

Métis Nation of Alberta
Annual Report 2011-2012

Dedicated in Memory of Region 4 Elder,
Marge Friedel

On the cover...

Members of the Métis Association, now the Métis Nation of Alberta, meeting with Members of the Legislative Assembly in Edmonton, 1932, the year the association was formed.

Back row (left to right): MLA Joseph Miville Déchène, Felix Calihoo, MLA Leonidas A Giroux, Peter Tomkins Jr.

Front row: Secretary Jim Brady, Rev. Father Fahler (OMI), President Joe Dion, Bishop Guy, Malcolm F. Norris and Peter Tomkins Sr.



Métis Nation of Alberta

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Our Vision

A strong Métis Nation embracing Métis rights.

Our Mission

To pursue the advancement of the socio-economic and cultural well-being of the Métis people of Alberta.

Our Guiding Principles

- We believe in the National definition of Métis
- We believe in continuing to build our foundation for future generations
- We believe in fairness and respect for all people
- We believe in the need to work in unity and harmony
- We believe in Métis participation in building our nation
- We believe in encouraging and assisting Métis people to achieve their goals
- We believe in honesty, integrity, and professionalism
- We believe we will achieve self-government, and
- We believe in our Métis rights as recognized and affirmed in Section 35 of the Constitution Act (1982).

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Greetings from President Audrey Poitras



Welcome to the 84th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA)! For the past 84 years, Métis people from across the province have gathered to reconnect politically and socially, to celebrate our past and embrace our future.

This year, the Athabasca region is hosting our members, creating a great opportunity to showcase the rich heritage the Nation has in the area, and to discuss the progress the MNA has made in the past year.

Without sound and transparent governance, we simply would not be able to improve governance, partnerships and relationships for our people. In the pages that follow,

you will find news on the progress from all of our department sectors and the affiliated institutions of the MNA.

My hope is not only to showcase our work for the year, but also to inspire an even greater push to move the MNA’s vision forward. This is our Assembly! Let us seize the opportunity to turn our challenges into opportunities, and turn our accomplishments into a better life for our Nation. Let us always keep the best interests of the strong and proud Métis at heart.

I would like to thank the Métis people of Alberta for once again placing their confidence in me to lead our nation. The election brought new and returning members, and I feel that together as a team, we have a good foundation to meet the challenges our population faces.

Some of our biggest challenges, and always at the top of our agenda, are Harvesting Rights for our people. It is a long battle, but the MNA will continue to stand united on Métis rights, and we look forward to our Court of Appeal date.

Onto some good news: Peace River MP Chris Warkentin recently announced the Government of Canada has earmarked \$425,000 to address the issue of elder abuse among our people. The Métis Local 1990 of Alberta (Grande Prairie) will receive the funding to develop an information kit in English and Cree to raise awareness and provide support for people who may be victims of elder abuse. This is a big step forward for our elders, who play such a sacred and significant role in our communities.

Premier Alison Redford’s restructuring of the Cabinet team should mean more attention paid to Aboriginal communities. The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations, now a stand-alone ministry, was previously included with the Ministry of Intergovernmental, International and Aboriginal Relations. As a stand-alone Ministry, we are hopeful that the government

of Alberta can now focus more on our people, with a concentrated, strong fiscal framework. I have had an opportunity to meet with Minister Robin Campbell and look forward to working with him to move the Nation forward and putting more focus on the issues that matter to us.

The Boyle Renaissance project is also making headway, with the second phase officially underway. The \$22 million, 90-unit, 120,000 square foot complex will focus on the needs of Aboriginals, seniors and people with disabilities. The developer, Métis Capital Housing Corporation, is contributing \$6 million to the project, to try to improve housing conditions by offering an alternative to mainstream housing. We are eagerly anticipating the opening, in November 2013.

These are but a few of many accomplishments for our Nation; I invite you to read through the report to find out about what is happening in your Region, and the Nation as a whole.

I would like to thank all of our staff, members and volunteers across the province that have given so much to help move the dream for the Métis Nation of Alberta forward.

The AGM is a wonderful time when we get to meet with many of our members, friends and family that we do not get to see often throughout the year, but on the same measure, it is also a time when it becomes painfully clear how many of our Elders, Veterans and many members that have passed on.

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to our dear friend, Region 4 Elder Marge Friedel. We greatly appreciate all of the hard work Marge has done for our Nation, and we will continue to fight for her, and the rest of the community.

It has been a real honour to serve as your President for the past 16 years. You are the reason we fight, and the reason we make big strides. Together, we can do even more, and I look forward to meeting you all again next year to reconnect, and to share our triumphs.

Please join me in thanking Regional President Willie Landstrom, Vice-President Diane Scoville and the Regional Council for the planning of all the cultural activities this year.

This weekend, let us celebrate with our family and friends. I wish everyone a safe travel home.

Audrey Poitras
President

Message from the President

“Let us seize the opportunity to turn our challenges into opportunities...”

Greetings from Vice President Toby Racette



It is a pleasure and an honor to greet you and to welcome you to the 84th Annual Assembly. We are indeed pleased to see you here in Athabasca, one of the most beautiful historic sites in our Province.

David Thompson first came to Athabasca Landing in 1799 and charted the water way that had been used by the Aboriginal people to move goods both North and South.

In 1877 the Hudson Bay Company established a trading post at the “Landing” and it has been a going concern ever since. The Métis were here from the onset, bringing prosperity and notoriety to the Region and our people, in conjunction with all the fine folks of Athabasca, continue to do so today.

The Métis Nation of Alberta is strong and vibrant and continues to advance its political and social agendas. This is being accomplished through the strong leadership of the representatives that you, the citizens of our Nation have elected. Since this Council was elected in September of 2011, there has been a strong sense of unity within the Regions and a renewed sense of dignity and respect as our Provincial Governance moves forward.

Our interaction with the Federal and Provincial Governments strengthens daily as do our relationships with the various industries within our Province. Many of the big oil industry players openly acknowledge our inherent rights and their duty to consult and the list of Métis friendly companies grows exponentially.

As I travel around the Province, I am so proud to see how the citizens in our “Locals” continue in our traditions and display their respect for our many seniors and their support of our youth. The strength of our citizen groups and their accomplishments are a great source of pride for myself and the other elected representatives of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Education has become a major factor in our success and I am thrilled to see the number of our Métis students graduating from High School, Post Secondary and Graduate School. I doubt that there is any other cultural group in our Country that has been able to meet the challenges of the world today and still hold so close to its heritage and traditions as we the Métis. I am Proud to be Métis and I am proud to work for you.

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity you have given me by electing me as your Provincial Vice-President and I pledge to continue working with you the Citizens of the MNA, the Regions and Locals, our Governments and all Industries throughout the Province.

President's Message



Congratulation delegates in your participation in the MNA's 84th Annual General Assembly, a testimony to the dedication and foresight of our Métis leaders who had the wisdom in the 1930s to establish the organization which continues to grow stronger each year.

As the first year in the Decade of the Métis Nation (2011-2020), the year 2011 was dedicated to paying tribute to our Métis veterans. At the 2011 Back to Batoche Days celebration we brought together 14 Métis veterans from across the Homeland for a commemoration ceremony in their honour. Métis WWII veterans were presented with the Order of the Métis Nation – the highest, most prestigious honour awarded by the Métis Nation. These individuals

have shown exemplary dedication to the betterment of the Métis Nation and to Canada. Our Métis governments will continue to seek proper recognition and compensation for these men and women. It was many of these brave men and women who were the backbone and architects of the Métis movement when they returned from service in the 1940s.

As well, in December 2011 at the National Workshop on a Métis Nation Constitution, we also honoured Korean War Veterans, many of whom were and continue to be, active members in the Métis movement.

This year the theme is Celebrating our Métis Nation Culture and Language. Two of our most gifted culture and heritage expressions are Métis music (the fiddle) and dance. When one looks to the Métis in Alberta, this rich tradition of fiddle music and dancing is very much alive and well. We must continue building on these strengths, joining Elders and youth in the continuation of their practice, the central pillar of our people, the Métis Nation.

I look forward to continued work in collaboration with MNA leadership in the areas of Métis governance, constitution reform, economic development and Métis rights, and look forward to the successful conclusion of the *Hirsekorn* case. This is an important and meaningful time for the Métis Nation and I extend my sincere best wishes to all Métis in Alberta at your Annual General Assembly and in your ongoing dedication in the pursuit of our existence as a distinct people and nation.

Sincerely,

Clément Chartier, QC
President
Métis National Council

Message from the Vice-President

Letters

“The strength of our citizen groups and their accomplishments are a great source of pride...”

“This is an important and meaningful time for the Métis Nation...”



I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 84th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

The Métis played an important role in developing and shaping Alberta. For over eight decades, these assemblies have offered an ideal chance to participate in the process of advancing issues of importance to the Métis of Alberta and to ensure that Métis culture and traditions are passed down to succeeding generations. I know that you will make the most of this opportunity to network with your peers and to plan for the upcoming year.

I would like to commend the members of the Métis Nation of Alberta for working hard to preserve the rich and unique Métis culture. I would also like to highlight Métis Crossing, which is a remarkable example of the MNA's efforts. This national historic site provides visitors with a chance to witness Métis history and life in Alberta, while offering Métis a place where they can tell their stories and celebrate their heritage.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I offer my best wishes for a most memorable and productive assembly.

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.

OTTAWA
2012



Brian Jean, QC
Member of Parliament
Fort McMurray - Athabasca



To the Métis Nation of Alberta
On the Occasion of Your 84th Annual Assembly

Tansi, Bonjour and Greetings,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Athabasca for your 84th Annual Assembly. This is a wonderful opportunity for participants to dialogue openly, to plan for the future and to celebrate with colleagues, family and friends.

Our Government is very proud of the strong, evolving relationship between the federal and Métis governments and we recognize the important role committed partners such as the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) have in producing concrete opportunities for all Métis people. MNA has a long history of successfully advocating on behalf of, and meeting the needs and aspirations of Métis people in Alberta.

I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize President Audrey Poitras, as the long-standing, dedicated and tireless advocate of Métis issues for many years. Congratulations on your recent National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation award for your work in the Métis community.

I wish everyone a very memorable and successful cultural celebration and annual meeting. It is with gratitude that we recognize your commitment, dedication and sacrifice for our nation. We look forward to a future of continued cooperation and meaningful change.

Thank you. Merci. Megweetch.

Brian Jean, QC, MP
Fort McMurray – Athabasca

/ms

“...Make the most of this opportunity to network with peers and plan for the upcoming year.”

“...It is with gratitude that we recognize your commitment, dedication and sacrifice.”

Letters

“...Métis people continue to make significant contribution to our province...”

**Greetings from the Honourable Robin Campbell
Minister of Aboriginal Relations**



**Métis Nation of Alberta Association 84th Annual Assembly
August 2012**

I am pleased to bring greetings on behalf of Aboriginal Relations to all of the participants of the 84th annual assembly of the Métis Nation of Alberta.


Alberta is proud of the deep roots that Métis people have in Alberta’s economic, social and cultural history. Before Alberta became a province, Métis people were integral to a vibrant fur trade economy, and later helped to establish communities such as Lac Ste. Anne, St. Albert, and St. Paul des Métis.

Today, as in the past, Métis people continue to make significant contributions to our province. The young and rapidly growing Métis population is vital to the competitiveness and continued prosperity of Alberta; and we are proud to be home to the largest Métis population in the country.

The Alberta government is committed to working with the Métis Nation of Alberta in supporting the social, economic and political aspirations of Métis people. By making Aboriginal Relations a stand-alone ministry, Premier Redford reaffirms the Alberta government’s commitment to Métis people.

I wish everyone a productive and inspiring 84th annual assembly.

Robin Campbell
Minister of Aboriginal Relations



Town of **Athabasca**

Gateway to the Great New North

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On behalf of the Town of Athabasca, I am pleased to welcome the Métis Nation of Alberta to our community. Thank you for honouring Athabasca with your decision to hold your 84th Annual Assembly here with us.

Your time with us will be busy but I sincerely hope that you might take time to enjoy the many amenities and attractions that the greater Athabasca area has to offer.

May this 84th Annual Assembly bring forth great things for the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Very best regards,

Dr. Roger Morrill
Mayor, Town of Athabasca

“Thank you for honouring Athabasca with your decision to hold your 84th Annual Assembly here with us.”

Letters

“...we hope this event serves to highlight our storied past, as well as pave the way to a thriving future...”

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Athabasca County welcomes Metis Nation of Alberta

Athabasca County is pleased and honoured to have the Metis Nation of Alberta host their 84th Annual Assembly in our community.

We're grateful for the hard work shown by the Athabasca Landing Metis Local 2010 to get this event to the area. The local chapter has shown a great degree of collaboration with officials from the local governments.

The Metis Nation has deep historical roots within our community and we hope this event serves to highlight that storied past, as well as pave the way to a thriving future.

On behalf of the citizens of the region, we hope your stay here is a pleasant one, and that this mutually beneficial partnership continues long after the event is over.

Sincerely,

David Yurdiga
Athabasca County Reeve



Métis Nation of Alberta
84th Annual General Assembly



Taanshi Kiya'wow ekwa Apeetha'koisanuk / Bonjour Ta'wow / Bienvenue

Greetings and hello,

Delegates of the Métis Nation of Alberta Annual General Assembly 2012,

On behalf of the Metis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) we congratulate the Metis Nation of Alberta (MNA) on 84 years of longevity. I acknowledge and congratulate the MNA leadership, staff, and citizens on another successful year. It is your impressive dedication, and perseverance and collective vision that drive the true success of your Nation.

The MNBC values the strong working relationship with the MNA and President Poitras and elected Council and looks forward to many years of continued relations and collaborative possibilities.

As the National Minister of Culture, Heritage & Language I have often witnessed the true Metis way while attending past AGA's throughout your beautiful Prairie Province and have enjoyed them tremendously. They have always showcased our culture which is an incredibly important aspect.

The MNBC Board of Directors, Staff and Metis of British Columbia wish you great success and deliberation with your 84th Annual General Assembly in Athabasca.

Ekouski maaka!

Bruce R. Dumont

President and Chief Executive Officer
Métis Nation British Columbia
National Minister Responsible for Culture, Heritage & Languages, Sport and Health

“It is your impressive dedication, perseverance and collective vision that drive the true success of your Nation...”

Letters

Ministry of Children and Youth



I am pleased to report that the MNA and the Regions have been working very diligently towards moving forward the Child and Family Services sector. We are very committed to our Children, Youth and Families. We meet regularly to discuss the current programs that are available to our Métis families. I am very happy to be selected as the Minister of Children and Youth and will ensure that our Ministry continues to make significant progress.

Carol Ridsdale
Minister of Children and Youth

The Ministry of Children and Youth

Over the next three years, the Ministries objectives are to equip Métis children, and families with the tools necessary to achieve a successful future- thus resulting in strong families and communities, overall. To this end, the Ministry is committed to ensuring an improved quality of life for the wellbeing of our children and strong and productive Métis communities overall. Recognizing the inherent possibility within existing programs and the prospects of new and exciting initiatives, the priorities outlined in this report are aimed toward enhancing these objectives.

In order to meet the aforementioned goals and objectives, the Ministry recognizes it must work collaboratively with other MNA Ministries, federal, provincial and municipal partners. There are a number of challenges we must work to address. First and foremost, the number of Métis children in the Ministry of Human Services care is of particular concern; at present there are approximately 670 Métis children in care throughout Alberta. Next, we have witnessed cyclical nature of Métis children coming into and out of foster care. Finally, relatively little to no cultural supports exists to facilitate and accommodate the needs of Métis children and families in care.

In order to see where we are going, we must reflect on the achievements of the past. Over the past year, a number of significant advancements have been made. First, we have secured funding for the Provincial Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) initiative. The main goal of this initiative is to ensure FASD services and supports are accessible throughout the province. We are working to achieve this goal through the expansion of the Métis Resource throughout the province. This approach is unique in that the role of the Métis Resource has been expanded to provide FASD supports to the child, the child's family and support network. To this end, we have also been working to develop capacity through partnership creation with the twelve Fetal Alcohol Networks in the Province. To date we have one formal agreement with the Edmonton Fetal Alcohol Network (EFAN). This partnership has provided us with

the opportunity to provide FASD support to the Edmonton and area Child and Family Service Authority.

Through our partnerships with Child and Family Service Authority region 6 and 7, we have worked to ensure cultural supports are available. The Métis Resource provides cultural supports to the CFSA staff, foster parents and others as requested. Some of the cultural supports include presentations, cultural resources (fact sheets, posters) particularly in regard to Métis history. Our Métis Resource work to ensure Métis children in care develop and maintain connection to Métis culture by ensuring children have cultural work plans on their file; and provides option for CFSA to participate in Métis week events and other activities throughout the year. This objective was the primary motivator for the formation of the MNA's cultural team.

Through the Public Health Surveillance Program, we are working to develop baseline information on the health status and health service use of Métis Albertans. One central tenant of the report is the lack of Métis children registered with the MNA. We are working to develop a strategy to this end to ensure that Métis children become registered with the MNA.

Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth 2011 - 2012

The Métis Nation of Alberta through our agreement with the Department of Canadian Heritage was able to improve the cultural, social, economic and personal prospects of the Urban Aboriginal Youth through the 16 projects funded throughout the Province for the 2011-2012 year. The Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth (CCAY) projects provided Aboriginal youth with accessible, community-based culturally focused projects for Aboriginal youth aged 10-24 that promoted:

- Cultural Development
- Community Engagement
- Leadership Development
- Life Skills and Wellness

Aboriginal youth were involved in the management of each project through a Youth Project Selection Committee (YPSC). The YPSC consists of a Métis youth aged 18 – 24 from each of the respective Regions, who are responsible for reviewing and recommending proposals for submission to the Department of Canadian Heritage. As well as, attending any monitors in their area when they are available.

Each year there are issues in trying to recruit enough youth representatives from each region. It is recommended that each Region be responsible to recruit a minimum of two Métis Youth for YPSC to ensure there are sufficient representatives to meet quorum at meetings.

Projects that were recommended for funding for the 2011-2012 year are as follows:

- Métis Nation of Alberta Region 1: Youth in Action
- Métis Nation of Alberta Region 2: Hidden Talents
- Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3: Power of Our Youth Through Mentoring and Culture
- Métis Nation of Alberta Region 5: Aboriginal Youth Cultural Development
- Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6: Who Am I?
- Métis Nation of Alberta Local 1990: Culturally Inspired Youth
- Métis Nation of Alberta Local 1994: Homework Connections
- Métis Nation of Alberta Local 2003: Cultural Mentorship Program
- Métis Crossing Foundation: Youth Leadership Team Project
- Miywasin Society of Aboriginal Services: Aboriginal Youth Development
- Dreamspeakers Festival Society: Capturing Culture on Film
- Sturgeon School Division: Heartbeat of Mother Earth
- Sturgeon Victims Services RCMP: Soaring Eagles
- Métis Settlements Youth Network Society: Tapwe Warriors

Over the past two years receiving funding in order to run projects has been a huge issue, resulting in projects being delayed or cancelled.

As of April 1, 2012 the complete CCAY file has been moved from the Department of Canadian Heritage to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AAND). The fiscal period of 2012-2013 will be a transition year with AAND as they work to develop policies and procedures for CCAY.

Ministry of Culture and Recreation



Welcome to the Métis Nation of Alberta’s 84th Annual General Assembly, hosted by MNA Region I. I would like to commend the Region for much of its hard work organizing this year’s AGM.

As Minister of Culture and Recreation for the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), I am charged with preserving and providing culturally correct information about Métis history and culture and recreational opportunities for all Métis in the province. With such a great task given to me it is a difficult to pursue projects and programs because of the lack of finances available.

Culture

Since being appointed Minister of Culture and Recreation, much of my work has been to provide guidance and support to the MNA’s Cultural team and Métis Crossing. The greatest challenge will be to find ongoing funding for the ministry and Métis Crossing.

The MNA cultural team is currently working on these in-house initiatives:

- Research and referencing historical and cultural material
- Developing fact sheets
 - Who are the Métis?
 - Métis Governance: Provisional Government, 1885, Provisional Government 1886, St. Albert 1870
 - Religion- An Introduction, Baptisms, Marriages, Pilgrimages.
- Métis heroes
- Governance
- Religion and lifestyle
- Currently working to research and complete fact sheets on the following: Holidays, St. Francis Xavier- Grant Town, Buffalo Hunt, Travel, Language, Livelihood/Occupation, Historical Settlements, Dress, Food and Entertainment.
- Calendar
 - Calendar for 2012 complete; however, given fiscal constraints it was decided to forgo 2012 calendar for and develop calendar for 2013 with distribution in August
 - Continue to purchase books, and print relevant articles - ongoing
- MNA cultural booth at CFSA Aboriginal Day in Stony Plain, on June 15th
- MNA Cultural Booth at Capital Ex
- National Day of the Flag
 - Proposed activities yet to be confirmed
- Box/Basket Social
 - Planning started

Recreation

Recreation, the MNA continues to research and provide guidance on provincial Aboriginal boards for sports councils. The ministry will soon recommend a member at large to sit on the board of the Indigenous Sports Council and the Edmonton Aboriginal Sports Council. The ministry will still look for federal opportunities for funding recreational opportunities for Métis in the Province and opportunities to find recreational opportunities for those who require help and assistance for medical conditions such as, diabetes and high blood pressure. As your minister in Culture and Recreation I will continue to work to promote our Métis Culture and the development of a strong cultural policy for the MNA.

