed into fuel pellets, which are then placed into the fuel rods that, when grouped together, become the fuel bundles that are used in nuclear reactors. One fuel bundle provides the energy it would take to run the average home for 100 years. Each fuel bundle is used for about 12-18 months. These fuel bundles create waste that is dangerous and must be disposed of carefully. Currently, when the used fuel rods are removed from the reactor they are stored in pools at the reactor site. Now the Canadian Government is looking for an answer to the long-term storage of these used fuel rods.

Naturally, there are many things to be considered when thinking about how best to store nuclear waste. There are environmental concerns that will affect us all both now and in the future. There also are economic concerns, such as who will benefit from the different proposed processes and how. Safety, both in the transportation and storage of nuclear waste, is obviously of the utmost importance. Because this is something that will have consequences for future generations and for the future of our environment it is something that must be deeply considered.

Currently there are three proposed options for the long-term disposal of nuclear fuel waste. The first is deep geological disposal in the Canadian Shield. What this entails is that nuclear fuel waste would be transported from reactor sites and then buried deep within the Canadian Shield, between 500 and 1000 metres below the surface. The main concern with this approach is controlling the movement of radioactive and toxic contaminants so that the groundwater flow system would not be compromised. There would be safety measures in place, such as the careful containment of the fuel bundles within specially designed capsules that would then be buried deep within stable granite.

The second proposed option is reactor-site extended storage. This would involve the creation of long-term storage facilities at current reactor sites, either above or below ground. Since nuclear fuel waste is currently being stored at reactor sites this would mean that waste would not have to be transported to a different site for long-term storage.

The third proposed option is centralized storage. Basically this would be the creation of an above or below ground facility that could hold larger amounts of nuclear fuel waste than the reactor sites. Waste would then be transported from the reactor sites to this one centralized location.

Your input on this issue is very important. This is something that will have an impact on us for generations to come, so your thoughts are very valuable.



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MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL

We want to hear from YOU!

Métis across the homeland do you have questions about Nuclear Waste? Now's the chance to have your voice heard!

MNC & Nuclear Waste Dialogue Questionnaire

Region and Community: _____

Participant's Name: _____

1. In your opinion, are you in agreement with nuclear energy providing Canada with its energy needs into the future? - Please check one

☐ yes agree ☐ somewhat ☐ not sure ☐ no

Additional comment: _____

2. How familiar are you with the issue of nuclear fuel waste, either through the media or your own observations? (check one)

☐ Do not know anything on the issue
☐ I know a little about the issue
☐ I am very familiar with the issue

3. Compared with other issues in Canada, how important is the nuclear waste issue of concern to you personally? Please circle.

The health care system	less 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 more
The economy	less 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 more
Fulfillment of Aboriginal and treaty rights	less 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 more
Climate Change	less 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 more
Terrorism	less 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 more

4. Are you comfortable with the current information being provided by you today (NWMO/MNC) to make some initial comments on the management options: (Check One)

☐ yes agree ☐ somewhat ☐ not sure ☐ no

5. In your view, do you feel there are any concepts that are not present that should be part of the discussion (where do you think it should be stored?); Please comment

6. What issues are you most concerned with in relation to nuclear fuel waste once a concept and potential site are chosen? Please number from 1 (most important) to 6 (less important)

_____ Security of the site	_____ Is it environmentally secure
_____ Transportation	_____ Who is responsible for the site
_____ Human Health	_____ Cost efficiency of concept

7. If there were economic benefits to your community, would you support nuclear storage in your region? (Check One)

☐ yes ☐ not sure ☐ no

Comments: _____

8. If you said yes or agree somewhat to question #4 - what are your thoughts on the strengths and weaknesses of each management approach?

Please provide any initial comments on the proposed concepts that follow:

A. Storage at reactor sites
Strengths

Weaknesses

B. Deep Geological Disposal
Strengths

Weaknesses

C. Centralized Storage
Strengths

Weaknesses

9. To your knowledge, have Aboriginal perspectives and insights informed the direction, and influenced the development of the management approaches identified? Comments:

10. Could Métis traditional knowledge play an important part in the recommendation or decision making process for a preferred management approach? Comments:



Métis National Council Questionnaire - Nuclear Waste Dialogue
For further information or to fill out this questionnaire on-line,
log onto our website: www.metsnation.ca

The Métis National Council needs your valuable input to help us assess the issues and properly address them with governments and the Nuclear Industry.

