

New Breed

MAGAZINE



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Table of Contents

- 1 *New Breed Magazine* Now Published by the Gabriel Dumont Institute
- 4 The Making of New Speakers: The Michif Master-Apprentice Pilot Project
- 7 Métis Language and Culture
- 9 Métis History
- 11 Searching for the Truth: The History of the Métis of Willow Bunch
- 14 The Canadian Genealogy Centre Adds a New Online Guide for Aboriginal Genealogy
- 15 The Jim Brady Papers go Public
- 16 2003 Saskatchewan Book Awards
- 18 Gabriel Dumont Institute Open House
- 20 Students Travel Abroad
- 22 Visitors Leave with Warm Hearts
- 25 Honouring Our Future: The Youth of Today and Tomorrow
- 26 Métis Athletes Running with the Pack
- 28 Weekend Warriors Have Silver Weekend
- 29 Business Opportunities for Métis Entrepreneurs
- 31 Inner Strengths: Honesty, Wisdom, Determination, Courage
- 33 Press Release on Métis Family and Community Justice Services' Submission to Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform
- 34 A Re-Engaged Métis Nation Multilateral Process: A New Journey Begins
- 37 Métis Nation Rights & Self-Government Conference
- 39 Federal Interlocutor Makes It Through the Storm

New Breed Magazine

Now Published by the Gabriel Dumont Institute

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he Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Board of Governors recently approved operation responsibilities of *New Breed Magazine* from Métis Communications, Incorporated. This Board of Governors was once a government appointed board, but is now comprised of the Minister of Education and representatives appointed by each of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan's twelve regions. Now under GDI's umbrella, *New Breed* will be published by the Institute's Publishing Department.

The Publishing Department, originally called the Curriculum Unit when it was first created in 1985, has been publishing Métis-specific resources since the early 1980s. Initially, the Curriculum Unit was created to provide educational resources for teachers teaching the new Saskatchewan Curriculum, which had newly adopted Aboriginal content.

Since its inception, the Publishing Department has published over 75 titles, ranging from video resources, children's books, academic resources as well as traditional Métis music CD and cassettes, a CD-Rom and now a virtual museum at www.metismuseum.ca

In addition, the Publishing Department houses the Institute's archives and a museum showcasing Métis material culture. Currently, we are in the process of digitizing the archives so they will be on our virtual museum. The first archival documents being uploaded are the *James Brady Papers*. The Institute was given these papers by Murray Dobbin, author of *The One and a Half Men: The Story of Jim Brady & Malcolm Norris, Métis Patriots of the 20th century*.

Feel free to contact any publishing department staff for information about *New Breed*.

Article and photographs by Kurtis Hamel



Dale McAuley - Minister of Education,
Métis Nation - Saskatchewan

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Publishing Department Mandate

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Publishing Department has the following multi-faceted mandate:

- To provide the public with a balanced analysis of Métis history and culture by producing audio, audio-visual and multimedia resources, books and posters from a Métis perspective;
- To inform the public about Métis history and culture in the most accessible manner possible.
- To promote and publish the works of emerging Métis writers and artists;
- To put sales revenue back into our non-profit publishing program; and
- To build partnerships with like-minded educators, community groups, non-profit agencies and government departments and to ensure a strong Métis presence in decision-making bodies affecting book publishing, education and heritage issues.

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The Gabriel Dumont Institute's Board of Governors

Back Row (left to right): Terry Boyer - Western Region II; Darnell Hawman - Western Region III; Bernice Aramenko - Northern Region III; Brian Chaboyer - Eastern Region I; Michael Bell - Western Region I; and Ron Gagnon - Western Region IA
Front Row (left to right): Sheila Pocha - Western Region IIA; Ray Laliberte - Northern Region II; Doyle Vermette - Northern Region I; and Dale McAuley - Minister of Education
Missing: Kathy Palidwar - Eastern Region II; Gerald St. Pierre - Eastern Region IIA; and Angela Smith - Eastern Region III.

The Making of New Speakers: The Michif Master-Apprentice Pilot Project

I

am very proud to be Métis. I feel the Master-Apprentice Program for Michif is very important, because I can see the language dying. I want to do everything I can to help the language survive. I'll do anything I can to help." (Grace Zoldy, Michif-Speaking Elder, Camperville, Manitoba)

While it is true that we are losing our Michif-speaking Elders at a faster rate than new speakers are being produced, there is hope that this tide can be turned. The *Michif Master-Apprentice Pilot Project*, an effort to have Elders transfer their knowledge of Michif to younger Métis committed to revitalizing the language, is beginning to bear fruit. Summer 2004 will see its second apprentice travel to Camperville, Manitoba for an extended period of time to learn the language from fluent Michif speakers. Last year, a young Métis man from Calgary received a grant from the *Endangered Language Fund* to attend this inaugural program to learn Michif. The joint efforts of those involved in the 2003 project have led to the initial development of a Michif-English/English-Michif word book, a collection of useful Michif phrases, a basic verb dictionary and a collection of Michif prayers all in a accompanying audio format.

Michif Master-Apprentice Project

The project the brainchild of linguist Peter Bakker of Aarhus University, Denmark and a Métis woman is the first attempt to bring knowledgeable Michif speakers and willing apprentices together to promote and pass on the language. Based on the *Master-Apprentice Program* (MAP) developed in 1992 by Dr. Leanne Hinton, a "humanitarian" linguist at the University of California at Berkeley, and by Aboriginal language activists in California, the project's focus is immersion-style learning. A book by Dr. Hinton entitled *How to Keep Your Language Alive* describes the MAP as "a mentored learning approach, created for people who do not have access to language classes but, instead, have access to a speaker." Masters and apprentices usually spend ten to twenty hours a week working on the language together.

Article by Heather Souter, photographs by Kurtis Hamel

Just as in 2003, the master speakers for the *Michif Master-Apprentice Project*, 2004 will be Rita Flamand and Grace Zoldy of Camperville, Manitoba two well-qualified Michif-speaking Elders. In May 2003, they traveled to Arcata, California to take part in a special training session with Dr. Hinton and the *Advocates of California Indigenous Language Survival* and then worked with an apprentice for three months the following summer. "Ma tante" Grace and "ma tante" Rita know the MAP well and have become supportive, encouraging mentors.

Michif: An Endangered Language

Linguists maintain that we are presently experiencing an epidemic of worldwide language loss with as many as half of the world's languages dying-out. Dr. Bakker is of the same opinion and argues that Michif is definitely endangered. In his book, *A Language of Our Own: The Genesis of Michif, the Mixed Cree-French Language of the Canadian Métis*, he states that most Michif speakers are Elderly and that "the language will be lost if attempts at revival at diverse locations in Canada and the United States fail." His book has been taken as a warning call and is spurring on greater efforts to revive Michif. Fluent Michif-speakers such as Norman Fleury, head of the *Michif*



The Michif Conference, Vancouver



Michif Conference, Vancouver

Language National Working Group and Director of Michif Languages, Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) and Bruce Flamont, member of the National Task Force on Aboriginal Languages and Cultures and a prominent language activist, are working hard to promote Michif as a living, functional language. Both Fleury and Flamont see a place for grassroots projects such as the Michif MAP to revitalize Michif and have offered words of encouragement to all those involved. It should also be noted that both David Chartrand, President of the MMF and Donald Richard, Mayor of Camperville, have officially endorsed this community-based project since its inception in 2003.

Michif Language Revitalization

At present, there are few language resources available in Michif; however, more is being produced. The following is a small sampling of what presently or will exist as this article goes to print. A free language learning CD, simply entitled *Learn Michif* was released in April 2003 at the 3rd Annual *Michif Language Conference*. Rita Flamand, one of the master speakers of the Michif MAP project, has created an introductory Michif course with CDs and has written Michif-language children's books. Bruce Flamont has produced numerous learning resources for elementary students, including a colorful children's book. In addition, Norman Fleury has created a Michif-English dictionary (Pemmican Publications) and is also collaborating with Dr. Bakker on an upcoming CD of language learning games and a "talking" children's book. Also, by the time this article is printed, a new book on the Michif language, featuring articles by linguists and Michif speakers will have been

released by Pemmican Publications, and the proceedings of the 2003 Michif MAP Pilot Project should be at the press or will have been already published.

Work on Michif transcends provincial and even national borders. "Chi-Mike" Keplin, a Métis living on the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota, has started working with Dr. Bakker to transcribe Michif stories for print and has pioneered teaching Michif over the telephone. In addition, Métis language activists, such as Fleury and Flamont, and concerned linguists, such as Peter Bakker and Robert A. Papen (l'université du Québec à Montréal), have been working, both individually and together, to create a more user-friendly Michif writing system. Language activists soon hope to see more Michif language learning materials available on the World Wide Web on sites such as the Gabriel Dumont Institute's *The Virtual Museum of Métis Culture and History* (www.metismuseum.ca) making Michif-specific information and resources easily accessible to all those interested.

Lieutenant Governor's Arts Awards

Celebrate

The Saskatchewan Arts Board is pleased to announce the launch of the annual ***Lieutenant Governor's Arts Awards***. Her Honour will be presenting the awards at a special celebration taking place in Saskatoon on May 7th, 2004.

Nominate

Awards will be presented to artists, arts professionals, groups and organizations in the following categories:

- Life-time Achievement
- Minus 30
- Innovation
- Leadership

Nomination forms are available to the public through the Saskatchewan Arts Board.

The deadline for nominations is April 14th

Participate

Plan to attend this most unique event. Details on tickets and location of the 2004 Lieutenant Governor's Arts Awards coming soon.

For more information please contact:



Marni Aubichon
Saskatchewan Arts Board
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Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 3V7
(306) 787-4056
1-(800) 667-7526
Email: sab@artsboard.sk.ca
www.artsboard.sk.ca

The Saskatchewan Arts Board's mission is to cultivate an environment in which the arts thrive for the benefit of everyone in the province.

Contacts and Resources

If you are interested in learning Michif or getting involved in language revitalization, please consult the contacts and resources listed below. (If any organization or individual has been left out, please accept my apologies.) Anyone specifically interested in the Michif MAP Project or wanting to share information on Michif revitalization projects that they are involved in or know about, PLEASE contact Heather Souter at: michiflanguage@fastmail.fm

To hear and learn Michif go to:

<http://www.schoolnet.ca/aboriginal/audioSAM/michif/michif-e.html>

http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ks/5060_e.html or <http://www.kayas.ca/michif.html>

To hear Norman Fleury, Director of Michif Languages, Manitoba Métis Federation, and Peter Bakker speak Michif (30 min. CBC radio program):

http://www.cbc.ca/insite/CEST_LA_VIE_MONTREAL/2000/6/9.html

To contact Norman Fleury, Director of Michif Languages, Manitoba Métis Federation:

mmf@mmf.mb.ca or <http://www.mmf.mb.ca/2initiatives.htm>

Phone: (204) 586-8474 Fax: (204) 947-1816

3rd Floor, 150 Henry Ave, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 0J7

To purchase Peter Bakker's book: *A Language of Our Own: The Genesis of Michif, the Mixed Cree-French Language of the Canadian Métis* go to:

<http://www.us.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/Linguistics/SociolinguisticsAnthropologicalL/?view=usa&ci=0195097122> or www.abe.com

To study Michif language lessons (by Rita Flamond of the Michif MAP Project) go to:

<http://www.metisresourcecentre.mb.ca/language/>

To purchase Michif-language materials contact the Métis Resource Centre at:

metisrc@mb.sympatico.ca or http://www.metisresourcecentre.mb.ca/cgi-bin/store/commerce.cgi?page=cbooks_a.html

Phone: (204) 956-7767 Fax: (204) 956-7765

506 - 63 Albert Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1G4

To contact Pemmican Publications for Norman Fleury's Michif dictionary:

pemmicanpublications@hotmail.com

Phone: 204-589-6346 Fax: 204-589-2063

150 Henry Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0J7

Are you a Michif speaker? Register with the Gabriel Dumont Institute at: <http://www.gdins.org/michif.html>

To reach Bruce Flamont, contact:

<http://www.metisnation-sask.com/>

Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, 219 Robin Crescent, Saskatoon, SK S7L 6M8

Telephone: (306) 343-8285 Toll Free: 888 343-6667

For more info on the MAP program go to:

http://www.turtletrack.org/Issues03/Co03222003/CO_03222003_California_Languages.htm

http://www.turtletrack.org/Issues01/Co09082001/CO_09082001_Advocates.htm

To purchase Dr. Leanne Hinton's book on MAP, go to: www.heydaybooks.com

For more info on endangered languages and efforts to save them, go to:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A54559-2003Mar30.html>

<http://www.language-archives.org/documents/sciam.pdf>

Métis Language and Culture

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anada has a founding people who once traversed North America's interior in Red River Carts, hunted bison with military precision, danced and jigged to spirited fiddle rhythms, wore brightly adorned embroidered clothing, fur trade sashes or shawls, spoke one of humanity's most unique languages, prayed to the *Le Bon Jeu/Kitchi-Manitou* and to their patron saint, St. Joseph, and even had their own werewolf. These people were the Métis.

