

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

Otipemisiwak

The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta

**Interim Métis
Harvesting Agreement
Under Fire from
First Nations**

**Métis Nation of Alberta
2005 Centennial Journey
Wagon Trek**

**Métis Nation of Alberta
2005 General Election
Results**



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Cover Photo by Patricia Russell



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

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



Canadian Heritage Patrimoine canadien

Eight year-old Usini Collins, from the Elizabeth Metis Settlement, clicks a pair of spoons to the rhythm of Metis fiddle music playing at a Wagon Trek celebration in Smoky Lake, AB.

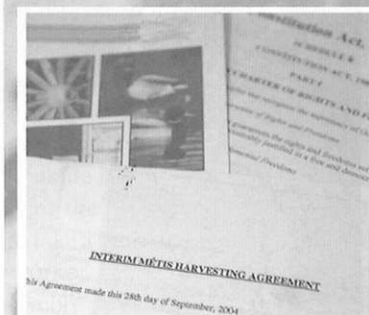
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Otipemisiwak

The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta

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

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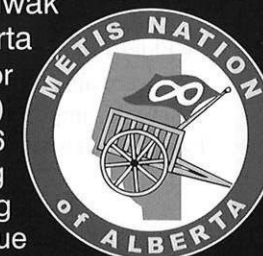
Otipemisiwak

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 November 10th

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President's Message

It is always a pleasure to welcome our readers to another edition of our official magazine, *Otipemisiwak-Voice of the Metis Nation in Alberta*.

Let me begin by expressing my gratitude to our Metis people for taking an active role in the 2005 General Election. Our democratic elections guarantee that each person has the opportunity to take part in a system of governance that ultimately allows us as Metis people as Canadians - to enjoy certain liberties, freedoms, and rights, such as the right of self-determination and the pursuit of self-government. That's the cornerstone upon which the Metis Nation of Alberta is built; we claim the right to govern ourselves. We are "Otipemisiwak, their own boss, the independent ones".

On September 24th, I recited an Oath of Office witnessed by Elder Francis Dumais in the company of friends and family who were able to attend a ceremony in Edmonton. Because I believe it is important for all our Metis people to hear that oath, I will share it with you now.

"I, Audrey Poitras, am a Metis.

As a Métis, I honour with pride the blood of both my mother and father.

As a Métis, I acknowledge the rich history of my people and the courage and dedication of our leaders.

As a Métis, I pledge to preserve the spirit and enhance the identity of my people.

As a Métis, I confirm my commitment to my family, my people, my nation.

As a Métis, I accept my responsibility to put service to my people ahead of self interest, and to honour the spirit and the letter of the written and unwritten laws of God, Canada and the Métis Nation."

I am honoured to have been chosen to lead our Nation for another three years as President and am thankful for the support given to me by our Metis electorate.

I'd like to extend my congratulations to the new members of our Provincial Council and the same to our returning members. Considering that most of our Provincial Council has been elected again, I am confident that we will be able to continue working on the initiatives started under the previous

Provincial Council with limited interruption in regional representation and service to our Metis people.

The 'business' of the Metis Nation of Alberta continues, and with that I refer to the continuation of transparent and sound representation of the socio-economic interests of our Metis people, improving our living circumstances and advancing our Metis rights agenda.

A key date is coming up in November, which is the date Canada's First Ministers will meet with the national Aboriginal leaders where specific aboriginal issues will be addressed. The high-profile meeting is a continuation of the Canada Aboriginal People's Roundtable, an initiative personally sanctioned by the Prime Minister of Canada to substantially improve the lives of Aboriginal people, Metis included.

The month of November also holds special significance for Metis people across the Homeland since that's the month we dedicate a week of attention to the community-minded activities of our people and acknowledge and pay respect to our hero, Louis Riel. Metis people across the province, through the Regional Offices and our Local offices, are already planning special events to gather our fellow Albertans together in a warm and inviting atmosphere where we can share our Metis culture and show off our traditions. I believe it's important for us to do that, to extend a sincere invitation to others who may not know or understand the importance of our culture and the significant contributions our ancestors made to the development of Canada and Alberta.

This summer, we did that at the launch of Metis Crossing, a culturally significant location in Alberta where we are building a premiere cultural tourism centre. The crowd that turned out for the event was nothing short of remarkable. I have heard many, many positive and encouraging remarks from our guests who say they look forward to returning to Metis Crossing for more of our special brand of Metis hospitality.

The Metis Nation of Alberta's 2005 Centennial Journey Wagon Trek was also a big hit at Metis Crossing and in the communities along the Iron Horse Trail. I hope you will enjoy the portion of this edition of our magazine that's dedicated to the stories told by the wagoners as they traveled from Onion Lake First Nation at the Saskatchewan/ Alberta border to Metis Crossing. As you might deduce from the stories, the Wagon Trek was successful at reminding contemporary Metis people of the hardships endured by our ancestors who traveled the Carlton and Iron Horse Trails, packing, trading, hauling goods in horse-drawn carts. Without cell phones, laptops, Internet, convenience items, motorized vehicles. Our wagoners did the same in exemplary Metis-style. A special thank you to Metis from Saskatchewan, Manitoba and British Columbia who also took part in the trek.

Our Metis harvesters will be very interested to read the latest information regarding the Interim Metis Harvesting Agreement, especially as it pertains to the issue of fishing for food using a rod and reel. The Metis Rights 'crew' continues to work steadily towards resolving the difference of opinion with Alberta on how Metis can fish for food. I ask for your patience, just as I asked for your patience two years ago shortly after the Supreme Court made it's ruling in Powley. At that time, I asked our people to harvest responsibly and abide by the laws until a provincial arrangement could be worked out. Within one year, the Metis Nation of Alberta came through with the Interim Metis Harvesting Agreement. So again, I ask our Metis fishers to exercise patience and to abide by the laws while the Metis Nation works toward resolving the 'fishing issue' with Alberta.

Before I close, I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge the staff and volunteers who worked so hard to pull together the 77th Annual General Assembly in Peace River, under the leadership of Regional President Sylvia Johnson and Vice President Louis Bellrose. Well done! Our Metis Veterans, who served overseas in times of conflict, were very appreciative of the special honours offered to them before and during the banquet. The 'fashion show' put on by Metis youth was extremely well done and most entertaining. I would like to extend my personal thanks to every member of the youth troupe involved in the Assembly for their excellent performance and for their participation. I believe it is important to involve our Metis youth as often as possible since they will be leaders of the Metis Nation one day. Well done!

I send my very best wishes for a speedy recovery to our Metis people who are ill or shut-in. I extend my most sincere condolences to our Metis families who have recently lost loved ones. Be kind to each other, play with your children, invite an Elder out for lunch and really 'hear' what they have to say.

My best regards to you and your family,

Audrey Poitras

Audrey Poitras, President
Metis Nation of Alberta

Greetings from the Vice-President

Hello citizens and friends of the Métis Nation. As you are aware, the Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Alberta was given a new mandate on September 06, 2005. I would like to thank the Métis citizens who participated in this year's General Election. It is with your vote that your voice will be represented.

I would like to commend all the candidates who let their name stand. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected council on their recent victory. All of these individuals have put time, effort and energy to give you a choice for leadership of the Métis Nation of Alberta. My hats off to all of them.

As your Re-Elected Provincial Vice President, it is my humble honor to continue serving the Métis Nation. I look forward to working with the Provincial

Council, and most importantly, the Métis Citizens of Alberta.

Should you want to contact me, my direct number is (780) 453-0284 Or toll free at 1-800-252-7553.

Sincerely,

Trevor W. Gladue
Provincial Vice President
Métis Nation of Alberta



Trades in Motion Conklin Students Graduate into Workforce

by Patricia Russell

Not so long ago, Joyce Quintal was unaware of her hidden talent for turning, twisting, and welding metal pipe into heavy-duty piggy banks. Few Métis women from Conklin, Alberta might have imagined having the skill, the knowledge, or the equipment to experiment and learn that becoming a welder is an achievable goal. Quintal, a student in the *Trades in Motion* program, radiates pride as she points to her steel piggy bank among student projects on display for a visiting audience of Métis leaders, industrialists, educators, and community members attending a special ceremony in August.

Quintal, a 38 year-old single mom is one of ten Métis students from Conklin, AB to enroll in the 24-week *Trades in Motion* program, an educational partnership between the Métis Nation of Alberta, the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, Keyano College, and Devon Canada Corporation. "I know I can do this," says Quintal, "Having the program right here in Conklin means I don't have to leave my home

community to take this training. I can be with my family and that will make all the difference. I feel good about this."

A unique feature of the program is NAIT's 80-thousand pound mobile shop, a classroom on wheels. The 53-foot long trailer features retractable sides and a state-of-the-art lab equipped with welders, drill presses, and a range of power tools.

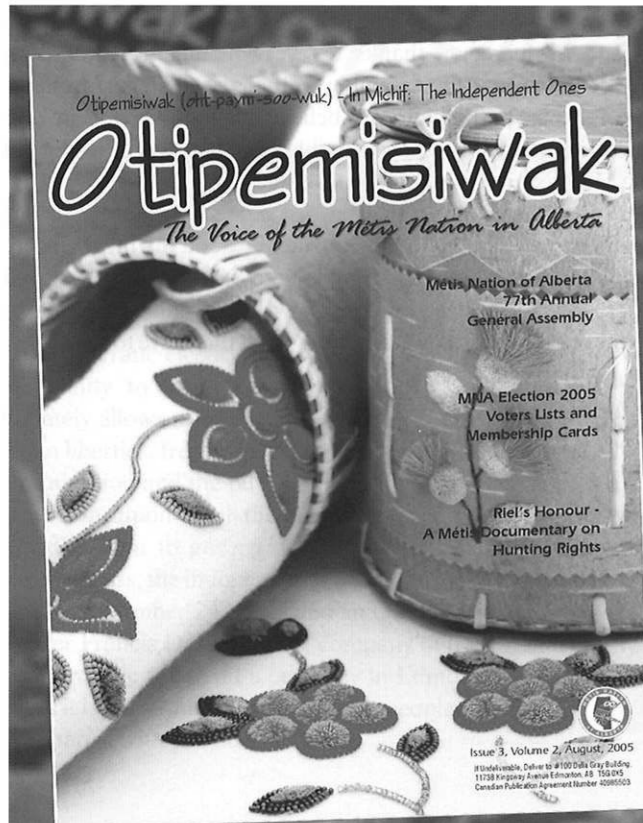
In this portable trade school, Métis students take academic upgrading and receive hands-on training experience in electrical, pipefitting, millwright, and welding. These are the trades in demand within the booming resource industry and at the Jackfish Lake bitumen project near Conklin. *Trades in Motion* makes it possible for the students to raise their skill-level so they can qualify for apprenticeship programs without leaving the support network established in their home community. It is a recipe for success.

"Taking the classroom into the community is an innovative approach aimed at engaging and affecting



MNA President Audrey Poitras, NAIT President Dr Sam Shaw, and Region 1 Labour Market Development manager Mark McCallum.

Photo by Patricia Russell



Otipemisiwak: The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta was nominated in 11 categories of the Western Magazine Awards.

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the lives of our Métis people in a manner that is meaningful and may lead to profound change in their lives. When we empower one person, the Métis Nation of Alberta is helping to improve the circumstances of that person's whole family," says MNA President Audrey Poitras.

"Aboriginal communities make up the fastest-growing segment of Canada's population," says NAIT President Dr Sam Shaw. "It's critical to get skilled trades training to remote areas of Alberta, to give these young people the same educational opportunities as their urban counterparts."

Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras, impressed with the unique design of the piggy bank, congratulated Quintal, acknowledging the stamina required for adults to return to school, particularly single parents, whose responsibility to children can not be suspended for the duration of the training period. "The payoff is considerable," said President Poitras, "They don't call a trade certificate a 'ticket' for nothing. You'll have a ticket to a better life."

Quintal is already able to cash in her ticket. When the class of ten students graduated from *Trades in Motion* at the end of September, each of the students had found full-time jobs.



Toolbox-toting Joyce Quintal with her teenaged kids, Vicky, Lawrence and Leslie Quintal-Walker.

The Métis Nation of Alberta's Labour Market Development Unit sponsors *Trades in Motion* through funding and recruiting activity. The program is a unique opportunity aligned with the MNA's goal of improving the socio-economic circumstances of Métis people in Alberta.

Métis Soldier Receives Medal of Military Merit

by Kim Haines

Ed Haines has only begun exploring his Métis heritage in the last several years and has embraced a newfound identity. Documentation proves his lineage to the Red River settlements of Manitoba and shows his Great-Great-Great Aunt Marguerite Bellehumeur was married to none other than our Métis hero, Louis Riel.

Ed remembers stories told by his Great-Grandmother and how she remembers, as a young girl, their home was used as a stopover place for Louis Riel on his way west. Ed's Great-Great Uncle Roger Malaterre was a Captain in Gabriel Dumont's army.

The Canadian army brought us to Alberta and we have fallen in love with this province and plan to stay for the rest of our days. Ed applied for and received his Métis Nation of Alberta Membership recently. He looks forward to receiving Otipemisiwak every couple of months. In going through the latest magazine, he was especially interested in the Aboriginal Veterans Society of Alberta and plans to contact them to become a member.

In June of this year, Ed was awarded the Medal of Military Merit by Her Excellency Adrienne Clarkson the Governor General of Canada in a ceremony held at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. The Medal of Military Merit is the highest honour a Canadian soldier can receive and is based on exceptional leadership, professionalism, and service to the Canadian Forces. Only 1% of the top 10% of Canadian Forces members are awarded this honour each year.

It was the perfect way to cap his career when, on July 4, Master Warrant Officer Ed Haines retired from the Canadian Armed Forces after a distinguished 29-year career as an infantryman in Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. Ed is a veteran of seven peacekeeping/peacemaking missions including three tours in Cyprus, two tours of duty in Bosnia, one in Somalia, and one in Kosovo. Ed also helped his fellow Canadians recover from the Québec Ice Storm.



Master Warrant Officer Ed Haines accepts his Medal of Military Merit, the highest achievable honour for Canadian soldiers, from Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, July 2005.

Ed was a proud member of the Canadian Airborne Regiment for seven years and completed over 125 parachute descents. He was the senior parachute instructor for the Regiment in 1992. Being a paratrooper was his whole reason for joining the army in the first place. Ed served in Germany for two years as one of many postings that also included Calgary, Petawawa (twice), Winnipeg (three times), Wainwright, and finally Edmonton, where we have put down our permanent roots.

Ed is a very proud Canadian who has served his country well, and of course, I am very proud to be his wife.

The Scholarship and Bursary Handbook



for Métis Students

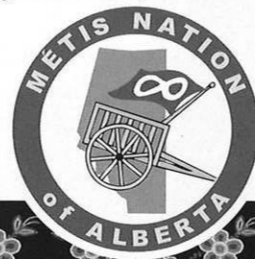
The "Scholarship and Bursary Handbook for Metis Students" is for information purposes to access funding sources for employment training and continuing education.

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

For more information, contact your Regional Office, Employment Service Centre or call:

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Region I



Region II



Region III



Region IV



Region V



Region VI



Métis Nation of Alberta 2005 General Elections

Official Results

Provincial President

Don T. Langford (713)
Alyse McLeod (263)
Audrey Poitras (2210)

Provincial Vice-President

Ephram Bouvier (792)
Trevor W. Gladue (2366)

Regional President

Alan R. (Butch) Ladouceur (90)
Joe Blyan (140)
Christine (Tina) Cardinal (234)
Ken Bourque (255)

Regional Vice-President

Darren D. Boucher (64)
Florence (Chickadee) Hamelin (176)
Wilford (Pappy) Boucher (197)
Rick P. Boucher (275)

Regional President

Brenda Bathory (123)
Karen (KC) Collins (162)

Regional Vice-President

Homer J. Poitras (Acclamation)

Regional President

Gloria E. Contois-McGillis (199)
Marlene Lanz (210)

Regional Vice-President

Arlene M. Fraser (192)
Joe Chodzicki (216)

Regional President

Maryann M. Stepien (146)
Garry K. Gairdner (309)
Cecil Bellrose (361)

Regional Vice-President

Tom (TJ) Roy (84)
Austin Goulet (88)
Al Findlay (192)
Gwen J. Milbrath (209)
Tim Collins (223)

Regional President

Harold S. Augier (90)
Bev New (318)

Regional Vice-President

Kim A. Courtoreille (164)
Peter F. Campion (232)

Regional President

Bill Descheneaux (106)
Les G. Nooskey (119)
Sylvia V. (Goulet) Johnson (321)

Regional Vice-President

Joan M. Setz (75)
Angie Crerar (112)
Odell M. Flett (143)
Louis R. Bellrose (204)

Numbers in brackets denote the total number of votes received by that candidate.