James Atkinson,
Minister of Culture and Recreation

Ministry of Economic and Resource Development



Greetings to all the delegates, family and friends of the Métis Nation, thank you all for taking the time to attend the 2012 Annual Assembly. Your continued participation, guidance and council are what keep the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) alive and viable.

The reporting period for this Assembly is quite short since the election was conducted in September of 2011, and with many new members, the assignment of Ministries took longer as elected members’ experience and areas of strength were assessed.

During the last term, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed between TransCanada Pipelines Limited and the MNA.

The purpose of this MOU was to establish a cooperative process for the development of a mutually beneficial long-term relationship between TransCanada and the MNA on behalf of the Alberta Métis Community. And secondly, to establish a process to facilitate engagement, communications and consultation, where appropriate between TransCanada and the MNA on behalf of the Alberta Métis Community regarding existing TransCanada facilities and proposed TransCanada projects.

This is one of the most progressive agreements that the MNA has entered into. TransCanada is an honorable corporate body who acknowledges the Métis as one of Canada’s three Aboriginal People and recognized their duty to consult with the Métis. This agreement and process was a bit slow off the mark but now that we have our Community Liaison Officer (CLO) in place, the consultation process is flowing smoothly and our Regions and Locals have bought into the process and are taking advantage of consultation with TransCanada through our CLO. The process is working so well, that other Oil, Gas, Pipeline and Electric Transmission companies have asked to meet with the MNA to discuss this MOU and see if they might enter into a similar MOU with the MNA.

The Métis have always been entrepreneurs and played a vital role in the development of Canada, even before Canada became Canada. The Métis were skilled buffalo hunters, voyageurs, interpreters but most importantly, they were highly skilled traders. They learned quickly how to exploit natural resources like the meat of the buffalo, fish and furs and due to their mixed blood, they understood both societies and were able to work with both cultures and build successful trade relationships. This continues today with many Economic opportunities becoming available to we Métis. In the old days, the Métis would meet after the hunt and talk about trade opportunities and we still do this, not after a hunt but in the form of Strategic Business Conferences and Economic Summits.

In March, the MNC organized the Economic Development Summit 2012 at beautiful Grand Prairie Alberta. The Summit was attended by numerous Métis Businessmen and Entrepreneurs from the Métis Nation of B.C. and the Métis Nation of Alberta. The Federal Government and the Provincial Government had strong representation at the Summit as did many of our Industry Partners. At the Summit, we were able to review and learn more about:

- Partnerships and Joint Ventures
- Métis Procurement and the Private Sector
- Access to Business and Start-up Capital
- Labor Market Opportunities
- Northern Gateway

This Summit was a wonderful opportunity for we Métis business people to share ideas, share success stories and plan for the future. It was the first joint secession I can recall where our brothers and sisters from MNBC could sit with us and talk business and it won't be the last.

The Economic Development Summit also brought us success in another business opportunity. We invited a representative from Equity International Holding Inc. to attend the Summit with us and for him to see the quality of the Métis entrepreneur and to display to him the advantages we would have in working together in a strategic alliance / Joint Venture.

This has now become a reality. In May, we formed an arm's length Joint Venture company with Equity International that will conduct business under the name Métis Corp. The MNA owns 51% of the shares and Equity International own 49% of the shares.

Although still in its infancy, Métis Corp. has been developed to fill a large gap in the delivery of Aboriginal professional services to Industry in Alberta. It is apparent that there is a need for an Aboriginal organization with a group of technical service professionals who could provide Project Management, Logistics, Environmental Services, Engineering Services, Consumables and more, for a wide range of businesses in Alberta. We are currently developing a business model to form a safety supply company and provide our own branded safety products to industry in Western Canada. We are also exploring the possibility of providing our own branded medical supplies to Alberta Health Services. As mentioned, we are just getting Métis Corp. started but we have had hundreds of years of business experience, so I am confident in saying, "the future looks bright"

I would like to thank President Poitras for having the confidence in me to handle such an important portfolio and I pledge to work hard to help build a strong Nation. I would also like to remind the citizens of the Métis Nation of Alberta, we are here to promote your businesses and to help nurture and grow any business ideas you may have.

Toby Racette
Minister of Economic and Resource Development

Ministry of Education, Training and Research



Greetings! It is an honor and privilege to provide a ministerial introduction for the report to the membership for Education, Training and Research.

This ministry is a new direction for the Métis Nation of Alberta as it is now the collective approach for addressing the longstanding issue of education for Métis people in Alberta. It is an exciting time as the team of Rupertsland Institute (RLI) embarks on the huge task of ensuring the strategic plan encompasses the wide range of lifelong learning. The Board of Governors is comprised of individuals whose backgrounds of vast knowledge, honed skills and experience provide well thought out direction and

guidance to the professional, qualified and efficient employees of RLI. The staff is committed to embracing the path that will engage their participation for developing and implementing the program areas for the "new" responsibility of K-12 learning.

The Métis Nation of Alberta is a signatory to the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Protocol with the Province of Alberta. This agreement can be a useful tool for RLI to expand our network and learn new and innovative means of enhancing the existing systems to better meet the needs of Métis learners, educators and school boards in this province.

Post secondary institutions in Alberta have become valued partners through Memorandums of Understandings and Endowment Agreements for Métis attending their educational institute. These scholarships and bursaries have eased the financial burden for many Métis students and are designed to be available for years to come. The financial assistance to Métis students does not end there. Métis Nation of Alberta affiliates Apeetogosan, Métis Urban Housing Corporation and a number of the regional councils also have programs for financial assistance.

The attached annual report will provide you with an overview of the year's activities, programs and operations of the Education, Training and Research initiatives and successes.

I would like to express thanks to President Poitras and the Provincial Council for the confidence and trust for the mandate of Métis education to Rupertsland Institute. Education and lifelong learning are the foundations of our Nation and our future generations. I look forward to the challenges, growth and accomplishments that will be achieved by the Métis steering the education of our own.

Respectfully,
Karen (KC) Collins
Minister of Education, Training and Research



The Rupertsland Institute is part of the Métis public service under the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA). It has a mandate to deliver education, training and research initiatives on behalf of the Métis citizens. The narrative report below outlines the key activities under the Rupertsland Institute for the 2011-12 fiscal year.

Introduction

The MNA has made the transition from being more than just a representative body; it is an organization that is responsible and accountable for the on-going delivery of programs and services. As an organization, it continues to develop the Métis public service, and has made significant strides and has been very successful at incubating initiatives that grow to become full-fledged affiliates of the organization. Each affiliate enjoys its own service mandate and Board of Directors and the Rupertsland Institute, is the most recent affiliate born with the mandate to become the education, training and research arm of the MNA.

Métis Education and Advancement

Under the RLI Memorandum of Association (2010 bylaws), the MNA granted RLI a limited mandate on post-secondary education. The objectives are to engage both federal and provincial governments, learning institutions, industry and the Métis community, to promote partnerships and to enhance education, training, and employment opportunities for Métis students attending post-secondary schooling. To do this the education division of RLI would administer all post-secondary endowments created under the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Métis Education Foundation.

In 2011-12, the MNA Provincial Council passed another resolution granting RLI an expanded mandate on education. This would include the education responsibilities for Métis children attending school from kindergarten to Grade 12. The expanded mandate reflects the Provincial Council’s desire to collect all organizational efforts regarding education and to merge these efforts under “one roof.” As such, the RLI organizational chart has been revised to reflect the expanded mandate and has added as a division called “Métis Education and Advancement” to its organizational structure. It also means the work plans of RLI will now include the activities of this new division, and for this purpose the funding typically in place at the education sector of the MNA will now be transferred to the RLI for April 1, 2012 programming.

To get the mandate off the ground RLI staff worked with the MNA President to request meetings with the ministries of Alberta Education and Advanced Education and Technology, and subsequently attended meetings with the Minister of Education and the Deputy Minister of Education.

Other meetings at the officials’ level were also held with Alberta Advanced Education and Technology to discuss RLI’s mandate on education and the future possibility of a MOU between RLI and the Alberta Government departments of Education, Advanced Education and Technology and Human Services. If signed, a MOU would help guide RLI annual work plans on education over the next three years. In addition, a joint strategy of this nature would bring together Alberta’s policy initiatives on Aboriginal education (FNMI policy) and Labour Force Strategy (Connecting the Dots) into one room. In the 2010-11 annual report to the Assembly, it was stated that RLI had secured five post-secondary endowments on behalf of the Métis Education Foundation (MEF) and that another four endowments were in the process of negotiation. These new endowments are now in place which brings the total to nine and meetings are under way with the Athabasca University (AU) to discuss the possibility of creating endowment “number 10” at this university. The AU is very open to

such a partnership and at the time of writing, future meetings are planned with AU to bring forward its Métis student enrolment counts for group review and further discussion.

With respect to how well the existing endowments are doing, a consultant was hired to determine how the MEF endowments are doing relative to student access. The interim reports from some institutions seem to reveal that student knowledge of, and access to endowments is a growing challenge and this may be indicative of misaligned marketing. As such, RLI is re-aligning a strategy for the marketing of endowments and may include this endeavor under the proposed MOU with Alberta Advanced Education. A full report will be forwarded once the research is completed.

RLI continues to receive numerous invitations at this time of year to attend graduations throughout the province as well as many other meeting and conference requests. Of particular interest are those that come from post-secondary institutions to attend receptions for the recipients of Métis Scholar Bursary Awards. It is a great experience to see and hear from the students who have benefited from the work that has been done on endowments and how much these students really appreciate the awards.

Métis Training to Employment

The Métis Training to Employment program is the most well-known service delivery arm of Rupertsland Institute. Its objects are to identify and promote actions that improve skill levels and employment opportunities for Métis people, and to manage and deliver programs that enable Métis individuals to pursue training and/or education, and to find productive and well-paying occupations and employment.

Aboriginal Skills Employment and Training Strategy (ASETS)

As reported last year, the labour market development program formerly held at the MNA is now under the stewardship of RLI which is the signatory to the ASETS (AHRDA) Agreement effective October 2010. As a national program

under HRSDC, ASETS is based upon three pillars: 1) demand-driven skills development; 2) partnerships, and 3) enhanced accountability.

The Métis Training to Employment (MTE) program follows the same principles established by the MNA under the former Labour Market Development program and maintains a commitment to excellence, program accountability, partnerships, and demand-driven skills development under the ASETS. In the same fashion, the organizational structure allows for standardized client service delivery through a network of Métis Training to Employment Services (MTES) centres, while centralizing financial and administrative accountability at the RLI head office.

MTE Objectives:

- To assist Métis individuals to prepare for, find and keep employment, thereby resulting in client self-sufficiency and savings to income support programs;
- To ensure that Métis women, Métis youth and Métis persons with disabilities access a fair share of MTE resources as they prepare, find and keep employment;
- To create labour market programs that are designed to meet the needs of the Métis community and industry, and that are accountable to the Métis Nation, and its funding agencies;
- To create and make available a distinct set and diverse network of Métis employment services comparable to mainstream services and to locate these services as close as possible to the Métis client community; and,
- To stimulate, mobilize, and encourage industry and other community partners to act in partnership with the Métis Nation of Alberta on labour market related issues and/or activity designed to increase Métis participation in the economy.

MTE Services continues to work with Métis clients who are seeking assistance in a number of areas, with the objective of producing a trained, self-sufficient client with enhanced prospects for a job.

From April 1st 2010 to March 31st 2011 **a total of 767 clients had started a skills enhancement intervention**, which is down slightly from the 800 clients reported in the last fiscal year.

From the total, a number of Métis clients were involved in project-based training. For the calendar year however, the finance department prepared 993 T4As for sponsored clients and/or students, while 66 T-4s were prepared for staff.

A new mobile MTE Services vehicle was fully outfitted with computers and equipment and has begun operating on a regular rural route.

Rather than dispose of the old mobile unit, RLI made the decision to update and operate the unit as an urban MTE Services unit on a trial basis. It will be available for special events and will go to different schools, and urban locations in the cities of Edmonton and Calgary.

RLI has also begun the process of having new exterior signage installed with the RLI logos at each MTES location, and has continued renovation upgrades at some locations.

In February 2012, RLI presented a proposal to MNA Provincial Council to allow for the transfer of KETO Inc. assets to the RLI-MTE program administration. Approval was eventually granted from the KETO Board on behalf of MNA Provincial Council, and the RLI BOG has now accepted responsibility for the direct management of KETO under MTE administration.

A new unit called KETO Data Services has been set up under RLI Operations with its own Associate Director. As a result “Licensing and Support Agreements” have been updated and new relationships have been established by RLI with existing KETO clients. KETO licensing and user fees have been slightly reduced to make KETO more competitive with the view that this

will result in a greater client base over time.

With business as usual, KETO staff are working extensively with three new agreement holders in Ontario, and seem to be making some headway into Manitoba and British Columbia.

To date, KETO Data Services has clients in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, NWT and Nunavut. Revenues generated under the KETO system will help offset KETO administration costs.

Research and Professional Development

Until recently, the research and Professional Development Services arm of RLI served under MTE operations on the organizational chart. With the changes made to KETO and the expanded mandate on education, the organizational chart required some revisions as well. Effective April 1st RLI will lift this function from MTE operations and place it under the Research arm of RLI. The new division will be called Research and Professional Development (RPD).

The RPD division will also provide administrative support and/or materials support to the Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research (RCMR) as was agreed under the signing of the RCMR agreement between RLI and the University of Alberta. As well, all labour market development research coming from RLI will be directed through the RPD division and will be offered to the RCMR as commissioned research opportunities.

With the three new divisions or units at RLI including Métis Education and Advancement, Research and Professional Development, and KETO Data Services, RLI will now have five Associate Directors each of whom will report directly to the Director of Operations at RLI.

During the Mid-Year dialogue with HRSDC, RLI identified a number of items that required clarification from the department in regard to the ASETS agreement. As follow-up, RLI suggested, and HRSDC agreed, to sponsor a workshop that

would include all Alberta ASETS technicians to provide a forum for dialogue with HRSDC officials on items of concern under the MYD including other areas of concern. RLI is scheduled to serve as co-chair at this forum and has placed Client Data Management (KETO) on the agenda.

At a higher level, the RPD Associate Director continues to represent RLI interests at the national level with the Métis Human Resources Development Agreement (MHRDA) Working Group.

This Working Group represents the Métis National Council’s collective interests on Aboriginal labour market programming and not only negotiates the ASETS templates for contribution agreements, but also the national architecture on ASETS structures and processes, which in turn feeds into Treasury Board submissions to Parliament regarding this program.

Changes to Rupertsland Institute Board of Governors

Like most governance structures, the face of RLI’s Board of Governors changes from time-to-time, as BOG members resign or leave for various reasons. The current make-up of the nine-member Board of Governors is as follows:

Rupertsland Institute
Board of governors

- Métis Member and Chair: Dr. Tracy L. Friedel (PhD) - Assistant Professor, University of British Columbia
- Métis Member and Vice-Chair: Dr. Herb Belcourt (PhD Hon; CM, LLD (hon)) - Philanthropist, and Retired Businessman
- Ex-Officio: Audrey Poitras - President, Métis Nation of Alberta
- Ex-Officio: Karen Collins - MNA Ministry for Education, Training and Research
- Ex-Officio: Dr. George Pavlich (PhD) - Associate Vice-President of Research, University of Alberta
- Ex-Officio: Dr. Nathalie Kermoal (PhD) - Interim Dean, Faculty of Native Studies, University of Alberta
- Private Sector Member: and Treasurer: Don Sieben (MBA; FCA) - partner, Peterson and Walker Chartered Accountants
- Government of Alberta: John Phillips (BALB) - Chair, Alberta Law Enforcement Review Board
- Métis Member and Secretary: Bruce A. Gladue - Aboriginal Relations Specialist - Energy Resources Conservation Board

*Note: Rupertsland Institue will provide their 18-month annual report at the MNA AGM.

Ministry of Environment and Water



As a fairly new member to the MNA Provincial Council, I would like to extend my appreciation to members who have placed their trust and confidence in me to perform the dual roles of vice-president and Minister of Environment and Water. Over the past eight months, we have worked on a broad range of matters from Crown-Métis relations and legal issues, internal and external policy matters, partnerships, consultation, traditional land use studies to identifying historic communities.

As I work on building a portfolio for the MNA and members within, I dedicate my efforts to the principles of honesty, transparency, accountability and strengthening relationships with First Nations and Métis settlement neighbours across the province.

There are numerous organizations throughout the province that do require representation from this organization, and I sincerely encourage members to come forward and participate. On the other-hand, there are members doing some great work out there today and I would like to hear from you! In the read that follows, you will learn about the organizations that I am currently involved with and brief updates about those that continue to involve members at their tables. Mark your calendars with the upcoming events and community information sessions.

In the next few months, I will work on meeting regional project obligations and also be looking to capture the attention of government committees and sub-committees to ensure that the Métis voice is heard during this transition of restructuring inter-governmental policies, programs and services.

The Minister of Environment & Water for the province of Alberta is mandated to work on some very significant plans and we want to participate in the Joint Canada-Alberta implementation Plan for Oil Sands Monitoring. The Governments are working together on a phased and adaptive approach to strengthening environmental monitoring programs for air, water, land and biodiversity in the oil sands region. They are moving along with an integrated system that sets potential outcomes resulting from resource development and the social license to develop resources. Regional plans and the Regulatory Enhancement Project, including the development of a single regulator for oil and gas, are well underway.

A world-class monitoring system, an expanded market system that develops new access (e.g. through pipelines and rail) to markets outside the United States are initiatives that have not involved the MNA, to my knowledge. We would appreciate involvement and active engagement during the process so steps can be taken to ensure that there is not

only representation, but results that includes Métis interests.

With respect to the duty to consult, in 2011, the updated guidelines for federal officials to fulfill the legal duty to consult were released to federal officials. These guidelines provide clear direction on the government-wide responsibility of departments and agencies to fulfil this obligation. It is my belief, and that of many others in Canada, that the legal framework for Canada's relationship with Métis people will evolve over time and the end result will be a Métis-specific Consultation and accommodation course of action.

The governments have been guided by the courts and will continue to be guided by the courts with respect to Métis consultation, harvesting, rights, and land claims. In 2008, the federal government began a process to address the duty to consult and accommodate in a more complete response. The engagement on consultation and accommodation initiatives being undertaken are based on court decisions that require governments to ensure that Aboriginal perspectives are considered when projects will have an impact on Aboriginal ways of life.

And so, it is with determination that the Métis people of Alberta voice our concerns to ensure that any project takes into account its effects on non-renewable natural resources. The MNA is committed to monitor industry and government through its negotiations against long-term negative impacts from development and to engage wherever possible to be proactive for the benefit of our environment and communities.

On a positive note, Alberta's ongoing engagement with Métis is also helping the province to identify geographic areas where the Métis exercise Rights and Traditional Uses on record. Knowing which region and Locale to notify and consult on specific resource development projects is a crucial step to effective and meaningful consultation.

We contend with standard timelines, notifications and work hard to identify potential adverse impacts before the normal regulatory project approval timelines apply and opportunity passes us by. Alberta's regulatory approval processes often consider the efforts of Proponents to address Métis concerns by making changes to projects aimed at minimizing impacts on Rights and Traditional Uses.

Energy Resources Conservation Board – Acknowledges Métis in *Directive 056*

“The **ERCB's Directive 056**: Energy Development Application and Schedule deals with the requirements and procedures for filing a license application to construct or operate any petroleum industry energy development that includes facilities, pipeline or wells.

Section 2 Participant Involvement: is an umbrella encompassing all aspects of the public, industry, and regulator interactions and communications. While the three main participant groups in energy development are industry, the public, and the ERCB, it is recognized that

other groups also have a stake in energy development. All requirements and expectations detailed in this section apply to personal consultation and notification with all potentially directly and adversely affected persons, including First Nations and Métis. These requirements and expectations apply to the licensing of all new energy developments, as covered in Directive 056.

In 2.5 Expiry of the Personal Consultation and Notification Program, part (56): the applicant must attempt to address concerns/objections and answer questions raised by members of the public, industry, government representatives, First Nations, Métis, and other interested parties throughout the lifetime of the project.” Learn more at ercb.ca

Specific information about a Métis community’s contemporary practices of traditional uses greatly aids Alberta in effective resource management decision-making and in the consultation process. Specific Métis traditional use information provided to Alberta also helps the government protect significant sites from development and builds a foundation for future consultation activities. Broad-based studies and project specific ones are benefiting MNA and Locales to exercise their rights and contribute to the practice of environmental stewardship.

The information and perspective on wildlife species that the Métis bring forward cannot be found in published science literature.

Learn more about the projects in your region’s backyard and determine your role in environmental stewardship and TK work, I suggest that you call your region or Local leaders. Get involved and leave your legacy for generations to come.

The MNA’s actions on economic priorities and initiatives are opportunity driven, result focused and partnership based. We are preparing Métis individuals for sustainable, meaningful employment by supporting demand-driven skills development and fostering partnerships with the private sector, provinces and territories, while emphasizing increased accountability and concrete results. Even more important, the lives of Métis people are being improved, prospering from new opportunities every day.

Regional business mixers are a great way to involve the Métis business community, entrepreneurs and individuals looking for career direction or employment with industry members. Plan to attend the next one in your region today!

Métis National Council Environment

As one of the duties of MNA Minister for Environment and Water, I sit on the Métis National Council Environment committee who met in March 2012. The MNC reported on national and international activities, including updates with the National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk; Land Matters Group Steering Committee on National Energy Board, United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, Climate Change, Global Mercury, Canada’s proposed National Conservation Plan; Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, as well as the anticipated effects of the federal budget.