"Métis", or "méstis" as the word was known at Contact, in French means mixed. From "méstis" evolved "méchif", "mitchif" or "Michif", the name of a language, culture and a people within the Métis Nation. The epistemological roots of the word "Métis" are very important because the word presently denotes a distinct Indigenous nation with a genius for adapting others' cultural traditions and making them their own. Indeed, the Métis have always practiced a culture, which has fused First Nations (Cree, Saulteaux, Dene and Dakota), Euro-Canadian (*Canadien*) and European (Scots/Orkney) parent cultures into a unique, vibrant synthesis.

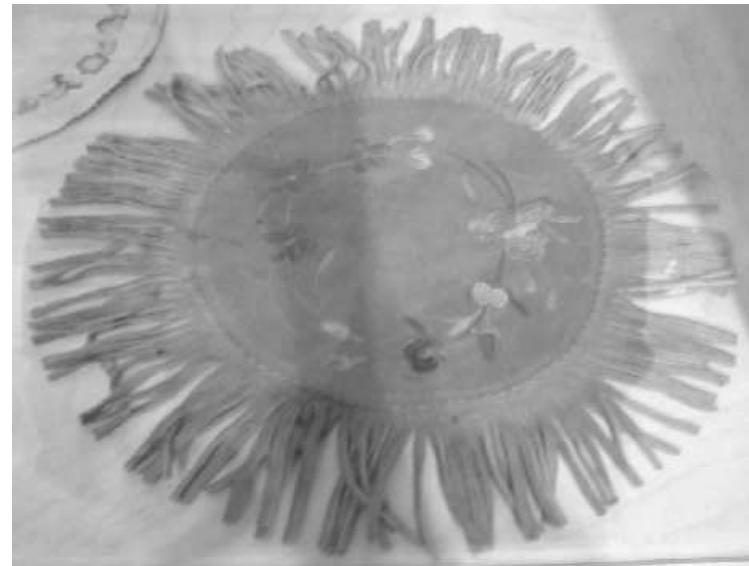
Language is perhaps the most notable example of this talent for cultural transformation. The Métis were undoubtedly the most multilingual people in the history of Canada. Besides being adept in a wide range of First Nations and European languages, they also invented Michif-Cree, a mixed-language based on Cree (and Saulteaux) verb structures and French nouns/noun phrases; Michif-French, a

Article by Darren R. Přefontaine, photographs by Jesse Gardiner

dialect of Canadian French which uses Algonquian syntax; and Bunjee, a Cree/Scots-Gaelic Creole. However, the Métis are best known for speaking Michif-Cree, which has long been studied by linguists since it has cleverly woven two unrelated languages into a coherent whole with a standardized syntax, verb structure and noun phrases. Michif-Cree is presently spoken around Lebret, Yorkton, Debden, the Battlefords and Ile-à-La Crosse.

Métis Elders or "Old People" have always remitted cultural knowledge to younger generations through the Oral Tradition. From the Oral Tradition emerged a rich storytelling culture that blended various First Nations motifs, such as the tricksters, *Wisahkecahk* and *Nanbush*, with French-Canadian ones, such as *Chi-Jean* (from *Ti-Jean*), *le diable* (the Devil as a dog, or handsome stranger) and *le rou garou* (from "*loup garou*", a werewolf), a person who fell out of the Creator's favour. However, *le rou garou* was not just a werewolf since she/he had the attributes of the Cree shape shifter, and could change into a variety of forms. *Rou garou* stories were told to ensure that youth behaved themselves, particularly during Lent. From this storytelling tradition emerged a talent for creating nicknames, many of which often began with "chi" or "little", from the French abbreviation of "petit" "ti".

Traditionally, the Métis were very spiritual. Most Métis practised a folk Catholicism that was rooted in veneration of the Virgin, based on pilgrimages such as those to St. Laurent



Métis Material Culture: Embroidered Gloves, Sash and Embroidered and Fringed Leather Lamp Pad from the Métis Museum at the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

de Grandin (near present day Duck Lake), holding wakes for departed loved ones, sprinkling holy water during menacing thunderstorms, providing thanks to the Creator by offering tobacco and ensuring that Christmas and Lent were strictly periods of spiritual reflection devoid of celebration or materialism.

Métis culture has always been festive and celebrated with great *joie de vivre*. The Métis dance and jig to fiddle tunes that were very similar to their Celtic and French-Canadian antecedents, but which seamlessly weave faster-paced First Nations footwork and rhythms (such as in traditional drumming). These traditions vary among families and communities. For instance, the "Red River Jig", the signature fiddle tune and dance of the Métis, has many different versions and step patterns. House parties, focusing on jigging, dancing and fiddle playing, were a constant feature throughout Métis history, with the climax of revelry being *le réveillon* (New Years'

Eve) or the days leading up to or after Lent. During such times of celebration, Métis women prepared a veritable feast, which included *les beignes* (fried bread), *la galette* (bannock), *les boulettes* (meatballs), *le rababou* (stew) and molasses cakes.

The Métis are also the heirs of a vibrant material culture, which emphasized the floral motif in bead and quillwork and embroidery. After adapting the design from the Grey Nuns in the 1810s, generations of Métis women produced countless *objets d'art* for their loved ones, animals, for decoration and for sale to non-Aboriginal collectors. Unfortunately, much of the legacy of the "Flower Beadwork People", as the Métis were once known, has been lost due to institutional mislabeling that called many of these pieces "Plains Cree" or "Ojibwa". Finding the proper provenance and restoring the voice of their Métis creators has been a concern for academics and the Métis community.

Further Reading: Bakker, Peter. *A Language of Our Own: The Genesis of Michif, the Mixed Cree-French Language of the Canadian Métis*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997; Barkwell, Lawrence J., Dorion, Leah and Préfontaine, Darren R. Editors. *Metis Legacy*. Winnipeg and Saskatoon: The Louis Riel Institute and the Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2001; Campbell, Maria. *Stories of the Road Allowance People*. Penticton, British Columbia, 1995; Fluery, Norman. *La Lawng Michif Peekishkewin: The Canadian Michif Language Dictionary*. Winnipeg: The Metis Resource Centre, 2000; Troupe, Cheryl. *Expressing Our Heritage: Métis Artistic Designs*. Study Prints and Manual. Saskatoon: The Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2002.



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Métis History

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he exact date when Métis history began is hard to determine. However, Métis Ethnogenesis, or self-identity, emerged in the mid 1750s, in the Great Lakes region, as Canadien-Algonquian mixed-bloods recognized their distinctness and sought each other for marriage/trading alliances. Later this self-awareness crystallized in the Red River when the Métis challenged the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC)'s attempts to curb their lifestyle as fur trade provisioners and free traders. It was here, on June 19, 1816, that the Métis or "*Bois-Brûlés*" led by Cuthbert Grant defeated a party of HBC men and Selkirk Settlers at Seven Oaks. This self-identity further blossomed after the 1821 North West Company-HBC merger when hundreds of Métis or "*gens de libre*" circumvented the HBC's fur trade monopoly in the 1830s-40s, fought the Dakota for access to the rich bison-hunting grounds of the Dakotas in the 1840s-50s and resisted the Canadian state from 1869-1885.

In 1869, the Métis were not consulted about the transfer of their homeland (Rupert's Land) to the new Dominion of Canada. Angered, they formed a Provisional Government that was eventually led by Louis Riel. From these negotiations emerged *The Manitoba Act*, which the Métis saw as a treaty between the Métis Nation and Canada. For the Métis, the act's most important provisions included bilingual denominational schools, judicial and parliamentary systems (Section 22) and perhaps most importantly, through Sections 31-32, the extinguishment of their "Indian" title to the land, through the granting of 1.4 million acres of land to "the children of half-breed heads of families". For those Métis living in what is now Saskatchewan, *The Dominion Lands Act* (1879) (Section 125) also included provisions to extinguish the Métis' Indian title. This was done through the Scrip system whereby Scrip Commissioners gave the Métis land or money scrip in exchange for their Indian title. The system, however, was

Article by Darren R. Pfrontaine

fraudulent and most Métis did not receive or hold title to any land.

After 1870, increasing racism within Manitoba forced hundreds of Métis to move to present-day Saskatchewan. They founded settlements such as Wood Mountain-Willow Bunch, St. Laurent, St. Isadore de Belleville, and Batoche, which augmented preexisting Métis communities such as Cumberland House and Ile-à-la Crosse. Despite moving west, the Métis' many grievances such as not having their Indian title properly extinguished, lack of proper political representation and poor economic conditions led them to send dozens of petitions to the federal government. Their reasoned pleas for redress were received with silence. In 1884, the Métis brought Louis Riel back to Canada in order to negotiate their grievances with Ottawa. Alliance building occurred throughout the fall and winter of 1884, but as 1885 approached, it became apparent that the French-Métis' coalition with the English-speaking Métis, First Nations and Euro-Canadians had shallow roots. The Northwest Resistance broke out in late March 1885. After having the upper hand early on due to Gabriel Dumont's leadership and their superior marksmanship at Duck Lake (March 26) Fish Creek (April 24), the Métis succumbed to the larger, better equipped Canadian volunteer force at Batoche on May 12, 1885.

After 1885, the Saskatchewan Métis were marginalized. Many dispersed to parkland and forested regions, while others squatted on land along the approaches to road allowances. Hence, the Métis began to be called the "Road Allowance People" and settled in dozens of makeshift communities such as Crescent Lake and Little Chicago. In most instances, they did not own title to the land and thus paid no taxes, which precluded their children from obtaining an education. With this marginal existence, emerged a myriad of social problems including poor health and esteem, and a lack of viable employment

opportunities. And yet, the Métis lived in their own communities, spoke their language, Michif, and served their country with great distinction in 1914-18 and 1939-45.