2005 MNA General Election Few Changes to Provincial Council

by Naomi Gordon

When the campaign circuit ground to a halt and the doors to the polling stations closed on September 6, 2005, Métis across Alberta had one thing on their minds: who will win? At stake were fourteen positions on the Métis Nation of Alberta's Provincial Council.

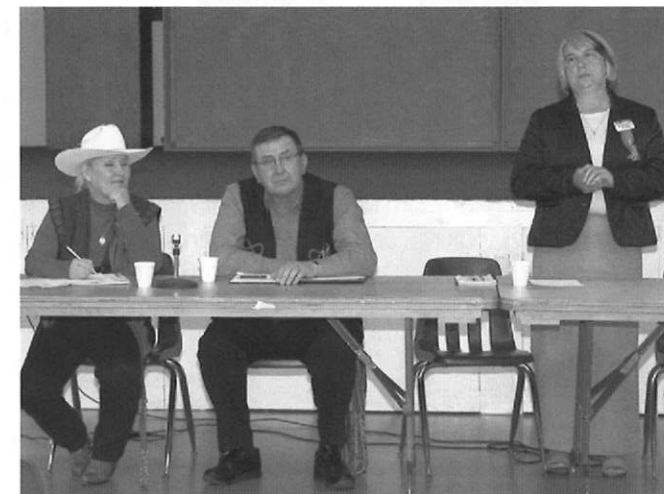
Candidates waited in nervous anticipation as they monitored the MNA website which, for the first time in the history of the Métis Nation across the Homeland, posted the unofficial tallies from across the province as they came in. By midnight, election parties across the province were either celebrating or analysing their defeat.

Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras reclaimed her position in a landslide victory of more than 1,500 votes ahead of presidential candidate Don Langford. "I thank our Métis people for allowing me to continue building on our Métis rights, strengthening our nation and our partnerships with government," said President-elect Poitras.

This is the fourth term for President Poitras, a Métis businesswoman with a solid background in financial administration. When she was first elected in 1996, Poitras eliminated the debt, balanced all the budgets, and began raising the profile of the Métis Nation of Alberta. With this election win, Poitras becomes the first Métis woman in the history of Canada to serve four consecutive terms. She also holds the honour of being the only female president of a provincial Métis organization.

For weeks prior to election night, candidates were visible in the communities heartily campaigning for a place on the MNA Provincial Council. Following the MNA Annual General Assembly in Peace River, most regions held candidate's forums where community members could ask questions and candidates could sell their vision.

Ultimately, no matter the campaigning, the slogans and the handshakes, the bottom-line of any



Top: Presidential candidates Audrey Poitras, Don Langford, and Alyse McLeod during a forum in Fort Vermilion.

Above: Region 6 vice presidential candidates Angie Crerar, Odell Flett, and Louis Bellrose in Fort Vermilion.

election depends on voters going to the polls. According to Chief Electoral Officer, Bruce Gladue, there had been considerable advertising throughout the province, in newspapers, on radio and using the Internet, announcing the September 6 election, to raise awareness among the Métis electorate. Typically though, Canadians, and Métis alike, tend to display apathy towards elections with national voter statistics



In her third term as Region 6 President, Sylvia Johnson is looking forward to continuing to represent the Métis people of Region 6 and to ensure they are included and considered within all levels of government, industry, and partnerships.

"Helping people is my commitment, however big or small the problem, if we can help we will. This is evident in my leadership over the past six years, the change and growth that has occurred throughout the communities are testimony to that commitment."

"Thank you to everyone who supported and voted for me and to everyone who didn't. I will continue to treat you equally and fairly you are my people, I love you."

-Sylvia Johnson,
Region 6 President

hovering around the 10-15% mark, depending on the campaign issues. Unofficial results indicate approximately 3,100 Métis turned out to vote in this election.

Although there were no star celebrities pushing individual campaigns or concerts motivating youth to vote, the Métis community has its own 'moccasin telegram'. A system employed throughout much of the nation's existence, it works effectively at getting messages out to the community and almost matches the speed of sound.

Members of the Métis Nation of Alberta re-elected Vice-President Trevor Gladue, who received 2366

the Vice-President); Cecil Bellrose, Region 4 President (formerly the Vice-President); Bev New, Region 5 President; Peter Campion, Region 5 Vice-President; Sylvia Johnson, Region 6 President; and Louis Bellrose, Region 6 Vice-President. Homer Poitras, Region 2 Vice-President is returning by acclamation.

The official count was held on September 12, 2005 inside the Métis Nation of Alberta's Provincial Office under the direction and guidance of the Chief Electoral Officer.

votes. Voters also cast ballots for six regional Presidents and six regional Vice-Presidents who, along with the provincial representatives, will comprise the Provincial Council.

Election results indicate three new members of the Provincial Council: Ken Bourque, Region 1 President; Joe Chodzicki, Region 3 Vice-President, and Tim Collins, Region 4 Vice-President. Returning elected members include: Rick Boucher, Region 1 Vice-President; Karen (KC) Collins, Region 2 President; Marlene Lanz, Region 3 President (formerly

The Métis Nation of Alberta Provincial Council serves as the representative body and political voice of the Métis people in Alberta. Consistent with the MNA by-laws and resolutions from its Annual General Assembly, the MNA Provincial Council articulates Métis' goals and objectives.

The MNA Provincial Council also develops strategic direction and policy for dealing with governments to achieve the objectives of the Métis Nation and participates in the design and delivery of programs and services directed toward Métis social and economic institutions.

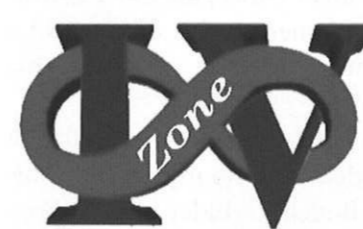
To strike a proper balance between regional and provincial interests, the MNA Provincial Council consists of two officers (a Provincial President and Vice President), elected at large, and two officers (a regional President and regional Vice-President), elected from each of the six MNA regions throughout the province.

Through an internal process, the MNA Provincial Council goes one step further and elects a secretary and a treasurer from within the ranks of the Provincial Council to complete the requirements for four Executive officers. Collectively, these elected representatives form a fourteen-member Provincial Council.

The Métis Nation of Alberta represents the political and socio-economic interests of Métis living in Alberta.

Leadership United in Region 4 President's and Vice President's Report

by Cecil Bellrose and Tim Collins



As the recently elected President and Vice President of Region 4, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Métis electorate for supporting the Métis Nation by participating in the 2005 General Election. As the leaders in this region, we are both committed to representing the interests of Métis people living in Region 4 and will work as a team on the Provincial Council to move our Nation's agenda forward.

There are many new and exciting opportunities coming up for our Métis people to take part in that will bring us closer to achieving the goals of this region. We encourage and look forward to everyone's participation and involvement and we welcome input on any areas of interest that our members would like to bring forward.

A few of the upcoming events and activities that will be paramount in the first few weeks is the development and capacity building of the Métis community and planning the events for Métis Week 2005. As your Métis leaders in this region, we are committed to keeping the communication lines open with our people and we look forward to everyone's participation in upcoming events.

We would also like to remind people to come out and support the Grande Cache Local with their upcoming annual talent show on October 1, 2005. The show, put on by Local President Al Findlay and his team of volunteers, is always excellent.

Feel free to contact either elected leader at the Métis Regional Council Zone IV office at (780) 944-9288 or 1 888-488-5088. The door to our regional office is always open to our Métis people and we keep a hot pot of coffee going in the kitchen. Stop by anytime.



Zone IV President Cecil Bellrose and Vice President Tim Collins are committed to representing the interests of Métis people in the region.

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Provincial Council Swearing-In Ceremony Announcing the 2005 Council of Ministers

by Patricia Russell

A crowd of approximately five hundred Métis family members, guests, dignitaries, and well-wishers gathered at the Ramada Hotel in Edmonton on September 24th to witness the swearing-in of the Métis Nation of Alberta's (MNA) recently elected Provincial Council.

According to the bylaws of the MNA, the elected representatives take office once the Chief Electoral Officer announces the election results. A swearing-in ceremony is held as a matter of protocol.

The ceremony requires each elected member of the Provincial Council to select a Métis Elder with whom they recite the Oath of Office, an eloquent pledge to uphold the political aspirations and goals of the Métis Nation and the traditions and values of the Métis culture.

Region 2 Elder Francis Dumais witnessed the Oath of Office taken by Madame President Audrey Poitras. Elder Dumais also witnessed the pledges of Region 2 President Karen (KC) Collins, Region 3 President Marlene Lanz, and Region 4 Vice President Tim Collins. Region 2 Vice President Homer Poitras asked his father, Lloyd, and wife, Liz, to share in the ceremony.

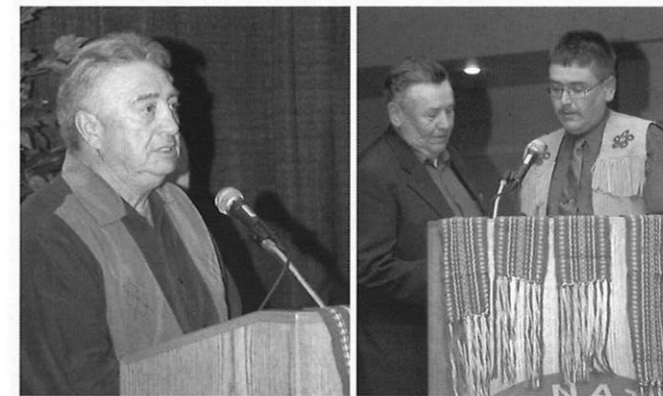
As they signed the Oath of Office, the Elder Poitras reached over and patted Homer on the shoulder in a gesture that spoke volumes, "My son, you make me proud."

Elder William Boucher witnessed the Oaths of Office for Region 1 President Ken Bourque and for his son, Vice President Rick Boucher. Elder Lloyd Norris witnessed the Oath of Office for MNA Vice President Trevor Gladue. Region 4 Elder Marg Friedel witnessed the Oaths of Office for Region 4 President Cecil Bellrose and Region 3 Vice President Joe Chodzicki. Elder Herb Anderson witnessed region 5 President Bev New's Oath of Office. Elder Emma New witnessed the Oath of Office taken by Region 5 Vice President Peter Champion. Region 6 Elder Minnie Belcourt witnessed the Oaths of Office taken by Region 6 President Sylvia Johnson and Region 6 Vice President Louis Bellrose.

The anticipation was electric leading up to MNA President Audrey Poitras' announcement of the Provincial Council portfolios, most of which were accepted with surprise and grace. Two portfolios, Finance and Citizenship, were known prior to the ceremony since each was elected by secret ballot during the The first meeting of the Provincial Council held the



(left to right): R1 President Ken Bourque, R2 President Karen (KC) Collins, R3 President Marlene Lanz, Vice President Trevor Gladue, MNA President Audrey Poitras, R4 President Cecil Bellrose, R5 President Bev New, and R6 President Sylvia Johnson.



2005 Regional Vice Presidents at the swearing in ceremony. Top (l-r) R6 VP Louis Bellrose, R1 VP Rick Boucher with his father, William. Middle: R5 VP Peter Champion and Elder Emma New. R3 VP Joe Chodzicki with Elder Marg Friedel. Bottom (l-r) R2 VP Homer Poitras with his father, Lloyd and wife Liz. R4 VP Tim Collins.

previous day.

President Audrey Poitras introduced the 2005 Council of Ministers, describing generally each area of responsibility. (Listed here in alphabetical order according to surnames)

Region 4 President Cecil Bellrose is entrusted with the portfolios of *Métis Rights* and *Citizenship*. By Provincial Council This portfolio blends well with his election to the Executive Officers position of Secretary since the Métis Rights agenda is tied intricately to Métis Identification and Registry as both relate to post-Powley initiatives.

Region 6 Vice President Louis Bellrose was very pleased to accept the portfolio of *Agriculture*, which includes responsibility for Métis issues relating to farming and ranching, grazing leases, cattle, pastures and homesteads.

Region 1 Vice President Rick Boucher was very excited to receive the portfolio responsible for the *Environment*. Boucher's responsibilities will also include: the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance, the Water for Life Strategy, and nuclear waste.

Region 1 President Ken Bourque, who has previous experience in the oil and gas industry, accepted the portfolio for *Renewable Resources and Energy*. It includes responsibility for the Métis Nation of Alberta's Drilling Rig, oil and gas initiatives, mining, industry relations, and forestry.

Region 5 Vice President Peter Champion declared his surprise and commitment in accepting the portfolio for *Education*. Champion's area of responsibility includes provincial education issues as they relate to Métis students, scholarships and bursaries, Lifelong Learning, overseeing the Métis Education Foundation, and the Aboriginal Headstart programs.

Provincial Council newcomer, Region 3 Vice President Joe Chodzicki accepted the portfolio of *Justice and Culture* which includes responsibility for the Youth Justice Strategy, alternate dispute resolution, Community Crime Watch, working closely with the Métis Wilderness Camp, Michif language preservation, residential schools, the Alberta Métis Historical Society, and working with the Métis Judiciary Council.

Region 2 President Karen (KC) Collins returns to the portfolio of *Economic Development* that carries responsibility for private sector partnerships, support to business, lending institutions, gaming revenues, Aboriginal Energy Services, Apeetogosan, and Métis Crossing.

Region 4 Vice President Tim Collins was very excited to receive the portfolio for *Housing* since his election campaign focused on housing-related issues. The portfolio responsibilities include: home ownership, affordable housing, homelessness, Métis urban initiatives, and working with Métis Urban Housing (MUH).

MNA Vice President Trevor Gladue received the portfolio for *Métis Land Claims*; an area of responsibility which includes traditional land issues and studies.

Region 3 President Marlene Lanz was very excited to accept the portfolios of *Family Wellness* and *Finance*. The Provincial Council elected Regional President Lanz to the Executive Officer position of Treasurer, which includes responsibility for MNA Corporate Services and Metis Nation Holdings. The Family Wellness portfolio is responsible for Health and Works with Metis Child and Family Services.

Region 6 President Sylvia Johnson is returning to the portfolio of *Human Resource Development*, which she graciously accepted describing it as an area of very special interest to her. Through her portfolio, Regional President Johnson will continue to be responsible for the Labour Market Development training programs, people with disabilities, the Métis Centre of Excellence and the sixteen Métis Employment Service Centres across the province.

Region 5 President Bev New accepted the portfolio responsible for *Women and Youth*. It includes working with the women's groups and the youth council.

Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras will continue to be responsible for *National and Intergovernmental Affairs*, which includes United Nations relations, Métis National Council relations, MNA capacity development, and communications, with the additional responsibility of Governance including the Métis Nation Constitution.

The only acclaimed member of Provincial Council, Homer Poitras, was excited and very happy to accept the portfolio of *Veterans and Seniors*, an area of responsibility that includes working with the Elders Council, Aboriginal Veterans, and the Native Seniors Centre.

The Metis Nation of Alberta's four main agreements: Multilateral, Tripartite, Framework, and Aboriginal Human Resource Development will remain under the respective portfolios of Metis Rights, Intergovernmental Affairs, Finance, and Human Resource Development.

