

# New Breed

MAGAZINE



P.P.C.L.I.

THE ROYAL  
CANADIAN REGIMENT



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# New Breed

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## Jennifer Brown: Serving the Métis Nation to Improve the Lives of Others

Article and Photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

I had an opportunity to sit with Jennifer Brown at the Métis Child and Family Services Conference held at the end of February in Saskatoon. Jennifer brought a keynote speech on behalf of the Métis Nation Saskatchewan Youth Council. She took her turn at the microphone, following people she sees as her Métis role models Clem Chartier, Audrey Poitras, Alex Maurice and brought forward her elegant, considered, researched and thought-provoking speech. I sat back in my chair and recalled her very first speeches, where she provided her thoughts at the MNS Leaders Summit and at the MNYAC Youth Conference in Vancouver. She has always exuded her youthfulness, her energy and her ability to focus and share her thoughts, ending with a brief but sincere thank you, returning to her seat amongst her colleagues. I asked her about how she came to be involved in the governance activities of the Métis Nation. This is her story.

Jennifer Brown was born on January 7, 1980, the fourth child to Mervin and Anna Lou Brown (nee Merkowsky) of Prince Albert. She has four brothers

and sisters: Matthew, Danny, Amanda, and Kimberley. She took her elementary education at St. Michaels's Community School, along with one year at Boucher Junior High. She graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1998. Since then, Jennifer has studied various languages at SIAST, including French, Spanish and Italian. She is aiming for a degree in foreign languages. Today, she wishes to learn Michif and German. She speaks wonderful English. Along with her love of languages, Jennifer shares her passion toward history and the museums that capture it. She recalls the Lunds Wildlife Museum that used to be situated on the river bank in Prince Albert where she used to visit as a child.

Jennifer Brown got involved in the Métis Youth movement in 1996 when she made efforts to establish a Métis Youth Circle in Saskatchewan, finding support in the St. Louis Métis Local. It was a slow start, which found its stride in 1998 when MNS President Clem Chartier and then Area Director Dan Welsh and Minister of Youth Ralph Kennedy, with the help of Métis Employment & Training, organized the

first meeting of Métis youth in Regina. More than thirty youth participated in this important meeting and the youth council has continued to this day. The following January, the youth meeting boasted of 65 youth participants, where Jennifer won the position of regional representative for the Prince Albert region (Western Region II) and made her way to the Executive position as Secretary for the Métis Nation Saskatchewan provincial Youth Council (MNSYC). She served with then President, Trevor Kennedy.

In 2001, Jennifer ran successfully for the position of President of the MNSYC, serving with Chris Brown, Mario Roussin and David Kennedy. She feels that the MNSYC has found accomplishment in several areas and looks forward to the continued growth of the youth council activity. As part of the Métis Nation Saskatchewan governance structure, the MNSYC holds a seat on the Provincial Métis Council, along with four seats on the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, bringing the youth to have access to information and a voting voice in the decisions of the Métis Nation in Saskatchewan. As well, the MNS Tripartite Unit includes participation of youth, under which the MNSYC has developed a three to five year strategic and business plan, including a draft Provincial Métis Youth Elections Act which will soon find its way to the MNSYC for consideration and hopefully, adoption by the youth. In this Elections Act, the MNSYC is seeking provincial ballot-box elections. They will be holding consultations on this Act, along with other items, at the provincial youth conference set for March 21st to 23rd, 2003 in North Battleford. As well, in her role as President for the MNSYC, she holds a seat on the Métis National Council Youth Advisory Council (MNSYAC), where she was elected as National President for the Youth, in January 2002.

The Métis Nation Saskatchewan Child Wellness conference was not the first speaking opportunity for Jennifer. She recently gave a presentation at the First Nations / Métis Justice Commission in Saskatchewan where she was commended for her excellent presentation. In her role as national spokesperson for the Métis Youth, she recently spoke to the Senate Committee on Urban Aboriginal Youth Issues, along with then MNC President Gerald Morin. In January of this year, with Interim MNC President Audrey Poitras,

Jennifer attended and spoke in the House of Commons on the Environment and Children's Health Issues and again with Clem Chartier, in his role as portfolio holder within the MNC, Jennifer attended the Federal Provincial Territorial Agreement Leaders in Nunavut in February. During this meeting, Clem Chartier gave up his seat at the table of Leaders to give opportunity for Jennifer Brown to bring forward the position of Métis youth on the matters of education and economic development. Jennifer is also very active working with the First Nations and Inuit youth representatives, along with other national aboriginal organizations, where they are preparing a document for consideration by the United Nations.

Jennifer Brown serves the Métis Nation to try to increase the number of programs available for Métis youth across the homeland. She encourages other Métis youth to get involved with the Métis Nation, to come out and contribute to the decision-making processes, such as the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly. For Jennifer, there are so many people to learn from. She finds her involvement with the Métis Nation to be an excellent educational opportunity. She encourages youth to get involved in the political process, including the Métis Nation processes, other Aboriginal processes and in mainstream politics as well. In her short time, Jennifer has traveled to Jamaica, Hawaii, to all of the United States, except for Texas and Florida, and to every province in Canada, including Nunavut.

Jennifer Brown has been nominated as a Role Model in the Métis National Council Youth Role Model Program, the results of which will be announced during the Métis National Youth Conference in Ottawa on April 11th and 12th, 2003. She sends her love to her three nephews Dawson, Colton and Justin.

*"Let us know your ideas for programming and how to build a communications network for Métis youth. Come out and serve your Nation and improve the lives of others: Don't look at what's in it for you. Get involved, learn, change things for others."*  
Jennifer Brown



# Mike Tanton: A Leader by Example

Article by Kyle Vermette, Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

Mike Tanton is a 26 year old Métis youth that has been involved with athletics for most of his life, and more specifically, has been heavily involved in the sport of basketball. He has played at a high level: spending a year playing at the University of Saskatchewan in Men's Basketball, being a practice player for two professional basketball teams, the Saskatoon Slam and the Saskatchewan Hawks, and had a tryout with the Winnipeg Cyclones of the Continental Basketball Association. "Basketball keeps my heart going", says Mike, "like the sound of the bouncing ball is the same as my heart". Through his experiences in basketball, Mike has learned many important lessons and values that have translated to his life and he never hesitates to share this knowledge with anyone who needs guidance. "I feel like the knowledge I gained from basketball is not just mine to keep, but mine to share with others". Mike uses sports and recreation as an avenue to teach young Métis and First Nations youth as well as provide both time and space where they are free from

negative external influences. He has been involved in setting up numerous inner-city basketball programs and tournaments over the last three years, and has both participated in and coached at three North American Indigenous Games. His ability to speak with and reach Aboriginal youth, and his heroic stature in the eyes of these youth stems from his down-to-earth personality and his tangible characteristics. The kids he is involved with are able to relate to him, because they can see much of themselves in him.

Mike Tanton is a Youth Worker and Coordinator at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge in Saskatoon. This position gives him the freedom and the opportunity to directly interact with the local inner-city youth, as well as providing a positive environment for the kids to focus their energy. He has set up the Peacekeepers Program in conjunction with the City Police where officers play basketball and volleyball games with local youth, in an attempt to bridge the

gap between Aboriginal youth and the law, and this also serves to humanize the police officers in the eyes of the youth. Mike is the coach of an inner-city basketball team, and takes these youth to play other teams in the city, as well as to watch higher-level events such as the local university and professional teams. The impact of his participation in these events can be seen on a daily basis with the positive influence he brings to the kids. "Sports was my saviour as a kid, there were so many negative things to get into, but I think that being involved with a team and having that feeling of belonging kept me from that". Basketball brought his focus and attention to something positive, and brought him full circle to see where he's been and where he wants to go.

Mike is a perfect example of how someone who himself grew up in the inner city has begun to give back to the community. His advice for up and coming athletes is mainly to believe in yourself. "Successful people are those that tell themselves, 'Oh, I can do this', and continue to push themselves to reach the point they want", Mike says. "It's about setting little goals and achieving those goals; this builds confidence in yourself and in what you are trying to do, and when you have that you are always going to succeed". With the arrival of spring comes more opportunities for Mike Tanton to impress his ideals and values onto our future Métis and First Nations leaders. His continual dedication to helping youth and guiding them to positive life experiences through sport can only lead to strengthening the foundation of our Nation.



Mike Tanton coaching his team from the Saskatoon White Buffalo Youth Lodge



## Jacqueline Lavallee:

*An Olympic-Level Athlete  
and  
Role Model for All*

Article and Photos by Kyle Vermette

Jacqueline Lavallee is a talented athlete from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. At 25 years old, Jacquie has become a celebrated individual within the Métis community as well as the Saskatchewan and Canadian public for her outstanding athletic accomplishments.

Jacqueline has been involved mainly in two sports, basketball and soccer, and has always set lofty goals and maintained the focus to achieve them. Through her hard work and dedication to these sports, Jacqueline has been rewarded with numerous personal awards recognizing her high level of achievement. Some of these awards include being named a Canada West all-star for basketball in 2000 and 2002; being named the University of Saskatchewan athlete of the year for 2000; All-Canadian in soccer as well for 2000; University of Saskatchewan Most Outstanding Rookie for both soccer and basketball in 1997; Canada West all-Rookie Basketball Team in 1997; Tommy Longboat Award for Saskatchewan in 2000, a Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Youth award; and the Sylvia Sweeny-TSN award in 2002. The last award is one that exemplifies Jacqueline's excellence in basketball, academics and

community involvement, for which this national award is given.

Academically, Jacqueline has found similar success. She has recently graduated with distinction from the SUNTEP program at the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor Degree in Education and Kinesiology. Also, she received a prestigious scholastic award in 2002, the National Royal Bank award as an academic All-Canadian. Also, Jacqueline maintains an involvement in her community. Jacqueline is an assistant coach for the University of Saskatchewan women's basketball team, and she has coached at numerous soccer and basketball camps. She volunteered for the Saskatchewan Special Olympics over the last four years, coaching mentally challenged co-ed adults in soccer. She also sits on the Aboriginal Youth Advisory Committee in connection with Sask Sport, which aims to get Aboriginal youth more exposure as well as more involved in sport. Jacquie feels that sport is important for youth because it teaches important life skills such as discipline, organization and the ability to work with people.



Jacque also was able to travel to other cities and meet new people. Many opportunities and experiences were opened for her through athletics, most of which would not have been available without her involvement in sports. Even when funding became an issue, Jacque did not let a lack of money influence her decisions or inhibit her training. "There are many opportunities and organizations that are there to help", she said, "especially right now for Aboriginal youth".

Currently, Jacqueline is hoping to compete in the next Olympics with the Canadian Women's National Basketball team. She has recently returned from competitions in Spain with the World University Games basketball team and in Taiwan for the Jones Cup, and is looking forward to attending the Canadian National team's training camp in May. Only about twenty people will be attending this camp, and from those athletes they choose twelve plus two alternates to represent Canada in the upcoming Olympics in 2004. Although at present she is sidelined with a shoulder injury, Jacque remains optimistic and is hopeful that she will be healthy enough to attend and compete. And if history is any indication, Jacqueline Lavalée is sure to be successful at whatever she sets her mind to. With the support of her family, friends and the Métis community behind her, Jacqueline will surely continue to accomplish big things in the future. We are all very proud of her and extend her our warmest and sincerest congratulations.

Jacqueline Lavalée has also been nominated for the 2003 National Métis Youth Role Model Award. Watch in the next issue of *New Breed* for the results of this competition.



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# The Batoche Theatre Company

**A**nother season is fast approaching and The Batoche Theatre Company Inc. is gearing up for new events. As many of our Métis people know, last year saw a new production called *La Rababou*, a fun and feisty recollection of old Ernestine and Alphonse memories. Wasn't old Alphonse wonderful in his red long johns? President Chartier, we will never forget your debut! Bon!

During the winter months, The Batoche Theatre Company volunteer Board of Directors was hard at work building our little Company and planning for the future. Thanks to Treena Kortje who, as Administrative Director, assisted us in this process. Unfortunately, Treena has had to relinquish her role with us, but we would like to thank her for her contribution to The Batoche Theatre Company and wish her well in the future.

Article by Yvonne Vizina, Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

A series of workshops are scheduled for March 22 to May 10, 2003 at the White Buffalo Lodge in Saskatoon. Offered are Adult Jigging, Youth Jigging, Improvisational Theatre and Fiddling. To enrol, call Maureen at 978-0229. Cost is \$50 to reserve a spot in the workshop series you select. Well worth it! We look forward to seeing you come out and enjoy learning some new skills.