After 1945, the Métis slowly entered the province's mainstream. In order to rehabilitate the Métis, the CCF government, in the late 1940s, created Métis Farms such as those in Lebret and Green Lake, which proved paternalistic and ultimately failed. In the 1950s, James Brady and Malcolm Norris were addressing the Métis' economic, social and political marginalization. In the 1960s-70s, Métis

societies advocated Métis empowerment, while increasing numbers of Métis began moving to the province's larger cities. Out of these efforts emerged the social-cultural and educational apparatus of the Métis Nation Saskatchewan. Since the mid-1990s, the province's Métis have worked towards the building of self-governing institutions, obtaining a land base in north-western Saskatchewan and having their Aboriginal rights such as access to full hunting restored.

Further Reading: Barkwell, Lawrence J., Dorion, Leah and Préfontaine, Darren R. Editors. *Métis Legacy*. Winnipeg and Saskatoon: The Louis Riel Institute and the Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2001; Chartrand, Paul L.A.H. *Manitoba's Métis Settlement Scheme of 1870*. Saskatoon: The Native Law Centre, University of Saskatchewan, 1991; Peterson, Jacqueline and Brown, Jennifer, S. H. Editors. *The New Peoples: Being and Becoming Métis in North America*. Winnipeg: The University of Manitoba Press, 1993; Shore, Fred J., and Barkwell, Lawrence, J. Editors. *Past Reflects the Present: The Metis Elders' Conference*. Winnipeg: Manitoba Métis Federation Inc, 1997; Sprague, D. N. *Canada and the Métis, 1869-1885*. Waterloo, Ontario: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 1988.



Gabriel Dumont Institute
Of Native Studies and Applied Research

CALL FOR ARTISTS

The Gabriel Dumont Institute, a Métis educational book publisher, is seeking Aboriginal artists to submit work for upcoming educational and cultural projects. The competition is open to established artists and art students. Métis artists, and Métis art students are encouraged to submit.

Original two and three-dimensional art is acceptable including, but not limited to: painting, drawing, printmaking, etching, collage, fibre, digital art, sculpture and photography.

If chosen, artists will be acknowledged within all published material, will receive remuneration and will be asked to sign a release for use of their work in such material.

Please submit photographs or digital images of artwork with descriptions, along with your name, full contact information and a brief biography (50-100 words) and/or curriculum vitae to:

The Gabriel Dumont Institute
2 604 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, Sask.
S7M 5W1

For more information,
please contact:

Cheryl Troupe
(306) 657-5712
ctroupe@gdins.org

or

Darren Préfontaine
(306) 657-5711
dprefontaine@gdins.org

Local artists are encouraged to call and arrange for a viewing.

Searching for the Truth

The History of the Métis of Willow Bunch

Article and photographs by Catherine Littlejohn and Ron Rivard

Catherine Littlejohn and Ron Rivard worked for many years to produce *The History of the Métis of Willow Bunch*. They have also worked hard at promoting their book by holding launches in both Saskatoon and Regina. This article demonstrates the amount of hard work that went into the process of writing and publishing this very significant book.

When the *Willow Bunch Aboriginal Healing Project* began, its staff was instructed by the Steering Committee that the most important and primary objective of the *Project* was to learn about the Métis of Willow Bunch. Leo Lesperance said, "First, we have to learn about ourselves. How can we tell other people who we are until we know ourselves?" The *Willow Bunch Aboriginal Healing Project* came about because knowledge of who Willow Bunch Métis were, was not available in the community.

In the first year, we acquired the Willow Bunch Parish Records and began to identify who the original Métis were, who their families were, and what families intermarried, etc. From the names of the original Métis families, we then pushed back to see if those families came from the Red River through looking in the genealogy of the Métis of the Red River. We looked in Parish records of St. Boniface, St. Norbert, St. François Xavier

and the Red River censuses of 1827, 1835, and 1870. Some of the people could be identified in the Red River but others couldn't. Then, we looked for the Parish records of St. Joseph, North Dakota and Pembina, North Dakota. We found the 1850 census of the Minnesota Territory, which covered Pembina in 1850 and found many of the family names there. Then, we studied the scrip applications for Manitoba in the 1870s and the North-West Territories in the 1880s and 1890s. These documents gave us more dates and relationships. At this point we had only lists of names with dates of births, marriages and deaths of many family members.

People who specialize in genealogy recognize that when you find names of people, one of the disappointing things is that lists of names and dates don't tell a story. They don't tell you what the person looked like, what they were like as a person, what they did for a living or any of the things which make a story. You need more information to be able to make a history.

The story of the Willow Bunch Métis begins with the union of a First Nations woman and a French Canadian - or another non-Aboriginal ancestor. To find these first ancestors took a long time. It was important not only to identify the male ancestor whose name has been passed down but to identify the First



Book Launch at McNally Robinson bookstore

Left to Right: Catherine Littlejohn, Ron Rivard, and Randy Gaudry

Nations woman. This was like looking for a needle in a haystack because in many records, the women's names were not recorded. We are very proud to be able to name many of the original First Nations women in Willow Bunch Métis families.

To answer our questions about what people looked like, we started to collect pictures of people with a connection to the Willow Bunch Métis. This meant locating lists of pictures at various institutions such as the National Archives of Canada, the Glenbow Museum and Archives, the Saskatchewan Archives Board, the Provincial Archives of Manitoba, the Provincial Archives of Alberta, the state historical societies of North Dakota, Minnesota, and Montana and from books and newspapers, as well as from Willow Bunch family photographs. When we found a picture that we wanted to acquire, we had to get a copy of the picture, then ensure that we acquired permission to use the picture in our publication. This is all very time consuming.

Pictures of individuals are one thing but it is hard for people to understand the story without picturing what life was like at a particular time in history. Therefore, we searched for pictures that would help to tell the story as it unfolded. It is important for people to be able to imagine the life that their ancestors lived and pictures help in that process. We found that some of the pictures that demonstrated the lifestyles and culture of the ancestors of the Métis of Willow Bunch, were not available to us. Therefore, we decided what events we needed pictures for and

worked with a trained illustrator to develop the pictures that we needed. We have over 100 original illustrations that describe the life of the Métis' ancestors.

To write history, to tell the story, the historian has to find the events that individuals lived through. Since we found that the interviews with community people did not contain material which took us back to the days when the Métis of Willow Bunch were living as buffalo hunters or traders or freighters, we had to go to the archives to read diaries, letters, stories written at earlier times, newspapers and other resources to try to find the names of any of the people that we had identified as being part of the Willow Bunch history. This has involved hours and hours of reading to find a single story. For example, Ron found the story of Rabbit Coulee just by chance reading a book on the early development of farming in Saskatchewan. This book was called, *Virgin Sod*. As part of this project, we have examined materials from archives in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta, historical societies in North Dakota and Minnesota, the William Clements Collections at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and the Newberry Library in Chicago. At each of these places, we found material related to the story of the Willow Bunch Métis.

After the stories about people are found, the historian has a pile of facts. Then the story has to be told. This story chronicles Willow Bunch Métis families and individuals from approximately 1790-1914. One generation is considered to be

20 years. Therefore, we are studying six generations of approximately one hundred families for over a century. Furthermore, because we are looking at Métis families, we are putting the family histories into the context of the history of the Métis people during that time period. From a pile of facts, the story must be woven for all of these families and their individual members over this course of time. Such a story of a Métis community has never been written. This is creating a new history of Western Canada. We must do it right!

When you find information in the archives or in articles or other places, they never come to you in any order. You may be in the library and find one thing about the Willow Bunch Giant, one thing about Louis Schmidt and something about



Ron Rivard signing copies of his book, *The History of the Métis of Willow Bunch* at its launch at McNally Robinson

buffalo hunting in one afternoon. One of the most important jobs in the process of writing history is to be able to find the information that you collected when you need it. Therefore, part of the process is cataloguing all the individual facts that are found in a way that you can easily access them months later when you need them. An important job of the historical researcher is to make files to store the information. In this day and age, it is most useful if important facts or stories are inputted onto the computer as you find them. Each piece of information which you feel may add something to the story must be stored in a way is retrievable. Big files may contain, for example, all the stories about buffalo hunting. Then, when the time comes to write the story about buffalo hunting, these stories are found.

Writing the history involves making decisions about how the story will be told. Most books are written in what is called the "Third Person". It was decided that the story of the Willow Bunch Métis should be told in the voice of the Métis of Willow Bunch. This means that it is told as if the Métis of Willow Bunch are talking. This too is a different way of telling history. Another decision is how the book will be divided. What are the chapters going to be about? In many books the story is told in sections written by each family. The history of the Willow Bunch Métis is going to be a story where the lives of many families are woven

together over time. So, another way had to be found to determine the organization of the book. The book is chronological. It begins with the creation of the first Métis families and moves through the events that took place until the opening of the convent. The book tells the story of the Métis families through the materials that we have found to date. If we had twenty years, there may have been more information. The new book written on Ahtahkakoop, the First nations Chief from the Sandy Lake area, took Deanna Christensen, the researcher, 15 years to write. We did not have that much time but this was the one opportunity that the Willow Bunch Métis had to be able to write their story so we took as much time as is necessary to find the truth.

Eugene Lesperance said at the last meeting of the Steering Committee, "We are searching for the truth and that takes longer." The *Willow Bunch Aboriginal Healing Project* was created because the Willow Bunch Métis did not know their story. The *Aboriginal Healing Foundation* has provided support to search for the truth. It is our job to do the best job that we can to meet this goal.

For further information or to purchase the book please contact Catherine Littlejohn at (306) 283-4640 or Ron Rivard at (306) 221-9884.



Gabriel Dumont Institute Of Native Studies and Applied Research

Call for Storytellers

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), a Métis educational book publisher, is looking for people who are willing to share traditional Métis stories, songs, folkways, recipes and knowledge of traditional medicines. In particular, GDI is looking for stories about Rougarous, Chi-Jean, Nanabush and Wisahkecahk. We are hoping that the information gathered will eventually be developed into a series of projects on Métis folklore. GDI has been collecting these stories in Michif, Cree and English and is therefore willing to let the interviewee share with us in their language of preference. GDI will travel to the interviewee or will make arrangements for them to come to our Saskatoon office, at no expense, to be interviewed.

Please forward all inquiries to either Cheryl Troupe (306.657.5712) (ctroupe@gdins.org) or to Darren Préfontaine (306.657.5711) (dprefontaine@gdins.org). Or by regular mail:

Gabriel Dumont Institute
2 - 604 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, Sask.
S7M 5W1

PRESS RELEASE

The Canadian Genealogy Centre Adds a New Online Guide for Aboriginal Genealogy

Ottawa, February 23, 2004 - Library and Archives Canada is adding a new guide to its virtual Canadian Genealogy Centre. Titled *Researching Your Aboriginal Ancestry at Library and Archives Canada* (http://www.genealogie.gc.ca/02/020501a_e.html), the guide is designed for those who wish to undertake genealogical research on their Aboriginal ancestors at Library and Archives Canada. The production of this guide by the Canadian Genealogy Centre is part of a collaboration between Library and Archives Canada and Aboriginal researchers. The Centre also intends to work with Aboriginal communities and other partners on a second part of the guide, which would provide even more information on the sources available to researchers throughout Canada. According to Richard Collins, who wrote the guide and is one of the Aboriginal genealogy specialists at Library and Archives Canada, "the best part of this new tool is that it allows everyone to acquire the proper methodology to do effective genealogical research while avoiding numerous pitfalls." The wealth and diversity of Canada's Aboriginal

cultures bring a unique quality to the lives of many Canadians. More and more people find pride in seeking out their Aboriginal roots as they turn to Library and Archives Canada for help in their research. To access *Researching Your Aboriginal Ancestry at Library and Archives Canada*, you can go to the Canadian Genealogy Centre Web site at www.genealogy.gc.ca, click on "How To" then click on "Guides." The Canadian Genealogy Centre is made possible through the support of the Canadian Culture Online Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage. Library and Archives Canada welcomes any comments or input regarding the website.