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Moving to Vancouver means Photojournalist Naomi Gordon will be one step closer to following her dream of working in countries overseas. During her time in the Métis Nation of Alberta's Communications Office, where she practically lived, Naomi met, photographed, and wrote stories about Métis leaders, Elders, children, Veterans, youth, and families living in many parts of the province. Friends and colleagues at the Métis Nation of Alberta wish the very best for Naomi and remind her to use flash and shoot from the shadow side. Our paths will cross again.



Photo by Patricia Russell



Photo by Naomi Gordon

Labour Market Development Unit Annual Conference Team Building and Networking

by Joan Isaac



More than 65 staff from the Métis Employment Service Centres and the Labour Market Development Unit took part in the annual conference held in Vermilion in mid-June. The annual conference provides an opportunity for all Labour Market Development (LMD) program staff to come together for networking, team building, and capacity enhancement activities. As one staff commented, "It was a great opportunity to learn without distractions or interruptions and to interact and share ideas with my co-workers."

The conference began with welcoming remarks from Region 2 President Karen (KC) Collins and MNA President Audrey Poitras. This was followed by a presentation from the Director of Labour Market Development Lorne Gladue on the LMD business plan under the new Métis Human Resource Development Agreement and a review of LMD accomplishments over the past year.

New to the conference were separate workshops for positions within the LMD unit. Employment counsellors participated in sessions on a revised funding application process and the new LMD program called Employment Supports program. Workshops for Labour Market Development managers included budgeting and performance management topics. Program assistants learned

about an additional section of the Payment Processing System (PPS) to project proponents and took part in a working session on developing a PPS user manual. Client service assistants attended a workshop to better understand the range of resources available to assist clients in researching careers and finding employment.



Above: LMD Director Lorne Gladue presents Lloyd Gwin with a gift of appreciation for his eight years of service to the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Top: More than 65 staff from the Labour Market Development Unit and the Métis Employment Service Centres attended the annual LMD Conference in Vermilion. MNA President Audrey Poitras and Region 2 President Karen (KC) Collins also attended.

Other sessions included *Super Service*, the *Canada Privacy Act*, scholarships and bursaries, stress management, the MNA pension plan, Microsoft Office, and *Certified Career Development Professional*. Each participant selected and attended three sessions from the choices available. Comments from participants include, "I really enjoyed how the conference was broken into small workshops that provided information we do not have time to research due to our works schedule." Another participant added, "I liked that I had the ability to choose the workshops that were best for me."

The conference was held at Lakeland College in Vermillion, a beautiful setting that staff experienced closely through an evening 'photo scavenger hunt', which involved a competition between nine LMD teams with the challenge of capturing the most creative pictures depicting campus life.

Participants experienced college living first-hand by staying on campus. Many described the quality of the food in the residence and the dormitory accommodations as a far cry from hotel standards but provided good insight into what our clients experience. Students in the first Métis Emergency Services Technology project are training at Lakeland College. Conference attendees were able to tour the *fire etc.* training site and interact with the students through the week. Many counsellors commented that interacting with Métis students in a training environment was one of the highlights of the conference.

The last evening included a banquet and staff recognition event. Service awards were presented to all LMD staff. In addition, co-workers and supervisors nominated six employees as role models for their professional behaviour, their demonstration of initiative above and beyond the requirements of the job, and for promoting a positive image of the MNA within the community. Role Model Awards for 2005 were presented to Sharon Sawchuk, Janet Gardner, Roxanne Hall, Sheila Collins, Rusty Corben and Laurie Jans. A special presentation was made to Lloyd Gwin for contributions to the LMD program over the past eight years.

Evaluations completed by participants showed that 73% of staff rated the conference as 8/10 or better. Comments about the conference overall were "informative, relevant, and enjoyable...the best conference in five years....the laughter was the best."

Labour Market Development 2005 Role Model Awards Recipients



Sharon Sawchuk



Janet Gardner



Rusty Corben



Sheila Collins



Laurie Jans



Roxanne Hall

Labour Market Development - Métis Junior Forest Rangers Winners of "Bull of the Woods"

by Kris Gladue and Janet Gardner



Two Métis Junior Forest Ranger (JFR) crews from Fort Vermilion and Lac La Biche, sponsored in part by the Métis Nation of Alberta's (MNA) Labour Market Development Program, have done exceptionally well this summer. The project's facilitators with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD) are touting the Métis crew from Fort Vermilion as one of the best in Alberta.

This was demonstrated when the Fort Vermilion Métis Junior Forest Ranger crew won first-place overall in the provincial Junior Forest Ranger games and the "Bull of the Woods" title. The competition, held in Cold Creek, AB on August 22, 2005 pitted the Métis crews against eleven other JFR teams, testing their skills and abilities as effective forest rangers. The competition categories included: log chopping, log dragging, map and compass, fire lighting, trivia, tipi set-up, knots tying, Swede saw, push-ups, radio rescue, and the blind chainsaw category.



The Fort Vermilion Junior Forest Ranger Crew, proud winners of the coveted title "Bull in the Woods". Competitions included log chopping, log dragging, map and compass, fire lighting, trivia, tipi set-up, knots tying, Swede saw, push-ups, radio rescue, and the blind chainsaw category.

The Junior Forest Ranger crews from Nordegg and Calgary placed second and third respectively. This is the first time an Aboriginal crew won the JFR's provincial competition. The Aboriginal JFR program is in its third year and it continues to grow in popularity among eligible youth.

The Métis youth have made the Métis Nation of Alberta and its Labour Market Development Unit very proud. Region 6 President Sylvia Johnson beams as she says, "I'm very proud of these kids. They started the program as a shy bunch of kids. They demonstrate the perfect example of what it means to be a team. They worked hard together, they stuck together, and showed the true spirit of teamwork. The Junior Forest Ranger program helped them change from being uncertain young boys to confident, respectful young men."

The Métis Junior Forest Ranger crews acted as model citizens participating in other Métis Nation of Alberta activities. The crew from Lac La Biche, the 204 Forest Capital of Canada, played a significant role in the ceremonial signing of the Memorandums of Understanding between the MNA and ASRD at the provincial office building in Edmonton. The crew also assisted with the MNA float in Edmonton's Klondike Days Parade in mid-July. The Métis JFR's were on hand at the 77th Annual General Assembly in Peace River, and the launch of phase one of Métis Crossing on August 26, offering assistance as required.

Region 6 President Johnson says, "These young men were true ambassadors for the Métis Nation of Alberta. Whatever they were asked to do, they did it to the best of their abilities. They even learned how to jig in one day."

The exceptional young Métis leaders have expanded their personal networks by developing a greater understanding of the length, breadth, and reach of the Métis community and the importance of being an active participant in it. "The whole community of Fort Vermilion has been very supportive of these young men and are very proud of them," says Johnson.

The 20 Métis youth who completed the training now have the 'competitive edge' to enter the Forest Technology Diploma program at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) upon obtaining the high school pre-requisites.

In 2004, 92% of the Junior Forest Ranger program graduates found training-related full-time employment, with nearly two-thirds earning a comfortable wage of \$2200 to \$3000 a month. Forest technicians and technologists in Alberta earn up to \$76-thousand dollars annually.

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD) plans to mentor these youth through the department's junior level forestry technology positions with opportunities to climb the ladder faster to senior level positions in just a few years. Once they reach the higher levels, and with the required training, ASRD has a difficult time competing with the salaries offered and the growth within the natural resource exploration industries.

The success and growth of the Métis JFR crews is apparent in the determination and drive shown by our Métis youth who are keenly interested in learning the skills needed to protect our forest environment. The activities are fun, challenging, and rewarding in that they provide our Métis youth with tangible career opportunities as they learn about natural resource management and conservation, cultural heritage and the protection of our local communities.

TransCanada is proud to support the Métis Crossing as part of our commitment to celebrate Aboriginal accomplishments and to help build strong communities.



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- ◆ Employment counselling
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MNA Labour Market Development 4th Annual Provincial Métis Youth Camp

by Kris Gladue

Métis youth came together once again in William A. Switzer Provincial Park near Hinton, AB for the Métis Nation of Alberta's Provincial Youth Camp, sponsored by the Labour Market Development Unit (LMDU).

The camp is aimed at high school students in grades 9 through 12 and provides an opportunity to develop career decision-making skills while participating in activities that promote positive life skills. The camp runs for six days and encourages Métis youth to begin considering long-term career goals. Métis Employment Services (MES) counsellors provide follow-up support to help our youth remain on their career paths. Case management of these youth is expected to be a multi-year process as they return to MES centres during their years in high school and in the post-secondary education system.

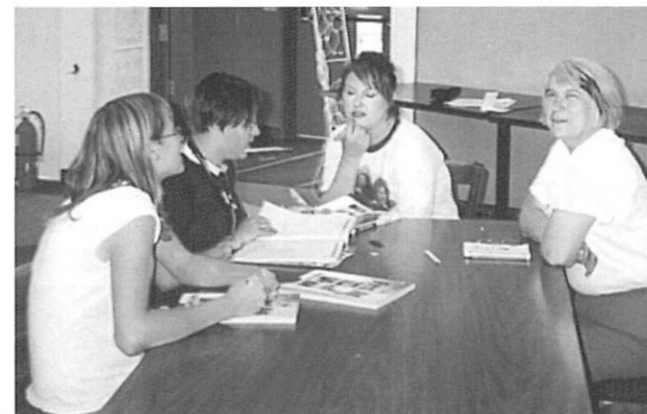
Interactive career-related activities are planned to appeal to a wide range of interest among the youth. In previous camps, guest speakers gave presentations describing their work in different occupations. This year, on-site tours were arranged with various employers in the Hinton area, including the local

Emergency services centre, an oil and gas site, a logging site, and the pulp mill. A diverse group of employers were selected with the hope of appealing to the different interests while representing the range of jobs that may be found across the province.

Not every youth was thrilled about the jobs being investigated. Inroad Mountain Sports camp facilitator, Jerry Fochler, responded to a couple of groans from the youth about one of the tours saying, "If all this tour does is help you decide you don't want to work here, then that's great - the tour was a success. You'll realize you have to go to school to get the jobs you really want!"

The youth benefit from the mental and physical challenges through outdoor activities such as rock climbing and canoeing, experiences that build confidence and a deeper understanding of personal abilities. Inroads Mountain Sports prepares the youth for these activities first by providing First Aid Certification training.

Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras traveled to the camp to visit the youth for an afternoon that included dinner. President Poitras spoke candidly



with the youth about her work and business experience, the challenges in her role as president, and then described the governance structure of the MNA.

The youth were appreciative of the guidance provided by Métis Elder Gary Pruden who offered daily prayer and cultural sessions for the duration of the camp.

Facilitators with Inroad Mountain Sports did a super job of running the camp for the fourth summer. Labour Market Development Unit organizers are confident the camp programming and the experience is creating 'turning points' in the lives of some of our Métis youth.



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2005 World Masters Games Personal Best for Métis Athlete

by Patricia Russell

When Métis lawyer and role model, Judy Daniels, focuses her mind on a task, her persistent sense of determination always comes through for her. And that was how she finished the 10-kilometre race in the 2005 World Masters Games in Edmonton: using her fortitude, confidence, and ability to set and meet new challenges head on.

Daniels surprised herself by finishing the 10-kilometre run with a time of 59:22. "I wanted to finish the race in one hour, that was my goal so when I finished at just under that time, I was pretty happy."

Judy set a new personal goal for herself 17 months ago when she decided to run the 10-kilometre race. "I'm not a life-long runner at all, in fact prior to my decision 17-months ago, I hadn't run a day in my life. It was not a sport that I excelled in but this race was something I decided I wanted to run so I said why not just go for it and started training."

The 2005 World Masters Games is an exciting mix of sports, skills, and nationalities coming together to celebrate sport for the thrill and fun of competition. While some Masters' athletes are former elite competitors who participated in events like the Olympics or the Commonwealth Games, the most



Judy Daniels

are recreational athletes who compete for the fun, exercise, and social aspects of the games.

The single qualifier for competing in most of the sports is meeting the minimum age requirement. Participants in these games range in age from 25 to 94, are keen to stay physically fit, and want to inject some competitive fun into the process.

That sense of friendly competition kept Daniels focussed at key times during the race. "After we left Foote Field, there were three long, slowly inclined hills and they looked like killer hills to me so I thought I'd slow my pace a little. But when a 70 year-old woman went whizzing by me and went sprinting up the hill, I thought I can do that too. So I changed my mind pretty quick and just kept running."

Judy Daniels was among more than 21,000 Albertans competing in the 2005 World Masters Games. In addition, more than 10,600 people come from outside of the province, including more than 7,000 international athletes.



WORLD MASTERS GAMES
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Photo by Patricia Russell

Michif Cultural and Resource Institute A Link to the Past - A Vision for Tomorrow

by Naomi Gordon

Juneau House, home to the Michif Cultural and Resource Institute, sits under elm trees that stretch and arc over old St. Albert's Heritage and Arts Street.

Without prior knowledge of the house, it appears to be like any other home on the block. However, rumours circulating about the history of the home give way to stories of hauntings and the supernatural. Yet, once inside this character house, which has been the permanent location of the institute for the past three years, the supernatural is more familiar than foreign. The scent of musky perfume and fresh baked sweets jog memories of familiarity.

Sharon Morin, the sole employee of the Michif Cultural and Resource Institute set out to offer this type of familiarity as opposed to the more structured and institutional feel of many museums and resource centres. "We wanted to create a homey atmosphere...the institute is about sharing and assisting people," said Morin.

The institute opened in 1991 under the guidance of Senator Thelma Chalifoux and was originally operated out of her office. With the acquisition of artifacts, a growing library, and the end of a lease, Senator Chalifoux and her daughter Sharon Morin began looking for a location that would better house the institute.

"We wanted to stay in St. Albert...our family has always had a connection to St. Albert," said Morin, adding that large populations of Métis have lived in the area, predating Father Lacombe. "We want to bring

back a sense of pride to the Métis community living here and raise awareness of the contributions we have made as Canadians."

The museum boasts a large collection of artifacts ranging from leg-hold traps, to a beadwork buckskin coat that belonged to Adrian Hope, and to a government issued rifle said to have been used in the Frog Lake resistance. Most artifacts are donations or are on loan, said Morin. "We practice something called a living museum; it's a loan agreement where people who have loaned artifacts to the museum are free to take them back any time they want."

There are many stories and memories woven in the fabrics of the artifacts, which are available for the eager ear and imagination. Morin walks visitors through the institute providing pieces of Métis history blended with her own family history.

In addition to the museum, which occupies what was considered the parlour room of the house, there is a library and artist studio upstairs. It's a no-loan library but visitors are welcome to sit and read, said Morin. The artist's studio displays works by Métis artists, including the artist in residence, Dennis Charney.

In addition to providing a place for visitors to learn the history of Métis in Alberta, Morin focuses on educational programming and resources. The institute has facilitated workshops for the Manning School Division and the Edmonton Public School Board including a collaborative program with the Musée Heritage Museum offering three educational programs targeted at school-aged children in grades

Photo by Naomi Gordon

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Photos by Naomi Gordon

Sharon Morin, head of the Michif Cultural and Resource Institute has stories and history on all the artifacts in the museum's collection. Facing Page: On display at the institute is a beadwork coat that once belonged to Adrian Hope, former President of the Métis Association of Alberta (1960-1967).

one through five.

"I think we can really change the attitude of the younger age group...we want to bring back a sense of pride to our community here, start looking at education tools," said Morin. She added that we must know our past in order to know where we are going, a belief that was shared and passed on by the great Métis Matriarch, Delia Gray.

Except for the baritone groans heard in most structures built in the 1800's, the house is quiet. Yet, if one listens closely, it becomes easy to imagine hearing the faint whisperings of Riel defending his nation or Gabriel Dumont barking orders to the buffalo hunters that tread fast in his tracks.

Perhaps it is true the supernatural is at work in the house, but unlike movies about ghostly hauntings, the voices at the Michif Institute speak of triumph and preservation of a culture and history that has fought and continues to struggle for recognition in Canada.

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Métis National Council Multilateral Caucus Meets in Ottawa

by Robert McDonald

The Métis Nation's Multilateral Caucus, which includes representatives from each of the Métis Nation's Governing Members and the MNC, met for two days in Ottawa on September 15th and 16th, 2005.