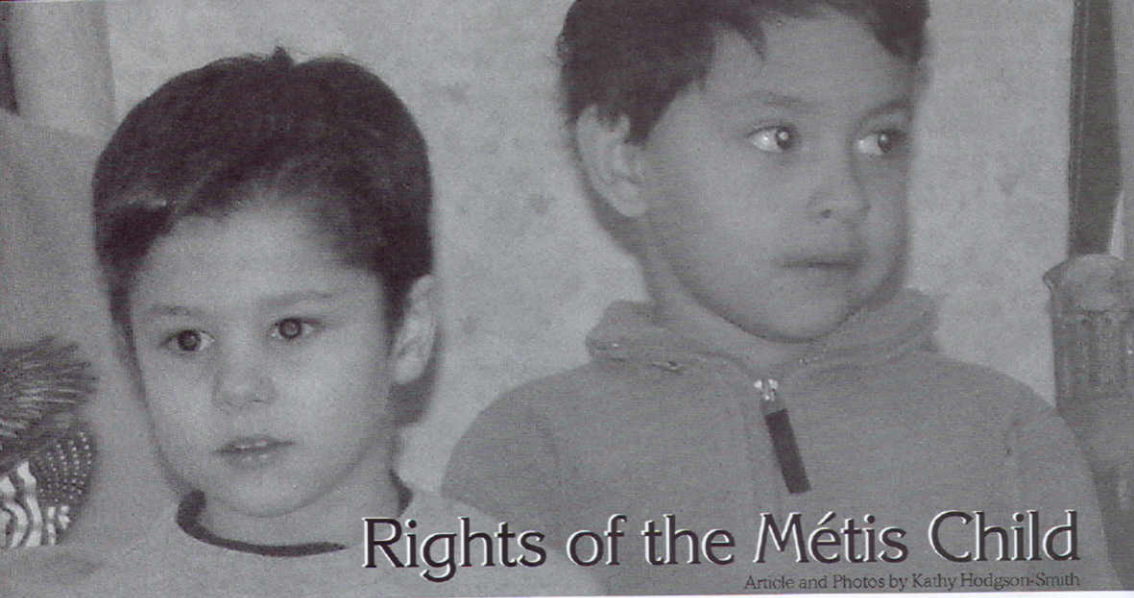
As always, The Batoche Theatre Company must fund-raise year round to facilitate our actors, writers, musicians and dancers. It is our hope that we can work together to build an important forum for our Métis performers. There are many talented people like Maureen Belanger, Duane Favel, Sara Loutitt, Andrea Menard, Crystal Pederson, and all our performers - past and present - who have yet to strut their stuff.

Finally, a sincere thanks goes to Rita Bouvier who has put her heart and soul into developing The Batoche Theatre Company. Rita has been our Chairperson for the past three years, and has taught us much about building a dream. With our growth and development as a Board, Rita has passed on the torch to Yvonne Vizina as the new Chair for 2003-2004. Rita will remain with us as an active Board member to support this work. The Board members are looking forward to taking turns in this role in the years to come. In the spirit of sharing, The Board of the Batoche Theatre Company Yvonne Vizina, Lon Borgerson; Kathy Hodgson-Smith; Bruce Sinclair; and Rita Bouvier, along with our other Creative Team Members Maureen Belanger, Duane Favel, Sara Loutitt - would like to thank everyone who has come out and enjoyed our shows in the past, and



President Clem Chartier acting debut as Old Alphonse along hope to see you out this summer at Back to with Maureen Belanger as Old Ernestine in the 2002 Batoche Days. production of *Le Rababou*.

Ekosi!



# Rights of the Métis Child

Article and Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

On February 26-28, 2003, Métis Family and Community Justice Services Inc hosted the Métis Nation Saskatchewan Child Wellness Conference in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. More than a hundred delegates met to participate in the discussions on issues facing Métis children and families in Saskatchewan. As an introduction to the three day session, the Madeleine Dumont Preschool class followed the Métis Nation flag, along with Senators and Métis Leaders and Dignitaries, to open the event. They sang the Métis Anthem in their tiny little voices, bringing a smile to every face in the room. They were followed by the Cumberland House Acagosak Dancers who, like the pre-schoolers, got up in the early morning to bring energy and perspective to all conference participants.



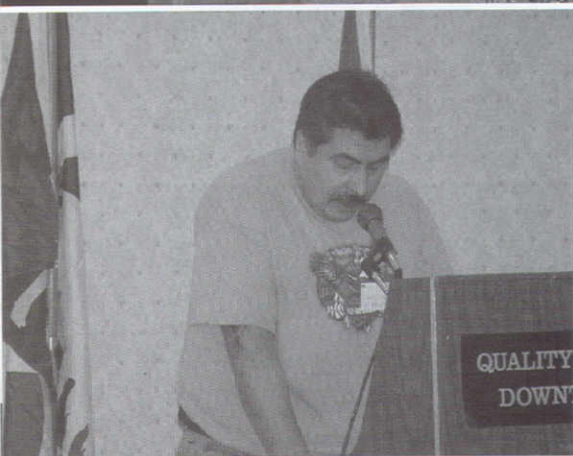
Head Table (Top, Left to Right): Alex Maurice, MNS Minister; Jennifer Brown, MNS Youth President; Audrey Poitras MNC Interim President; Sask. Minister of Social Services Glenn Hage; and Clem Chartier, MNS President  
 Panel (Bottom, Left to Right): Carol Carifelle-Brzezicki (speaking), MNA; Bonnie Start, MNS; Stephanie Courchene, MMF; and Dorothea Warren, Gov. of Sask; Bill Lee, representative for MPCBC.



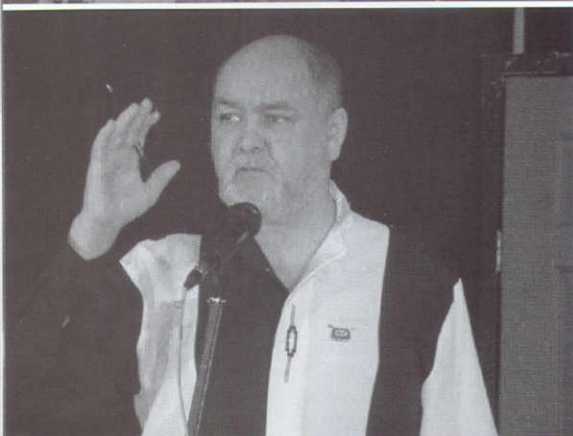
Opening remarks were made by Ms Audrey Poitras, as Interim President of the Métis National Council, followed by Métis Nation Saskatchewan President Clem Chartier. Minister



responsible for Métis Family & Community Justice Services Inc. (MFCJS), Alex Maurice, brought greetings to all as host of the event. Ms Jennifer Brown brought greetings on behalf of the Métis Nation Saskatchewan Youth Council, delivering a thoughtful and considered position on the challenges facing Métis youth in the years to come. Saskatchewan Minister of Social Services, Hon Glenn Hagel, was also in attendance and brought opening remarks to the delegates.



A panel discussion followed the opening remarks and invited speakers from across the Métis Homeland brought forward the state of the Métis Nation affairs as it related to Métis child and family services. Bonnie Start, Coordinator for Métis Family & Community Justice Services Inc (MFCJS) was the first to speak and in her words she described her vision for the Métis child. In preparation of her thoughts for the conference, she reflected on the buffalo, featured on our Métis flag, and looked for the symbol that would guide her thinking. The buffalo, she informed the delegation, protected their young from danger by bringing the calves into the center of the circle, and forming a circle around them. This conference, in her thinking was our way of forming a circle of safety around our children, coming together to discuss the issues that our children and our families were facing.



(Top): Bonnie Start, Coordinator, MFCJS  
(Middle): Alex Maurice, Minister, MFCJS  
(Bottom): Ralph Kennedy, Minister Responsible for Youth

Stephanie Courchene, Director of the Manitoba Métis Federation Métis Family and Community Institute, shared her experiences and told of the devolution process currently underway in Manitoba where the provincial government is devolving Métis Child and Family Services to the Manitoba Métis Federation, as one of four authorities in the province. She discussed the principles upon which the Manitoba Métis Federation and the Province of Manitoba have built the devolved model of Métis-specific service delivery, describing the situation as Métis people making decisions for Métis families. Love, respect, honour, strength and heritage guide the philosophy of the Federation to build upon the strength of the family, to re-establish Métis families, provide formal and non-formal service delivery structures, provide efficient and effective services

and to provide a "no-gaps" in service rights-based model.

Carol Carifelle-Brzezicki of the Métis Nation of Alberta Child and Family Services department brought forward the state of affairs in Alberta as it related to Métis children and families, recounting the growing statistics of Aboriginal children in care, where in 1960 about 30% of all children in care were Aboriginal and in 1980, after the closing of the Residential Schools, 80% of the kids in care were Aboriginal. She spoke of the tragic death of Richard Cardinal, a Métis boy, who took his life while in the care of Social Services, leaving behind a vivid journal of his experiences. His death brought about a review of the Child Welfare Act in the province, resulting in increased authority for First Nations communities as it related to First Nations children, however, offering no recognition of the authority of the Métis Nation for its children, an ironic and unfortunate turn of



MNC Interim President, Audrey Poitras; Sask Minister of Social Services, Glenn Hagel; and MNS President, Clem Chartier

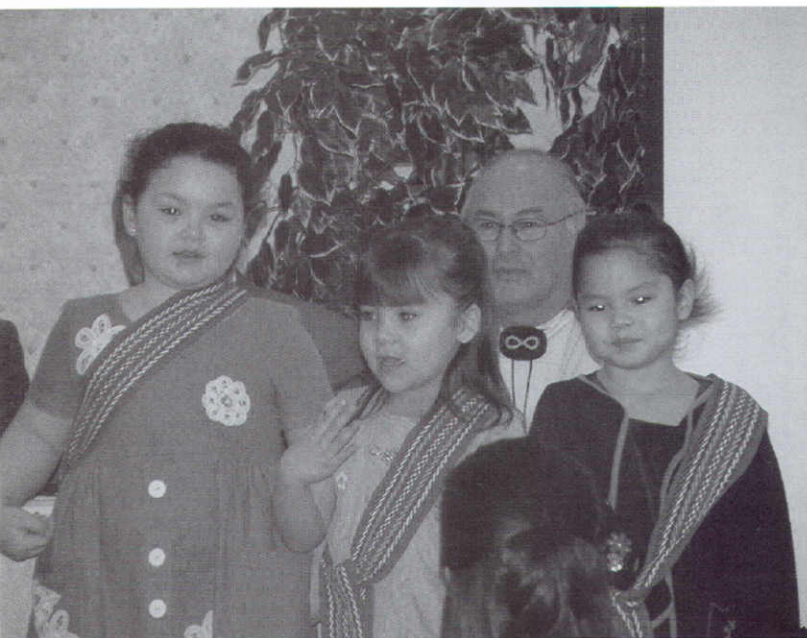
events for Métis children. Today, the Métis Nation of Alberta is participating to a greater extent, and while there is much more work to be done there are some exciting small steps, one being the partnership between the Métis Nation of Alberta and the University of Calgary which has seen the development of one-year of Métis-specific courses as part of the Bachelor of Social Work degree program and bursaries for Métis social work students.



Workshop Facilitators Bente Huntley, Louise Legare, and Kathy Hodgson-Smith  
Missing: Yvonne Vizina and Bev Cardinal

Bill Lee brought greetings from the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia. Bill currently works for the Métis Commission for Child and Family Services which provides support services on these matters in British Columbia. Métis child and family services in British Columbia are currently overseen by Regional Aboriginal Authorities, six of which have Métis representation. The Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia is working under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Regional Aboriginal Authorities, along with the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, the First Nations Summit and the United Native Nations.

The panel presentations were wrapped up by remarks from Dorothea Warren, the Associate



Clem Chartier and Métis children from the Madelaine Dumont Preschool

Executive Director of Family and Youth Services for the Government of Saskatchewan. Dorothea shared a common goal with the delegates on the importance of providing supports to families to ensure children have happy, stable, loving and safe environments in which to grow and live. She stated that the province of Saskatchewan has a commitment to work with Aboriginal people and looked forward to seeing the outcomes of the Conference.

A Draft Child and Family Services Policy was presented to the delegates on the first day, which was provided to guide discussions and to provide a framework for describing the "circle of protection" that Bonnie Start described in her opening remarks. The Policy was presented by Kathy Hodgson-Smith on behalf of the Métis Nation Saskatchewan, and was revised over the course of the conference as a result of the discussions and directions articulated in the break-out group discussions which were held over the first two days. A draft Plan of Action was also presented by Kathy Hodgson-Smith on the second day. The draft Plan of Action was a result of the discussions which took place in the break-out groups, and will set out the work and activities which

must be carried out by the MNS and MFCJS in order to fulfill the new Policy.