Please return to:
Nuclear Fuel Waste Committee
Métis National Council
350 Sparks Street, Suite 201
Ottawa, ON K1R 5S8



National Aboriginal Day



EDMONTON CELEBRATION LISTINGS

All Nations Coming Together www.edmonton.ca

Monday, June 20
1st ANNUAL CANADA-WIDE CLEANSING CEREMONY
Ramada Hotel & Conference Centre on Kingsway
9:30 am to 11:30 am
Contact: Caroline Thompson at 930-4038
cthompson@chiphospitality

Sunday, June 26
***TIPI CAMP**
Fort Edmonton Park
10:30 am - 6 pm
Contact: Jaret at 433-3097
or cell: 235-3097
sunmoonvisionaries@yahoo.ca
www.aboriginalartisans.org

Tuesday, June 21
OFFICIAL COMMEMORATION
Canada Place from 9 am - 3 pm
Contact: Heather Poitras at 495-6728
poitras@inac.gc.ca
www.inac.gc.ca/nad

June 24 - 26
POWWOW
Hanger on Kingsway
Contact: Ryan at 473-0579

Tuesday, June 21
***ROYAL EAGLES ANNUAL BBQ**
Park at 102 St and Jasper Ave
11 am - 2 pm
Contact: Syrena at 448-6708
syrena.courtortielle@rbc.com

Friday, June 24
SMUGGING THE STREETS
Edmonton - West
7 am - 10 am
Contact: Dean at 479-1999
deanbrown@shawbiz.ca

Wednesday, June 22
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Canadian Native Friendship Centre
11205 101 Street
8 am - 10 am
Contact: Dean at 479-1999
deanbrown@shawbiz.ca

EDMONTON NAD WEEKEND FESTIVAL
JUNE 24 - 26
YEAR OF THE VETERAN
ALBERTA CENTENNIAL
DECADE OF DIFFERENCE FOR ABORIGINAL WOMEN
Provincial Legislature Grounds
10800 - 97 Avenue
12 pm - 6 pm DAILY (Parking Limited on Friday)
CONTACT: Lise at 944-5544
lise.robinson@edmonton.ca
Showcase of Aboriginal music and dance
Special Guest Speakers
Tipi Village; Métis Village; Inuit Village
Children's Activities; Arts & Crafts; Exhibits
Youth Career Fair (Saturday only)
AND MUCH MORE!!
Bring your own lawn chairs and enjoy the day.
ALL NATIONS WELCOMED!

HELP US TO HONOUR OUR TRADITIONAL TEACHINGS
NO ALCOHOL OR DRUGS ALLOWED AT THESE EVENTS

NOTE: Events
Subject to Change
* Costs Involved

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The Métis Nation of Alberta

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» Otipemisiwak

MNA Home

» Métis Nation of Alberta

» History and Culture

» Membership

» Employment

» First Meeting

» History of MNA

» Cultural Items

» Michif

The Métis Association of Alberta was founded in 1932 to represent the interest and concerns of the Métis people of Alberta. Its primary objective was to secure an autonomous land base for the Métis people. Other objectives included obtaining improved education, health, and social and economic conditions. Joseph Dion, Jim Brady, Malcolm Norris and Peter Tompkins provided leadership.

In 1934, after intensive lobbying by Métis leaders and others, the Ewing Commission, composed of Métis leaders and representatives of the government, was to, "Make inquiry into the condition of the Half Breed population of Alberta, keeping particularly in mind the health, education, relief and welfare of such population" (Dobbin, 1981).

