

2017 - Issue 1
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OTIPEMISIWAK

Official Voice of the Métis Nation in Alberta





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to extend a warm greeting to all our readers. The past winter months have been filled with historical events for Métis in Alberta. On January 30, 2017, Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) became the first province to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Canada. A few days later, on February 1, 2017, myself and MNA Provincial Council attended a meeting with Premier Rachel Notley where we finalized a ground-breaking ten-year Framework Agreement with the provincial government. I want to thank the MNA Provincial Council, including our Co-Ministers for Métis Rights (Karen Collins and Bev New) and legal counsel for getting us here. Now the hard work begins! In the upcoming months, MNA will be initiating province-wide community consultations to update members on these agreements as well as to talk about our priorities for future negotiations with both Canada and Alberta. To remain up to date, I encourage members to find us on Facebook and ensure your contact information is up to date at our MNA head office.

The winter quarter has also brought opportunities for us to come together. Both our Annual Business Mixer and our Youth and Seniors Symposium were great successes. The Mixer allowed Métis entrepreneurs the opportunity to network and learn, while our Symposium facilitated the coming together of generations. I encourage all to look into our upcoming events across the province. For example, MNA is completing province-wide Climate Change Workshops, which are designed to collect feedback that will inform policy and program development, and to be sure Métis interests and concerns are heard and addressed.

I look forward to seeing everyone at this year's Annual General Assembly, which will be hosted by Region 6 in Peace River, Thursday, August 10, 2017 to Sunday, August 13, 2017. Now more than ever, it is imperative that we work together to move the Métis Nation forward. This is an exciting time for us and I look forward to what the summer months bring.

Kind Regards,

Audrey Poitras
President, Métis Nation of Alberta

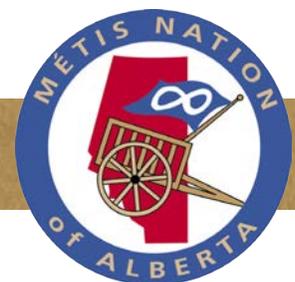


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Upcoming Events.....	Page 4
Memorandum Re: Recent agreements with Canada and Alberta.....	Page 5
MNA Persident Audrey Poitras Recognized for Outstanding Leadership.....	Page 9
Métis National Council Board of Governors Sign Historic Accord with Canadian Government.....	Page 10
MNA President Poitras Applauds Precedent- Setting Federal Budget for Métis Nation.....	Page 11
Federal Funding for Fort Edmonton Indigenous Peoples Experience.....	Page 12
Stories of Our Métis Veterans.....	Page 13
Bold Métis Women.....	Page 16
MNA Voyageurs Secure Another Shut-Out.....	Page 21
Local Métis Artist Exhibits Stunning Installation.....	Page 22
MNA Conducting Province Wide Climate Change Workshops.....	Page 24
Métis Man Appointed as an Alberta Court of Queen’s Bench Judge	Page 25
Hundreds Gather to Honour Herb Belcourt.....	Page 26
4th Annual Business Mixer.....	Page 28
Business Award Winners.....	Page 30
Métis Crossing Wins Entrepreneurship Challenge Award.....	Page 33
19th Annual MNA Region 3 Entrepreneurial Leadership Awards.....	Page 34
Seniors and Youth Symposium.....	Page 38
Seniors and Youth Photobooth Snapshots.....	Page 40
AGA Notice to Members.....	Page 42

|For more information regarding any of these stories, contact us at communications@metis.org or at 780 - 455 - 2200. We want to hear any ideas for upcoming features.|

Upcoming Events

MNA 89TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Thursday, August 10th -
Sunday, August 13th, 2017**

**BELLE PETROLEUM CENTRE
9403 94 ST.
PEACE RIVER, AB, T8S 1J2**

Join MNA for our 89th AGA in Pease River, *Celebrating 150+ Years of Métis History*. This year's AGA is proudly hosted by MNA Region 6. For more information, please contact Marilyn Lizee at 780-455-2200 ext. 392, or email mlizee@metis.org.

COMMUNITY HEALTH NIGHTS: INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH SERIES

**Tuesday, May 23rd, 2017
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm**

**MNA PROVINCIAL HEAD OFFICE
#100-11738 KINGSWAY AVENUE NW
EDMONTON, AB**

Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) will be hosting information nights on the fourth Tuesday of every second month. The first presentation in this series is "Introduction to Health Series." Topics will include Métis health, MNA governance, Métis culture, and Métis historical events. To reserve your seat, contact Christine at cdyck@metis.org, or 780-455-2200 ext. 249.



20TH ANNUAL AUDREY POITRAS GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Thursday, June 8th, 2017
Registration at 9:00 AM**

**LEGENDS GOLF COURSE
53541 RANGE RD 232
SHERWOOD PARK, ALBERTA**

MNA is proud to host our 20th Annual Audrey Poitras Golf Tournament on June 8th. Players will have the chance to win great prizes, including \$25,000, a new vehicle, and a grand prize of \$1,000,000! For more information, please contact Marilyn Lizee at mlizee@metis.org, or call 780-455-2200.



MNA CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOPS

Dates, times, and locations available on our Facebook page and on our MNA website at: bit.ly/2o298G7

Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) invites community members to join us for a series of province-wide workshops on climate change. The gathered feedback will aim to inform policy and program development, and ensure that Métis interests and concerns are heard and addressed.

Reserve your seat by emailing Katie Suvanto at ksuvanto@metis.org, or by calling 780-455-2200 ext. 235.



NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY AT MÉTIS CROSSING

**Saturday, June 24, 2017
11:00 am - 6:00 pm**

Join MNA at our cultural centre, Métis Crossing, for our annual celebration of National Aboriginal Day. The event is free and open to the public and will include lots of entertainment, including cultural interpretation, games, and a fish fry!

For more information, contact Phoebe or Leon at (780) 656-2229.



MEMORANDUM RE: RECENT AGREEMENTS WITH CANADA AND ALBERTA

TO: All Members

FROM: Audrey Poitras, MNA President

DATE: February 27, 2017

RE: Recent Agreements with Canada and Alberta

The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) has recently signed two important agreements with both the federal and provincial governments. Both of these agreements are now publicly available and can be found on the MNA's website at www.albertametis.com. Copies of these agreements can also be obtained by contacting the MNA Head Office or our Regional Offices throughout the province.

The agreements consolidate many of the positive developments we have been making politically here in Alberta as well as at the federal level over the last year or so. These agreements also begin to strategically put the pieces into place to meaningfully implement our historic victory in the Harry Daniels case from April 2016 (the "Daniels Case") as well as the recommendations of Mr. Tom Isaac, Canada's Ministerial Special Representative on Métis Section 35 Rights, whose report was released in July 2016 (the "Isaac Report").

In the upcoming months, the MNA will be initiating province-wide community consultations to update members on these agreements as well as to talk about our priorities for future negotiations with both Canada and Alberta. In the meantime, I wanted to provide this update to highlight some important aspects of these agreements as well as outline how they fit together and complement each other. As I stated at the signing of these two agreements, the "stars are aligning for Alberta Métis" to make some significant advances on our rights-based agenda in the near future.

From the positive relationships we have built with Premier Notley and her government, including the commitment in our new Framework Agreement to finally begin work with us on a nation-to-nation basis, to Prime Minister Trudeau's commitment to finally put into place the nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship the Métis Nation has sought with Canada for generations, I believe we have the wind at our backs and we must seize upon the once-in-a-generation opportunities that are before us.

MNA-CANADA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON RECONCILIATION

This first agreement—the MNA-Canada MOU on Reconciliation—establishes a bilateral exploratory discussions process between ourselves and Canada in order to see if we can reach a formal Framework Agreement for negotiations on Métis rights and claims in Alberta by September 2017. This is a momentous development for Alberta Métis!

Exploratory discussion processes are an important step in Canada’s six stage Indigenous “claims” resolution processes. In the past, Métis south of the 60th parallel were completely excluded from these types of federal negotiation processes. Clearly, the direction from the Daniels Case and the Isaac Report; namely, that Métis can no longer be on the outside looking in at the federal level, is slowly taking hold. For more information on the MOU and answers to frequently asked questions visit: <http://albertametis.com/2017/01/20612/>.



As set out in the MOU, these exploratory discussions will be focused on dealing with our Aboriginal rights and outstanding claims here in Alberta. More specifically, this process will include rights-based discussions on Métis self-government, Métis lands and redressing the failings of the federal Métis scrip system. We will also be talking about how to address the inequities our children, families and communities face because of discriminatory and colonial federal policies.