As well as the break-out groups, workshops were provided on several topics including Traditional Métis Parenting (Senators Nora Ritchie and John Boucher), Foster Care (MaryAnn Gagnon, Gordon and Donna Falcon, Leetta Gallie), Speaking Out Listening For Healing Residential School Legacy (Métis Elder Isabelle Impéy), FAS/FAE Community Consultations (George McBeth, MACSI), National Crime Prevention and Community

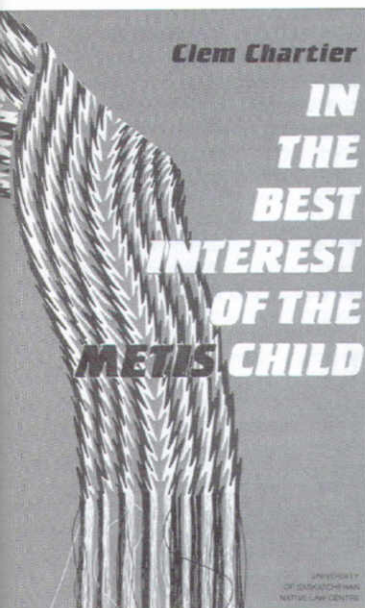
Mobilization (Barb Rubis), and the Commission on First Nations and Métis Justice Reform. Métis Employment & Training of Saskatchewan Inc also provided information. An afternoon plenary presentation was organized for the youth, featuring Dakota House (Remember "TV" from North of 60?). This was a welcome surprise for the youth participants at the conference.

A lunch time square dance performance was given by the Sipisishk Dancers of Beauval, who are just finding their stride, being taught by a young woman of sixteen years old from Beauval. Our youth are leading our children into the future in many positive ways. It was wonderful to see. Minister of Environment and Northern Affairs, Buckley Belanger brought greetings at the evening banquet, along with Dianne MacDonald of the National Crime Prevention Strategy for the Department of Justice. These speakers, followed by a wonderful meal, were entertained, along with the banquet guests by the Nordale Métis Cultural Dancers and the Buffalo Narrows Métis Dancers. The evening closed with a performance by Andrea Menard, singing two songs from the Batoche Theatre Company Batoche Musical (performed at Back to Batoche Days 2001

and 2002), and the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company Youth Ensemble performing their newest play "Journeys." The success of the evening was greatly enhanced by Master of Ceremony, Ralph Kennedy who kept the crowd laughing and the activities flowing smoothly.



The Beauval Square Dancers provide entertainment



Book published by Clem Chartier in 1988

committee (Clem Chartier, Senator Nora Ritchie, Youth Rep. April Gardippie, Dept. of Justice, Dianne MacDonald, and MFCJS staff) and the Métis Family and Community Justices Services staff under the direction of Minister Maurice, Bonnie Start and Lynn Larose. As well, MFCJS would like to thank the following women for their excellent leadership and facilitation support during the break out sessions Louise Legare, Bente Huntley, Bev Cardinal and Yvonne Vizina. Updates from the conference will be provided in future issues of New Breed Magazine.

For President Clem Chartier, the conference was part of his dream for the Métis Nation, bringing

The outcomes of the conference,

as well as being a memorable and invaluable experience for the delegates and conference participants, saw the review and adoption of a Métis Nation Saskatchewan Métis Child and Family Services Policy and Action Plan. The success of the conference can be acknowledged because of the hard work of the planning

together Métis people to discuss the issues facing our children and youth and to find a path toward greater control of Métis children and families by Métis people. Chartier published a book entitled *The Rights of the Métis Child* in 1988. While stating that not much has changed in Saskatchewan since then by the provincial government to deal with the Métis child issue, the activities in Manitoba provide the hope that something can and will be done in the days to come. President Chartier expressed his thanks to the planning committee he established two years ago and the MFCJS leadership and staff for making the conference a reality. He closed by thanking the community representatives for their participation and pledged to continue devoting attention and effort to seeking solutions on the rights of the Métis child and child and family wellness in general.

For Minister Alex Maurice, the conference brought out the emotions of being a father and a son, as he recalled his mother's stories of Residential School and of his own life growing up in Beauval. From these very personal moments, shared over the days together, the Métis community made a collective step forward. "Métis Family & Community Justice Services Inc will retain this focus, as we implement the actions set out by the delegates and continue our discussions of creating a better world for Métis children and families in this rich country of Canada" stated Minister Maurice.

# Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Child and Family Services

## Policy

### PART I

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan is to ensure that every Métis child is brought up in a secure and healthy environment, including the physical, spiritual, mental, social and emotional elements of human development; to regain recognition of Métis authority for Métis child and family wellness by returning control to the families and communities within the Métis Nation in Saskatchewan; to ensure that every Métis child grows up to understand and appreciate their own heritage, history, culture and language to the extent that they can be preserved for future generations; and to establish a framework upon which we would act upon our authority.

### PART II

#### PREAMBLE

The Métis Nation is a distinct society within the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada. The Métis are distinct from the Indians and Inuit and are the descendants of the historic Métis who evolved in what is now Western Canada and part of the northern United States, as a people with a common political will, consciousness, language, culture, history and homeland.

Having experienced physical and political conflict and dispossession in the late 1800's, we are still engaged in a continuing struggle to rebuild our social base and revive our cultural heritage and pride. As such, we are striving for the political, legal and constitutional recognition and guarantees of the rights of our People, including the right to a land and resource base, self-government and self-government institutions.

Document Courtesy MFCJS

Within Saskatchewan, the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan is dedicated to fulfilling these goals with respect to Métis children within the province, through its governance structure and Affiliated Institutions and organizations.

We believe it is the role, responsibility and duty of every level of authority within the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan governance structure (from the Métis Local / community level to the Regional and Provincial levels, including the Senate, Women and Youth as well as encompassing the mandates of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Affiliates and Institutions) to strive to ensure that these rights are recognized in decisions made and actions undertaken which effect Métis children. This comprehensive approach is crucial to the success and sustenance of this important endeavor.

The Métis Nation - Saskatchewan recognizes that programs already exist across the province within the Métis community; this document is meant to support and guide existing and future programs and services in the area of Métis Child and Family Services.

### PART III

#### STATEMENT OF RIGHTS

Over the years a body of legal instruments have been developed to address basic human rights, including protection of the right of all peoples to self-determination. This right includes the rights of the child, which have been guaranteed through international, national and provincial laws, policies and practices, including the following:

International Law: *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966 (Article 1.1)*

All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of





that right, they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development. They have the right to determine who the individual members of their society are, and how their children are raised. [The Métis Nation has this right based on the customs traditions and practices of Métis people themselves.]

*International Law: Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 (Article 30)*

In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin exist, a child belonging to such a minority or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practice his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language.

*International Law: Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 1959 (Excerpts Principles 1-10)*

Amongst other things, every child has the right to:

- Be enabled to develop physically, mentally, morally, spiritually, and socially;
- Adequate nutrition, housing, recreation and medical services;
- Love and Understanding;
- Wherever possible grow up under the responsibility and care of his parents, and only in exceptional circumstances, be separated from his mother;
- Be given an education which will promote his general culture and enable him to develop his abilities to become a useful member of society;
- Be raised with the realization that responsibility lies in the first place with his parents;
- Be protected against all forms of neglect, cruelty and exploitation;
- Be protected from practices which may foster racial, religious and any other form of discrimination; and
- Be brought up in a spirit of understanding, tolerance, friendship, peace and universal brotherhood and in

full consciousness that his energy and talents should be devoted to the service of his fellow men.

*National Law: Government of Canada's Policy Approach to Implementation of the Inherent Right and Negotiation of Aboriginal Self-Government.*

The Government of Canada recognizes the inherent right of self-government as an existing right within section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. Recognition of the inherent right is based on the view that the Aboriginal peoples in Canada have the right to govern themselves in relation to matters that are internal to their communities, integral to their unique cultures, identities, traditions, languages and institutions, and with respect to their special relationship to the land and their resources.

*Provincial Law: Government of Saskatchewan Aboriginal Policy Framework: Toward a Shared Destiny, 1995.*

The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the inherent right of Indian and Métis peoples to self-government.... The Government has identified five priorities [of which one is] Children and Families.

*Provincial Law: Government of Saskatchewan Aboriginal Policy Framework: Framework for Cooperation, 2001*

The Government of Saskatchewan.... respects Aboriginal peoples' cultures and rights, as recognized in the Constitution Act, 1982.

*Provincial Law: Government of Saskatchewan Métis Act Legislation, 2002, and subsequent Memorandum of Understanding Part VI Initiatives (6.3 Capacity Development and 6.4 Governance).*

The Parties [Government of Saskatchewan and Métis Nation - Saskatchewan] agree to work towards the devolution of programs and services to Métis communities and Métis institutions. The Parties agree to undertake the necessary preparatory and planning work with respect to the development of a framework for the devolution of programs



and services....(VI 6.3) The Parties agree to continue building a Métis capacity for governance of Métis communities and Métis institutions.(VI 6.4)

Provincial Law: *Government of Saskatchewan and Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Métis Family & Community Justice Services Memorandum of Understanding, 1998.*

MFCJS and Saskatchewan are willing to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding to help chart future relationships between them, and to discuss possibilities for the future delivery of social service programs as they relate to Saskatchewan Métis.

Métis Law: *Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Constitution, 1993*

Therefore, the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Constitution is a declaration of self-government, under the Métis Nation Constitution, 1993, and the establishment of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly which has passed several pieces of legislation to date but none that specifically provides for the creation of Métis Laws as it relates to Métis Child and Family Wellness.

#### PART IV STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Any model of implementation on Métis Child and Family Services will maintain the following principles. The implementation model will be proactive in that it will be:

1. Be Rights-based;
2. Be Métis-specific;
3. Be Designed and Implemented Province-wide;
4. Be Healing-Focused;
5. Be Holistic;

6. Be Intergenerational;
7. Be Based Upon an Ethic of Caring and Mutual Respect; and will
8. Respect Diversity within the Métis Nation in Saskatchewan.

#### PART V DISCUSSION OF PRINCIPLES

##### 1. Any model of implementation will be Rights-Based,

By this we mean that the model we adopt will:

- Respect the rights and authorities of Métis people and within this context also respect the rights of the child;
- Recognize that accountability shall be back to the Métis Community in the first place, through the processes set out in the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Constitution;
- Seek recognition and pursue equitable access of the Métis to government programs and services;
- Recognize the need for advocacy on behalf of Métis children, parents and the extended family; and
- Recognize that the Métis community shall take responsibility for its children as part of this accountability and ensure an open and transparent system of accountability.

##### 2. Any model of implementation will be Métis-Specific,

By this we mean that the model we adopt will:

- Seek to promote Métis-specific program services and delivery mechanisms to end further marginalization of Métis people through pan-Aboriginal programming;
- Build upon existing capacity and governance structures within the Métis Nation, as set out in the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Constitution;



- Provide for community consultation, input and implementation;
- Promote Métis culture in all aspects of implementation and delivery of services;
- Be culturally sensitive;
- Be built upon transfer payments from Federal and Provincial Governments, including but not limited to the devolution of programs and services; and
- Respect the role of Métis Elders.

3. Any model of implementation will be designed and implemented province-wide.

By this we mean that the model we adopt will:

- Develop under the authority of Métis Family and Community Justice Services Inc, as the designate of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan;
- Promote partnerships with the Government of Canada, the Government of Saskatchewan, Indian Governments and Other Agencies, where mutually beneficial to do so;
- Ensure adequate administrative resources and required capacities are made available to provide at minimum equitable services with non-Métis delivery structures;
- Engage in inclusive processes that are respectful of diversity within the Métis Nation with provision for a fair and comprehensive appeal process; and
- Seek to build individual, family, and community capacity to promote safe and healthy families and communities.

4. Any model of implementation will be Healing-Focused.

By this we mean that the model we adopt will:

- Engage all members of the family or of the community depending on the situation, in a holistic and non-judgmental way seeking resolution as opposed to punitive interventions;

- Focus on repairing and restoring the health and well-being of children as part of a healthy family; and
- Recognize that the goal is to develop healthy lifestyles amongst our Métis people and that all Métis people need to be supported to this end.

5. Any model of implementation will be Holistic.

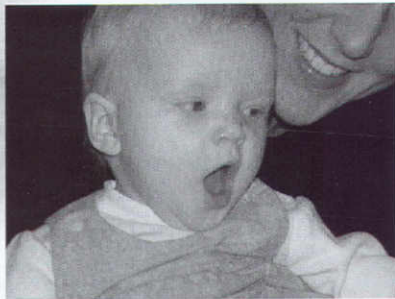
By this we mean that the model we adopt will:

- Provide for holistic service delivery encompassing all elements of human development including physical, spiritual, emotional, social, mental and cultural considerations;
- Ensure integrated and coordinated services, including but not limited to housing, education, health, justice, sport, recreation, cultural programming, and child and family services, by involving other Métis Nation Affiliates;
- Promote intersectoral projects which bring together services;
- Engage whole families, including extended families to deal with matters related to children and youth; and
- Where possible, engage whole communities to deal with matters related to children and youth.