Caucus Meeting guest, University of Alberta Professor Frank Tough, presented the the latest developments on the Métis Nation's National Research Strategy and in particular, the Métis Archival Project (MAP). His research team at the U of A has been working hard to develop the MAP into a valuable genealogical tool which will soon be launched on the MNC website.

The meeting agenda also included Governing Members' updates on registry matters as well as their efforts and continued advocacy in their respective provincially based jurisdictions regarding implementation of the Métis right to harvest in the post-Powley era.

In many cases, despite strong public support demonstrated in third-party independent research and apparent government policies supporting implementation of this proven Aboriginal right, there continues to be substantial on-the-ground challenges for many Métis harvesters. It was noted that the 2005 Métis Harvesters Guide, for which the representatives had submitted an update for their region of the country, would be ready for print and distribution very shortly. The status of a number of court cases related to harvesting that is either

in progress or about to come to trial was also reviewed. In the lead-up to the FMM, the Multilateral Caucus will be closely involved in a review and feedback role to the MNC with respect to the drafting of a multilateral process document between Canada, the provinces from Ontario west, the MNC and Governing Members, currently in progress and anticipated to be



Photos by Robert McDonald



Top: Representatives of the MNC Governing Members included MNA President Audrey Poitras and the MNA Director of Identification and Registry Irène Collins.

Bottom: MNC General Counsel Jason Madden, MNC President Clement Chartier, and MNA Region 4 President Cecil Bellrose

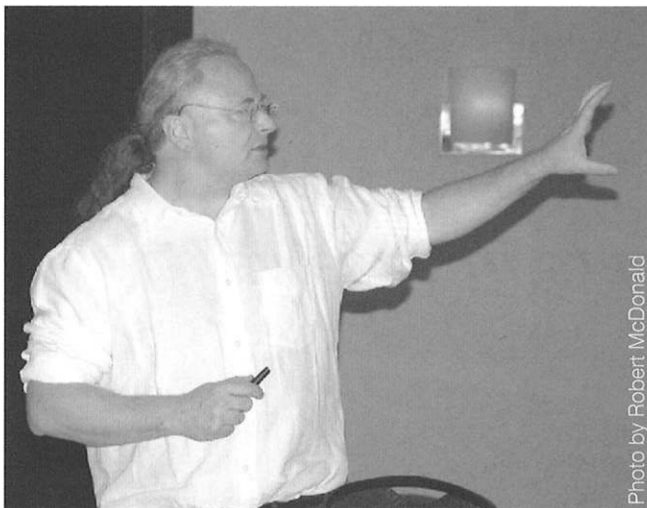


Photo by Robert McDonald

Professor Frank Tough presented an update of the Metis Archival Project underway at the University of Alberta

signed by First Ministers at the meeting.

Before adjourning, the Métis Nation Multilateral Caucus took note of the upcoming work and meetings related to FMM preparations, including a Special Assembly of the Métis Nation in October, with respect to policy matters for the FMM, as well as other particulars related to the Caucus' present agenda.



Update your Métis Nation of Alberta Membership

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Métis Nation Concerned About Being "The Forgotten People" at the First Ministers Meeting

by Robert McDonald

Métis National Council President, Clément Chartier, expressed concern about the upcoming First Ministers Meeting on Aboriginal Issues due to the lack of Métis-specific commitments emerging from ongoing negotiations with the federal and provincial governments.

"If First Ministers truly want to achieve results from this meeting, they cannot continue to have blinders on and completely ignore one of the three constitutionally recognized Aboriginal peoples. The usual federal-provincial jurisdictional positioning in relation to the Métis will not bring about the 'transformative changes we all seek, it just perpetuates Métis people falling further and further behind other Canadians," stated President Chartier.

According to the 2001 Census, Métis represent approximately 25% of the total Aboriginal population in Canada. Métis face similar socio-economic conditions as other Aboriginal peoples, but the federal government fails to acknowledge its responsibilities to Métis as it does for Indian and Inuit peoples. Provinces support the Métis position, however, they refuse to legally clarify the issue. This leaves Métis in an ongoing political game of jurisdiction football within the Canadian federation.

"Our people will not tolerate 'jurisdiction' being used, yet again, as an excuse for not making progress on improving the lives of Métis people. After two years of talking as a part of the *Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable* process, our people, experts and academics outlined a series of pragmatic and sound proposals to close the gap between Métis and other Canadians, including enhancing Métis scholarship and bursary trusts, establishing a Métis child care initiative, endowing a Métis housing authority to build new social housing in our communities, and investments in Métis education institutions. The time for talking is over. Our people need commitments and action," said President Chartier.

President Chartier emphasized that there is an imperative for the Government of Canada to demonstrate that its relationship with the Métis people

is changing. In September of 2003, the Supreme Court of Canada, in the *Powley* case, affirmed that the Métis are a full-fledged rights-bearing Aboriginal people and directed governments in Canada to begin respecting Métis rights and upholding their constitutional obligations to the Métis people. In response to this, the 2003 *Speech from the Throne* pledged to "find the place of the Métis within federal policies." Most recently, on May 31st, Minister Scott signed the *Canada-Métis Nation Framework Agreement*, which made specific commitments to Métis in the areas of negotiations, registration, education, governance and institutional development and economic development.

"We believe in Prime Minister Martin and the strength of his commitments to the Métis Nation. Unfortunately, based on current negotiations at the officials level, it appears that these new legal and political realities have not really changed how the federal bureaucracy deals with the Métis. I am calling on the Prime Minister and Minister Scott to ensure that the Métis people are not once again dubbed 'the forgotten people' at the end of this historic First Ministers Meeting," said President Chartier.

President Chartier added, "We learned an unfortunate lesson from the Special Meeting on Aboriginal Health that was held last year. After the media and fanfare was gone, Health Canada ensured that Métis do not have access to or benefit from a majority of the \$700 million 'Aboriginal' health investment. We will not be a party to a meeting that once again leaves our people out by technicalities and bureaucratic manoeuvring after the fact. We want to ensure that our people will see results from this First Ministers Meeting and Métis-specific commitments are essential to this."

President Chartier has called a meeting of the Métis National Council's Board of Governors to determine how to proceed in relation to the upcoming First Ministers Meeting. As well, the Board of Governors is scheduled to meet with Minister Scott to bring forward the Métis Nation's concerns.

Métis Nation of Alberta 77th Annual Assembly

by Naomi Gordon

The road into Peace River is perhaps one of the better views in Northern Alberta. Slow winding turns descend into a valley cradling the town of Peace River. A landscape made up of gentle hills and a post card image of a railway bridge. This particular weekend however, turned focus from scenic views to what most Métis in the province await all year, the Métis Nation of Alberta Annual Assembly.

This year's 77th Annual General Assembly, held in Peace River, followed much like those in previous years, with the exception that this year's assembly fell on election year. From August 12-14, workshops, business, and socializing made up the agenda of the assembly.

A mixer held on Thursday evening gathered old friends together in the hotel ballroom amidst the speculative buzz of who would win the election. Thursday night also offered a chance for assembly goers to sample a first at any assembly. "We wanted everyone to be able to see what was happening in the main ballroom so this year we added a large screen TV for people to view while they were in the adjoining room," said Region VI President, Sylvia Johnson.

In addition to utilizing technology at the assembly, Johnson said she planned events that were tailored to Métis youth. "It is so important to have our youth involved, not only with the Métis Nation of Alberta, but with one another as well."

Activities focused on arts and crafts, music and, a group-effort fashion show, which was presented at Saturday night's banquet, *Honouring Our Métis Veterans*. Scott Ward, a Métis hypnotist, also presented a magic show and a stage-act during the family barbeque held on Friday evening in the River Front Park.

Additional activities held on Friday included workshops on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Health, Education, and Housing.

The official business of the Métis Nation of Alberta was held on Saturday, beginning with standard business protocol, followed by official welcome speeches, including Alberta's Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Pearl Calahasen. Reports from the ministries filled a majority of the day's agenda, but time allowed for resolutions to be presented. Sunday's activities focused solely on resolutions, bringing the atmosphere of the assembly to a heightened and at times passionate debate.

The highlighted entertainment during the assembly was Saturday night's commemoration of Métis Veterans in Alberta. A special banquet was hosted and included presentation of plaques to Métis Veterans in attendance. Prior to the presentations a thematic fashion show of clothing circa the 1930's was put on by youth attending the conference. It fused impromptu jigging and humorous catwalk styles to make for an event enjoyed by all. In the later part of the evening a portrait was given to MNA President Audrey Poitras. The night was closed by Aboriginal musician Mike Guchie, which got everyone out on the floor.

Approximately 500 people attended the 77th Annual General Assembly in Peace River.

Métis Rights Agenda First Nations Take Aim at the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement

by Patricia Russell

The Assembly of Chiefs of Treaty 6, 7, and 8 are demanding Alberta terminate the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement signed with the Métis Nation of Alberta last October. The Chiefs passed a resolution to that effect during their assembly at the Tsuu T'ina Nation earlier this summer.

The resolution, moved by Chief Strater Crowfoot of the Siksika Nation, censures Alberta for entering into an agreement with the Métis Nation without first consulting with the First Nations thereby accommodating their concerns. The resolution reads: "Therefore be it resolved that: the government promptly terminate the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreements."

The leadership of the Métis Nation of Alberta does not know what influenced or motivated the Chiefs to this action. The Chiefs did not attempt to contact the Métis Nation of Alberta to convey their concerns or to address their misconceptions and misunderstandings of the agreement.

President Audrey Poitras reiterated her commitment to protecting the rights of Métis people during her report to the Métis Nation of Alberta's Annual General Assembly in August. "I give you my commitment that as President of the Métis Nation of Alberta, I will take a stronger stand against any government or group that interferes with our Métis rights. We stood firmly against the accusations and exaggerations thrown at us by the Alberta Fish and Game Association to protect our integrity and our rights. Rights that have been affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada in a decision that was long overdue."

The Supreme Court, in its unanimous ruling in *Powley*, said Métis rights are equal to the rights of Inuit and First Nations people of Canada, no more and no less. President Poitras says, "The Supreme Court was

very clear when it confirmed there is no hierarchy when it comes to Aboriginal rights. Métis, Inuit and First Nations are on an equal footing."

Métis National Council President Clément Chartier, QC, says if First Nations want to be involved in the negotiations of Métis rights, then they must be ready to have the same involvement by the Métis Nation in the negotiation of First Nations rights. Chartier was one of the interveners on behalf of MNC when the Supreme Court of Canada heard arguments in the case *R.v. Powley*.

In response to the resolution from the Treaty Chiefs, the Métis Nation of Alberta's General Assembly countered by passing a resolution moved by Melanie Omeniho, from Region 4. The resolution directs the leadership of the MNA to "convey to the Government of Alberta that if they accept the position of the Chiefs of Treaties 6, 7 & 8, the same consultation principle be applied to the Métis, thereby requiring that the Métis Nation be consulted on all of Alberta's dealings with First Nations that might effect Métis rights within the Métis Nation's traditional territory".

Furthermore, the resolution directs the MNA leadership to write to the Chiefs of Treaty #6,7 and 8 to convey the Métis Nation's disappointment with their decision to pass a resolution that is wrong in fact and wrong in law. It also calls for the development and implementation of an awareness campaign on the equality between First Nations and Métis rights in the province.

President Poitras has written to the three Chiefs inviting them to a meeting to clear up their misunderstanding, to discuss possible ramifications of the resolution and to explore solutions. The MNA has not received an official response from the Chiefs, as of press date.

Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement To Fish or Not to Fish?

by Patricia Russell

Métis harvesters wanting to put a couple of fish on their dinner tables are uncertain about the repercussions of fishing for food using a rod and reel. That's because Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD) officers are charging some Métis fishers for 'fishing without authorization', under Alberta's sport fishing regulations, when they use a rod and reel to catch their food.

ASRD officers call that activity 'sport fishing' and say that it is not covered by the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement. Provincial wildlife enforcement officers are adopting a narrow interpretation of the agreement by saying Métis harvesters can only fish for food using a net.

It is the Métis Nation of Alberta's position that 'rod-and-reel' fishing is covered by the agreement because the mode and means of subsistence harvesting cannot be limited by arbitrary regulations.

Métis Rights Minister Cecil Bellrose says, "What the government is trying to do is tell us there are only certain ways we can harvest our food. Enforcement officers tell our people the only way we can fish is when we drop a net into the water. Well I say that's comparable to them telling us 'the only way Métis can hunt a moose is if we sneak up behind the animal and choke it' which is just as impractical as their interpretation of fishing. It doesn't make sense at all."

The agreement clearly states that Métis who fish for food using a net must first obtain a free Domestic Fishing Permit from ASRD designating the lake and gill net-size. However, the agreement has no reference to this being the only fishing activity



Photo by Clément Chartier

permitted by Métis harvesters.

It is reasonable to extrapolate that if the MNA and Alberta intended to require Métis harvesters to be subject to provincial licensing when using a rod-and-reel, it would be specifically included in the agreement. But it's not.

Sixty-four-year old Ted Hogue, an avid Métis fisherman and member of the Edmonton Old-Timers Fishing Club, questions the wisdom of the government's approach to subsistence fishing. In a letter to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Mr. Hogue writes, "By using a rod and reel with a hook, a person can target fish species. Using a net cannot accomplish this and kills off the collapsed species. If Métis people were encouraged to use a rod and reel, it would reduce the strain on species of fish collapsed." Since the agreement was signed a year ago, hundreds of Métis have called the MNA to express sentiments

It is reasonable to extrapolate that if the MNA and Alberta intended to require Metis harvesters to be subject to provincial licensing when using a rod-and-reel, it would be specifically included in the agreement. But it's not.

similar to Mr. Hogue's.

Métis fisher Jack Parenteau, from Rochester, AB writes, "how does our Alberta government rationalize giving Métis the ability to net fish and yet, not be able to fish using a fishing rod and a hook to catch a fish that Métis have every intention to eat?" Mr. Parenteau adds, "Many Métis would not be acquiring net licenses if they could simply cast their hook in the water and keep their catch. Métis only need a few fish now and then, not a net full of fish that they would prefer to leave in the lake for later needs."

On the negotiations front and in keeping with the letter and spirit of the agreement, Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras has written to the government signatories to the agreement: the Ministers of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development; Community Development, and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development to formally initiate the dispute resolution clause. The agreement provides a negotiations table where such differences may be resolved in a reasonable exchange of information.

Community Development Minister Gary Mar responded in a letter dated July 13, 2005, which reads, "my department continues to rely on direction provided to us by Alberta Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development. If asked to participate in these meetings, Alberta Community Development will be pleased to do so."

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Pearl Calahasen responded in a letter dated July 14, 2005, which reads, "All Ministries involved have agreed to wait for one year to see what results we have received and heard regarding the Métis agreements."

If the difference of opinion cannot be resolved through negotiations, then the Métis Nation of Alberta will consider litigation and may support a test case in the Alberta court system.

Meanwhile, if provincial wildlife enforcement officers in the field approach Métis harvesters, Métis similar to Mr. Hogue's should politely identify themselves as a Métis harvester, present their MNA

membership card, and take note of the officer's name.

If a Métis harvester is under investigation or is being charged with hunting or fishing violations, according to clause 11 (b) of the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement, the provincial law enforcement officer MUST give the Métis harvester a form titled, *Consent Form* and information on how to contact the Métis Nation of Alberta.

A number of Métis harvesters are reporting that some provincial wildlife enforcement officers are violating the harvesting agreement by neglecting to distribute the consent forms and contact information. Métis harvesters facing charges are encouraged to fill out the consent form and send it, along with a photocopy of the charge ticket, to the MNA's Communications Office as soon as possible.