As I previously mentioned, in order to fully develop and prioritize subject matters for future negotiations, we will be undertaking province-wide consultations in the upcoming months. We want to hear from all of our members on key issues we should incorporate into any future Framework Agreement with Canada. Rather than being stuck with a top-down national agenda, these exploratory discussions allow us to craft a ‘made-in-Alberta’ approach.



Related to this, it is also important to note that the Prime Minister’s commitment to working with the Métis Nation on a nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship will be through bilateral negotiations with the MNA—not through any national process. Specifically, the MOU states,

AND WHEREAS Canada is committed to working, on a nation-to-nation, government-to-government basis with the Métis Nation, through bilateral negotiations with the MNA, in order to advance reconciliation and renew

the relationship through cooperation, respect for Métis rights, and ending the status quo; [Emphasis added.]

This aspect of the MOU is consistent with the recent direction received from the 2016 MNA Annual General Assembly, which added the following important objective to the MNA Bylaws:

[for the MNA] to negotiate, on behalf of the Métis in Alberta, a modern day treaty relationship with the Crown through a “land claims agreement” or other arrangement as called for and contemplated within the meaning of section 35(3) of the Constitution Act, 1982.”

While we have much more work to do and a long road ahead of us, this MOU puts us on the right track. I look forward to our upcoming community consultation to provide further updates on what is happening at the federal level.

MNA-ALBERTA FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT



For over 30 years, our various MNA-Alberta Framework Agreements have guided our relationship with the province. Over these decades, we have seen many gains and successes by working collaboratively with the province. Our Framework Agreement provides the foundation for our relationship with Alberta.

It is a well-known fact that the last version of our Framework Agreement was whittled down by the previous provincial government with respect to language that recognized the Métis Nation and the MNA's representative role. While this was disappointing, we persevered and tried to make the most out of what was a challenging period of MNA-Alberta relations.

With that era behind us, I am very pleased that our new Framework Agreement goes further than any of our previous agreements with Alberta. This is a testament to the commitment of Premier Notley and Minister Feehan to building relationships. As I have often said, I believe that if we get the recognition and relationship right, we will be able to make things happen. This agreement sets the course for us to finally get that foundation right.

Notably, this agreement also includes the following important additions:

- ∞ The agreement is between the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Government of Alberta. Previous versions of the agreement constantly added "Association" to our name in order to diminish the reality that we represent a distinct Indigenous people—the Métis.
- ∞ The agreement includes explicit commitments to pursue discussions on key rights-related issues such as harvesting and a Métis consultation policy.

- ∞ The success of this Framework Agreement will be measured on progress being made on these commitments.
- ∞ The agreement is for a 10 year period. In the past, the re-negotiation of the agreement every 3 or 5 years were distractions to keeping momentum under the agreement going.

Most importantly, the agreement commits to working with us on a “nation-to-nation” basis to advance Métis rights and reconciliation. Specifically, the Agreement states,

AND WHEREAS Alberta recognizes the MNA’s representative role on behalf of its Citizens and is committed to working with the MNA, on a nation-to-nation basis, through this Framework Agreement, in order to advance reconciliation and enhance the MNA-Alberta relationship through recognition, collaboration, respect for Métis rights and working towards the advancement of Métis self-government and self-determination;

Flowing from this overall intent, the agreement explicitly commits to “discussing options for the legislative recognition of the MNA and its governance structures.” As noted above, for far too often, the fact that our Nation’s legal and administrative arm is incorporated as an ‘association’ under Alberta’s Societies Act has been used against us to diminish the fact that we are a government for Alberta Métis. This commitment will allow us to explore other options with Alberta.

The agreement also commits Alberta to engage with us and Canada on the “implications of the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision in Daniels v. Canada for Alberta Métis.” We see this commitment as ensuring that Alberta will participate in our discussions with Canada, where required. It is important to note that while the Daniels Case affirms Métis are within federal jurisdiction, the province was and remains a key partner in making progress on some of our rights-related issues, in particular dealing with lands.

In closing, I want to thank the MNA Provincial Council, including our Co-Ministers for Métis Rights (Karen Collins and Bev New) as well as MNA staff and legal counsel for getting us here. Now the hard work begins! Ultimately, these two agreements will be measured by what they achieve for our children, families and communities here in Alberta. I am confident that through hard work and determination, we will see real results from these agreements for Alberta Métis.



Media Contact:
Communications
Métis Nation of Alberta
Tel: (780) 455 -2200
Email: communications@metis.org

MNA PRESIDENT AUDREY POITRAS RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

This year, Alberta Chamber of Resources (ACR) selected Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) President Audrey Poitras as the Indigenous Leader of the Year. The award is designed to honour indigenous leaders dedicated to advancing the cause of their people while building bridges with the resource sector. At this year's Alberta Chamber of Resources banquet, held on February 3, 2017, President Poitras' lifelong dedication to Métis causes was recognized. Regarding the award, President Poitras commented, "with all the important work First Nation and Métis leaders are doing throughout the province to support their communities, I am truly honoured to be chosen as Alberta Chamber of Resources' indigenous leader of the year."



As the longest serving President of MNA, Audrey Poitras was first elected to leadership in 1996. For over two decades, President Poitras has been a passionate advocate for Métis rights and programs. Her leadership choice to emphasize the importance of rights and education has aided the growth of Métis communities throughout the province. Along with key stakeholders, President Poitras has negotiated partnerships with colleges and universities, ensuring Métis Endowment funds of 22 million to date. Over her time as MNA President, she has facilitated the creation of MNA's Rupertsland Institute, Métis Centre of Excellence, which promotes education, training, and research. These programs have enriched the lives of countless Métis people across Alberta.

With the help of the recent Supreme Court of Canada's Daniels Decision, President Poitras continues to negotiate landmark political agreements. Earlier this year, President Poitras negotiated the first ever Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Canada and the most comprehensive Provincial Framework Agreement in MNA history. With these federal and provincial agreements, President Poitras has additionally participated in promising discussions with governments about Métis harvesting rights and a Métis Nation Health Clinic.

As an ardent supporter of Métis culture, history, and language, President Poitras played a critical role in the development of Métis Crossing, a multi-million dollar cultural interpretive site, atop the banks of the North Saskatchewan River near Smoky Lake, Alberta. Following a funding pledge from the Federal Government in 2016, Métis Crossing is poised to become Alberta's premiere Métis cultural center.

Throughout her leadership, President Poitras has been honoured with numerous awards and recognitions, including receiving the National Indigenous Achievement Award, being named in CBC's The Alberta 100, and Alberta's 50 most influential people by Alberta Venture magazine in 2005.

Media Contact:

Jasmine Breti Tel: (780) 455 -2200
Métis Nation of Alberta Email: jbreti@metis.org



MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL BOARD OF GOVERNORS SIGN HISTORIC ACCORD WITH CANADIAN GOVERNMENT

Thursday, April 13, 2017 was a historic day for Métis in Canada. Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) President Audrey Poitras and other Members of the Métis National Council Board of Governors joined Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and key members of his cabinet in Ottawa for the inaugural meeting of the Crown-Métis Nation Summit. At the meeting, both parties signed a groundbreaking accord, *Canada- Métis Nation Accord*, which establishes important mandates to foster the nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship between Canada and the Métis Nation. An important mandate of the Accord is increased meetings with policy makers, including annual meetings with the Prime Minister, semi-annual meetings with the Minister of Indigenous Affairs (and key Cabinet Ministers), and quarterly meetings with various Assistant Deputy Ministers on issues of concern to the Métis Nation.

The Accord was signed by each of the Governing Members of Métis National Council (MNC), including President Poitras. President Poitras is excited to start a new relationship with the federal government based on respect and recognition, stating:

I am highly encouraged to see the steps the federal government is taking under the leadership of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. With the unprecedented access to policy makers that the Accord ensures, I am confident my fellow Métis leaders and myself will seek positive outcomes for Métis people of Alberta in significant and lasting ways.

In reference to the Accord, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stated:

Today, we are proud to announce our joint signing of the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord*. While there is still much that needs to be done if we are to address the unique social, cultural, economic, and environmental issues faced by the Métis, we now have a solid foundation upon which to move forward with a respectful, renewed Métis Nation-Crown relationship, for the benefit of all Canadians.

Visit our website at albertametis.com for more information and to find a copy of the Accord.

Media Contact:

Jasmine Breti Tel: (780) 455 -2200
Métis Nation of Alberta Email: jbreti@metis.org



MNA PRESIDENT POITRAS APPLAUDS PRECEDENT-SETTING FEDERAL BUDGET FOR MÉTIS NATION

On March 22, 2017, Métis Nation of Alberta (“MNA”) President Audrey Poitras commended Prime Minister Trudeau and his government for the Métis Nation specific commitments in the 2017 Federal Budget as well as for the Budget’s more inclusive approach to dealing with all Indigenous peoples.