6. Any model of implementation will be Intergenerational.

By this we mean that the model we adopt will:

- Listen to Métis Elders, adults, youth and children;
- Engage and respect the contribution of all ages of life in understanding and achieving Métis child and family wellness programming, including Métis Elders, adults, youth and children;
- Address the stereotyping of Elders and youth in terms of closing the circle of life by bringing both to healthy relations; and
- Promote programs that bring different generations together to address child and family wellness issues.



the Métis community.

7. Any model of implementation will be Based Upon an Ethic of Caring and Mutual Respect.

By this we mean that the model we adopt will:

- Engage all Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Institutions, Communities, Families, Individuals, including teaching our children, in caring for one another and promoting an ethic of caring for people in general and especially for those in need;
- Recognize that proactive programming is part of a caring ethic;
- Value the individual within the Métis community for the contribution that can and is made by individuals to the wellness of the Métis Nation;
- Include as its basic understanding the need to encourage our children and youth and the parents of our children and youth to care for themselves and others.

8. Any model of implementation will Respect Diversity within the Métis Nation in Saskatchewan.

By this we mean that the model we adopt will:

- Respect that the Métis in Saskatchewan live in diverse environments, including rural, northern and urban;
- Acknowledge that there are unique needs within each of these diverse environments, and that implementation plans must respect and reflect these diverse realities;
- Allow for flexibility in program and service design and delivery to allow for creative solutions to addressing barriers and the subsequent paths to wellness within Métis communities; and
- Respect that Métis children and youth have unique personalities and characteristics and that they shall be encouraged to explore and develop their uniqueness and their potential as an individual within

PART VI  
PROGRAMMING

Programming under any model of implementation will include a full compliment of Métis people trained and employed to carry out the responsibilities of a full range of programming. These training and employment opportunities will include professional training as Social Workers, Child Care Workers, Early Childhood Specialists, Counselors, and Special Needs Professions able to address Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects situations, among other situations of care, including but not limited to the provision of services in the following areas:

- Province-wide Intake Services and Emergency Care;
- Alternate Programs for Children and Families At Risk including Counseling and Welfare;
- Voluntary Service to Parents including Foster Care;
- Statutory Protection Services;
- Abuse Investigations and Services;
- Services to Children in Care;
- Assistance in dealing with the Legal System / Courts;
- Adoptions;
- Repatriation of Adopted Children and Adults Adopted as Children;
- Communications;
- Support Services;
- Prevention Services;
- Advocacy; and
- On-going Professional Development for Métis Staff, Boards and Community Capacity Building.

*February 28, 2003  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*

Métis Children



## Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Child and Family Services

# Action Plan

(February 2002)

Document Courtesy MFCJS

### Communications

#### A. Distribute the Métis Child and Family Services Policy

- To the Members of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (Regions, Locals)
- At the next General Assembly
- Amongst the Métis Nation Saskatchewan Affiliates, Institutions and Organizations
- To the Métis National Council Board of Governors and Cabinet Members

B. Share the outcomes of the conference over a series of New Breed Magazine issues and other Métis Nation Regional and Local newsletters as discussion points and begin promotion of Métis Role Models through articles and interviews.

C. Support Projects within the Métis Nation Saskatchewan, and beyond to include the Métis National Council Governing Members that promote Métis culture, heritage and languages in order to build communications and educational materials on the Métis Nation.

D. Encourage our Métis Leaders at every level within the Métis Nation Saskatchewan governance structure to be informed of the issues and to lobby for the greater involvement and decision-making authority of Métis people on matters related to Métis child and family services.

E. Support the Métis National Council Youth Role Model Program.

### Networking

A. Begin plans to hold a National Métis Child Wellness

### Conference

B. Organize a meeting within the next four months with appropriate representatives of each of the Métis National Council Governing Members to discuss a future National Métis Child Wellness Conference and to draft national policy on the Métis Child to be reviewed at a national conference.

C. To add onto the agenda of each Métis Local and subsequent Regional Council meeting the topic of Métis Child Wellness and to share the Policy and to begin discussing issues of significance at the community level in order to maintain the topic as one of central concern and to identify opportunities in the future to become more active in the lives of our Métis children, including those facing difficulties.

D. Lobby the New Democratic Party, the Liberal Party, and the Saskatchewan Party on the increasing involvement of the Métis Nation seeking negotiations for devolution of the Métis Child and Family Services to the Métis Nation.

E. Each Métis Nation Local, Regional Council, Affiliate and Institution should promote the Métis Nation through the inclusion of Métis history, culture, language and governance structures in each and every program they offer.

### Intergovernmental Actions

A. Develop proposals to take forward to the federal and provincial governments through the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Tripartite / Bilateral processes for funding for long term implementation strategies and programs and services related to Métis Child and Family Services.

B. Begin pressuring the Governments of Saskatchewan and



Canada to pass legislation devolving child and family services to the Métis Nation.

C. Engage our Métis Nation Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council and Affiliate Boards to begin a review of existing agreements and Memorandums of Understanding and policies within the Métis Nation Saskatchewan and its Affiliates and Institutions as it relates to matters that impact on Métis Child and Family Services for Métis in Saskatchewan.

D. Establish a table of senior officials representing the Department of Social Services, Municipal Affairs and Education in Saskatchewan, Health Canada, Secretary of State Responsible for Children and Youth, Senate of Canada Standing Committee on the Child, and Métis Nation officials representing Métis Nation Saskatchewan Affiliates and Institutions to present and explore the Métis Child and Family Services Policy and its potential implementation.

E. As part of the Bilateral Process, begin discussions under the Métis Act to make issues of child and family services a priority.

F. Métis Family & Community Justice Services Inc, Métis Employment and Training of Saskatchewan Inc, the Gabriel Dumont Institute, and other Métis Nation Saskatchewan Affiliates, to negotiate partnership arrangements with the Department of Social Services to undertake joint initiatives in training and education to increase the number of Métis professionals in the area of Métis Child and Family Services.

## Internal Governance

A. Métis Family & Community Justice Services Inc to draft a Métis Child and Family Services Act to be presented for adoption by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly.

B. Table the Métis Child and Family Policy at the next Leaders Summit - Provincial Métis Council and the Métis Nation Saskatchewan Affiliates, Institutions and Organizations

including Métis Family Community Justice Services Inc, Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan Inc, Gabriel Dumont Institute, Dumont Technical Institute, Provincial Métis Housing Corporation and Métis Employment & Training of Saskatchewan Inc, the Métis Nation Saskatchewan Senate, Women and Youth Councils to secure commitments and ideas for joint implementation of the Policy.

C. Negotiate with Métis Employment and Training of Saskatchewan Inc and the Regional Local Métis Management Boards to ensure opportunities and target setting for Métis clients to begin training in programs related to Métis Child and Family Services.

D. Encourage the Métis Nation Saskatchewan Youth Council to engage their Regional Councils in discussions pertaining to Métis Children and Youth and to make recommendations for action as it relates to addressing issues facing Métis children and youth.

E. Organize for a Métis Child and Family component of the Métis Nation Saskatchewan Education and Training Conference tentatively scheduled for March 2004.

F. Request that the Métis Family & Community Justice Services Inc and the Métis Nation Senate of Saskatchewan take a lead role in establishing a Métis Elders gathering for the explicit purpose of examining Métis Traditional Values and Culture to guide future policy and programming for Métis Child and Family programs.

G. Return as individuals to our families and our communities and to share the outcome of the Métis Child Wellness Conference, including the discussion and the Policy and Action Plan in an effort to examine the role that each and every citizen of the Métis Nation can play in facilitating Child and Family Wellness within our Métis families and communities, beginning with our own.



# You've got a choice in auto injury insurance.

**Starting in 2003**, everyone in Saskatchewan can choose between their current NO FAULT injury coverage and TORT injury coverage from SGI.

- ▶ **To select TORT coverage**, simply visit your motor licence issuer.
- ▶ **To keep NO FAULT coverage**, no action on your part is required.

**Some things you should know:**

- Both are quality insurance products and are equally priced.
- Even if you don't own a vehicle or drive, you can still choose.
- You can change at any time, at no cost.
- If you're undecided, you continue to be insured with your current coverage.

**Help and information are available:**

- Read the insurance guide in your mail
- Call SGI at 1-800-667-9868
- Visit our web site at [www.sgi.sk.ca](http://www.sgi.sk.ca)
- Talk to your motor licence issuer

**SGI**////

## Guide to Choosing Personal Auto Injury Insurance



**SGI**////

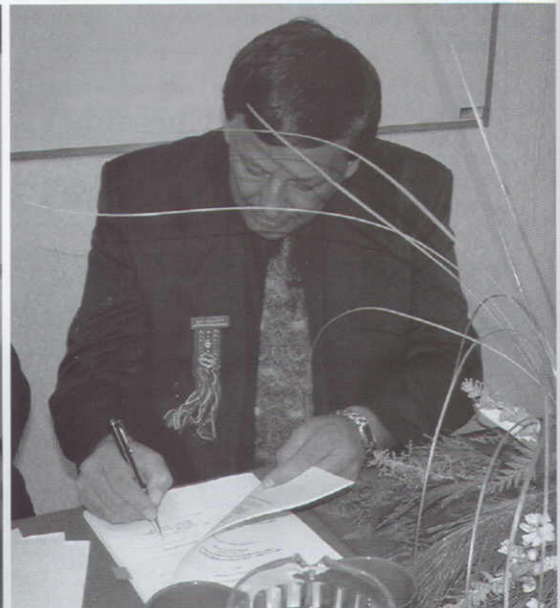
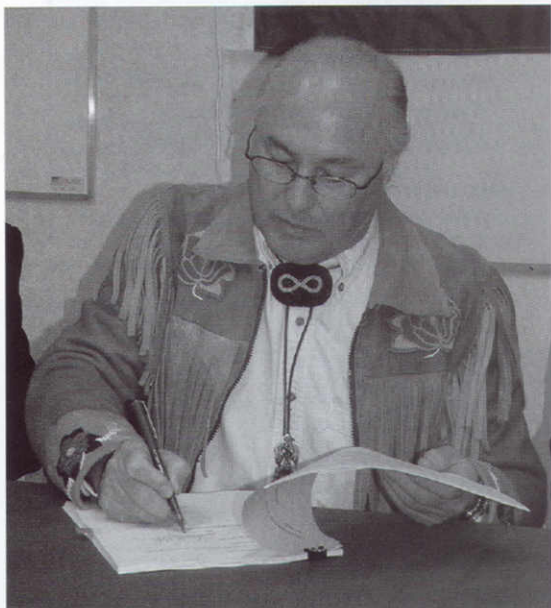
# Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Renews Economic Development Agreement with the Province of Saskatchewan

Article and Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

**O**n December 19th, 2002, the Métis Nation Saskatchewan signed a long term agreement with the Government of Saskatchewan Department of Economic Development to renew the funding administered under the Clarence Campeau Development Fund. MNS President Clem Chartier and Saskatchewan Minister Eldon Lautermilch spoke to and signed agreement. MNS Minister of Economic Development Guy Bouvier played a lead role in the negotiations leading up to the signing. The ceremonies were held at the Gabriel Dumont Institute building on 22nd Street in Saskatoon.

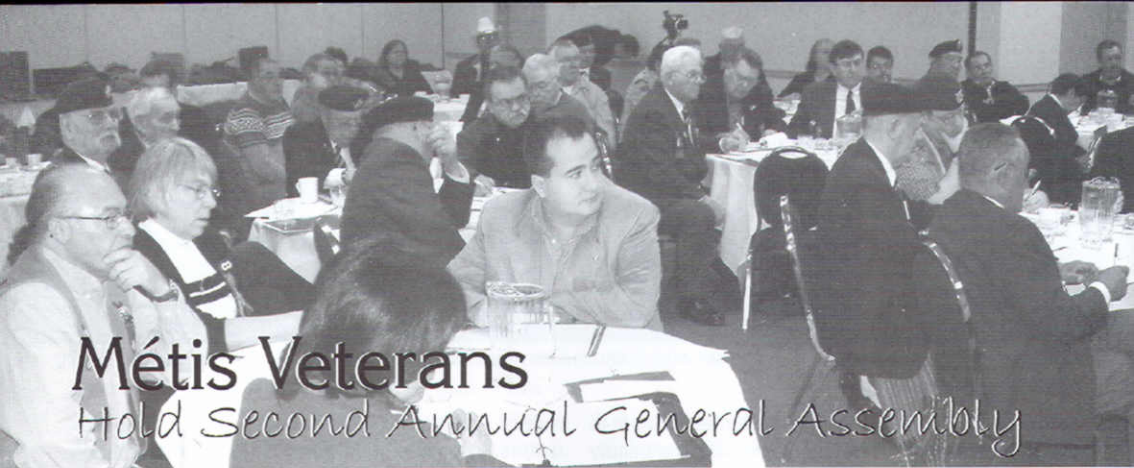


Saskatchewan Minister Eldon Lautermilch



MNS President, Clem Chartier, and MNS Minister of Economic Development, Guy Bouvier, sign agreement





# Métis Veterans

## Hold Second Annual General Assembly

Article and Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

The National Métis Veterans Association (NMVA) held its 2nd Annual General Assembly in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on February 8 & 9, 2003. The NMVA was organized in 2000 holding its Founding Conference on December 9 & 10, 2000 as there was a recognized need to take collective action and speak with one voice, a Métis voice, in order to achieve a positive resolution to long standing grievances suffered by Métis veterans at the hands of the federal government. In particular, Métis veterans did not receive full and adequate benefits from the federal government after having served in theatres of war overseas, and in many cases, received no

benefits at all. The Métis veterans are therefore seeking compensation for this oversight, whether it was deliberately fostered on the Métis or not.