With autonomy being their most important goal, the Métis Association of Alberta leaders wanted a cooperative venture with the Alberta government. The Ewing Commission, however, clearly did not believe the Métis people were capable, stating, "It is perfectly true that these people are like children, helpless and irresponsible" (Dobbin, 1981). Following the recommendations of

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100-17738 Kingsway Ave, Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5

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www.albertametis.com

MNA Metis Locals Events Roster

Fort McMurray Métis Local 1935

- > Membership Meetings
Location: Métis Local 1935
Time: 10:00 am
Date: First Saturday of every month

For more information, contact
the Main Teepee
ph: 743-2659 weekdays from 8:30 to 4:30 pm
meti1935@telus.net

MNA Region III - Calgary

- > Aboriginal Business Mixers
Date: Third Tuesday of every month
Call: (403) 569-8800 for more information

Pincher Creek Métis Local Chinook 1880

- > Membership Meetings
Location: Usually at the home of Gail Akitt
Time: 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Date: Third Wednesday of every month
(no meetings in July or August)

- > Pincher Creek Parade and Fair
Featuring: Region III Calgary Métis Youth Dancers
Date: August 20, 2005

- > Fried Bread at Heritage Acres Weekend
Date: July 30 & 31, 2005

For more information contact
Gail Akitt, President (403)-627-4326
Frances Riviere, Vice-President (403)-627-2598

Medicine Hat Métis Local 8

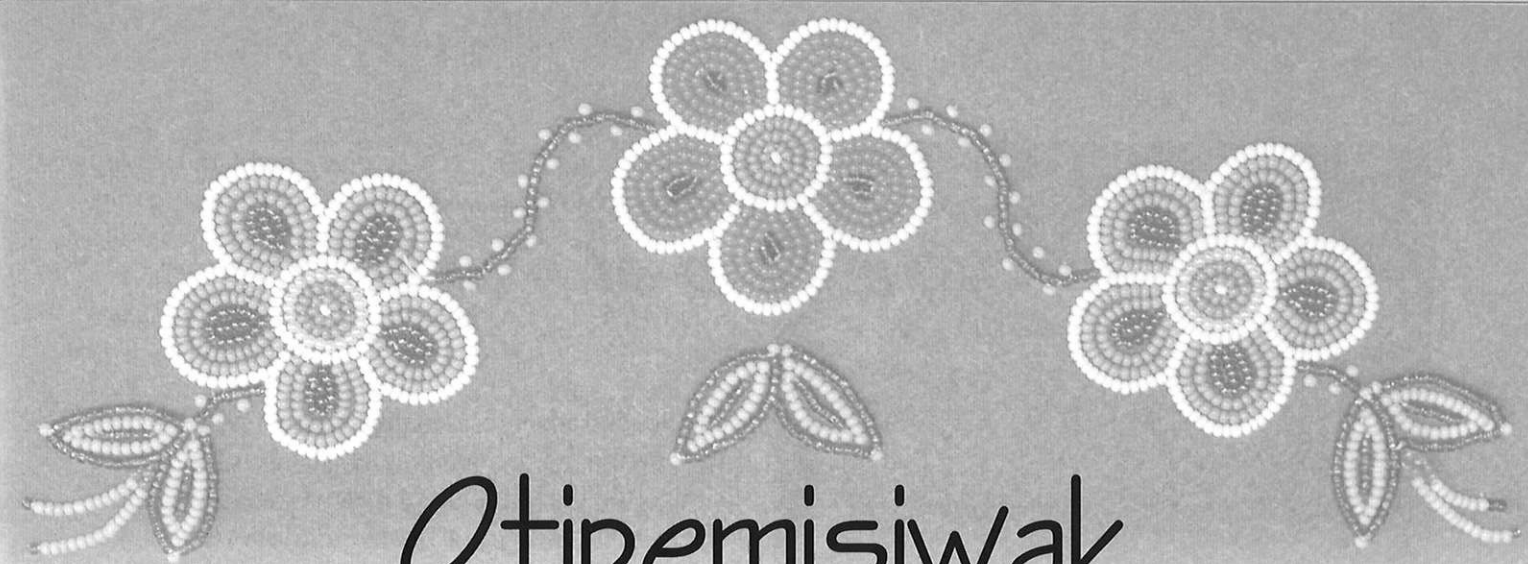
- > Métis Cultural Night
Featuring Aboriginal Crafts, Michif Language and Jigging
Location: Miywasin Centre, Medicine Hat, AB
Time: 6pm - 9pm, Every Wednesday
- > Elder's Lounge
Featuring free lunch, games, music and fun
Location: Heritage Pavilion, Medicine Hat, AB
Time: 9:00 - 4:00, Every Friday
Lunch Served at 12:00 pm

