

Otipemisiwak (oh-t-paym'-soo-wuk)- In Michif: The Independent Ones

Volume 3 Issue 5 - March 2007

# Otipemisiwak

VOICE OF THE MÉTIS NATION IN ALBERTA



## Appeal Court Overturns Conviction of Métis Harvester

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### Remembering a Métis Warrior, Time for Action 2007





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

Michif:  
"their own boss,  
the independent ones"

#### Feature Photo (left):

Cory Poitras entertains the crowd with his fiddle music during the Time for Action opening night mixer.

Photo by Monique Devlin

#### On Our Cover:

A pair of embroidered gloves owned by Richard Flett. Flett can trace the gloves to about 1935, when his grandfather traded a set of leggings for them in Indian Cabins, Alberta.

Photo by Monique Devlin

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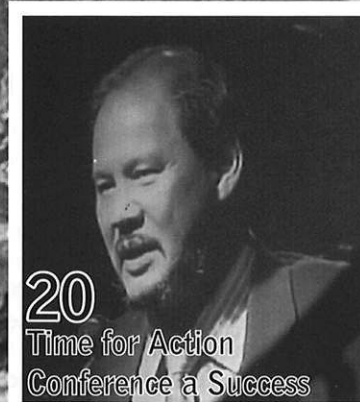
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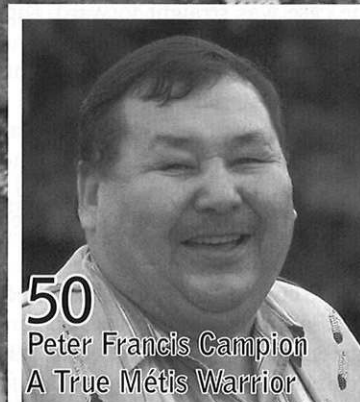
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# Otipemisiwak

*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

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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 April 27th, 2007

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# President's Message

Welcome to the spring 2007 edition of Otipemisiwak. A lot has happened since I last wrote to you in this column. Recently the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench overturned a lower court decision disputing our right to harvest under the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement (IMHA).

The case was straight forward. Kipp Kelly, a Métis Harvester was charged with hunting without a license while teaching his children how to trap. The argument was not whether Mr. Kelly was in the wrong, but the IMHA itself was put to question. There is an article written in the magazine that examines the case in much closer detail, but the end result was the court ruled that Métis harvesters, who are harvesting within the terms of the IMHA, can rely on the IMHA as a defense against the charges.

We are currently working hard to come to an agreement with the Province of Alberta on a longer term Harvesting Agreement. There have been a lot of changes within the Provincial Government in the last few months. We have a new premier (Premier Ed Stelmach), and he in turn has named a new cabinet. There is no longer a Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development; instead we are part of a new and larger ministry, International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations led by Minister Guy Boutillier.

This department is now responsible for our Harvesting Agreement and we have been working closely with them to come to a long term solution that respects our constitutional rights. We hope to have a new agreement in place some time in the next few months which will address some issues that need more clarification in the IMHA, such as fishing with a rod and reel.

Our Provincial Council held a dinner to publicly thank Peal Calahasen for the work she did while Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development. Pearl was the first Aboriginal woman elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly in Alberta, and subsequently the first Aboriginal



Photo by Monique Davin

woman appointed to the cabinet. She helped give Alberta's Aboriginal people a voice in government. Each Region took the opportunity to present a gift to her as well as publicly thank her. To further show our appreciation, we developed a new scholarship in her honour that will be awarded at our annual Delia Gray Gala in November.

This winter marked our first "Time for Action! Strengthening Métis Communities" conference. The event was an opportunity for Métis community members, friends and supporters to discuss the issues facing them and their communities and what can be done to address them. We had an excellent turnout and I am assured that this will become an annual event.

Events like this one can only be accomplished with team effort, but I would like to draw special attention to the work of our Tripartite Manager, Fran Hyndman, for organizing and carrying it out. She and her team did an exceptional job, and I would like to thank them all.

While many issues were discussed at the conference, affordable housing has become an even greater concern, as housing costs across the province skyrocket. This winter we presented to the Alberta Affordable Housing Task Force, which was developed to identify short- and long-term housing solutions across the province. All regions were involved in putting a housing position paper together, that was positively received. We believe by working with both the provincial and federal governments we will be able to continue, and most likely increase, our levels of low income housing across the province.

I recently had the opportunity to sit in on the Métis Nation British Columbia's Governing Assembly, where Leaders on both a provincial and community level met to discuss the future and plan the direction of their government over the next year. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn how their government conducts itself. I think that by observing what methods work in other provinces, we can use that knowledge to help strengthen our own Nation here at home.

I would like to take this time to invite everybody to mark your calendars for our Annual General Meeting this year in St. Paul, Aug 18 -19. Region II is proudly hosting this year's assembly which, as always, gives us the opportunity to come together to do business, celebrate our culture,

renew old acquaintances and make new friends. So make sure you book time off, dust off your fiddles and dancing shoes and make your way out to St. Paul. I look forward to seeing you all there.

On a more solemn note, just before Christmas our Region V Vice President, Peter Campion passed away. Even through his battles with cancer, diabetes, kidney failures and strokes he never gave up hope. Peter was involved in the politics of the Métis Nation for many years, and continued to serve as the leader in the Region until his last days. On behalf of the Métis Nation, we continue to send our condolences and prayers to his family and friends.

In February we also had to say good bye to an Elder from Grande Cache, Rose Findlay, who was honoured as a Métis Matriarch in 2005. Rose was a hunter, trapper, artist, teacher, grandmother, friend and an inspirational woman who will be truly missed.

Equally as sorrowful were the passings of Margaret Fayant of Fishing Lake Settlement and Fred Jobin of Edmonton. It seems that so many people have passed away over the last little while that deserve special recognition that we could take up the rest of this magazine with their stories. I would like at this time to extend my sympathies and condolences to all those who has lost a loved-one recently.

I can not help but think that whenever we lose one of our Elders, Leaders or Veterans that we are losing a part of our community, a piece of who we are. That is why it is so important for us to teach our youth about our history and culture and to encourage them to become our future teachers, leaders, and defenders. It will be up to them to keep our Métis Nation alive and to continue building on the work that has been done to have our people and rights recognized.

Until next time, enjoy the spring weather we all hope will be upon us soon.

*Audrey Poitras*

Thank you.



# Greetings from the Provincial Vice-President

Tansi N'totamak,

It is my privilege to bring greetings to you in this issue of Otipimsewak.

It is indeed a great honor to be a part of the Métis Nation of Alberta. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to receive support from our Métis citizens, as I stand proudly among those who lead our Métis Nation. My sincere thanks goes out to all of the Elders and forward thinking Métis who envisioned our Métis organization throughout the last 78 years. To those visionaries and advocates, I am profoundly grateful.

The MNA is now in a whole new era of Métis recognition. We have an opportunity to build for a future that will position the MNA as a leader – a leader in the Métis Homeland, in Canada, and in the world.

To accomplish this, we must continue to build on our strengths and pursue excellence in our Métis governance systems, by further developing our capacity, and maintaining and expanding our infrastructure at all levels.

Over the last year, I have been actively participating on the Oil Sands Multistakeholder Committee (MSC) which was formed by the Alberta Government to lead a public consultation on the development of Alberta's Oil Sands, based on recommendations from the MLA-led Oil Sands Consultation Advisory Group.

After holding seven community consultations throughout the Oil Sand regions, we have developed an interim report, which identifies a vision and principles for the future of Oil Sands development in Alberta. I was very impressed with the level of participation from our Métis leaders, as their input helped outline a vision for Oil Sands development.

Based on what we heard, the MSC has recommended a vision for Oil Sands development that:

- honours the rights of First Nations and Métis;
- provides a high quality of life;
- ensures a healthy environment;
- maximizes value-added in Alberta;
- builds healthy communities;
- sees Alberta benefit from the oil economy and lead in the post-oil economy;
- sees Alberta as a world leader in education, technology and a skilled workforce;
- provides high quality infrastructure and services for all Albertans; and,
- demonstrates leadership through world-class governance.

We are now about to embark on the second phase of the consultation slated to begin in March, and the committee will again travel throughout the province to share the findings of the Interim Report and gather feedback from Albertans.

The findings from the first and second phases will also be validated by the Métis community, as there will be five Métis specific community consultations throughout the Oil Sands regions.

I find this work to be very important for the future of Alberta, and as a Métis, it is equally important that we participate in these public consultations. This is our opportunity to discuss issues of the environment, economic opportunity, housing, and education, just to name a few.

I look forward to the opportunities ahead for our Métis citizens, and I know that we, as a Métis Nation, will continue to set the stage for a proud and vibrant Métis Nation for generations to come. May you have a great year!

Trevor Gladue, Provincial Vice President



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## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

### Notice of Meeting

Métis Nation of Alberta Annual Meeting  
August 18th & 19, 2007  
St. Paul, Alberta

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 79th Annual Assembly of the Métis Nation of Alberta will be held on August 18 and 19, 2007 in St. Paul, Alberta.

Cecil Bellrose  
Secretary  
Métis Nation of Alberta

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

### Deadline for Resolutions

Métis Nation of Alberta Annual Meeting  
August 18 & 19, 2007  
St. Paul, Alberta

Special or Extraordinary Resolutions for the 79th Annual Assembly of the Métis Nation of Alberta to be held in St. Paul, Alberta, August 18 & 19, 2007 must be received at the MNA Head Office no later than July 6, 2007 before 4:30 p.m.

Please send your resolution to:

### Special / Extraordinary Resolutions for the 79th Annual Assembly

Attention: Ron Harrison  
Métis Nation of Alberta  
100 Delia Gray Building  
11738 Kingsway Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 0X5  
Fax: (780) 452-8946

Cecil Bellrose  
Secretary  
Métis Nation of Alberta

Call the provincial office for more information 780 455 2200 or 1 800 252 7553



## Strengthening Our Métis Rights

# Appeal Court Overturns Conviction of Métis Harvester

By Jason Madden

The Alberta Court of Queen's Bench recently overturned a lower court decision that convicted a Métis harvester for trapping without a license based on the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement (IMHA).

On Jan. 24, 2007, the Court ruled that Métis harvesters who are harvesting within the terms of the IMHA can rely on the IMHA as a defence against charges.

"We are pleased that the court has recognized that the Alberta Government and the Metis Nations of Alberta (MNA) did the right thing by negotiating and entering into the IMHA following the *Powley* decision," Métis Nation of Alberta MNA President Audrey Poitras said about the ruling. "At the time, it was a bold step, but the court has now validated that it was the right step."

In Dec. 2004, Kipp Kelley, a member of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), was teaching his children how to trap in the tradition of their Métis culture just outside of Hinton. He was charged for hunting without a license under section 24(1) of the *Wildlife Act*.

In the first trial, Provincial Court Judge Norheim found that

Kelley was harvesting within the terms of the IMHA but could not use the agreement as a legal defence. Yesterday's ruling overturned this decision, confirming that the IMHA does allow Métis people in Alberta to hunt, fish and trap on identified

## Court Confirms Métis Harvesters Can Rely on Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement

Métis Harvesting Lands, subject to conservation and safety rules and regulations

In coming to his conclusion, Justice Gerald Verville held that following the Supreme Court's decision in *Powley* "Alberta was under a constitutional imperative" to accommodate Métis harvesting rights and "that the IMHA was entered into by the Government in its attempt to fulfill the constitutional imperative on it in light of the decision in *Powley*." The Court added "that it is not only the Métis, but also the Government who benefit from avoiding the high costs of litigation through the IMHA."

Jason Madden, Legal Counsel

for Mr. Kelley said, "This case is precedent setting in its confirmation that governments have a constitutional imperative to consult on and accommodate credible Métis harvesting rights claims prior to Métis having to go to courts, at great expense, to prove a constitutionally protected harvesting right. The court is clearly saying that governments cannot 'sit on their hands' and wait for court cases that confirm Métis rights. There is an imperative to consult on and accommodate Métis harvesting practices within provincial regulatory regimes."

President Poitras concluded, "This decision is important to Alberta Métis and the entire Métis Nation. It affirms that the Crown has a constitutional obligation to negotiate with Métis in order to accommodate their rights – whether asserted or proven. It affirms that we do not need to litigate Métis harvesting rights cases across the country, but accommodations can be negotiated. It affirms that the courts are willing to uphold these negotiated agreements based on the honour of the Crown. We believe these are all positive developments for Métis rights."

## Background on Kelley Case

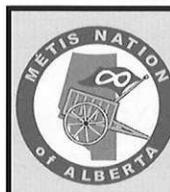
The IMHA was negotiated by the Alberta Government and the MNA following the Supreme Court of Canada's landmark decision in *R. v. Powley*. In 2003, the *Powley* case confirmed that the Métis people have harvesting rights that are protected by s. 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982. In order to accommodate Métis harvesting practices in Alberta, the IMHA was negotiated and signed by the MNA's leadership and three Alberta Ministers in Sept. 2004. The IMHA provides that eligible Métis can hunt, fish and trap on identified Métis Harvesting Lands, subject to conservation and safety rules and regulations. A copy of the IMHA is available at [www.albertametis.com](http://www.albertametis.com).

In Dec. 2004, Kipp Kelley, a member of the MNA, was teaching his children how to trap in the tradition of their Métis culture just

outside of Hinton. Kelley was charged for hunting without a license under s. 24(1) of the *Wildlife Act*. At trial, Judge Norheim found that Kelley is Métis, had a long family history for living off the land in the Hinton area and that Kelley was harvesting within the terms of the IMHA. In addition, the evidence showed the Alberta Government did not follow the screening process set out in the IMHA prior to laying charges. However, Judge Norheim went on to convict Kelley for trapping without a license because he concluded Kelley could not use the IMHA as a legal defense. Kelley, supported by the MNA, appealed Judge Norheim's decision.

On Jan. 23, 2007, the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench overturned Judge Norheim's decision. In his ruling, Justice Verville, of the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench, stressed that Métis harvesters must

be able to rely on the IMHA for the constitutional imperative to be fulfilled. He wrote, "[t]he Supreme Court in *Haida* emphasized that the constitutional imperative must be understood generously. In my view, this means that where a course of action results in an accommodation (even a temporary one), the Aboriginals in question must be able to rely on the accommodation. If not, the constitutional imperative has not been adequately addressed." Verville J. concluded that, "it would be extremely egregious for a conviction to ensue where a court has found that the activity was contemplated and authorized by the IMHA." Based on the Crown's commitments within the IMHA to Alberta Métis and the facts that Mr. Kelley was eligible under the IMHA and he relied on it, Verville J. set aside the conviction of Mr. Kelley and granted a stay.



The Métis Nation of Alberta needs your help! Métis harvesters are being forced into Alberta's courts to defend their constitutional right to harvest for food. The MNA Harvesters Legal Defence Fund has been established in order to help offset the costs associated with this defence.

## MNA HARVESTERS LEGAL DEFENCE FUND

**Send your donation to:**  
MNA Harvesters Legal Defence Fund  
c/o MNA Communications  
11738 Kingsway  
Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5





# Frequently Asked Questions About the Kelly Case

## *I am an eligible Métis harvester under the IMHA, can I harvest without fear of being charged?*

Until Alberta expressly states that Métis cannot rely on the IMHA, terminates the IMHA, or replaces it, Métis harvesters can continue to rely on the IMHA. This does not mean that Alberta will not charge Métis harvesters, it just means that the courts have said that Alberta should not be charging Métis harvesters or, if Alberta does lay charges, the courts will hold Alberta to its commitments within the IMHA.

## *How can the IMHA be 'legally unenforceable', but also be able to be relied upon by Métis harvesters as a defence against charges?*

The Court has sent a message – Alberta was wrong not to take the appropriate legal steps to make the IMHA a part of the regulatory regime (i.e. make it legally enforceable). As such, the Métis, who have relied on Alberta's commitments within the IMHA, should not be charged by Alberta because of this technical defect. The courts are willing to uphold the IMHA based on the honour of the Crown. This is how the IMHA can be 'legally unenforceable', but be able to be relied upon by Métis harvesters at the same time.

## *Why is the Kelley case important?*

Kelley is a test case. It provides greater confidence for Alberta Métis harvesters who are relying on IMHA. It affirms that governments are under a constitutional imperative to accommodate Métis harvesting rights and that agreements negotiated and entered into between the Crown and Aboriginal peoples will be upheld by the courts. It also provides legal guidance for future accommodation agreements since it is now clear that governments must incorporate these agreements into their regulatory regimes or they are vulnerable to legal challenge.