The NMVA was able to secure funding from the Federal government in 2001 which enabled them to undertake research and interviews of Métis veterans with respect to the issue of non-receipt of benefits. The result was 32 page Final Report which set out a strong case establishing a solid basis which justifies the call by the NMVA for fair, just and adequate compensation. This Final Report was presented at the NMVA's 1st Annual General Assembly in

November 2001, and then to the Métis National Council and the Federal government.

The lack of a positive response by the Federal government to this Final Report led the NMVA to launch court action. In August 2002, the NMVA filed a Statement of Claim in Federal Court Trial Division alleging that the Federal government violated the s.15 Charter of Rights and Freedoms equality rights of the Métis by providing benefits to non-Aboriginal veterans, and now offering a



Opening Ceremonies



(Left to Right): President Clem Chartier and Veteran Sam Sinclair; Veteran Louis Roy; Veteran Joe Morin; and Veteran Harvey Horlock

compensation package to Indian veterans, but not to the Métis veterans. This case is still in its preliminary stages. As part of its litigation strategy the NMVA has asked that the Métis National Council (MNC) intervene in the case, adding its support to the NMVA's efforts. The NMVA was able to secure funding through the Court Challenges Program which funds up to \$60,000.00 for court challenges against any federal law, practice or policy which may violate an equality right under s. 15 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

At the 2nd Annual General Assembly, a significant amount of discussion revolved around the issue of litigation in the absence of a positive Federal government response to the issue of compensation for the Métis veterans. In particular, MNC Interim President Audrey Poitras assured the General Assembly that the MNC was fully supportive of the efforts of the NMVA, and indicated that the MNC would certainly favour applying for intervener status in the case. The same commitment was made by President Clem Chartier of the MNS who also addressed the General Assembly and pledged his continuing support.

The Assembly also discussed other strategies which could be undertaken to press their case. Included in this strategy is a letter writing campaign to

federal and provincial government politicians, labour unions, churches, non-governmental organizations and to the general public seeking political and moral support, as well as financial support to undertake various initiatives. One such initiative agreed upon was to send a delegation to countries where the Métis veterans fought and died. Countries such as France, Holland, Belgium, England, Africa, Hong Kong and Korea. It was further agreed that the governments and people of those countries visited would be requested to financially assist the NMVA in their court case, as the Court Challenges Program grant would not cover the total amount required to successfully carry out the litigation. It was also an objective to have those countries (governments and people) lobby the Canadian government to deal justly with the Métis veterans by providing adequate compensation.

In this connection, the NMVA has also requested the MNC to act on their behalf by submitting a written



Bruce Flamont (speaking) and Head Table



(Left to Right): Veteran Morris Poiras; Veteran Robert Berard; Veterans Sam Sinclair, Robert Berard, and unknown; and Veteran Charlie Fosseneuve

grievance/complaint to the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. This complaint would outline how the Canadian government has violated the human rights of the Métis veterans by not treating Métis veterans the same as other veterans, in this case, by not providing the same benefits to the Métis which were provided to non-Aboriginal veterans, and now Métis exclusion from compensation being offered to other Aboriginal peoples, the Indian veterans. While the NMVA supports compensation to Indian veterans, it simply wants the same treatment for its members.

With reference to the overseas initiative, 85 year old Métis veteran, Charlie Fosseneuve of Cumberland House shared information he found in the January/February 2003 issue of the Legion Magazine. The article dealt with the construction of a museum, monument and education centre on Juno Beach at Courseulles-sur-Mer, in Normandy, France.

It is here that more than 21,000 Canadians landed on June 16, 1944 in the push to liberate France and the rest of Europe. It is a day that Charlie remembers well, not only were hundreds of Canadian soldiers wounded or killed, it was Charlies' birthday. For Charlie the official opening of the Juno Beach Centre on the 59th anniversary of the storming at Juno Beach on June 6, 2003 is an event he prays to be at. According to Charlie, "this would be the best birthday gift he could receive". New Breed Magazine will work hard to make that prayer come true.

Financial contributions for the Métis Veterans trip to Juno Beach can be made to the: National Métis Veterans Association c/o Métis Nation Saskatchewan 219 Robin Crescent Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7L 6M8. National Métis Veterans Association President Bruce Flamont can be contacted for further information.



# Métis Nation Legislative Assembly

## Regina

Article and Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

The MNS held its Legislative Assembly in Regina on December 4-5, 2002. The Assembly was well attended, as has been the case over the past years. This year's assembly heard remarks from Métis Nation - Saskatchewan President Clem Chartier and Métis National Council President Gerald Morin. As part of the regular business Vice-President Lorna Docken, Treasurer Allan Morin and Dave Ross, Secretary brought greetings to the Assembly and reported on their activities over the last year.

The portfolio holders of the PMC gave their respective reports with Albert Delaire reporting on Urban Affairs and Health (MACSI), Ralph Kennedy, joined by Jennifer Brown, reporting on Youth, Sport and Recreation, Dale McAuley reporting on education, and the activities of the Gabriel Dumont Institute, Al Rivard reporting on employment and training and the activities of METSI, Alex Maurice reporting on Justice and Family Services and the

activities of MFCJS, Norman Hansen reporting on environment and resources and housing (PMHC) and MaryAnn Gagnon reporting on the activities of the Métis Women of Saskatchewan. Guy Bouvier, due to health reasons presented his report through his staff although he was in attendance. Following each report Assembly members are free to engage in questions and answer discussions or seek clarification. As written reports are to be provided by each Executive member and Portfolio holder and included in the Assembly kits verbal reports allow for fuller consideration.

This year substantial discussions were held on various topics. Concerns were raised on behalf of rural communities on the potential impact of the Kyoto Accord on rural economies. A number of legislative amendments were brought forward to the Assembly. This was a significant part of the discussions of the first day. The following



(Above) Delegates Philip Chartier, Henry Cummings, and Dale McAuley

(Right): Delegates ratify motion



MNS President Clem Chartier



MNS Vice-President Lorna Docken



MNS Treasurer Allan Morin

amendments dealing with electoral reform were passed.

The following constitutional amendments were made: def of Métis; election mandate for PMC from 3 yrs to 4 yrs; affiliates to become subsidiaries of MNS under the Métis Act and all new institutions of MNS to fall under Métis Act as subsidiaries. The next stage is ratification by the General Assembly before the amendments become part of the Constitution.

A summary of motions brought forward and carried, with the exception of those motions accepting reports presented, are listed below. A complete list is available from the Métis Nation Saskatchewan Head Office.

Motion 2: Move to ratify the Western Region II Regional Council's decision to dissolve the following Locals: #113 Marcelin, #66 Crutwell, #223 Weldon also referred to as Kelsey Trail.

Motion 5: Notwithstanding Section 3, the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly by legislative provision may delegate regulation-making authority to the Provincial Métis Council.

Motion 6: Move that each Local shall submit the names of their elected leadership to the Métis Nation Saskatchewan Head Office within 30 days of their election.

Motion 7: MNS Constitution Article 10: Replace existing section 1 definition of Métis with the following: 1.1 "Métis" means a person who self identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry and is accepted by the Métis Nation. 1.2 "Historic Métis Nation" means the Aboriginal People then known as Métis or Halfbreeds who resided in the historic Métis Nation homeland. 1.3 "Historic Métis Nation Homeland" means the area of land in west central North America used and occupied as the traditional territory of the Métis or Halfbreeds as they were then known. 1.4 "Métis Nation" means the Aboriginal People descended from the historic Métis Nation which is now comprised of all Métis Nation citizens and as one of the Aboriginal Peoples

of Canada within the meaning of Section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982. 1.5 "Distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples" means distinct for cultural and nationhood purposes.

Motion 8: Métis Nation Constitution Article 14: Add Section 5: "5(a). New subsidiaries may be established under the Métis Nation Saskatchewan Secretariate Incorporated pursuant to the Métis Act, while existing Affiliates shall be brought under the Métis Act as subsidiaries. (b) For the purposes of this Article, the Term "Affiliate" shall be deemed to also mean subsidiaries.

Motion 9: Métis Nation Constitution Article 14.1: Replace the wording "Non-Profit Corporations Act" by the Wording "Métis Act".

Motion 10: Move that the "Northern Region II" name be changed to "Clearwater/Clear Lake", "Western Region IA" to "Battle River", "Western Region III" to "Southern Plains".

Motion 11: Métis Nation Saskatchewan Constitution Articles 4 and 8: Amend Section 3 of Article 4 and Sections 3 and 3.1 of Article 8 by substituting the term "three" with the term "four."

Motion 16: Move to amend the Election Act as proposed: Article 3: Section 3.1: the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly shall announce the date for the election by Proclamation of the Executive and Regional Representatives, based upon the day specified in the Constitution. 3.1.1 The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly is responsible to proclaim the date for an election one hundred and twenty (120) days prior to the Election Day to allow for the compilation of the electoral list. Article 8: Section 8.3 shall be revised only during a publicly announced revision period. The

revision shall be between the date of the Election Proclamation and twenty days prior to Election Day to a maximum period of one hundred (100) days. Article 9: Section 9.1.6: Has met the conditions of 9.3. Article 13: Section 13,3,2: Shall tender his/her written resignation from the Commission or as Chief Electoral Officer as the case may be.



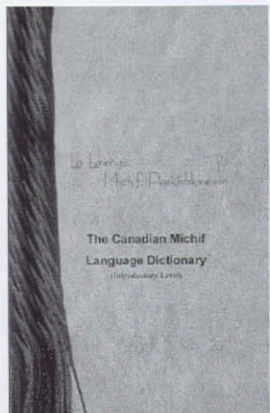
# Michif

New Breed Magazine will be paying extra attention to the Michif Language in this and future publications with the help of Michif speakers. New Breed Magazine will begin a series of articles on the language, its current state, its history, and the plans to increase Michif language usage across the Métis Nation Homeland. New Breed will also feature some of the many projects taking place in Saskatchewan under the direction of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Cultural Committee and funded by Canadian Heritage Aboriginal Languages Initiative.

Métis Nation - Saskatchewan will host the second annual Michif Language Conference in Saskatoon on April 10th - 12th, 2003. MNS Cultural Committee Chairpersons, Clem Chartier and Ralph Kennedy, have begun preparations for the conference with the support of the National Michif Language Working Group. Along with others, Norman Fleury, Bruce Flamont, and Peter Bakker are providing direction to the conference workshop.

Featured here is a Michif Language Dictionary published by the Manitoba Métis Federation Michif Language Program.

For more information, contact Ralph Kennedy at (306) 445-6822.



## Michif Declaration

JULY 23, 2000

Whereas the Métis emerged in Canada as a distinct nation with a unique culture, and whereas during the genesis of the Métis Nation, Michif evolved as a distinct language of the Métis Nation, and whereas it is recognized within conventional law that language is one of the requirements of the establishment or reaffirmation of a homeland, therefore it is resolved that the Métis National Council recognize and declare Michif as the historical and official language of the Métis Nation.

And whereas to Sir John Flavel, Honorable the Solicitor General, Michif was one of the signs of a strong attachment to Sir John Flavel, Michif is hereby recognized as being one of the Michif language, and that, as in Michif the name of the Métis is "Gouvernement de Michif" (Government of Michif), Michif is hereby declared to be Michif.



# Prairie Métis Leaders Sit for Third Session

Article and Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

The Prairie Métis Leaders Forum was established as part of a joint inquiry, by Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) President David Chartrand, Métis Nation Saskatchewan (MNS) President Clem Chartier and Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) President Audrey Poitras, into the situation regarding the loss of Métis lands and access to resources. On January 6th and 7th, 2003, the elected provincial councils of MMF, MNS and MNA, met for a third sitting to increase their knowledge of the historic record, to share in the challenges facing the Métis as a result of these legislative actions and to consider legal options which may be open to the Métis to address what they feel to be longstanding injustices. This meeting followed two earlier meetings held in Saskatoon (January 17th & 18th, 2002) and Winnipeg (July 5th & 6th, 2002).