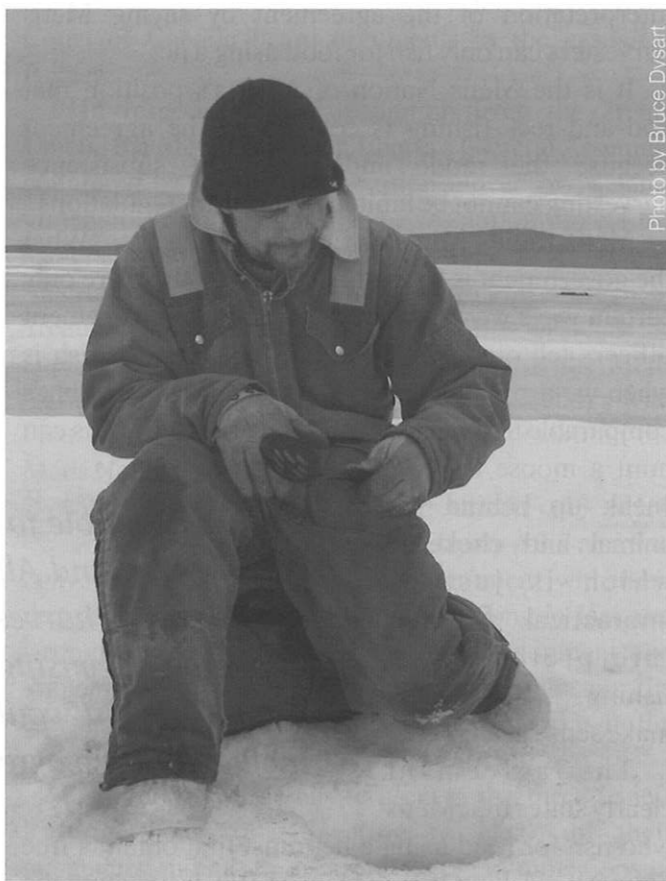


Photo by Bruce Dysart

Métis harvesters, such as Greg Lacombe from Widewater, AB, say they'd rather fish using a rod, reel, and hook instead of using a net.

Some members of the Metis Nation of Alberta, charged with "fishing without authorization" under the sport fishing regulations, have decided to plead 'not guilty' and are asking the Court for an adjournment until a case in southern Alberta has been decided.

That case involves Metis fisher, Morris Trudel, charged by ASRD more than a year ago, with 'fishing without authorization'.

Mr. Trudel has filed Constitutional Notice; a legal manoeuvre requiring the Court to apply the *Powley Test*, outlined by the Supreme Court of Canada, to answer certain Metis-rights based questions. A trial date may be several months away since it involves lengthy preparations. The outcome of the Trudel case may affect the question of whether or not Metis in Alberta can fish for subsistence using a rod and reel.

The Metis Legal Research and Educational Foundation, which include MNC President Clément Chartier, QC, and MNC General Counsel Jason Madden, are representing Mr. Trudel.

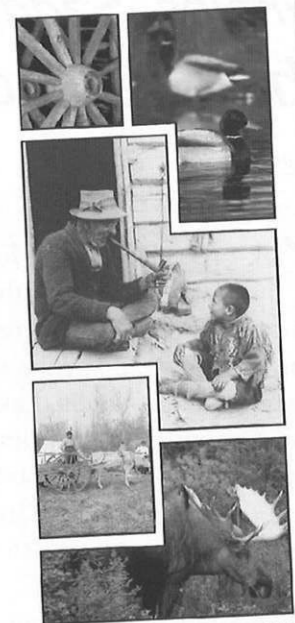
Since the case may not be widely known, the Court may require more information about the *Trudel* matter. Métis harvesters may refer the Crown Prosecutors in their case to exchange information with Shirley Jackson, the Crown Prosecutor in *R. v. Trudel* or to Thomas Rothwell with Alberta Justice Aboriginal Law, who is also active in the case.

Otherwise, Métis are welcome to contact their regional offices or the Métis Nation of Alberta's Communications Office to receive additional information.

Communications

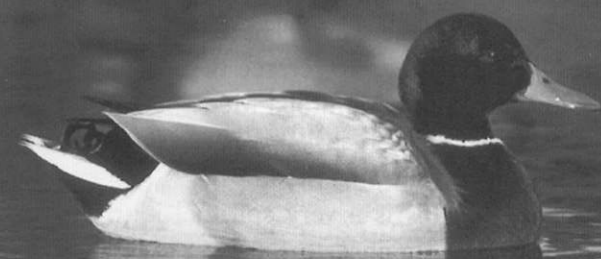
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Stirrups, Saddles and Blisters The Start of a Journey

by Naomi Gordon

Kick-off celebrations for the Alberta leg of the 2005 Centennial Journey Wagon Trek were held on August 15 at the Onion Lake Rodeo Ground, transforming the quiet site into a mobile micro-community of Métis hailing from across the Homeland.

Teams of horses, wagons, a hand-crafted Red River Cart, and trekkers clad in long outriders coats, plaid shirts and sashes brought the present and the past to life for community members at the Onion Lake First Nation.

For many people on this journey, the Wagon Trek represents more than a celebration of Alberta's and Saskatchewan's Centennial Anniversaries or even the opportunity to share Métis history and culture with communities along the way. The trek becomes an opportunity to retrace the past. Floyd Lepine, a Manitoba Métis Federation Infinity Rider, says, "We are re-tracing history, following the steps of our forefathers...this is a very spiritual journey, I'm always thinking of our ancestors as I'm riding the trails and know that they are watching over me."

After a hearty breakfast for the trekkers and a prayer from Elder Francis Dumais, celebrations began around noon with speeches from attending dignitaries and an impromptu fiddle and jig session, led by Region II Vice-President, Homer Poitras and visiting Métis National Council Minister of Culture and Heritage, Bruce Dumont. "This is a truly wonderful and historic event for our people, especially our youth...who have

an opportunity to learn and share our culture, history, and traditions," said Métis National Council President, Clément Chartier, who was also in attendance at the event.

Métis Nation of Alberta President, Audrey Poitras, congratulated the wagon train participants who began their journey on July 24 at Batoche, Saskatchewan and welcomed the Alberta newcomers to the trek. "We welcome you to Alberta and are so proud to be able to take part in this journey, where Métis People across the Homeland have been able to come together and

Wagon Master Peter Rudyck and President Audrey Poitras lead the wagon train through Onion Lake First Nations towards Lea Park.

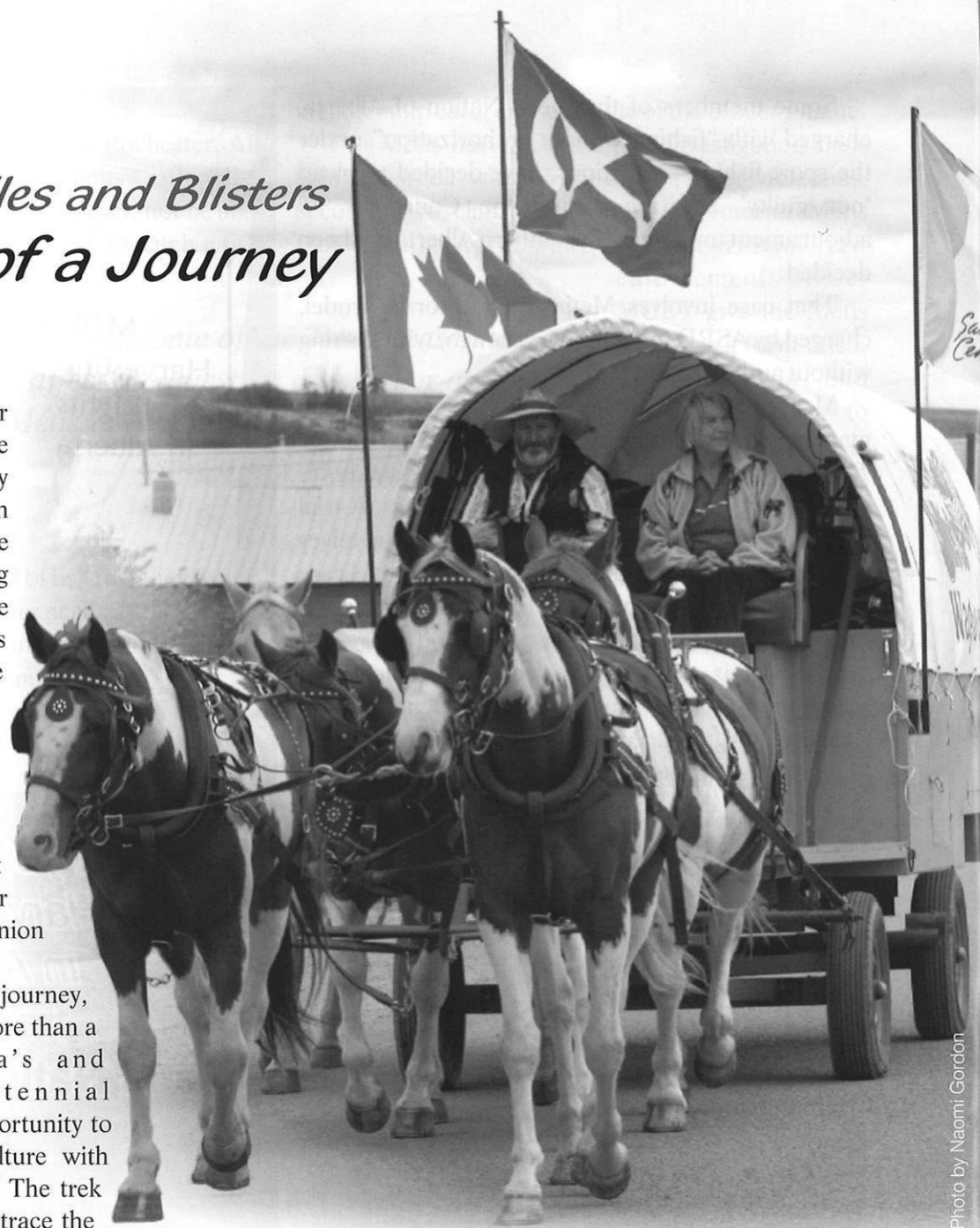


Photo by Naomi Gordon



Left: Métis National Council President, Clément Chartier and Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia President, Bruce Dumont help send-off the wagon train from Onion Lake.
Right: The wagon train nears its stopover destination at Lea Park.



Photos by Naomi Gordon

celebrate our history and rich traditions," said President Poitras.

Following the speeches, the trekkers, made up of members from the Manitoba Métis Federation, Saskatchewan Métis Wagon Adventures, and members from Alberta, began to prepare for the parade through Onion Lake. Tents were packed, horses were hitched, flags were raised, and the caravans and trailers, a convenience of modern times, rolled into line to begin

the first part of the Alberta leg of the journey.

The route took the caravan of wagons through Onion Lake towards their first stopover in Lea Park. Residents from Tulliby Lake came out to greet the wagon trek along the highway, which led the wagon train along paved and dusty gravel roads. From Lea Park, the trek travelled west along the Iron Horse Trail towards the final destination at Métis Crossing, near Smoky Lake, Alberta.



Congratulations on the grand opening of Métis Crossing and successful Centennial Voyage.

ATCO Electric

Centennial Journey

Métis Nation of Alberta 2005

The Métis Nation of Alberta 2005 Centennial Journey Wagon trekkers met up with the Saskatchewan and Manitoban wagon train on Aug. 15, 2005 heading to Métis Crossing, Ab. Peter Rudyck, from Saskatchewan Métis Wagon Adventures, is the wagon master with a centennial goal in mind.

Rudyck says he started the trek for its historic value. "It would be a challenge to relive our culture," he says. "Some said it couldn't be done in the (21st) Century."

The wagon train is the first of its kind since the original traders stopped using the trails in the early 1900s. The centennial wagon train left Saskatchewan on July 24, 2005 full of eager travelers, from toddlers to established elders who slyly won't reveal their true age.

The train travelled through many of Alberta's small and large communities during the 12-day adventure, winding from Onion Lake, to Lea Park, Heinsburg, Elk Point, St. Paul, Ashmont, Vilna, Edwaud, Smoky Lake and Métis Crossing. The horse-powered covered wagons rolled through mud and water, rocks, and gravel at a steady rate of 30 km a day. Top speed is about six kilometers per hour.

Everyday someone told a new story or celebrated a victory. The trekkers eagerly embraced the chance to relax in each other's company, listen to their tales, and explore the land around them.

Métis Nation of Alberta 2005 Centennial Journey

Métis Horse Whisperer

by Rachel Hohn

Canada's only horse whisperer, Tom Durocher, a Métis from Region 2, trains wild horses to accept a bridal, saddle and rider in less than 30 minutes. Durocher demonstrated his skills at one of the many nightly celebrations held for the Métis Nation of Alberta's Centennial Wagon Trek from Aug. 15 to 26. Durocher, 42, presented the trekkers with a show to explain why his no-pain tactics will train a horse in a relatively short period of time.

Durocher has more than 20 years experience as a farrier and horse trainer, starting when he was just 16 years old, spending many years of his life surrounded by unruly horses. He rode broncos at rodeos, and says he broke ribs, ankles, and many other bones when he was tossed off the backs of the untamed animals. Because of the wildness of these animals and his former training, Durocher says there was a time when he'd resort to beating horses into submission using his fists, whips, and other implements.

Changing his tactics became the best option when Durocher got tired of being kicked by horses, he says with a chuckle. He says frustration in training causes a trainer to act out in anger. Now, he never touches the horses in anger and feels shamed that he ever did. His motto now is "violence is never the answer." "Every time I walk into a pen I have to apologize to the horse," he says.

Durocher says he looked at other people's lives to realize that violence didn't equate to good training or loyalty. He decided to find another way to train. And then he found Monty Roberts.

In 2001, he began training with the renowned American horse whisperer, Monty Roberts, at one of Roberts' schools. Roberts has worked for many

famous individuals, including Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Durocher learned how to touch the animal in a soothing way and to demand respect by treating the horse properly. Eventually, he was able to train them in about 30 minutes, and that's when Roberts threw Durocher into the deep end. Roberts made him perform in front of a crowd.

Durocher says the scariest part of facing a wild horse at a show isn't the horse - it is the audience watching. Durocher was so nervous that he couldn't control the horse; it was running into fences and knocking down the pen walls. After some reassuring words from Roberts to relax and ignore the people, Durocher returned to the ring with the determination to do his job. It wasn't easy to push away his fear of people.

"I imagine there is no one else there," he says. The nervous energy is still there during a live performance. He speaks out loud during all training sessions to involve the audience in every move with the horse. They can follow his line of reasoning during the whole show. And, what he does seems to work, none of Durocher's trained horses have ever bucked-off a rider.

Durocher now trains wild horses and helps teach and promote the tactics to other trainers. "I don't think I'll ever be as good (as Roberts)," he says.

Durocher feels so safe with the horses he trains that he trusts one of his most prized possessions, his daughter Nikhoal, as the test rider. He calms the wild horse, getting it accustomed to the feel of the bridal and saddle and then calls Nikhoal into the ring to hop onto the back of the newly tamed horses.

The best part of the show for Durocher is "when my daughter comes off the horse," he says. That's when he knows he has trained a safe animal and has kept his daughter safe as well.

Family is very important to Durocher, packing them up with him wherever he travels. When not performing, his family lives at the Fishing Lake Métis Settlement where he also trains horses.

Nikhoal Durocher, 19, has helped her father with his shows since 2002. Riding the horses with her father was something new and exciting. She watched him train horses for a couple years then decided to join him in the ring. "I'm never really scared," she says.

When she decides to become a trained whisperer, Nikhoal will not be alone in the world of female horse trainers. Of the 16 trained horse whisperers in the world, only three are male. Durocher says he would be extremely proud if his daughter chose to follow his lead.