Meeting outcomes included recommendation that the MNC Board of Governors express Métis concerns to the federal government at the dismantling of the environmental review process without any form of consultation. Environment Canada and Fisheries and Ocean Canada have invited Métis to review the draft federal policy agreements.

The Committee expressed interest to work together in developing a more effective process in Traditional Land Use management, such as a common mapping mechanism that will be uniform across the Homeland while enhancing opportunities for continued practice of traditional uses and constitutionally protected rights.

This group meets once a year and plans to use an e-conferencing service to work on governance policy initiatives as well.

North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance - NSWA

North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) is a non-profit society whose purpose is to contribute to the protection of water quality, water supplies, ecosystem function and improved watershed health through the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders and interested individuals.

On June 20, 2012 the NSWA hosted their 12th Annual General Meeting in Nisku, AB. There were over 60 attendees at this very successful event. I am pleased to inform members that I will be representing the MNA as a Board of Director for a new two year term (2012-2014).

During the AGM, two milestone documents were released for the NSWA: the final Integrated Watershed Management Plan for the North Saskatchewan River in Alberta, along with the Atlas of the North Saskatchewan River Watershed in Alberta. Learn more: nswa.ab.ca

Upcoming Events - *This is your opportunity to get involved!*

Annual Conference for The Partners for the Saskatchewan River Basin, in collaboration with the Battle River Watershed Alliance: October 17-19, 2012 in Camrose, Alberta.

WPAC Summit: September 24 – 27, 2012 in Milk River, Alberta.

Update on the Final Recovery Strategy for Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population

Environment Canada began the consultation period in August, 2011 and ended it on February, 2012. Consultation is a legal requirement under Canada’s *Species at Risk Act*.

Due to the high volume and nature of comments received regarding the proposed recovery strategy for the Woodland Caribou, Boreal population, and ongoing consultations with Aboriginal communities, which have included Métis, Environment Canada will post a delayed strategy later than they intended.



“Habitat loss emerged as the most common threat to Canadian wildlife, underscoring that all species, not just our own, need a healthy home in order to thrive.”

Conservation Strategy for Southern Mountain Caribou in Canada’s National Parks-Parks Canada

The Conservation Strategy for Southern Mountain Caribou in Canada’s National Parks will guide Parks Canada’s caribou conservation actions. Parks Canada is actively seeking feedback on this strategy to ensure that the best possible management decisions are being made in support of Southern Mountain caribou conservation.

The MNA has been invited to participate in community sessions later this Fall in north east and north western Alberta to give members an opportunity to voice their concerns and contribute to the strategy: watch for notices in regional offices!

The success of protecting this iconic species at risk depends on cooperation and efforts from many partners, including other governments, private sector, researchers and scientists, recreationists, and the public who join us in treasuring and protecting Canada’s National parks and threatened species.

Lakeland Industry & Community Association - LICA

Lakeland Industry & Community Association (LICA) is a not-for-profit society that is a multi-stakeholder partnership between community, industry and government. LICA is a member of Synergy Alberta, formed to support the efforts of community-based synergy groups across Alberta.

LICA’s primary role is to work collaboratively with its stakeholders to ensure that industry development is managed responsibly, to facilitate each party’s voice at the table when community, industry and government meet to discuss issues concerning our environment and resource development in the LICA geographic area. I have been involved with LICA for over three years, where I have held seats on the Board of Directors, Beaver River Watershed Alliance, Education and Information Committee and Airshed Zone, as the Métis Nation of Alberta Zone II representative.

Beaver River Watershed Alliance - BRWA

The Beaver River Watershed Alliance (BRWA) is an independent standing committee of LICA, which also incorporates the participation of individuals and organizations from the broader BRWA membership.

Cumulative Environmental Management Association- CEMA

CEMA is a multi-stakeholder society that is a key advisor to the provincial and federal governments committed to respectful, inclusive dialogue to make recommendations to manage the cumulative environmental effects of regional development on air, land, water and biodiversity. *CEMA currently has representation from Region I MNA and 7 Locals within the Wood Buffalo region.*

The Traditional Environmental Knowledge Advisory Committee (TEKAC) completed important projects this year, as well as holding a successful event for Aboriginal members of CEMA. The Bibliography Update of CEMA’s TEK Research Database, in partnership with the Athabasca River Basin Research Institute at the Athabasca University, is complete.

Community Advisory Board-Enbridge Northern Gateway Project

Region II has been part of the Enbridge Northern Gateway CAB around its inception several years ago. I participate as an Alternate Board member and represent north eastern Alberta. There are 5 CAB’s along the route from several communities. CAB’s provide the opportunity for communities to discuss the proposed pipeline project. Once a year Enbridge brings all the CAB members together to meet and have discussions and provide learning opportunities.

I welcome your ideas and your involvement in all aspects of the tasks and responsibilities entailed in the environment & water portfolio: shirleybenson@sis.net.

Sincerely,

Shirley Benson
Minister of Environment & Water

Ministries

Ministry of Forestry and Lands



The MNA in the past several years had a contract with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development to recruit and dispatch Crew members of both Type 1 and Type 2. This year in Region 5, we administered a Type 0 contract. A type 0 contract is exercised as a starting point for most contractors starting out. From an Economic and Development stand point, Region 5 has hired an affiliate Registered Forestry Technician, named Perm Seusihei. Perm has a contingency of several G. I. F. System, for mapping in Alberta. Perm has mentioned to me that he has 200,000 tree seedlings ready for Reforestation in the oil and gas sector in early July of this year 2012. Pipelines and Leases for both oil and gas sector.

The MNA in the past has never had a Portfolio holder to carry out Lands as part of a Portfolio. As part of my Portfolio, in Region 5 I have been working with the Trappers Mandate and exercising the Rights to Métis Trappers as a whole and exercising rights as a Métis person in general. After all the mandate was written in 1980, where oil and gas in industry have never compensated Trappers for the most part in my region, as far as other Regions are I will start to comprise a list of other trappers in other Regions. As a Minister of Forestry and Lands, this would be key from both past and present to see how they were treated and how their livelihoods were changed and altered because of our ever so changing Global Economy.

In closing on June 6th 2012, I met with Ghostpine Environmental Services LTD. and G.C.L. Contracting representatives' in Central office. The affiliation of both parties involved will resonate what I have been striving for the MNA to work towards a Stewardship of Environmental job scope for each Region in the Province.

As Minister of Forestry and Lands, I will be striving to combine Forestry and Lands as a stewardship approach to stakeholders of both Government and Industry players of our Global autonomy or economy. One of the Pods that Alison Redford and P.C. constituents are consulting right now is Alberta Resource Stewardship. Community initiatives in this sector, will enhance the Regional communities own Stewardship Programming. It would be better coming from our council as a whole entire nation however.

In closing as Minister of Forestry and Lands the MNA needs to be the Aboriginal Stewardship that Government of both Provincial and Federal levels need to hear from and Ghostpine Environmental Services can provide that. Region 5 has started to let industry know about our Stewardship work already.

Darrell Ghostkeeper
Minister of Forestry and Lands

Ministry of Health and Wellness



I respectfully submit the Métis Health and Wellness, three-year Ministerial Action Plan, 2012-2015.

The Action Plan will delineate the means by which the Ministry will respond to the needs of Métis children, families and communities in Alberta.

The Ministry recognizes that a number of programs sit on the parameters of a number of different Ministries, but also jurisdictions; therefore a commitment is required between this Ministry, the Ministry of Seniors, and the Minister of Child and Family Services and our provincial and federal partners to work together to ensure our families and communities are equipped with the tools necessary for a

successful future; namely security, education and health.

The Ministry is committed to ensuring health and wellness programs incorporate the cultural and social realities of our Métis communities. To this end, this Ministry has a keen interest and enthusiasm in pursuing the development of a responsive, accessible healthcare service delivery model, like a Family Care Clinic (FCC) to support Métis communities with a focus on health promotion and chronic disease management. In acceptance of this, the Ministry acknowledges that it is paramount that new programs continue to be met in an effective and efficient manner, which does not compromise the successful implementation of the Métis Nation of Alberta's mandate. To this end, the Ministry will work to implement a Health and Wellness policy to guide decisions and priorities relative to the sector; and (2) a Métis Health and Wellness Advisory Committee to oversee and prioritize health and wellness activities and ethical considerations for the community.

The year 2011-2012 has been monumental for the Ministry. Significant advancements have been made in regard to Métis health research and data collection; and program and service delivery. We have made a key contribution to Métis health data collection and research with the first evidence-based Métis population health report Health Status of the Métis Population of Alberta.

Further, we have begun to extend opportunities for partnership to Alberta Health Services to ensure health programs and services are accessible and relevant to the socio-economic realities of Métis Albertans. We have extended our capacity to provide relevant and culturally appropriate support to those affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) to children, families, child and family service providers and health practitioners by expanding the role of the Métis Resource worker to support the MNA Region 3 area.

To this end, we recognize these achievements have provided us with the opportunity to lay the foundation for fundamental changes to the way provincial and federal partners respond to

the needs of our Métis families and communities. The Ministry is committed to continue to work to ensure the betterment of our Métis children, families and communities and the overall wellbeing of the Métis Nation.

Marlene Lanz
Minister of Métis Health and Wellness

Accountability Statement

This Action Plan was prepared under my direction, taking into consideration the Métis Nation of Alberta’s Bylaws. All of the Ministry’s fiscal implications of which I am aware have been considered in preparing this Action Plan.

The Ministries priorities outlined were developed in the context of the Métis Nation of Alberta’s Strategic Plan and fiscal plans.

I am committed to addressing the steps laid out in this Action Plan by entering into cross-ministerial planning wherever appropriate.

Origins and Actions

Healthy Families, Strong Communities, Promising Opportunities: 2012-2015 Action Plan, will delineate the means by which the Ministry of Métis Health and Wellness will respond to the needs of Métis children, families and communities in Alberta. The Action Plan will provide a clear framework for Métis Nation of Alberta decision makers, program coordinators, and community and government partners to pursue appropriate initiatives to safeguard the health and wellbeing of Métis Albertans including:

- Community Engagement & Awareness Promotion
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Métis Health Research, Data Collection and Analysis
- Programs and Services

The Ministry of Métis Health and Wellness: an overview

Partners

The Ministry of Métis Health and Wellness works collaboratively with a broad range of partners including:

- Métis Nation of Alberta Provincial and Regional Councils
- Métis Nation of Alberta Ministries
- Métis Nation of Alberta administrative departments
- Academia, industry and business sectors

For budget reporting purposes, the Ministry consists of the following reporting entities:

- Métis Provincial FASD- Provincial- Child and Family Service Authority
- Edmonton Fetal Alcohol Network- Provincial
- CFSA 6 and CFSA 7 Métis Resource- Provincial- Child and Family Service Authority
- Métis Public Health Surveillance Program – Federal, Public Health Agency of Canada
- Métis Public Health Surveillance Program – Provincial, Alberta Health and Wellness
- Services to Children and Family, Provincial- Ministry of Human Services

It is my intention as the Minister responsible to continue to seek other Health and Wellness programs and services that will support and enable us to continue being ‘a strong Métis Nation embracing Métis rights’.

Moving Forward

The Ministry of Health and Wellness’ approach builds upon the conceptualization that health is a community priority with interventions premised on a unified plan based on community input. Therefore, a formalized framework to guide health and wellness decisions including, a clearly defined policy, mission and goals is necessary.

Policy

A policy premised on the goal of supporting and improving the overall health and wellbeing of Métis Albertans will enable MNA decision makers to have stewardship over health and wellness outcomes for our families and communities. Moreover, it will allow us to make decisive recommendations to government partners, service providers and educators on guiding principles; and provide a framework for ongoing assessment of the relevance health and wellness programs and services.

Mission

Predicated on the principles of fairness, equality and inclusiveness, the Mission of the Ministry of Métis Health and Wellness is to provide culturally appropriate, self-directed health and wellness opportunities to address the mental, physical, emotional, and social requirements of Métis individuals, families and communities.

Goal

The goal of the Ministry is to work to support and improve the overall health and wellbeing of Métis families, and communities in Alberta.

Ministry of Housing



I am very pleased to have been appointed as the Minister of Housing for the Métis Nation of Alberta. Thank you President Poitras for giving me the opportunity to serve the Métis Nation through this great housing portfolio.

My family has always been involved in the business of real estate rentals and insurance. This housing appointment will truly enhance the training courses I have taken for home appraisal and cost value, home inspections and General Insurance 1. Through my work at the Co-operators Insurance in Edson and Yellowknife, I believe I have a good knowledge as well as a solid background in the business of housing. Working at a recycling depot was also a hand on experience dealing with the whole issue of household waste and recyclables. I will dedicate myself to assisting in the advancement of Métis housing.

Since my appointment, I have attended MUHC/MCHC housing meetings, an open house and grand opening of the new Larry Demeules Building celebrating 30 years in business. My most heartfelt congratulations goes out to MUHC/MCHC Board and staff for all their achievements, moving forward through tough economic times, always working for the betterment of the Métis families.

It is a privilege to work with CAO Darlene Lennie and Chair Wendy Goulet. Strong leadership, tutoring and mentoring to the staff and Board of Directors is an interesting, challenging, enjoyable experience. I truly hope my input and ideas will prove beneficial to all. As a bonus I might get to meet Mike Holmes from Holmes on Homes.

I am extremely honored to be given the reins from the past Minister of Housing, the Late Ephram Bouvier. I have sat on provincial council with Ephram and on a MUHC housing initiative and know that he was very proud and happy with his most cherished and coveted housing portfolio. I would like to say to him today, “Thank you Ephram, you have left MNA Métis Housing in very good condition. Thank you from us all!”

As you look through our featured portfolio in the MNA annual report you will see all the initiatives and endeavors that the MUHC/MCHC has show cased. I think you will be as pleased as I am realizing we are serving the Métis people; Elders through our senior programs, rental to students who are pursuing post secondary education and of course our families through our affordable housing.

Best wishes and regards to all,
Sylvia Johnson
Minister of Housing

Greetings from Wendy Goulet, Chair of MUHC/MCHC:

As a member of the Board of Directors since 2006, and in my role as President, I am privileged to participate with and witness the evolution of MUHC/MCHC. Following the unanimous shareholders motion 2007 and support and direction from the Board of Directors Métis Capital and Urban Housing have been not only successful with new housing initiatives and partnerships but have achieved acknowledgment at an International level. Under the direction and strong leadership of Darlene Lennie, Executive Director, and supportive staff both MUHC/MCHC are corporations to be proud of. Congratulations, job well done!

Ministry of Justice



Greetings! Firstly, I would like to introduce myself, my name is Joseph (Joe) Pimlott and I am the Vice President of Region 3 and the new Minister of Justice. I live in Calgary and have for the past 25 years. This is my first term in office and I am quite excited and proud to be able to serve the Métis people of Alberta as the Regional representative and Justice Minister.

I believe that we need a strong Justice Ministry in the MNA. Having multiple arms and areas of expertise is the key to a successful Métis Nation. It is imperative that we have a voice in all areas of the Justice Realm. From a local level to working with all parts of the Provincial and Federal Government, but also our Métis issues we are battling, and I plan to work hard with the other Ministers to get results.

Since my inception as Minister I have begun to establish and integrate myself into society. I have had the Honor of travelling to Saskatoon to be a part of the Métis Residential Schools Conference with some of our delegates and survivors. It was one of the most moving experiences I will never forget.

I am also working with the Alberta Restorative Justice Committee to produce a Justice Conference in Calgary in the coming months.

I am also working with multiple committees to battle homelessness in our Province and look forward to more endeavours that I can contribute to for the Métis Nation.

I believe that when we take on these portfolios, we also take on the hopes and dreams of our Métis Nation. I am honoured to be Minister of Justice and will do my best to work for the Métis people of Alberta.

Joseph Pimlott
Minister of Justice

Ministry of Métis Rights and Registry



Métis Rights Update

In June 2011 the Alberta Court of Queen’s Bench heard our Appeal in our Métis harvesting test case – R. v. Hirsekorn. The decision was handed down by Judge Ted Fisher on December 1, 2011 wherein Mr. Hirsekorn was convicted for hunting without a licence near Cypress Hills. While we were disappointed with this decision, we always knew this was a ‘test case’ and it would be an uphill battle as we pursued our hunt for justice.

In January 2012, the Alberta Court of Appeal agreed to hear our appeal. Since January 2012, our lawyers – Jean Teillet and Jason Madden – have been working to prepare our appeal. In May 2012, several groups, including, the Métis National Council, the Blood Tribe and Siksika Nation

applied to the Court and received Intervener status.

Our lawyers have now completed their written arguments. For those that are interested, you can obtain a copy of the written arguments which are available at www.albertametis.com.

We expect to have an exact date for the hearing of our appeal very soon. Given the fact that Alberta and the Interveners still need to file their written arguments, it is likely we will not have a hearing of our appeal until January or February 2013.

While our Métis harvesting rights appeal is ongoing, the “parking lot” of Métis harvesting rights cases at Sherwood Park Provincial Court continues to be adjourned pending the outcome of the appeal.

In addition to our harvesting rights case, we are eagerly awaiting a decision from the Supreme Court of Canada in the Manitoba Métis Federation Land Claim Case. As you know, the MNA intervened in this case before the Supreme Court and stressed the need for Métis land rights to finally be dealt with. It is likely this decision will be handed down in the Fall of 2012, and we will keep all members updated.

For those who can, please consider making a donation to support our fight for Métis rights. Donation cheques made payable to the “MNA Harvesters Defence Fund” can be mailed to the MNA Head Office at 100, 11738 Kingsway Ave, Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5. As well, donations can be made on-line at www.albertametis.com.

Registry Update

2012 marks the eighth (8th) year the Métis Nation of Alberta Registry Department has been in operation. Our Registry continues to build improvements in processes, capacity building and tools to ensure that we are capturing statistical information regarding the citizens of our great

Nation. The Registry is now creating partnerships with other MNA departments in statistical data gathering, specifically in the areas of Health and Wellness and Services to Children and Families.

Under my direction, the Métis Nation of Alberta continues delivering a central registry for granting membership that was started in 1991 – the same year that we proclaimed ourselves a Nation and changed our name from the Métis Association of Alberta to the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Our Métis definition has undergone several changes since we established a central registry. Additionally, the processing of granting membership cards has also gone through major changes, especially since 2004.

Prior to 1991, the Métis Association of Alberta utilized a broad definition: A Métis is an aboriginal person who:

- Declares himself/herself to be a Métis person and
- Can produce satisfactory historical or acceptable legal proof that he/she is a Métis, or
- Has traditionally held himself/herself out to be Métis; and
- Is accepted by the Métis community as a Métis

Two types of memberships were issued mainly through Métis Locals:

- Lifetime Member – as per the foregoing definition, and
- Honourary Member - means any person appointed by the Board as a Honourary Member who shall not be entitled to vote at any meetings of the Local and shall not be required to pay any membership fees.

In 1996 the definition changed as follows:

“Métis” means an Aboriginal person who self-identifies as Métis, who is distinct from Indian, and Inuit and is a descendant of those Métis who received or were entitled to receive land grants and/or Scrip under the provisions of the Manitoba Act 1870, or the dominion Lands Act, as enacted from time to time and a person of Aboriginal descent who is accepted by the Local Community as a Métis person.

A Métis must provide historical proof of his or her status as Métis – by providing evidence of an ancestor who received a land grant or a scrip grant under the Manitoba Act or the Dominion Lands Act, or who was recognized as a Métis in other government, church or community records.

The 1996 Bylaws allowed three types of Membership:

- Lifetime Member – a Métis who has received membership in the Métis Nation; or a Métis Child who has received membership;
- Associate Member - any non-Métis spouse including a common law spouse, of a Métis Lifetime member; or any Non-Métis dependent of a Métis Lifetime member
- Honourary Member - any person appointed by the Provincial Council of the Métis Nation as a Honourary Member.

- Is accepted by the Métis community as a Métis

The membership office was mandated to issue membership cards containing the following particulars of each person:

- the full name
- the date on which the person is admitted as a member;
- the type of membership

In spite of this bylaw requirement, “the type of membership” was never noted on the membership card prior to issuance. The same Red and White laminated Membership and ID card was used for any type membership with no distinction. Today this has resulted potentially in membership cards being issued to individuals who were Associate Members or Honourary Members with no proof of their Métis ancestry.

In 2003, the current definition of Métis which is based on the National Definition of Métis was adopted.

“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.

A Métis must provide historical proof of his or her status as Métis.

Historical Proof

Evidence of an ancestor who received a land grant or a scrip grant under the Manitoba Act or the Dominion Lands Act, or who was recognized as a Métis in other government, church or community records

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

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.

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

Distinct from other Aboriginal peoples means distinct for cultural and nationhood purposes
There is now only one type of membership – Lifetime Member. This membership is issued only after the applicant has proven their Métis ancestry through verified and thoroughly researched genealogy.

Improvements continue to be made to the Métis Nation Registry operations based on the following ten (10) recommendations made by the Institute on Governance.

1. That the MNA leadership establishes the roles and responsibilities of the registrar in its bylaws.

Action Taken

There was an attempt made to include the definition of the Registrar in the Bylaws with a special resolution, but it was defeated. **This recommendation remains outstanding.**

2. That the MNA central registry, together with the Office of the Federal Interlocutor establish a means to capture whether or not applicants are Canadian citizens.

Action Taken

Application forms are designed to capture this information. At the time of application, the applicant must identify whether or not they are a Canadian citizen. In the cases where the applicant is born abroad, they are required to provide a Certificate of Canadian Citizenship as part of the application process.