## Dominion Lands Act

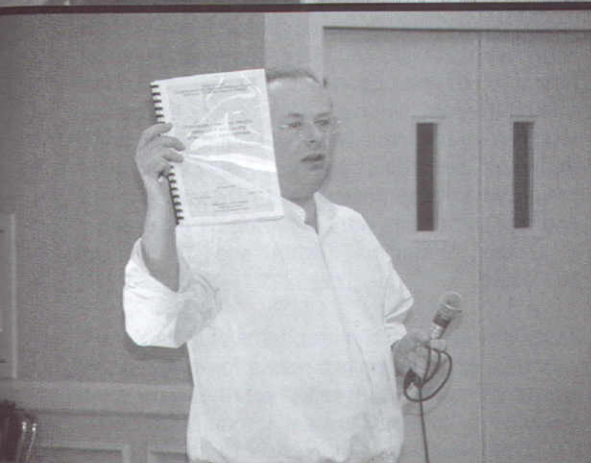
When the Métis negotiated entry into Canada, in 1870, the Métis wanted their homelands to come under Métis ownership through the new province of Manitoba, of which they formed the majority. However, the federal government, in its vision of Canada, felt that they needed to keep control over the natural resources for themselves and to use the revenue generated from these resources to develop western Canada. Therefore an arrangement was arrived at through the Manitoba

Act which created the province of Manitoba, whereby the Métis, through section 31, received 1.4 million acres of land toward the extinguishment of their Indian Title. The federal government therefore retained ownership of all those lands formerly known as Rupert's Land and the North Western Territory and passed the Dominion Lands Act to regulate those lands.

In dealing with the Métis, and their Indian (Aboriginal) Title, in addition to the section 31 in the Manitoba Act, the Dominion Lands Act was amended to provide for what we now know as the scrip system.

Between 1871 and 1907, about 20,000 scrip applications were made by Métis situated within that part of the Métis Homeland now comprised of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories to gain ownership of their traditional lands. These applications were either denied or granted entitlement to the land scrip recipient or the bearer of the money scrip coupon, to either 240 acres of Crown Land, to be selected in areas already surveyed, or \$240 in money scrip, which could be used to purchase lands in surveyed areas. Although the research is far from complete, results to date reflect that about 1% of those who made application for Métis scrip actually retained ownership of their home lands. This research is being conducted by the Métis Aboriginal Title





(Clockwise from Top Left): Clem Chartier (speaking), Audrey Poitras and David Chartrand; Al Rivard; Norman Hanson; Allan Morin; Frank Tough; and Doug Kovatch.

Research Initiative X unit within the School of Native Studies at the University of Alberta under the direct supervision of Professor Frank Tough. And this history remains at the center of the controversial Métis Land issue today.



MMF Board Members, Marilee Nault, Laura Irich and Joyce Langan

#### Natural Resources Transfer Agreements

When the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta were formed in 1905, as was the case was the province of Manitoba, the federal government retained ownership of the lands and resources. In the years leading up to 1930, the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta argued that they should be placed in the same position as the other provinces in that the Crown Land should be turned over to their worship. The NRTAs, 1930, did just that. By section 1 of the respective agreements, the land was transferred subject to any interests attached to the land which would include Aboriginal Title interests. Further, paragraph thirteen in the Manitoba agreement and paragraphs twelve in the Saskatchewan and Alberta agreements, provided a guarantee that the provinces would guarantee within the provinces would continue to hold the right to hunt, trap and

fish for food on unoccupied Crown Lands. The NRTAs were constitutionalized in the NRTA Act, 1930.

The significance for the Métis is twofold: It is the Métis position that the scrip process under the Dominion Lands Act did not extinguish Métis Aboriginal Title to the lands of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, paragraph one of the NRTA preserves those rights; and secondly, if we are successful in the argument that the Métis fall under the term Indian in paragraphs thirteen and twelve, Métis Aboriginal Title continues to exist and our people will be able to hunt, fish and trap for food as was the case between 1996 and 1998 through the R. v. Grumbo decision in Saskatchewan.

Both the Dominion Lands Act and the Natural Resources Transfer Agreements remain at the core of the history and perhaps of the solutions to the situation of Métis lands and access to resources today. Where the Métis Nation Saskatchewan has declared self-government in 1993 with the establishment of the Métis Nation Saskatchewan Constitution, passed under the authority of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly, the future of the Métis people and the solution to the situations of impoverishment that many of our communities and citizens find themselves in today perhaps lies in knowing the history of Métis Lands and in finding a legal option which will bring this history to the attention of the courts. The Métis Nation Saskatchewan, along with other governing members of the Métis National Council, continues to defend itself and its citizens against charges by the provincial governments related to resource use and land ownership, without having clarification on the Métis Aboriginal Rights and Title issue addressed.

There are two cases currently before the courts which will bring these two issues forward: On the matter of the Dominion Lands Act, the North West Saskatchewan Land Claim, will bring attention to the scrip process as it relates to those lands traditionally used by the Métis of those regions; The

second case is the Blais case which will bring the issue of whether Métis fall under the term Indian in the NRTA, 1930, signed with the Province of Manitoba. The Blais case will be heard by the Supreme Court in March of 2003. A third case was launched by the Manitoba Métis Federation....

This third meeting brought forward the following statements by the Prairie Métis Leaders on behalf of the Métis in the prairie provinces:

Métis Nation of Alberta  
Métis Nation Saskatchewan  
Manitoba Métis Federation

#### RESOLUTIONS OF THE PRAIRIE METIS LEADERS FORUM

WHEREAS the Métis Leaders of Manitoba Métis Federation, Métis Nation - Saskatchewan and Métis Nation of Alberta met on January 18th and 19th, 2003 in Edmonton, Alberta to continue working collaboratively on political, litigation and research initiatives relating to the Dominion Lands Act and the Natural Resources Transfer Agreements, and

WHEREAS the Manitoba Métis Federation, Métis Nation Saskatchewan and Métis Nation of Alberta continue to stand together as a united body to address the injustices brought against the Métis Nation through constitutional and other means, including but not limited to supporting the North West Saskatchewan Métis Land Claim and the Manitoba Métis Federation Land Claim, and work together toward finding resolutions to bring full recognition of Métis Rights.

#### THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Prairie Métis Leaders Forum will continue to pursue joint research initiatives, including but not limited to the areas of Métis Scrip, Traditional Land Use and Occupancy Mapping, Genealogy, Métis History; and

That the Prairie Métis Leaders Forum bring together lawyers dealing with Métis Rights issues to discuss the best strategy for addressing Métis Rights; and

That the Prairie Métis Leaders Forum continue to develop a communications strategy in order to educate Métis and non-Métis Communities and Citizens, Government Officials, Judiciary Officials, Industry and other Third Party Interests in Land and Resources; and

That the Manitoba Métis Federation, Métis Nation Saskatchewan and Métis Nation of Alberta commit to continued pursuit of the objectives of the Prairie Métis Leaders Forum as they develop their internal mechanisms and programs, and look for additional funding for future initiatives supporting the objectives of the Prairie Métis Leaders Forum; and

That the Prairie Métis Leaders Forum continues to meet at minimum on an annual basis and that a written brief update is provided to Forum Delegates on a semi-annual basis on activities to date.

January 19, 2003



MMF Board Members Jean Desrosiers, and Rita Cullen



## Trappers Meet in LaRonge

Article and photos by Yvonne Vizina

The fur harvesting and fur trade industries have been cornerstones of Métis history for hundreds of years. European demand for furs during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries helped to unify the Métis as they became successful participants within what could be considered the first major economic development initiative in the country. Without reiterating the story of the development of Canada, it should be acknowledged that Métis people played a lead role in facilitating the process. The Métis people have always been proud of their ability to be self-sufficient, as well as their willing acceptance of partnerships that serve to benefit all parties involved.

Over the years, as the Métis became increasingly pressured to relinquish their traditional lifestyles and relocate to permanent communities, it became more and more difficult for Métis cultural traditions to be transferred intergenerationally. Fewer and fewer Métis people have been able to adopt a full time traditional lifestyle off the land. With the loss of this lifestyle, many valuable teachings of Métis culture are also lost to future generations.

Several years ago, Métis Senators Louis Morin, Vital Morin and Stanley Durocher, along with Euclid Boyer, rallied the northern Métis trappers to form an association through which to voice their concerns to the Government of Canada, the Government of Saskatchewan, and the multitude of other organizations forcing the Métis out of their traditional practices. The trappers association

quickly grew in number as word spread to those who valued and carried on traditional trapping practices.

First Nations and non-Aboriginal trappers were included to work together to revive the fur trade, develop strategies to counteract the impact of animal rights activists, raise the value of fur in European markets, and most importantly, to teach the public at large about the value of supporting people who have an intimate knowledge of the land.

This year, the Association held its annual general meeting at the Jonas Roberts Memorial Centre near Air Ronge, Saskatchewan, February 21-22, 2003. Prayers were offered, and President Ivan Morin opened the meeting for discussions. A moment of silence was requested from the floor out of respect for all the Elders who encouraged the trappers to continue the traditional lifestyle and



MNS Minister of Environment, Norman Hanson Addresses the Assembly



Ivan Morin, Greg Ahenakew and Minister Buckley Belanger

practices.

Honourable Buckley Belanger, Minister of Northern Affairs and Minister of Saskatchewan Environment attended the meeting and gave a speech regarding the importance of fur harvesting, issues of traps, trapper education, trapper instructor training, trappers in conservation planning, and the importance of trappers in land use planning and forestry. Minister Belanger also announced that Saskatchewan Environment (SE) is working to secure \$225,000 over three years to assist the Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association. He recommended that SE

meet with the Association to work out the details of the Agreement over the next several months. He commented that the money could be used for compensation for displaced trappers, trap exchange program, trapper education and training programs, or other such initiatives. He also

commented that SE will be seeking assistance from other organizations such as co-management boards and the federal government to help protect the fur industry and pay for some of these costs. Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Vice-Chief Greg Ahenakew was in attendance on February 21 and spoke to the trappers at length about a variety of topics, including gun legislation and their rights as Aboriginal People.

Elections for the Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association were held on the first day of the meeting with the following results: President: Ivan Morin; Vice President: Norman Wolverine; Treasurer / Secretary: Glenda Montgrand; Board Results: Far North (1 position): Donald Sayese; West Side (2 positions): George Smith & Paul Sylvestre; East Side (2 positions): Malcolm Sewap & Clifford Roy; Central Region (1 position): Rose Hegland. Mr. George Morin continues to work for the NSTA as their technical representative.



2003 Trappers Board of Directors

Norman Hansen, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources for the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan attended the meeting and reminded the trappers of their commitment last year to allocate half of the board seats for Métis trappers.



Minister Hansen was disappointed that this was not done, however, he commented that continuing to work in unity was important.

Member of Parliament Rick Laliberte gave a presentation on strategic use of traditional land. Following this were the humane trapping presentations and displays.

Natural resources are precious to all living things, including human beings. As Métis people, we have long been involved in the commerce of natural resources. At the same time, we have used our traditional knowledge and experiences of living off the land as a means of understanding and conserving these valued resources. In order to

harvest and use the gifts of the natural world, one must have an intimate knowledge of the complexities that exist in the ecosystems that we are a part of.

As the world changes, there are more and more demands for natural resources, which in turn, places a great strain on the environment as a whole. Now, more than ever, there is a need to ensure that these resources are utilized sustainably. It is the wish of all Métis people that our environment and natural resources remain intact for our children and all the generations to come. Our customs and our traditions are rooted in the natural world, and as long as it remains healthy, so do we.

## The Métis Rights Defense Fund



pays for the defense of  
Métis Rights Test Cases  
Contributions can be made to the  
Métis Rights Defense Fund  
by mailing a cheque or money order to:

**Métis Rights Defense Fund**  
Box 370  
Buffalo Narrows SK  
S0M 0J0

# MÉTIS



## Métis Trapper in Manitoba Faces Hunting Charge

Article and Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

On November 28, 2002, Lawrence Langan of San Clara/Boggy Creek was charged for hunting off a designated trail. Mr. Langan, a trapper and hunter, was driving his half-ton truck on a trail along a powerline when he was stopped by a Resource Officer and subsequently charged.

Mr. Langan is a 60 year old Michif speaking trapper who was hunting within few miles of the location where he was raised, by Child's Lake, which itself is a few miles from San Clara/Boggy Creek which are two Métis communities in close proximity to each other.

The San Clara/Boggy Creek communities are no strangers to facing prosecution for exercising their hunting and fishing rights. In the mid-1990s, two of their citizens, Charlie Vermeylen and Larry

Lawrence Langan

Branconnier were charged with fishing without a licence. At trial they were represented by Jean Teillet and Clem Chartier. The trial however was over almost as soon as it started as the Trial Judge threw out the case as the Prosecutor did not prove their was a line and hook attached to the rod and reel which was seized. Rather than having a two week trial, it was over in less than two hours.