- > Junior Jigging Lessons
Location: Heritage Pavilion, Medicine Hat, AB
Time: 3:45 pm, Every Wednesday, Free
- > Métis Genealogy
Free genealogy services for Métis ancestry
Location: Heritage Pavilion, Medicine Hat, AB
Time: 9:00 - 4:00, Every Monday

For more information contact
Amy Connochie, Cultural Coordinator
Miywasin Society, Medicine Hat, AB
ph: (403) 504-0947 or (403) 526-0756
amyconnochie@thehat.ca

For a free listing of events sponsored by MNA Locals, please submit your information to:
communications@metis.org or call 1 780 455 2200 or 1 800 252 7553

Photo: Métis Artifacts on Display at the Miywasin Centre



Otipemisiwak

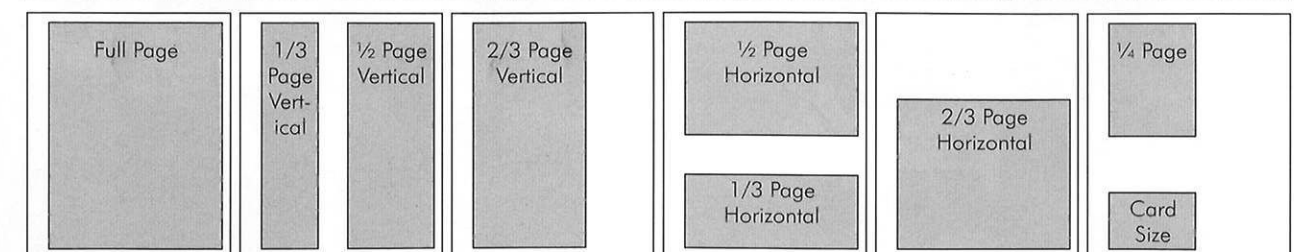
The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta

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.

ADVERTISING DIMENSIONS & RATES

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

	AD DIMENSIONS		RATE PER ISSUE
	width	depth	
Centrefold	15½ inches	9½ inches	\$1,470
Full Page	7 inches	9½ inches	\$788
2/3 Page Horizontal	7 inches	6¼ inches	\$590
2/3 Page Vertical	4½ inches	9½ inches	\$590
½ Page Horizontal	7 inches	6¼ inches	\$513
½ Page Vertical	3½ inches	9½ inches	\$513
1/3 Page Horizontal	7 inches	3 inches	\$395
1/3 Page Vertical	2¼ inches	9½ inches	\$395
¼ Page	3½ inches	4¾ inches	\$263
Card Size	3½ inches	2½ inches	\$133



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Email: communications@metis.org
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Ghost River Rediscovery Youth Leadership Program Métis Youth Takes Trip of a Lifetime

by Candace St. Denis

My journey began on September 29, 2003 as a participant in the Ghost River Rediscovery Youth Leadership Program's 2003/2004 exchange to Guyana. I was surrounded by numerous members of my family, friends and Ghost River Rediscovery staff who bid me farewell from the Calgary International Airport. In total there were nine of us in the program from across Canada. We left Calgary enroute to Guyana; our journey to South America had begun.

The weather was hot and humid; a climate which most of us were not accustomed too. After being greeted by Patricia Henry at the airport, we spent a few hours in Georgetown after which we commuted 12 hours by bus to the savannahs of the North Rupununi.

Upon arrival at the Bina Hill Institute for Research, Development and Training, we were greeted, with a heart-warming welcoming, by 12 Amerindian Youth Leadership Program interns. My first week in the North Rupununi was spent getting familiar with my surroundings. I enjoyed hikes into the mountainous jungle and walks through the picturesque savannah.