3. That the MNA adopt a plan to phase out the red-and-white laminated cards completely as soon as possible.

Action Taken

In addition to the Special Assembly convened to deal with this matter where the delegates defeated the special resolution which would have addressed this matter, every individual who had not voluntarily contacted the MNA Registry to update their files was sent a letter. A total of 23,799 letters were sent out to these individuals. 2,037 individuals (8.6%) contacted the Registry to update their files, 8,447 letters (35.5%) were returned unclaimed and the remaining 3,315 (55.9%) have not responded. This project, which cost \$14,041.41 in postage costs alone, generated dismal results; still these 21,762 individuals continue to be on our Election Voters list with full membership rights.

4. That the MNA make sustained attempts to identify how its registry could be enlisted to serve further future purposes.

Action Taken

The Registrar and staff are looking at continuous ways to diversify the information that is collected through the Registry process to better meet the needs of Métis people in Canada. This fiscal year, it has expanded its role to gather data and exchange data in the areas of Health and Wellness and Children’s Services.

5. The MNA leadership together with the registrar initiates a system of periodic review and revision of the registration process.

No Action Taken

Although no process has been developed that will enable the MNA leadership to review the registration process, the Provincial Council is updated on the Registry each time they request that it be placed on the Provincial Council meeting agenda.

6. That the MNA registry adjusts its application processing policy to require applicants to submit all supporting documents before it will certify their genealogies.

Action Taken

Policy 007 – Family Tree Verification Policy was approved by Provincial Council. This

- recommendation affects 13,762 files which were approved prior to this policy taking affect.
7. That the MNA registrar, in consultation with the MNA leadership and the Office of the Federal Interlocutor draft and implement a plan to address files that lack supporting documentation linking the member to the initial Métis ancestor.

Action Taken

A review of the 13,762 completed files has commenced and will be conducted over the next three fiscal years.

8. That the MNA leadership establish in writing the community acceptance process that now exists in practice.

Action Taken

Policy 008 – Métis Nation Acceptance Policy was developed and approved by Provincial Council. The department has implemented this policy.

9. That the MNA makes sustained attempts to diversify the funding base for the registry.

Action Taken

The Federal Government is now core funding the Operation and Maintenance of the MNA Registry.

10. That the MNA registry, in cooperation with its leadership make the existing membership appeals mechanism more accessible to unsuccessful applicants.

Action Taken

Last fiscal year, the Métis Judiciary Council was officially invited to review the registration process and to work with the Métis Nation Registry to develop a membership appeals process. Although this invitation still stands, there has been no response from the MJC regarding this request.

Year-to-date statistical results to the 31st of March 2012	
Total number of applications received	28,566
New applications received	16,774
Update applications received	11,792
Number of applications completed	21,265
Number or applications in progress	587
Number of applications incomplete	66
Number of applications denied	5,778 ¹
Number of Métis ID cards issued	18,268

¹Non-Alberta Resident: 282; Incomplete Mailed in Application: 83; No Historical Link: 1,534; Failed to respond to request for more information: 3,468; On Indian Registry: 26; Returned Mail: 373 and Voluntary Termination: 12

Cecil Bellrose
Minister of Métis Rights and Registry

Ministry of Seniors



Tansi! Elders, Youth, Dignitaries, Ladies and Gentlemen I am pleased to present this annual report as the Minister of Seniors.

Region 1 has been hosting workshops through the Alberta Seniors Assistance Program making our seniors aware of the following programs available throughout Alberta:

The Alberta Seniors Benefit Program

Which provides monthly cash benefits to more than 140,000 low-income seniors across the province.

The Special Needs Assistance for Seniors Program

Which provides lump-sum cash payments to eligible low-income seniors to assist with allowable one-time or extraordinary expenses.

The Dental and Optical Programs

Which provides dental coverage and assistance with prescription eyeglasses for approximately 210,000 seniors.

The Education Property Tax Assistance Program

Which provides an annual rebate to senior homeowners in Alberta to cover annual increases in the education portion of their property tax.

North Eastern Alberta's representative for this program is Mary Jane Tkachyk, and she has been doing workshops for the Region on a regular basis. Region 1 has also been able to help her do workshops with the different communities in the Region. Mary-Jane has taught Anita Hardwick our Office Administrator and I, on how to help our seniors fill out different applications and make them aware of the many different benefits available to them. One question we always ask our seniors when they are attending any kind of appointments, is someone going with you for moral support?

Some things I would like to see throughout the province are:

- Diabetic awareness Programs;
- Alberta Health and Wellness will work in partnership with Aboriginal organizations and other key stakeholders to develop and implement a diabetes screening program for Aboriginal populations living off reserve;
- Sitting down and talking to FCSS Family and Community Support Services to see what they do for our seniors and maybe partnering with them;
- Contact Mental Health Services to find appropriate support for Seniors healthy cooking for themselves and smaller meals, foot care, living accommodations,

- and other workshops on how to deal with the many issues that our seniors are facing in today's society;
- Things you need to know when you are 64;
 - Engaging with the Minister of Culture and the Minister of Health and Wellness, so we can work together to develop and deliver programs;
 - Engaging our elders as facilitators in youth camps and programs, such as the very successful Youth Camp that was held in Region 1;
 - Child and Family Services Kinship homes, Kookum and Mooshum caring for their grandchildren seminars and workshops;
 - Friday luncheons in each Region;
 - Elder Abuse: What is elder abuse? Who to contact? And when to report it.

Elder Abuse is one of the most distressing and growing issues that is facing today's seniors. Elder abuse has devastating consequences. It jeopardizes the health and well-being of seniors and has significant implications for the health, social support and justice systems. The first step in addressing elder abuse is prevention. Educating Albertans about how to recognize elder abuse and what to do about it are important first steps to stopping its occurrence. The Government of Alberta, in collaboration with community partners and all Albertans, need to work together to accomplish this.

There are several grants available for Seniors programs and workshops through the Federal Government, one of which that has been applied for is the New Horizons for Seniors Program. This program provides three types of funding to non-profit organizations:

- Capital Assistance Funding: Supports upgrading community facilities and equipment related to existing programs and activities for seniors.
- Elder Abuse Awareness Funding: Supports projects that raise awareness of elder abuse.
- Community Participation and Leadership Funding: Encourages seniors to contribute to their communities by sharing their skills, wisdom and experience, and helps to reduce isolation.

As we look forward to our futures, it is important that we all take a minute to respect and learn about where we have come from. I encourage everyone to take some time out of our busy lives, and sit down with a senior, listen to their stories, and learn from them. The knowledge that you will learn is priceless, and the interaction for the senior is precious.

Thank You
Diane Scoville
Minister of Seniors

Ministry of Veterans



The MNA continues to work closely with our Veterans and play a role of advocacy on their behalf. Our Veterans have put their lives at risk, not only for the Métis People, but for all Canadians.

John McDonald of Aboriginal Veterans Society of Alberta said there are approximately 20-25 Métis Veterans in Alberta according to their records. Unfortunately, only 2 – 3 members are still active in the organization and it is difficult to get an up-to-date membership list. Because there are so few Métis Veterans, no special ceremonies are held here in Edmonton. Any local Veterans will sometimes take part in the ceremony that is held each year at the ButteDome. For the past couple of years it has been suggested that the Veterans take part in ceremonies in their own communities.

In July 2011, Métis Veterans from across Canada, many in their 80s and 90s who served in the Korean War and WWII were awarded the Order of the Métis Nation at 'Back to Batoche'. As well, this award was also presented to Chuck Strahl, former Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

On December 12, 2011 Métis Veterans who served during the Korean War were honoured in Ottawa at a special commemorative luncheon. The Veterans were presented with a plaque that reads: The Métis Nation is pleased to extend special recognition and appreciation for your dedicated service in protecting Canada and the World. On this, the Decade of the Métis Nation, we pay Tribute to our Métis Veterans. We reflect upon Louis Riel's vision for the Métis Nation and your honourable sacrifice as being one and the same in building a solid foundation for future Métis generations. 'It was your duty to fight – it is our duty to never forget'.

On December 6, 2011, Lloyd Joseph Poitras lost his battle with cancer. He was a WWII Veteran having served with the Calgary Highlanders Infantry 2nd Division #5 Platoon A Company from 1941 – 1945 in England, France, Belgium, Holland & Germany and was discharged in 1946.

On another sad note, we also lost Veteran Elzear ("Punchy") Whitehead, on April 6, 2012. He served as a paratrooper during the Korean Conflict, and has attained 13 boxing trophies, while serving in the armed forces.

The service and dedication of our Veterans will always be cherished and remembered. Let us always keep them in our hearts, as we move the Nation forward.

Once again this year the Armed Forces 'Bold Eagle' program is available. This is a summer employment program for Aboriginal youth who are interested in a career with the Canadian Forces. For information on the Bold Eagle program, please contact your regional office.

Access Pipeline is sponsoring the Veterans and Elders' Lounge at the AGA with a donation of \$5,000.00.

Wally Sinclair and Don Turcotte are organizing the Veterans Section of the Grand Entry at the AGA 2012.

William Landstrom
Minister of Veterans



Métis Urban Housing Corporation & Métis Capital Housing Corporation

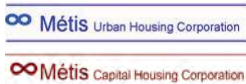
- Both the Métis Urban Housing Corporation (MUHC) and Métis Capital Housing Corporation (MCHC) see another successful year.
- The Board of Directors for MUHC are also the Board of Directors for MCHC.

MUHC

- Established November 26, 1982 (30 years)
- Has 652 units in 14 urban centres, under the Urban Native Housing Program funded by the Federal Government.

MCHC

- Established September 8, 2008; began operations 2009 (3 years)
- Has 211 units in 3 locations, and has various housing availability and funding partners.



1. Métis Urban Housing Corporation



MUHC & MCHC Board of Governors

- Region 1 Representative - Vacant
- Region 2 Representative - Zane Collins
- Region 3 Representative - Jeff Poitras
- Region 4 Representative - Freezien Norris
- Region 5 Representative - Kim Courtorielle
- Region 6 Representative - Wendy Goulet
- MNA Representative - Minister Sylvia Johnson

Feature

Urban Aboriginal Housing Program

This is the only program that is available under MUHC. This program provides rent based on income (RGI) at 25% of total household income. Includes a fixed utility charge. CNIT levels apply to this program. This is the CMHC Funded Program.



Slave Lake

MUHC has successfully achieved the funding required to rebuild the three units lost in Slave Lake fires. The units are expected to be complete and ready for occupancy in August/September 2012.

2. Métis Capital Housing Corporation

Nihgi Métis Seniors Lodge

This 40 unit lodge is located in Edmonton and provides supportive living accommodation to seniors who want to live in an apartment style facility, however require additional medical support services, meals, laundry and cleaning services.



MNA Homeownership Program

MCHC has taken on the delivery of the Homeownership / home repair program funding from the MNA. The staffing position was also moved under the MCHC authority. This program provides down payment assistance to qualified buyers.

Future homeowners!



MNA Home Repair Program

This program provides repair assistance to homeowners for capital items that are considered health or safety related and in need of replacement/repair. CNIT levels apply to this program. Total budget for both Homeownership/Repair programs is \$90,000 per year

Feature



Unit under renovation for Habitat Program

Habitat Homeownership Program

This partnership arrangement established in 2011 provides 5 units for homeownership via the Habitat model:

1. MCHC retained ownership of units with a leasehold to Habitat
2. Five units committed, two new construction and three renovations
3. MCHC makes the referrals, however open to non-tenants
4. Option to cancel
5. Saving account for families with low income: \$32,000-54,000
6. CMHC video being promoted on a National level



Métis Capital Housing Units

MCHC delivers its own Affordable Housing Program through units that are solely owned by the corporation. Provide rental accommodation at rates set to be at a minimum 20% less than market along with a fixed utility charge. Approximately 160 units in Edmonton and Calgary; these are units that transferred to MCHC from MUHC. All renovated costing an average of \$30,000 - \$35,000 each (windows, flooring, furnace, HWT, lighting fixtures, doors, cabinets and paint). Interiors completed first with intent to complete the exteriors later. Cost for renovations covered by sales.



The Cornerstone Project - Voyager Manor

This project was completed in September 2010 and is fully rented. This is an affordable housing project in partnership with the City of Edmonton that provided approval of approximately \$2.5 million in assistance to purchase land and construct a 4 plex, which resulted in 12 rentable units.



Medicine Hat Seniors Project

This project has been completed with the purchase of a duplex. MCHC assumed ownership Oct 28, 2011. This is a partnership with Service Canada who contributed the funding of \$252,744 to purchase and the remainder contributed by MCHC. The cost was \$271,000 and additional cost to complete some minor upgrades.

BRAC Project

This initiative has been over three years in the making. It is a partnership with the City of Edmonton as an effort to revitalize the Boyle/McCauley area located in the inner city. This 90 unit project is inclusive of 60 seniors units and 30 units for persons with disabilities. Funding is being provided by the City, the Province, the Federal Government and by MCHC. The Holmes Group has been secured as the consultants on the project. The process has begun and completion is scheduled early in 2013.

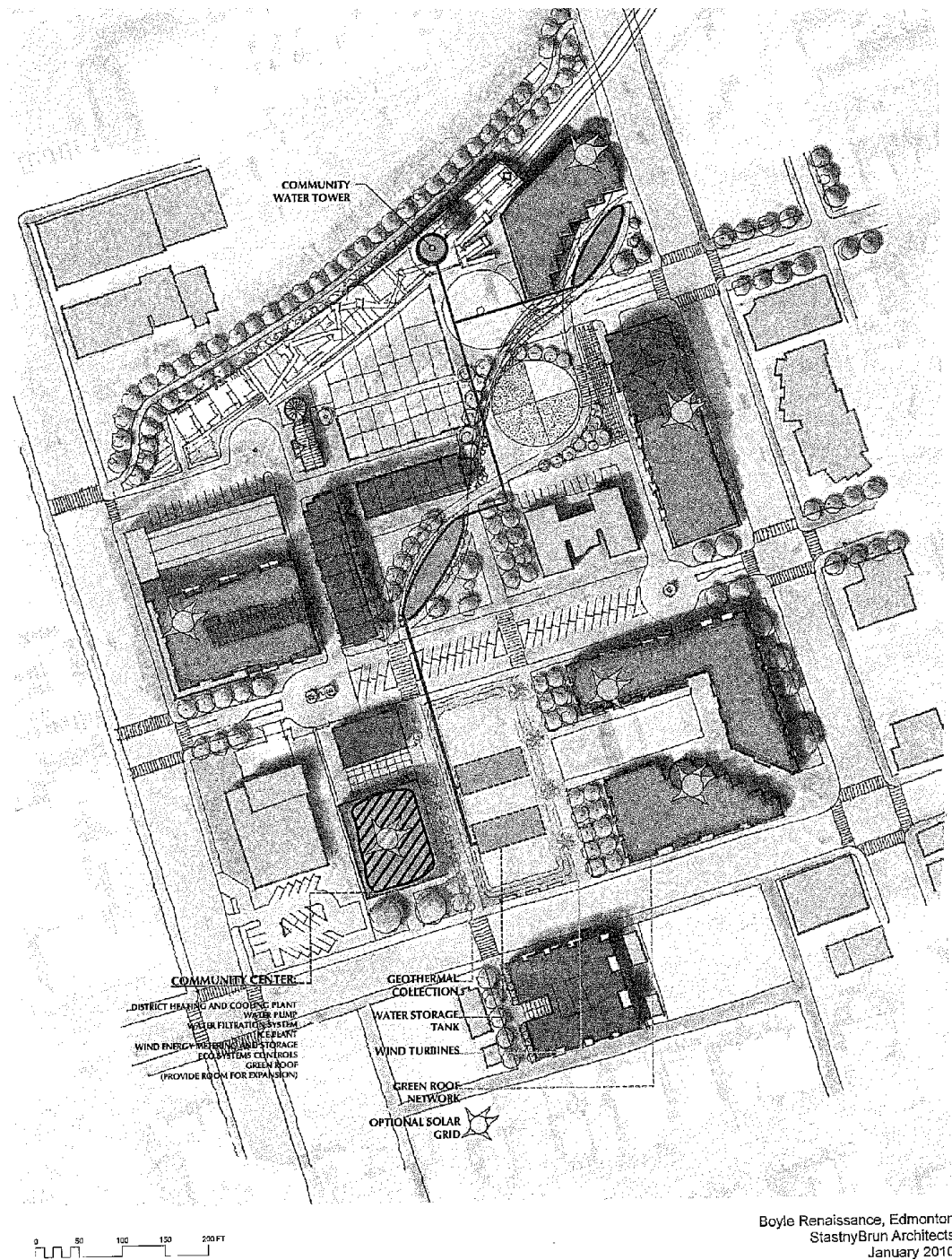
Some distinctive features:

1. Boyle Renaissance Project, \$22 million to build
2. 90 Seniors and Handicap units; one and two bedroom
3. Partnership: City of Edmonton, Province, Federal Government and Disabilities Association for an advisory role on adaptability units and referrals for tenants
4. Inner City along 95 street and 104 avenue
5. Site includes 8 lots that will fall under the ownership of MCHC
6. Holmes Group hired to consult
7. Design/Build team has been selected, completed approval of suite plans
8. Co-gen system with ownership potential for MCHC
9. In-suite automation (ie: Front door camera, lighting control, motion sensors automated door lock, moisture detectors)

Feature



Let's do it Right!



Feature

New Construction

Métis Capital Housing has completed two new duplexes. One development is a duplex that incorporated larger units with five (5) bedrooms in each unit. Both units are occupied. The other duplex is a three bedroom main floor with a three bedroom granny suite below. Responding to community requests these types of units will continue to be built as resources and opportunity present themselves.



Housing statistics

MUHC

Housing Total of 2201 people
Single Head of Household make up 85% of total units and are 83% female
by Age 0-17 make up 57% of total occupants
by Age 18-55 make up 34% of total occupants
by Age 55+ make up 9% of total occupants

MCHC

Housing Total of 395 people
Single Head of Household make up 60% of total units and are 59% female
by Age 0-17 make up 33% of total occupants
by Age 18-55 make up 51% of total occupants
by Age 55+ make up 16% of total occupants

MUHC and MCHC together currently house 2596 people (including spouses and children)

Métis Urban Units are for the most part single female parents with children under the age of 17. Métis Capital is also for the most part single female parents; however there are more adults than children. There are a larger number of seniors in the Métis Capital units in comparison to Métis Urban as at age 55 most are still working.

Affordable housing continues to be in high demand. MUHC/MCHC are actively and assertively engaged in efforts to access additional dollars and programs. We look at housing as an investment and a benefit to the economic scale to determine the overall cost of not providing short and long term solutions. With that in mind, MUHC/MCHC is establishing partnerships to address and assist families with needed social supports for continued and successful tenancy.

MUHC/MCHC Management and Board welcome these opportunities and challenges. We embrace, with confidence, the challenge of improving and providing affordable, adequate and sustainable housing to our community.

Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc.

History

Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. (AMDI) was created in 1984 under a Federal Government contribution agreement with Native Economic Development Program, an initiative promoted by Industry, Science and Technology. The total committed funds for the creation of AMDI was \$8,800,000.

In 1988 AMDI commenced operations by providing commercial financial services and business management advisory services to Métis Entrepreneurs throughout Alberta. Under the original Federal Government Contribution Agreement, \$800,000 was expensed on the initial start-up costs while the capital pool of \$8,000,000 was disbursed in stages.

AMDI has lent out over \$50MM since 1988 and helped in the creation of over 800 Métis owned businesses throughout the Province of Alberta, while maintaining our capital base of \$8M. Our success is largely due to our clients who have successfully capitalized on their opportunities. And, we know we have succeeded when many of our clients transfer their loans to banks or credit unions. The purpose of AMDI is to help Métis Entrepreneurs start or expand their business ideas and it is our hope that our clients, past and present, pass on their experience with us to other Métis entrepreneurs who may be considering first steps to becoming owners of their own business.

Report on Operations

During the period April 2011 to March 2012, AMDI approved and disbursed \$2.1M in funding assistance to new and existing business, constituting a 16% decrease year over year. A total of 36 loans were granted at an average loan amount of \$57,666 that included 15 from Regions I, II, and III, and 21 from Regions IV, V, and VI. Many of the new loan applicants

this year took advantage of the Aboriginal Business Canada (ABC) contribution program as the contribution serves to substantially reduce debt servicing costs associated with acquiring assets required for the business's operations. Loans to businesses included, but, were not limited to oil and gas construction, engineering, transport, steel fabrication, mobile welding, paint spray repair, and chiropractic care, comprising both primary and service based businesses.

Our current work in progress stands at \$3.5M as of April 1, 2012, and we expect many of these opportunities to translate into new projects for the 2012-13 fiscal. Delinquency remains constant year over year with approximately \$48,816 of our Loans Division Portfolio considered doubtful.

Other Investments

Métis Entrepreneurship Fund Inc.

In conjunction with the Métis National Council, the 3 Métis Capital Corporations in Western Canada and the Federal Government have established a loan pool that will be shared between Louis Riel Capital Corporation (Manitoba), Sask Métis Economic Development Corporation (Saskatchewan), and Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Corporation (Alberta) on a project by project basis. The purpose of the loan pool is to enhance each of the 3 Métis Capital Corporations lending capacity to be able to consider loan sizes in excess of current loan limits. We have established and incorporated the entity, its Board, and its by-laws. While we have not yet utilized the facility, Apeetogosan is currently evaluating 3 project proposals that will allow us to take on transactions each in excess of \$1M. The benefit of the Métis Entrepreneurship Fund (MEF) is that we can now consider



Affiliates

participating in projects of this size by using our own loan fund capital in conjunction with MEF, whereas before, we could only consider projects up to \$400,000. So, our hope is to take advantage of the available loan capital that MEF provides so that we can participate with the more established Métis entrepreneurs who are taking on larger opportunities.