This new charge against Lawrence Langan gives the San Clara/Boggy Creek Métis community another opportunity to successfully defend their harvesting rights, and assert a s.35 Aboriginal right to hunt.

Because of his previous involvement and knowledge of the community, Clem Chartier was contacted by the San Clara/Boggy Creek Métis community and requested to take on the case. Through discussions with President David Chartrand of the Manitoba Métis Federation, Mr. Chartier agreed to provide his legal services free of charge while the MMF will cover the related costs.



David Chartrand



Larry Branconnier and Charlie Vermeylen

On January 25, 2003 Mr. Chartier joined MMF President David Chartrand at a community meeting at San Clara where the case was discussed with the community, and the communities support sought in order to collectively move forward with the case. Those people in attendance were supportive and were encouraged that they would once again have an opportunity to have their rights recognized, as the community had met several times in 1997 and 1998 in preparation for the Vermeylen & Branconnier trial which did not address their rights. The meeting was well attended and interest was high, as was the commitment of the community to assist in presenting the best case possible.



Clem Chartier and Métis gathered in Boggy Creek

Saskatchewan, particularly the Métis from the Togo/Yorkton areas as there are families living on both sides of the Saskatchewan/Manitoba border, Togo being only about 20 miles from San Clara. But for that border, the Métis communities are one and the same.

A trial date for the Langan case has not yet been set.

The case is also of significance to the Métis of

## 6th National Métis Youth Conference

April 25 - 27, 2003 - Ottawa, ON

**MÉTIS YOUTH IN THE NEW WORKFORCE**

*Workshops  
Career Fair  
Role Model Awards & Banquet  
Talent Show*

*A great opportunity to Network  
make new friends  
Enjoy Spring in Canada's Capital Region*

**For more information contact:**

**PAULINE HUPPIE-PARSONS - DIRECTOR OF YOUTH INITIATIVES**  
**T: (613) 232-3216 TF: (800) 928-6330**  
**E: INFO@METISNATION.CA**

This conference is presented by the Métis National Council in cooperation with the Métis National Youth Advisory Council. Contributions from:



### Youth Employment Strategy Summer Jobs

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE To Employers

**Summer Career Placements** is a wage subsidy program that enables employers to hire students during the summer for a period of 6 to 16 weeks. Private, public and not-for-profit employers are invited to submit their application by:

**March 28, 2003**

The objective of the program is to provide students with work experience related to their field of study. Applications will be evaluated based on the quality of the experience offered, local and regional priorities as well as available budgets.

Employers are eligible to receive up to 100% of the provincial/territorial minimum wage if they hire a student with a disability through the Summer Career Placements program.

To apply or to find out more about this program, please contact your nearest Human Resources Development Canada office or call 1 800 206-7218.

Internet: [www.hrdc-drrhc.gc.ca](http://www.hrdc-drrhc.gc.ca)



Government of Canada

Gouvernement du Canada

Canada



# Economic Development in Saskatoon

Article by Shirley Isbister, Vice President, CUMFI

**C**entral Urban Métis Federation Inc is in the Lawn Care, Tree Pruning, Yard Maintenance, Landscaping and Snow Removal Business.

With the acquisition of Bobby's Birches, CUMFI is well on its path to self-sufficiency. Economic Development, Education and Community Partnerships is the key to achieving our Goals.

We have secured many contracts from the previous owner and will be actively promoting to increase our clientele list.

We would like to thank the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Clarence Campeau Development Fund for their financial assistance and excellent customer service.

Promoting and using the services of our Aboriginal businesses, guarantees Economic Development and Growth in our Métis community. A community is where you belong and what you are a part of.

For further information, call (306) 975-9999.

## A Very Different World

**Preparing Ourselves and Our Children for  
the Environmental Challenges of the Century**

### Métis Traditional Environmental Knowledge Gathering

**March 20 and 21, 2003**

**For More Information:**

**Yvonne Vizina, Metis TEK Coordinator  
1-888-343-6667**

It is important that the Métis voice is heard in local, national and international forums on issues of importance to Indigenous Peoples of the world. We have much to share, and much to learn from each other right here at home. This Gathering is an effort to begin such a process. The Michif language is an important part of our identity as Métis. It is an important part of understanding our history. As part of our discussions on Métis Traditional Environmental Knowledge, we will be working to integrate our traditional language.



**This gathering is made possible with the sponsorship of:**

**Gabriel Dumont Institute / SaskCulture / Sask Lotteries  
Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Michif Language Initiative Fund / Canadian Heritage  
Métis National Council**

**North West Saskatchewan Métis Council  
Saskatchewan Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs / Saskatchewan Environment**

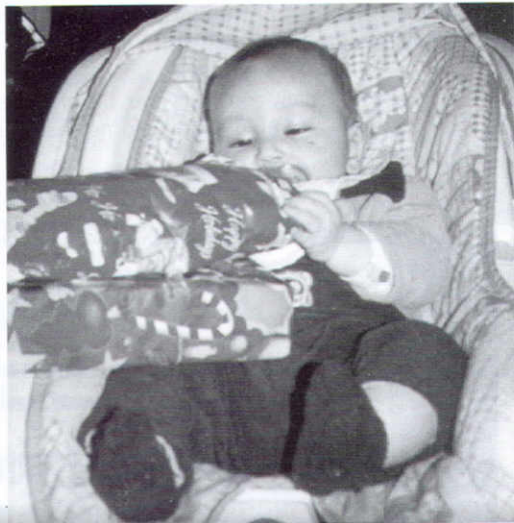
Central Urban Métis Federation Inc &  
Western Region Métis Women's Association Host a

# Children's Christmas Party and Elders' Christmas Dinner

December 8, 2002

Article and Photos by Shirley Isbister, Vice President, CUMFI

**A**t CUMFI's Annual Children's Christmas Party, there was food, fun, singing and Santa (Jim Ziegler) with gifts and goody bags. Four elves helping Santa were very busy with over 200 children in attendance, aged from infant to ten years. Fun was had by all!



(Clockwise from Top): One of Santa's four elves; Ervin Trotchie (4 months old) tears into his gift; A few of the more than 200 children in attendance; and Santa (Jim Ziegler) with child.

The Elders Christmas Dinner started with music by Mel Vandale and Len Dumont. After an excellent dinner, presentations were made to Bob McLeod,

Eileen Trotchie and Louise Oelke. Entertaining were Frank and Florence Chartrand, Bing and Shirley Shearer, Carl Ross (in attendance was his wife

Maureen Ross), Phil Boyer and his son Dallas Fiddler. This young man, Dallas Fiddler, deserves applause. Keep it up Dallas! We even had a few people dancing. Santa came with gifts for everyone. A presentation of miniature fiddles were made to Mel Vandale, Len Dumont and Carl Ross (The Three Amigos!).



The only sound we heard when the Bingo games started was "slow down." Gerald Morin and Lorna Docken looked like they were having a hard time keeping up. When Gerald spoke to the gathering, he said it was the first time he had used a dabber and the last time he played Bingo since he was eleven years old. We didn't ask how long ago that was!

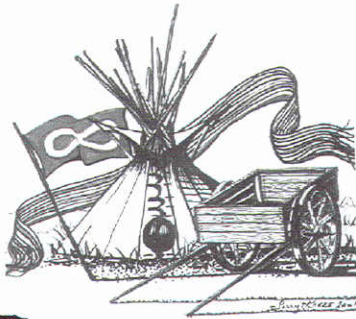


The evening ended as it started with the live music and vocals of Mel and Len.



We would like to thank all the volunteers, musicians and cooks who made this such a special day. A special thanks to Santa and his Elves, who always remember our Métis community!





## Infinity House

4 - 127 Avenue Q South  
Saskatoon SK S7M 2X9  
Ph: 955-2332 Fx: 955-2540

### Inner Strengths

“Honesty, Wisdom, Determination, Courage”

Article submitted by CUMFI Local

**O**n December 17, 1999, the Government of Canada announced that it would invest \$753 million over three years, in a strategy to help reduce and prevent homelessness across Canada. Homelessness is defined as the following: Absolute homelessness refers to those who visibly lack shelter. This category tends to be the one most people perceive of homelessness. Relative homelessness refers to temporary substandard housing, moving from home to home or shelter. It also includes at-risk individuals on the verge of becoming homeless because of a variety of social and/or economic issues.

Central Urban Metis Federation (1993) Inc. (CUMFI) was approached by Human Resources Development Canada to develop a project that would address Aboriginal homelessness. CUMFI now owns and operates a supported housing facility for young women and their children that offer valuable supportive services. Our mandate is to assist these families in the transition to a healthy, self-sufficient lifestyle.

CUMFI established an Advisory Committee to oversee implementation of the housing strategy. CUMFI called for resumes from the Saskatoon Métis community with the committee being formed in May 2001. The existing CUMFI housing strategy has been operational since December 2000. To date, we have been very successful in developing policy, securing alternate funds, and delivering client services.

On July 8, 2002, CUMFI celebrated the official opening of its new supportive housing facility. Prior to this, through the CUMFI newsletter, a contest was held asking for submissions for a facility name. The Advisory Committee chose the name Infinity House as submitted by Mrs. Shirley Isbister. For her

submission, she received a beautiful framed picture, which she donated to Infinity House in memory of her mother, Agnes Caron.

Participating in the grand opening were the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Coordinator on Homelessness; the Honourable Chris Axworthy, Saskatchewan Minister of Justice and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs on behalf of the; His Worship James Maddin, Mayor of Saskatoon; Bob McLeod, President of CUMFI and Roger Parent (Chair) CUMFI Homelessness Initiative advisory board.

The Government of Canada contributed \$532,065 through the Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) and \$63,200 through the Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP). SEP is cost-shared by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and the Province of Saskatchewan and is helping to have a positive impact at the community level, by assisting in repairing, rehabilitating and improving existing shelters for women and children as well as youth who are victims of family violence. The Province administers SEP in Saskatchewan.

The Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Clarence Campeau Development Fund provided a further \$100,000. This fund, supported through Saskatchewan gaming profits, is designed to provide financial assistance to Métis individuals and communities in Saskatchewan for economic and small business activities.

“The grand opening and name unveiling of CUMFI's transitional home is the first phase of a multi phase plan towards creating self-sufficiency and a healthy community for the Métis people of Saskatoon,” said Mr. McLeod.

Infinity House has two goals:

- Provide supportive affordable housing for young single women and their children.
- Provide a continuum of housing supports for families.

CUMFI has an excellent history of program and service delivery. Currently CUMFI is in formal partnership with:

- Human Resources Development Canada
- Clarence Campeau Development Fund
- Canada-Saskatchewan Career and Employment Services
- Job-Start Future Skills
- Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming
- National Homelessness Secretariat
- Saskatchewan Social Services
- Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (Shelter Enhancement Program)
- City of Saskatoon

Our priorities to our funding partners and community members are accountability and transparency.

The goal of Infinity House is to provide an environment where Aboriginals facing multiple barriers are presented with the tools and support to develop, implement, and sustain an individual action plan, which will lead to stabilization and self-sufficiency.

Purpose of Project:

The specific objectives of the project include the following:

- To stabilize the family unit;
- To provide long-term transitional housing services.
- To provide emergency housing services.
- To provide community outreach services to any person in need.
- To establish a Human Resource Centre where Aboriginal people can engage a variety of services and resources designed to assist them in leading productive lives;
- To employ one additional person to work with the "at risk" families in the Saskatoon area. The role of these persons is to engage Aboriginal people in a process to empower themselves to become self sufficient;
- To assist Aboriginal people in attaining the basic needs;
- To assist Aboriginal people in engaging in a process/plan to get them to where they are productive members of society by referring clients to partner service organizations;
- To assist clients to identify and remove personal, family or community issues which are or maybe impeding their success;
- To assist such clients to access the appropriate services

and resources designed to assist them in the resolution of their personal issues and to support them in the use of these services.

While at our facility, a person has access to the following services:

- Individual counseling
- Referrals (i.e. housing, addictions services, employers)
- Career development (resumes, job search techniques)
- Parenting skills
- Life skills
- Emergency shelter
- Transitional shelter
- Sharing circles
- Emergency food allowance
- Clothing depot
- Emergency transportation

Types of Activities

#### Social Development Component

The Social Development Unit will implement an integrated case management approach. Emphasis will be placed on goals, personal skills, strengths, and recognition of available supports. The initial assessment will have a emphasis on Aboriginal structures: physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well being. In order for the client to be a contributing member of society, these four aspects must be in balance. The basic necessities of food, shelter, and clothing will be examined first. As the client's individual circumstances are identified; a comprehensive action plan will be developed and implemented. Only by intervening in the parents' life can the children have any hope of breaking the cycle of dependency.

