

New Breed

MAGAZINE



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With the Dab of a Brush

The plants within my paintings have become metaphors to parallel our own lives. The roots show that all life needs nurturing from the earth to survive, and represent the idea that there is more to life than what is seen on the surface. It also is to represent the great influence our heritage has over our lives. The lines, which connect the plants, symbolize our own interconnectedness with each other and all living things within creation. The flowers and leaves reach upwards as we seek out our individual spirituality and look to our uncertain future.

- Christi Belcourt

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Article and photograph by Jesse Gardiner

he image that appears on the front cover of this issue of *New Breed Magazine* is a painting entitled "Medicines to Help Us," by Christi Belcourt. The painting focuses on the present rather than the past by depicting, abstractly of course, the present-day obstacles that the Métis face. By dipping the tip of a brush in paint and then quickly dabbing it on canvas, Christi is able to create the illusion of traditional flower beadwork. This technique, mixed with her landscape painting, creates a masterful design painted on a black background. Christi says, "I use dots that resemble traditional floral beadwork in my art to infer a sense of history and to celebrate the beauty within Métis culture. I use beadwork to make the statement that Métis culture is not fossilized but alive and evolving. I use beadwork as a tribute to my ancestors."

There is a very wide range of flowers, herbs and roots that are used in this painting. There are twenty-seven, to be exact. In alphabetical order, these medicinal plants are:

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Bitterroot | Maple | Stinging Nettle |
| Blueberry | Milkweed | Strawberry |
| Blue Flag | Pennycress | Tansy |
| Burdock | Pipsissewa | Wild Blue Flax |
| Evening Star | Plantain | Wild Ginseng |
| Fireweed | Poppy | Wild Onion |
| Fritillaries | Saskatoon Berry | Wild Rose |
| Horsetail | Sarsaparilla | Willow |
| Labrador Tea | Solomon's Seal | Yarrow |



"Medicines to Help Us" was painted symmetrically and in the most intricate detail. Created in 2003, Christi describes her painting as a manifestation of her prayers for all things in life to be in balance and in harmony. In her painting, she includes plants throughout the different stages of their lifecycles, which signifies their shortness and the inevitability of change. Christi's explanation for this work is that it is, "...a painting for the Métis Nation. Each plant depicted is a type of wild plant that can be found in one or all provinces from Ontario to British Columbia. Some of the plants are indigenous to North America...and some are introduced species from Europe, but also have been used by Indigenous people for medicines...the medicines and plants in this painting are my prayers for the Métis Nation to encourage our healing..."

"Medicines to Help Us" can be viewed at the Gabriel Dumont Institute (#2 - 604 22nd Street West) in Saskatoon during regular office hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00am - 4:30 pm).

Biography

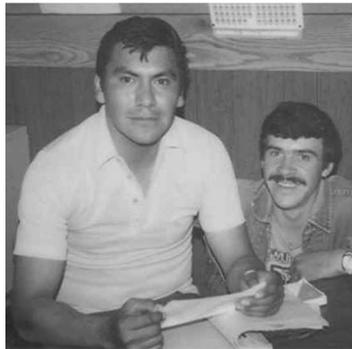
Clarence Campeau: Métis Leader

(b. August 26th, 1947 d. July 16th, 1997)

Article by Jesse Gardiner; photographs courtesy Elaine Denham

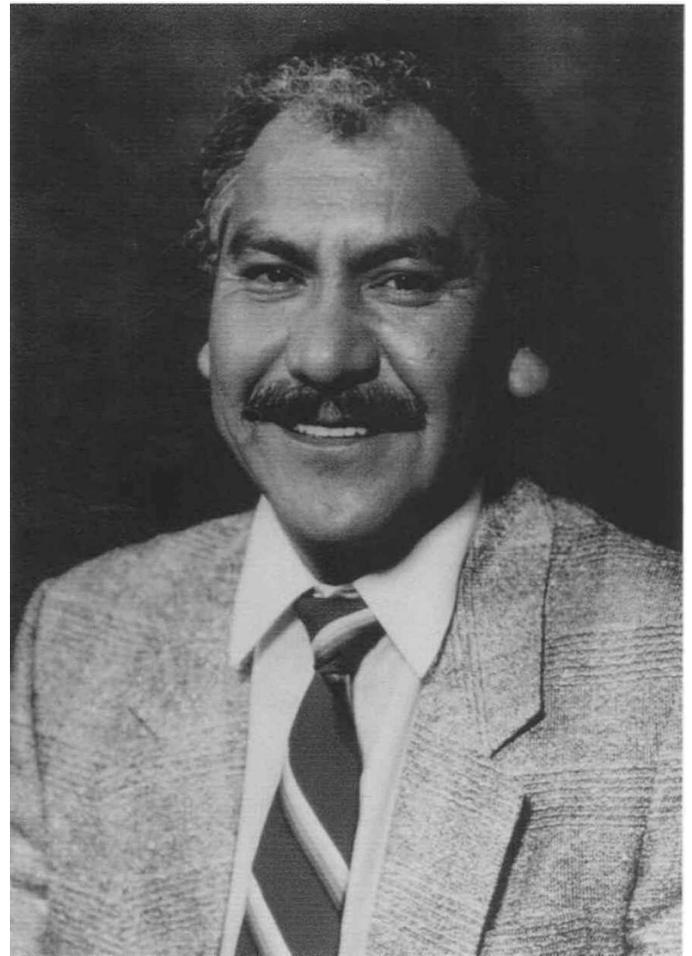
On August 26, 1947, Clarence Campeau was born into a family of eleven in Rose Valley, Saskatchewan. His First Nations mother, Josephine, was from the Muskowekwan First Nation, which is near Lestock, Saskatchewan, and his Métis father, Henry, from the Algrove, Saskatchewan region. Clarence's large family had lived along a road allowance near Algrove. Like many other Métis road allowance families, they encountered poverty and discrimination. One event that happened to the Campeaus', while Clarence was quite young, demonstrated the difficult social climate facing many Métis in the 1940s and 50s. Under the guise of rehabilitating Métis families, the provincial government, in the early 1950s, began to break-up road allowance communities and forced their Métis residents onto Métis Farms. The Campeau family were rounded-up and put on a boxcar bound for the Green Lake Métis Farm. Undeterred, the family left Green Lake the moment they arrived, traveling throughout the night before returning to their home in Algrove. No doubt, Clarence Campeau's spirit of resistance and desire for social justice for the Métis people were sparked by this event.