## *What happens next?*

The MNA has written to the Alberta Government requesting that the IMHA be deemed a regulation within Alberta's fish and wildlife regulatory regime in order to correct the legal deficiency pointed out by the Court. As of yet, the MNA has not received a response from the Alberta Government. Negotiations between the MNA and Alberta on a longer term harvesting agreement continue.

# The Métis Hunt for Justice in 2007

(Current as of February 2007)

By Jason Madden

As in 2003, with the Métis Nation's historic victory at the Supreme Court of Canada in *R. v. Powley*, 2007 will also be a precedent setting year in the ongoing Métis 'hunt for justice'. In total, it is expected that at least five decisions on Métis rights will be delivered by courts across the Métis Nation Homeland this year. Each one of these cases, in its own way, will be important to the development of Métis rights case law.

Collectively these cases will continue to push all levels of government to come to grips with Métis rights. Since 2003, some governments, such as Alberta, Ontario and Canada, have heard and acted on the directions from the Supreme Court of Canada in *Powley*. Those governments sat down with Métis in order to negotiate and accommodate Métis harvesting rights. Other governments, such as Manitoba, Saskatchewan and

British Columbia, have chosen an adversarial, costly and time consuming approach. Instead of engaging in negotiations, as mandated by s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and the honour of the Crown, these governments have forced Métis into the courts at great financial expense to the Métis Nation and all taxpayers in those provinces.

The anticipated cases can be grouped into three categories:

(1) cases to establish a Métis right pursuant to the *Powley* test

(2) cases that deal with the enforceability and interpretation of negotiated Métis harvesting agreements, and

(3) a case that will answer whether the Crown has fulfilled its duties and obligations to the Métis pursuant to the *Manitoba Act*.

In the first category, we have the *R. v. Goodon* (Manitoba) and *R. v. Belhumeur* (Saskatchewan) cases. In the second category we have the *R.*

*v. Laurin, Lemieux & Lemieux* (Ontario) and *R. v. Kelley* (Alberta) cases. In the third category, we have the *Manitoba Métis Federation v. Canada* case.

## **R. v. Goodon**

Will Goodon was charged under s. 19 of the *Manitoba Wildlife Act* for harvesting a duck in the Turtle Mountains. Mr. Goodon did not have a provincial hunting licence, but was harvesting under the authority of his Manitoba Métis Federation Harvester's Card. The *Goodon* trial began in May of 2006 and it is expected that the evidence portion of the trial will be completed by the end of Mar. 2007. By then, over 15 community witnesses and four experts will have testified.

This case is important because it will tackle the question of "what is a Métis community?" in Manitoba. Further, because the Manitoba Crown is arguing that





Métis harvesting rights in the province have been extinguished, the court will have to answer this important issue as well. It is anticipated that a decision will be rendered in Goodon in the summer of 2007.

#### R. v. Belhemeur

Donald Belhemeur was charged with ice fishing near the Qu'Appelle River in southern Saskatchewan. Mr. Belhemeur did not have a provincial fishing licence and was charged under s. 11(1) of the *Saskatchewan Fisheries Regulations*.

In Saskatchewan, even though Métis harvesting rights have been proven in court cases in northern Saskatchewan (*R. v. Morin & Daigneault* and *R. v. Laviolette*), the provincial government has refused to formally accommodate Métis harvesting south of a unilaterally imposed line. A victory in the *Belhemeur* case will hopefully force the Saskatchewan government to finally act honourably and accommodate Métis harvesting practices throughout the province, rather than forcing Métis to establish rights hectare by hectare. The trial portion of the case is set to conclude in March 2007 following



the testimony of two experts and 17 community witnesses. It is anticipated that a decision will be rendered in *Belhemeur* in the summer of 2007.

#### R. v. Laurin, Lemieux & Lemieux

In July 2004, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) reached an interim harvesting agreement with Ontario. The four points of the agreement were straightforward:

- (1) the MNO would issue up to 1,250 Harvester Cards;
- (2) holders of these 1,250 Harvester Cards would not be charged for harvesting within their

traditional territory as long as they abided by conservation and safety requirements;

(3) the interim agreement would stay in place until a final agreement was reached;

(4) the MNO would agree to a third-party audit of its Harvester Card system and the parties would undertake joint research to use in negotiating the final agreement.

In the fall of 2004, Ontario began to charge MNO Harvester Card holders south of a unilaterally imposed line, even though the text of the negotiated agreement did not include any mention of such a limitation. Messrs. Laurin, Lemieux and Lemieux were charged under the *Ontario Fisheries Regulations* for fishing on the French River (which is south of Ontario's imposed line). These MNO Harvester Card holders filed an application for stays of proceedings (in other words, charges are dismissed), based on Ontario's breach of the harvesting agreement.

This case is important to over 50 per cent of the MNO's Harvester Card holders because they harvest south of Ontario's unilateral line. Moreover, the case will be important because it will deal with the Crown's obligations with



Florence Desjarlais poses with a deer she shot on her Dad's property near Elmer Lake, Alberta. Desjarlais provides meat for her parents, three children, and four grandchildren.

respect to asserted, but as yet unproven, Métis rights, and how the accommodation agreement should be interpreted. Examinations and final arguments for this case are now complete and a decision will be rendered on June 12, 2007 in North Bay. Additional information on this case can be found on the MNO's website at [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org).

#### R. v. Kelley

In Sept. 2004, three Alberta Ministers signed the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement (IMHA) with the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA). The IMHA included a commitment that MNA members could "hunt, fish and trap", on designated lands, without fear of being charged, as long as the harvesting was consistent with agreed to conservation or safety rules.

In Dec. 2004, Kipp Kelley, a MNA member, was teaching his children how to trap squirrels in the tradition of his Métis culture. Mr. Kelley did not have a license and was charged under s. 24(1) of Alberta's *Wildlife Act*. At trial, Mr.

Kelley was convicted because the judge found that Mr. Kelley could not rely on the IMHA as a defence. On Jan. 23, 2007, the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench reversed the lower court's decision and overturned Mr. Kelley's conviction.

The appeal court held that Mr. Kelley, and Métis harvesters like him, *can* rely on the IMHA as a defence to charges. The appeal judge held it would "shock the conscience of the community" if Alberta was able to proceed with charges against Métis harvesters in the face IMHA, which explicitly authorized such harvesting. Equally important, the court recognized that following *Powley*, Alberta was under a "constitutional imperative" to accommodate Métis harvesting practices. The IMHA was Alberta's attempt to fulfill this imperative and the honour of the Crown demanded that the commitments within the IMHA be fulfilled.

The Kelley case is also important because the appeal court found that the IMHA and accommodations like the IMHA do not depend on first proving a constitutionally protected Métis

right. Métis do not have to establish harvesting rights all across a province prior to a government entering into an accommodation with them.

Accommodations are workable arrangements that achieve the constitutional imperative outside the adversarial process and without the time and cost of litigation. Accommodations have benefits for all involved – Métis, governments and taxpayers. Alberta has decided not to appeal the Kelley decision and it remains good law in that province. The MNA has asked Alberta to deem the IMHA a regulation in order to correct the legal defect that was pointed out by the court. As set out in the IMHA, Alberta and the MNA continue to negotiate on a longer term harvesting agreement. Additional information on this case can be found on the MNA's website at [www.albertametis.com](http://www.albertametis.com).

#### Manitoba Métis Federation v. Canada

This is the most anticipated decision in 2007. The case is in a league of its own. It has taken over 20 years to get to a trial, involves over 10,000 documents and took over three months of court time to complete. Moreover, if it is successful, the case will most likely set a new course for Crown-Métis negotiations and settlements for the next generation.

At issue is whether Canada and Manitoba fulfilled their obligations to the Métis with respect to the *Manitoba Act's* commitments to establishing a Métis land base, as set out in sections 31 and 32 of the *Manitoba Act*. The MMF is asking the court to make declarations that:

- (1) Canada and Manitoba failed to fulfill their obligations to the Métis that are set out in the *Manitoba Act*;
- (2) Manitoba's taxation of Métis lands granted pursuant to s.





31 of the *Manitoba Act* was unconstitutional;

(3) in 1870 Canada and the Métis reached a treaty.

The case does not ask for specific lands to be returned to Métis or for a specific sum of money. However, if the MMF is successful in obtaining some of these declarations, it is likely that Canada and Manitoba will have to enter into negotiations with the MMF in order to address these issues (i.e. lands, compensation, etc.). This is similar to what governments have already done with Indian and Inuit peoples through negotiating modern day land claims or treaties in order to address the Crown's outstanding obligations, as a part of the reconciliation process that is mandated by s. 35 and the honour of the Crown.

The case's significance does not end there. It could have broader implications for the entire Métis Nation, since the Métis scrip process that was set up by Canada pursuant to the *Dominion Lands Act* was largely based on what was done in Manitoba. As such, a Métis treaty or land claims policy may be required. Furthermore, in dealing with the MMF's requested declarations, the court may also have to deal with the issue of whether Métis, as an Aboriginal people, fall under federal or provincial responsibility (i.e., whether the Métis are "Indians" for the purposes of s. 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*).

All of these scenarios combine to make this an important case for the entire Métis Nation. It is expected that a decision will be rendered in the summer of 2007.

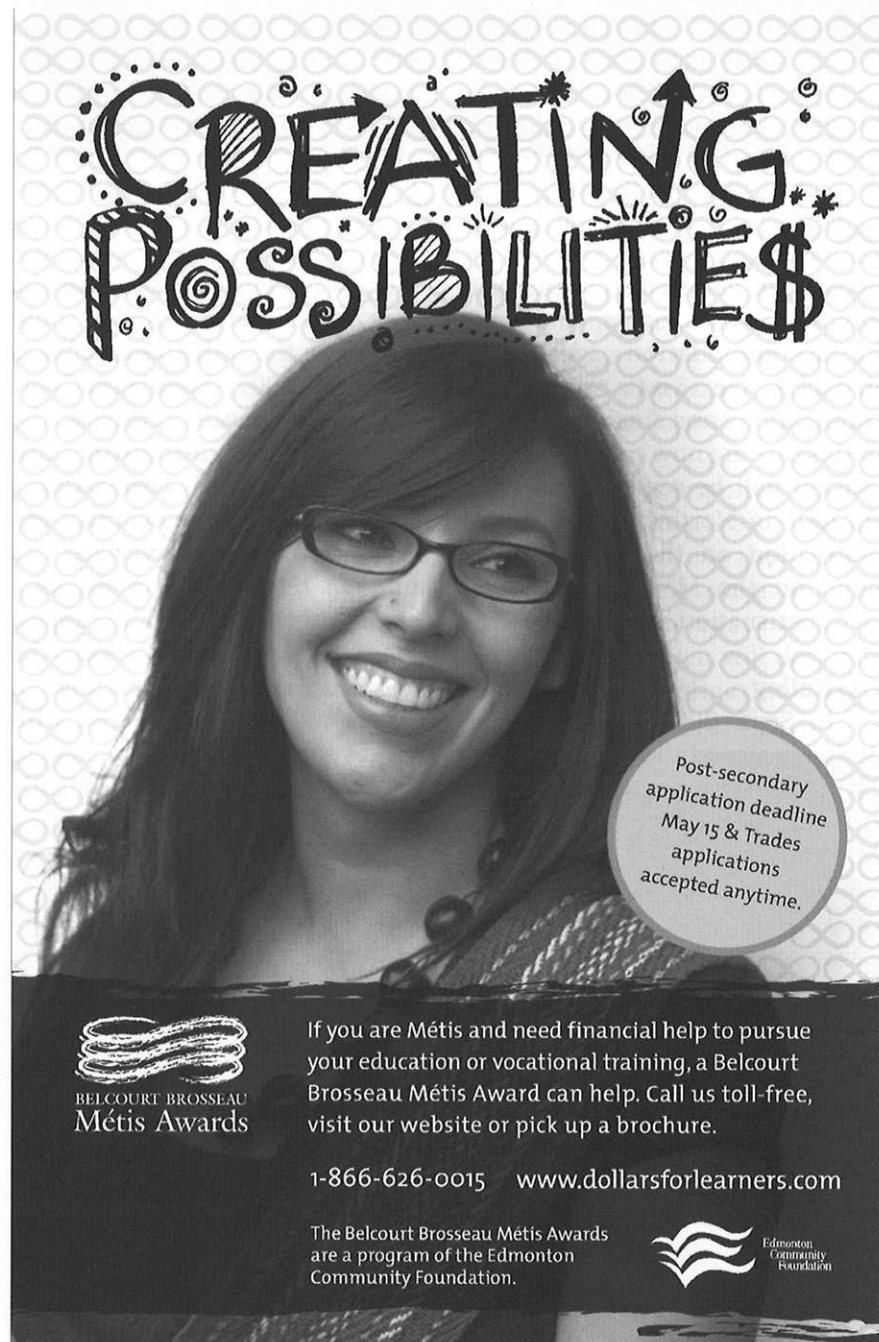
Without question, 2007 will be a pivotal year for the ongoing development of Métis law. The message that has come from the cases decided so far and what will most likely come from the

upcoming decisions, is that governments have obligations and duties to the Métis, as a full-fledged rights-bearing Aboriginal people. These obligations and duties, as a part of the reconciliation process that is mandated by s. 35 and the honour of the Crown, require ongoing consultation, negotiations and accommodations between the Crown and the Métis in order to

move toward final settlements.

Currently, there are not very many substantive Crown-Métis negotiations taking place from Ontario westward. Hopefully through the upcoming court decisions in 2007, this reality will be very different at the end of this year, and charges against Métis harvesters will be much closer to being a thing of the past.

*Jason Madden is a Métis lawyer originally from Northwestern Ontario. He represents Métis governments from Ontario westward and specializes in Métis issues.*



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## Métis Identification and Registry

The Métis Identification and Registry (MIR) team gathered this February for their yearly retreat. The gathering is a chance for agents from the six regions, and those working in the head office, to get together and learn about some of the new technologies employed by the MIR and to ensure each agent is providing standardized service.

Each participant was given a certificate and a photo of the MIR staff with MNA President Audrey Poitras, and Minister of Métis Rights and Citizenship, Cecil Bellrose and MIR Director, Irene Collins.



Top: The Métis Identification and Registry Team along with MNA President Audrey Poitras and Minister of Métis Rights and Citizenship Cecil Bellrose at the MIR annual retreat.

Middle: Susie Sousa, from head office, and her daughter Elizabeth Nicole Sousa receive a certificate and photo of the MIR team from MIR Director Irene Collins.

Bottom: Sarah Laboucane, from the Region III office in Calgary, also receives a certificate and photo from Irene Collins.



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## Introduction of New Minister



*By Hon. Guy Boutilier  
Minister of International,  
Intergovernmental, and  
Aboriginal Relations (IIAR)*

**T**ansi! And welcome to the first installment of my new column. I am pleased to have an opportunity to share the priorities of my new department as they relate to Aboriginal people. I am pleased to be working on issues of importance to the Métis community and its representatives, the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Métis Settlement General Council.

I would like to introduce myself and provide a bit of a biography before I talk about how the new International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations (IIAR) ministry affects Aboriginal people and their communities.

On Nov. 22, 2004, I was elected to a third term as MLA for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo. On Dec. 15, 2006, I was sworn in as Minister of International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations. During my time in government, I have also served as Alberta's Minister of Environment, as Minister of Municipal Affairs and as Vice-Chair of the Standing Policy Committee (SPC) on Agriculture and Municipal Affairs.

I am fortunate to bring a combination of academic, private and public service experience to the legislature. My academic accomplishments include a Masters degree in Public Administration from Harvard University in Cambridge-Boston, Mass; a Bachelors degree in Business Administration from St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia; and an Education degree with honours from St. Mary's University in Halifax.

As well, for eight years I was a college instructor teaching business management courses at Keyano College in Fort McMurray. I also worked as a financial analyst in the oil industry and lectured at the University of Alberta's School of Business.

My wife Gail and I reside in Fort McMurray where I was a member of Fort McMurray's City Council for 11 years, serving two terms as an Alderman and two terms as Fort McMurray's youngest Mayor. My most significant accomplishment was overseeing Alberta's first rural-urban amalgamation into the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, the largest municipality in North America spanning 69,000 square kilometres.