Alternative Service Delivery

For over 20 years, Apeetogosan has provided external delivery services to Aboriginal Business Canada’s business development program. As part of INAC’s new Aboriginal Economic Development Framework, one initiative is to increase the delivery capacity of its external partners. AMDI has served as a key delivery arm to ABC INAC with demonstrated success. Currently, we are working with INAC in an effort to qualify as an Alternative Service Delivery partner for INAC’s Business Development Program. It means doing the same work as we have always done with INAC, but, with significantly more autonomy, thus enhancing further our single window, or one-stop-shop business model.

National Aboriginal Capital Corporation Association (NACCA)

As a member of NACCA, Apeetogosan shares similar financial constraints that other Aboriginal Financial Institutions confront across Canada. The current interest rate environment and the high cost of developmental lending will have the effect of, over time, eroding our lending capital. In an effort to mitigate the cost of operating in this low interest rate environment, AMDI has been working with NACCA in developing an incentive and performance based framework for government provided compensation for higher risk lending. The project is now in the design and implementation stage and the sustainability working group comprising 5 General Managers from across Canada have

been working with NACCA in developing an implementation framework. The project concept has essentially been accepted by the Federal government where we are now focusing on procedures and processes that will support a performance based program that partially offsets the cost of risk to AFI’s associated with developmental lending. We expect that this initiative becomes part of ABC INAC’s overall Program Renewal process.

Pinnacle Business Services Ltd.

Pinnacle staff provides applicants an opportunity to access government programs available through Aboriginal Business Canada as well as loan financing from AMDI by assisting the client in developing their business opportunity into a plan of action. The primary role of the Pinnacle business consultant is to assist clients in assessing their opportunities, including identifying areas of weakness and exposure to risk and what may be required of clients to mitigate such risk. To this end, Pinnacle Business Services assists clients in evaluating whether their business opportunities have a reasonable chance of becoming successful small business ventures.

The follow-up work to assessing an opportunity is developing a plan of execution that demonstrates the opportunity and its implementation. Pinnacle assists clients in formalizing their opportunity and implementation plans by helping the client develop a well prepared business plan. The business plan becomes the presentation document to financiers that demonstrates the integrity of the client’s proposal that includes an assessment on commercial viability, capital cost and financing requirements, and the client’s ability to competitively deliver the product or service under consideration.

During the year under review, Pinnacle Business Services Ltd. assisted in the

development of 21 business plans for clients, 15 of which attracted commercial financing from AMDI while the remaining 6 leveraged commercial financing from other banks or financial institutions.

Aftercare is another component of services that Pinnacle provides, ensuring that clients have the appropriate accounting and bookkeeping systems in place, adequate training, and appropriate internal controls. During the year under review, Pinnacle Business Services Ltd. provided after-care services to 33 clients.

External Delivery Officer

The External Delivery Office (XDO) to Aboriginal Business Canada is an arrangement we have had with the Federal government for over 14 years. Since inception, our XDO has delivered over \$9M in contributions to Métis clients comprising equity assistance for business planning, aftercare, and equity towards the capital costs associated with starting or expanding their businesses.

For the 2011-12 fiscal, our XDO completed 12 commercial/business plan/aftercare project authorizations with a total committed dollar amount of \$654,000 averaging approximately \$54,000 in non-repayable contributions to Métis entrepreneurs.

AMDI participates as much as it can with Aboriginal Business Canada’s Contribution program as program criteria have become more inclusive in terms of eligibility. Looking forward to 2012-13, however, our XDO has already identified work-in-progress of \$606,000. Accordingly, we look forward to continuing this relationship and expanding our activities by aggressively marketing the opportunities that the ABC program provides. If you would like to learn more about what products and services the ABC Program offers, I encourage you to contact our office.

Closing Remarks

It was, overall, a good year for AMDI with continued loan growth and positive net earnings. AMDI, as well as clients appear to be capitalizing on renewed growth in both the oil and gas and construction industries.

While the economy continues to recover, we have developed new Program initiatives with other Métis capital corporations and the Federal government such as the Métis Entrepreneurship Fund, and performance Based Allocation Programming. These initiatives will serve to enhance and compliment AMDI’s long-term growth initiative, providing further support to Métis entrepreneurs seeking self sufficiency.

The staff of AMDI continues to work very well together and have established a very efficient office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their hard work this past year, for Mr. Ivy’s leadership and management of the corporation, and the Board of Directors for their commitment and numerous contributions to ensuring AMDI continues to play a role in the growth of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Tom Ghostkeeper
Chair

Alberta Métis Historical Society

As in past, the Alberta Métis Historical Society continues to work closely with Victoria Landing Developments Ltd. to deliver youth programming at our Métis Crossing site near Smoky Lake Alberta. The objective of the youth programming is to create awareness and to promote retention of our Métis culture and history in a fun and stimulating learning environment.

Participation in National Aboriginal Day/Family Day Picnic at Métis Crossing was undertaken. Attendance at the 83rd Métis Nation Annual Assembly in order to provide information on Alberta Métis Historical Society activities.

Work was completed on the Aboriginal Youth Mentoring Program in Region 3 that researched and manufactured replica Métis clothing for future use as a lending resource for the Métis Nation and its affiliates. This collection has been donated to Métis Crossing and will enhance the ability of the Métis Nation to portray its history at various cultural events held throughout Alberta. One such event was the Historic Fashion show at the MNA Annual Assembly in Grande Prairie

The Métis Nation of Alberta Cultural Exhibit, which was developed in 2000-2001, continues to be located at Métis Crossing and forms part of the cultural exhibit there for the next few years until a permanent museum is built. The trailer unit originally used to house the exhibit was donated to Métis Crossing in 2009 for use in programming at the Crossing.

During 2011-2012, Alberta Métis Historical Society participated in various fundraising events associated with Culture, History and Youth and registration was provided for Métis youth to attend the Dreamspeakers Festival Society Youth Day.



James Atkinson
President

Cree Productions (1992) Ltd.

Cree Productions (1992) Ltd. was initiated to acquire, develop, redevelop and publish learning resources about Métis people intended for all students in Alberta schools. This was made possible through the purchase of the Dr. Anne Anderson Heritage and Cultural Centre and the rights to all the centre's materials.

Cree Productions has been very active and has over 80 copyrighted resources. The most noteworthy publications are the Dr. Anne Anderson Cree/English resources, which include a Cree dictionary.

In 1997, the Métis Nation of Alberta, in partnership with Alberta Learning, redeveloped and published 15 beginner Cree/English books. These beginner Cree/English books are available through the Métis Nation of Alberta. All the learning resources have received authorization from Alberta Learning and may be implemented into curricula as approved basic resources for all schools in the province.

In 2008-09, Cree Productions added a display case at the MNA Head Office to showcase Cree Productions wares. In 2011-12 MNA staff continues to manage the business and attended a number of events to market items.

Dr. Anne Anderson Titles:

Pet Beaver and Other Stories
Cree Symbols
Understanding Syllabic Symbols
Beginner's Dictionary
Let's Learn Cree
Our Home
WAPI
Numbers 1 to 20 in Cree
Numbers 1 to 1,000 in Cree
Wild Animals in Cree
Animals in Cree
Insects and Spiders in Cree
Plants in Cree
Birds in Cree
Opposites in Cree
Little Hunter

Other products:

Sashes
MNA Clothing
MNA Flags
MNA Pins
Lapel Sashes

These resources may be accessed by contacting Cree Productions.

Métis Nation of Alberta - Cree Productions
#100, 11738 Kingsway Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5G 0X5
Phone: 780-455-2200
Toll Free: 1-800-252-7553
Fax: 780-482-7213

Additional Titles:

A New Nation (The First Métis)
Métis Land Rights in Alberta
Dr. Anne on Patience, Wisdom and Love

Affiliates



Métis Crossing

Submitted by: Corrine Card, Executive Director, Métis Crossing

Introduction

Our sixth season of operations started on May 21st, and we closed on September 5th, 2011 for the season. It was a very tiresome and stressful season. We did open in March this year to put on a youth camp. The Métis Youth Cultural Camp was held from March 26th to the 28th, 2011. This Métis Youth Cultural Camp consisted of outdoor survival training/animal tracks/ plant identification, storytelling, bannock making, beading, crafts.

We also rented out the site for a Youth Camp March 12 & 13 2011 for 30 Youth. We also hosted the CCAY Youth selection committee meetings for 3 days in February.

Brenda from Mahikan Trails was here for a week in May to do staff training. The zip line training was done by Dryden Card again this year. Hardwire Games was here in June to do the annual zip line inspection. Dryden and his zip line guides did a lot of the work that needed done by the inspection saving us thousands of dollars. Because of the inspectors trust in Métis Crossing and Dryden they agreed to let us carry out the work instead of them doing it, thus saving Métis Crossing a lot of money.

The weather caused us a lot of grief this year. We lost business due to all the rain as well as high winds.

I had applied for funding for two programs to run at the Crossing this summer. One was through CCAY and the other was through ALI. We never got the funding for either by the end of the season.

Facilities and programs

For the season included the following:

Historic Village
Barn interpretive centre
Barn meeting area
RV Campground
Picnic area
Horseshoe pits
Gift shop
Outdoor stage
Playground
River's Edge Nature Trail with interpretive signage
Visitor services (washrooms, parking lots, showerhouse)
Zip Lines
Farm Machinery Display
2 Restored Homesteads

The programming included the Historic Village, Homesteads, and Barn and Nature tours with traditionally dressed interpreters to lead the tours and interact with visitors. The Historic Village was complete with three trapper's tents, fully decorated with traditional props. We lost both our tipis in the wind storms last year so they were not up this

year. One was completely shredded, the other needs major repairs.

Staffing

Not having a Youth Program Coordinator all season was a real challenge. The Interpreters and Zip Line Guides all started in May for their training but all the staff started later than usual. The staff was also let go earlier and I finished the balance of close-up duties myself.

Staffing again was an issue. It is so hard to get Métis Staff as there isn't much for local Métis so has to hire from a distance. Then there are always travel and accommodation issues. Our staff of 9 was comprised of 4 Interpreters, 4 zip line guides, and myself.

The interpreters were responsible for the daily site cleaning of all facilities and set up for guests of the site. They prepared any materials or supplies that were needed for the tours. The Zip Line Guides were responsible for Daily, Weekly, and Monthly maintenance of the Zip line. The Zip Line

Guides and the Interpreters were responsible for grass cutting and trimming of the site. All Staff and Management worked weekends.

Daily Operations

We were open everyday 11:00 am to 6:00 pm daily for the season. There were quite a few days that I sent all the staff home and stayed by myself because of the bad weather.

Tours were given as required not at scheduled times. Zip Line rides were also handled as required. When Staff was not working with customers they were working on site maintenance.

We always have on 2 Zip Line Guides every day in order to operate the zip line.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays you could get away with just 1 Interpreter. Other days we had 2 or 3, depending on the day and bookings.

The Gift Shop was handled by an Interpreter, or by myself.

Daily tracking was done in the gift shop for daily visitation, camping and zip lining.

We reviewed and increased some of our pricing. Camping and zip line fees stayed the same.

Regular site admission for the season was increased as follows:

- Family: \$15
- Adult: \$7
- Youth/Elder: \$4
- 6 & Under: Free

Zip Lines

We had 745 people try out our zip lines this season compared to 599 in 2010. This is an increase of 146 people.

Regular price of \$39.95 is the same as last year, with some promotional pricing for groups. We have been giving the Schools groups a rate of \$19.95/person.

Visitation

Our sixth season of operation was not nearly as busy as the previous year. Total visitation was down by 1327 guests from last year. Regular daily visitation was down by 568 guests. Our special event totals are down for all 3 events.

Weather and the abundance of other events in the area at the same time definitely played a factor in our numbers for both regular visitation and special events being down. The decrease in our 3 special event numbers hurt us the most. Losing 6 school bookings because of the rain definitely hurt our regular visitor's totals. There were again more days this year that we could not operate the zip line.

We had 12 School/ Youth groups visit Métis Crossing this season. Some came for just the tours and some for both tours and zip lining. We had 2 Adult groups come for tours and zip lining. We had 6 schools cancel their bookings because of the bad weather. We also had 2 Seniors Groups out for the tours as well as one special needs group.

Visitation Totals

Group Visitors of the Season:

MNA Region II Métis Youth - Cultural Camp
MNA Region VI Métis Youth - Cultural Camp
MNA CCAY Youth Selection Committee Meeting
Aboriginal Arts Council Youth Camp
Athabasca Regional Multiplex, Athabasca Alberta
Boyle School
Holy Family Catholic School
Portage College, St. Paul, Alberta
H A Kostash Grade 4
H A Kostash Grade 5
County of Thorhild
Town of Redwater
Saddle Lake HRD
1st Redwater Scouts
Children and Youth Services Métis Settlements
Seniors / Special Needs-3 Groups

MONTH	Regular Visitation Guests				Special Event Guests				Total Guests			
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011
February				28								28
March			58	110							58	110
May	43	373	280	101					43	373	280	101
June	61	736	818	462	400	234	239	56	461	970	1057	518
July	170	377	531	376		296	362	215	170	673	893	591
August	569	375	596	605	1000	910	692	263	1569	1285	1288	868
September	98	101	57	90					98	101	57	90
October												
TOTAL	941	1962	2340	1772	1400	1440	1293	534	2341	3402	3633	2306

Campground

There was a decrease in campground usage this year from last year. We were down by 253 campground guests. This is directly related to the poor attendance at our special events.

We didn’t have to buy fire wood this year as the staff gathered the wood from the dead trees that were cut down last fall around the site.



MONTH	Campground Totals: RV				Campground Totals: Tent				Campground Totals			
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011
May	0	42	13	23	0		15	3	0	42	28	26
June	22	61	22	13	8	3	23	3	30	64	45	16
July	8	67	85	34	2	9	44	7	10	76	129	41
August	53	87	166	43	31	10	21	8	84	97	187	51
September	0	13	10	11	0	1	0	1	0	14	10	12
TOTAL	83	270	296	124	41	23	103	22	124	293	399	146

Conclusion

Overall it was a very disappointing season. Our guests came from Hungary, Saudi Arabia, USA, NWT, all across Canada as well as Local. Again we concentrated our overall efforts on superb customer service for all guests and spent a lot of time maintaining our site. Our majority of guests were from the local area as well as Edmonton. The staff continues to get compliments on the way they maintain the grounds, their customer service, knowledgeable tours, clean washrooms, clean shower trailers.

I have decided not to continue with the Music Jamboree in July and focus on the other two events. It is very hard to plan these events when we don’t have the budget to do so. I look forward to a much better season in 2012.

Interpretive Centre Revenue Only

2007 = \$26,423.00 ?
2008 = \$29,751.34 Does not include land lease payments
2009 = \$49,863.88 Does not include land lease payments/sale of hay.
2010 = \$52,198.83 Does not include land lease payments
2011 = \$51,332.80 Does not include land lease payments

2011 Interpretive Centre revenue down \$866.03 from previous year

Some comments taken from the zip line comment sheets filled out by customers:

It was Fantastic. Everyone should try it at least once, twice ...etc.
Pretty Sweet. Thank you very much for the opportunity.
Awesome. Great Guides! Super time, will definitely come back.
Yes it was great! Excellent instructors and hope to come back and see the deer from the line.
The runs through the trees were awesome.
It was the best. I would go again and again if only I could build my own.
Most fun thing I have done all summer! Wish we come here next year!
Awesome! Great Guides, wonderful view, great experience!!
Ziplining was AMAZING!
Scared as anything - I hate heights - but it was great- yes could do it again. Right on Zip line.
Great Guides.
That was AWESOME!! The guides are great - definitely going to come back with my friends.
Was scared at first but Guides made me feel VERY comfortable.
Definitely excellent experience.
Very nice scenery and helpful guides. I really enjoyed it!!
Amazing experience.
Definitely Awesome. I loved it - I loved it - I loved it.
FUN FUN FUN!
Yes very much, good value.
It was legendary!
It's awesome, but expanding it would be nice! Awesome Staff.
Loved it! A great Family summer activity. Thank you to the staff.
Yes it was super fun! Great help & lots of fun!
It was great even though the weather wasn't. We'll be back next year!
Great time Good Guides.
Lots of fun, friendly people, very cool.
If I had one wish it would be to do that again.
Wonderful. Guides were excellent would do it again here anytime!
Great day of fun!
Wow. Great, Wonderful, Felt safe. Great Staff.
Hell yah! So cool can't wait to do it again!
Hellz Yeah! Guides were so awesome and a lot of fun. Very Accommodating!
Great Fun. Greater Crew.
Great Staff, very friendly.
It was thrilling.
Very Fun, will be back.
Very nice and informative staff.

Historic Sites and Museums ('000s of person-visits) 2011													
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Y-T-D Total
Visitor Attendance	18.5	35.2	36.2	41.5	65.7	93.4	175.3	152.8	64.4	42.8	25.4		752.2
% change from 2010	26.5%	-15.2%	-23.4%	-13.6%	-14.0%	-8.3%	-3.1%	-17.9%	-8.6%	1.7%	-23.1%		-11.8%

Greetings from Interim Executive Director, Benita Galandy

Corrine Card has left her position as Executive Director at Métis Crossing to work in Slave Lake. Congratulations Corrine on your new adventure. Although the Métis Crossing is, and has been, a huge learning curve for me, I am finding the Crossing to be enjoyable. From total quietness to laughter, noise, tours and Ziplines in one minute, seems amazingly surreal.

The weather has cooperated with us most of the time since opening on May Long Weekend. We have had staff challenges, and have had to call in people to stay at the crossing to work. Since opening we have been very busy this year with over 500 tours, over 100 zipline rides, and over 150 campers in the campsite. We have only been rained out for 5 days in the past 6 weeks.

I am urging the Métis people from across Alberta to visit us more often. We only had 112 people on site for National Aboriginal Day. We will be having “Voyageur Days on August 25th and 26th. Please come out to the Métis Crossing and celebrate your culture and show ownership of the Crossing. This is a place for Métis people to gather and take pride. We will be celebrating! We are also hosting two Michif camps for ages 10-24 July 30- Aug 3, 2012, and again from Aug 9 - 13, 2012. The summer is flying by and we are looking forward to seeing you at Métis Crossing.

Affiliates

Métis Nation Holdings

In 1997, the MNA took an inactive but current company, called Métis Nation Productions, and renamed it Métis Nation Holdings Ltd. The MNA holds 100% of the shares. This entity holds title to two properties: the MNA Provincial Office property on Kingsway Avenue and the Métis Urban Housing property, and 50% of the Inglewood Centre property on 111 Ave in Edmonton.

The Inglewood property is held in partnership with Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. The holding company allows for arms- length lease transactions and limited liability.

The Board of Directors for Métis Nation Holdings Ltd. is the same as the MNA Executive.

MNA Provincial Office, Delia Gray Building 11738-Kingsway Avenue.

In January 1997, the building that the Métis Nation leased on St. Albert Trail was sold. Shortly after taking possession, the new owner proposed doubling the rent, which drew serious concern from the MNA.

In response, the MNA Provincial Council issued direction to explore the purchase of our own building. It was reasoned that purchasing our own building would create program stability and potential for gain, and would meet the office needs of the MNA.

The parameters of the purchase were that ownership should cost no more than the proposed lease and no MNA program funds could be used in the purchase. After several months of research, a deal was concluded on the purchase of the building on Kingsway Avenue, now occupied by the Provincial Office. The MNA acquired the building by assuming the existing mortgage without having to make a down payment. The MNA now holds clear title to the Delia Gray Building, after paying off the mortgage in September of 2004.

Renovations undertaken in February and March of 2005 have increased the amount of office space usable for program delivery and created more hospitable and welcoming space for our members and guests.

Modest renovations continued during 2006 -2007 designed to provide more efficient file storage and additional office space. During 2007-2008, building modifications were begun with a view to energy efficiency.

2008-09 saw the completion of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning repair &

replacement as well as the beginning of the final phase of office modifications designed to maximize the available office space within the building.

During 2010-2011 renovations were completed.

The 2011-2012 fiscal year saw modest upgrades to the building exterior as well as the ongoing operation and maintenance.

Larry Desmeules Building 11922- 121 A Street

On May 1, 1999, Métis Nation Holdings completed the purchase of the building occupied by Métis Urban Housing Corporation.

This purchase was prompted by the proposed sale of the building by the previous owners. Due to the foresight of the MUHC Board, the MNA was provided the right of first refusal.

The building was financed through the assumption of a mortgage and a loan to Métis

Nation Holdings from the Royal Bank. Once again, no MNA program funding was used in the purchase.

Lease payments cover all costs associated with the building. This was a requirement put down by the MNA Board.

The building has a clear title as of May of 2009. Future plans called for additional renovations to help with increased growth of MUHC and MCHC.

During 2008-09, conceptual drawings for the addition of an administrative wing were developed and a development permit was obtained.

During the fall of 2010-11 zoning issues were negotiated, a building permit was granted and construction began in October of 2010 on a 10,000 sq. ft. addition.

The addition was completed in April of 2012. Demolition of a portion of the old office space and upgrading of the warehouse is slated for 2012-2013.

Métis Veterans Building 12304- 111 Avenue

On November 1, 1999, Métis Nation Holdings completed the purchase of the Inglewood Centre.