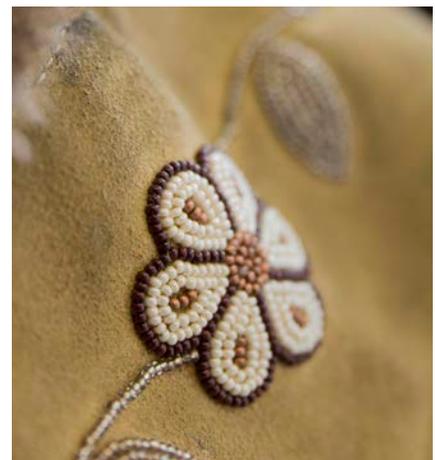
“This type of explicit inclusion of the Métis Nation in a Federal Budget has been a long time coming for Alberta Métis. For far too long, our Métis governments have been relegated to being treated as mere program and service delivery organizations. This Budget is precedent-setting by finally making an express commitment to supporting Métis self-government and self-determination in the same way that First Nation and Inuit governments have been supported for generations,” said President Poitras.

Specifically, the Budget commits to investing “\$84.9 million over the next five years, and \$28.3 million per year ongoing, to build the governance capacity of the Métis National Council and its five provincial Governing Members [the MNA is the Métis National Council’s provincial Governing Member in Alberta]. This will lay the foundation for a new relationship with Métis Peoples and support collaborative work with the federal government on moving toward Métis self-government and self-determination. Funding will also support Métis identification registries and the review of existing programs and services.”

In addition, the 2017 Federal Budget provides opportunities for Métis Nation specific approaches and investments in the areas of housing, early childhood development, health, labour market training, the preservation of the Michif language as well as for the resolution of outstanding Métis claims against the federal Crown, which builds on the MNA’s recently signed Memorandum of Understanding on Advancing Reconciliation with the Government of Canada.

President Poitras added, “While we have much more work to do and additional investments are going to be needed to close the gap between Alberta Métis and other Albertans, today represents a monumental shift from historic Federal Budgets that have largely only focused on the needs of First Nations and Inuit. I want to thank the Prime Minister and his government for making this happen.”

“Today’s Federal Budget is an important step in making progress on implementing the Supreme Court of Canada’s landmark decision in the Daniels v. Canada as well as advancing the recommendations in the report of Canada’s Ministerial Special Representative on Métis Section 35 Rights, which was issued in July 2016. The MNA looks forward to working with the Federal Government on implementing the commitments in the 2017 Federal Budget.”



FEDERAL FUNDING FOR FORT EDMONTON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES EXPERIENCE



On March 3rd, 2017, Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) President, Audrey Poitras, and dignitaries from all levels of government joined the Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, for an important announcement regarding federal funding that will expand the historical living museum, Fort Edmonton Park. Participating dignitaries included the Honourable Brian Mason, Minister of Infrastructure; His Worship Don Iveson, Mayor of the City of Edmonton; Lyndon Decore, Chair of the Fort Edmonton Foundation; Bill Demchuk, Executive Director of the Fort Edmonton Management Company; and Chief Billy Morin, Chief of Enoch Cree Nation.

The Government of Canada pledged up to \$47,794,500 for the expansion of Fort Edmonton Park, which includes the Indigenous Peoples Experience. Federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, states that the “funding will support Fort Edmonton Park in celebrating this city—and Canada’s—diverse heritage and creativity, including the experiences of local First Nations and Métis people.” Métis people have a rich heritage in the Edmonton region and have played a significant role in the development of the city as intrepid entrepreneurs, fur traders, merchants, craftsman, voyageurs, and diplomatic intermediaries. The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) is optimistic that the increased funding for the program will help showcase the distinct Métis culture.



MNA President Audrey Poitras said, “in the past few years, Métis Nation of Alberta has been greatly encouraged by the efforts of Fort Edmonton and the City of Edmonton in ensuring the gaps in their representations of Métis history is filled with accurate and comprehensive information. With this new commitment from the federal government, I am positive that the park will become a very important site in facilitating understanding about Métis culture and the history of Fort Edmonton.” His Worship Don Iveson feels that the strong commitment from leadership across governments will “allow [Edmonton] to move a project forward that honours Edmonton’s past, present, and future, including our journey in reconciliation.”

The project will focus on three key sections of the park: an expansion of the Indigenous Peoples Experience, encompassing a new facility to showcase the First Nations and Métis Nation cultural heritage, along with camps, trails, classrooms, and an outdoor amphitheater. The 1920’s Johnny J Jones Midway will add several new attractions including a roller coaster, a maze and a revue theatre. Finally, a new front admission area will allow for improved visitor services and shopping opportunities. Construction is anticipated to begin in fall 2017 with completion by 2020. Executive Director of the Fort Edmonton Management Company, Bill Demchuk, is very pleased with the funding, asserting “With the generous support of the federal government, as well as the Province and the City, we are thrilled to be able to enrich the visitor experience at Fort Edmonton Park and continue to celebrate our shared past.”

Media Contact:

Communications Tel: (780) 455 -2200
Métis Nation of Alberta Email: communications@metis.org

Calling All Métis Veterans



Help us preserve our proud Métis legacy!

If you, or a member of your family, are a Métis veteran, we want to hear your story! In an effort to honour our Métis heroes, Métis Nation of Alberta is working towards creating a veterans' monument at Métis Crossing that will symbolize the sacrifices and accomplishments of our many veterans throughout the decades. The names of Métis veterans we gather will be placed on the monument and their history and contributions preserved for future generations. MNA is also accepting monetary donations toward the monument's construction. On the following pages, enjoy just a few of the stories from our Métis Veterans. Share your story with us, and you or your relative may be featured in our next newsletter!



To get involved, email veterans@metis.org, or call our provincial head office at 780-455-2200

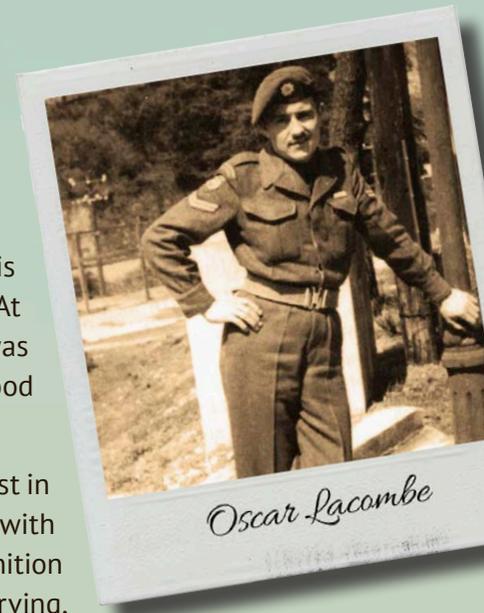
Stories of our Métis Veterans

OSCAR LACOMBE

Born April 29, 1929, Oscar Lacombe was raised on a farm seven miles from St. Paul, Alberta. As a child, family friends like James Brady helped foster a strong sense of Métis pride and identity for Oscar.

This pride would prove useful in the face of discrimination, which began in his early school days. Oscar recalls “Just about every day I would get into a fight. At that time, it wasn’t very popular to be a half-breed. But I was very proud that I was and I was ready to fight to protect myself and my kid brother. I got pretty good at [fighting] because it was called survival.”

Oscar’s aspirations for travel and affinity for the less predictable lead him to enlist in the Canadian Armed Forces in 1949. One year later, Oscar was deployed to Korea with the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps in logistics, primarily transporting ammunition and supplies to infantry units. Oscar returned safely from Korea and continued serving, completing missions with NATO and the United Nations Peacekeeping in numerous countries, such as Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Congo, and Cyprus. During his military career, Oscar rose through the ranks, eventually attaining Regimental Sergeant Major. Oscar is a true embodiment of Métis pride and hard work.



LLOYD HAMILTON

William Lloyd Hamilton was born in Calgary, Alberta, December 7, 1931. Instead of cultural pride and community, Lloyd’s father refused to openly identify as Métis, a technique designed to survive blatant discrimination. Lloyd’s first contact with discrimination came early. He was nine when he was told he was not “white” enough to board a taxi taking children to a local Christmas party. In reference to the discrimination, Lloyd recalls “You put [your Métis heritage] down. You repress it instead of praising it and being proud. You’re continually reminded don’t do this cause if you do you won’t be treated like the others.”