Going forward, I want to assure the Aboriginal

community that issues raised in the past will not be forgotten. The Premier has given me a strong mandate on Aboriginal issues and I will be focusing on several key areas, such as the implementation of the Aboriginal Self-Sufficiency strategy to improve Aboriginal participation in the economy and economic development in Aboriginal communities; finalizing the Aboriginal consultation strategy; and finalizing the long-term governance and funding arrangements with the Métis Settlements.

In the coming months, I want to share with you some of the ways that the Government of Alberta is involved with Aboriginal communities and how we are engaging Aboriginal people.

If you have any questions about Alberta's Aboriginal policies, contact IIAR by e-mail at [aand.website@gov.ab.ca](mailto:aand.website@gov.ab.ca) or call (780) 427-8407. Send letters to:

**Hon. Guy Boutilier  
423 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB. T5K 2B6**



MNA President Audrey Poitras and the Honourable Guy Boutilier Alberta Minister of International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations pose beside an MNA flag. Poitras presented the flag to Boutilier when he asked to have an MNA flag to hang outside his office door.



# Otipemisiwak

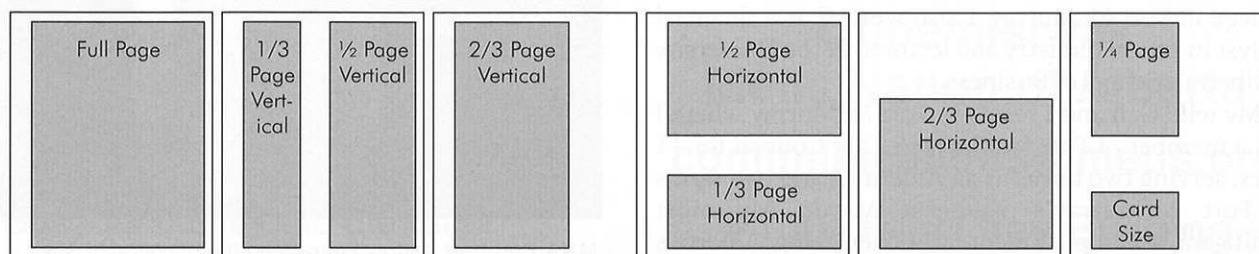
*The Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta*

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.

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Please Name these People!



The MNA Genealogy and Lands Research Unit is always looking for donations of historical material, such as old photos, letters and other documents. Just this winter we received a large donation relating to the Gariepy family from George and Edith Richardson. Unfortunately, there was no one available to help identify some of the people in the photographs, and we are looking to our readers to help with this task. Do you know who the people in these photos are? We know from the marking that the portrait of the solitary woman was taken in Regina sometime in the late 1800s or possibly the very early 1900s (before Saskatchewan became a province). If you can help us make these identifications, please call (1-800-252-7553) or write to the Genealogy and Lands Research Unit 100 Delia Gray Building 11738 Kingsway Avenue Edmonton Alberta T5G 0X5 Attention: Beatrice Demetrius.

Update Your Métis Nation of Alberta

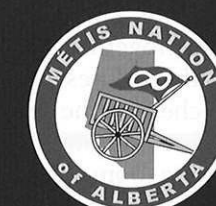
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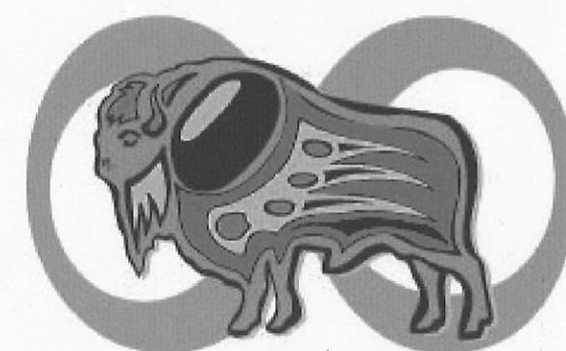
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## Building the Métis Nation of Alberta



# Fort McKay Métis Celebration

By Cort Gallup

Métis pride flowed like the Athabasca River last month when the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Fort McKay Local 63 (FML) celebrated the opening of their new office.

"It was the best day ever in Fort McKay, and I have lived here all my life," said Zachary Powder, 74, after attending the grand event. Powder, who spent the first part of the day with the Fort McKay bison harvest, said there was a great sense of pride in the community.

"This special event is not only a celebration of our new office but a celebration of the resurgence of the Métis in Fort McKay," said Cort Gallup, the FML Administrator.

"With the heart of proud Métis like Fred McDonald, and our President Ron Quintal, we have not only survived but are now moving forward quickly in a positive direction towards prosperity. It is wonderful to see the enthusiasm in the community," Gallup said.

The event, like the name of the magnificent Métis band that provided the entertainment, was 'Nicely Put Together.' The jigging of the 'Northern Lites Dancers' from Lac La Biche, and the delicious bison stew put broad smiles on the faces of the standing room only crowd.

The mayor of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo,

Melissa Blake, was in attendance and took the opportunity to announce that she is reconnecting to her Métis heritage.

"I am excited for the future of the Métis living in the area," said Blake, who proudly wore a mini sash on her lapel for the first time. Blake, and MNA President Audrey Poitras

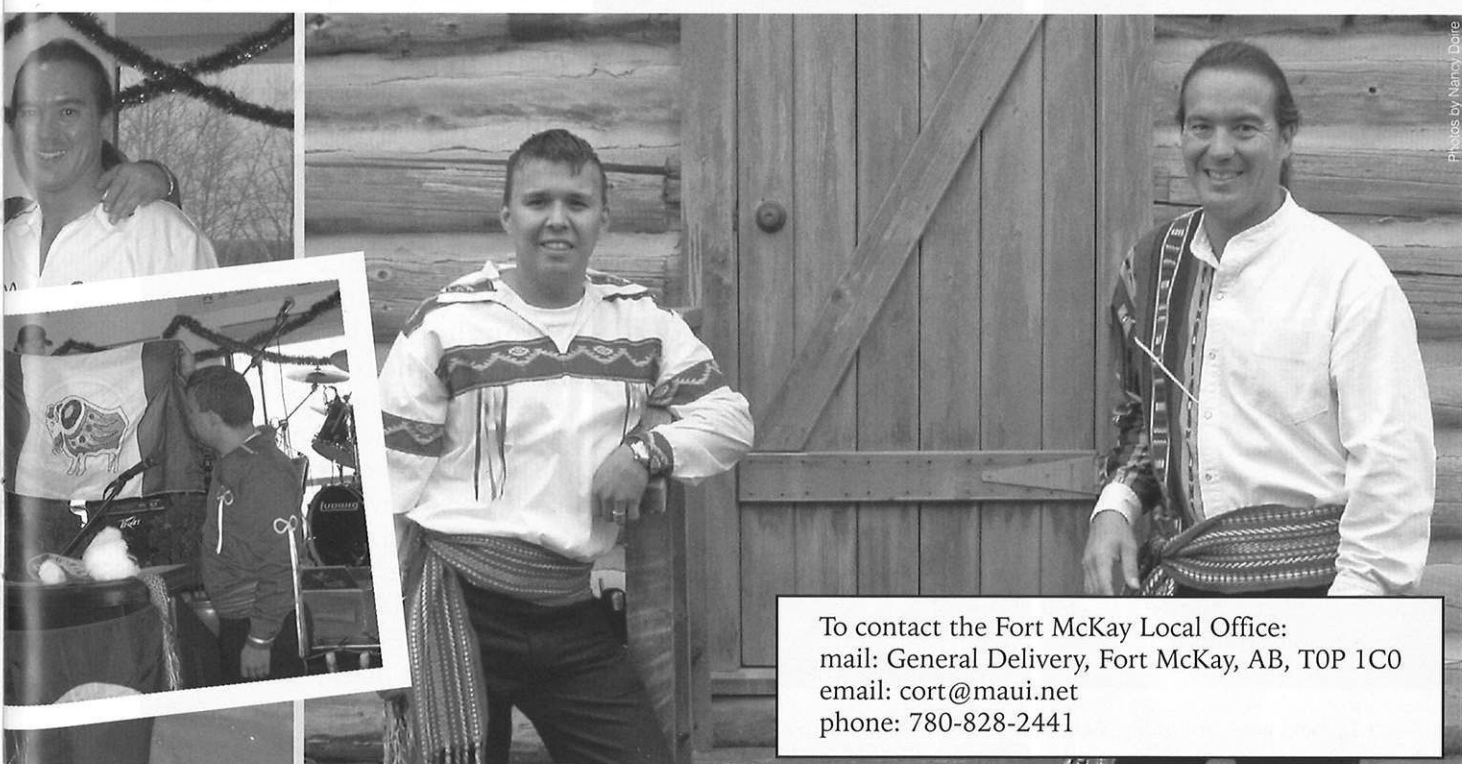
both credited FML President Ron Quintal for the community's recent success.

"I am really impressed with the progress they have made in such a short time," Poitras said.

"It is a historic day. I have always been a proud Métis, but today I am prouder than ever."



Fort McKay Local Executive Board: (left to right) Adam McDonald (Director), Margie Wood (Secretary/Treasurer), Audrey Poitras (President, MNA), Irene Wood (Director), Ron Quintal (President), John Paquette (Director), and Cort Gallup (Administrator) at the opening celebration of the FMC's new office in Fort McKay.



Above: Ron Quintal, President of the Fort McKay Local, and Cort Gallup, Administrator of the Fort McKay Métis Local. Inset: Ron Quintal (right) and Cort Gallup, unveil their new beaded flag at the opening celebration of their new office last month.

Quintal said as he presented the FML's new flag. He then further impressed Poitras by joining the band on the stage to display his musical talent by singing a few country songs.

At the event, the people of Fort McKay proved how much they like to jig and danced up a storm every

chance they had.

When the fiddle music stopped, Quintal stood at the podium with newborn Zachary Powder (named after his Grandfather), and made his closing remarks.

Quintal held Zachary so the satisfied crowd could see his little

face and said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, this is what it is all about, the future of Fort McKay."

The opening of the FMC's new office was made possible through the support of Fort McKay Group of Companies and Shell Canada Ltd., and the event was sponsored by Petro Canada and PTL.

To contact the Fort McKay Local Office:  
mail: General Delivery, Fort McKay, AB, T0P 1C0  
email: cort@maui.net  
phone: 780-828-2441



# Time for Action Conference a Success

By Charity Borg



Top: Bruce Dumont president of the Métis Nation of British Columbia.

Middle Left: Paulette Kipp talked about foster parenting.

Middle Right: John Phillips, Senior Advisor for Métis Relations for the Ministry of International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs.

Bottom: (L-R) Brian Findley, Tim Collins, Kelly Francis, Yvonne Lepage discuss housing.

**M**étis citizens from across the province braved the deep freeze temperatures of February to gather in Edmonton to share ideas on how to advance the Métis community.

The Time for Action! Strengthening Métis Communities conference was a chance for Métis people and friends of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) to talk about some of the big issues facing them and their communities and the strategies needed to tackle them. One focus was the quality of life and future possibilities for children and young adults in the community.

"It is time for action. We must all work together to reduce the poverty, education and health challenges faced by Métis Albertans," Audrey Poitras, MNA President said. "In a province as fortunate and prosperous as Alberta, it is unacceptable when any Métis child is unable to achieve his or her potential."

The topics discussed throughout the conference included health, children's services, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, education, housing, justice and economic development. Each topic involved a panel of experts including MNA representatives, Provincial Council portfolio holders and industry representatives. Participants were invited to ask questions at the end of each presentation and many current community issues were addressed.

The conference was an initiative of the MNA Strategic Policy and Planning team, which

deals with most of the Government (both federal and provincial) funded initiatives run through the MNA. This year's conference was a follow-up to last year's highly successful Parenting Conference. Many participants involved in last year's conference indicated that they wanted to hear more about the issues facing the Métis community in Alberta and what was being done to help tackle them.

"Our goal is to work together with our partners to empower Métis Albertans to make positive changes for themselves, their children and their community," Poitras said. "We hope the information that participants take back to their community, office or agency will help make a difference."

Two of the big draws of the conference were keynote speakers Herb Belcourt (Métis entrepreneur, philanthropist and author) and Bruce Dumont President of the Métis Nation British Columbia.

Belcourt gave a rousing

speech about the independence and pride of Métis people, weaving in stories about his own past and family struggles with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and left the crowd with this word of advice: "We are the independent ones; we can stand on our own two feet, the desire is there and we are all there to help each other, so look forward and don't look back."

For participants who wanted more information a trade show was set up in conjunction with the conference, where many of the presenters and other stakeholders displayed information and resources. Community artisans also had an opportunity to display their wares at a small craft show, which provided an excellent place for participants to stretch their legs and purchase traditional and contemporary artwork.

Fran Hyndman, MNA Tripartite Manager and conference Chairperson, was pleased with the turnout and quality of the information presented. She pointed out that even though a fire alarm forced all of the conference

participants and organizers outside for more than half an hour, everyone returned and started again where they left off. The alarm would have been a perfect excuse for any uninterested parties to go home or to their hotel room, but instead most people waited near by and got right back to business when the all clear was given.

She was also impressed that one couple brought their grandchildren to the event.

"Those two girls had a ball," Hyndman said. "I thought it was really fantastic that their grandparents brought them and that they stayed for the whole thing."

Hyndman says that her team is already looking at doing another event next year, and is even considering taking it on the road, if the logistics work out.

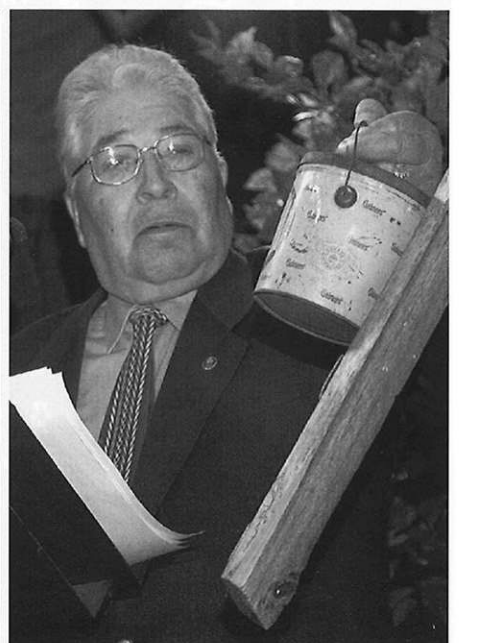
"We already have plans and ideas for the next one," she said. "We think February is a good time, it is midway through the year, and then we meet again in August (during the Annual Assembly). It is a good idea."



Left: Shayne Mugford explains his Ditch the Spit campaign.



Middle: Even though Bonita Galandy (left) took time off work without pay, it was worth her while winning the big draw of a jacket, drum bag and some money, presented by Fran Hyndman.



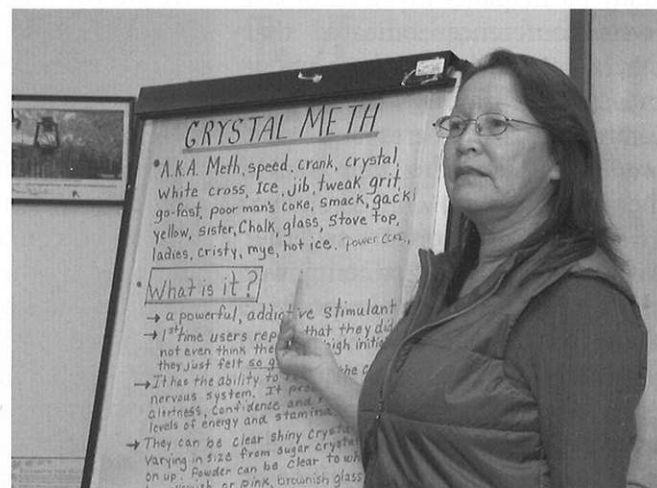
Right: Herb Belcourt holds his lunch pail up explaining why he has always worked for himself.



# Elders Offer Insight on Drug Issues

By Monique Devlin

Crystal methamphetamine and other street drugs continue to be a growing concern among Alberta youth and is no longer just a city problem. Looking for innovative ways to address this concern, Region II held a series of conferences in Bonnyville this winter to gain advice on the problem from an Elder's perspective.



Left: Elder Francis Dumais learns about some of the signs of illegal drug use.