Information:
Louisa Coates, Media Relations
Library and Archives Canada
(613) 992-9361
cell: (613) 295-5516
e-mail: lcoates@archives.ca



Gabriel Dumont Institute Of Native Studies and Applied Research

Looking to Donate to the Virtual Museum?

The Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture (www.metismuseum.ca) is a community project. The idea to create it came from the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Publishing Department. However, all the culture and history that is showcased on the Virtual Museum comes from the Métis community. Without you, our Métis community people, there would be no Virtual Museum. We are using your stories and photographs, and are highlighting your artistic achievement in order to demonstrate the Métis' profound efforts in the building of Canada.

The Virtual Museum is a continuously expanding resource. In that spirit, GDI is requesting further contributions from the Métis community for the Virtual Museum and other projects, including:

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| · Photographs | · Educational Resources | · Stories | · Original Artwork |
| · Oral Histories | · Cultural Resources | · Artifacts | |

For further information, contact:

Darren Préfontaine (306.657.5711)
(dprefontaine@gdins.org) or

Cheryl Troupe (306.657.5712)
(ctroupe@gdins.org)

Or by regular mail:

Gabriel Dumont Institute,
2 604 22nd Street West,
Saskatoon, Sask.,
S7M 5W1

The Jim Brady Papers Go Public

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he Jim Brady Papers, which formed the basis of Murray Dobbin's book, *The One and a Half Men: The Story of Jim Brady & Malcolm Norris, Métis Patriots of the 20th Century*, are in the possession of the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI). Dobbin donated the Jim Brady Papers to GDI in the late 1990s. The collection includes a large amount of Brady's personal correspondence, especially between himself and Malcolm Norris, Peter Tomkins and Joe Dion. Also in the collection are documents, which discuss Brady's involvement with the Métis Association of

Alberta and the Métis Settlements, his war diaries (WWII), his work with the CCF, his time at Wolf Lake, and papers, which he wrote on various topics from history to politics. The collection also includes articles written by F. K. Hatt about Jim Brady, as well as articles on Brady's disappearance. Finally, there are also interviews with his family about his life and work. About 30 of the documents have been transcribed and will soon be put on *The Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture* www.metismuseum.ca.

Article by David Morin

MÉTIS ELDERS GATHERING

AT

WHITE BUFFALO YOUTH LODGE

(Multi-purpose Room)

ON

MARCH 23, 2004

10:00 A.M.-2:00P.M.

Topics of Discussion & Sharing:

ROLE (S) OF MÉTIS ELDERS

PROTOCOL

CONTRIBUTIONS OF MÉTIS ELDERS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Luncheon will be served @11:30 A.M.

Sponsored by: Western Region Métis Women's Association Inc.

2003 Saskatchewan Book Awards

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The 2003 Saskatchewan Book Awards (SBA) Shortlist was announced October 20 at a news conference held at Campion College, University of Regina. The SBA received seventy-one titles this year, out of which forty-five Saskatchewan authors were finalized in one or more of the twelve categories, and ten Saskatchewan publishers had books short-listed. Cheryl Troupe and Gabriel Dumont Institute's Publishing Department received two awards for "First Peoples Publishing" and "Publishing in Education" for *Expressing Our Heritage: Métis Artistic Designs*.

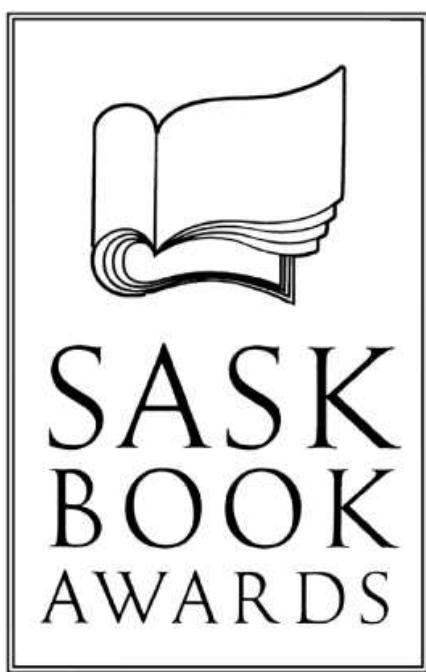
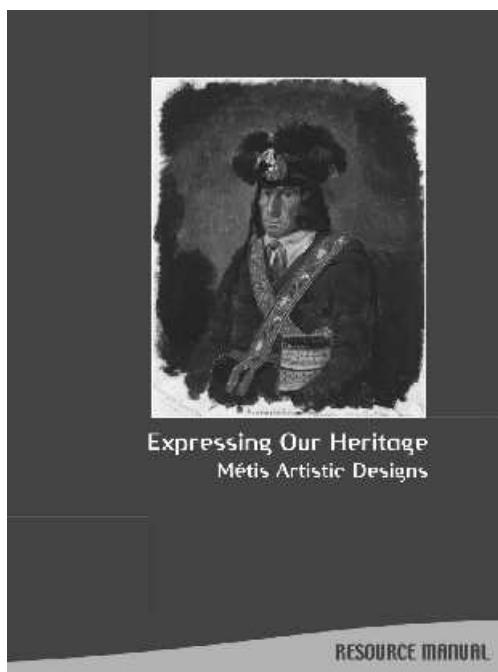
The book took Cheryl Troupe about two years to put together. Much of her time was spent searching for traditional items of Métis clothing held in private family collections, archives and museums in North America and Europe. "There's a lot of Métis material culture that ended up in European collections as a result of collectors or Hudson's Bay Company employees that would come here and take pieces back with them," Troupe said. One thing she discovered was that many of these items had been

Article by Chad Berg, photographs courtesy GDI

mislabeled as being produced by First Nations. "While *Expressing Our Heritage* provides a valuable resource for museums that have Aboriginal collections, the real reason the project was done was to provide a resource to the Métis community," Troupe explained.

Expressing Our Heritage is a collection of 50 gallery-quality study prints and a resource manual showcasing the ageless beauty of traditional Métis clothing and accessories. It also contains dozens of rare photographs of Métis artifacts from collections in Europe and North America, as well as extensive background reading, maps, glossary, Michif language translations, a bibliography and activities for further review. It is the first synthesis of traditional Métis clothing to date.

The book can be ordered directly from the Gabriel Dumont Institute website at www.gdins.org/ecom or by phone at (306) 934-4941. It can also be ordered through your local bookstore.



Expressing Our Heritage: Métis Artistic Designs, by Cheryl Troupe (middle photo), published by the Gabriel Dumont Institute Publishing Department, winner of two Saskatchewan Book Awards: "First Peoples Publishing" and "Publishing in Education"

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO EMPLOYERS

Need summer help? Hire a student!

Summer Career Placements, a key element of the Youth Employment Strategy, is a wage subsidy initiative 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 26, 2004

The objective of this initiative is to provide students with work experience related to their field of study. Applications will be evaluated based on factors such as local and regional priorities, the quality of the work experience offered, as well as budget availability.

- To apply or to find out more about this initiative, please contact the nearest Human Resource Centre of Canada or call 1 800 206-7218.
- Internet: Visit youth.gc.ca and click on the *Employer* section.



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du Canada

Canada



Gabriel Dumont Institute Open House

University Of Regina

The halls of 2nd floor, College West at the University of Regina will never be the same. They are still echoing of celebration from an open house held by the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI).

At noon on Friday, January 16th, GDI held an Open House to celebrate the moving of its offices from four separate locations in the Education Building to the second floor in College West.

So amid the fanfare of balloons, music, an impressive GDI display and food, approximately 140 people attended a 40-minute program in a hallway in College West.

The agenda included speeches by the Mistress of Ceremonies, Erma Taylor and Ray Laliberte, who spoke on behalf of Dale McAuley, Chairperson of the GDI Board of Governors; Geordy McCaffrey, Acting Executive Director of



Article by Erma M.L. Taylor
photographs courtesy Wilfried Burton, SUNTEP, Regina



GDI and Maureen Bandas, GDI Director of Operations.

Interspersed with the speakers was a performance from renowned fiddler, John Arcand with guitar accompaniment from Vicki Arcand. A dance from Regina's infamous, Riel Reelers was also performed for the visitors.

The audience consisted of the Honorable Joanne Crofford; Terry Boyer, GDI Board



Geordy McCaffrey and Terry Boyer
(GDI Board Member)

Member; University of Regina staff; First Nations University of Canada personnel; Saskatchewan Urban Native Teachers Education Program (SUNTEP) students; Dumont Technical Institute staff and students, friends and members of the Métis community.

Once the opening had ended, John and Vicki Arcand spent over an hour playing for a KHSA (Métis Dance) class for the SUNTEP students.

The event was very successful and not soon to be forgotten. Kudos to the organizing Committee: Maureen Bandas, Joanne Pelletier, Treena Racette, Marilyn Belhumeur and Erma Taylor.



Attendees prepare to enjoy lunch



Gabriel Dumont Institute Of Native Studies and Applied Research

(306) 934-4941

www.gdins.org

GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE (GDI): is a Métis controlled educational and cultural institution. GDI's mission *is to promote the renewal and development of Métis culture and to design and deliver educational and cultural programs for and about the Métis.*

SASKATCHEWAN URBAN NATIVE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM (SUNTEP): is a four year fully accredited Bachelor of Education program, offered by the Gabriel Dumont Institute, in conjunction with Saskatchewan Learning, the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan. The program is offered in three urban centres: Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert.

GABRIEL DUMONT COLLEGE (GDC): has an affiliation agreement with the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina. GDC offers the first two years of courses that will contribute toward a Bachelor's degree in Arts or Science.

If you are interested in enrolling in a SUNTEP or GDC program, please contact:

SUNTEP Regina

Rm 227 College West
University of Regina
3737 Wascana Parkway
Regina, SK S4S 0A2
(306) 347-4110

SUNTEP Saskatoon

Room 7 McLean Hall
Univ. of Saskatchewan
106 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5E6
(306) 975-7095

SUNTEP Prince Albert

48 - 12th Street East
Prince Albert, SK S6V 1B2
(306) 764-1797



Students Travel Abroad

Article and photographs by Theresa Huntley and Kari Arcand

The fourth year students of the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teachers Education Program (SUNTEP) have just returned back to classes after completing their four-month internships last fall. Two lucky SUNTEP Saskatoon interns had the chance to intern internationally. Theresa Huntley, age 23, completed her internship in New Zealand and Kari Arcand, age 21, completed her internship in

Ireland. Both enjoyed very educating experiences and share some stories of their travels.

Theresa and Kari are now attending classes, but have wonderful memories of their trips across the world. They love to talk about their experiences with others and with each other. Both Theresa and Kari say that they would love to go back for a visit some time in the near future.