In high school, Lloyd began to understand the gravity of discrimination and assimilation against the Métis, putting into perspective his fathers (conscious and unconscious) decision not to outwardly identify as Métis.

Learning of the Métis struggle, he began to take pride in his heritage.

He also began to learn of the Korean War; he empathized with their struggle, relating it to his own and the Métis struggle for recognition.

“I was a student at Western Canada High School when war broke out in the Far East. All teachers of Social Studies were ordered to stop regular classes. They were to focus on current events taking place in Korea.

I learned more about death, destruction, and despair. How innocent families were uprooted and their freedom of choice denied. The oppression reminded me of the times my own people have suffered. I felt akin to the South Koreans ... I vowed to do something to help their cause.” His empathy and strong sense of idealism awarded him the Disciples World Peace Medal for his act of humanitarian effort.

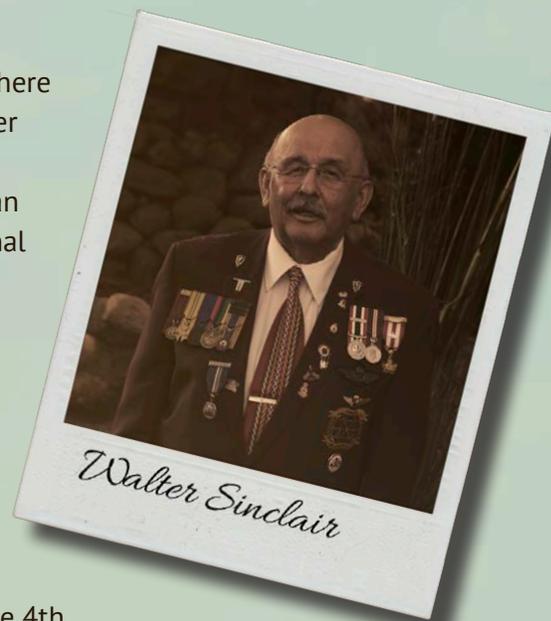


Stories of our Métis Veterans

WALTER (WALLY) SINCLAIR

Walter Sinclair was born and raised in Lesser Slave Lake, Alberta, where his Uncle, former MNA President Sam Sinclair, helped raise him. After graduating high school, Walter moved to Vancouver to enlist in the Royal Canadian Signal Corps, inspired by his uncle who was a veteran himself. Following training camp, Walter was posted to the 731 Signal Squadron at the Canadian Forces Base Shilo, as a communication electrician. With the Cold War starting, Walter was posted to Soest, Germany under NATO's Central Army Group. There he travelled to Cyprus, Egypt for a week at a time to supply what was needed regarding communications.

Throughout the NATO countries, his unit was in the front line installing all communications systems: landlines, radar, antennas, and other devices required to establish connection. Walter was then transferred to the Canadian Forces Base in Lahr, Germany in the 4th Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group where outside of his duty as a communications electrician, he participated in cross country races against other Canadian, British, and American soldiers. Walter spent the rest of his time with the Armed Forces at the Canadian Forces Base in Cold Lake, where his wife was a teacher. He attributes his success to his family and community who supported him through his journey and thanks the Metis Nation, who "were always there for us, and still are today!"



ELDRED STAMP

Eldred Stamp has Métis ancestry going right back to Red River. He served in the Canadian Air Force in Manitoba, Ontario, France, and North Africa. In France and North Africa, Eldred served in the 430 Squadron. Eldred is proud to come from a long line of Métis veterans, having family members who served in the 1885 Resistance. Eldred is the great grandson of Andre Letendre, a Métis soldier who gave his life during the Battle of Batoche in 1885. His great grandfather, Andre Letendre, was killed in the Resistance and was buried in the mass grave in Batoche, Saskatchewan.

KEN JOBIN

Born on a farm in Prairie Echo, north of High Prairie, Ken Jobin joined the army in the mid-1950s. He served 9 years during the Cold War with the 1st and 2nd Battalion of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI). Although never deployed during the war, Jobin played a vital role in training capacity. He specialized in Nuclear Biological Chemicals Warfare, and due to his apt for instructing, he predominantly worked at training depots in Alberta, BC, and in Eastern Canada in a training role. Sharing one of his memories, Jobin states "I was a good instructor, so I got stuck three years at the depot training. I asked for a transfer to the 2nd battalion, because I knew they were going to Germany next. They transferred me alright. Mind you, one good thing there, I got my parachute."





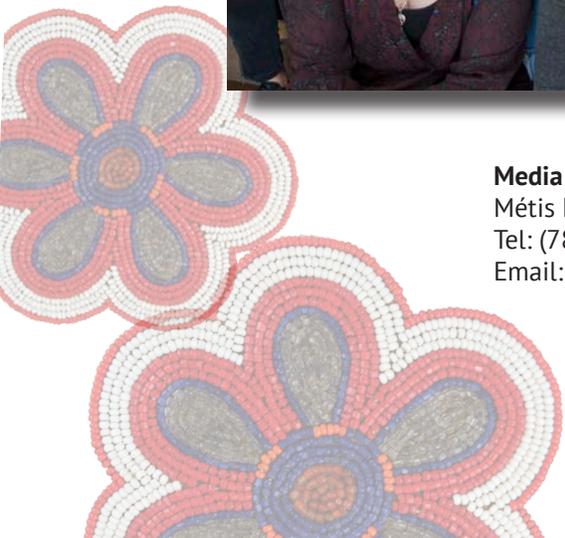
BOLD MÉTIS WOMEN

In honour of International Women’s Day, MNA profiled bold Métis women on our social media for the week of March 8th. In the series, we highlight female Métis presidents, artists, poets, and advocates, all of whom have had a profound impact in advancing and sustaining Métis rights and culture. We also feature up-and-coming Métis women whose vision and energy help drive the Métis Nation. Pictured below are a few young #BoldMétisWomen wearing #BeBoldforChange bracelets, which are designed to create awareness about the many issues that affect women. We are looking to expand the series for Women’s History Month in October, so if you know of a strong Métis woman, please share her story with us on our social media or at communications@metis.org. Her story may be featured in our newsletter!

#BeBoldForChange
#BoldMétisWomen



Media Contact:
Métis Nation of Alberta
Tel: (780) 455 -2200
Email: communications@metis.org





PRESIDENT AUDREY POITRAS

As the longest serving President of MNA, Audrey Poitras was first elected as the first female president in 1996. For over two decades, President Poitras has been a passionate advocate for Métis rights and programs. Her leadership choice to emphasize housing and education has aided the growth of Métis communities throughout Alberta. Along with key stakeholders, President Poitras has negotiated partnerships with colleges and universities, ensuring Métis Endowment funds of 22 million to date. Over her time as MNA President, she has helped facilitate the creation of MNA's Rupertsland Institute, Metis Centre of Excellence; both programs promote education, training, and research and have enriched the lives of countless Métis in Alberta.

With the help of the recent Supreme Court of Canada's Daniels Decision, President Poitras continues to negotiate landmark political agreements. In recent months, President Poitras has helped negotiate the first ever Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between a Métis Nation and the Government of Canada and the most comprehensive Provincial Framework Agreement in MNA history. Throughout her leadership, President Poitras has been honoured with numerous awards and recognitions, including receiving National Indigenous -Achievement Award and being named one of Alberta's 50 most influential people by Alberta Venture magazine in 2005. With her effective and tireless leadership, she has inspired countless Métis women to be bold.

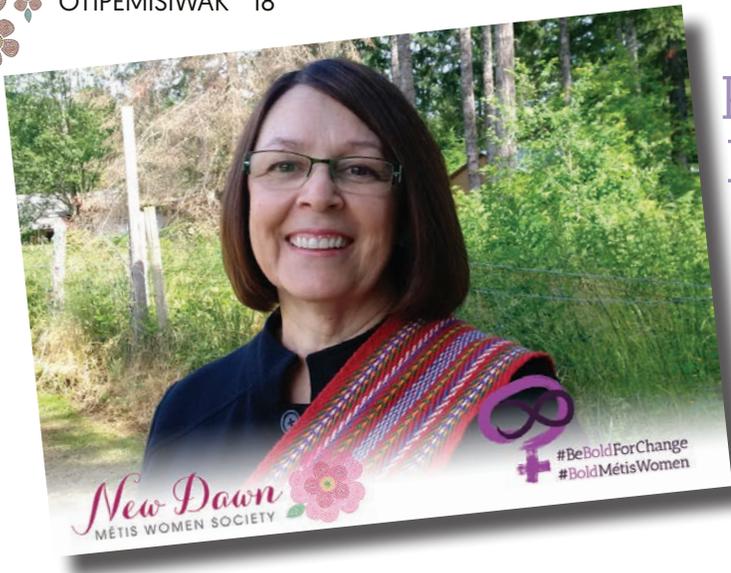
PRESIDENT MARGARET FROH

Elected in May 2016, Margaret Froh is the first woman to serve as President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). She lives in Barrie, Ontario, within the traditional territory of the Georgian Bay Métis Community.