Above: Florence Senecal, who runs a "Drug Proof Your Kids" program in Bonnyville, speaks to the group about the dangers of crystal methamphetamine use.

## Update your Membership Files

What is needed for a file to be considered up to date?

- Historical proof of Métis heritage (this can be in the form of a land scrip or grant, or some other government, church, community or historical record recognizing an ancestor as Métis)
- A completed family tree of your Métis ancestors to the mid-1800s
- A long form birth certificate OR a baptismal certificate and a wallet sized birth certificate
- One (1) piece of photo identification for the purpose of swearing a statutory declaration
- A digital photo—this photo can be taken at any Regional Office or in the Edmonton Central office

Please contact your Regional Office or any of the following toll-free number to confirm the status of your membership file.

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# Diabetes: Teaching Our Youth

By Charity Borg and Jeannie Tourangeau

As many doctors will tell you, prevention is the best medicine. With rates of Type 2 Diabetes continuing to rise among Canadians due to poor nutritional choices and lack of exercise, the Métis Nation of Alberta's (MNA) Building Healthy Communities (BHC) project has taken steps to help prevent the further influx of the disease.

Rather than having a boring grown-up emphasize redundant information about proper nutrition and plenty of exercise, the BHC project handed the experiment over to students across the province.

"The purpose of it was to give the community more information about the prevention of diabetes, making them aware of the people in the area who may already have, or are at risk of developing the disease," said Jeannie Tourangeau who works with the BHC project for the MNA.

The primary target was students aged 10 to 12 who were given information about diabetes from the MNA and were then asked to make a presentation to their classmates on what the disease is and how to prevent it. The aim of working with youth on a diabetes project was for them to open dialogue about diabetes with friends, family and within the community.

The diabetes workshops were

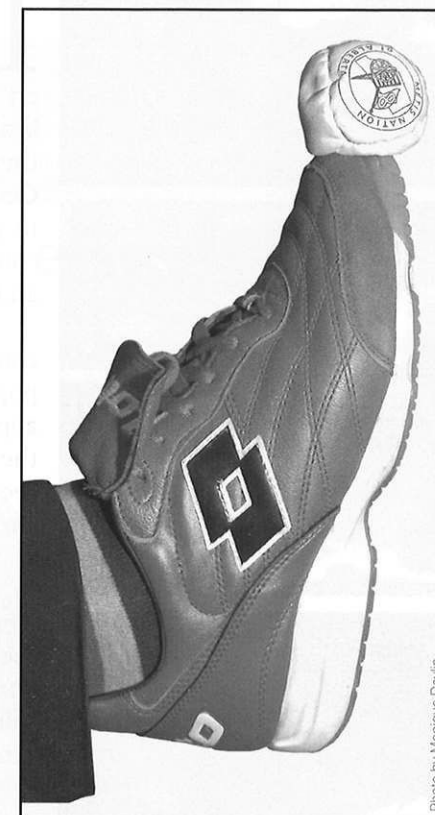
coordinated from the MNA Head Office in cooperation with the project coordinator, each regional office, and a youth project assistant. Prior to launching the educational venture, the youth project assistants met to discuss what information was going to be used to ensure that all the material in the tool kit sent to schools contained current, accurate and consistent diabetes

information. The kits contained water bottles, hacky sacs and diabetes display boards. Water bottles were given to all workshop participants to encourage young people to drink water instead of pop or juice (which can contain up to 14 teaspoons of sugar per serving). The hacky sacs, which are small, bead filled balls used in a game where participants must keep the ball in the air for as long as possible using their feet, knees or elbows, were used as a means to encourage physical activity.

The project, which lasted eight months, was BHC Phase 6. Starting Dec. 2006, a new diabetes project began, entitled Empowering Métis Families: Tools for Success in Healthy Living.

According to Statistics Canada, more than one million Canadians (or over 4.5 per cent of the entire population) over the age of 18 lives with diabetes. The most common causes of the development of diabetes are advancing age, family history, inactive leisure time, and excess weight. According to the Canadian Diabetes Association, Aboriginal people are three to five times more likely than non-Aboriginal people to develop Type 2 Diabetes.

The best way to reduce the risk of diabetes is to adhere to a diet low in sugar and fat, and to introduce and maintain an active lifestyle.



Hacky Sacs such as this one were handed out to students to encourage physical activity.

## Managing Your Diabetes

Here are some steps you can take to manage your diabetes and help maintain your overall health and wellness today and in the future:

- Don't smoke
- Check your blood glucose levels regularly and keep them in your target range
- Keep your cholesterol and other blood fats in your target range

- Maintain a healthy weight
- Keep your blood pressure close to target level
- Take your medication as prescribed
- Manage your stress effectively
- Follow a balanced meal plan
- Be physically active
- Take care of your feet
- Regularly visit your dentist, eye care specialist (every one to two years) and doctor

Source: www.diabetes.ca





Photos by Monique Devlin

## Fort Vermillion AGM

By Monique Devlin

"I am going to Fort Vermillion for a potluck."

"Where?"

"Oh, you know, up near High Level right on the Peace River, about three hours outside of the Northwest Territories."

"You are going that far up north, for a pot luck, in February?"

It was great how many times I had that exact same conversation with friends and family before embarking on my Fort Vermillion Adventure (I brought spinach dip by the way). It was the Fort Vermillion Local's Annual General Meeting, a great chance for me to get out and take some pictures in a community I had never been to before, and meet some new people.

Fort Vermillion is a small community (a hamlet to be exact) with a population of 871, but serves the approximately 2,500 people who live in the general area. So it was amazing to see that about 50 people turned out to partake in the annual meeting.

Yes, it was cold and snowy, but keep in mind this was Alberta in February, what else could I expect? The warmth of the community more than made up for the frigid temperatures. The Community and Cultural Complex, a catchall kind of building, which housed the arena, curling rink museum and hall was warm and toasty as well.

Oh, and the food. The food alone was worth the trip up north. There was homemade pies, chicken, ham, stew, fry bread, rice, meatballs, roasted vegetables, cake, banana bread....There was enough food there to feed the crowd three times over and I am sure we would have just kept on eating if our bellies would have allowed it.

One thing I found most striking about the evening was it was a true family event. Children played while the

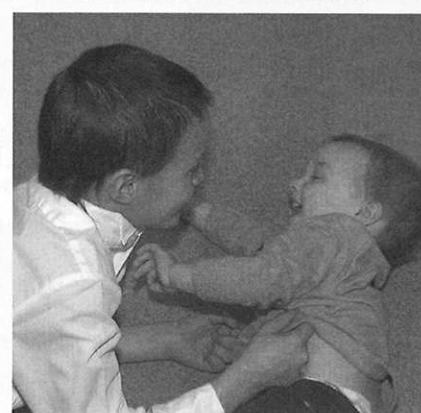
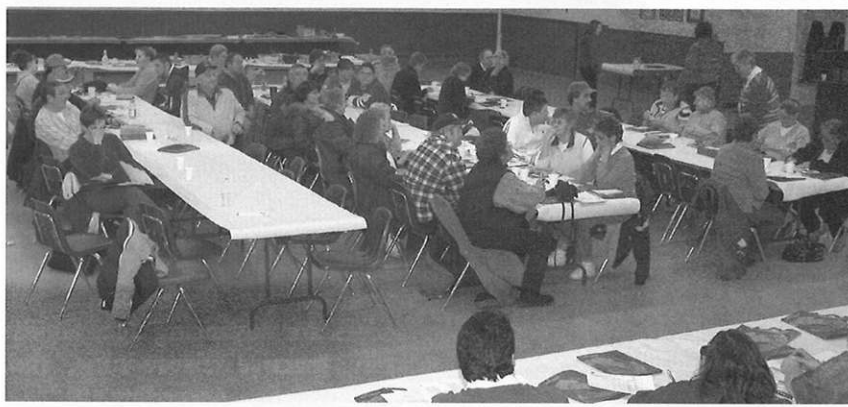
adults got down to the business of the Local, and while guest speakers such as MNA President Audrey Poitras, MNA Vice President Trevor Gladue, and Region VI President Sylvia Johnson addressed the crowds, babies slept in their car seats by their mothers' feet.

After the speeches were made, some of the local children took to the stage to demonstrate their jigging skills. The evening was finished off with a loonie auction, which included such delights as more homemade pies, health and beauty products and other fabulous donations. I enjoyed my trip up to Fort Vermillion, but I really hope to



have the chance to go up there in the summer time, when the nature trails are open, the sun shines almost all day, and I have the time to explore

the many historical sights in the town (and, if I time things just right - crash another potluck).



Top: The Fort Vermillion Dancers pose with the Local's Board Members.  
Middle: About 50 people gathered to hear about the Fort Vermillion Local's activities over the past year.  
Bottom left: Krisy Smith (left) poses with Paige Flett.  
Bottom right: Parker David Ward tickles his little brother Jordan Ward.

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# Métis Crossing

## Looking Forward to Second Year!



By John Ritchie  
Métis Crossing Interim  
Executive Director

I would like to update you on all of the exciting events happening this summer at Métis Crossing, but first I want to congratulate Juanita Marois (the original Executive Director, currently on maternity leave) on the arrival of her son, Koal, on Oct. 21, 2006.

Although the gates are closed to the public at this time of year. We have been hard at work preparing for the second year of operations. Our gates will be open from the Victoria Day long weekend (beginning May 19, 2007) to the Labour Day long weekend (ending Sept. 3, 2007).

Last year, in our first year of operation, Métis Crossing welcomed over 3,000 visitors. Our guests enjoyed two major events:

National Aboriginal Day (June 21), sponsored by Western Lakota Energy Services, was a huge success with over 500 visitors from the community and various schools. It was during this event that our Métis Voyageur games were demonstrated for the first time. We plan to have these games grow into an annual competitive event.

The Métis Crossing Voyage (Aug. 25 & 26), sponsored by Suncor Energy Foundation was another great gathering. The riverbanks came to life with fiddling, jigging and a host of Métis skill challenges for the kids including Red River Cart building and hide stretching!

Join us again this year on June 21 for National Aboriginal Day celebrations and Aug. 25 & 26 for the Métis Crossing Voyage 2007.

### New to this year's events:

This season we will be holding two competitions in conjunction with these events called Métis Voyageur Games.

Teams of six adults, or four youth will compete in traditional Voyageur Events for points and medals (there will be awards for both team individual points). Events for the adult teams include: 450 lbs Sack Carry, 270 lbs Speed Sack Carry, women's 180 lbs Sack Carry, Cream Can Carry, 300 lbs Pole Carry, Sling-shot Target, and the Hatchet Throw.

For the youth teams the events are 270 lbs Sack Carry, women's 90 lbs Sack Carry, Cream Can Carry, Slingshot Target, and the Nail Drive.

Any Métis Region, Settlement, organization, or individuals who form a team are more than welcome to enter. Please contact Métis Crossing at 780-656-2229 for more information.

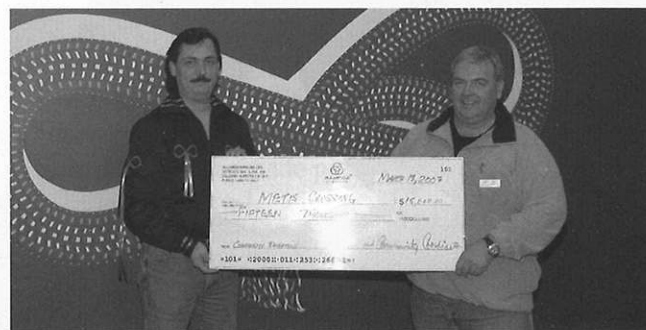
We will be holding a demonstration of the games over the Victoria Day long weekend, so we hope to see you there.

Métis Crossing is built on the support of many hardworking individuals and generous contributions from the corporate community. Thank you, we appreciate every contribution. Welcome the newest members to our "Threads of the Sash Partnership Program"

- ATCO Group
- Enbridge Pipelines Inc.
- Enbridge Gateway Pipeline Limited Partnership
- Canadian Natural Resources Limited
- Access Pipeline
- PTI Group Inc.
- ConocoPhillips Canada

Finally, Métis Crossing sends its congratulations to Brenda Holder of Mahikan Trails; she was the recipient of the *Aboriginal Woman Entrepreneur Award of Distinction*. Brenda has been instrumental in the development and delivery of the programming at Métis Crossing in her role as our Program Coordinator.

We hope everyone will visit Métis Crossing this season and enjoy our events or just relax in the campground along the banks of the river. Watch for the turns on the new highway signs.



Bob Norgard, Land and Community Coordinator of Alliance Pipelines presents John Ritchie, Interim Executive Director of Métis Crossing with a \$15,000 cheque. This is the third installment on a five-year Contribution Agreement with Métis Crossing.

## Minister Presents MNA with UMACYC Funding

Submitted

Just before Christmas, the Department of Canadian Heritage presented a cheque to the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) to provide continued funding for a variety of youth initiatives.

The funding, totalling nearly \$700,000 for 2006-2007, is part of the Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centre (UMAYC) initiative under the Aboriginal Peoples' Program, and helps promote community youth projects focusing on life skills, health and community involvement while providing personal, cultural, and leadership development. The Department of Canadian Heritage has been funding MNA for these projects since 1998.

"Our youth truly are the key to the future," MNA President Audrey Poitras said. "The projects that are funded through UMACYC foster a deep sense of community and leadership development within our young people, which helps them develop the skills they need to succeed in life."

On Dec. 19, 2006 Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians and Laurie Hawn, Member of Parliament (Edmonton Centre) announced the \$686,760 in funding for the MNA at the Provincial head office in Edmonton.

The money will support projects, including after-school programs; workshops on genealogy, cultural history, language, traditional dress, and storytelling; wilderness camps; and cultural youth camps that help our youth improve study habits, social skills, and increased cultural awareness.

"We are proud to continue our partnership with the MNA," Beverly Oda, Minister of Canadian

Heritage and Status of Women said. "The funding... will help keep Aboriginal young people in school and develop their cultural awareness. It will also give young Métis the skills to become leaders in their communities."

In a press release about the occasion, Prentice said his government is working with young Métis, community leaders and other Aboriginal community organizations to develop integrated services for young people that will build on existing partnerships on cultural projects.

The community-based UMACYC projects involve youth on all levels of the planning process. Often the same youth who take part and benefit from the projects also help in the development of the project, while the MNA uses youth representatives from the six different regions to help decide which projects will be forwarded to Canadian Heritage for approval. There are currently 12 MNA based UMACYC projects running across the province.



MP Laurie Hawn (left) and Minister Jim Prentice present MNA President Audrey Poitras with the UMACYC Funding cheque.



*The Métis Nation of Alberta, in partnership with MacEwan School of Business, is offering Métis clients the opportunity to take the MacEwan Management Studies program. This diploma includes a transitional term that allows a group of students to begin the program together in July. In September, these students will continue taking Management Studies courses for 12 months, completing diploma requirements next fall.*

*A Management Studies diploma from MacEwan connects you to the real world in many ways. Coursework and assignments are based on real-world cases, with the entire curriculum developed and updated regularly based on advice from the business community. One of the longest-running and most respected business programs in Alberta, the MacEwan Management program is a proven contender in the workforce, with thousands of MacEwan grads making their mark in business in Alberta and around the globe.*

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This management training can be applied to any Aboriginal or business environment. Perhaps your goal is a career in the challenging field of finance. Maybe you are focused on the fast-paced world of marketing. Or you may want to start your own business, or establish a career in the Aboriginal public service. With this program, you will be able to take your career in any direction that you want.

So what does that mean in a practical sense? Here are some examples of the career paths that Management Studies' grads have followed:

- Financial services: loans officers, financial planners
- Management and administration: in organizations such as the Métis Nation of Alberta
- Accounting or sales representatives: in sectors like pharmaceuticals and advertising
- Hospitality: various positions in food, beverage, and hotel operations
- Not-for-profit: administration, marketing, event planning, and fundraising
- Entrepreneurship: owning a small business

There are no limits – a world of possibilities awaits.

### The Program

The Management Studies diploma program is generally offered over four terms from September to September. However, this group, funded through the Métis Nation of Alberta, provides a transition term that begins in July. This transition term will help prepare you for greater success in the Management Studies program.

Before graduation, you will participate in a three-week field placement, during which you have an opportunity to put into practice the knowledge acquired in the classroom. Field placements also give you the chance to make connections with potential employers and add valuable work experience to your resume.