My name is Theresa Huntley and I am a Métis originally from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. I am currently completing my last year of a Bachelor of Education degree through the SUNTEP Saskatoon Program. I have recently returned from doing my internship in Whakatane, New Zealand. I was very fortunate to have this opportunity and though there were hard times, I had an amazing experience that I will never forget. I learned so much about New Zealand from both the students and the staff at Ohope Beach School and it was also so nice to see their interest in Canada. Because I was in a different country and the children had little knowledge of Canada, it was exciting for me to compare the two countries, their traditions and their cultures. While I was at Ohope Beach School I had a lot of opportunity to teach about Canada's Métis and learn about the Maori People of New Zealand. Both the staff and the students were so eager to listen and learn about topics on Canada. The children, as well as the teachers, got a quick glance at Métis entertainment, culture, artistic design, and history. My internship allowed me to have a great cross-cultural experience that I would encourage anyone to seek the opportunity. I have learned a lot from this experience and know that it will benefit me when I have my own classroom.



Above: Theresa's New Zealand Students showing off their Canada Presentations.

Top: Theresa's Grade Two Class in New Zealand
Facing Page (Clockwise from top left): The Ohope Beach School Kapa Haka Group; An Activity Kari Arcand did with her students in Ireland symbolizing the Métis people of Canada; Hurling: Ireland's National sport; Kari Arcand; Kari's Grade five students in Ireland; and Cross Country at the Ohope Beach School in New Zealand.



My name is Kari Arcand and I am a Métis student currently attending SUNTEP Saskatoon, and I spent my internship in Bray, Ireland. While I was there I not only learned an amazing amount about Irish culture, but I was also able to help them learn about my culture. Throughout my four months there I was able to teach various lessons about Métis culture to an interested classroom. My co-operating teacher was perhaps the most interested which was great because it offered me the opportunity to teach more lessons that meant something to me and ones that I would use in my classes here in Saskatchewan. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to see the world and bring back a little extra something in myself. I know this experience will broaden my qualifications as a teacher and I am glad to have been able to take advantage of such a wonderful opportunity.



*'Oku momoko'aupito eni It is very cold here
Ka' oku mafana homou loto But your hearts are warm
Pea' ikai keman on go'ie momoko' So we have not felt the cold!*

Visitors Leave with Warm Hearts

Article by Bente Huntley, photographs by Elaine Sukava

Oku momoko'aupito eni
Ka' oku mafana homou loto
Pea' ikai keman on go'ie momoko'

These were the words which Lopeti Senituli from Tonga, Tupou Vere from Fiji and Rosalia Paiva from Peru left the staff and students of the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Prince Albert and the people of northern Saskatchewan with as they departed for home. They arrived in Canada on January 16 and spent two very cold weeks experiencing the diverse cultures of Saskatchewan's Indigenous peoples. Lopeti and Tupou are part of the Pacific Cultural Research Center and are heavily involved in human rights. Rosalia is a human rights activist and currently resides in Canada.

Rosalia, Lopeti and Topou are the first group of visitors to arrive at SUNTEP Prince Albert as part of a special project through the Canadian Economic Development Agency (CEDA). *Visitors From the Four Directions* project was designed to promote awareness of Indigenous peoples issues around the world. Through the grant and with the assistance of Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation (SCIC), there are plans to bring Indigenous Peoples from around the world to Prince Albert to share their stories and make connections. A special topics class in Native Studies has been set up to research issues which Indigenous Peoples face. The students are not only amazed at the similarities between cultures but also at the similarities in issues.



Rosalia Paiva, from Peru at SUNTEP, Prince Albert



*Above: Lopeti Senituli of Tonga, teaching
Facing Page, top: Mayan friends in front of SUNTEP,
Prince Albert*

The experiences for our visitors were many and varied. To welcome these special visitors, SUNTEP Prince Albert has partnered with many groups from Prince Albert and the surrounding area: Saskatchewan Rivers School Division, Prince Albert Roman Catholic Separate School Division, the Prince Albert Grand Council, and Northern Lights School Division. Each of these partners set up various opportunities for the visitors to speak to students, share stories, and experience their cultures. However, it was the northern experience that will be etched in the minds of our visitors as they head back to the warmth of their countries. Topou, Rosalia and Lopeti survived the coldest week we have had this year and did it in style.

On Sunday, January 25th, Kristine Dreaver Charles and Sallie McLeod from Stanley Mission met and hosted the three visitors, a translator (Lorraine Beardsworth) and a film crew, for three days. The first night the visitors arrived in Grandmother's Bay and travelled, by snowmobiles and sleds, to a trapper's cabin fifteen minutes away. They tried many firsts: ice-fishing (no luck there), snowshoeing,

tobogganing, log-sawing, axe-throwing, and bannock and jam making. Many hours were spent telling stories and drinking hot tea to try and stay warm in the -40°C plus weather. The film crew hired for the project caught it all on camera. On January 26th, they headed back to Grandmother's Bay and then to Stanley Mission in the late afternoon. Here, Lopeti attended his first hockey game. The next morning the thermometer dipped to below -50°C with the wind chill. Lopeti proudly held up a newspaper that stated he was in the coldest place on earth on January 27, 2004! No one in his home country would have believed him otherwise (Tonga's temperature that day was in the +30°C). Unfortunately the cold temperatures kept most of the students at home; but, the visitors still presented a two hour workshop at Rhonda Hardlotte Memorial Keethanow High School to a much smaller audience of 30 staff and students. The staff at the school kept the visitors busy cleaning and cooking fish, caribou, bannock and tea. The Cree teacher also arranged for the school square dancers to put on a demonstration. When Lopeti, Rosalia and Topou left Stanley Mission for La Ronge that night, they were fuelled by the food, stories and generosity of the people.

Josie Searson and the good people of La Ronge, also hosted our visitors from January 27-29. Josie arranged for many school and community events. On January 28 the visitors spent the morning touring and sharing their knowledge at the Northern Teacher Education Program. They were also interviewed by *The Northerner* about their experiences. The afternoon and following day were spent at Churchill High School talking to grades 6, 7 and 8 students. One of the most moving stories the students were left with was regarding Rosalia's persecution and resulting flight, from her own country. Even though Rosalia was not a fluent English speaker, her gentle soul and her determination to carry on her activist work, captivated all who heard her story. Rosalia fled from Peru to Canada a year ago because she is a human rights activist and is fighting for the lives of her people. She survived torture and



Mayan friends

persecution, but still struggles to find ways to help her people.

It is stories like Rosalia's, and work like Topou's and Lopeti's, that the special topics class at SUNTEP needed to hear about. As part of the project, the Native Studies 498 class will develop four units of study about Indigenous issues. These units are to compliment the Native Studies 20 curriculum. Through the exploration of traditional knowledge and storytelling, students will develop, from a traditional Indigenous perspective, an advanced knowledge of the global issues facing Indigenous peoples. One of the main themes of the class is how globalization affects Indigenous peoples. It is hoped that the units of study will promote an understanding about the diversity of Indigenous peoples and that globalization has and continues to have a great impact upon them. Many of our students have already come to realize there are common themes and issues we share, as Indigenous peoples, which were brought to our attention from the visitors from the four directions. We are anxiously



Toupou Vere, of Fiji experiencing record-breaking cold

awaiting our next set of visitors: five people from Costa Rica. They will arrive on February 19 and remain with us until March 2. We hope they too will leave with warm hearts despite the cold weather.

*New Employment Insurance
Compassionate Care Benefit*

If you must be absent from work to care for a dying family member, maybe we can help.

The Government of Canada is introducing Compassionate Care, a new special Benefit available to Employment Insurance eligible workers who must be absent from work to provide support to a family member who is gravely ill with a serious risk of death.

Important facts:

- Beginning January 4th, 2004, six weeks of Compassionate Care Benefits will be available to those who are eligible and provide the required medical certificate.
- The Benefit can be used by one individual or shared with eligible family members to care for a child, parent, spouse or common-law partner who is gravely ill with a serious risk of death.



For more information about the Compassionate Care Benefit, call 1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232), 1 800 465-7735 (TTY) or visit www.canada.gc.ca.



Government
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Canada

Honouring Our Future

The Youth of Today and Tomorrow

In our First Nations and Métis cultures, we are taught to honour and respect our past and our heritage. Now through a partnership between Sasktel and the Witcitowin Foundation, we can begin to honour our future. This partnership has implemented an annual awards night to honour the achievements of Saskatchewan's First Nations and Métis youth. Someone in their community must nominate the individual in one of the following categories: outstanding achievement, leadership, education, community service, culture, sports, recreation, fine arts, innovation/entrepreneurialism and spirit.

At the 2002 event I was fortunate enough to be nominated by the principal of my school, Rocky Chysyk. He was also my football coach and a very good friend of mine. I was nominated in the sports category, but unfortunately was not chosen. Before the ceremonies, we were all brought together and told exactly what the ceremonies meant by the organizers. The word "Witcitowin" is the Cree word for "helping each other". This is exactly what the Witcitowin Foundation is doing: it is recognizing the future leaders and role models for their outstanding achievements in their own categories. The foundation hopes to promote the development of our youth and to further develop their educational, spiritual, and personal wellbeing. They also want to serve as a living legacy to Saskatchewan's Aboriginal veterans. We were told that not everyone in the room would win an award, but that we were all winners in our own right. One member of the foundation told us that: "You were all nominated by members of your community, which says a lot about your character and the view your community has of you".

This experience was one of the most memorable in my life. From the delicious banquet, to the medals and certificates that we were all presented, and, of course, to the ceremony itself, we were treated well beyond what I ever would have expected. It was an honour for all of us to be nominated for such an event. Nominees included individuals who won gold medals at the Aboriginal Winter

Games, extremely intelligent students, football players, community leaders, and culturally involved people. No matter what we did or what we were involved in, we were all honoured equally.

The winners from each category were given a white buffalo carving, carved by Jack Arthur. The significance of the white buffalo is told in the following story:

The Sacred Pipe was brought to our people by a spirit woman who instructed our people in sacred ceremonies, and taught us how to live in balance with life. The legend says she told our ancestors she would return as a white buffalo calf, and would unite the nations of the four colours: black, red, yellow, and white. During the 1890s, the Elders began praying for the return of the white buffalo calf. It would be seven generations before they could talk about their way of life again. In August 1994, a white buffalo female calf was born in Wisconsin. As the 19th Keeper of the Sacred Calf Pipe, Looking Horse said the buffalo's return signified that a healing would begin and dreams and visions would return. It is now time to lead people towards peace and balance once again.

I would never take back this experience. It taught me that there are people who see my potential. Everyone who was nominated could see that there were people in their communities who consider them to be role models. With this kind of encouragement from your community, a person should never give up on their dreams, goals, or aspirations. If you take the time to look around you, you will find that there are many people who are willing to help you succeed. All Aboriginal youth should experience this event and have the opportunity to share it with friends and family. For further information on the event go to http://www.sasktel.com/extras/aboriginal_youth_awards_of_excellence.html.

Article by Jesse Gardiner

Métis Athletes *Running with the Pack*

Article by Danene King, photographs courtesy One2One Photography

If you think that school is hard, try managing your time by going to classes and being a University of Saskatchewan Husky athlete at the same time. Many of you might not know this but within the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program and Gabriel Dumont College there are Métis athletes involved in the soccer, football, volleyball, hockey and track teams.

Dwayne Gareau, 23, has just finished his fifth year on the Huskies soccer team. The Prince Albert native started playing with the Huskies when he was 19.

Dwayne said he plays soccer because "I am competitive (and) love the competition." Dwayne is also interested in hockey, volleyball, basketball and track and field. On the soccer field, you can find him sporting number 8 in the midfield. Throughout his soccer career he has played in the Canada Games, A-League professional soccer and would play more at competitive levels, if given the opportunity. On campus, the word is out that he is a very talented soccer player. For instance, he was selected as the athlete of the week in *The Sheaf* and has had numerous other photographs of himself appear in other

papers. While playing varsity soccer, Dwayne has enjoyed making life-long friends and being able to travel extensively throughout Western Canada. With the discipline acquired from his athletic career, Dwayne strives to be a success at whatever he pursues. Dwayne's advice to others is to "Always smile while your playing sports, it makes it that much better."