Margaret is a lawyer and educator. Prior to being elected President, she served as the MNO's Associate Chief Operating Officer. She has guest lectured in a variety of settings, has taught as adjunct faculty at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, and is a faculty member for the Banff Centre teaching in the areas of Indigenous governance, leadership, and management.

As MNO President, Margaret leads the government of the Métis Nation in Ontario -the home of the watershed Métis rights decision of R. v. Powley. The MNO represents over 18,000 citizens and 29 Métis communities across the province through representatives elected at the local, regional and provincial levels. The MNO has demonstrated the success of its distinct form of Métis governance, which was recently recognized by Ontario with the first Métis-specific legislation in Ontario, the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act, 2015, and in the Special Ministerial Report "A Matter of National and Constitutional Import: Report of the Minister's Special Representative on Reconciliation with Métis: Section 35 Métis Rights and the Manitoba Metis Federation Decision" (Isaac Report).





PRESIDENT CLARA MORIN DAL COL

Clara Morin Dal Col was born in Ile a La Crosse, Saskatchewan and is very proud of her Métis heritage. Michif was the first language spoken at home.

Growing up Clara spent a lot of time with her Great Kohkom who was a very special and influential person in her life. Clara enjoyed spending time with her, gathering roots and plants for her healing, and listening to her stories.

Clara was first elected regional Métis Women's Representative in 2009 and then was elected BC Provincial Métis Women's Chair in 2012 joining the MNBC Board of Directors and holding the Minister's portfolio of Métis Nation BC Employment & Training from 2015 to 2016.

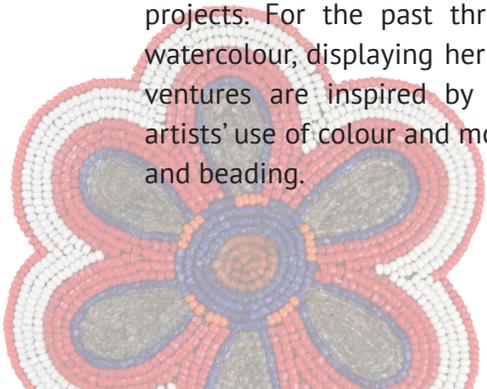
Clara was the Vice President on the National Board of Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak and was the Métis representative on the Provincial Minister Rustads Planning Table for Families of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls. Clara also did a lot of work as a participant on the Joint Partners Table with other BC Aboriginal Leaders. Clara has always recognized the importance and value of working with other leaders in making the difference in the lives of Métis people each and every day.

In September of 2016 after a province wide election Clara Morin Dal Col was elected President of Métis Nation British Columbia. In addition to her role and responsibilities to her position as the MNBC President, Clara also holds the MNBC Povincial portfolios for Minister for Education and Minister for Housing. Clara also sits as a Board of Governor and holds the national portfolios of the Métis National Council's Minister for Health, Culture, Heritage and Families.

Clara resides with her husband of 43 years in Port Alberni and she is the proud Kohkom to two wonderful grandchildren and is proudly teaching them all about their Métis culture.

AUDREY STUCKEY

Daughter of artist Carol Stuckey (nee Lepine), Audrey Stuckey is a talented Métis painter who resides in Edmonton, Alberta. Studying art for thirty years, Stuckey has honed impressive technical skills and has showcased her talents in many forums, including Edmonton's Walk of Artists, the Alberta Teacher's Association Journal, murals, and various graphic design projects. For the past three years, Audrey has focused primarily on watercolour, displaying her works at various art shows. Audrey's artistic ventures are inspired by various influences, including impressionist artists' use of colour and movement, textile artistry, knitting, embroidery, and beading.



MARILYN DUMONT

Marilyn Dumont is an acclaimed poet who boasts a veritable repertoire. *A Really Good Brown Girl* won the 1997 Gerald Lampert Memorial Award presented by the League of Canadian Poets. The collection is now in its 15th printing as published in a special edition by Brick Books 2015. Selections from this first collection are widely anthologized in elementary, secondary, and post-secondary literary texts. Her second collection, *Green Girl Dreams Mountains*, won the 2001 Stephan G. Stephansson Award from the Writer's Guild of Alberta. Her third collection, *That Tongued Belonging*, was awarded the 2007 McNally Robinson Indigenous Poetry Book of the Year and the McNally Robinson Indigenous Book of the Year. *The Pemmican Eaters* is her newest collection published by the ECW Press in 2015.

Marilyn has been the Writer-in-Residence at the Edmonton Public Library, the University of Alberta, Brandon University, Grant MacEwan University, Toronto-Massey College, and the University of Windsor. She has been faculty at the Banff Centre in programs such as Writing with Style, Wired Writing, and she has advised and mentored in the Indigenous Emerging Writers' Program. Marilyn is currently an Associate Professor at the University of Alberta in English/Film Studies and the Faculty of Native Studies.



MARILYN LIZEE

Marilyn Lizee was born in Lloydminster, Saskatchewan. Being a true Métis, Marilyn moved around frequently with her family and finally planted roots on the Elizabeth Métis Settlement. After raising her family and enduring many trials and tribulations, she emerged as a strong and opinionated Métis woman who discovered early in life that her passion is helping those who could not help themselves; to be a voice for the voiceless and advocate for the rights of Métis people. Having grown up in a Métis community, Marilyn truly understands what it means to be Métis and the importance of educating everyone about Métis culture.

Marilyn has been working with and for the Métis Nation

of Alberta since 1996 and is the Treasurer of the Metis Local 1990 (Grande Prairie). As a stalwart advocate for Métis women, Marilyn is the President of the Alberta New Dawn Métis Women Society and represents Alberta Métis women on the national level as a board member of the Women of the Métis Nation. Additionally, Marilyn volunteers on various committees on behalf of the Métis Nation of Alberta and is always looking for opportunities to give back to the community.



BRIANNA LIZOTTE

As a young girl, Brianna Lizotte grew up surrounded by family who encouraged her to learn everything she could get her hands on. She is an honour roll student, a fifth year member of the Red Deer Royals Marching Showband, and is proud to represent her Métis roots everywhere she goes.

In 2011, Brianna announced she was going to play the fiddle and started lessons; she has been performing ever since. The sixteen year old is happy to promote her culture everywhere she goes with her dad, Brian, who accompanies her on guitar. They have played at cultural events, fiddle festivals, and have been invited to introduce Métis fiddle to the local elementary schools.

As a talented musician, Briana has already had some exciting experiences. She knows, however, how important her education is and strives to do her best. She plans on attending Red Deer College, to travel the world, and continue to expand her knowledge of her Métis heritage.

GIORGIANNA LEDDY

Fourteen-year-old Giorgianna Leddy is this year's winner of our 13 -17 category for our Métis Week Art Lapel Contest. As a proud Métis, Giorgianna states art is meaningful to her because it allows her to showcase the cultural aspects of her identity. More than just showcase her culture, similar to her favourite artist Andy Warhol, Giorgianna has the ability to represent ordinary cultural items as something extraordinary and inspiring. Drawing since she could hold a pencil, the talent of this fourteen-year-old is striking, but not surprising given the role art has played in her family. Crafts, drawing, and especially music have always brought Giorgianna closer to her sisters and parents. "Art is everywhere," Giorgianna states about her home. Her mother has always enjoyed seeing what Giorgianna creates, but is very glad "the glitter phase is over." Giorgianna hopes to continue her close relationship with art and to study music in her post-secondary career. We wish her the very best on her future endeavors and cannot wait to see what this teen does next!



MNA VOYAGEURS SECURE ANOTHER SHUT-OUT

For another year, Métis Nation of Alberta entered our Junior Novice Hockey Team—The MNA Voyageurs—in the Alberta Native Hockey Provincials tournament. Donning red and blue jerseys, emblazoned with a bold infinity symbol, the pint-sized Métis team delivered an amazing performance last year as they skated to victory at each and every game.