As of September 2007, this program will be a Technology Integrated Program (TIP), and will require that you carry a computer notebook to most classes. Funding is available through Métis Employment Services for you to purchase the required equipment.

### Transfer Opportunities

While the next step for many of our grads is a move into the world of work, some decide to continue their education by taking advantage of MacEwan's agreements with other post-secondary institutions. You can transfer your diploma credits to the third year of management degree programs at partner universities throughout Alberta. For more information, please consult the MacEwan Business website at [www.MacEwan.ca/management](http://www.MacEwan.ca/management).

### Funding

The Métis Nation of Alberta may cover the cost of tuition, books, supplies and a training allowance. All Métis funding applications will be processed through Métis Employment services, once MacEwan has approved clients' entry requirements, and skills appraisal testing has been completed.

### Life at MacEwan

MacEwan has been offering the Management Studies program for more than three decades and is very focused on student success. MacEwan provides small class sizes for a more one-on-one approach, knowledgeable and caring instructors, and a huge support network of advisors, counselors and resource staff.

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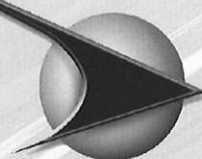
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## Region III AGM

By Monique Devlin

The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Region III Annual General Meeting on Jan 27, 2007 gave Métis Citizens in southern Alberta a chance to gather together and learn more about what was happening in their region and in the MNA as a whole.

Presentations on Métis Urban Housing, Health, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Apeetogosan, Youth, Social Service, Housing, Seniors, Tripartite, Economic Development, Labour Market Development and Harvesting rounded out the reports from the Region.

"I want to say a great big thank you to the local presidents," MNA President Audrey Poitras said after listening to the Local reports. "It is always an honour to come and hear our regional presidents stand up and talk about what is happening in your Region."

Region III President Marlene Lanz had told the crowd that, "So far everyone has been very supportive and I thank you all for helping us build this Métis Nation."

After the meeting, participants were invited to the Region's annual Toonie Dance and Jamboree (the cost was a Toonie for our Elders, five dollars for everybody else).

Before the festivities began, awards were handed out to the outstanding Local of the year and some outstanding volunteers.

"The honour of one is the honour of all," said Janette Hansen, President of Medicine Hat Local 8 when presented with an award celebrating all her Local has done. "I am so proud of Medicine Hat and the Métis people that I work with. It is them that this belongs to."

This year the volunteer recognition went to a couple, as opposed to just one individual – Larry and Doreen Bergum were recognized for their support to the Métis community (both had worked through most of the day's meeting preparing the evening's meal).

"This is a real shocker," Larry Burgum said. "We like volunteering, and we are just going to continue on doing it, we love it."

The night was finished off with some great music by Bearclaw and an assortment of singers and musicians who joined the band onstage to help keep the dance floor packed.



Top: Al Therrien displays a mirror he handcrafted to MNA President Audrey Poitras. Poitras later won the mirror at a reverse auction – proceeds go towards this year's Hivernant Rendezvous.

Middle: Region III President Marlene Lanz (outside left) and Region III Vice President Joe Chodzicki (outside right) present Larry and Doreen Bergum with a volunteer recognition award.

Bottom: Region III Vice President Joe Chodzicki listens to some of the reports made during the Region III AGM.



## Celebrating Métis Culture

### St. Paul Winter Carnival

By Monique Devlin

When Robert Nolin moved to Alberta from Manitoba he noticed something was missing in his new hometown – a good, old-fashioned winter carnival.

According to Nolin, there once was a yearly winter carnival in St. Paul but it died out more than a decade ago. Nolin worked with the community to try to revive the idea, and last year it was reborn over the Family Day long weekend.

"To me, the fact that we have been able to pull this together two years in a row and increase, actually double, our participation, means that people were ready for a winter carnival," Nolin, who is also the President of the St. Paul des Métis Local 1896, said. "I guess my dreams have come true."

This year's carnival was a true community effort, as a variety of organizations held events throughout the town as part of, or in conjunction with, the carnival. There was a talent show on the Friday night, a snowmobile rally and snow sculpture competition Saturday, a Cabane a Sucre and Jamboree on Sunday, and sleigh rides throughout the weekend.

There was an effort to celebrate

the town's different cultural influences that was reflected in the Taste of St. Paul, a special event that displayed various ethnic cuisines on the Saturday night, and a special

dance showcase on the last day that acted as the carnival closing.

At the showcase, First Nations, Métis, French Canadian and Philippine dancers displayed some

of their traditional dances and styles of dress. It was a great way to learn about other cultures while enjoying an entertaining afternoon.

Nolin was pleased with the

turnout, and has already begun working on planning next year's event, which will probably take place over the Family Day long weekend.

"My wife said to me the other day – 'you know, you have taken family day and have turned it into family weekend,'" Nolin said.





# A Journey of Discovery

By William Clayton Wylie and Gail Gillingham Wylie

*The Hudson's Bay Company often used the Orkney Islands (A group of Islands that sit northeast of the Scottish mainland) as a recruitment base, and in the late 1800s three quarters of the company's workers in Canada were from the Orkneys. It is not uncommon for a Métis person doing a search on his or her family tree to find a connection to this Island Group. William and Gail Wylie were able to trace their surname back to the Orkneys, and when an opportunity came to visit the small Scottish community, they used it as a chance to flush out the family tree.*

Who was William Wylie? Who was this man who gave us the surname Wylie and became the base of our Métis heritage? Other than the fact that he was my great grandfather and had died long before I came into this world, my knowledge of him was very faint. As a child, I only absorbed his name and was told that he came from Scotland. As an adult, I wanted to know more and began a journey of discovery that has taken several years. Throughout this journey, Gail and I have attempted to piece together many parts of my great grandfather's life using information from family members, the Internet, libraries etc. As the bits and pieces came together we realized that much of

what we were putting together didn't quite match. How could we know that what we were gathering was fact?

From a transcript of his obituary that Greta Oak (another great grandchild) sent us, we knew that he had died in Edmonton in 1909.

Researching Edmonton Public library records led us to microfiche copies of the obituary as printed in both of Edmonton's daily newspapers at the time of his death. Reading William Wylie's obituary published in the Edmonton Bulletin in 1909 led to a deeper desire to know more, for this was a man worth knowing. He was described as a man of honour by Dr. MacKay, a well known and respected retired Hudson's Bay physician, who was living in Edmonton at the time. Dr. MacKay reviewed his association with the deceased over a period of

many years.

"I have never known a finer man" said Dr. MacKay, "nor one of a keener sense of honesty. I got to know him in 1868 when I first went to Fort Chipewyan and after that for 10 years he was under my orders and assisted me in my work. He was one of the most useful men in the employ of the company. His death will be felt by everyone who knew him."

Greta also sent us a transcript of a letter written by William to his son John shortly before his death, an incredible window to the man we were searching for. A notation on the letter stated that the original copy of the letter had been donated to the Stromness Museum in the Orkney Islands. Would a trip to the Orkney clarify our picture?

In November of 2006, Gail was invited to be a presenter at the World Autism Congress "Safari" in Cape Town, South Africa. Our return from Africa would involve a stop over in London. If we extended our time in the U.K. we would have time and opportunity to visit the Orkney Islands. Although uncertain as to what we could actually accomplish in our quest to learn more about my great grandfather, we decided that we would travel to the Orkney Islands. As we planned the trip, the different names of the islands, towns and parishes were confusing and distant and were merely place names in our minds. The travel brochures promising 5,000 years of history, culture, festivals, entertainment, relaxation, wildlife, and natural beauty didn't quite cover what we were concerned about. How cold would it be in November? How would we get around from one island to the next? How would we be able to make contact with a past when we had no connection with the Orkney people of the present? But, opportunity had presented itself and we were on our way.

Our first impression of the Orkneys was glimpsed through the windows of the plane as we flew in from Aberdeen, Scotland. It was a vision of green surrounded by water.



Dr John Rae's memorial in St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall, Orkney Islands

Fields were dotted with the white of the sheep and neatly divided by rock walls. Our second impression came shortly after we left the plane and entered the small airport at Kirkwall. It was the friendliness of the people. Everyone we met and spoke to was willing to share, to help, to make things as easy as possible for us. Both of these impressions stayed with us throughout our visit. We were welcomed into their midst and immediately felt at home. We felt that we had developed a connection and a kinship that would be everlasting.

The first day on the islands began with a visit to the library in Kirkwall, which houses the archives of the Orkney Islands and the Orkney Family History Society. Within minutes we were working with a volunteer researching the computer records of the society. We discovered a William Wylie who was born in the 1840's. His name was recorded in the 1861 census and had disappeared from the 1871 census. Was this my great grandfather? Had we finally discovered his origin? This William had lost his father at a very early age and was the only boy in a house of women. It made sense to us that perhaps he may have wanted to escape this life for another in Canada, and yet we had a sense of unease. Was this the man we were looking for? We

wanted to be certain that we had the correct information to take back to Canada.

The next day we headed to Stromness, determined to follow up on the letter written by William Wylie. Perhaps someone had documented more about the man when this letter was accepted by the museum. As we were entering the museum we were cheerfully greeted by the gentleman who was just leaving. Little did we know of how great an impact he would have in our search for my great grandfather.

We faced disappointment as the woman in the museum told us that the former curator had just left and unfortunately, she wasn't familiar with any letter written by William Wylie to his son John. She also explained that the Hudson's Bay paper archives were kept in the library in Kirkwall so there would be nothing in Stromness. She led us to the Hudson's Bay Company - Canada area of the museum and left us to wander through it. We quickly realized that we would not find anything significant that we could use in our quest.

As we were preparing to leave the museum, the gentleman we had met earlier at the entrance, appeared once again. The wonderful lady had telephoned him while we were viewing the various artifacts and



Above: William and Gail Wylie travelled to the Orkney Islands to research their family's roots.

Top: William Clayton Wylie stands beside an outline of stones, all that is left of the house where his ancestor was raised.

Inset: William Clayton Wylie stands beside a well used to provision ships used by the Hudson's Bay company, Captain James Cook and John Franklin.



displays. She told him that Wylies from Canada were in the museum looking for a letter. He rushed over to meet us and introduced himself as Bryce Wilson, the former curator of the museum. In the past he had worked directly with the Provincial Museum in Edmonton on a show featuring Fort Chipewyan. During that time he had visited both Edmonton and Fort Chipewyan and had formed a special relationship with Horace Wylie, William Wylie's grandson. He went to his file cabinet and shared what he collected through this relationship. A treasure trove was about to be revealed. Along with the original letter, were two other letters also written to John Wylie (Horace's father) from John's uncle Alexander Wylie, Newcastle House, Burray. The letters, written during the 1890's, provided us with concrete family information: the name of a brother, a sister, the description of another sister and her daughters and another brother, and even more exciting; the actual address where they had lived. We were able to take this information back to the library in Kirkwall to undertake a more exacting search.

What did we learn? William Wylie was born on June 2, 1842 on the island (parish) of Burray. His parents were Magnus and Christina (Robertson), also known as Cursty. He had two brothers, Robert and Alexander and two sisters, Jean and Christina. His grandparents were Henry and Anne (Sinclair) and he was surrounded by a number of aunts and uncles as he grew up; Mary, Isabella, James, Peter and Sinclair. He worked as a fisherboy in 1851 and left home by 1861. He was engaged as a blacksmith apprentice in South Ronaldsay in 1861.

We visited the site where he grew up. All that remains of the house is an outline of a dwelling created by a pile of stones covered in grass. Although the house was no longer there, we could gaze upon the surrounding landscape and see the world that he would have seen. Throughout our visit we noted the buildings that are still standing from the mid 1800's with the thought that we were sharing what he may have seen. We stayed at the Mill O'Carra, a grain mill built in the early 1800's that has been restored as a guest house. We realized that our

experiences didn't recreate his life, but they gave us a sense of his surroundings in a way nothing else could and developed a deep sense of belonging within us. The Orkney's are no longer a place on a map or a collection of strange names but are now part of us, a place we will return to in time.

We also heard stories that are not documented, but are still fun to share. Within minutes of arriving at the airport we met our first Wylie connection who shared the story of the origin of the "red" Wylies. Legend tells of two brothers who were brought to the Orkney's from Aberdeen in the 1700's to teach a specific fishing method to the fishermen of that time. Afterwards, they settled in the Orkneys and as a result, the "red" Wylie lineage began. The "red" Wylie's exhibited traits such as red hair, fair complexion, blue eyes, and left handedness. The "black" Wylies, on the other hand, had a darker complexion and black hair. They claim to be the descendants of a Spaniard who had washed up on the shore after surviving the sinking of one of the ships of the Spanish Armada in 1588. We are descendants of the "red" Wylies.

Our incredible journey into the past was inspired and assisted by many others. Our gratitude goes out to our sister-in-law Cyndi Wylie whose question sparked the beginning of this journey; family members Charlotte Herman and Greta Oak, who shared information they had collected; our hostess in the Orkneys, Athole Thomson, Willie Budge, Bryce Wilson, and George Gray and the volunteers at the Orkney Family History Society. We also wish to thank the people of the Orkneys who made us feel so welcome, but most of all, we are thankful for the efforts of John Wylie and his son Horace who are no longer here to thank in person. They saved the letters over the years and put them in a place where they could be accessed by those searching for their past. Their gift to us is priceless.

The story of William Wylie continues on into the present. After he came to Canada he married Annie Flett and together they parented seven children whose descendants are now spread throughout this land. We are working on a family tree that currently goes on for 11 pages. If any of the readers have information they would like to add to this tree, or would like to obtain copies of what we have put together, please contact us at [exgr@telus.net](mailto:exgr@telus.net).

If you are considering a visit to the Orkney Islands in search of your origins as a descendent of a Hudson's Bay Company employee, we suggest that you follow the urge. Perhaps, you will also leave the Orkney's with the sense of joy, fulfillment and overall sense of well being from physically experiencing a part of your past.

Who was William Wylie? He is no longer a vague figure in our history. As a clearer picture emerges, he is someone with whom Gail and I now feel a much deeper bond. He was truly a remarkable man.

# Bonnyville Boxing Day Talent Show

By Dave Hutton, courtesy the Bonnyville Nouvelle

The missus and I dropped by the Region II Métis Nation Boxing Day Talent show and were royally entertained. From vocalists to fiddlers and Red River jiggers of all ages, you could not help but tap your feet or wish you were as agile and talented. Of course that fiddle of Homer Poitras's provided lots of classic tunes and he was backed by a very talented group of musicians who provided music for every competitor and then for the dance that following. If you've never attended, make plans to go next year. You won't be disappointed. This was there 21<sup>st</sup> year and I hope they continue for many more.



Children under 10 open the MNA Region II Boxing Day Talent show competition. They each received \$5 for participating.