There are also some rookies that are playing their first year as Huskies. One of them is Dean Gauthier. The 24-year-old from Beauval is on the volleyball team. Dean also likes to play hockey, badminton and track and field. He has been playing volleyball for only 7 years. He plays it



Dwayne Gareau



Dean Gauthier

because it is a fun sport and he also enjoys being part of a team. Dean's position on the team is power and he wears number 1. His rookie year has been very challenging due to a number of injuries. As a result, it has been very tough for him to get back into shape for the games. Regarding his play, he said that "It is the start of a new year and things are going well so far". Dean's goal is to win the CIS Championship and to be seen on TSN. He is proud to have played in the Can Air Tournament, which involved the 3 top teams in Canada and United States. He played against Fred Winters, a member of Canada's national team. Dean is confident that the Huskies will make it to the finals. Good luck Dean!

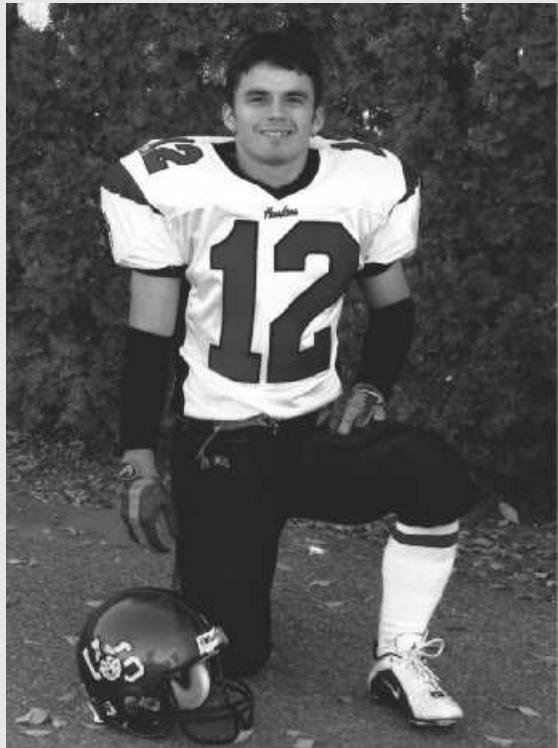
Another athlete heading into his rookie year this season is 19-year-old Jessee Gardiner. He is on the football team and enjoys everything that comes along with it. When playing football, Jessee really likes the sport's intensity: " It is real intense, (everything) happens so fast and you just have to react." Jessee has been playing football for 5 years before which he played baseball. His position on the field is running back. He received his spot on the team by attending summer camps with the Huskies and the team liked what they saw. Jessee feels that his first years on the team will be the hardest. "It is hard being on the side lines

watching your team struggle." However, Jesse is striving to do his best and is looking forward to next year. He believes that sports make for a better person and helps people to live up to their full potential.

There is also a Métis student who is not only on the track and soccer teams, but is also an avid arm wrestler. Meagan Bree-Ann Roy, from Prince Albert, is a sprinter running the 60, 300, 4x100, 4x200 and also the 4x400 metres in her rookie year. Since elementary school, track and field has been a big part of 19-year old Megan's life. Meagan says, "The best part about track is the people." This should come as no surprise since she is a very outgoing person. One goal that she wants to reach is lowering her running time in her races. She does this by going to practice on every weekday. Meagan notices that practices are way more intense here, so she has a good chance of reaching her goal. Meagan has many experiences in track that she is proud of and one is her record for the 200-metre sprint in her hometown. The competition that she is now facing is very tough, however, she is still excited with the competition's intensity. She was also very excited when her relay team beat the guys' team. So if you ever have any extra time on your hands go and cheer her on.

Last but not least is the hockey player and that would be me. I enjoy playing the sport that I love and I also enjoy meeting new people. Going through the life of a rookie is not fun but all I can do is stick it out and look forward to next year - my time to play. Although this first year has been very frustrating, I have made so many wonderful memories. These will last a lifetime.

So now that you are all informed about all of us Métis athletes on the various Husky teams, come on out and cheer us on!



Jessee Gardiner



Danene King

WEEKEND WARRIORS

Have Silver Weekend

Article by Joseph Jean Fauchon

The Saulteaux Weekend Warriors, from the Saulteaux First Nation just outside of North Battleford, recently participated in the Saskatchewan Senior Men's Broomball Provincial Championships. The Warriors are composed of local athletes. The team is made up of First Nations and Métis players and is the only Aboriginal team to compete in league play and the provincials in Saskatchewan. The Métis players on the team include veterans Barry Caplette, Lionel Caplette, Rob Pamburn, Cliff Pamburn, and Sean Fauchon. Gabriel Dumont College student Shaylen Fox is a new member to the Warriors team.

The Warriors went through the year suffering only one loss and went into the provincial championships as one of the favorites to be crowned provincial champions. The Warriors had lost their long time coach and mentor, Dennis Night, this past summer and had dedicated this year's provincial championship to his memory.

The weekend started off on the right track with the Warriors defeating the Regina Bullets 4-0 Friday night. This game was a good warm up for the team as they had to next face the Regina Sportsmen later that night. The Sportsmen are a good team who play an unorthodox game. They play with six attackers and no goalie and still continue to win using this method. This game was a little closer for the Warriors with the score tied at two with fewer than four minutes remaining in the game, but key goals by Barry Caplette and team captain Clayton Tippewan sealed the victory.

Saturday morning saw the Warriors facing off against Viscount. The Warriors were lucky to win this game as they had an off game and did not play well. But they managed to beat Viscount by a score of 2-0. The last round robin game for the Warriors would be against the Regina Icemen. This game was a one-sided affair as the warriors were victorious by a 6-2 score.

The Warriors finished the round robin with a 4-0 record but finished second overall. The Bruno Axemen, who also finished with a 4-0 record, clinched first place in the play-off seating, since they scored more goals in the round robin. The Warriors posted a victory over the Saskatoon First Generals in the semi-finals on Sunday morning.

The final game saw the two top teams: the Regina Axemen and the Saulteaux Weekend Warriors. They squared off to decide who would be the Saskatchewan Provincial Champions. This game saw the Axemen beat the Warriors 6-2. The Axemen came up with some key goals early in the first period to go up 4-0

before the Warriors could get into the game. The rest of the game was closer and the crowd was treated to an excellent match between two determined teams. There was a scary moment in the game as Warrior's forward Barry Caplette went awkwardly into the boards after a check and needed to be taken to the hospital for examination. Barry was not seriously injured, however, the doctors told him that if his injury had occurred 1/2 inch lower he would have been paralyzed. Barry will be back in the Warriors lineup when they compete in the Aboriginal Provincial Championships, March 21-22 in Onion Lake. Bruno's win was their third straight Provincial Championship. Bruno advances to the National Championships in Prince George, British Columbia in 2005. The Warriors are also likely to attend Nationals as a result of the second place finish. Warrior's goaltender Sean Fauchon was selected to the First Team All-Stars.

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Business Opportunities for Métis Entrepreneurs

**Grand opening of new SIEF/SNEDCO External Delivery office
in Regina provides Métis living in southern Saskatchewan
with increased business opportunities**

Métis living in southern Saskatchewan now have greater access to business financing with the opening of the new SIEF/SNEDCO External Delivery Office in Regina. On February 26, 2004, SNEDCO, in partnership with Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation (SIEF) and Aboriginal Business Canada officially opened a new external office to serve Aboriginal business people in southern Saskatchewan. Attending the grand opening were all the chairpersons/directors of the various partner agencies, including Guy Bouvier (SNEDCO), Lucy Pelletier (SIEF), Martin Klyne (the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board) and Jeff Moore (Aboriginal Business Canada).

The new office came as a result of a renewed tripartite

Article and photographs by Jesse Gardiner

partnership between SNEDCO, SIEF and Industry Canada, which administers the *Aboriginal Business Canada Program*. The program promotes the development and growth of Canada's Aboriginal businesses. Prior to the opening of the SIEF/SNEDCO office, clients in southern Saskatchewan were serviced through Industry Canada's regional office and the SIEF/SNEDCO head office, both of which are located in Saskatoon.

SNEDCO, a corporation, which is owned by the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Secretariat, provides loans for the start-up, acquisition, and expansion of Métis small businesses in Saskatchewan, and the SIEF, a foundation owned by 73 Bands, provides similar opportunities for the province's various First Nations. Since its inception in 1987,



Left to Right: Lucy Pelletier, Chairperson for SIEF; Guy Bouvier, Chairperson for SNEDCO; Jeff Moore, Executive Director of Aboriginal Business Canada; and Martin Klyne, Chairperson for the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board

SNEDCO has provided Métis businesses in the province with over 1000 loans totaling \$22 million. SIEF, since 1986, have also contributed nearly 2000 loans totaling \$40 million to First Nations businesses.

Lucy Pelletier was excited with the new opportunities provided by the new business centre: "We see a wide range of business opportunities in southern Saskatchewan...Through the local delivery and greater awareness of the *Aboriginal Business Canada Program*, I think we're taking an important step to help local Aboriginal entrepreneurs tap into these opportunities". Guy Bouvier also voiced his enthusiasm for the new centre, the SNEDCO-SIEF partnership and the enhancement of SNEDCO's activities in southern Saskatchewan: "SNEDCO has been working with SIEF since 1999 in delivering the *Aboriginal Business Canada Program*, primarily in northern Saskatchewan...We look forward to continued success as we expand our collaborative efforts in the south."

With the opening of the new external delivery office, Aboriginal Business Canada's Executive Director Jeff Moore reiterated his agency's commitment to the province's

Aboriginal business community and stressed the success of the program: "Aboriginal Business Canada has invested over \$64.3 million in over 2,200 projects in Saskatchewan since the program began". The program's success has, in fact, led to its expansion to include tourism, innovation and youth entrepreneurship development. For instance, the *Youth Entrepreneurship Development* program provides Aboriginal youth under 35 with a forgivable grant, provided they have a viable proposal/business plan. Furthermore, Marty Klyne Chair, National Aboriginal Economic Development Board, stressed how the new office will assist the *Aboriginal Business Canada Program* to broaden its reach in southern Saskatchewan: "The establishment of a Regina external delivery office greatly extends the reach of Aboriginal Business Canada's service delivery in southern Saskatchewan...the program has greater capacity to increase the number of Aboriginal entrepreneurs seizing business opportunities in the area".

The new SNEDCO/SIEF office is located at the Centre for Business Development, 1925 Rose Street, Regina, Saskatchewan. Ph (306) 522-0646; Fax (306) 522-0647.

NOW AVAILABLE

Central Urban Métis Federation

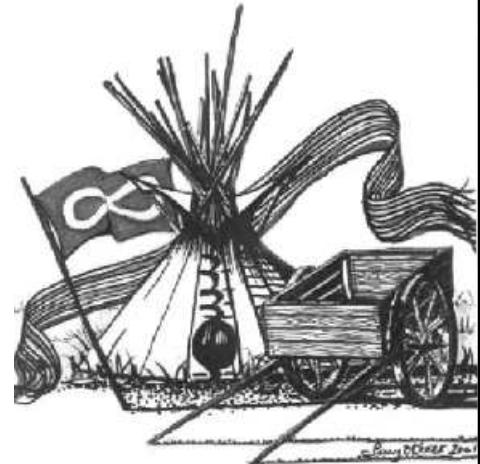
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nfinity House first opened its doors in March 2002, to provide a supportive housing environment for single, homeless, Aboriginal mothers. We provide fully-furnished 1 or 2 bedroom apartment suites to women seeking long-term supports or emergency shelter.