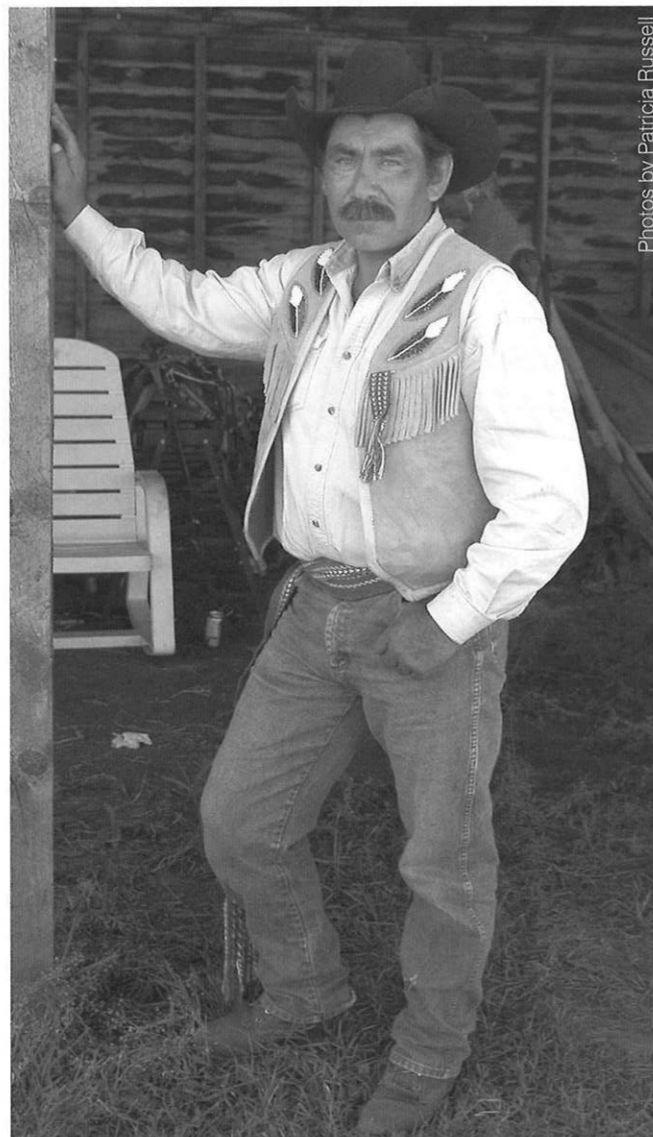
Daughter Michelle and son Wacey also help Durocher with the shows. Michelle, 21, avoids riding the horses, but enjoys helping out wherever she can. She does most of the advertising, booking, and brochures for her father's business. Wacey, 11, helps with loading the gear and arranging the materials for the shows.

The whole family was at the St. Paul show when Durocher tamed a wild horse brought in by one of the wagon train's family members, and he also started to train a wagon train horse that would rather buck than be ridden. Both horses were visibly calmed by Durocher's tactics. The audience waited with hushed excitement as the animals left the arena before showering Durocher in applause.

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Photos by Patricia Russell



Top: Métis horse whisperer, Tom Durocher
Bottom: Caring for the well-being of the horses at Métis Crossing, Aug 26.

Métis Nation of Alberta 2005 Centennial Journey Youth Discover Métis Heritage

by Rachel Hohn

Fifty youth, all with similar goals to enjoy the summer and learn about their past, joined the Centennial Journey Wagon Trek heading for Métis Crossing, Alberta Youth coordinators, cooks, and drivers say they were kept busy feeding, chasing after, and trying not to run over the energetic youth.

Jennifer Spriggs, 19, is one of the two wagon trek's youth coordinators. From Leask, Sask., Spriggs' Métis heritage hails from her father's side. To her, knowing about, experiencing, and helping to maintain her heritage has been a passion for the last four years. She joined the trek as a youth coordinator because she had previous experience working with youth and she wanted to be part of the historical event.

"I knew it would be an experience of a lifetime," she says. "We're making history...My goal (as youth coordinator) was met when I saw the youth learning to respect their elders."

Spriggs says she learned how to respect her elders, and how to deal with a range of issues

involving relationships in close proximity. She didn't expect to grow so attached to the people in the wagon trail, or to develop sincere pride to know more of her heritage. While leading the youth she learned Métis crafts, finger weaving and how to dance the Métis jigs - Drops of Brandy, the Duck Dance, and the Broom Dance. "I've grown a lot as an individual," she says. "I've gained a piece of me and my culture."

Alberta Métis youth, Lauren Cunningham, says she had a lot of fun on the trek too. She rode horseback on the wagon trail, sharing a horse with her Uncle. And the nine-year-old rode well.

Cunningham came on the trip with her father, uncle, and grandfather. Her grandmother came up to visit her traveling family on the weekend. Lauren's mother, Glory, is six months pregnant, and rode bravely for a couple of days during the trip. Lauren's younger sister and brother came on the trek with Glory and soon wanted to be up on a horse like their older sister. The two were so small that they had to be tied to their father and his horse, or led on horseback.



Photos by Rachel Hohn

Left: The wagon train youth dressed in centennial-style clothes march into the Métis Crossing celebrations on Aug. 26.
Right: Courtney Breaton holds the reins of a horse-drawn wagon at a lunchtime pitstop.



Left: Some of the wagon train female youth pose next to the traditional Red River Cart at the Metis Crossing celebrations, Aug. 26.

Right: The Metis wagon trek youth find warmth and shelter in the community wagon as Alberta's weather continues to soak the Iron Horse Trail.

Their smiling faces were seen poking out from behind their father's back as they rode along the wagon trail.

Kris Nault, from Woodridge, Man., came on the wagon trek so he could go back to school with a fun story of what he did over the summer. What he didn't expect was how much he would learn about his Métis

culture. "They had trouble trying to prove to people who they were," he says. "They fought their own battles."

Nault adds he sees the same fight in his own life. He is a Métis youth looking for his heritage by spending more time with elders than with kids his own age. "You always learn more stuff from them," he explains. One of the elders taught Nault how to drive a team of horses, something he had wanted to do for the whole trip. The 14-year-old walked away from the experience with a lesson he can apply to his life. "It is hard," he says. "You've got to be firm sometimes and hard other times. And, sometimes you've just got to relax and let them do what they do."

Stacey Lafond, 14, was hired at the beginning of the trip to be a cook's aid. She worked closely with her cousins and her mother in the concession-trailer-turned-kitchen. "It's sometimes hard working with the same people everyday," Lafond says.

She says she also had to get used to no privacy, no showers, and no bathrooms. "Coming on (the trek) I just wanted the money but now it's taken on a whole new meaning," Lafond says. She's learned to appreciate different people and she says she learned a lot of new things about the Métis. "I learned about dances, new places, and I learned about our history," she says. "I've never ever learnt about that before."

Lafond adds that if she ever came on the trek again it would be as a passenger and not as a cook. "It's hard being cook," she says. "You don't get as many opportunities to learn. I'm still just a kid."

Photos by Rachel Hohn



Métis Nation of Alberta 2005 Centennial Journey The Strength of Métis Women

by Rachel Hohn

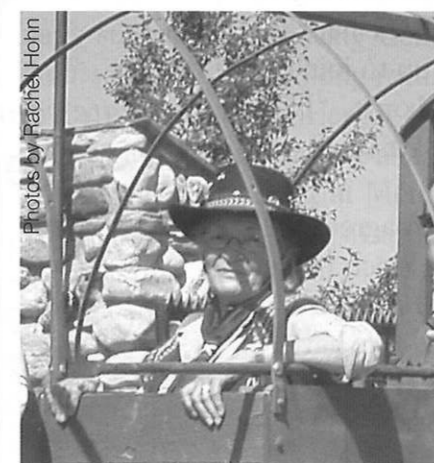
Births and deaths can be quite hard for any woman to experience, especially when they are coupled with a physically and emotionally demanding voyage, but three elders from the Centennial Journey Wagon Trek say they wouldn't have missed the experience for anything. The wagon trek started in Batoche, Sask., on July 24 and ended at Métis Crossing, a journey that tested the emotional strength of Mona Rudyck, Catherine Moffit, and Madeline Ferguson.

Rudyck and Moffit say they chose to finish the voyage they started even though their children at home were due and gave birth during the trip. Ferguson says she chose to say her final goodbyes to a loved one whose ashes she laid to rest along the Iron Horse Trail. All

three women say they enjoyed the trip and wouldn't have changed their minds if they were given the chance.

Mona Rudyck and her husband Peter own Saskatchewan Métis Wagon Adventures, the organization that led the Centennial Journey Wagon Trek. She was on the trail and didn't get to see the birth of her grandchild, Elizabeth Jade Gaudet.

"I would have liked to be home," she says. "I wanted to finish the trip. I knew she'd be okay." Baby Gaudet was born on Aug 20, and both her grandparents excitedly announced the event to their fellow wagoneers, yet decided to stay on with the trek. Mona says it was a hard decision to make.



Above: Madeline Ferguson rides into the final stop, Metis Crossing, where she will lay her friend's ashes to rest.

Top: Mona Rudyck rides beside her grandchildren, who came up for the Metis Crossing celebration, on the last day of the wagon trek.

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"Your heart is at home but you're here," she says. The Rudycks have run other day-long wagon tours but had never stayed overnight before. Finishing the trek was very important to both of them, Mona says, and that's why they rolled on and waited to see their new granddaughter at the final celebration at Métis Crossing.

Catherine Moffit didn't think twice when she was told her future daughter-in-law was going to be giving birth while she was on the wagon trek. She was determined to go on the trek and celebrate the birth afterwards.

"This is what I like to do," she says. "The company is good, and the scenery is beautiful."

Moffit joined the trip to experience the historic event. She began trail riding in 1994 and fell in love with horses and the trail. Granddaughter Alexa Joy was born while Moffit was well into the trek. Though it was hard for Moffit not to be there to witness the event, she just shrugs and says she knew in her heart that everything would be alright. "I do have a picture," she adds with a smile.

Moffit drove a Métis Red River Cart, which is authentic as the wagons get. She says it's a little "hard on the bum." Moffit started her journey in Montana riding the trails with different heritage groups, and when the chance came up to join the Canadian centennial tour, she jumped on it. "I like all the different culture," she says. "We're all one big family."

Grandmother Madeline Ferguson agrees that the wagoneers became family to each other because of the emotional trials they faced each day. "This is like one big family," she says. "We have to stick together and we have to just keep moving on."

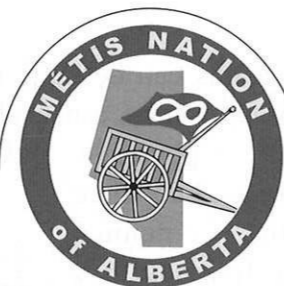
Ferguson joined the trek because of the family-related sentimental values. Now, the trek holds more memories for her than when she began. She can track her grandparents by name. They were hunters, fishermen, and traders with the Hudson's Bay Company. She may have traveled along the same trails they would have followed. She is the oldest and the healthiest remaining sibling and she

decided it was up to her to experience the historic event.

Ferguson's motivation also involves the death of a very special friend in 2001. His daughter gave Ferguson some of her father's ashes to do with as she thought best. And Ferguson did exactly that. At three important spots along the trail, she has laid some of her friend's ashes to rest.

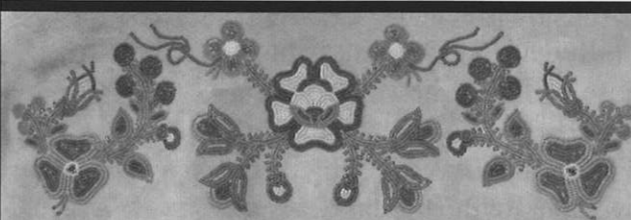
"I feel so proud and honoured she shared them with me," Ferguson says. She cries softly, recalling the moments as she scatters his ashes. It is something she says she did in his honour. She laid his ashes to rest and in return, received more memories of her life on the trail.

All three women endured their emotional struggles and were pleased to be able to celebrate the completion of the trek. They would do it again, if they could.



Update your Métis Nation of Alberta Membership

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Métis Crossing - Update Opening Day a Smashing Success



by Juanita Marois
Project Manager

What a day! August 26, 2005 will certainly be remembered as one of the greatest days in the history of Métis Crossing. Let me begin by painting a picture for you... Imagine a beautiful clear blue sky, open farm fields with crops almost ready to harvest, a terracing green hillside rolling into a quickly flowing river. Now, add historic wagons filled with warm people who travelled many miles to be at Métis Crossing, also add 50 energetic voyageurs who travelled the flowing river, then mix all in with about 2000 friends, family, neighbours and guests (and all their cars!?), and finally, top it off with great entertainment, interesting tradeshow booths, authentic crafts, and an interactive historic village. Now, bake these with hot, hot sunshine and you have the Métis Crossing Centennial Voyage.

Huge thanks must go to the many staff and volunteers for investing hundreds of hours into this event, but **YOU** too must be thanked! Each person who came to Métis Crossing helped to create the warm and welcoming atmosphere. **YOU** will help to make Métis Crossing a success.

Métis musician, Roland Majeau, performed a song commissioned by the MNA and dedicated to



Above: MNC President Clem Chartier and MMF President David Chartrand attended the launch of Métis Crossing.
Bottom: How many faces can you recognize in this photograph?

the trekkers, voyageurs, volunteers, staff and visitors who had come to be a part of the Métis Crossing Centennial Voyage. The closing line of this song reads "We'll meet at Métis Crossing soon my friend." I extend this invitation out to all again. Plans are already underway to make this an annual event at Métis Crossing. (This recording, by the way, is available from the Métis Crossing office at a cost of \$10.)

Now you are probably asking ... What is in





Left: Region 3 President Marlene Lanz brought her own shade along.
Middle: Volunteer Lloyd Gwin's park 'n' ride service.
Right: RCMP Sgt Don Ladouceur in period costume.

store for the future of Métis Crossing? Where to next? How can I get involved? The plans for Métis Crossing are continually evolving, as the Board of Directors and staff build and continue to learn. The facilities and the programs planned are largely determined by three factors:

1. Cultural importance and appropriateness
2. Resource availability (funds and people)
3. Market demands

The next priorities for Métis Crossing include the development and implementation of pilot programs for schools, the development of interpretive programs that will be offered in spring, the completion of a historic village, the development of a canopy walk and the planning of a training and retreat centre.

Programs for all school grades will be developed over time, but to begin, focal grades will be determined. Then, pilot programs will be developed for these grades and offered to test schools in the spring. Our program coordinator will be grateful for the assistance of teachers to help

build and review these programs. If interested, please contact our office

Métis Crossing also plans to begin seasonal operation in June 2006. The interpretive centre in the barn and the historic village will be staffed and ready to welcome visitors. The campground and RV park will also be open to the public. As you can imagine, our office will be humming with the preparation of programs, interpretation, staff hiring, policy development, and pricing schedules this winter!

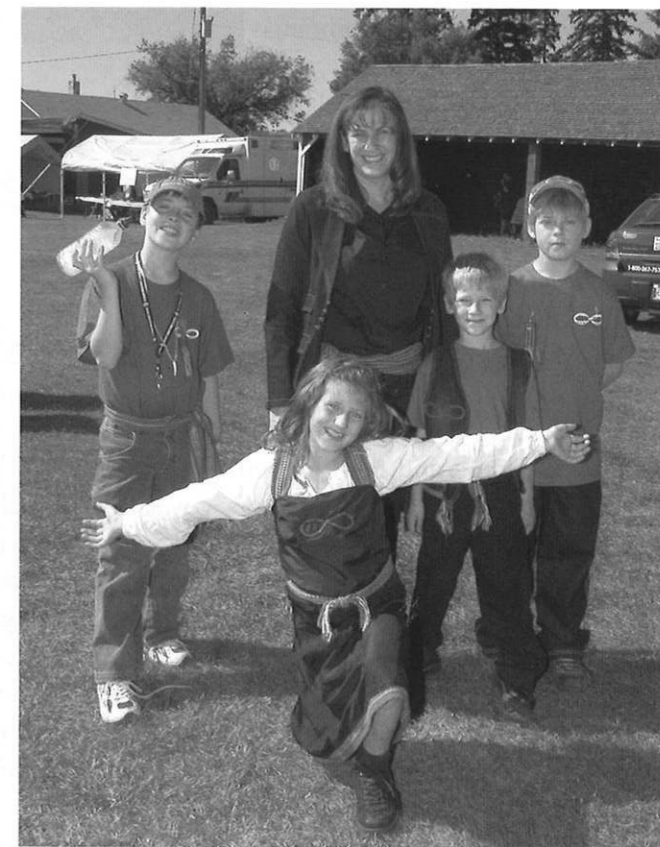
The major physical developments being planned for the site include the canopy walk and the training and retreat centre. Alberta Pacific Forest Industries has agreed to fund the canopy walk and this project will begin immediately. In addition, the training and retreat centre will create spaces for groups to meet and spend time at the Crossing. This space will be designed to host gatherings, business meetings, training programs, arts and crafts programs, and youth and elders programs.