This year, the Voyageurs, made up of Métis youth aged 5 to 7, defended their title from last year by outlasting each opponent with youthful enthusiasm. The young athletes and coaches had a blast on and off the ice, playing in front of a supportive home crowd and participating in various team building activities throughout the week. The Alberta Native Hockey Provincials is a hockey tournament hosted each spring for Aboriginal youth, celebrating its 24th year this season. The hockey tournament provides an opportunity for young Métis athletes to develop and put their skills to the test. The MNA expects to continue its involvement in the tournament in the future. Inquire next January for your chance to get involved!



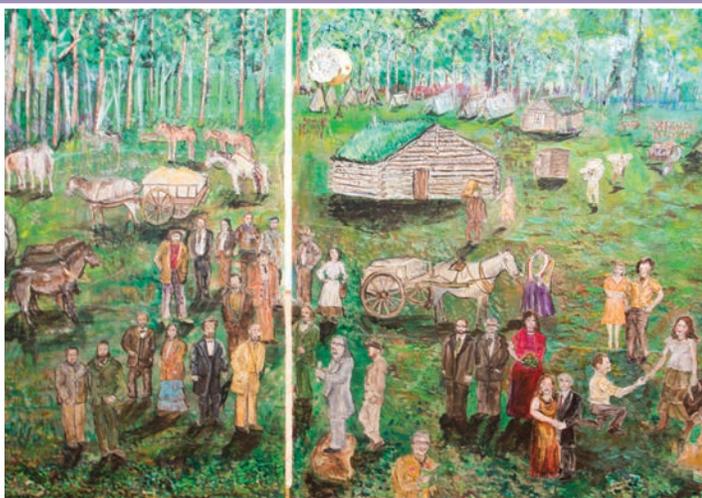
LOCAL MÉTIS ARTIST EXHIBITS STUNNING INSTALLATION PIECE

Art, for award-winning Métis artist Heather Shillinglaw, is about more than just expression, but a vehicle through which conversations are started and moved through a community. Shillinglaw argues that art is necessary to “negotiate society’s priorities” and that her pieces are “always attempting to say something about these negotiations.” Using her artistic talents, Shillinglaw has travelled the world evoking conversations about responsible stewardship, Indigenous and women’s rights.



In 2009, Shillinglaw was an invited panelist for two symposiums on Native and women’s rights in South America. “While there,” Shillinglaw explains, “I engaged many groups with exhibitions and panel discussions that focused on the preservation of the land through art.” In Paraguay she worked with a Unicef school in a Tobian-Guaranian village. This past summer, Shillinglaw went to Budapest where she shared in an art exhibition and art talks that allowed artists from around the world the opportunity to discuss responsible stewardship, an opportunity she calls a “rewarding and humbling experience.”

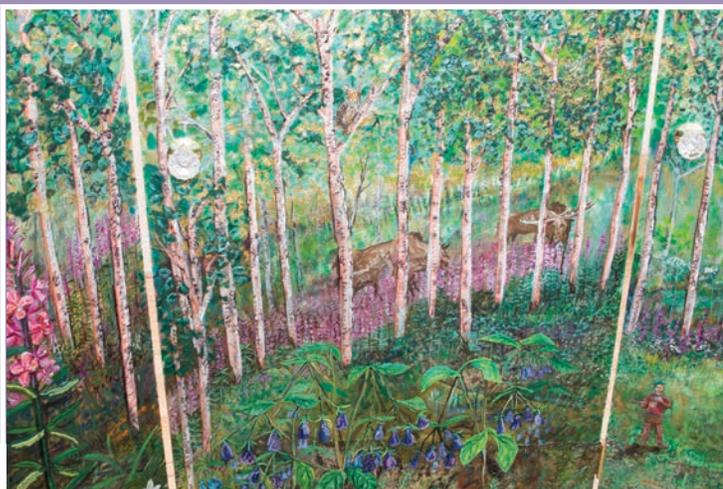
Though Shillinglaw has showcased her work in countries like Paraguay, Argentina, and Hungary, she feels an undeniable connection with the land in the Edmonton area and always returns to share her creations throughout Alberta. The Stoney Plain Multicultural Heritage Centre was fortunate to recently host an installation piece by Shillinglaw entitled “Buffalo Corral.” “Buffalo Corral” is a series of connected doors that form (and juxtapose) two panoramas of the Strathcona Refinery Row area in different time periods. On the outside of the doors, Shillinglaw placed bleak, black and white photos of the present day industrial landscape, including an eruption of carcinogenic material.



The other side of the doors offers a stark contrast with what Heather describes as “an idealist, romantic perspective...of the 1800s.” Shillinglaw’s idealist perspective is layered with various interpretations of Strathcona Refinery Row in the early 1800s, including buffalo hunts, landscapes, hidden figure of Mother Nature, and portraits of prominent Métis poets, writers, political leaders, and academics. With portraits of Louis Riel, MNA co-founder Malcom Norris (an ancestor of Shillinglaw’s), writer/historian Heather Devine, poets Marilyn Dumont and Anna Marie Swell, scholar David Garneau, and current MNA President Audrey Poitras, “Buffalo Corral” acts as a unique opportunity to learn about Métis history in Western Canada.



The stark contrast between present day and the early 1800s demonstrates the importance of responsible stewardship and elicits questions of true wealth. As part of Shillinglaw’s commitment to responsible stewardship, she often collects rummage pieces and re-uses them as inspiration. In the case of Buffalo Corral, Shillinglaw was inspired by discarded doors, which are symbolic of alternative narratives to the present reality, “possibilities which we can open and explore.”



As the mother of two young girls and devoted wife, Shillinglaw is a bold artist who always strives to better her community. We wish her all the best and urge our members to pay attention to this amazing Métis artist.

Media Contact:

Jasmine Breti

Tel: (780) 455 -2200

Métis Nation of Alberta Email: jbreti@metis.org

MNA CONDUCTING PROVINCE WIDE CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOPS

Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) invites community members to join us for a series of province-wide workshops on climate change. The gathered feedback will aim to inform policy and program development, and ensure that Métis interests and concerns are heard and addressed.



Specifically, these workshops cover:

- ∞ Science and data of climate change.
- ∞ Alberta climate change leadership plan.
- ∞ Truths and myths about climate change.
- ∞ Carbon levy and carbon rebates.
- ∞ Alternative energy basics solar, wind, and biofuels.
- ∞ Cost/benefit of solar and energy efficiency.
- ∞ Tips on energy efficiency for homes.
- ∞ How to save money with energy efficiency.
- ∞ Job and training opportunities; and
- ∞ How to benefit from available programs.



Though we have already completed many consultations, we still have many locations yet to attend. To see if we are visiting a location near you, visit our website at <http://bit.ly/2o298G7>.

You can also find us on facebook (at Métis Nation of

Alberta) and check our events page. Reserve your seat online at albertametis.limequery.com, or contact Katie Suvanto at ksuvanto@metis.org, or by calling 780-455-2200 ext. 235. If you have any questions or concerns related to climate change, please contact Andres Filella, Climate Change Consultant at the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), at afilella@metis.org, or at 780-455-2200 ext. 220.

MÉTIS MAN APPOINTED AS AN ALBERTA COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH JUDGE

After twenty years of experience in Alberta courtrooms, Métis man, Justice George (Jody) Fraser, was sworn in as an Alberta Court of Queen's Bench judge on October 20, 2016; the swearing in ceremony was held on Friday, January 13, 2017. Justice Fraser has spent almost twenty years dedicated to public service as Crown prosecutor. Justice Fraser states that though he found his career rewarding, he is excited to begin a new chapter and calls his appointment "quite the honour."

Having lived all over Alberta, from Millet to Valleyview, Fort Chipewyan to Edmonton, Fraser is happy to serve Albertans. For Fraser, being Métis means knowing you have strong ties to the land of Alberta, stating being Métis means "having historical ties to the [Edmonton] area for as long as there had been [written] history in Alberta."

Though his appointment is impressive, it is hardly surprising given the strong work ethic Fraser's family instilled in him. Coming from a large family, Fraser has learnt not only to work hard, but to have fun doing it. Fraser reflects "Family certainly was a great help in getting me through everything." Their support was particularly useful during law school and after a sports accident in high school that left Fraser without the use of his arms or legs. After his accident, the ambitious Fraser took on the challenge of law school and has proven his strength as a Crown prosecutor for decades. Fraser states his appointment shows "there are no limits. Just because your body isn't working, doesn't mean your mind can't." Fraser hopes his appointment can show others in similar circumstances that anything is possible.

Justice Fraser is reluctant to comment on the recent agreements Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) has secured with provincial and federal governments, as it is out of his area of law. Yet Fraser states the realization of Métis rights "looks promising" and that it has been "a long time coming." MNA would like to extend warm congratulations to Justice Fraser and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.