In the past two years, Infinity House has provided close to ten thousand family interventions in areas of housing (emergency & long-term), referrals, counseling, life skills, parenting, budgeting, childcare, transportation, food, justice, health/addictions, education, employment and clothing.

During this two-year period, we were successful in developing many positive working relationships with various Aboriginal, non-Aboriginal and government agencies. Due to the hard work of the staff and the dedication of the Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI) Board and Executive, Infinity House has become a respected and valued resource in our community and in the province. We have assisted women from as far north as Buffalo Narrows and far south as Yorkton. We accept referrals from any agency dedicated to assisting women gain self-sufficiency. If you would like to make a referral, please call 955-2332.

Infinity House embarks on a new era of service delivery. The opening of our

Article and photographs by Trinia La Rose



Shirley Isbister with the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, Denis Coderre



Women, children and Infinity House Staff pose with her Excellency, the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, his Excellency John Ralston Saul, and Shirley Isbister, Vice-President, Central Urban Métis Federation (1993) Inc.

Resource Room in January 2004, allows us to deliver services in a comfortable setting, tailored to the needs of the women residing at Infinity House. We thank Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) for their generous sponsorship. A dedication of the Resource Room was made in their honour.

On January 25, 2004, CUMFI and Infinity House Staff and Residents were very honoured to receive a visit from the Governor General of Canada. The women at Infinity House were so enthused at meeting Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, that many sat and shared with her their experiences at Infinity House.

Infinity House was also pleased to receive a visit from the Federal Interlocutor for the Métis and Non-Status Indians, the honourable Denis Coderre. The Minister toured Infinity House on January 30, 2004, and was quite impressed with its capabilities.

Since its inception, Infinity House has been able to offer practical hands-on experience to four practicum students who are interested in the field of human resources. We also have provided work experience in the area of office administration to participants of the Western Region Métis Women's Association's Youth Skills Program. We encourage and support Aboriginal students who are interested in obtaining work experience in our areas of service. Any students who wish to do a practicum with our organization may contact us directly. Of course, criminal record checks are a must.

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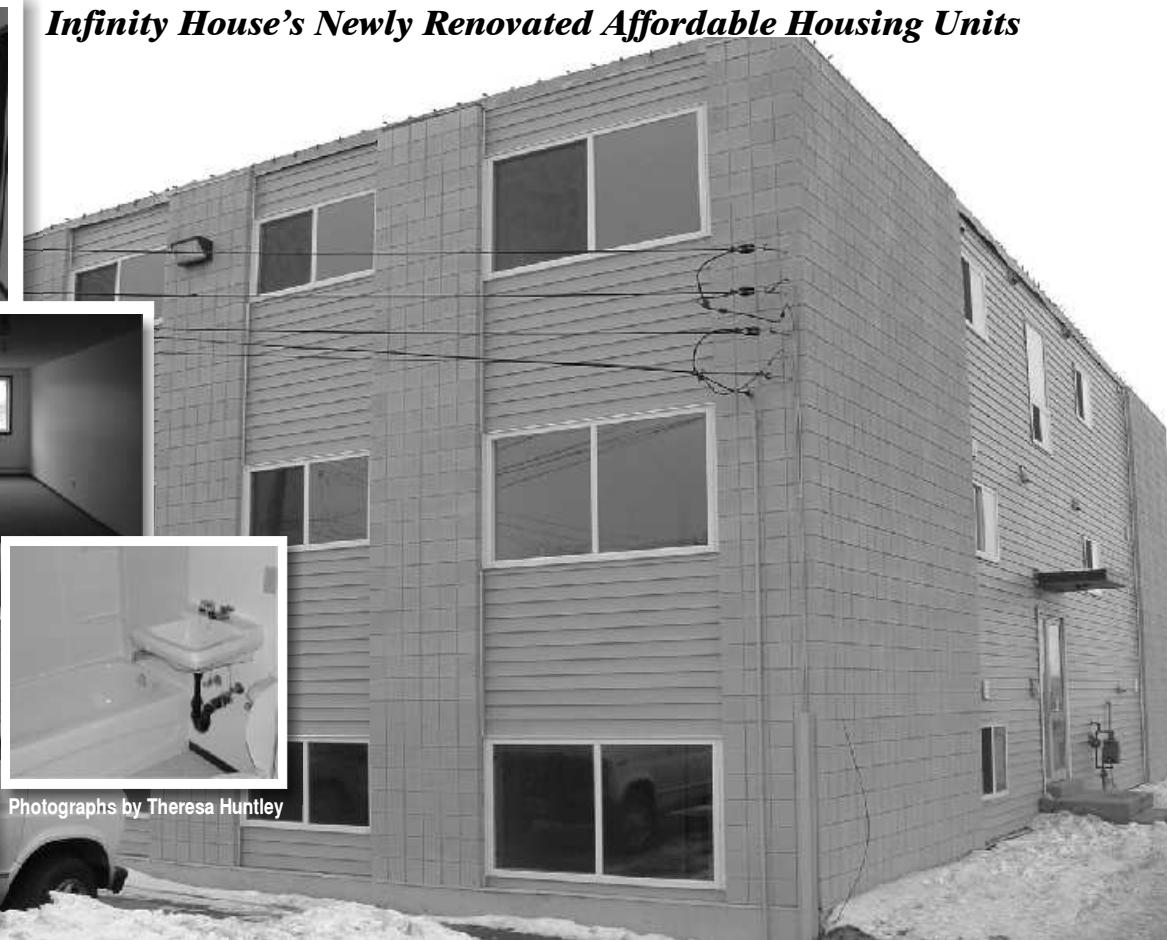


Arlene Wiks, CIBC and Bob McLeod, President of CUMFI

Infinity House's Newly Renovated Affordable Housing Units



Photographs by Theresa Huntley



Press Release on Métis Family and Community Justice Services' Submission to Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform

Article by Chad Berg

On February 9, 2004, Alex Maurice, vice-president of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan released the Métis Family and Community Justice Services (MFCJS), submission to the Commission on First Nations and Métis peoples and Justice Reform. The report comes directly

from the Métis people of Saskatchewan and gives a voice to all who have been greatly effected by the current imbalance in the Saskatchewan justice system.

The following is an excerpt from a press conference given by Maurice on February 9th, 2004:

The Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform is mandated to respond to justice-related issues of Métis and First Nations, with the purpose of creating an open and honest dialogue with Métis residents about their experiences with the justice systems. I say "systems" because in most instances, both the Federal and Provincial justice systems are in play regarding policing and incarceration... Included in this report are 1512 recommendations, geared towards but not limited to, justice system reform.

The purpose of this report is to provide the Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform, with the Métis perspective on justice related issues within Saskatchewan. As well as developing a number of short and long-term recommendations that will: reduce levels of Métis offending, reduce levels of Métis victimization, reduce levels of Métis recidivism and improve the safety of Métis communities in Saskatchewan. Another important goal of the commission is to identify an implementation vehicle, to ensure that recommendations put forward by the Justice Reform Commission will be implemented. The implementation vehicle recommended to the Commission has been strongly endorsed by the Métis community.

We have submitted this report to the Justice Reform Commission and various provincial and federal government departments, but we are submitting this to the public at large... the Métis... will use this document to develop policy while assisting the provincial and federal justice systems in providing fairness and respect for the Métis in Saskatchewan. The Métis have their own distinct society as clearly recognized by the Supreme Court of Canada. This is a document for positive change.

While this report primarily focuses on justice, there are many other issues addressed in this report. Many issues addressed in this report do focus on justice as well as social issues and we believe they are inter-related. These issues are greatly effecting Métis communities throughout Saskatchewan. These issues are: racism, poverty, historical discrimination, youth, courts and policing, to name a few. This document gives a voice to all Métis who have experienced bias and discrimination by the justice systems of Canada.

This report will clearly show that we will no longer be satisfied with the status quo. We believe the government acknowledges that the status quo is no longer acceptable. Racism and all its negative consequences is no longer acceptable nor is denying the Métis real and afforded rights reaffirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada in its September ruling on Powley. We look forward to working with the governments of Saskatchewan and Canada on a nation to nation basis, to better implement preventative, cost effective and constructive justice programs that will make Saskatchewan a healthier and safer community for all its citizens.

The recommendations outlined in this report provide all responsible parties with workable solutions to improve and strengthen our justice system and give the Métis a voice and a renewed sense of confidence, faith and trust in the province of Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan's Métis want to participate in the renewal of the justice system. It is imperative that they be allowed to become full and equal

partners within it now and into the future. Many in the Métis community hope that the MFCJS report will act as a catalyst for real change, and not collect dust. Aboriginal people can no longer accept the status quo, because this not only destroys the spirit of Métis and First Nations, it destroys the general social foundations of this province.



A Re-Engaged Métis Nation Multilateral Process A New Journey Begins

*Article by Kathy Hodgson-Smith and Jason Madden
photographs courtesy Kathy Hodgson-Smith*

As a result of a series of positive legal and political developments for the Métis Nation in the last year, the Métis National Council and its governing members have now embarked on a new journey with the governments of Canada, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. This journey begins with the establishment of a Métis Nation Multilateral Process where, for the first time in over a decade, Métis governments, Canada, and the provinces, from Ontario westward, are sitting down at one table together - to discuss and address Métis rights.

Although the process is in its infancy and only time will speak to its effectiveness, Métis leaders are optimistic that this new process will bear positive results for the Métis Nation's rights-based agenda. "While I am confident that, in the short and long term, the multilateral process will be extremely productive, the implicit recognition of the historic Métis Nation and its national and regional governments alone in the new process is an important step for our nation," stated Clément Chartier, President of the Métis National Council.

While this specific multilateral process is new, these types of forums are not new for the Métis Nation. Multilateral processes have historically proven to be extremely effective vehicles for the Métis Nation to collectively move forward its rights-based agenda. For example, the benchmark *Métis Nation Accord*, as a part of the defeated *Charlottetown Accord*, was a product of multilateral negotiations during the 1992 constitutional round. Unfortunately, for the Métis Nation, since 1994, both Canada and provincial

governments from British Columbia to Ontario have refused to engage in these types of forums, resulting in many of the pressing rights-based issues of the Métis Nation falling to the courts to decide or into a political vacuum due to jurisdictional bickering between the provinces and Canada on Métis issues.

In an attempt to overcome this void, in August of 2003, the Honourable Ralph Goodale, then Federal Interlocutor for the Métis, and then Interim President of the Métis National Council, Audrey Poitras, agreed to a re-engaged multilateral process as a "next step", which emerged from a series of exploratory discussions held between Canada and the Métis National Council.

At that time, the multilateral forum was envisioned to focus on broader socio-economic issues (i.e. housing, education, etc.) and rights issues. However, in light of the pending Métis harvesting rights cases before the Supreme Court of Canada (*R. v. Powley* and *R. v. Blais*), the Métis National Council's Board of Governors decided to place Métis harvesting and access to resources issues first on the agenda in order to avoid misunderstandings, confusion and conflicts following the release of these historic decisions.