## TALENT SHOW RESULTS

### Junior Female Vocals

1st Kelsey Poitras  
2nd Lanaya John

### Senior Female Vocals

1st Shelly Angus  
2nd Mary Wells  
3rd Linda Burns

### Junior Male Vocals

1st Cory Poitras  
2nd Johnathon Morin

### Senior Red River Jig (male)

1st Eddie Poitras  
2nd John Desjarlais  
3rd Joe Cardinal

### Junior Red River Jig (male)

1st Evan Desjarlais  
2nd Cory Poitras  
3rd Bobby Jean Morin

### Senior Red River Jig (female)

1st Peggy Badger  
2nd Crystal Poitras-John  
3rd Valérie John

### Junior Red River Jig (female)

1st Amanda Desjarlais  
2nd Kelsey Poitras  
3rd Kim Gadwa

### Senior Fiddling

1st Eddie Poitras  
2nd John Desjarlais

### Junior Fiddling

1st Cory Poitras  
2nd Kelsey Poitras  
3rd Kim Gadwa

### 65 and Over Jigging

1st Mary Wells  
2nd Pauline Blackman  
3rd Francis Dumais

### Senior Male Vocals

1st Cory Cross  
2nd John Desjarlais  
3rd Eddie Poitras

### Old Tyme Waltz

1st Dennis and Beatrice Cardinal  
2nd Eddie and Shelley Poitras  
3rd Joe Cardinal and Judy Bercier

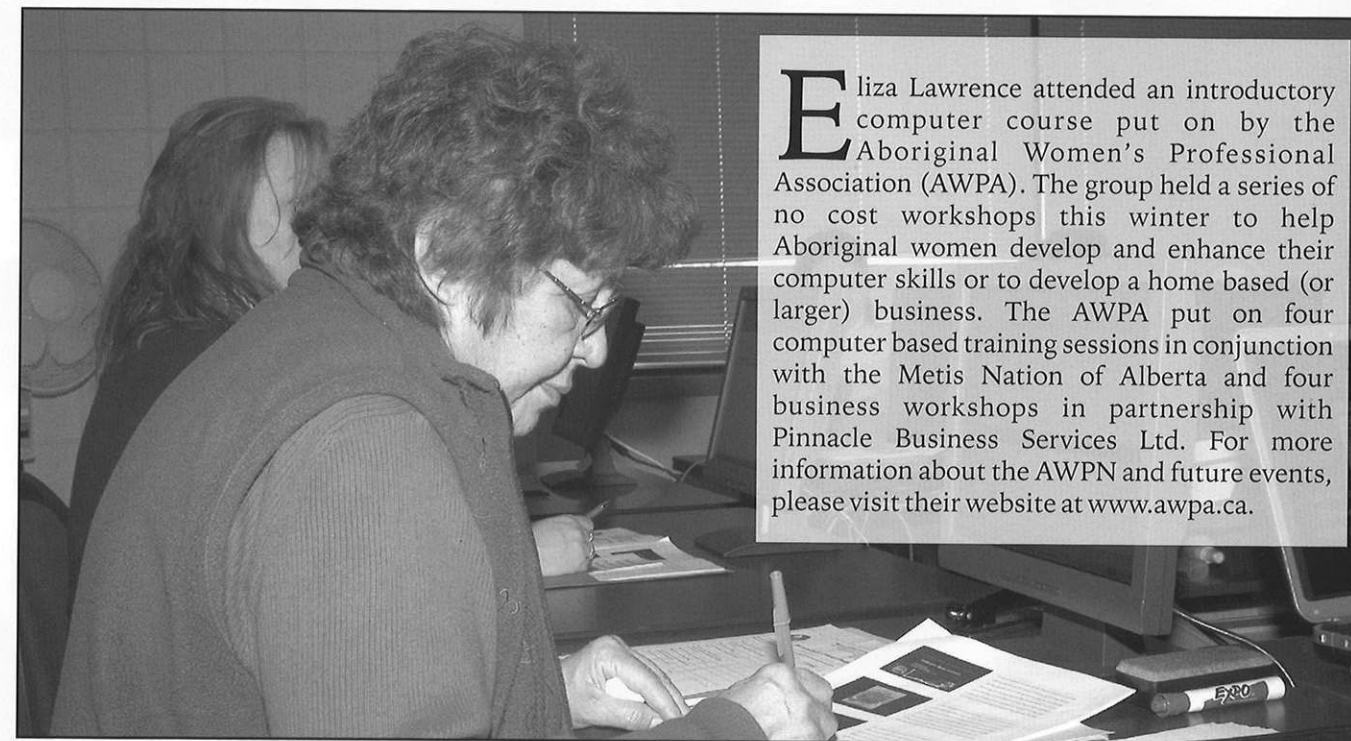
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Eliza Lawrence attended an introductory computer course put on by the Aboriginal Women's Professional Association (AWPA). The group held a series of no cost workshops this winter to help Aboriginal women develop and enhance their computer skills or to develop a home based (or larger) business. The AWPA put on four computer based training sessions in conjunction with the Metis Nation of Alberta and four business workshops in partnership with Pinnacle Business Services Ltd. For more information about the AWPAN and future events, please visit their website at [www.awpa.ca](http://www.awpa.ca).





## Métis Celebration in Grouard

By Monique Devlin

The Feb. 3, 2007 Métis Celebration in Grouard was a complete success as nearly 500 people sought respite from some of the coldest, darkest days of the winter in the Northern Lakes College campus in the small community perched on the western shores of Lesser Slave Lake.

To start the day there was a genealogy workshop hosted by Beatrice Demetrius from the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), Michif workshop with Esther Auger and two jigging workshops by Irene Callihoo and Tammy Donald. These workshops were followed by the children and youth talent show.

Afterwards, a supper of stew and bannock was served as festival goers spilled out of the school cafeteria and into the hallways laughing and joking over their shared meal. The highlight of the event was the adult talent show, which saw some of the areas best singers, fiddlers and dancers perform into the wee hours of the morning.

Before the evening competition began, a special plaque was presented to the family of Peter Campion, the MNA Region V Vice President who passed away just before Christmas in 2006, and was instrumental in the development of the Celebration.

"Tonight we want to do a special acknowledgement for the creation of the Northern Métis Foundation to a former leader who has long been known to our community," Trevor Gladue, Vice President of the Metis Nation of Alberta said before handing the plaque to Peter's wife. "We want to recognise tonight in honour of our good friend, our mentor our leader, husband, friend, father brother...Peter Campion."

This was the fourth Northern Métis Celebration and was a partnership between MNA Region V and Grouard Northern Lakes College.

## TALENT SHOW RESULTS

<b>Tiny Tots Singing</b> Sheldon Anderson-Flett	<b>Child Jigging</b> 1st Sheybra Andrews 2nd Tameka Brule 3rd Nathaniel Gladue	<b>Adult Male Singing</b> 1st Nathan Cunningham 2nd Richard Woodman 3rd Bruce Mitchell
<b>Child Singing</b> 1st Natasha Cunningham 2nd Sheybra Andrews 3rd Sydnie Anderson-Flett	<b>Youth Jigging</b> 1st Shawna Lamouche 2nd Leo Marcotte	<b>Senior Singing</b> 1st Oscar Bellerose 2nd Ed Poitras 3rd Terry Lusty (tie) 3rd Orval Gladue (tie)
<b>Youth Singing</b> 1st Neil Lamouche 2nd Lavern Shaw 3rd Tessa Simpson	<b>Adult/Senior Fiddling</b> 1st Herb Goodswimmer	<b>Adult/Senior Open Singing</b> 1st Cory Poitras 2nd Oscar Bellerose 3rd Kelsey Poitras
<b>Child/Youth Open Singing</b> 1st Cory Poitras 2nd Neil Lamouche 3rd Kelsey Poitras	<b>Adult/Senior Open Fiddling</b> 1st Cory Poitras 2nd Ed Poitras 3rd Kelsey Poitras	<b>Adult Jigging</b> 1st Kelsey Poitras 2nd Russell Cardinal Jr. 3rd Cory Poitras
<b>Tiny Tots Jigging</b> Jaelynn Brule	<b>Adult Female Singing</b> 1st Alissa Wheeler (tie) 1st Tammy Lamouche (tie) 2nd Marilyn Lamouche	<b>Senior Jigging</b> 1st Wally Cardinal 2nd Marcel Auger 3rd Ed Poitras



From left to right: Bev New, MNA Region V President, Martha Campiou, Violet Campiou and Trevor Gladue, MNA Vice President pose with the plaque presented to Peter Campion's family.





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# Preparing for Hivernant Rendezvous 2007

By Charity Borg

The scent of wood burning in an outdoor fire fills the air. Family and friends gathered around the burning piles of brush to celebrate the end of the buffalo hunt. The buffalo hunts are long gone, however the Hivernement is not forgotten.

Heading into its fifth year, the Hivernant Rendezvous is kicking into gear by holding the annual Spring Fling dinner and dance on Apr. 14. The fundraiser will offset costs of hosting the Hivernant Rendezvous scheduled for Aug. 2-5, 2007 in Big Valley, Alberta.

New to the Hivernant Rendezvous this year is the free hunter education course for youth aged 16 and under.

"We like to get the Métis youth interested and properly trained to take part in hunting," said Al Therrien, Vice President of the Hivernant Cultural Society. "That's our aim and hopefully we can do it every year."

The class size for the hunter education course is limited to 15 people because of the density of information. Normally the hunter education course takes three days to complete, but the course is being condensed into two eight hour days. When the youth finish the course they will receive a certificate for the Alberta Hunter Training Course. The course is being funded by the Hivernant

Cultural Society. Youth interested in the hunter education must pre-register. For more information contact Al at [altherr@telus.net](mailto:altherr@telus.net).

The youth-focused Hivernant Rendezvous is four days full of activities including voyager games, bannock baking contests and Tomahawk throwing contests. Families can also trace their history at the genealogy area.

"What we're trying to do is preserve in the youth our heritage and culture," said Therrien. "Let them celebrate it and hopefully they will become interested in keeping up on it."

Before the Hivernant Rendezvous can get going, a few dollars need to be raised and that is where the Spring Fling comes in.

"It's a fun time, a time to celebrate the end of winter and the beginning of spring," said Therrien. "Shake off the cobwebs from being cabin-bound."

Tickets are \$12/each, \$20/couple or \$25/family. The spring fling is in Big Valley.

"If you have 19 kids, that's a great deal," said Therrien.

If you are interested in volunteering for, or would like more information about the Hivernant Rendezvous please contact Al at [altherr@telus.net](mailto:altherr@telus.net).

The term *Hivernement* is used to describe Métis wintering camps. The wintering villages consisted of clay-plastered log shacks that were abandoned during the summer months, but re-occupied in the fall after the summer buffalo hunt. These settlements moved west as buffalo herds were depleted. These camps were set up by rivers such as the Saskatchewan River. The Hivernements were democratic settlements with councils elected to set up laws for community and economic development, according to [www.saskschools.com](http://www.saskschools.com). The Métis were the first group on the prairies to establish labour laws by declaring Sunday as a holiday.

The word *Hivernant* is used to describe the wintering families who lived at the Hivernement. The camps usually consisted of between 3,000 to 5,000 people.

# [www.albertametis.com](http://www.albertametis.com)



## Honouring Our Métis People



## Beetle Battlers Beat Back Bug in Boreal

By Charity Borg

Anyone who has had to drive a back road, shovel a sidewalk, or walk off the beaten path this winter is well aware of how much snow has fallen this year. But one Métis crew who has been busy battling the mountain pine beetles knows the depths of the frozen white stuff better than anyone else does.

But this crew is used to hostile environments. The men who call themselves the Beetle Battlers work as forest firefighters in the summer months. This year is the first time Alberta has decided to battle the mountain pine beetle, and who knows the forests better than forest firefighters? The crews began eradicating the insect at the beginning of November and finished up in late February.

Through Nesokmahtan (a holding company owned by the members of the Region), Region VI put a full crew of Metis men to work to help battle the insects that threaten the forests of northern Alberta.

"I feel we need to recognize these men and the work that they do," Sylvia Johnson, Region VI president said. "And understand that to be a firefighter, or to be a pine beetle control worker, there is a lot more to it than people may think, a

lot more responsibility."

Johnson added that because of the seasonal nature of the work these men typically do, the opportunity to help eradicate the beetles during the winter months provided a welcome compliment to the usually intensive summer

firefighting season.

"These men in the north need two seasonal jobs to make a full time living, so what they do is firefighting in the summer and either slashing, or now pine beetle control, in the winter," Johnson said.

But the winters in northern

Alberta pose different challenges than firefighting. One of the most difficult challenges is being able to move from place to place. The crews of eight men start their day by creating a path to the trees infected by the tiny pine beetle.

"The first guy had it rough,"

said Melton Lizotte about the 7 a.m. trek into the bush near Worsley. "You have to break a trail, it's very hard. Sometimes the snow is up to your waist."

The men would sometimes have to create a path half a kilometre long before reaching the infected conifers. For longer distances, crews would be flown in to start the process of destroying trees infected by the mountain pine beetle. Many days it would take the men more time to get in and out of a infected area than they would actually spend destroying the bug.

The Beetle Battlers look for trees marked with a blue identification stain or saw dust surrounding the pine tree. Once the trees are identified as being a home to the mountain pine beetle they are cut down and burned to destroy the eggs and larvae. Crews can only destroy trees in designated areas. Each tree is bucked up into smaller logs to allow for quicker burning.

Although the men have worked hard, they see their efforts as minor in comparison to the survivability of the insect.

"It's awful," said Lizotte. "It's a losing battle. There isn't a way of fighting nature."

While Lizotte's camp had about 140 men stationed in Worsley, there

were other camps contracted throughout the province. With each crew of eight managing to remove an average of 10-20 trees each day, the efforts seemed small in comparison to the 800,000 to 1.5 million estimated infected trees. 1.5 million trees is equivalent to enough lumber to build 9,500 homes.

Fred Smith, a fellow Beetle Battler, says the mountain pine beetle started to make its home in Alberta a few years ago.

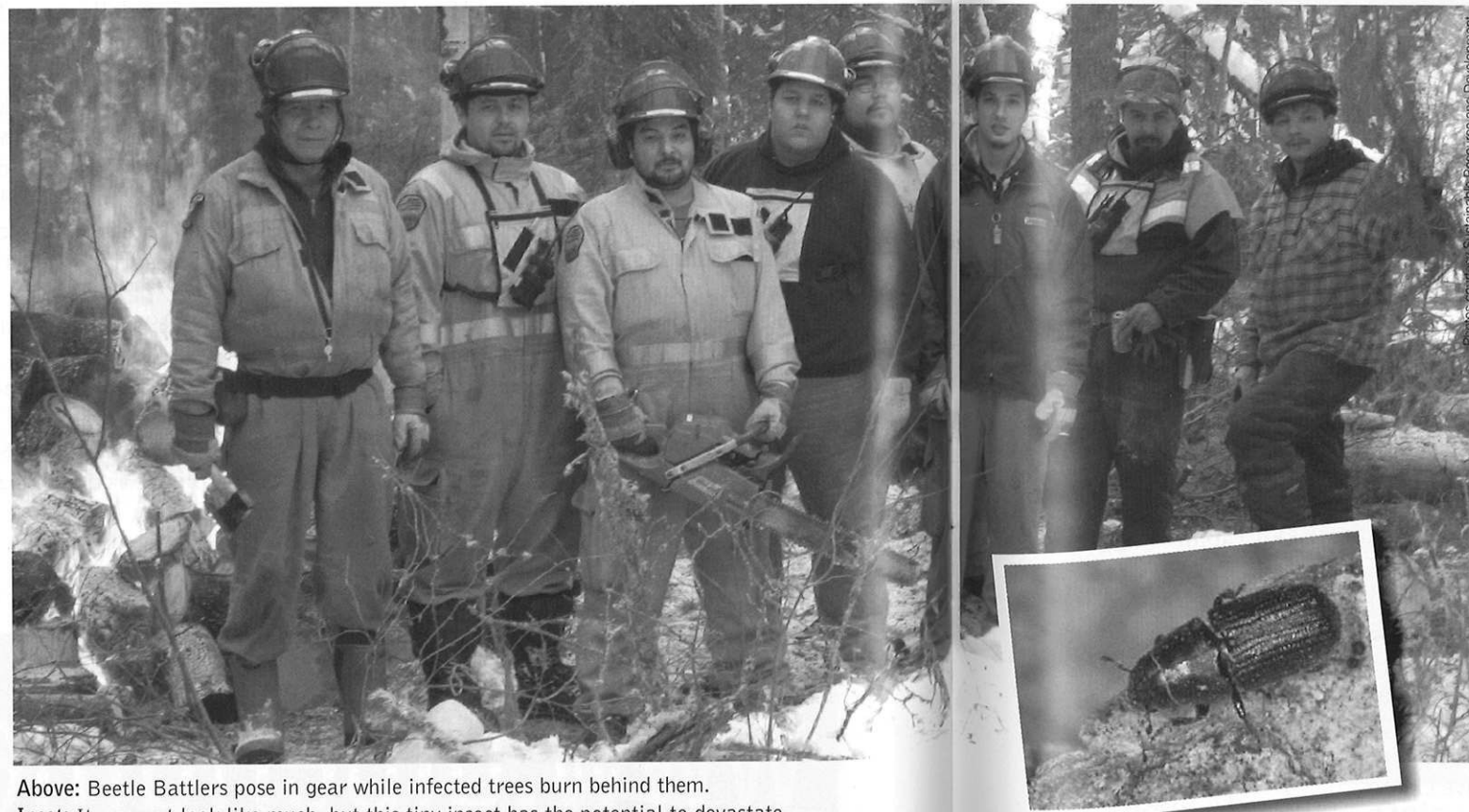
"My friend was telling me he had already seen it and that was two years ago," said Smith who has worked on forest firefighting crews for the past 14 years. "It's going to get worse. It's going to devastate our forests."

Johnson, who beams with pride when talking about the crew, has the utmost respect for the men who help keep the forests thriving.