The growth and success of Métis Crossing depends on you and your involvement. Please consider how you can become involved in the

Crossing. Below is a small list of opportunities:

1. Assist in the office for administrative tasks
2. Design and sew traditional outfits for interpreters
3. Help to inventory and collect artifacts
4. Provide stories and interviews to continue building the living story of Alberta's Métis people
5. Volunteer your contracting skills, or call to be added to the list of contractors available for work in the spring
6. Assist in the organization of community meetings for input
7. Make donations and/or assist us to identify and meet other individuals or organizations who could donate
8. **Visit us!**

I could go on, but there is much work to do for Métis Crossing. We'll meet at Métis Crossing soon my friend!



Annette Ozirny from Bonnyville with her children Dillyn, Cody, Landon, and Celine.

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Continue To Build A Strong Métis Nation.**



Métis Crossing Contemporary Voyageurs

by Kim Mueller

To begin the task of organizing the Métis Crossing Centennial Voyage Voyageurs Canoe Trip, Métis Crossing staff sought the wisdom of Elders and then looked to the youth for their sense of adventure. Both groups were key in the success of the Métis Crossing Centennial Voyage and the celebration at Métis Crossing on August 26. A partnership was created to train youth leaders under the guidance of Elders to become voyageurs leaders and ambassadors for the Métis Nation of Alberta and Métis Crossing.

Nine Métis youth were selected to undergo two weeks of training to prepare them for the canoe trip. Métis Crossing staff, along with Inroads Mountain Sports Ltd., developed the training program. The Métis Nation of Alberta provided the funding for the training program.

The canoe trip was launched on August 24, 2005 in partnership with the City of Edmonton, in a picturesque ceremony at Fort Edmonton Park. A team of voyageurs, which included Elders, veterans, historians, youth, politicians, and community members, were given blessings and honoured in a ceremony attended by Alberta's Lieutenant Governor Norman Kwong and Alberta's Economic Development Minister Clint Dunford.

On arriving at Fort Saskatchewan, voyageurs were greeted by representatives of the City of Fort Saskatchewan, the local museum, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the Alberta Mounted Historic Troop. The voyageurs portaged a canoe from the river overland to the Fort Saskatchewan Museum grounds where a ceremony was held which

2005 Centennial Métis Crossing Voyageurs

Youth Leaders

Kari-Lynn Brett
Brittany Cherweniuk
Zoe Collins
Addlore John Friedel
Fara Mitchell
Jeff Phillips
Corbin Poitras
Wes Quintal
Sean Soucie

Voyageurs

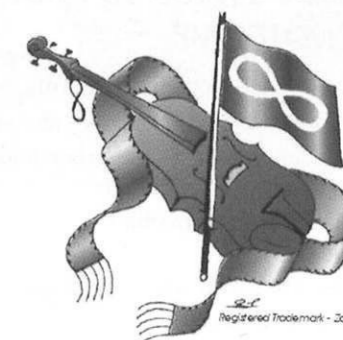
Aldon Armstrong
Herb Belcourt
Roland Bellrose
Cory Bissell
Austin Carifell
Gerald Cunningham
Rhonda Desjardins-Kunkel
Levi Desjarlais
Eddie Ducharme
Rita Ducharme
Minister Clint Dunford
Lori Durocher
Joanne Elves
Jackie Fridel
Tracy Friedel
Dale Friedel
Marge Friedel
Jason Garipey
Tom Ghostkeeper
Jean-Marc Giroux
Trevor Gladue
Kris Gladue
Jeff Holubitsky
Caylan Lubek
Terry Lusty
Stephan Maltais
Susan Mates
Al McCully
John McDonald
Denise Miller
Lesley Quast
Clarence Robinson
Caren Robinson
Cal Robinson



included greetings from Alberta's Minister of International and Government Relations Ed Stelmach and Fort Saskatchewan Mayor Jim Sheasgreen. The ceremony was followed by a community barbeque and entertainment. The next day the voyagers continued along their "Métis highway," the North Saskatchewan River. After

with the task of setting up trappers tents for the small Métis Village. I expected this physically demanding program might leave some people tired and a little bit irritable. To my surprise though, I encountered only smiles and laughter. I am still in awe of these people for their remarkable commitment to the voyage. So to these folks, thank you!

Region III President and Vice-President



"I would like to thank all the members in Region 3, for having the confidence in me to be their president; I will represent you in a professional manner and will continue to build a unified and respected Metis Nation. I will continue to strive toward building a healthy and educated Metis Nation."

- Marlene Lanz, Region 3 President

"I would like to take this opportunity too thank all those who supported me at the polls in the recent election and to assure that I will do the best job I can and will work hard on behalf of our Métis people."

- Joe Chodzicki, Region 3 Vice-President

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 you 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.

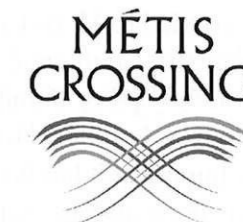
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Métis Crossing

Thank You to Our Staff Members



by Gayle Desmeules,
Board Member,
Métis Crossing

On behalf of the board of directors, I want to publicly acknowledge the staff and volunteers who worked so hard behind the scenes in helping to complete Phase I for Métis Crossing, and the staging of the August 26th Centennial Celebration. In particular, the board would like to pay tribute to five prized staff members.

I will begin with Juanita Marois, Project Manager. Juanita joined our Métis Crossing team just over a year ago, May 2004, and from that point forward has put her skills and talents to work. Juanita has a Master's Degree specializing in cultural tourism development and has researched Aboriginal hunting and trapping. She has spearheaded a number of community and tourism projects - on both a local and international level. Her enthusiasm and passion for Métis Crossing are evident in the long hours she puts in, tirelessly. We are pleased to have someone of her caliber involved with Métis Crossing and value her contribution and expertise in cultivating the relationships and partnerships required to make this development project a success!

A second valued staff member on the team is Christie Ladouceur, who is originally from Plamondon, just east of Lac La Biche. She recently graduated from the University of Alberta in April 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. For the Métis Crossing Centennial Voyage, Christie played an essential role as the Volunteer Coordinator, as well as assisting with the craft and trade shows. All who met her appreciated her smile and high level of enthusiasm!

The third member on the team, Kim Mueller, focused her energies on the planning and coordination of the Centennial Celebration. Her



Métis Crossing Staff Members
Back Row (l-r): Sharon Cherweniuk, and Kimberly Mueller
Front Row: Juanita Marois, and Christie Ladouceur
Missing: Skipper Villeneuve

talents and passion are notably with working with Aboriginal youth. She has worked in the education field as an Aboriginal Liaison worker helping children and families through the school system, and as the Youth Program coordinator for the Métis Nation of Alberta. Kim is well known within the Métis Nation for developing many Aboriginal community-based projects such as the Alberta Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards, and shortly thereafter, was

seconded to Métis Crossing as Events Coordinator to plan the Centennial Celebration. She is extremely grateful to her family (parents Marge & Jim, sisters Holly & Jennifer, Husband Shane, & children Taylor & James) as it has been through their support that she has been able to sacrifice the scads of time required for the betterment of Aboriginal youth, and planning of the Métis Crossing Centennial Celebration and Canoe Voyage.

The fourth member on the team, Sharon Cherweniuk, is currently the Program Coordinator for Métis Crossing. As an artist and fibre arts crafts person, Sharon is adept at traditional and contemporary Métis fine craft, including beadwork, quilt making, and jewellery making. Her responsibilities for the Centennial Voyage were to coordinate the Métis Cultural Village, and the accompanying artisans and elders. Some of the Cultural teachings and demonstrations included hide tanning, beadwork, nature crafts and basketry, fur trapper and trade re-enactment, Métis sash weaving, storytelling, and children's activities. Thanks Sharon for your valued contributions.

The fifth member on the team, Skipper Villeneuve, works as the Site Development Coordinator at Métis Crossing. Skipper has owned and operated a successful construction and consulting company for a number of years. He has coordinated projects throughout Alberta and into Russia! Skipper has brought his many experiences and contacts to Métis Crossing to facilitate the building and completion of Phase I. He and his wife Doris live at the Crossing and emulate what Métis Crossing historically symbolizes, good down home Métis hospitality!



Lloyd Gwin

Project Management and Staff Development

57 Prospect Place, Cardiff Echoes
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email: whitemtn@shaw.ca

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NCSA Produces Two New Documentaries "Behind the Badge" and "Gang Aftermath"

Bearpaw Media Productions, a division of Native Counselling Services of Alberta has released two groundbreaking documentary videos, *Behind the Badge* and *Gang Aftermath*.

Behind the Badge takes a balanced look at the historical role of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and how that role still affects present day perceptions in Aboriginal communities. Set in Lac La Biche, Wabasca-Desmarais, Kikino Métis Settlement and the Sunchild O'Chiese First Nations, *Behind the Badge* assembles a community perspective on the future of Aboriginal policing.

Examined from the perspective of the RCMP and Aboriginal communities, *Behind the Badge* explores how re-establishing trust, increasing communication, and understanding Aboriginal culture can fulfill the promises of yesterday to create safer communities today. The RCMP are presently making efforts to have a copy of *Behind the Badge* in every RCMP detachment in Canada and including the video as part of mandatory training for new RCMP members.

Street gang activity is on the rise across the


country. While some people fear for their lives, others wonder where the gangs will strike next. *Gang Aftermath* explores the issue of Canadian street gangs from an Aboriginal perspective.

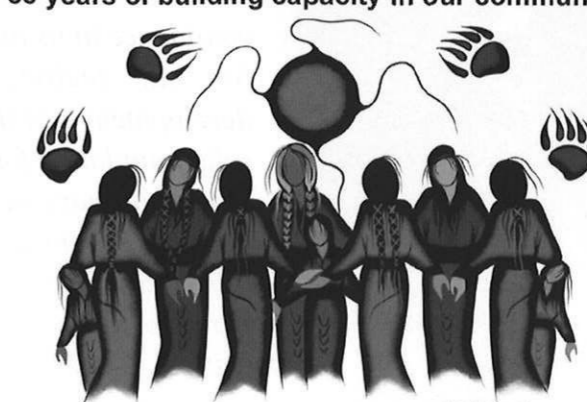
With insights from current and former gang members, including female gang associates, *Gang Aftermath*, a 48 minute video, takes a no-holds-barred look at gang culture and lifestyle. Gang intervention and prevention programs are portrayed along with the journey of one individual who is determined to get out and stay out.

How are gang members recruited? What role do females play in the gang lifestyle? Is it true that the only option for a gang member is death or life in prison? This video dispels the myths and lays bare the truth about the inner workings of street gangs in Canada.

Gang Aftermath, which contains coarse language and mature themes, is suitable for use in gang information / intervention workshops.

To order copies of *Behind the Badge* or *Gang Aftermath* please contact Francis Campbell at 429-9319.

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Métis Activist Named to Order of Canada

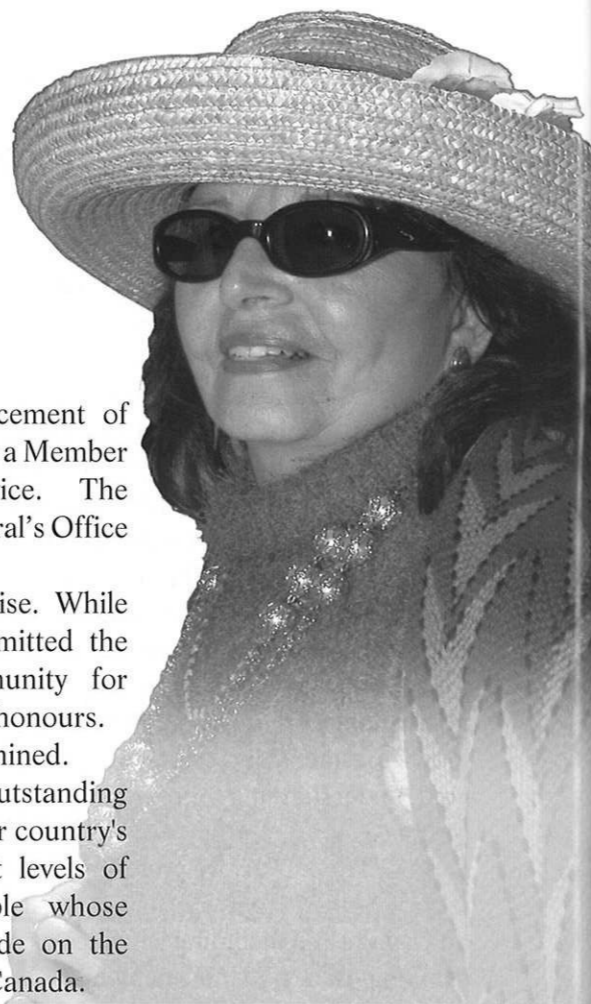
by Patricia Russell

Métis activist and founder of the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women, Muriel Stanley-Venne, has been named as a Member of the Order of Canada for her work in the area of social service. The announcement was made in a statement released by the Governor General's Office in early September.

Stanly-Venne described the announcement as an unexpected surprise. While she does not know the name of the person or persons who submitted the nomination, Stanley-Venne is grateful to the Aboriginal community for recommending her actions as worthy of one of Canada's highest civilian honours.

The award will be ceremoniously presented at a date yet to be determined.

The Order of Canada was established in 1967 to recognize outstanding achievement and service in various fields of human endeavour. It is our country's highest civilian honour for lifetime achievement. Three different levels of membership, Companion, Officer and Member, honour people whose accomplishments vary in degree and scope. Appointments are made on the recommendation of an advisory council, chaired by the Chief Justice of Canada.



Region II President and Vice-President



Greetings to all in Zone II! We want to extend our thanks and appreciation for your confidence in us to again provide leadership for our region. The progress and development over the last term will serve as a solid foundation for the growth in the coming years. You have our commitment to do our utmost to move our Region forward. However, we can not do this alone, your participation and input is required for our Annual General Meeting on October 29, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Louis Parish in Bonnyville. See you then, for "Together we will build a strong Metis nation".

*Karen (KC) Collins, Region 2 President
Homer Poitras, Region 2 Vice President*

MNA Local Feature St. Paul des Métis Local 1896

by Bob Nolan

The St. Paul des Métis Local 1896 is one of the newest Locals in the province, founded on August 19, 2005.