Tenants in the building include: Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc, Pinnacle Business Services, Edmonton Métis Employment Services Centre, Alberta Family and Social Services, City Police, the Métis Nation of Alberta Judiciary Council, Métis Veterans Society and Starbucks.

The building mortgage was paid out and a clear title was obtained in September 2010.



The new MUHC building

Property management of the building, previously contracted out, has now been assumed by Métis Nation Holdings and Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. which holds 50 per cent of the shares in the building.

Other Activity

While not owned by the Métis Nation Holdings, the company has invested considerable time and effort assisting in the purchase of the Region 1 building, the purchase and renovation of the Region 2 building, the purchase of a Local building in Region 3, purchase of the Region 4 building, the purchase and complete renovation of the Region 5 building, the purchase and initial development of Métis Crossing as well as involvement with certain of the MCHC projects and renovations connected with Rupertsland and some of its MES Centres.

Métis Judiciary Council

Prepared for: Métis Nation of Alberta; Provincial Council for the 84th annual assembly

To: The Members of the Métis Nation of Alberta:

The Provincial Métis Judiciary Council (MJC) is made up of six members; one selected by the Regional Council from each Region and serves a term of three (3) years, as per Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws. The MJC can carry out adjudication of complaint submissions or request for opinion with a quorum of 50% plus 1 Council member in attendance. It has been determined that once the review process of a complaint submission or request for opinion has begun, only the MJC members who initially reviewed the information may carry-on the adjudication process for the remainder of the respective complaint submission or request for opinion. This procedural situation was recently upheld by the Appellate Court of Alberta.

The role and powers of the Métis Judiciary Council are outlined in Article Thirty (30) of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association (MNA) Bylaws; they may be summarized briefly as:

The Judiciary Council reviews and decides all matters pertaining to the following:

- Membership where there is a dispute;
- Election Bylaws where there is a dispute;
- Suspension and reinstatement of rights of Métis members;
- Matters concerning conflict of interest and other matters as outlined in the bylaws.

(To obtain a full listing of the MJC mandate please see MNAA Bylaws)

The Métis Judiciary Council may call hearings to resolve disputes within the Métis Nation that fall under the mandate of the Judiciary Council. There is an established process for submitting complaints to the Council and accepted procedures that determine the complaint submissions and /or govern hearings.

The MJC operates through budget support identified in the Métis Nation of Alberta Bylaws. The Judiciary Council continues to receive support from the Métis Nation of Alberta – Provincial Council.

It should be noted that a complaint submission can be handled very quickly and efficiently if the complaint is deemed to be without merit or if the offer of mediation is accepted by the affected parties but can also be very extensive and costly if the complaint must go to a hearing.

There is no way of determining how much time or money any one particular complaint submission might necessitate, however the MJC makes every effort to deal with their duties in a cost effect manner.

This term, the MJC sat from June thirtieth (30th) of 2011 to July first (1st) of 2012. There have been a total of seven (7) complaint submissions and one (1) request for opinion on matters concerning the MNA Bylaws this term. This has developed into eight (8) Dockets in

which the MJC has reviewed, sometimes requiring parties to provide further information. All of this is done to assist the MJC in coming to a Final Decision. Of the total eight (8) Dockets reviewed and determined this past year – three (3) remain outstanding; the MJC is currently scheduled to continue review and determination of these Dockets.

There have been eight (8) sessions of the Métis Judiciary Council since June 2011 to work on all business of the Council. There were a supplementary twenty-five (25) volunteer days given by the MJC Chair to meet with MJC support personnel to assist with ensuring the integrity of the Métis Judiciary Council and Métis Nation of Alberta were upheld. The complex nature of the eight (8) Dockets made it necessary for the Chairman to put in the extra time to ensure all matters before the Métis Judiciary Council were handled fairly, without prejudice and to make certain that Natural Justice was followed.

Métis Judiciary Council Members must take An Official Oath, as is indicated within the MNA Bylaws. The Oath says that as an MJC member, I will not disclose or make known any matter or thing, which comes to my knowledge, regarding my appointment to the Métis Judiciary Council. *Therefore, it is unlawful for any Judiciary member to discuss with people, who are not **current** Judiciary members, any matter that currently sits before them.* This is a very important point; confidentiality leads to an unbiased, impartial and fair response to this very important and unique institute of the Métis Nation.

During this past year, most MJC Members were selected or re-selected and Sworn-in for appointments of three (3) years as per the MNA Bylaws Article 29 - Métis Judiciary Council. On April 14, 2012 all MJC Members affirmed and in some cases re-affirmed the “Official Oath”; MNA Region 4 Elder, Gloria Laird graciously and most honourably assisted the MJC with this protocol.

Respectfully submitted this thirty (30th) day of June in the year two-thousand and twelve (2012).

Current Métis Judicial Council Members

Region I MJC Member: Evelyn Webb
Region II MJC Member: Robert Cowden
Region III MJC Vice-Chair: Larry Doupe
Region IV MJC Chair: Dale Friedel
Region V MJC Member: Ken Shaw
Region VI MJC Member: Marge Mueller

Affiliates

Region 1

So far, 2012 has been an extremely busy and rewarding year for Region 1. Between meetings with Government and Industry, youth and community events, and volunteer programs, the staff and leadership of Region 1 have continued to support and represent the Métis Nation of Alberta in a positive way. Region 1 has been successful in purchasing the Samuel Laboucane Building, which the Region 1 office is situated in.

All Region 1 Locals have had a very busy and rewarding year. Besides being involved with Regional Council meetings and participating in regional functions, they have been making progress on their own community goals. Region 1 leadership is very much in support of the Locals taking an active role in determining their own futures. We have taken part in Strategic Planning sessions to ensure our members, Locals, governments and Industry get the most efficient and productive Region 1. We have aligned our mission and goals with a plan to achieve and maintain a very strong Region.

Economic and Community Development *Economic Development and Governance*

Economic Development in Region 1 is one of the forefront issues facing Region 1. Encompassing the Oil Sands, Region 1 is situated in a very rich area full of opportunity. Local Industry and Region 1 have been working together and partnering toward successful and meaningful consultation of Métis people. Region 1 believes in supporting our Locals on their economic endeavours and many Locals have been very successful in engaging with Industry.



We are continually looking for ways to further our Métis members and communities, all while protecting our Traditional Territories and environment. Our Industry partners are respectful of this, and we all strive to find a balance between environmental protection and industrial development. Although this is a continued goal, Region 1 is making headway and leading the way to a more balanced and productive engagement.

Education

Region 1 has been committed to supporting its members in all educational opportunities. Whether it is Head Start, high school or post-secondary education, we find pride in the record numbers of Métis graduates, and are striving to continue the upward trend of these

numbers. We engage and encourage Industry around the area to match this commitment to our students, by promoting scholarships and bursaries. Some of our Industry partners who have the same commitment to education are Alberta-Pacific, Cenovus, and Devon Canada.

The Portage College Endowment Fund created through The Métis Nation of Alberta and the Métis Education Foundation with matching funds from the Alberta Governments Access to the Future Fund awarded 5 recipients with \$1,500.

This year, the Municipality of Wood Buffalo celebrated their Aboriginal Graduation and it was very successful and inspiring to see such a high number of Métis graduates. The pride and satisfaction that these graduates show is an amazing example of what our youth can accomplish when they are supported and encouraged by the community.

Lac La Biche and Athabasca County have reported that at least 50% of their Graduates are Aboriginal.

Region 1 celebrated with the Aboriginal Head Start Schools by donating Métis sashes to all 69 Graduates. Region 1 Leadership was invited to attend the graduation ceremonies in Lac La Biche and Buffalo Lake, which they thoroughly enjoyed taking part of.

Congratulations to all our grads, it was truly gratifying to be part of such extraordinary events.



**Health and Wellness
Culture**

Region 1 has always found as many opportunities as possible to showcase our rich and vibrant culture. Métis Week in Lac La Biche, Fort Chipewyan Métis Days, Fort McKay Treaty Days, Fort McMurray Local 1935 Métis Fest, Aboriginal Day at Portage College, Anzac Métis Fest, Conklin Local 193 Métis Fest, the Voyageur Rendezvous by the Historic Portage La Biche, Canada Day at the Lac La Biche Mission and Lac La Biche Pow Wow were all events that we have participated in and enjoyed every minute of it!

Region 1 is hosting the 2012 Provincial Annual General Assembly. The town and municipality of Athabasca are proud and honored to welcome Métis from across the Province during the AGA. The theme for the Assembly is “Our Culture, Our Language,” which will be reflected in the numerous cultural activities and showcases over the course of the weekend. An exciting youth conference, with the theme of “Our Voice, Our Choice” will engage Métis youth and provide them with opportunities to interact with positive Métis role models.

Another initiative we are quite pleased about is the Métis Environmental Knowledge Project taking place throughout the Lac la Biche Region. Project Manager, Peter Fortna will be working with trained members of Region 1 to complete interviews (video and audio) of community Elders. At the end of this project Region 1 will have a publication documenting the History of the Métis people of North-Eastern Alberta.

Youth

Region 1 has been successful in engaging with our Youth, introducing them to traditional arts and crafts and encouraging pride and self-esteem. We believe that our Youth are the future and we must support them to make healthy and positive decisions. To this end, the 2012-2013 Youth Proposal focused on positive activities and relationships. Conversational Cree, tufting, moccasin making, and



beading were some of the cultural activities that were proposed. One activity the Youth were very interested in was an Exploring Our Heritage workshop on scrapbooking. There was so much interest, that scrapbooking classes were extended and became a weekly evening activity. Our Regional Elder, Joe Hamelin, was always available to the Youth during activities, and we encouraged all Elders who were interested in attending to come and interact with our Youth.

The Youth honoured our Elders in April during the annual Kookum & Mooshum Appreciation Dinner. Our Youth were involved in every aspect of the dinner, from budgeting to event planning, meal preparation, dinner etiquette and serving. This is the type of hands-on life experience that is invaluable to Youth. As always, we support our Youth involvement in sports by helping with registration fees in most cases.

Seniors

Seniors and Elders from Region 1 always have a strong presence in the Regional Office. Whether it is to come and have a coffee, or to find out information on governmental programs, we are happy to see such high attendance from our Local seniors.

The Alberta Seniors Benefits representative from St.Paul has trained our office staff in the different Government of Alberta financial programs available for seniors. As well, she has come to do several seminars on these programs, to answer any questions and guide our seniors into a better understanding of them.

During the week, the Region 1 office opens it’s doors for Seniors and Elders Lunches. We provide lunch and the opportunity for our Elders and seniors to interact with each other, play some cards and relax. These weekly events enrich the office atmosphere as well as give our Elders and seniors an opportunity to visit and meet new people.

Currently, we are planning events for Seniors through the New Horizons for Seniors Program. Our goal is to have Seniors help with the planning of original and innovative events where they can contribute their skills and wisdom.

Health

Region1 hosted a 2 day free Diabetes screening event for the community to come get tested, educated and informed about this very predominant disease. The Mobile Diabetes Screening Initiative from the University of Alberta set up in the Region 1 office and was very pleased with the turnout of people for the screening. Education about Diabetes is one of the best preventions to this disease, and we continue to promote health and wellness in Region1 and the Métis communities across the province.

The Leadership and Staff of the Region 1 Office would like to take this opportunity to thank its Locals, members, partners and friends for their continued support, patience and contributions throughout the year. Without you, our traditions, culture and stories would be harder to pass on to our next generation of future leaders.

Sincerely,
William Landstrom,
Region 1 President.



Region2

Greetings!

The beauty of summer and the energy it brings to people is truly a gift to be thankful for. Once again, it is time for the Métis to gather at an assembly and hear from the Métis Nation of Alberta government on the progress and development of the past year accomplished on your behalf. We hope you find the reports informative and can appreciate that these reports can only cover the highlights of the activities throughout the year.

The Métis Nation of Alberta 2011 Elections brought another unique circumstance to our elections process. As many are aware, Zone II did not have a candidate for the first deadline date for nominations nor was there a candidate for the extended date set by the Chief Electoral Officer. This then led to the nomination process and election to occur with the Zone II annual general assembly held on October 15, 2011. Two individuals met the nomination criteria and the election was held during the assembly resulting in Shirley Benson being elected for the position of Vice President.

Zone II Regional Council currently is comprised of the President, Vice President and the President of Local #100 (Bonnyville).

The MNA is growing, changing and developing in various aspects of our government and affiliates. Sometimes, growth requires change to adapt to the current situation. This may be an area of our governing documents that must be reviewed and revised to meet the challenges and circumstances that arise from time to time. A Bylaw Review Task Force appointed to address the resolution from the 2011 Annual General Meeting could potentially review and recommend revisions to pertinent articles that could address these circumstances.

Advancing Métis Rights and Interests at all levels continues to be a focus of Zone II. Members represent our interests and views at a number of various committees, boards and organizations. These include the Bonnyville Indian Métis Rehabilitation Centre; Lakeland Industry and Community Association; Bonnyville Youth Justice Committee; Bonnyville Interagency; Métis Judiciary Council; MUHC/MCHC; Bonnyville Bingo Association; FNMI Education workshops; and others as requested. These roles are vital to ensuring the Métis perspective is voiced at the tables.

Our regional office completed 89 membership applications; responded to 172 enquiries and assisted with 36 updates for additional information requirements and photos. Many Métis have received genealogical information from Linda who does so on a volunteer basis should members have difficulty finding their family tree data. They are grateful for her assistance and the pride of knowing who and where they come from is reflective in their smiles and handshake of thanks!

Duty to Consult with Aboriginal people with respect to industry and service provider proponents is continuous as the Cold Lake Oil Sands area moves ahead with resource development.

Zone II currently has ongoing communication and dialogue with 12 companies and the number

keeps growing as new proponents advance with proposed projects. The relationships are at various stages as many industry corporations have been in the area for some time and others only beginning their initiatives of resource development projects.

We continue to put forward the historical and traditional ways of the Métis through traditional knowledge and use studies or other instances of mapping exercises and walk about site visits. As many are aware, it varies on the needs for a TUS, depending on the application of the proposed projects.

Our elders, harvesters and contemporary users for hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering are vital in this process. They are the knowledge holders for identifying locales that can be mapped by GPS and reflect our historic and present day use.

The economic growth in the Lakeland has not slowed down in the last number of years. Métis entrepreneurs, contractors, tradespeople and individuals searching for gainful employment are part of the discussions with industry and service provider corporations. Business mixers, contractor workshops and prequalification sessions are held with attendance of general contractors on many occasions.

This provides the opportunity for networking, partnering and promoting one's area of expertise and service. These gatherings are timed with the stages of progress for projects, be they a SAGD, a pipeline or electrical transmission line. Periodic update meetings are held with the proponents as their projects are constructed, operating or expanding.

There are other tables that must also have Métis input. Zone II has actively participated with the LARP (Lower Athabasca Regional Plan); CRISP (Comprehensive Regional Infrastructure Strategic Plan) and the Environment Canada Caribou Study and Recommendations.

We have also advanced our interest in actively participating in the North Saskatchewan Regional Land Use Plan. These are processes of long term planning for other levels of government which are crucial to have our issues and concerns addressed at the outset.

Workshop and meetings are attended upon invitation whereas the leadership or our staff with expertise on the topic represents our office. These include Region 7 Child and Family Services; Bullying and Family Violence; Diabetes Training; Education Workshops; Portage College Advisory Committees; Arts Council; FNMI Education Forums; Youth Workshops, just to name a few.

Elders have had workshops focusing on areas that are pertinent to their lives. Facilitators have held information workshops for the Seniors Benefits Program, Elder Abuse and other programs accessible to seniors. The Seniors Horizons program was applied for and received some funds to assist in bringing our elders together for the sessions. Our van comes in very handy for providing rides to elders for meetings, site visits, medical and other appointments or errand runs. Roy Dumais makes himself available for Elders request for this assistance.

Periodic update meetings are held with other level of governments including the MP; MLA for Cold Lake/Bonnyville; City of Cold Lake; Settlements and the Zone II President attended and raised questions at the provincial Cabinet Ministers Spring Tour. Remembrance Day ceremonies at Fishing Lake Métis Settlement were attended by both the President and Vice President. Friendship Centres in Lloydminster, St. Paul, Bonnyville and Cold Lake are part of the network for Zone II.

Linda Boudreau-Semaganis is also a member of the Elders Wisdom Circle for the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association. She is often an Elder resource person for youth workshops for neighboring Friendship Centres. Linda accepts many invitations as an Elder resource person; she recently attended the Tapwe Warriors Youth Conference in Nordegg with the Métis Settlements.

Presentations for schools have been part of the role for representatives of Zone II for the past decade. These vary from grade to grade and depend on the length of time slotted for the visit. Teachers provide the current topics covered for Métis for the grade level and we accommodate the request with pertinent information. Sharing Métis history, culture, music, governance and structure are just some of the topics covered while visiting K-12 students. Schools in Lloydminster, Cold Lake, St. Paul and Elizabeth Métis Settlement as well as Blue Quills University have requested presentations and some of the schools have us come in a few times throughout the school term.

The FNMI Education Protocols signed by the MNA has its rippling effect in communities and local school boards. Zone II has contributed to a project for a Resource Booklet on Aboriginal people and communities for the Northern Lights School Board. This booklet will assist educators in recruiting Métis resource people for presenters in schools.

The FNMI process also invited Zone II to participate in a forum where a range of issues respecting education in community schools were advanced by parents, Aboriginal educators and community stakeholders. This information will be included in recommendations forwarded to the Minister of Education.

Zone II has Working Agreements with two companies: Big Country Energy Services LP and Major Projects Group. The intent is to successfully attain contract work in the area and work with Métis entrepreneurs, tradespeople and individuals to secure long term sustainable employment. The partners accompanied the Zone II leadership for the Métis National Council Economic Development Forum held in Grande Prairie in March 2012. This partnership continues to attend meetings, open houses and business gatherings to promote the agreements' intent.

Once again, Zone II was well represented at the 2nd Annual First Nations and Métis Cultural Showcase hosted by Genia Leskiw, MLA for Bonnyville/Cold Lake. This year it was held at the Cold Lake Energy Centre with over 600+ people visiting throughout the day! It was an exciting event as it provides the opportunity for the 2 Métis Settlements, 3 First Nations and Zone II communities to showcase culture, history, talent and community development at their respective booth displays. Many surrounding schools made this day a part of their fieldtrip schedules.

We continue to host monthly bingos as these funds raised are utilized to assist financially with members requests for bereavement, school fees, team sports and such. Like many communities,

bingos do not raise a great deal of funds as they used to, therefore, each request is reviewed and if the funds are low...then at times we cannot help. All we ask in return is that those assisted volunteer to work at one of the monthly bingos.

Participation for National Aboriginal Day is always a day to look forward to. Many activities and functions are hosted throughout the region. Each member of the leadership and staff attempt to visit one or more of events in their town or community.

The Hidden Talents Youth Group received funding from the Community Connections for Aboriginal Youth (CCAY) for two months of operations. Like many other applicants to the CCAY funding, the announcements were very, very late and the funding flow even later! Thus, programming for youth was concentrated on for the months of February and March. Although, there was a short time to plan, Melody and Leanne, and their helpers, were awesome with activities, field trips and cultural programs for the 96 youth who participated.

One of the exciting programs was co-hosted with Métis Crossing and provided 2 weekends of Fiddle and Guitar Chording workshops for the anxious youngsters who attended. Hidden Talents also hosted one of the "Speak Out" workshops held throughout the province.

There were 2 recipients for the Andy Collins Bursary. The funds raised for this disbursement of this bursary were raised at the 8th Annual Andy Collins Golf Tournament hosted at the Grand Centre Golf and Country Club in Cold Lake. The 9th annual tournament is set for the same course and is being held on July 6, 2012. Anyone wishing to forward their name for the selection committee's review for bursary funds is invited to contact our office.

A young Métis teacher at a school in Bonnyville approached our office for assistance in helping him raise \$10,000.00 for a scholarship for Métis students in the Northern Lights School Division. Once Chris reaches his goal, this amount will be matched and the funds will become part of the NLSD disbursements for their awards! He is so close to the \$10K!! We wish Chris the best in attaining his goal.

We try to assist where we can, and thus, have written numerous letters of support, letters of reference and nominations for students pursuing academics, careers and bursary/scholarships. A number have been successful!

When summer is over and family holidays are a memory, it will be time for back to school and regular work schedules. It will be time to roll up the sleeves and continue moving forward.

Moving the Métis Nation forward!

We wish good health and safety to you and your families until our paths cross again.

God Bless.

Respectfully submitted;
Zone II Regional Council of the Métis Nation of Alberta
Leadership and Staff

Region 3

Developing Partnerships and Economic Growth *Entrepreneurial Leadership Awards, Recipients list April 15, 2011:*

Entrepreneurial Leadership Award

Paulette Anderson: Prime Property Management Services Inc.
Curtis Therrien: Curtis Gas Fitting & Heating

In Recognition of your success in the Corporate World

Dean Lagrange: Inspector Dean Lagrange, Calgary Police Services

In Recognition of your success and contribution to the Métis Business Community

Mark Cyluk: Native to Native Arts & Crafts
Mary Lou Berard: R4 Office technologies Inc.

In recognition of your contribution and support to the Métis Community

Apetogosan (Métis) Development Inc.

In Recognition of your Support and Service to the Métis Community

Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary

Mixers

The monthly Business and Professional Mixers are going well with 20 to 40 people attending each one. They are also helpful to our starting entrepreneurs as they get to talk to the more experienced business people. We also picked up some new sponsors this year.

Youth

Empowering our Youth through Mentoring and Culture

This Program changed this year under the CCAY funding; the two youth programs have been combined.