As a result of this direction, then Interim Métis National Council President, Audrey Poitras, wrote to Canada and the four Western provinces and Ontario on September 12, 2003, in order to engage a multilateral process in order to prepare for the decisions in *Powley* and *Blais*. Unexpectedly, 7 days later, both the *Powley* and *Blais* decisions were released by

the Supreme Court of Canada.

Seeing the benefit this type of process could produce, the Honourable Pearl Calahsen, the Alberta Minister for Aboriginal Affairs responded positively to the Métis Nation's proposal, on behalf of her province, and offered to act as a co-chair in order to move things forward from the provincial side. Subsequent to Minister Calahasen's letter, and a letter from Minister Goodale confirming Canada's support and willingness to participate as a co-chair, the provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia signed on as well.

Since the release of the *Powley* decision on September 19th, 2003, the Métis National Council, Canada and Alberta have been acting, as cooperative co-chairs, in order to pull the multilateral process together. In order to properly prepare for a Ministers' and Métis Leaders' meeting in the relatively near future, Métis, federal and provincials officials

have been meeting in order to elaborate on the issues and develop a focussed agenda.

The first officials-level multilateral meeting was held February 5th, 2004 in Winnipeg. The Province of Manitoba and the Manitoba Métis Federation acted as hosts to the over 45 representatives from Ontario westward attending. At the first meeting, Canada acted as the administrative chair represented by Allan MacDonald from the Privy Council Office.

Jason Madden, legal counsel for the Métis National Council, led the Métis Nation's caucus, supported by Rick Salter and Kathy Hodgson-Smith. The Métis Nation caucus included two representatives from each of the Governing Members (Métis Nation of Ontario represented by Jean Teillet and Jennifer St. Germain; Manitoba Métis Federation represented by Al Benoit and Dan Benoit; Métis Nation - Saskatchewan represented by Art Durocher and Dwayne



Métis Nation Caucus on the Multilateral Forum

Back Row: Cynthia Bertolin, MNA; Dave Kennedy, MPCBC; Jean Teillet, MNO; Arthur Durocher, MN-S;

Jason Madden, MNC; Rick Salter, MNC; Dan Benoit, MMF; Kathy Hodgson-Smith, MNC;

*Front Row: Jennifer St. Germain, MNO; Senator Ed Head, MMF; Al Benoit, MMF; Cynthia Kolada, MPCBC
and Dwayne Roth, MN-S*

Roth; Métis Nation of Alberta represented by Cindy Bertolin and Irene Collins; and the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia represented by Dave Kennedy and Cynthia Kolada.)

This initial meeting focussed specifically on Métis harvesting issues, providing an opportunity for all three levels of government (Métis, provincial and federal) to state their interests, objectives and mandates, which while limited due to only officials being in attendance, provided ample room for first steps and important collaborative discussions.

In addition, each Governing Member provided regional updates on the harvesting-related activities that they had been undertaking for years in order to prepare for an eventual Supreme Court of Canada case affirming Métis harvesting protected by Section 35 of *The Constitution Act, 1982*. As well, the Governing Members, along with the Métis National Council, highlighted the extensive work that has been undertaken post-*Powley* in order to assist and inform Métis harvesters. For example, as in the case of the Manitoba Métis Federation, representatives highlighted the work of the Harvesting Commission and the recent Métis Elders conference on harvesting. The Métis Provincial Council of

British Columbia and the Métis Nation of Alberta discussed their regional and local meetings. The Métis Nation of Ontario and Métis Nation - Saskatchewan also shared their Métis-specific harvesting policies and legislation.

Also, at the February 5th meeting, officials began to scope out a focussed agenda for the Ministers and Métis Leaders meeting that is anticipated to be held before the end of March. Specifically, the agenda items of a Métis Nation Registry (i.e. Identifying Métis Harvesters); Working Agreements (i.e. Interim Measures); Collaborative Research (i.e. Identifying Traditional Métis Harvesting Territories) and Developing an On-Going Agenda were proposed by the Métis National Council. In order to finalize this proposed agenda, officials are expected to meet once more in Western Canada in early March.

Regular updates on the multilateral process will be made available through your respective Governing Member. Also check out the Métis National Council's website at www.metisnation.ca for on-going progress reports.

And a new journey begins ...



Napoleon LaFontaine Scholarship Program

The Napoleon LaFontaine Scholarship Program was established to encourage the Métis from Saskatchewan to pursue post-secondary educational training in fields related to Aboriginal peoples.

Napoleon LaFontaine was instrumental in organizing the Metis Nation - Saskatchewan (formerly the "Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan"). Over the years, he devoted himself to developing social and educational policy for Aboriginal people. These scholarships are so named in recognition of his many contributions.

There are six types of scholarships: entrance, undergraduate, graduation, graduate, loan remission and special.

For additional information including eligibility, academic criteria and application forms, please visit our website at www.gdins.org or contact:

The Napoleon LaFontaine Scholarship Program
c/o Gabriel Dumont Institute
Room 210, College West
University of Regina
3737 Wascana Parkway
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S OA2
(306) 347-4100

Applications must be submitted
prior to the
May 1st and October 1st deadlines.



Métis Nation Rights & Self-Government Conference

From March 11-13, 2004, Métis from across Canada gathered in Edmonton for the *Métis Nation Rights and Self-Government Conference*. The conference consisted of discussions on the Métis Nation's identity, governance structures and institutions, lands, rights, self-government agenda, as well as thoughts and priorities for the future. There were also workshop sessions that dealt with such topics as Métis genealogical research, the preservation of the Michif language, and understanding the Métis Nation in an international context. On the evening of Saturday, March 12, the Métis National Council Youth Role Model Awards and Métis Recognition Awards were held, and were enjoyed by all.

There were many reasons why this conference was held. One of the purposes, according to one of the organizers, Kathy Hodgson-Smith, of the Métis National Council, was to provide an opportunity for Métis community people to participate in learning and decision-making as it relates to self-government. As well, it was also an opportunity to bring together scholars and legal people to serve the Métis Nation, particularly in sharing research, litigation experience and in building partnerships with the larger community. Métis National Council President

Article and photographs by David Morin

Clément Chartier believed that this conference further instilled a desire among the Métis for enhanced self-government and the continued necessity for a rights-based movement. Furthermore, he said that the conference provided the Métis Nation's leadership with the opportunity to learn and share with community people. Finally, he felt that this conference came at an opportune time in light of the Supreme Court of Canada decision in *R. v. Powley*.

Lorna Docken, President of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, hoped that this conference would reinvigorate the Métis rights and self-government agenda. Kathy Hodgson-Smith saw this conference as a chance for renewed faith in our ability to govern ourselves, reaffirm our rights as a people and that the Métis' faith in their governing structures and institutions should be based on accurate information and not upon rumours.

One problem with conferences is that there is never enough time to cover all of the issues of importance. Even if this conference would have been extended to thirty days, Kathy Hodgson-Smith believed that there would not have been enough time for a full discussion, which would provide everybody with an opportunity to have their voice heard. Nevertheless, this conference covered a broad range of



The Métis Rights and Self-Government Conference

issues in order to get a great deal of information to the people, rather than focussing only on legal issues. One thing that could have been analysed at greater depth was jurisdiction, that is which level of government has responsibility for the Métis, and how *The Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, especially Section 15, has and will continue to impact upon Métis identity and the move to further self-government.

The conference was highly successful. Everyone who attended was happy with the way it concluded. There was much passion, participation and commitment shown throughout the three-day event. Many new ideas were shared and many fresh views were heard.

Below: Derek Morin mans the Gabriel Dumont Institute booth at the conference

Bottom: Métis National Council President Clément Chartier



Aboriginal Tourism Association of Saskatchewan

The Aboriginal Tourism Association of Saskatchewan Inc. (ATASI) is seeking the services of a manager to assist a Board of Directors in the development of the aboriginal tourism industry in Saskatchewan. The operations of ATASI are supported by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority and Tourism Saskatchewan.

The duties of the successful candidate will include:

- Managing the affairs of the organization.
- Assisting First Nation, Métis, Dene and tourism stakeholders in
 - the development and support of flagship products,
 - the development of distinctive value-added tourism products,
 - the identification and communication of the requirements for products to become market-ready.
- researching and communicating program information relevant to the development of Aboriginal tourism products.
- Developing a sound understanding of the tourism development and marketing processes, and providing direction to those developing Aboriginal tourism products.
- Participation at appropriate networking and marketing forums where ATASI and/or their stakeholders require representation.

The successful candidate will have proven experience in the tourism sector and have good communications skills. Salary is negotiable and will be contingent upon experience. This position will be located in Saskatoon.

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Federal Interlocutor Makes It Through the Storm

T

ough the weather was record breaking cold, on Friday January 30th, 2004, the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research (GDI) enjoyed a visit from the Honourable Denis Coderre, the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians. As stated on his ministerial homepage (<http://www.pco-bcp.gc.ca/interloc>), Minister Coderre has served on many parliamentary committees before becoming the Federal Interlocutor. His role is to act as an advocate within the Federal Government for the Métis and Non-Status Indians.

Minister Coderre had a very full schedule for his three-day visit to Manitoba and Saskatchewan. On Wednesday, January 28, he visited the Manitoba Métis Federation, Métis Child and Family Services Inc., and had a tour of St. Malo. Minister Coderre travelled and toured Saskatchewan on January 29 and 30. Included in his itinerary were visits to Ile-

a-la Crosse, Sara Riel's grave, White Buffalo Youth Lodge, Infinity House, GDI and the Dumont Technical Institute, where he spoke at a press conference. Though Minister Coderre's visit was tightly scheduled, he had time to enjoy some traditional meals and experience Métis culture.

During Minister Coderre's visit to the GDI, he was presented a copy of the *Expressing Our Heritage: Métis Artistic Designs Study Prints and Resource Manual*, which was awarded two Saskatchewan Book Awards this past year.

During the press conference, the Minister discussed his visit to Manitoba and Saskatchewan and what he is planning for the near future. He stated that he is honoured to be the Interlocutor for the Métis and Non-Status Indians and that he really enjoyed his short visit to Manitoba and Saskatchewan. He also said that he gained a good feel for



Left: Lorna Docken - President Métis Nation - Saskatchewan presenting Minister Denis Coderre with a Métis Sash after a Press Conference



Right: GDI Publishing Coordinator Kurtis Hamel and Minister Denis Coderre

what is happening in the Métis community. Minister Coderre plans to take the issues that were expressed on his recent trip and present them back in Ottawa to see if any solutions can be reached. Once this is done, the Minister has promised to come back to Saskatchewan to update the Métis on what has transpired. The Minister stated that he loved the Elder's sense for the future and that everyone needs to work together to ensure a safe living environment for the Métis, and enhanced quality of life for youth.

Upon the conclusion of the press conference, Lorna Docken, the newly appointed President of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, presented Minister Coderre with a Métis Sash. Clément Chartier, President of the Métis National Council, also presented Minister Coderre with some photos that were taken during his visit to Ile-a-la Crosse.

Minister Coderre has been long involved and interested in Métis issues. In the mid-1990s, he was responsible for putting forward a private members bid to exonerate Louis Riel. Through this and his visit to Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Minister Coderre has demonstrated that he is committed to addressing Métis issues.



Clément Chartier, President of the Métis National Council presents Minister Denis Coderre, with photographs from his trip to Ile-a-la Crosse



Dale McAuley (left) travelled through a storm from Cumberland House in order to attend the meeting with Minister Denis Coderre (right) and MNC President Clément Chartier (middle)