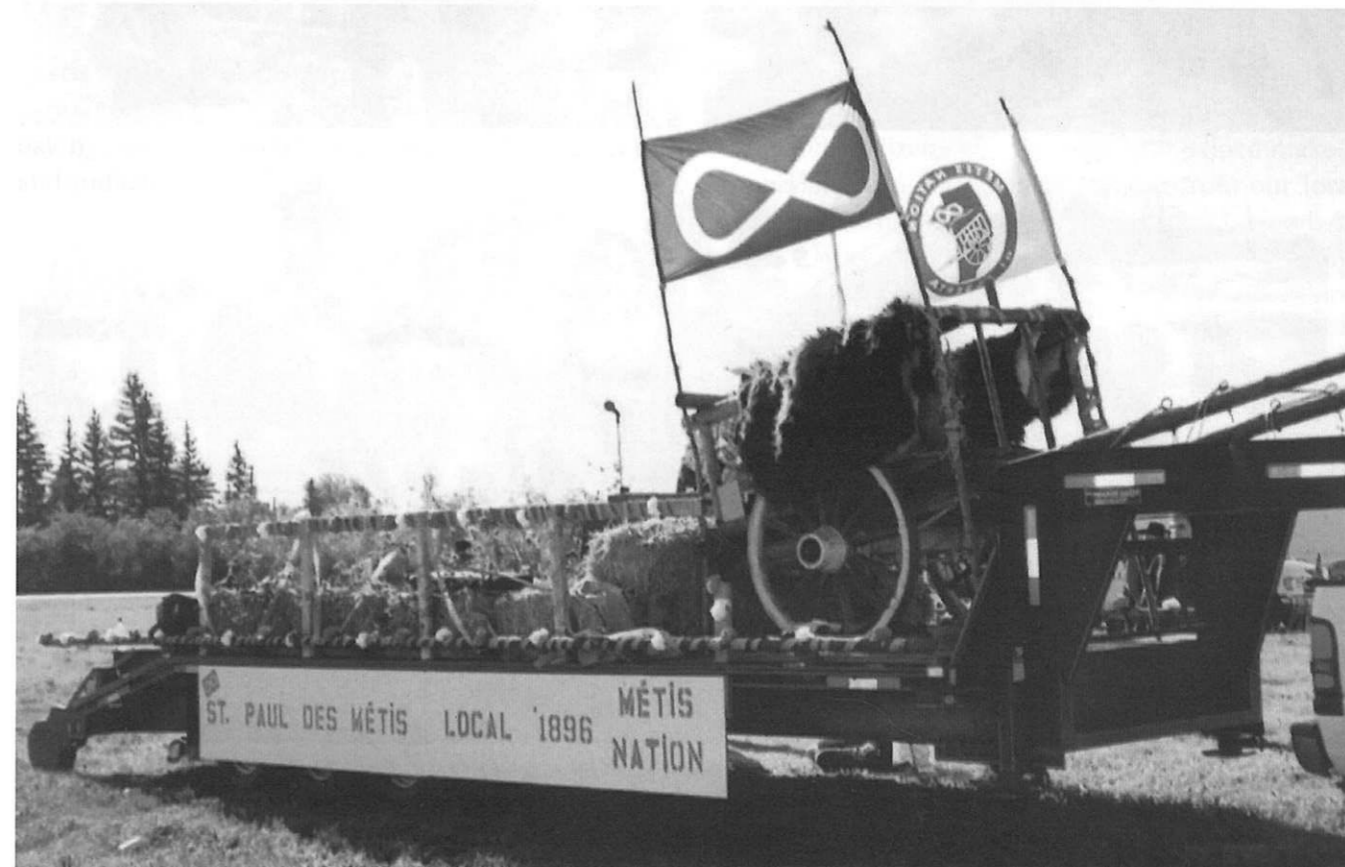
When I came to St. Paul in 1998, I was informed that the nearest Métis Local was the one in Bonnyville. Being a Métis from the Red River Settlement area (Winnipeg), I take a lot of pride in my heritage. I decided that we needed a Local right here in St. Paul.

With help from our Regional President Karen Collins and other members from Bonnyville, and with Kevin Prather from Saddle Lake, we set up meetings and were successful in bringing together enough members to elect an interim board of directors. Having sat on other boards, such as the Louis Riel Métis Association in Surrey, BC and the Manitoba

Métis Federation's North-End Local, I was familiar with the hard work and dedication required to form a Local.

St. Paul des Métis Local 1896

President	Robert Nolin
Vice President	Kevin Prather
Treasurer	Sandra Marcoux
Secretary	Nina Quiney
Board Member	Henry Rice
Board Member	Ed Morin
Board Member	Fabian Chalifoux



First place winner in the 'Pioneers and Western' category of the St. Paul Rodeo Parade.

At our first meeting we decided that we needed to raise public awareness of our new society and decided to put together a float for the St. Paul Rodeo Parade. The morning dew required us to make some last-minute touch-ups at the judging grounds.

When the judges approached us and congratulated us for our hard work and originality in the 'Pioneers and Western' category, I felt as if Moosum Kihew had taken my heart into the skies. Imagine - after only one week of preparations we won first place! Well, just think about what we can accomplish in the upcoming years.

Some of the issues we would like to see addressed in our area are Métis housing, the rights of the Métis

children in care and other issues affecting our Métis families.

In Manitoba, where I come from, there used to be an annual celebration called, "La Fête Des Michif". Every winter, many communities held winter carnival celebrations. My dreams are to see our Local host such events bringing together Métis people such as we experienced at the launch of Métis Crossing in August. Métis people in the St. Paul area who would like to see the same, please contact me at (780) 645-7887.

I'd like to close with a personal message for all our Métis people: "Be proud of who you are. We are the Métis!"

Meegwich

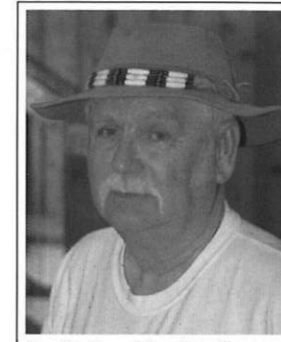


Top Left: A proud Metis family: Jackie Jantzen, Willow Nolin, Skye Nolin, and Robert (Bob) Nolin

Top Right: Parading through St. Paul. Henry Rice on fiddle, Roland Poitras on guitar, Homer Poitras sitting on the bale, and Nina Quiney in the Red River Cart.

Bottom: Brand new St. Paul des Metis Local board of directors win the first place ribbon. (l to r) Kevin Prather, Ed Morin, Fabian Chalifoux, Nina Quiney, Henry Rice, Sandra Marcoux, and Robert Nolin.

Big Valley Hivernant Rendezvous The Best Yet!



by Richard Lucier-Larson

Early participants were arriving by Wednesday noon in campers, tents, recreational vehicles forming a camp north of the village. Visitors who ventured to the end of 2nd Ave N saw our primitive camp comprised of canvas tipi's and tents.

Aside from a couple of evening thunderstorms we had good weather with an excellent turnout of participants on Friday and Saturday.

Visitors were treated to displays of Métis history, genealogy, books, crafts and the music of Gary Lee on fiddle and Ray St. Germaine on guitar. The Calgary Métis Youth Dancers and The Brule Dancers from Wabasca put on many performances through out the weekend. Many people complimented the skill and energy the dancers displayed. They were terrific! At various times the Voyageur Games and the bannock-baking contest provided entertainment for the entrants and audience.

Our Abraham Salios Scouts accompanied by our youth participated in the Stettler 2005 parade and won a plaque for first place in their category. Way to go crew!

Our parade in Big Valley started at the Elevator then went up Main Street. The Abraham Salios Scouts guarded our Red River Cart float that carried Loshawna, Danielle and Ashley, beautiful young ladies representing our Métis youth. Our musicians and dancers held impromptu performances along the parade route and were very well received by those watching. The horse guard consisted of members of the Whitford/Hamelien Métis clan and a contingent from the Cheyenne Nation. The local classic vehicle group helped with a beautifully restored 1 1/2-ton truck.

The grand opening of the Hivernant Rendezvous was in the Jubilee Hall, after an opening prayer by (then) Region 3 Vice President Marlene Lanz, followed by an opening address from Big Valley Mayor Lorne Parkin, and MNA President Audrey Poitras. MNA Vice-President Trevor Gladue was in attendance, as well as (then) Local 84 President Joe Chodzicki and several other distinguished guests.

We wish to thank the various members of the executive of the Métis Nation of Alberta, as well as the many Métis citizens who attended and helped make it all possible. We had a good turnout from our local residents who enjoyed our music, dancers and food. All in all, it was an excellent event; we received many compliments. Thanks to all, we look forward to seeing you next year.

Red River West on Vancouver Island

Vera and I attended Red River shooting. The bannock-baking Wildland Urban Interface Fire West Métis Rendezvous on contest was fun, in which I took 3rd place in a field of at least 7 combatants. There was entertainment, dancing, genealogy of young Métis people. We are always welcome there since and many happy people. The Many thanks to Trish, Ed, Al and the rest of the crew for welcoming us and giving us another positive experience at the Red River West Métis Rendezvous.

One of the highlights was watching the "Red River Rangers," a

the "Red River Rangers," a

Otipemisiwak

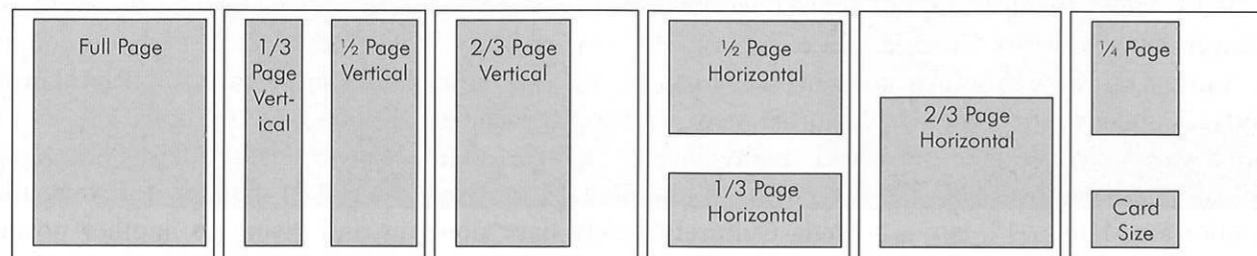
The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta

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	4¾ 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



Phone: (780) 455-2200 or 1(800) 252-7553 (Alberta Only) Fax: (780) 452-8946

Email: communications@metis.org

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

Update Who Wants to See Me Bald?

by Kimberly Mueller



Thank you so much to all the people who are donating to my fundraising effort! I am currently at about \$1000.00 and although I did say that with

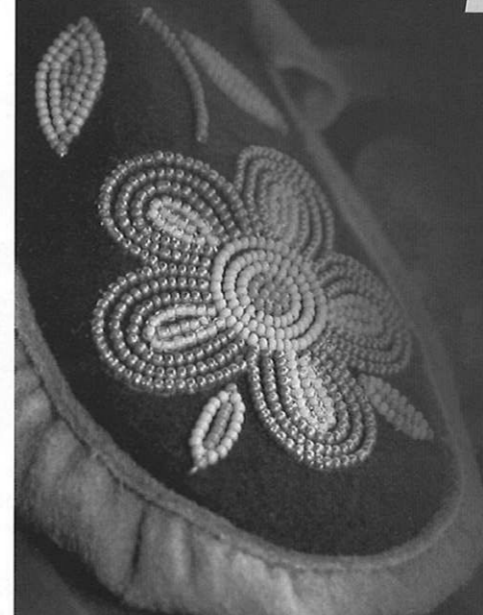
\$2,000.00 I would shave it all off, I have decided, as my thank you to all those people who have given their support, I will be doing the big shave on October 1st regardless if I hit the \$2000.00 mark or

not. This will also give me a little extra time to collect any additional funds and with luck I will still reach and surpass the original goal!

Thank you once again! And for those still wishing to donate it's not too late...

Please send your donation to Kimberly Mueller, 11738-Kingsway Avenue, c/o Métis Nation of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T5G 0X5. Cheques can be made payable to the Canadian Cancer Society (please also note Cops for Cancer on your cheque in the note section). All donations over \$10.00 will receive a tax receipt from the Canadian Cancer Society.

Update your Métis Nation of Alberta Membership



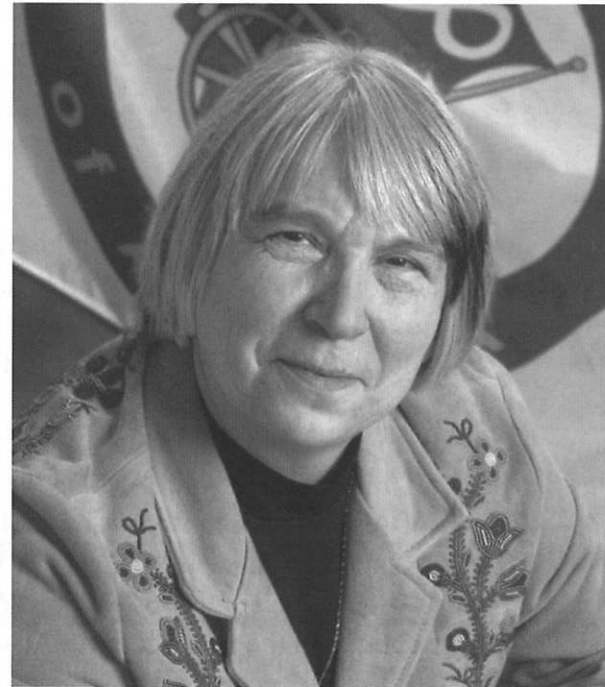
Count Yourself In

Call the MNA Registry to ensure your membership file is up to date.

1-866-88METIS (1-866-886-3847) or
1-866-678-7888

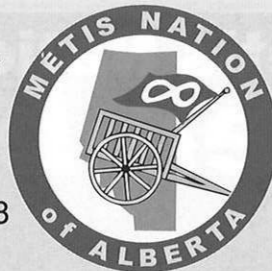
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President
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Tim Collins

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Region II



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Vice-President
Louis Bellrose



Editor's Insight

Patricia Russell

There's a certain plant that occupies a very special place in my life, much like a child might occupy the space and attention of a parent raising a four or five-year old. In my case though, there are no childhood issues attached to this long, leafy bush. Diapers are a thing of the past, the 'tween years' are done, and teen-aged angst is reduced to a difficult memory. The plant has been a silent witness to all that drama; now, it sits by my kitchen table like a quiet friend waiting for a cup of Salada Tea.

You see, this plant has been with me since my daughter was five-years old. I call it my "Jolene Plant", green-thumbs might call it a "Spider Plant" or identify it by some Latin term, four syllables long. For me, it's a reminder of my baby, my teenager, my daughter. It's my plant.

My only child Jolene, presented me with the first stem nineteen years ago. It was a Mothers Day gift crafted for me in Mrs. Osted's kindergarten class. It's still easy to imagine sticky little fingers, tacky with white glue, squishing each bit of wood into place around a baby food jar. The final production held two or three tender leaves of a battered plant, sneaking out from under the Popsicle-stick roof of a wishing well. Who knew the little plant would mean so much?

The plant grew longer and Jolene grew older. As Jolene changed grades, the plant changed pots, bigger and deeper, encouraging the roots to expand and the leaves to grow as if in tune with her own developments.

Jolene went away to Ottawa about five years ago. The day she left, I cried the blues of an empty-nester, lost in the heartbreak of an only-child leaving home. It's the absolute opposite of the joy a parent experiences watching their child take the first steps as a toddler. We're so involved in the moment we fail to see them as the first steps away from the comfort of parental love and the security of knowing that child is sleeping peacefully in the bedroom downstairs.

I watered my 'Jolene Plant' the day she left, dusting and gently petting every leaf, adding a shot of fertilizer to encourage good growth. My husband watched knowingly, not breaking the silence and sanctity of a special moment shared between a mother and her plant.

When Jolene graduated with two degrees from Carleton University last fall, she discouraged us from planning any pomp and ceremony around the occasion. So the plant got a bigger pot and a fresh bag of soil, as if to prepare for adventures that have since taken Jolene to every province in the country, as far North as Inuvik, and may yet take her to South Korea, of all places. And that's good-- words I type with shaky fingers.

Our Métis youth ought to be encouraged to go and explore the world, to experience other cultures and learn about the struggles born by others in the global community. Adventure will help our youth gain perspective and a greater appreciation of the freedoms we enjoy as Métis people by living in one of the greatest countries in the world. We have it good by some standards.

Our Métis sons and daughters are on the move. They are playing in the National Hockey League or representing us in provincial and national politics. Our children are accomplished academics and professionals, doctors, lawyers, teachers and judges.

I think we can derive a special kind of security from knowing that our nation of Métis people will continue to grow and blossom through a well-tended root system that exists within our families, whether or not we realize it. Sometimes the reminder is hidden inside a kitchen plant.

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.

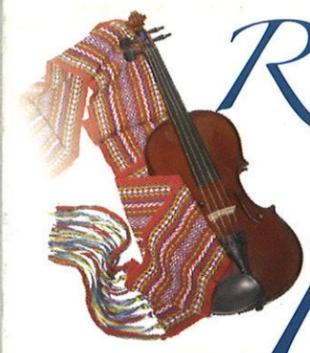
Defined Terms in National Definition of Métis

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.



Recreating
Our Past
Shaping Our
Future



Métis Nation of Alberta
2005 CENTENNIAL JOURNEY WAGON TREK