- The Youth in the fiddle and guitar program take lessons on Wednesday evenings, these young aspiring musicians have performed at Region 3 functions plus some have been asked to play at other events in Region 3.

- The youth in the Mentoring side have anywhere from 8 to 18 youth who attend group mentoring meetings once a week. They now do more cultural stuff such as learning to bead both on leather and on the loom. They do other leather work, learning to carve, they have learned how to make bannock, have made bannock for the seniors' luncheon.

- We had some of our seniors come to the youth group to share the culture and knowledge.

- Many field trips were taken in the summer months such as the zoo and heritage. As well, the youth volunteered at the Mustard Seed feeding the homeless.

Dancers

- Region 3 supported the Calgary Métis Cultural Star Dancers who performed at open houses, Métis week flag raising, social functions and have also traveled throughout the Region to perform at Big Valley, Lethbridge, Rocky Mountain House, the Stampede and other Parades.

The youth attended and competed at Back to Batoche Celebration, with some of the jiggers placing first, second and third.

To market Métis Region 3 people, business and culture to the general public

- We have had our own Region 3 logo developed and trade-marked it so that only Region 3 can use it.

- We have sent out our new Who Are The Métis brochures to all municipalities, town and city offices, friendship centers and career centers, agencies and public businesses.

- The Hills Are Alive Culture Celebration was put on by the Métis Local # 8 and the Miywasin Society. This is a teaching celebration where you can learn to play fiddle, guitar, bagpipes, banjo, keyboard, beading and moccasin making, hand weaving, and drum making. They offer Youth Programs, Jigging, senior's events and activities, among others and strong advocacy for Métis Cultural retention continue to be offered in Medicine Hat.

- Attended the Pincher Creek annual picnic which was a success. We were also able to go out and view the Red River Cart Trails that are still very much in existence.

- Lethbridge Local 2003 held jigging lessons; deliver community cultural awareness and partners with Family Ties.

Tourism Development

- Region 3 now has the contract for the Buffalo Lake Recreation Area, it was a learning experience for us but luckily we hired an excellent manager for the summer; we have had many meetings with government and others for improving this recreation area.

- We operated the Campground at Tail Creek Park near Stettler and many tourists and visitors continue to return for their annual vacations.

- We received a grant to do a tourism strategy for Tail Creek Park, John Parkins was contracted to do the strategy, and it is now complete. We are now in negotiations with Alberta Tourism to do a Region wide tourism strategy.

- The Métis Interpretive Program started in 2004 at the National Historical Site in Rocky Mountain House was handed over from the Region to Local 845 in 2008. Included in the offer was TP camping at the Riverside campground, there are traditional Métis tents available for groups and families. Proceeds from the campground benefit the Local. Contact Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site for information.

Métis Week

- The Métis flag was raised in front of City Hall where it flew for a week. The Calgary Métis Week Proclamation was presented to Vice President Joseph Pimlott. Lunch was served after the flag raising provided by the City. We ended off the week with the annual Seniors Dinner, a Family Fun Day featuring a free lunch and our traditional Métis Supper and Dance.
- Monday also saw the Métis flag being raised in Medicine Hat by the Mayor and elder Dale

Lawrence. The proclamation was presented to Local President Jeannette Hansen. Lunch was served at the Miywasin Centre afterwards. An Elders appreciation banquet was held with the local harvesters providing wild geese, ducks, pheasants and rabbit; as usual it was packed to capacity.

- The Métis flag was also raised in Lethbridge, where Local 2003 works to promote the Métis through presentations and partnering with local agencies, educational institutions such as Lethbridge College, and Lethbridge University. Presentations were given to both institutes by Rod McLeod and Guy L’Heureux. Cultural Training orchestrated by PV Louise Saloff for Southern Alberta Child and Family Services staff.

- Pincher Creek Chinook Local kicked off a week of activities with President Marlene Lanz at a celebration at the Museum including Flag raising, jigging and the display of their newly acquired traditional Red River Cart there for the week. And a celebration in the Crows Nest Pass which included bowling, a fine meal, and recognition of those who are dedicated to the Métis cause. It was a youth initiative and the youth raffled off their crafts.

Education

- Attended and gave out sashes to the Métis graduating students, at the Aboriginal Graduating Students celebrations at the University of Calgary and SAIT, Bow Valley College, Calgary Catholic Schools Aboriginal Graduation. Other Regional graduates were congratulated by representatives of the Locals in Lethbridge and Medicine Hat.

- LMD Project grads were supported by the Region. Make referrals to other agencies and actively promote post-secondary opportunities, youth awards as well as training and employment initiatives within Region 3.

- We refer Elders to speak at schools etc. Presentations have also been done by both Marlene and Joe as well as elder Faye Beazley and Local representatives at colleges and Local events throughout the Region.

Housing

- We also participate in the Aboriginal Standing Committee on Housing and Homelessness in Calgary; Joe Pimlott sits on the committee.

- Past Regional Housing Representative Myrtle Beaulieu and now Jeff Poitras is active on the Provincial Board of MUHC.

- Medicine Hat Local 8 is working to develop a Seniors Housing complex.

Veterans and Seniors

- We have Bi-Weekly seniors lunches where we have from 25 to 35 seniors come out to the Regional office to enjoy a home cooked meal, friendship and fellowship.
- The Annual Seniors Supper in Calgary was held on Friday of Métis Week with some 200 seniors in attendance from across the Region.

- Métis Veteran Bob Gray is a dedicated and strong advocate for the Métis Veterans and can be seen delivering food and other essentials to the veterans.

- Bi-weekly seniors cribbage tournament in partnership with MCFS. They are held at Native Network (Ephram Bouvier) building

To Transfer and preserve Métis Elder knowledge and wisdom to current and future generations

- The Youth Mentoring Program utilizes Elders, and other people of knowledge.
- We have fiddle and guitar lessons for the youth and the seniors, which occur once a week.

- We had the elders come to our youth group to share their knowledge and cultural teaching.

- We had taped some elders stories which we now have the CD’s in our office for sale for those who want them.

- We have purchased Michif language tapes and materials for all to use.

- We have sashes and other Métis resources for sale in our office.

- We are in the middle of a Michif Language project where some of the activities have already taken place but will not be complete until June 2012

Other Activities

- **Share the Spirit Xmas Dinner**, We had our annual “Share the Spirit Xmas Dinner” on Dec. 11, 2011 at which we served over 400 people. We provided them with bus fare to and from down town, also this year because of donations we were able to hand out scarves, toques, mitts, and warm socks.

- We have many volunteers including elders, seniors and business people who support our events and activities and we appreciate everyone’s dedication within the Region.

- We receive and respond to numerous phone calls throughout the day, especially on harvesting rights and membership issues.

- Stampede Local 8008 in Calgary held elections in October 2011. Bev Weber is now President.

- The Region 3 AGM was held on February 24, 2012; it was well attended. This was followed by our annual Toonie supper, Jamboree and Dance. We recognize our volunteers at the AGM and this year’s recipients were Colby Delorme (technical volunteer), Travis Ronald (young and strong volunteer), Doris Sloan and Jules Allard (volunteers at all our functions and activities).

- Local initiatives, meetings and AGM’s are supported by elected officials.

- We also assisted with the Hivernant Cultural Society’s Métis Celebration in Big Valley in August long weekend. The Society is in negotiations with the Village of Big Valley to develop a permanent Métis Village. They now have the Red River Cart mounted on display at the Métis Village Site and the Métis flag flies proudly.

- We moved our office on July 1, 2011 with a 6 year lease.

- Involved with Alta Link for consultation in their proposed new transmission lines; locals in Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, and Pincher Creek were involved in getting the people out for the Métis specific open houses.

- We attend functions to promote the Métis at the Calgary Stampede.

- Make referrals to other agencies.

- Provide advice on programs within MNAA as well as within Region 3.

Region 4

President’s message

I would like to start off with a tremendous thank you to the citizens of the Métis Zone IV for supporting me in my bid to remain the President for one more term of office. Your support and confidence in me is very humbling. I would also like to take this time to welcome our new Vice President ~ James Atkinson. He is a welcome addition to our Regional Council and as an active member of our community – I am sure that you will find that he brings some new ideas and thoughts as to what he would like to see happen in our Region.

The past year has seen many changes within our Region. We have lost several elders and people who have played a very large role in our Métis communities.

Our Regional Elder and personal friend of my family – Marge Friedel passed away in September. In December, we lost Mr. Gordon Poitras, one of our Métis historians; In January we lost a long time supporter and friend Allan Goyer. Our past president and Gunn Local President Jerry Letendre passed away in February.

I extend my best wishes and condolences to these families and the families of others who have suffered a loss recently. These individuals have been an instrumental part of our history and we have all felt their loss.

As the Minister of Métis Rights and Citizenship I believe that it is important to realize that as we lose the elders of our community – we lose a piece of our history and the stories that are passed down through them. It is so important for all of us as Métis people to track our roots and keep information for our future generations. It is important to transfer our knowledge of our culture, history and stories to our young people so they can continue to evolve and build our nation.

I also have been the Minister involved in moving the Hirsekorn case forward, In January 2012 the Alberta Court of Appeal had agreed to hear the case. We are looking forward to have our appeal before the court sometime towards the end of this year. More information can be found on this issue under my Minister’s report.

We are trying to move forward with our business plan and building on the next steps but people’s involvement is important to succeed with that. Our report will outline some of the events and activities that we have been engaged with over the past year and some of our aspirations for the future.

I truly hope that your family and you enjoy our Annual Assembly in Athabasca and we look forward to seeing all of you over the next days.

Respectfully,
Cecil Bellrose, President

Vice-President’s Message

Welcome to Athabasca and the Métis Nation of Alberta’s 84th Annual General Assembly. Coming back to Athabasca brings back great memories; it was at an assembly here that I won my first jigging contest and sixty bucks, at that time that was huge money (lol). The politicians of the day had heated debates at the podium, made their various promises to the members, candidate’s campaigners going from camp to camp defending their candidate’s honour or simply to further elaborate promises made. The most exciting time for me was actually loading up the vehicle and heading to the assembly, for some it was a summer vacation, but for me it was an opportunity to be with other Métis people and to learn more about our culture. I’m certain many of you may have fond memories or some may be working on your first memory.

Having just 11 months into office it has been a steep learning curve and many of the funding challenges that confront our organization has been an eye opening experience for me but being a determined board we deal with whatever comes our way. I have been given the portfolio that oversees culture and recreation for the MNA and I have attended a great deal of meetings and functions that highlight the importance of Métis People in Canada. I will be working with provincial sporting organizations and groups to find recreational opportunities for Métis in Alberta.

Your participation is invaluable and providing the organization guidance will certainly demonstrate the democratic process that the Métis Nation of Alberta is so proud of, after so many years. Please enjoy your weekend and if you have any questions please feel free to approach me...

Respectfully,
James Atkinson,
Vice- President

Strategic Planning

Zone IV has a Strategic Plan that was developed over several years as a multiyear work plan which should evolve and change as the priorities and issues of the Regional Council change. There are a variety of mechanisms that are used to identify the changes required to the strategic plan that are done through community consultations, regional council meetings, Métis conferences and events and other opportunities for work plan development.

At this time resources have not been available for us to review and amend the plan in the last couple of years. We strive to attempt to garner resources to engage community but at this point it has become one of our challenges.

The development of a strategic plan works within and jointly with the Provincial Office and the Framework Agreement. We always welcome feedback and input into the Business Plan and would look forward to hearing from the community in relationship to gaps or new priorities or suggestions on means to achieve existing goals.

Governance

Actions in Relation to our Governance Role:

- 1. Continued involvement in Métis Nation of Alberta and its’ governing structures:
 - a. The elected President and Vice President of Zone 4 participated in all Provincial Council meetings and were involved in their provincial portfolios. In addition, President Bellrose is actively involved in the areas of Métis Rights, Métis Membership / Citizenship. Vice President Atkinson has been involved in the Ministry of Culture and the areas of Industrial Relations via the Duty to Consult and Access and Benefit Agreements for the Métis and representing the interests of the Provincial Council when necessary.
 - b. The Métis Regional Council hosted one Regional Council meeting and one Annual meeting throughout this fiscal year.
- 2. Urban Métis Community:
 - a. The Vice President – James Atkinson is seeking out opportunities to build or establish a Métis Cultural Centre in Edmonton.
- 3. Rural Métis Community:
 - a. Métis Regional Council through Métis Opportunity Inc. attempted to work with several industrial developments to represent the interests of the Métis community throughout our Region. We have submitted mailouts and attempted to solicit resources to acquire Traditional Land Use Studies in some of the areas so that there is an understanding of how the various proposed projects may benefit or impact our communities and lifestyle.
 - b. We worked with the St. Margaret’s Church by Cooking Lake this past year and there was a plaque placed there acknowledging all the individuals who were buried in the Graveyard.
 - c. We hosted Métis activities throughout Métis Week in November that highlighted a flag raising ceremony at City Hall to start the week. Thanks to the staff of the Métis Genealogy Department we had a very special event that had a procession walking to St. Margaret’s Church with a horse drawn Red River Cart.
- 4. Communication:

Communication seems to be one of the greatest challenges that we face in keeping members informed and current with information. We have had to let our website go because we were unable to keep it current and there were no resources to assist us in developing a better user friendly site. In addition, when it comes to giving notice or acknowledging projects updates we have no mechanisms that assist us with addressing issues to a large group. We would encourage ideas and recommendations on new communication strategies.

Committees and other Regional Commitments

Other committees and initiatives that representatives from Zone IV participated on were as follows:

- Métis Rights Panel - Métis National Council
- Provincial Executive Committee
- Judiciary Council
- Provincial Elders Group
- Métis Urban Housing
- Provincial Council Initiatives
- Advocacy and information referral in relation to Children Services, Housing, Harvesting, Membership and other issues as they relate to inquiries from Métis members.
- And others that may be required from time to time.

Committee Representatives from Zone 4

- Métis Judiciary Council
- Métis Urban Housing
- Métis Provincial Elders Council

Region 5

Here at Region V we are committed to assisting our local communities and members in different matters and issues as they arise.

We have assisted members on a variety of issues such as but not limited to Employment, housing, land issues, child and family services, health, education, harvesting, membership, taxes, senior applications, residential survivor applications and others as needed.

We share the information we receive with our locals and in some cases with contact people in the communities and members who visit our office. Information includes documents sent from agencies, government, and community stakeholders.

Affordable housing continues to be an issue and we will continue to keep it as part of our work-plan. I did raise our concern of the 18 units in Slave Lake prior to the fire in Slave Lake and now there are even less affordable homes.

We do have representation on the Slave Lake Housing Authority and this is an affordable housing program. Our Rep does attend the meetings and he is there to represent the best interest of Region V.

Although Slave Lake continues to show a need for affordable housing, many single people cannot afford the rent in this community and are forced to share accommodations where we need to support programs that will assist in this matter. Since the fire in Slave Lake affordable housing has been a big issue.

In our other communities, such as Faust, Grouard, Kinuso and other areas have shown a great need for affordable housing projects. In homes that we have visit many grown children are raising families in the parents homes because there are no housing in the local communities.

For the years I have been here Region V has supported Northern Havens, Student housing and Senior housing, we will continue to support needed projects in our communities.

Youth

We continue to try and have youth activities, however funding is always an issue. With the funds received from CCAY we partnered with FCSS in a couple of the communities where the youth were provided opportunities to learn to snow shoe, home alone safety courses, hockey, and other sports.

We are looking to seek funds that would enable us to have a full-time youth coordinator who will seek partnerships in the different communities to host youth activities.

We are seeking funding to purchase fiddles and a few guitars to start having music lessons in Region 5.

This fiscal year we have applied to Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth known as CCAY. In this project we have committed to having, jigging, arts and crafts, summer camps and working with the elders and other programs.

We are excited to get started with the youth program, this will enable us to share our culture as well as allow the youth to do arts ant crafts such as finger weaving a sash, or learning the red river jig.

In the past we were able to assist with sports and medical appointments, however since the Eagle Nest Bingo closed we have not joined another association to raise funds for the project, it was 100% funded by the bingos and the volunteers who helped. As it is difficult to find volunteers we would need some individuals who could volunteer and we would then look at applying with another Association.

Seniors

We had lunch with our elders a few times and we are looking at expanding this to be monthly gathering where it will bring the elders and community members together. We need to continue with this as it gives our seniors an opportunity to visit our office and obtain assistance when needed. We continue to assist with membership, applications and other paper work necessary.

Health

We will be working collectively with Mental Health on different workshops with the Elders and the Youth and other facilitators.

Some of the workshops we are going to have are:

- Blood Related Diseases
- Smoking
- Healthy Eating
- Diabetes
- Information on Cancer and how to prevent it
- Parenting Skills
- FASD
- HIV and prevention
- Bullying
- Stay in School
- Trades Information

Culture and Heritage

We attended the MNA AGM in Grand Prairie, we partnered with Industry to cover the cost of 10 rooms for the Region 5 elders. We have done this for several years and we continue to look for financial support to assist our elders in attending.

In November of each year we raise the flag here in Slave Lake to commemorate the people who have passed away, and in the past have helped build the Métis Nation. This has been an annual event for several years, the Mayor of Slave Lake does come out to join us each year and when we are done we come back to the office for an open house and we have lunch with the people who attend.

Each year we have the Northern Métis Celebration in Partnership with Northern Lakes College. We will be hosting the 9th Annual Celebration In Grouard and at this gathering we have arts and crafts and a talent show in the afternoon for the kids then we have opening comments where different dignitaries speak then we have dinner, which is free, and then move into a talent show for the adults. I have M.Cd the evening event for many years and with out the committee who volunteers this event would not be possible. This event takes about 30 volunteers. Aboriginal day we partnered with St. Mary of the Lakes School and the Slave Lake Friendship Centre. Here we had jigging contests, moose calling, and many children's competitions. We also had entertainment and a barbeque.

The parades in High Prairie, Slave Lake, Smith, Faust and Kinuso we will be happy to showcase our culture on a float and with fiddle music as it is expected of us as the Métis. If anyone has a truck and trailer they would like to donate for the parades please let us know, or we will have to use a truck and trailer, however we will do what we can.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with different things, so if you are interested in helping with volunteering your time please let our office know

Harvesting

As many of you are aware the Métis Nation did have an interim harvesting agreement. The MNA continues to challenge the courts for our harvesting rights

Economic Development

We have been meeting with different industries and we have developed a working relationship with a few groups. Our main focus has been to ensure our members have an equal opportunity for employment.

Enbridge has a big project starting and it will be going through the White Court and Fox Creek area and the president does participate with their Community Advisory Board; they will send us the information with the contracts and employment opportunities.

We will continue to work with Industry and develop working relationships to obtain employment for our members.

Education

Region V is forming partnerships with Alberta School Board Association at the Local Governing Level to set up transformation programs. There are Métis Members on the task force of ASBA at this time.

Region 5 will assist in promoting Rupertsland Institute to the membership.

Locals

We are hoping some of the communities will start locals and join our Region V Council as it is difficult to get into every community and with a local president we are able to assist in project or program development however we don't have the man power to run programs and or services in the communities.

Kathleen local still owns the 148 acres of land that was negotiated by Region V, which took 5 years so we are proud of that as well.

Region V Office

Our office is open Monday-Friday 9:00AM- 4:00PM and is located at 353 main Street, Slave Lake and our Phone number is (780) 849 4654

Membership/Citizenship

Our membership in Region V has had some member's renewing their cards however the new cards have been out for a few years and we encourage our members to come into the office and our Executive Director will assist you in obtaining a new citizenship card.

Region6

Region VI of Métis Nation is celebrating 25 years. Our Anniversary Annual General Meeting is scheduled for September 28 and 29, 2012. The Region will proudly showcase 25 years of serving the Northwest Region of the province, bringing together as many of the past presidents, vice presidents, Regional Council and staff as possible. Members, friends, families will all join in the celebrations, memories made up of good times and sad times will be remembered. Most of all we will rejoice in the strength and moving forward we will be able to see, the members and the Region growing together for the past twenty five years.



Region 6 President Sylvia Johnson, Métis Air Cadet Ethan George and Elder Ruth Kidder

Through the years we have seen our companies and investments grow and prosper. Proudly we announce that for the last fifteen years, we are 100% Métis owned. Through Nesokmahtan Enterprises Inc. we own our own building, land, equipment etc. For twenty years Neso has been 50% owner of Bison contracting employing thirty five workers at DMI pulp mill. We strive to ensure that at least 50% of the employees are Métis. Many of these people have moved on into the mill through Bison Contracting, acquiring certification as power engineering, mill wright, electrical, etc. giving families the ability to successfully own their own home, make top wage with full time employment. However, we also realize and attribute our success to our greatest asset OUR PEOPLE. We continue to see our future through our children. Through the guidance of leaders such as Ruth Kidder, Wendy Goulet, Angie Crerar, Jim Whiteford, Clara Boman, committed Regional Council members moving us forward. Our motto“PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST”.

Our Locals are strong and healthy; six of them have also been active for over 25 years. It has been very satisfying to see our Elders, youth and families grow as proud loyal Métis, supporting us at AGM's, assemblies, meetings, etc., and the Region in turn, supporting them. When our people need us the most, we are there. We are one united Métis family.

Thank you for the confidence and support our office receives from its membership and members at large. Since September the office has been very busy. Many people have come through the doors for various reasons; the main request has been housing, training and Métis membership. We strive to offer assistance wherever we can, and make sure that due care and attention is given to each individual. The coffee is always on, the President, Vice President and staff, is never too busy to take the time to meet, greet and assist people to the best of our ability. We try to make our office warm and inviting, encouraging all to join us for a visit and refreshments, especially the children that come in after school.