HUNDREDS GATHER TO HONOUR HERB BELCOURT

On January 20th, 2017, hundreds gathered at Festival Place in Sherwood Park to honour Dr. Herb Belcourt, local Métis philanthropist, entrepreneur, and activist, whose contributions have helped countless lives. The event was designed to mark Belcourt's induction into the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCB) Hall of Fame and his reception of their Lifetime Achievement Award; the official ceremony for the awards was held a week later in Toronto. As an active member in his community, Belcourt has been the recipient of numerous honours, including Order of Canada (2010), a University of Alberta Honorary Doctorate Degree (2001), and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal (2003).



The CCB Lifetime Achievement Award is designed to recognize First Nations (Status or Non-Status), Inuit, or Métis business persons whose community leadership and business success has made a substantive contribution to the economic and social well-being of Aboriginal peoples across Canada. The award comes at a bittersweet time for Belcourt, who received a stage IV cancer diagnosis in December 2016.

After Belcourt's diagnosis, committee members from The Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards Fund were inspired to organize an event in Belcourt's hometown. Given Belcourt's diagnosis, the event was planned on a short timeline and organizers initially projected the gathering might bring out a few dozen; in actuality, Festival Place was filled with over 400 of Belcourt's supporters, including peers, family members, colleagues, students, and dignitaries from all three levels of government. Belcourt's friend of forty years and emcee, John Vrolijk, helped kick off the evening by describing the event's purpose:

Over the years Dr. Herbert Belcourt has combined entrepreneurial experience and generosity while working diligently and steadfastly to ensure that Aboriginal Albertans have access to suitable housing and education...Herb has been honoured on many platforms and by many people and organizations over the years for his ongoing commitment and dedication to youth and to the Métis people of Alberta and Canada... tonight we thank him for that.

Special guests and speakers included: RCMP Deputy Commissioner Marianne Ryan, Alberta Minister of Indigenous Relations, Richard Feehan, Edmonton Police Chief Ron Knecht, Strathcona Councillor Carla Howatt, CCAB co-Chair Randy Moore, NorQuest Board Chair Al Skoreyko, Métis Nation of Alberta Senior Executive Officer Aaron Barner, and Edmonton's Aboriginal Relations Manager, Mike Chow.

Member of Parliament for Edmonton Centre, Randy Boissonnault, read a letter from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to Dr. Belcourt, which stated:

Dear Dr. Belcourt, your friend and Member of Parliament for Edmonton Centre Randy Boissonnault told me that you are facing a very difficult illness. Your story is one of hard work and tireless effort for your community. The honours you've earned over the years are too numerous to name in their totality, they reflect a remarkable lifetime of servitude both to the Métis community and to the Province of Alberta. Indeed, Canada is better off because of you; please accept our best wishes."

Born in what he describes as a "small shack behind the pool hall in Lac Ste. Anne" in 1931, Belcourt comes from humble beginnings. As the oldest of ten children, Belcourt left school at the age of 15 to find work in the logging industry. Inspired by his father's work ethic and independence, Belcourt eventually started his own construction business, Belcourt Construction, in the early 1960s. Despite initial struggles to secure funding, Belcourt's entrepreneurial intelligence ensured the business became a great success.

Not content with his own success, in 1971, Belcourt helped co-found the Canative Housing Corporation and later the Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards Fund (BBMA). Canative Housing was a nonprofit organization that sought to provide the Métis and First Nation community with affordable and adequate housing. Between 1971 and 2005, the company bought 179 homes in Edmonton and 49 in Calgary, renting them to Métis families at affordable rates. Belcourt's vision with Canative Housing was ahead of its time and the organization became the model for similar organizations across the country.

With the BBMA's, Belcourt broke barriers to education in the Métis community while instilling pride in the Métis culture. Attendee to the event and past recipient of BBMA funding, Tania Kruk, expressed in private what Belcourt's contributions have meant to her and her family:

Dr. Herb Belcourt's vision to help aspiring Métis students secure monetary means to achieve post-secondary education has significantly impacted my young family. Dr. Belcourt's vision gave my family hope for a better future. My children, who witnessed many of the struggles throughout my journey, have learned that with hard work, achieving your educational dreams is possible. The significance of Dr. Belcourt's impact on our family will continue for generations.

Belcourt has enhanced the lives of countless people and has a profound impact on the Métis community across the nation.

With all his accomplishments and honours, when asked what his greatest achievement is, Belcourt always responds firmly and proudly with "My family." Herb Belcourt has been married to his wife Lesley for more than 44 years. Together they raised a son and a daughter and have been blessed with several grandchildren.

Media Contact:

Jasmine Breti Tel: (780) 455 -2200
Métis Nation of Alberta Email: jbreti@metis.org





4TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MIXER

The 4th Annual Provincial Business Mixer was held on March 23rd, 2017 with tremendous success. Our Sustainable Development & Industry Relations (SDIR) team were able to double the tradeshow in size this year, with over 40 businesses set up to share information on their services. The event saw hundreds of people come through looking to learn more about Metis businesses and entrepreneurs, as well as opportunities to meet with industry and government partners and learn more about their upcoming projects.

The SDIR team also expanded the program for the Mixer to include a morning business seminar relating to Climate Change & Economic Development. The seminar was also very successful, with wonderful information being shared on the value of energy efficiency assessments for businesses, and the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy in our current economy

The day concluded with the annual Dinner & Awards Banquet, where the MNA was honored to present six business-people from across the Province with awards in categories including Eco-preneur of the year, Metis Women Leader of the Year and Metis Business of the Year; please enjoy their stories on the following pages. MNA was also pleased to recognize the service of Bob Phillips, Community & Industry Liaison, who will be retiring from the MNA this summer.

The SDIR would like to extend their thanks and appreciation to everyone who was able to attend the events and make them a wonderful success. We look very forward to seeing everyone again next year!





BUSINESS AWARD WINNERS

REGION 1 MARGARET QUINTAL - QUINTAL CONTRACTING

Metis Business of the Year Presented by TransCanada

Margaret Quintal was born in Fort McMurray and resides in Conklin. Margaret began her career at Northland School Division, working at Conklin School for 32 years before taking an early retirement to pursue her dream of owning and operating a business.

In 1998, Margaret successfully started a potable water hauling/janitorial business, Quintal Contracting Ltd. The business shows successful growth, starting with just one employee, now at 72 employees and new contracts with surrounding industry.

Margaret has experienced her own share of challenges in business; being a “Strong Métis Woman,” Margaret has had the perseverance to overcome any challenge and was “very honoured to accept [the] award.” Margaret has 6 children, 13 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren and calls herself “one proud Grandma”.



REGION 2 PAULETTE DAHLSEIDE - PROVIDENCE DENTAL HYGIENE

Metis Woman of the Year Presented by Inter Pipeline Ltd.

Paulette Dahlseide is a proud Metis woman who manages practices and employs two full-time employees, along with two mobile units.

Paulette worked as a dental hygienist until 2007, when she took a brief hiatus. She then worked with the MNA FASD program before opening her professional practice in Cold Lake. In 2006, dental hygienists were granted the opportunity to become independent practitioners and, rightfully, Paulette incorporated Providence Dental Hygiene in 2010 with one mobile unit and opened her office practice in 2012.

In addition to her own busy client list, Paulette’s business offers mobile service to remote aboriginal communities. Upon accepting the award, Paulette stated “Nothing makes me smile more than being able to keep our kids and our elders smiling.” She is married to Curtis Dahlseide; they have 2 girls and 3 boys and make their home in Cold Lake.



BUSINESS AWARD WINNERS

REGION 3 RODNEY STAGG - COUGAR TECHNICAL SERVICES

Métis Entrepreneur of the Year Presented by TransCanada

Rodney is a successful journeyman tradesman, with certifications in plumbing, gas fitting, steam fitting, pipe fitting, cross connection, refrigeration, and air conditioning.



Rodney has been trained by Alberta Apprenticeship to engage with Aboriginal communities regarding apprenticeship opportunities. He also serves as acting Board Member for the Mechanical Contractors of Alberta, and Chairman for the Mechanical Service Contractors of Alberta. Cougar Technical Services has been in business for 25 years with 20 employees.

Rodney looks forward to having his two sons, Joel and Jeremy, take over the business in future years. Rodney is very active in the community

participating as a hockey, football, and lacrosse coach for over 20 years

REGION 4 RIK KAMINSKY - SOLARÉ

Métis Eco-Preneur of the Year Presented by the City of Edmonton

Rik moved to the Tri Region in 1976, and has been involved in 5 businesses, including auto detailing, oilfield tooling, solar, retail, and real estate. Solaré is based out of Spruce Grove and works as a distributor of LED lighting and solar PV equipment. Rik has recently been involved with Indigenous communities to complete energy audits and community solar projects.