Two weeks had been set aside for the group of nine to be split into three groups and venture off into one of three rural communities Aranaputa, Toka and Surama. My group went to Aranaputa Village. On the evening that my group arrived the community had

activities and adventures planned for us. We went on a hike up the nature trail, made baskets and went fishing. On the last night of our two weeks we held a culture night where we shared Rediscovery songs, Rediscovery games, round dance and traditional foods. We all came back to Bina Hill from those two weeks with amazing stories. I will always hold those stories and laughter close to my heart.

The whole group was treated to a trip to Iwokrama field station which is a centre for international forest conservation, research, and development. Some of the activities included hikes in the jungle, swimming in the Essequibo River, a walking tour of Fairview village and a visit to the rapids. It was almost a taste of being home with hot meals being served and access to the Internet. At the end of our visit to Iwokrama, our team leaders planned a memorable stop at the canopy walkway. There was a walk through the jungle where the forest ranger made sure the entire group was aware of all the vegetation and wildlife he was pointing out. There were about five of us walking in a group (myself included) when we came upon a family of monkeys. That was definitely one of the highlights of my time there.

After the Youth and Elder summit we held at Bina Hill was over and everyone had gone home, it was time to spend our last days in North Rupununi with



the friends I had made. It was a difficult time for me with my mixed emotions; I was glad to be going home but sad to be leaving my Guyanese family.

Members of the North Rupununi assembled together and planned a farewell party. The party was held in the village of Rupertee. We were presented with speeches and hand crafted gifts from the community.

We sadly departed Bina Hill in the early morning hours of November 30th. It was a bittersweet goodbye for all of us. We returned to Calgary on December 3rd, received at the airport by family, friends and Ghost River Rediscovery staff. A heart warming addition to our arrival home was having Mike Lickers drumming and singing for us. I was given the opportunity to work for the Youth Leadership Program in August 2004. I couldn't turn it down for I believe in this program and I hope that I can inspire more youth to have the same experience as I did. The trip offered me the opportunity to step out of my comfort zone and to experience an entirely different way of life much different from Canada.



A New Face on the Meyers Norris Penny Team

Meyers Norris Penny is pleased to announce the appointment of Clayton Norris, MBA, CAFM to the position of Assistant Director, Aboriginal Services.

Clayton provides economic development services to aboriginal communities across Western and Northern Canada. He helps aboriginal communities grow and prosper through a range of services, including self-employment and management training; strategic planning; business valuations; infrastructure development; raising capital; feasibility studies; gaming proposals; and government affairs. Before joining MNP, Clayton worked in the banking industry as an aboriginal specialist on issues surrounding corporate lending, investments, taxation and trust law.

Serving the Western Canadian mid-market since the 1940s, MNP is a chartered accounting and business advisory firm that delivers a comprehensive range of accounting, taxation and advisory services to meet our clients' personal and business needs.



Clayton Norris
403.537.7606
clayton.norris@mnp.ca

www.mnp.ca



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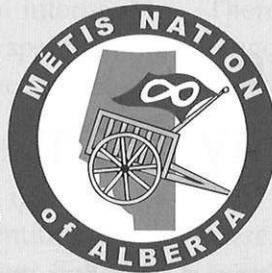
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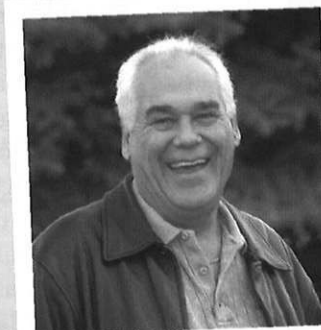
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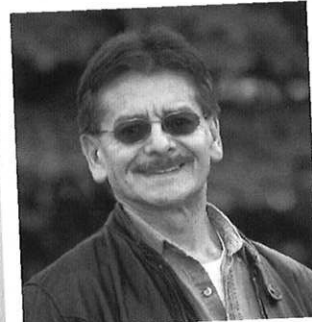
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Louis Bellrose

Region VI

MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA



Editor's Insight

Patricia Russell

There was a thrift-shop across the street from the house where I grew up. It was inside the old Anglican Church, a tiny one-room building, long empty of its congregation and piled high with used clothing donated by town residents and rummaged once a week by the less fortunate. I guess that's why we called it the Rummage Sale.