"These people are unique. They were born in the bush, grew up in the bush and know the bush and that's what makes them so good at their job," said Johnson. "Not everyone could do their job."

"Who else is going to be able to survive the bush like they do? They go out there and they work. They love their job."

The mountain pine beetle is worse than forest pests like the tent



Above: Beetle Battlers pose in gear while infected trees burn behind them. Inset: It may not look like much, but this tiny insect has the potential to devastate Alberta forests.



caterpillar or spruce budworm because the mountain pine beetle kills the tree it infests.

"They like to eat the cambium layer immediately under the bark," according to Jens Roland a biological scientist who teaches and conducts entomological research at the University of Alberta. "This is the layer that is alive and produces growth each year.

There are two main reasons why the mountain pine beetle has rampantly reproduced the way it has in the last two years in Alberta. One is the weather and the other is the lack of enemies.

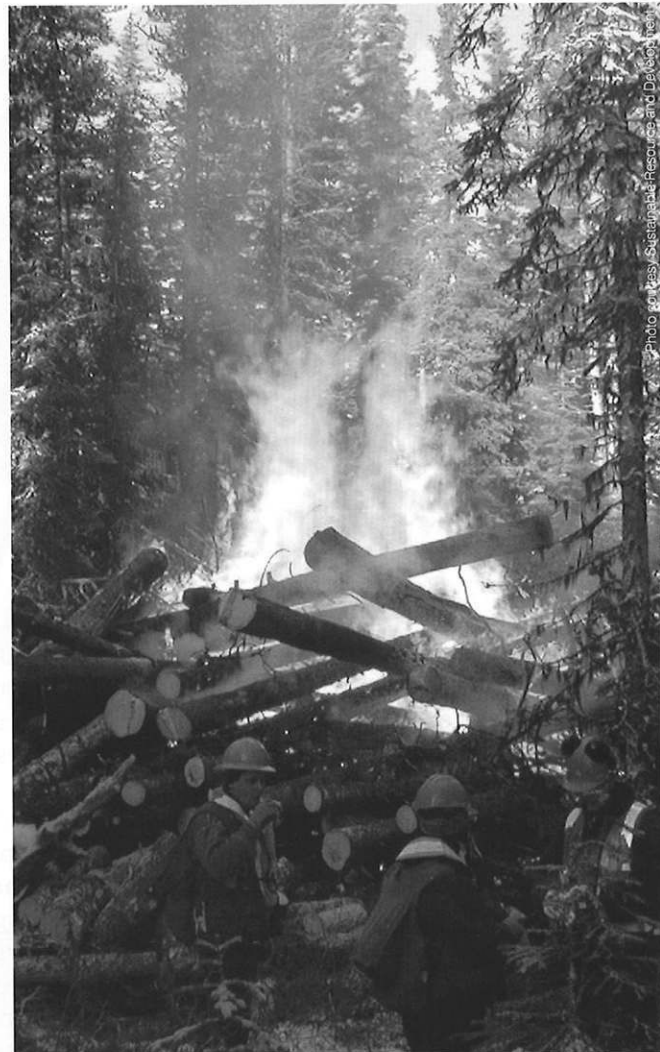
"Most people believe that the milder winters over the past decade have allowed the beetle to survive better and spread further," said Roland. "Normally the beetle is killed in the winter if temperatures drop below -35 degrees Celsius."

The mountain pine beetle was first described in the Black Hills of South Dakota, according to Roland. The insect is a normal part of the pine forest in the U.S.A. and B.C. and has not been a component of the Boreal forests in Canada until recently.

"Because it is mostly prairie between South Dakota and the Canadian Boreal forest... the current invasion has come via BC over the mountains," Roland said.

There are three main types of pine beetles and they have very few natural enemies.

"There are some insect parasites and predators, but because the beetle is under the bark they have a hard time getting at them," said Roland. "Woodpeckers will attack them, but there aren't a lot of woodpeckers compared to the number of beetles so they have a minimal impact."



Infected trees are burned to destroy the beetle's eggs and larvae.

# Following in his Grandfather's Footsteps

By Dale Lawrence and Charity Borg

Stretching his tiny four-year-old legs to the first step on the ruby red fire engine to get to the giant steering wheel was no easy feat for Derek Seitz over 20 years ago. Like any child, dogged determination and some help from Grandpa helped him achieve the beginning of a dream for Seitz.

Young Seitz started his dream of becoming a firefighter at an age most boys live in a world of play. Only this dream stuck. Seitz passed his fire fighter's final written exam in January and his family could not be more excited.

"I'm very proud of his choice of career... it doesn't surprise me," said Dale Lawrence, Seitz's grandfather. "He used to go down with me to the fire department in Medicine Hat. He liked to sit behind the wheel of the truck and pretend he was driving. All little kids like to be police or firemen. That just comes and goes, but it stuck with him."

Lawrence himself was a fire fighter who braved fires both big and small for 31 years with the Medicine Hat Fire Service. Lawrence started his career as a

probationary fire fighter in 1959 and worked his way to the rank of Deputy Fire Chief. In July, 1990 Lawrence decided that it was time to get out of the heat and retire. Seitz is the eldest of Lawrence's seven grandchildren.

Seitz, who is 31, started his recruit training in Calgary in January of 2006 with 24 other people who have the desire to help others in frightening and often dangerous circumstances. Seitz was proud to graduate from the Calgary Fire Training Academy on Apr. 17 and anxious to move on to the next step. The nine months following his recruit training Seitz had on-the-job training as probationary fire fighter. After writing his final exam he is now a permanent fire fighter for the City of Calgary.

The element of danger that comes with fire fighting does not

worry Lawrence.

"I know the dangers that he faces or he is going to face. He has already faced many of them because he has worked in the field for a year," reflected Lawrence. "I think our tallest building is 14 storeys here in Medicine Hat, and of course Calgary's full of tall buildings. That doesn't bother me. They always work with safety on their side and if you know your job, it's just like any other job. I mean, you can be a mailman and fall down someone's steps and break your neck."

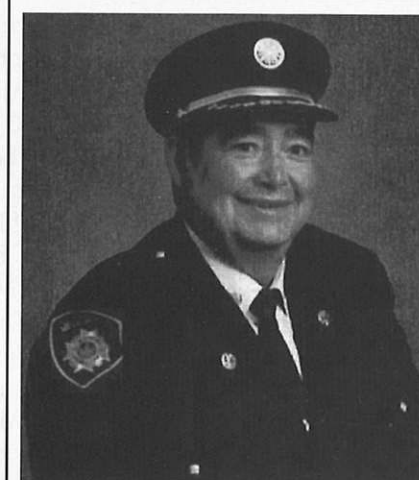
Seitz has a loving wife and one daughter. Seitz was born in Calgary and spent his childhood there. His family then moved to Medicine Hat. Seitz is a graduate of McCoy High School.

"The entire Lawrence and Seitz families are extremely proud of our new fire fighter and wish him great success in his chosen career," said Lawrence. "God bless him."

Lawrence and Seitz are proud members of the Metis Nation of Alberta. Both belong to Local 8, Region 3. Lawrence is also an Elder with Local 8.



Pearl Calahasen speaks about the time she spent as the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development at an appreciation dinner hosted by the Métis Nation of Alberta. After the Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta elected Ed Stelmach as their new leader, he reduced the size of his cabinet from 24 to 18 positions and Calahasen's Aboriginal Affairs Ministry was one of the casualties. Calahasen was the first Métis woman ever elected as an MLA in Alberta, and the first to serve as a Cabinet Minister. She now plans to focus on her riding of Lesser Slave Lake.



Dale Lawrence



Derek Seitz





# National Aboriginal Achievement Awards

By Monique Devlin

**I**t was a gala event, attended by the stars and leaders of the Canadian Aboriginal community.

As the sold out crowd watched, the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation celebrated Canadian Aboriginal arts and artists and recognized outstanding members of our Inuit, First Nations and Métis communities.

The awards were established 14 years ago to build pride within the aboriginal community and to provide role models for Aboriginal youth to aspire to. People of Métis, Inuit and First Nations ancestry who have attained a significant level of achievement in the arts, politics, education, social activism, science, communications, and additional categories are eligible for the awards.

"The recipients we honour tonight represent our best and brightest," Roberta Jamieson, CEO of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation wrote in

the program guide. "They are who our ancestors dreamt of, who our youth want to become and who history will remember as our achievers who have built a future worth living."

The highlight of the evening

filled with song and dance performances, was the Lifetime Achievement award winner, Bertha Clark Jones and a special song written and sung in her honour by Métis songstress Andrea Menard.

Clark Jones is a respected



Above: Bertha Clark Jones (left) signs an autograph for a fan, Brook Contors.  
Top: Members of Red Power Squad, one of the headline performers of the awards show.

Photo by Monique Devlin

Canadian Air Force veteran and one of the founders of the Native Women's Association of Canada. She currently sits on the Métis Nation of Alberta Judiciary Council as a representative of Region I.

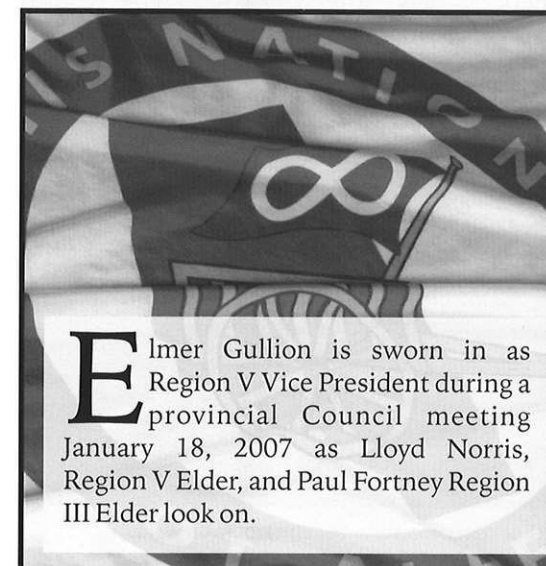
The complete list of winners for 2006 is:

- Arts**  
Joanne Cardinal Schubert
- Business and Commerce**  
Jack Poole
- Cultural, Heritage and Spirituality**  
Alestine Andre
- Education**  
Joe Michel
- Environment**  
Chief David Walkem
- Health**  
Joe Couture
- Law and Justice**  
Hugh Braker
- Media and Communications**  
Lisa Meeches
- Politics**  
Freddie Carmichael
- Public Service**  
Lewis Cardinal
- Sports**  
Wegadesk Gorup-Paul
- Technology and Trades**  
Monica Peters
- Youth**  
James Makokis

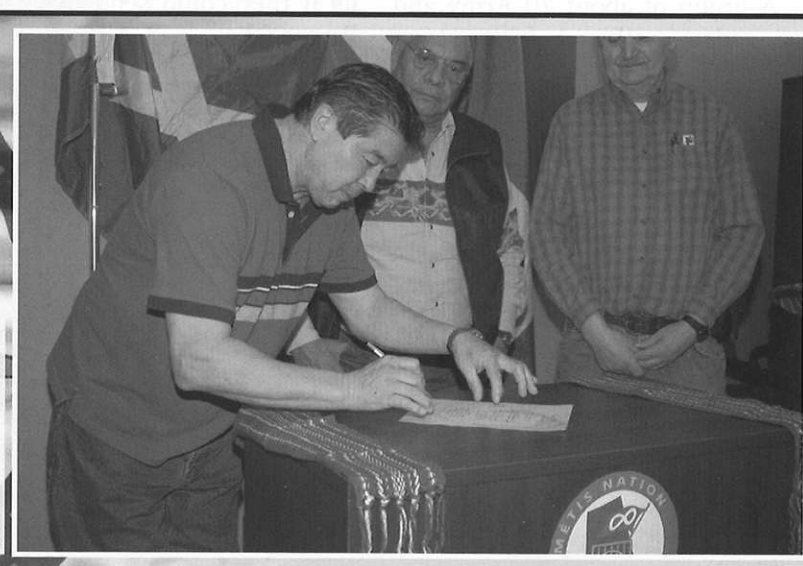


2007 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards Lifetime Achievement Winner Bertha Clark Jones (left) stands with Roberta Jamieson, CEO of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation.

Photo by Monique Devlin



**E**lmer Gullion is sworn in as Region V Vice President during a provincial Council meeting January 18, 2007 as Lloyd Norris, Region V Elder, and Paul Fortney Region III Elder look on.





# Sea and Army Cadets Attend Camp in Buffalo Lake

By Monique Devlin

## Attention!

The troop commander yells out the command and the Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement Gymnasium thunders with the sound of boots stomping the floor and the shouts of Royal Canadian Army and Sea Cadets snapping to attention.

While their peers were likely busy sleeping in on their day off, it was far from a day of rest for the cadets. The youth were practising their drill skills, the movement of a group from one place to another, before breakfast and were still trudging forward after lunch. The weariness of fatigue could be seen on their faces and in the way they stood. Many of the cadets slept only a couple of hours the night before, as is the usual case when you gather teenagers together for an overnight stay. Even though it was sleep the cadets desired they instead had to pay dearly by repeating the same motions over and over again in an effort to improve their skills in order to return home and strengthen the marching skills of their own corps (group).

A group of about 20 Army and Sea cadets gathered from seven

different communities across the province to participate in the drill camp. While the idea of drill may sound like a simple exercise, it is not – each person must move at the same time and in the same way on command. Drill can be a defining activity for a corps as it demonstrates their ability to work together as a team.

"What they are learning here today, at the local headquarters would probably take them six weeks, because they only do drill one hour a week," said Captain Jad Perry, who is responsible for Army Cadet training in Alberta. "Here they are getting eight hours in one day."

There have been five other Drill Camps throughout the province this year. The one in Buffalo Lake was hosted by Lac La Biche Army Cadets and brought together others from Westlock, Fort McMurray, Edgerton, Vermillion, Mailaig, and St. Paul.

"This program is designed for the army cadets, but the St. Paul [sea] cadet corps heard about it, they realized that their own drill program at their core was weak, so they asked us if they could send five cadets," Perry said.

Camps like this are just one of many activities the Cadets participate in aside from their weekly meetings where they practice on average one hour of drill. The Cadet Program offers sport and music programs and almost half of all cadets are eligible for summer training experiences allowing them to meet with other youth from across the country.

"We just came back from skiing Marmot Basin," Captain Jake Dufault, the Lac La Biche Cadet leaders said. "We took the cadets on a skiing trip, we do scuba diving, we do multi-cultural weekends, and we do all kinds of things."

Dufault is currently trying to start a new unit in Buffalo Lake. His troop already uses their hall as a practice area once a week; he has the office space and the support of the community.

"My goal in the future is to maybe have a solid cadet corps right here," he said. "Not part of Lac La Biche, but Buffalo Lake having its own cadet corps."

Charlene Michalko, whose son was one of the Drill Camp participants and a member of the Lac



Cadet Jessie Wilson hopes to become a lawyer. In the meantime, he is having fun as a cadet.

La Biche troupe, is impressed with the Cadet program and how it has influenced her son, Jessie Wilson.

"He's involved in archery and cadets," she said. "Since we moved here to Lac La Biche from Fort MacMurray he joined both of those right off the bat, and he has grown so much."

Michalko says that Jessie joined cadets, not necessarily for the military experience, but in hopes that it will help his schooling further down the road.

"He knew he would have a better chance at scholarships so that he can attend law school," she said about his motivation to join. "Whether or not that is where he goes, that was his motivating factor, and I thought that is pretty cool."

As for Jessie, after nearly four hours of drilling and only one and a half hours sleep the night before he was not very talkative but offered one of the best possible endorsements for the program.

"It's fun."

What is the Cadet Program? (Information provided by the National Cadet Website)

The Cadet program is a long running federally sponsored youth program

Cadets are organized into units according to their preference (Sea, Army and Air) and availability

Cadets participate in training a minimum of one night per week with optional weekend activities depending on their unit Commanding Officer.

Although cadets themselves are not part of the Canadian Forces, they wear a military-style uniform that is provided free of charge upon joining the Canadian Cadet Organizations.

The Cadet Program is open to all young people in Canada aged from 12 to 18 years.

All training costs and uniform expenses are assumed by the Department of National Defence.

Cadets participate in training on a weekly basis during the academic school year, with the opportunity to advance to summer training based on their achievements and level of instruction.

Training for cadets is conducted by a specialized group of Canadian Forces officers in the Cadet Instructors Cadre (CIC), which is a sub-component of the Reserve Force.