Region 4 President Cecil Belrose and Vice-President James Atkinson presented the award. Upon winning Métis Eco-Preneur of the Year, Rik expressed that it was “quite an honour for [Solaré] to win the award” and that himself and his team “are truly very proud to be part of Métis Nation of Alberta.” Rik looks forward to continuing this work and continuing to educate Indigenous communities on how energy efficiency can make a positive impact to their everyday lives.





BUSINESS AWARD WINNERS

REGION 5 GORDIE AND BRICE FERGUSON - OWNER OPERATORS

Metis Entrepreneur of the Year Presented by TransCanada

Gordie and Brice were both born and raised in Slave Lake. After graduating from high school in 2004, Brice pursued a career in accounting, but ultimately found his passion in business. Gordie pursued a career in the plumbing trade, but realized that he had interests elsewhere in business.

Gordie and Brice joined forces in 2009, opening two fast-food restaurants. Since 2009 they have been successfully able to expand their businesses to collectively own 7 businesses. After accepting Metis Entrepreneurs of the Year, Brice stated the brothers were “truly honoured to receive an award like this and to be part of such a strong community.” They both hope to continue their involvement with the community in the future.



Brice is currently pursuing a business degree and has recently been elected to Town Council in Slave Lake and Gordie is an active volunteer in the community, coaching children’s sports teams.

REGION 6 TUTCHONE DUNFIELD

YOUTH MEMBER

Metis Woman of the Year



Tutchone is a youth member of the MNA and is a recognized leader and role model to youth in her community. Tutchone will be leaving in July to play in the American Indigenous Games and to China in August with her Club Volleyball Team. She plans to go to University to become an Environmental Engineer.

MNA Region 6 president Sylvia Johnson and Region 6 Elder Angie Crerar helped present Tutchone’s award by emotionally recalling the youth’s important work in the community.

President Johnson concluded her comments by stating “[Tutchone] is very, very busy, but she is never too busy for her Metis Community, never too busy for Grand Prairie, and never too busy for her family.”

Tutchone wanted to thank President Johnson, Angie, and her family. She also stated that she was “incredibly grateful and look[s] forward to continue to be a positive youth role model for the Metis Nation.”

MÉTIS CROSSING WINS ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE AWARD



Métis Crossing—the Métis heritage site near Smoky Lake owned and operated by Métis Nation of Alberta—recently won an award for their entrepreneurial spirit. The award was granted by the Growing Rural Tourism Conference on February 14, 2017. The \$6,000 dollar award will go toward funding the Métis Crossing Voyager Experience Program in which travelers can experience the life of a Métis voyageur during the 19th century fur trade era. The experience will be made possible through strategic partnerships with Haskin Canoes and Victoria Settlement.

Participants involved in the experience will be offered comfort camping, spending the nights under starry skies in an authentic Métis trapper's tent. Home-cooked meals consisting of bannock, berries, and other ingredients procured from the land will be provided for breakfast and lunch. A traditional fish fry with all the fixings will be served for dinner. In the morning, partakers will visit a Métis trap line and learn about living off the land, including making and tasting locally foraged teas. Participants will additionally explore the river valley to learn about local wildlife and medicinal plants and trees. In the afternoon, participants will undertake a canoe voyage to Fort Victoria to experience life at the early Settlement when it was founded in 1860 and learn about commerce and trade during the mid-1800s fur trade era. The experience will conclude with a return trip to Métis Crossing where participants will partake in Métis jigging lessons and learn the famous Métis dance number, The Red River Jig.

A pilot run of the camp takes place on May 24, 2017. On this day, a group of approximately 40 educators will visit Métis Crossing to experience life as a Métis voyageur in 19th century Alberta. The project is currently in the preliminary stages, however, MNA will be providing further details about how to get involved going into the future.

19TH ANNUAL MNA REGION 3 ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS



On April 21st, members and leaders from MNA Region 3 gathered in Calgary for their 19th Annual Entrepreneurial Leadership Awards. Region 3 President Marlene Lanz and Vice President Lawrence Gervais helped to recognize the recipients. In attendance was Honourable Minister Richard Feehan (Minister of Indigenous Relations) who provided the keynote speech and MNA President Audrey Poitras, who also gave an address. In addition to honouring leaders in the community, the evening included dinner and entertainment in the form of jiggers and fiddlers. The Entrepreneurial Awards are designed to recognize individuals, youth, and businesses that have made a positive impact to their community MNA would like to thank and honour the recipients once again.

BRETT CHERNOW
Youth Achievement Award



GIL J OSTROM - THE RUG AND
DRAPERY SHOPPE
*Entrepreneurial Leadership
Award*

NICOLE SHEPPERD-CENTURY
SAFTEY LTD.

*In Recognition of Your
Success and Contribution
to the Métis Business
Community*



CARL JEROME- OUT WEST
WOODWORKS

*In Recognition of Your
Success and Contribution
to the Métis Business
Community*



DENIS BRIERE - MÉTOHYSICAL
ART

*In Recognition of Your Success
and Contribution to the Métis
Business Community*



LAURIE OULLETTE - SUNWORKS
INC

*In Recognition of Your Success
and Contribution to the Métis
Business Community*



JENNIFER HOULE -
FAMEKINDE

*In Recognition of Your
Success in the Corporate
World*



APEETOGOSAN

*In Recongnition of Your
Contribution and Support to
the Métis Community*

LOUIS RIEL INSTITUTE

*In Recognition of Your
Support and Service to the
Métis Community*







SENIORS AND YOUTH SYMPOSIUM

Thank you to our community and organization partners for making our Seniors and Youth Symposium a great success. The event came at a time of great importance for the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA). With the recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing with the Government of Canada and the strengthened Framework Agreement with the Government of Alberta, MNA is in a strong position to promote key priorities in government-to-government, nation-to-nation negotiations. A few of our top priorities include promoting Métis rights, addressing Métis-specific health concerns, and supporting our youth build brighter futures.

With help from expert speakers, knowledgeable representatives from the health-care industry, and key organization partners, our symposium provided excellent opportunities for community members to engage with, and advance these priorities.

More importantly, the day allowed for the coming together of generations; it was an opportunity for the youth to benefit from the wisdom of our older generations, who in turn, benefited from the energy and vision of our youth. The two day event included a bannock night, jigging lessons, veterans' presentation, photobooth, and invaluable opportunities to bond across generations! On the following pages, please enjoy a collage of some of the photos taken at the photo booth.



SENIORS AND YOUTH PHOTO BOOTH SNAPSHOTS!







NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Notice of Meeting

Métis Nation of Alberta Annual Assembly
August 12 & 13, 2017
Peace River, Alberta

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Métis Nation of Alberta
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the
89th Annual Assembly of the Métis Nation of Alberta
Will be held on August 12th & 13th, 2017
in Peace River, Alberta

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Collins".

Karen Collins, Secretary
Métis Nation of Alberta



NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Deadline for Resolutions

Métis Nation of Alberta Annual Assembly
August 12 & 13, 2017
Peace River, Alberta

Special or Extraordinary Resolutions for the 89th Annual Assembly of the Métis Nation of Alberta, to be held in Peace River, Alberta, August 12 & 13, 2017 must be received at the MNA Head Office no later than July 7, 2017 before 4:30 p.m.

Please send your resolution to:

Special/Extraordinary Resolutions for the 89th Annual Assembly

*Attention: Ron Harrison
Métis Nation of Alberta
100 Delia Gray Building
11738 Kingsway Avenue NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 0X5*

*Email: rharrison@metis.org
Fax: 780-452-8946*

Karen Collins

Karen Collins, Secretary
Métis Nation of Alberta



89th Métis Nation of Alberta Annual General Assembly

*Celebrating 150+ Years of
Métis History in Canada*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10th - SUNDAY, AUGUST 13th

Belle Petroleum Centre | 9403 94 St | Peace River, AB T8S 1J2

Proudly hosted by Region 6
of the Métis Nation of Alberta

MNA Region 6 will be honouring and recognizing
Daishowa - Marubeni International Ltd. (DMI) with a special presentation.

For more information, contact Marilyn Lizee at 780-455-2200 ext. 392, or email mlizee@metis.org

MNA Region 6 Office | 9621-90 Ave Peace River, AB T8S 1G8 | Phone: 780-624-4219 | Fax: 780-624-3477 | Toll Free: 1-800-668-5319