The sole purpose of the Social Development Unit is to stabilize the family and develop long term strategy to meet and overcome whatever barriers the person may face. During attempted interventions, Aboriginal people are often shuffled between agencies and government departments, often getting lost in the process. It is our intention to act as a guide to obtaining these services in a timely, efficient and appropriate manner, however it should be noted that each individual will have varying needs and barriers and thus require various lengths of interventions.

## Housing Component

The Transitional housing component of our project will offer supportive housing in an apartment setting. As clients are identified in the above component, each will be assessed as to the need of transitional housing. Our facility is a sixteen-suite apartment building, which will consist of the following housing opportunities:

- Three units for emergency situations. These beds will be targeted at any woman in crisis. Length of stay is up to 8 days.
- Twelve long-term apartments for single female parents. These facilities will be targeted for individuals participating in a long-term intervention strategy. Length of stay will depend on individual action plan details.

Each individual who enters this facility will be offered the opportunity to develop and maintain an action plan. For the individuals in the long-term facility, this will be mandatory. As an individual completes her action plan, assistance will be provided in finding suitable housing. In addition, the initiative will provide ongoing assistance and referrals as necessary. The facility is staffed 24 hours a day. The young women may also have access to an Elder and spiritual events such as a sweat lodge, if requested.

The overall operation of Infinity House has not only been a positive influence on the lives of the families, but an enlightening experience for its entire staff. The staff is dedicated to making positive impacts on the lives of the young mothers and their children in hopes of instilling in them that with self-help and support they can make positive changes for themselves.

Infinity House and CUMFI want to create an enjoyable atmosphere for our families by celebrating special events with them. Holidays such as Valentine's Day, Easter, Thanks Giving and Louis Riel Day are just a few. Something special is planned for our families at Christmas, by providing Christmas trees and decorations for all our suites, Christmas Hampers and

presents for the children.

We also would like to thank the following people and organizations for contributing their time and efforts to help make Infinity House a welcoming place, not only for our residents but for the community as well:

Mr. Stan Caron for donating his time to decorate the building with Christmas lights.

The Colonsay Lioness Club for sponsoring our single families with Christmas gifts for the children at Infinity House.

Thanks to a partnership involving the Government of Canada, the Government of Saskatchewan, Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Clarence Campeau Development Fund and CUMFI, Aboriginal women and their children, who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless have a new place to turn to for help.

On December 11, 2002, from 1:00-3:00 pm, Infinity House hosted a 'Come & Go' Tea. We invite you to come meet the staff and tour one of our suites.

The Community Homelessness Initiative is located at:  
# 4, 127 Ave Q South.

Ph.955-2332 Fax 955-2540.

Office hours are 8:00 am-8:00 pm, Monday-Friday

The facility staff are:

Kelly Pruden, Director

Trinia LaRose, Assistant Director

Jacque Bouvier, Intervention Worker/Counsellor

Carla Seeseequasis, Secretary / Receptionist

Security/Emergency Intake Workers are on duty from 8:00 pm-8:00 am Monday-Friday and 8:00 am-8:00 am Saturday and Sunday. Besides our regular office staff, Infinity House employs 5 Security Staff.

Web Site: <http://members.shaw.ca/cumfi165/homelessness.html>

E-Mail:

Director, Kelly Pruden, [k.pruden.chi@sasktel.net](mailto:k.pruden.chi@sasktel.net)

Assistant Director, Trinia LaRose, [t.larose.chi@sasktel.net](mailto:t.larose.chi@sasktel.net)

Intervention Worker/Counsellor, Jacque Bouvier, [communityhomelessnessinitiative.chi@sasktel.net](mailto:communityhomelessnessinitiative.chi@sasktel.net)

## The Log Jail House of Duck Lake.



I'm not sure when the tiny Duck Lake jail house was built, but likely in the 1880's. I know it was there in 1895 because that is when it housed a prisoner, the One Arrow Cree, named Almighty Voice. In those days Indians could not own property, so the cow he killed for a feast was actually government property. He had stolen something from the government. He was taken prisoner, charged and kept in the Duck Lake jail. Photo on left show my father, Henry W. Fisher with friends and associates in front of the tiny jail.

There is a story that an NWMP officer, guarding Almighty Voice, told him he would be hanged in the morning. The did not sit well with the young Indian so he escaped from custody before sunrise. The first Mountie to pursue Almighty Voice was Sgt. Colebrook who was shot and killed. For the next two years Almighty Voice was a fugitive from justice. A field cannon was brought in by railway from Regina and he was finally killed by cannon fire near Batoche, but not before seven lives were taken.

My father lived near Duck Lake at the time and he, his parents and siblings would be well aware of the days events. I well remember dad coming to the Hague school to tell the story of Almighty Voice. I wish I could remember details because I would be interested in how time changes perspectives. Dad always had photographs to show the students as he lectured. One such photo is the one shown above. Nearly 100 years later, a good friend of mine, Henry Harms turned this old cabinet photograph into a 21st century, digital wonder. The picture shown in many ways on a CD. What would my father say?

I have talked with a farmer in the St. Isadore de Bellvue area who owns the land of the final battle scene. I would like to check the area with my metal detector for cannon shrapnel and the like. I remember hearing and reading the Almighty Voice's mother, sang a 'death song' to her son, as the battle took place. Rev. Stan Cuthand, a highly respected teacher and linguist, tells me there is no such thing as a 'death song'.

I have notes from my cousin Anne Hildebrand, written in 1972 about early life on the prairies, as described my Grandmother Adelgunde Fischer. . These were Anne's words: "*Grandpa was in Rosthern when the canon arrived that was to blow up the bluff where Almighty Voice, a young Indian brave was hiding after he escaped from prison. During this time the community was very restless. One day a brave stopped at Grandma's for 'faspas'. He was intrigued with the old Dutch clock so he made grimaces at the pendulum*"

For many years this log jailhouse rested on its original site in downtown Duck Lake. Mr. Fred Anderson turned it into the town's first museum. The museum later moved to the Victoria School house and with it went the log jail. It has been plastered over the years, but the metal shackle rings are still in the floor and it still is known as the jail that held Almighty Voice. Today One Arrow reserve still has band members with the Almighty Voice name, several buildings, including the school, are name after Almighty Voice. Maybe a new name in Canadian history has taken the One Arrow fame. Television star Tom Jackson come from this small reserve and has family buried in its cemetery.

The photo above, likely taken in 1908, shows my father, white shirt and vest lying on the ground beside Paul Ashby (Mayor of Duck Lake in 1915) Standing on the left side is Sgt. Arthur Dorian of the NWMP. Gabriel Dumont's cousin in in the picture, but not identified. The picture will be published in the Rosthern Valley News in Sept. 2002 and readers may identify other subjects. Dennis J. Fisher Sept. 13, 2002

## BACK TO JAIL.....THE DUCK LAKE JAIL



Thanks to Rob Andrews and the Saskatchewan Valley News of Rosthern, I can tell you more about this old family photograph. The October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2002 edition of the newspaper carried the photograph, along with a brief story outlining my interest in trying to identify the eight men in the picture. Response was quick. A lady from Edmonton faxed the newspaper with an interesting story and exciting information. The lady is a 55 year old school teacher, whose grandmother had a penchant for history, and a relative of one the gentleman lying on the ground beside me father. She wrote that she had the identical photograph and that her grandmother wrote on the photo and listed the names of all but one. The one person she did not know was the man with the white shirt and vest - Henry W. Fisher, my father. Her information, along with my father's, allows me to offer the following information. L. to R. - Sgt. Arthur Dorian ( at one time in charge of the Duck Lake detachment ) Sgt. St. Denis, A.L.Lagarce, H.W. Fisher (on ground), Sgt. C.C.Colebrook, Paul Ashby ( former Duck lake Mayor - also on ground.), Charlie Laviolette, and Louis Dumas. Given names, a check of the Duck Lake History - Volumes I & II, with various photos confirmed identification of individuals. This photo was likely taken in the summers of 1895 ( note leaves on trees). On October 29<sup>th</sup>, 1895, Sgt. Colebrook was shot and killed by Almighty Voice, the Cree fugitive from nearby One Arrow Reserve. This is likely the last photograph of Sgt. Colebrook. An RCMP website, honouring fallen comrades, has a page on Sgt. Colin Campbell Colebrook, but indicates 'photo not on file'. An RCMP Museum spokesman told me the only photograph they have of Colebrook shows him, in repose, in his coffin. This photograph has, in my mind, taken on a new significance in Canadian history. I have more work to do since learning of the names. My father wrote that one man was "Dumont's cousin". I would think this may be Louis Dumas, but I need to research this. I will work closely with the RCMP Museum in Regina, affording them this new material and special photo of Sgt. Colebrook.

Dennis J. Fisher - November 2003



# METSI Continues to Build Futures for Métis Clients

**M**étis Employment and Training of Saskatchewan Inc. (METSI) and the Local Métis Management Boards (LMMB) continue to develop an effective service for Métis clients in Saskatchewan. Over the past 2 years METSI and the LMMB's have placed a significant emphasis on the effective service needs for the individuals and Métis communities. METSI is presently continuing to offer service through the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement (AHRDA), along with 78 other agreement holders across Canada. The AHRDA Strategy ends March 31, 2004. The AHRDA is a federally funded program through HRDC and part of a 5-year strategy signed in 1999. There are 79 such agreements across Canada represented by the Métis, First Nations, and Inuit, most of which are governed by National Accords with the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada, and in our case, under the *Métis Nation*

Article by Keith Henry, Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

*Accord on Human Resources Development (1999).*

METSI contracts client services with the 12 regional Local Métis Management Board offices (LMMB). METSI and the LMMB offices continue



Keith Henry

to display excellent results. This year METSI and the LMMB's have become leaders in the area of client servicing and the statistics demonstrate the success. For example, as of December 31, 2002 METSI / LMMB statistics show that 730 employment positions were filled as a result of the services provided by the Métis Nation. This is significant as nationally these statistics continue to be at the top of the reporting within HRDC.

METSI and the LMMB offices continue to create a positive image. METSI and the LMMB offices faced tremendous challenges over the previous 2 years. There were several benchmarks to achieve and these have been reached to ensure services continue. METSI and the LMMB's have created a consistent approach to their services and are in the process of finalizing new policies and procedures. The communities have received reports on the developments and successes. METSI has continually visited the communities and reported in an accountable, transparent fashion. The success is obvious, as the funding for client services has greatly increased.



MHRDA Working Group (Back Row):

David Boisvert, MNC; and Keith Henry, MNS

Jennifer St. Germaine MNO; and Lorne Gladue, MNA; (Middle Row): Lawrie Barkwell, MMF; Dave Ward, MNA; and Buddy Meade, MMF

(Front): Jennifer MacDonald, MPCBC

HRDC has been supportive and has provided assistance to METSI and the LMMB's when requested. The goal for METSI and the LMMB's was to ensure their AHRDA was successful and solidified. The success

over the past 2 years has been a direct result of community support, excellent client services by the LMMB's, HRDC support, and most of all support by the Métis Nation Saskatchewan. The Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MNS) leaders have continually exercised patience and understanding. Their role was critical to the reorganization of METSI and the LMMB's.

The future is very bright for METSI, the LMMB's, and the MN-S. As part of the national discussion on the renewal of the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy, METSI, the LMMB's and the MN-S have been active participants in the development of a Métis Nation Position Paper on AHRDS Renewal to be presented to HRDC for consideration in the Cabinet Document on Renewal in June of 2003, or thereabouts. METSI and the LMMB's have participated in national forums to ensure the HRDC national officials hear our Métis voice. Issues such as childcare, the need for increased client support, capacity to deliver the AHRDA program

properly are some of the identified needs. METSI also has been tackling the client needs and how HRDC measures results. Many of the clients are requiring longer term interventions and METSI and the LMMB offices support this as a strategic approach. The philosophy is to provide "meaningful" client services, not just services for the sake of training. The AHRDA is very important to all of us and the opportunities for clients are wide open. Our success today will mean a stronger Métis Nation in the future.

I just want to take this opportunity to thank the Métis community, the Local Métis Management Boards and staff and METSI Board and staff, and most of all the continued support from the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan leadership. With this team approach, Métis Employment & Training of Saskatchewan Inc and the Local Métis Management Boards will continue to be successful in building strength in our Métis families through education and training and employment.

dream  
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build

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*"I plan on going back up North to work in a northern aboriginal community, mostly Dene and Metis. I speak Michif. I'm proud to be Metis. I think it's important to have Metis organizations and to be aware of our Metis culture."*

**DOROTHY ALCROW**



Schooling: RCMP Training in Regina, SK  
Posted to: Onion Lake, SK

*"Without funding, I wouldn't have been able to take the program. I mostly work with First Nations people and I enjoy that. I would like to thank Metis for giving me the opportunity to do this training."*

**PERNELL ST. PIERRE**



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