The winter parkas and long dresses hung on racks across the front of the church in the part of the building once occupied by an altar. Bags and bags of donations were stuffed behind those racks. I know they were back there because that's where I would hide. There I'd sit, perched between the black, woollen coats and lime-green gowns, digging through the pockets and enjoying the aroma of mothballs and closets. I was back there to hide from grade school classmates who might come with their mothers to drop off donations. They were the 'haves', I was a 'have not'. Oh, the stigma and embarrassment of wearing something donated to the Rummage Sale by one of my classmates. Worse yet, I might be seen there.

But that was a long time ago. Now, I brag about the great deals I find at a little boutique I call, "Valoo Villauje". Everyone else calls it Value Village, whatever your preference, it's my favourite store. I'm always wearing Jones New York at a fraction of the price charged by the big chain stores. I say that's pretty good shopping savvy.

Imagine my excitement when I found out I'd be a guest at the State Dinner for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Understanding the urgency of finding the perfect dress, I began strategizing and planning my weekends around trips to every "Valoo Villauje" in Edmonton. "Why pay big bucks for a dress I'll wear only once?" I reasoned to my colleagues, who laughed thinking I was just kidding. "Besides," I said, "It's not like I'll be sitting anywhere near the Queen. I'll find the right dress, give it a good shake to get rid of the moth ball smell and I'll be good to go."

So, with the determination of a drill sergeant, I convinced my anti-shopping husband of the importance of his opinion on style and hemlines and dragged him along for an afternoon. He couldn't hack it; after all, no 'real' shopping trip at "Valoo Villauje" is ever less than four hours. "It's a full body experience," I said, rushing off to the west end outlet and leaving him to recuperate at home.

I threw in the towel the weekend before the big event and had to confess that, for the first time in years, the right piece of clothing was not available at my favourite bargain outlet. They were too short, too big, too small, too strappy, or they were lime-green and looked suspiciously like those gowns I used to hide behind in the Rummage Sale. So I bought a new dress.

Sometimes things happen for a reason. Maybe the stars line up just the right way, maybe it's karma, I don't know. But minutes after I arrived home with my designer goods and original price tags, the phone rang pulling me away from thoughts of, "Gee, I hope this dress will be good enough to wear at the Assembly this summer."

My colleagues were on the phone, Marilyn and Naomi, gushing with excitement because Tracee had just received a call from the Prime Ministers Office inviting our President to sit at the Queen's table. "President Poitras will sit with the Queen, but her invited guest (me) will have to sit at a nearby table," said the voice from the PMO.

Amid the shouts of excitement, Marilyn, who's often preceded by her infectious laughter and gregarious sense of humour, blurted out, "We don't want you near the Queen smelling like mothballs so you better quit shopping at "Valoo Villauje", otherwise we'll hog-tie you and dress you ourselves!"

National Definition of *Métis*

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

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

Defined Terms in National Definition of Métis

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

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

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

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

Dollars for Learners

The Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards

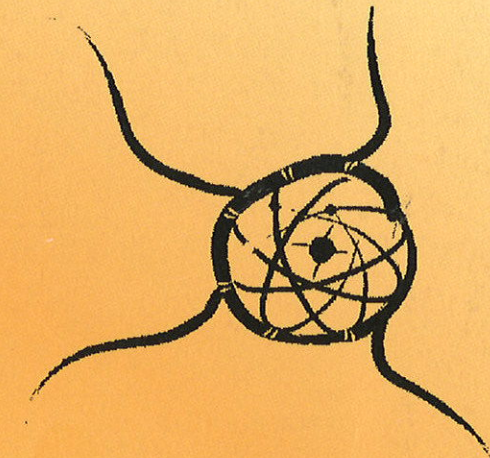
Do you want to be a...

Social Worker?

Teacher?

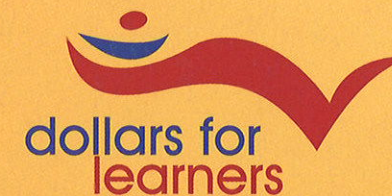
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