Left: Army Cadets Charelle Cardinal and Sea cadet Keesly Cardinal look over a list of participants with Captain Jake Dufault.



Right: The cadets in the Drill Camp stand at attention.

## The Scholarship and Bursary Handbook



for Métis Students

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

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- 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:

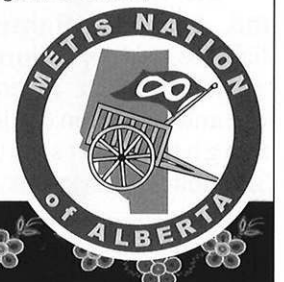
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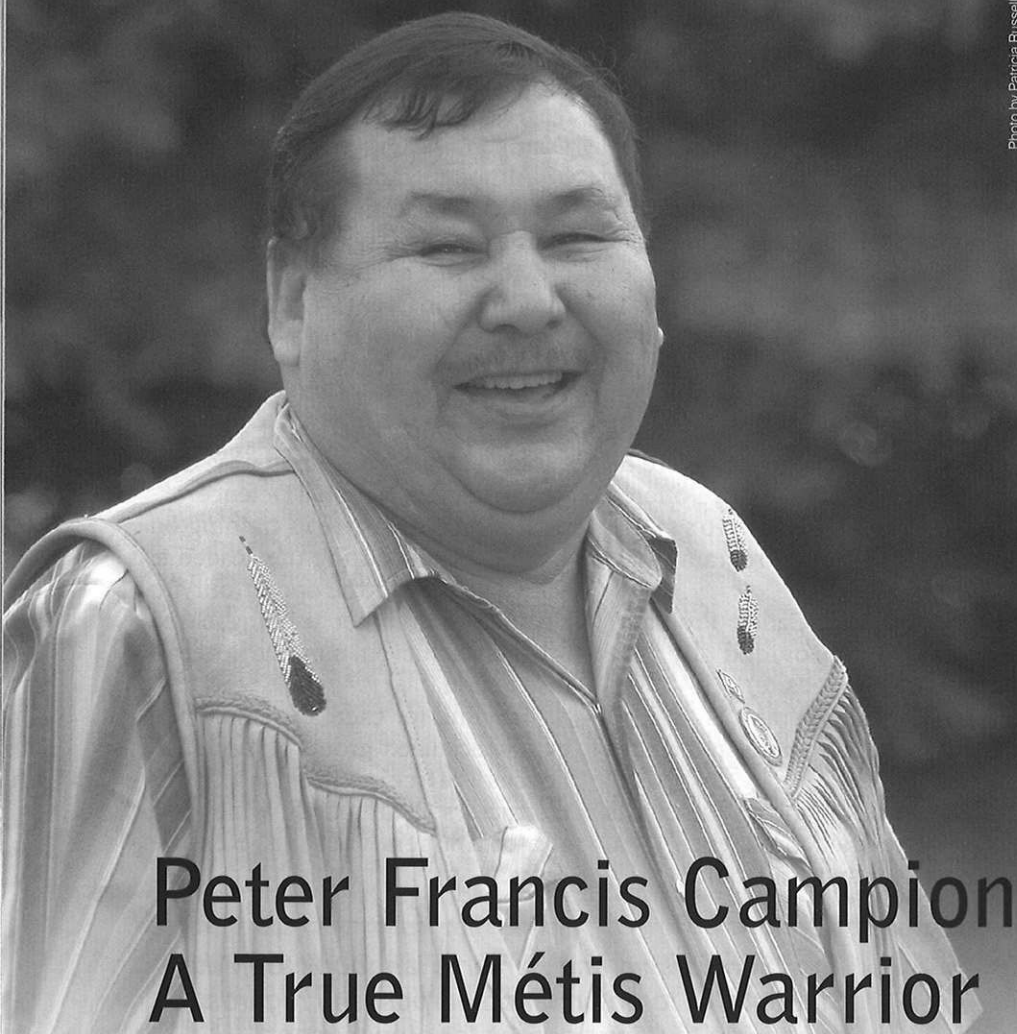


Photo by Patricia Russell

## Peter Francis Campion A True Métis Warrior

By Patsy Campion

It is with great sadness that I write about the passing of my hero, my father Peter Campion. On Dec. 21, 2006 at 8:45p.m. a caring man, and great Métis leader, left us to continue his final journey with the Creator. Peter was born in Driftpile on Dec. 19, 1940 and lived most of his life in Faust, Alberta. Peter challenged many battles for the Métis Communities. The last battle he challenged (and succumbed to) was his illness.

He walked a miracle of hope and bravery, fighting cancer, diabetes, kidney failure, and many strokes for over seven years. The love and adoration of his wife Violet; daughter Patsy (Labatts); Granddaughter Jaylee "Baby Girl"; son Leeroy; and sisters Martha, Angie, Theresa, and Paulette gave

him strength to keep fighting battles with his many illnesses. In-laws Emma and Albert and the Phateez Racing Club gave their constant support in showing their love and respect for this wonderful man.

Peter was a proud Métis whose career with the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) began in the early 1970s, when he worked as a field worker, escalating to his position as Region V vice-president. He assisted with the forming of S-11 Logging, the Métis Wilderness Camp, and also planned and organized job readiness programs for his area to name but a few of his accomplishments. He stayed committed to the MNA and was involved with it as Region V Vice President until the last few minutes of his untimely passing.

He was an ambitious and hard worker. His first love and priority was his family, though many times his family gave up their time with him so he could be on the road attending meetings for the betterment of Region V. He was a man of many talents and had a passion for Ski-dooing, watching his granddaughter Jaylee pitch fastball, or playing hockey and Texas Hold 'Em with his buddies "The Phateez."

Peter left this world to be with his parents, Fred and Mary Campiou; sisters Rita and Rose, son Peter Jr., and many relatives. He leaves behind to honour his life: wife Violet Campiou; daughter Patsy (Labatts) Collins; granddaughter Jaylee Wolfe; sons Leeroy, Robert, Freddie, Victor, and Gerald; siblings, Paul (Aline) Campiou, Martha Campiou, Billy Campiou, Alvin (Marilyn) Campiou, Harry Campiou, Angeline (Morris) Isadore, Theresa (Louie) Campiou, Phillip Campiou, Paulette (Dave) Campiou; In-Laws Emma and Albert New, Victor (Linda) Giroux, Ruby, Randice, and Debbie Cook; many nieces and nephews, especially Dale (Grace) Auger, Stan (Neena) Isadore, Starr (Pam) Sasakamoose and Marty (Emile) Badger.

Peter will forever be remembered by the many lives he touched. A traditional wake was held on December 26, 2006 at Driftpile School and the funeral service was on Dec. 27, also at the Driftpile School, interment followed at the Driftpile Cemetery where he was laid to rest next to his parents.

### His daughter Patsy's memory of her dad....

My dad was my unsung hero; he was always there and gave more than he ever asked for in return. I have so many fond memories of him. When I was younger my dad taught me how to play catch, but we only had one glove - so he went without. Later he and my mom drove me from tournament to tournament, no matter what city or community. In

the winter we had a great passion for snowmobiling, my dad loved racing sleds, and we followed the racing circuit. It didn't matter where the race was, we were there. Then my dad started the local guys racing and soon Faust had one of the biggest snowmobile races.

After my dad survived strokes and got sick with cancer he wanted to ride a sled again, but he couldn't. No matter how we tried to MacGyver the sled, it was too hard for him. But that didn't stop his love for sledding. He still drove from poker rally to poker rally to meet me at the checkpoints. He supported every rally he could. The local guys he introduced to sledding soon became called "The Phateez," as this is the name my dad gave his snowmobile friends.

My dad's other love was Métis politics. No matter how sick he was from cancer, or how weak he was from the strokes, he made me drive into Slave Lake so he could sit at the office for the day. It seemed when he had MNA meetings in Edmonton it made all his pain "suddenly" go away. He gave his heart to the Métis Nation, we tried to get him to retire as he got sicker but he wouldn't hear of it.

His two biggest loves though, were his Violet and his Jaylee. My dad felt safe when Violet was around, and when one of his sisters asked a question, he would reply, "It's up to my boss, Violet."

What kept him going to the end was his granddaughter Jaylee; she was his everything and more. When they had to be apart while he was in the Grey Nuns Hospital, and she in school at Kinuso, everyday he would write in his journal, "I want to go home to Baby Girl", or "Bring Baby Girl to me".

If one thing could be learned from my dad's passing, it is this: gentlemen please go for regular full physical exams with your doctor. Take care of yourself. If my dad would have caught his prostate cancer earlier, he would have had a better chance. Be proud to be Métis - there are many Métis Leaders that have passed on but fought hard for the Métis Nation to be what it is today.



Photo by Patricia Russell



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# Rose Findlay

## The Passing of a Métis Matriarch

By Melanie Omeniho

It is with great sadness that we announce that our Métis Region IV Matriarch, Rose Findlay passed away on Feb. 7, 2007 in Grande Cache, Alberta. Rose was born on Christmas Day in 1917 in Grande Prairie, Alberta. Her parents were Marian and Charlie Joachim. In 1929, Rose's father moved the family to Smoky River, about six kilometres north of Grande Cache. Rose lived her life in the area of Grande Cache since the move.

Rose married Deome Findlay in 1951 and raised her family in the Hinton and Grande Cache community. She lived a very traditional life with hunting, fishing and trapping. Rose's family and husband were outfitters, and she often found herself working with them to make fresh bread for the hunters and to help them learn about the traditional ways of life.

Rose was seen as a grandmother to many in her community. She is respected and loved by her entire community. Rose was a traditional artisan who tanned hides and knew how to make horsehair moccasins – which is becoming one of our lost Métis arts.

Rose was a Cree teacher and taught many of the children attending schools in Grande Cache an appreciation for their language. She also had been teaching them many of her craft works like beading, Moccasin making and horsehair dying.

Rose has been an honoured Elder to her Métis Local for more than a decade, has worked with the Native Court Worker program, been a speaker about Métis history and provided counselling and guidance to many groups and individuals.

In addition to the Métis Matriarch award that she received in 2005, Rose also held an Esquao Lifetime Achievement Award through the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women.

It is with great respect and reverence that Region IV sends condolences to her family and community at the loss of this amazing woman. She truly illustrated a positive reflection of the Métis identity and unselfishly lived her life with great pride, dignity and kindness.



Top: Rose Findlay holds a moccasin accented with horsehair that she made. The moccasins were featured on the March 2006 cover of Otipemisiwak.

Above: Rose Findlay is wrapped in an MNA blanket by MNA Minister of Veterans on Seniors, Homer Poitras and President, Audrey Poitras during the 2005 Delia Gray Gala when she was named Metis Matriarch for Region IV.

We are  
always  
accepting  
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Housing  
Applications!

11922 - 121A Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5L 0A2  
Phone: (780) 452-6440  
Fax: (780) 452-1076

## Métis Urban Housing Corporation

We need you to UPDATE your Housing Application with the following information:

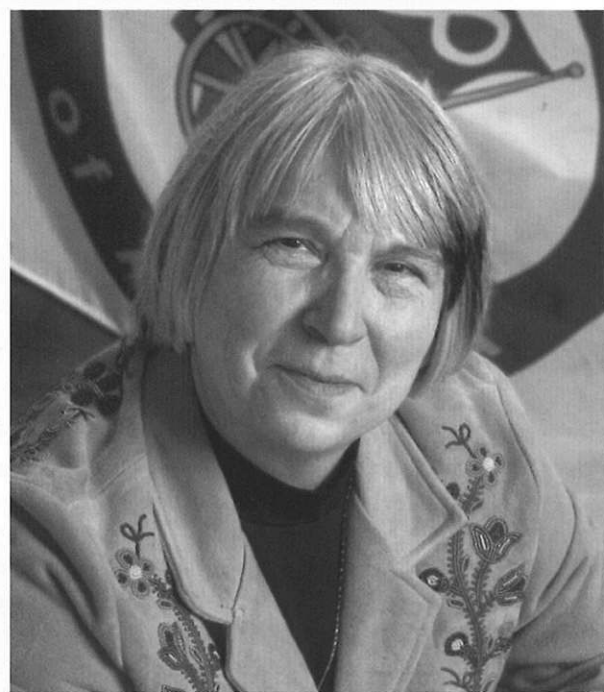
- Current Phone Number (very important)
- Change of Household members
- Change of Income
- Other changes that could affect your application

This information is crucial to Métis Urban Housing Corporation as it works to meet your Housing needs.

Please update your file by calling 452-6440 or by faxing your information to 452-1076.

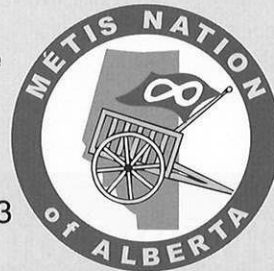


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## The Devlin Side

*Monique Devlin*

Lately I have been noticing an influx of newspaper and magazine articles commenting on the downward spiral of young girls, not teenagers, but the ones just about to reach adolescence, commonly called "tweens".

Apparently, they are trying too hard to be all grown up—way too soon. They copy the dress and action of movie and music stars: short skirts, belly baring tops and makeup are just some of the common complaints. If I believed everything I read, it would seem that there is an entire generation of poor young girls destined to be molded into an army of pop tarts.

But I don't believe it. While there are young girls who do dress inappropriately, I think for many of them it is just a phase; they want to look cool and they emulate what they think is cool at the time. But cool is in the eye of the beholder. Not all young girls want to be like the women they see on the billboards and music videos. I saw a shining example of this the other night after the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards.

I was accompanying the Lifetime Achievement award winner Bertha Clark Jones and her daughter out of the theatre to search for the rest of their family (and some prime photo opportunities for me) when a young girl stopped Mrs. Clark Jones and asked her to autograph her program.

At first this struck me as incredible. Why wasn't she chasing after one of the movie stars on site, or one of the hip-hop dancers who amazed us with their defiance of gravity near the beginning of the show? Aren't those the sorts of people who you get autographs from?

But the more I thought about it, the more it made sense. Mrs. Clark

Jones may not be the sort of star who makes it big in the entertainment industry, but for this girl she was a hero—and rightly so. She is a Veteran, an advocate, a mother and a grandmother. She has served her country and she has served her community. She has helped make life better for countless Aboriginal children through her work with Alberta Native Women's Voices (later the Native Women's Association of Canada).

What better person for a young girl to be seeking an autograph from?

Maybe all of the tweens out there are not as easily swayed by pop icons as the media would lead us to believe. Maybe young girls are capable of making sound choices, despite all of the visual fluff they are exposed to. Maybe we need to continue celebrating our positive role models as often as we can—show the young girls, and boys too for that matter, that movies stars and rock singers are just some of the many different kinds of people we can look up to and emulate.

Sure, tweens are going to be swayed by what they see on TV, and nine-year-olds dressing like 20-year-olds preparing for a night on the town are serious societal concerns.

But I think that if we surround our young people with positive role models, both celebrated nationally and on a smaller scale in the community and on a family level, most will make positive choices in life. I would like to thank both the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards for highlighting our wonderful role models and the young girl for recognizing a true hero.

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# 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.





9th Annual

# Metis Entrepreneurial Leadership Awards

Friday, April 20, 2007

Please join us for an evening of honouring our Métis Business Leaders

**Keynote Speaker:** Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians

**Singer:** Dorothy Walker

**Fiddler:** Dean Malcolm

**Louis Riel Presentation:** Bill Beargen

**Métis Youth Dancers:** Métis Child and Family Services Dancers

**Dance Presentation:** Brenda Blake and Dr. Neville Headly

**Awards:** Entrepreneurial Leadership; Men, Women, and Youth; Business Recognition; Career Development; Industry; Community Development

Coast Plaza Hotel and Conference  
1316 - 33 ST NE Calgary, AB

Reception: 5:30pm

Dinner: 6:30pm

Tickets: \$800 Table of 8

\$100 per person

**MC:** Andy Popko, Vice President, Aboriginal Relations, EnCana Corp.

For Tickets and Event Sponsorship Information

Please Contact Region 3 Office

Ph: (403)569-8800 Fax: (403)569-8959 Email: [mlanz@metis.org](mailto:mlanz@metis.org)

This is a semi-formal/business event (dress code strictly enforced.) Beaded jackets or vest with shirt, tie and dress pants, or ribbon shirts acceptable. No jeans.