In Region VI, the people who reside and have history and lineage linking them back to the land through our grandfathers do have the right to harvest within a 160 kilometer radius of their traditional homeland. We have historical Métis communities throughout the region, with proven recorded history showing our people were among the first having connection and heritage to the land. This year, through our CCAY sponsorship, we received significant money to host a very successful workshop for our youth called “Who Am I?” This gathering of twenty youth and ten Elders searched and linked their genealogy to our historic past. They explored and traced their ancestors’ journey to northern Alberta.

Our Métis Business/ Working with Industry

As in the past, the region has stood on the principle of fair and equal treatment for the Métis.

Therefore, we ensure that Métis have the necessary rights to pursue employment, training, housing, and membership.

Consultation and meetings have been set up with Trans Canada, Site C, Terra, Shell, DMI, etc. Traditional land use studies have enabled us to gather information on trapping, fishing, hunting as well as the footprints left behind by the Métis identifying and remembering our trails, graves, flora and fauna. Our Elders and hunters have identified wintering sites for the moose and caribou, berry picking spots and medicines. Environmental issues concerning our land and water have been identified. We have been assisted with some of this work through ACME consulting. We will continue striving to be recognized stakeholders to industry and government.



Elder Ruth Kidder and Office Administrator Louise Stragnahan



Veteran Leo Goulet & Elder Dave Cummings, Peace River PowWow



CCAY “Who Am I” Youth Workshop held in Region VI hosting 20 youth and 10 elders

By working closely with Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline we have participated in many meetings, conferences, oral hearings and field work, bringing out our Elders, hunters and present our case and our history. Employment opportunities are also encouraged as we continue to make sure that the Métis are included, heard and consulted. Our aim is to include as many of our people as possible throughout the Northwest Region as well as putting opportunity and right in the hands of the grassroots people.

Region VI has hosted a meeting to bring awareness to the possible extinction of the Woodland Caribou. Environmental issues and concerns, wildlife protection and traditional land disturbance as well as oil spills in the Northwest region are carefully watched and monitored. Proposals and programs are continually lobbied for and sought after.

Aboriginal Framework Agreement / Mission Statement / Mandate

- Region VI will assist all Métis people in becoming self-sufficient in their communities for the betterment of life.
- Development and enhance the Métis way of life, free from prejudice;
- Ensure that land claim issues in Region VI receive top priority.
- Advocate and lobby on behalf of Métis members.
- Promote awareness of the unique Métis heritage and culture
- Promote and encourage participation by Elders and Youth.
- Help define the rights of the Métis people

The Aboriginal Affairs framework agreement capacity dollars continues to be the same amount as we received 20 years ago. This makes it extremely hard to cover all office costs regional council meetings and annual general meeting, salaries for one staff member and elected officials as this was originally intended to do. We must compensate through other

programs and initiatives to assist with increased cost of operations. Even though the provincial council has continuously lobbied for a cost of living increase, and has held many meetings and workshops on the framework agreement, as we have proved that the cost of running an office, wages and utilities have more than tripled since the original grant, we have never received any additional compensation. Hence, we have had to change our strategy in becoming very creative to cover costs such as our Annual General Meeting and Regional Council Meetings and utilities. The capacity building we have based our business plan and mandate on are pretty much nonexistent and certainly unable to fulfill.



Veteran Charlie St. Germaine

Another barrier that exists in the region is the fact that there is no membership clerk. Again, the members have to travel to Edmonton head office at their own expense as well as inconvenience. For people from north of Peace River, this is a nine hour drive. Most times the office is closed before they get there. Every effort on the part of Region VI MNA has been made to try and get a membership clerk, one who could travel throughout the Region. Many times we were promised that this would happen, yet to date we are still waiting.

Cultural Activities

Our cultural activities include Métis Week where we proudly celebrated for five days straight. Celebrations took place in Cadotte Lake where we participated in a community feast with Cadotte Lake Local through fiddling and jigging as well as children's activities. Open house was held at our office with a stew and bannock luncheon. Grande Prairie held a thank you to supporters by hosting a Métis week supper and jigging performances. Three school tours and Métis awareness at the mall. People visiting the office received information on Louis Riel and the Métis as well as a Métis gift. The local paper did a one page write up on Louis Riel and the journey of the Métis to the Peace country.

We work with other Aboriginal groups in the region, striving to bring Métis cultural awareness to every possible event we can. By sitting on Aboriginal Interagency, we connect with the community and work together. By supporting our traditional craftspeople, we have been able to add to our cross cultural artifacts and displays. Region VI has started making dance costumes and ribbon shirts for our children and youth.

Visit our Gift Shop and Resource Room

We have grown our cultural artifacts, crafts and books for sale and Métis cross cultural activities. By purchasing handicraft from Aboriginal people in the north we support and promote our traditional entrepreneur's through sales of, moccasins, mitts, baskets, sashes, jewellery, ribbon shirts, dream catchers, Aboriginal resource books are all for sale.

Some fun activities we hosted were a Halloween party for children, a bbq and garage sale held by the Elders Caring Shelter, Christmas party at the office for Elders and members, Christmas party at the Elders Caring Shelter, Christmas open house party for families in our board room, family day in Cadotte Lake. Region VI sponsored a Christmas community swim at the complex.

Bursaries/Scholarships

The Region VI office offers our own "Marina Brothers Excellence in Education" bursary. Bursaries from Shell and Nesokmahtan, the total amount of Bursary donation to post secondary students is \$5,000.00

Donations and Support

Donations given out by Region VI and our companies Nesokmahtan Enterprises Inc. and Northwest Development are given to the Locals, rooms and travel for MNA Assembly and Region VI AGM. Bereavement, Sports, conferences, childrens programs, jigging competitions and lessons, community activities, Sisters in Spirit Walk, Aboriginal Pow Wow, Grande Prairie Aboriginal Day, Native Hockey Tournament, emergency housing assistance, rainy day program, Aboriginal Fashion Gala, etc. This year, Christmas gift baskets and Christmas candy cups were given out to our Elders, shut- ins and members who came to see us Christmas week. Small gifts were under the tree for children who came in to the office. Four deserving families were given cheques to make Christmas a little happier and easier. We also partnered in with the food bank to help distribute toys and food. Through our homeless fund, we supported a family that burned out and another family that was homeless.

On a very sad note, Region VI has lost many of their wonderful elders this year, including our beloved Kookum Irene Carifell, matriarch of Cadotte Lake Métis community. Her support and presence at our AGM's and Assemblies will be greatly missed. As well, we have lost our Veteran Elzear Punchy Whitehead. The gift he gave us was his wonderful personality, always teaching us about the Veterans and Remembrance Day, giving us the opportunity to know more our veterans and be proud of them. The dedication to the Métis Nation that our elders have given to us will always be cherished and remembered. Their spirit will live on as we will never forget.



Veterans Leo Goulet and Punchy Whitehead

Regional Council Board of Directors

- Region VI Elder Ruth Kidder
- Peace River Local 78 President Ruth Kidder
- Fairview Local President Jim Whiteford
- Valleyview Local President Ruby Gladue
- Cadotte Lake Local President Wendy Goulet
- Fort Vermilion Local President Noreen McAteer

Appointments

- Métis Nation of Alberta Minister of Housing, Sylvia Johnson
- Métis Nation of Alberta Minister of Children and Youth, Carol Ridsdale
- Region VI Rep of Housing, Wendy Goulet
- Region VI Youth Reps, Natasha Gauthier and Stephen Maltais
- Region VI Métis Judiciary Council Rep, Marg Mueller



Elder Emery "Muskwa" Poitras

MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA
82ND ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
August 11 - 14th, 2011
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Summary of Motions

*Motion #1: Melanie Omeniho moves to cease nominations for Chair seconded by Bev New.
Motion Carried.*

*Motion #2: Emile Blyn moves to cease nominations for Co-Chair seconded by Brian Hamelin.
Motion Carried.*

*Motion #3: Robert Lee moves to amend the agenda to add a Candidates Forum following the
Treasurers Report under Report of Officers seconded by Melanie Omeniho.
Motion Carried.*

*Motion #4: Melanie Omeniho moves to accept the agenda as amended seconded by Bev Weber
Motion Carried.*

*Motion #5: Melanie Omeniho moves to accept the President's Report, seconded by Angie Crerar.
Motion Carried.*

*Motion #6: Melanie Omeniho moves to accept the Vice President's Report, seconded by Louis
Bellrose.
Motion Carried.*

Note: Point of privilege – Thank you to Muriel Stanley Venne for her speech.

*Motion #7: Aaron Barner moves to accept the Summary of Motions from the 2010 Assembly in
Wabasca as presented in the Annual Report, seconded by James Atkinson.
Motion Carried.*

Note that Ordinary Resolution # 1 from the 2010 AGA was requested to be noted to be unanimous.
Amendment required.

*Motion #8: Melanie Omeniho moves to accept the Financial Report as presented, seconded by
Shirley McDonald.
Motion Carried.*

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The following appointments were made to the Resolutions Committee:

Region 1 – B. Loutitt appoints Jumbo Fraser Region 2 – K. Collins appoints Annette Ozirny
Region 3 – B. Weber appoints Donna Kennedy Region 4 – C. Bellrose appoints Robert Lee
Region 5–B. New appoints Geraldine Decoine Region 6–B. Mitchell appoints Noreen McAteer

Robert Lee, Chair of Resolutions Committee advised that the Committee has determined that the resolutions were not accepted as they were incomplete and convoluted with no understanding of the intent of the resolutions.

A request was made for the Resolutions Committee to provide a written report as to why the resolutions were not accepted. The report is to form part of the minutes. The Chair of the Committee agreed that they would provide a report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION #1

WHEREAS the Metis Nation of Alberta Association operates under the Societies Act;

AND WHEREAS the Metis Nation of Alberta Association looks toward adopting a constitution;

AND WHEREAS interim measures to transition into a constitution may be helpful;

AND WHEREAS citizens of democratic nations have recourse to appeal judicial rulings;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that article 30.2 of the Metis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws is replaced with the following;

30.2 All decisions of the Metis Judiciary Council may be appealed to the annual general assembly.

Moved by Sharon Pasula

Seconded by Ken L'Hirondelle

SPECIAL RESOLUTION #2

The powers of the Metis Judiciary Council shall be:

Article 30.1

(j) A person will be banned from holding office or seeking office and all rights to sit on any Metis Nation of Alberta Board, if they knowingly abuse funds or profit from funds allocated to the Metis Nation of Alberta projects and services.

Moved by Doreen Hays

Seconded by Beatrice Demetrius

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2011 – SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: August 19, 2011
TO: MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA
FROM: TERRY ANTONELLO – counsel for Métis Nation of Alberta (“MNA”)
ROBERT LEE – Chairman of Special Resolutions Committee
RE: Annual Meeting Special Resolution

1. Special Resolution #1 (amendment of Section 30.2 of the MNA Bylaws) was not considered to be a Special Resolution by the Special Resolution Committee for various reasons including the following:
 - (a) The Special Resolution would deny an Appellant a fair and impartial hearing. This is in conflict with the existing MNA Bylaws where the intention of the Bylaws is that an Appellant receive a fair and impartial hearing;
 - (b) The Special Resolution is incomplete as it does not specify in proper detail the process that must be followed with respect to an appeal such as commencement of an appeal, service of documents, time deadlines, etc.;
2. Special Resolution #2 (addition of Article 30.1 to MNA Bylaws) was not considered to be a Special Resolution by the Special Resolutions Committee for various reasons including the following:
 - (a) The Special Resolution does not clearly add any additional powers to the Judiciary Council under Section 30 of the MNA Bylaws;
 - (b) The Special Resolution is unclear with respect to the meaning of “banned”, “Métis nation of Alberta Board”, “knowingly abuse funds” and “Métis Nation of Alberta projects and services”;


TERRY W. ANTONELLO


ROBERT LEE

 Summary of Motions

Ordinary Resolution #1

WHEREAS the Metis Nation of Alberta, on behalf of Metis citizens, owns 100% of Metis Crossing and

WHEREAS Metis History; land; culture; heritage and language is our foundation from the past and will remain steadfast for future generations, and

WHEREAS we have been advised that Metis Crossing must raise \$3.5 million dollars that will be matched by the Government of Canada

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we all as citizens, Locals, Regions and friends of the Metis Nation provide and move very quickly to assist financially or otherwise, in any way we can, Metis Crossing in achieving and attaining this goal as it will reflect to all Albertans and Canadians that we as Metis can and will meet this challenge and build our “home” that showcases and celebrates our exciting culture with the world.

Moved by Brandy Mitchell

Seconded by Angie Crerar

RESOLUTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ordinary Resolution #2

WHEREAS the children of the Metis Nation of Alberta are still being apprehended at a very high rate and

WHEREAS there is a class action against the Province of Alberta to address the abuse of children in foster care, and

WHEREAS there is need to bring the Metis people together to address these issues,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED to support the Metis Kids for Us Conference planned by the Metis Mothers of Alberta this year.

Moved by Muriel Stanley Venne

Seconded by Nora Cardinal

RESOLUTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ordinary Resolution #3

WHEREAS the Metis Nation of Alberta represents Metis throughout Alberta,

WHEREAS children and families across Alberta have been in need and continue to require advocacy, support and culturally based services,

WHEREAS Metis children and families are impacted and continue to be among the high statistics of Aboriginal children in need,

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 Summary of Motions

WHEREAS the Elder and Children and Youth Provincial committee represent the hearts of the people, and have not had resources to undertake consultation and capacity building to develop a Provincial approach based on residential school history, knowledge and experience since June 2009,

WHEREAS consultation with industry and government are supported, but internal consultation with MNA citizens has not been given resources

AND WHEREAS children and youth are the future of the Metis Nation,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Metis Nation of Alberta direct financial resources on an ongoing basis, including Tripartite resources, to the goal of Provincial consultation within MNA families, and the development of tangible, consistent services, and capacity building based on the longstanding Committee's initiatives and Elders direction to serve Metis Children in families in need of support in all areas of the Metis Nation of Alberta.

Moved by Bev Weber
RESOLUTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Seconded by Noreen McAteer

Ordinary Resolution #4

WHEREAS the MNA Bylaws govern the affairs of the MNA and are meant to provide direction for all levels of the Metis Nation of Alberta,

WHEREAS there are obvious inconsistencies within the document that were created to Govern the Metis Nation of Alberta, which also contributes to misinterpretation of the said bylaws and contributes to internal conflict within the Metis Nation of Alberta,

WHEREAS the MNA Bylaws have not gone through an extensive review since they were created.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as an Ordinary Resolution; that the Provincial Council of the Metis Nation of Alberta assign a Bylaw Revision Committee, that includes one Representative from each Region, to review and create a set of bylaws that better suits the needs of today's Metis Nation of Alberta Government and present this new document at the 2012 Annual General Assembly to be approved.

Moved by Brandy Mitchell
RESOLUTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Seconded by Angie Crerar

Ordinary Resolution #5

WHEREAS: the Metis Nation of Alberta recognizes the Locals in the Regions or Zones, and

WHEREAS the Locals are the foundation of the Metis Nation,

 Summary of Motions

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that a Task Force of (3) three members of the Metis Nation be appointed by Provincial Council to examine the present situation of the locals in each region with the purpose of increasing the number and quality of the Locals and responding to their development and their compliance with their legal requirements.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that this committee report to the Provincial Council for consideration and action within six months.

Moved by Muriel Stanley Venne
RESOLUTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Seconded by Bill Loutitt

It was noted that if they don't comply, who is going to ensure that it's maintained; we as a government should be doing this already
Chair suggests that this be part of the task force

Ordinary Resolution #6

WHEREAS in Canada, indigenous women are five times more likely than other women to die as a result of violence and this problem is national and international crisis. Violence against Aboriginal women and girls must be addressed and eliminated.

WHEREAS there are reports that more than 582 Indigenous women are known to be either missing or murdered currently in Canada and many non-governmental organizations are conducting research and spreading awareness both nationally and internationally such as Amnesty International Stolen Sisters and No More Stolen Sisters reports;

WHEREAS many of those gone missing or who have been found murdered are girls who may be in the care of provincial ministries responsible for child and family services and foster care;

WHEREAS in order to redress the systemic racism and to eliminate the violence perpetrated against indigenous women in Canada, there is a responsibility by all;

WHEREAS the United Nations Committee on the Elimination against Women (CEDAW) gave a 2008 directive to Canada to "examine the reasons for the failure to investigate cases of missing or murdered Aboriginal Women and take the necessary steps to remedy the deficiencies in the system {and} carry out an analysis of these cases in order to determine whether there a racialized pattern disappearances and take measures to address the problem if that is the case;

WHEREAS the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:

Article 21(2) States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth and persons with disabilities

Summary of Motions

Article 22(2) States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Metis Nation of Alberta support these measures to stop the violence against women, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Metis men of Alberta be supported in their efforts to bring about change.

Moved by Muriel Stanley Venne
RESOLUTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Announcements – Angie Crerar

K. Collins Moves to adjourn the meeting 9:51 a.m. August 14, 2011

Resolutions to the Métis Nation Assembly 2012

Special Resolution #1

WHEREAS Article 16.2 defines the term of office for the President, Vice President and the Regional Representative of the Provincial Council as three (3) years; and

WHEREAS the cost of holding elections is extremely high and amortizing the cost over four (4) years would be more cost effective and would provide a better use of MNA funds; and

WHEREAS all the other Métis Governing bodies in Canada are elected to four (4) years terms, this includes the Métis Nation of Ontario, Manitoba Métis Federation, Métis Nation of Saskatchewan and the Métis Nation of British Columbia, and

WHEREAS the Métis Settlements General Council’s elected terms of office are for terms of four (4) years, as are the majority of First Nations Governments.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws Article 16.2 be amended by replacing “three (3)” with “four (4)” so that hereinafter Article 16.2 shall read:

The President, Vice President and the Regional Representatives of the Provincial Council shall be elected for a term of four (4) years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this amendment will become effective for the Métis Nation of Alberta Association election in September of 2014.

Moved by: Aaron Barner
Seconded by: Allan Scoville

Special Resolution #2

WHEREAS Schedule C: Election Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Article 6.4 states: A Métis Lifetime member is eligible to be nominated as a candidate in an election if on the day his or her nomination paper is filed he or she: (a) is a Métis Lifetime member who is entitled to hold office; and (b) is the full age of sixteen (16) years or will be that age on election day; and (c) has been ordinarily resident in Alberta continuously from the day 12 months immediately preceding the election day; and (d) has no financial debt owing to the Métis Nation or its affiliates that is more than thirty (30) days in arrears.

WHEREAS Article 6.4 of Schedule C: Election Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association is pertaining to the election of the positions of Provincial President and Provincial Vice President, and Regional Presidents and Regional Vice President, who all make up Provincial Council for the Métis Nation of Alberta.

WHERE AS Article 42: Election and Term of the Regional Council of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws reads (1) Each of the two (2) Representatives elected to Provincial Council for the Region shall be members of the Regional Council for so long as each individual is a member of the Provincial Council, and (2) Each Local Council President shall be a member of the Regional Council for so long as he or she is the President of the Local Council.

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Alberta Association believes in equality for all Métis members.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaws Article 63.1: The President of the Local Council needs to be amended to reflect equality within the Regional Council.

HEREINAFTER Article 63.1 shall read: (h) has no financial debt owing to the Métis Nation or its affiliates that is more than thirty (30) days in arrears.

Moved by: Diane Scoville

Seconded by: Darrell Ghostkeeper

Special Resolution #3

Whereas Article 15.3 of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association bylaws states: Each local council shall provide direction to the regional council in regard to the policies, programs and goals of their local community, and

Whereas Article 14.1 of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association bylaws states: Each Regional Council shall govern the affairs of their Region.

Therefore be it resolved each Métis Nation of Alberta Association Region must have a minimum of four (4) legally incorporated Local councils in order for the Region to be legally operational as per the Métis Nation of Alberta Association bylaws.

Moved by: Diane Scoville

Seconded by: Sylvia Johnson

Special Resolution #4

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Alberta Association is a Society registered under the Province of Alberta Societies Act Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000 Chapter S-14;

WHEREAS Article 3.1 defines “Métis” means a person who self-identifies as a Métis, is distinct from other aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation;

WHEREAS 3.2 states a Métis must provide historical proof of his or her status as Métis

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaw Article 4.5 be amended adding ‘who has met all the requirement of Article 3.1 and 3.2’

HEREINAFTER Article 4.5 shall read:
Member – means a member of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association who has met all the requirements of Article 3.1 and 3.2.

Moved by: Cecil Bellrose

Seconded by: Beatrice Demetrius

Special Resolution #5

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Alberta Association is a Society registered under the Province of Alberta Societies Act Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000 Chapter S-14;

WHEREAS Section 9 (4) (a) of the Societies Act requires all Societies to define in their bylaws provisions for terms of admission of members and their rights and obligations;

WHEREAS Article 3.1 defines “Métis” means a person who self-identifies as a Métis, is distinct from other aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation;

WHEREAS 3.2 states a Métis must provide historical proof of his or her status as Métis.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Alberta Association Bylaw Article 6.2 be amended to meet this requirement.

HEREINAFTER Article 6.2 shall read:

A Lifetime Member is:

- (a) A Métis who has met all the requirement of the Métis definition through the Métis Nation of Alberta Registry and issued a Métis ID number; or
- (b) A Métis child who has met all the requirement of the Métis definition through the Métis Nation of Alberta Registry and issued a Métis ID number.

Moved by: Cecil Bellrose

Seconded by: Beatrice Demetrius