In 1965, when Clarence was eighteen, he quit drinking and began to turn his life around. A few years later, he met Napoleon LaFontaine, who was



Clarence Campeau, the youngest Métis Area Director in Saskatchewan, 1976.

a great inspiration, encouraging him to become involved with the Métis Society of Saskatchewan. Around 1968, Napoleon LaFontaine found Clarence a job as a Métis addictions worker. In 1973, only five years later, Clarence became the youngest Area



Director of Eastern Region II, a position that he held for twenty-four years. During his tenure as Area Director, he saw the provincial Métis organization change its name from the Métis Society of Saskatchewan to the Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan, back again to the Métis Society of Saskatchewan, and finally to the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan.

As an Area Director, he had a vision not only for his region but for the Métis people as a whole. Colleen Hamilton, one of Clarence's former employees, said in an interview, "He never judged a person. He knew that everyone had challenges in their lives and always gave people a chance to live

up to their potential. He made me proud of who I am as a Métis person." Clarence instilled a great sense of identity and pride in her, just as Napoleon Lafontaine had done for him.

Clarence had two life partners. The first was his common-law partner Barb Dudar with whom he had three children: two boys, Cory and Mike, and one girl, Dusty. Clarence loved his children very much and was troubled because he was not able to raise them, as they lived with Barb in Tisdale. The second, Elaine Denham, he met at a Métis community event. Elaine and Clarence never had any children of their own; however, he treated Elaine's children as his own. They were married until his death in 1997 from a heart condition.

Clarence loved fishing. He passed many hours on Barrier Lake, just minutes from his home. Sitting in an aluminum boat with his grandson, he taught the boy how to hook the pickerel that hovered along the lake bottom. He often brought other youth along to go fishing and taught them the same technique. Along with fishing, Clarence loved other outdoor activities including hunting, sledding, and berry picking. Auctions were also a great hobby, especially if it allowed him to buy cars. Being a great negotiator, he was always ready to make a deal with someone.

Clarence was a very strong leader who believed that the Métis, from their very beginnings, were great business people. His vision was built upon what he believed were the inherent strengths of grassroots people. For instance, he always sought the opinions of community people living in his region in order to get a better understanding of how they saw the future. Because of this dedication



Clarence and Elaine.

to his people, he was, and still is, well-respected across the province. He was asked why he did not run for the Provincial Executive. In response, he stated that he loved to work for the people in his region in order to provide them with services and therefore, didn't harbour any greater aspirations.

Clarence was a great negotiator, and often dealt with many government officials. While working at the Gabriel Dumont Institute, Clarence became friends with his boss Donavon Young. Mr. Young was the Institute's Director of Research and Policy. For fifteen years, they were very close friends. He remembers Clarence as "a true leader that always put his community's interests before his own. He always struck me as a real gentleman who was always looking to help people. He was a very generous and warm person." Shortly after Clarence's death, Mr. Young was negotiating, on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, with the Métis Society of Saskatchewan Inc. to create a Métis economic development foundation. He suggested to the Métis Society that the name of the foundation should be changed from the Métis



Left: Clarence with his daughter, Dusty; Middle: Clarence and his son, Cory, 1992; and Right: Clarence and his step-daughter Becky at her graduation from SUNTEP, 1993.

Development Fund to the Clarence Campeau Development Fund as "...a small token of appreciation for his (Clarence's) hard work and leadership." Honouring Clarence's legacy by naming a Métis economic development corporation after him seems fitting given his life-long efforts to improve the Métis' economic, social

and political development.

Clarence Campeau made a large impact upon the lives of Saskatchewan's Métis. Although he is no longer with us, all those who knew him will always fondly remember him, for he was one of those rare individuals that brought out the best in people. His legacy will continue to benefit

The Clarence Campeau Development Fund



Serving Saskatchewan's Metis

The Métis Society of Saskatchewan Inc., subject to an agreement with the Government of Saskatchewan, formed the *Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF)* in June 1997. In September 2001, an amendment to *The Gaming Act* recognized the *CCDF* in legislation and a new agreement between the province and the Métis Nation Saskatchewan Secretariat Inc. was executed in December 2002. The *CCDF* stimulates economic development activities for Métis individuals and communities by providing equity for businesses, support for community economic development initiatives and assistance for the development of managerial skills for new and existing business owners and entrepreneurs.

For further information contact the *CCDF* directly at 1-888-657-4890 or at c.c.d.f@sasktel.net.

Flashback

Claude Petit

Article by Warren Dudar

It is always important to remember what has happened in the past and in particular, to honour those who contributed to our present. Such reflection not only pays tribute to the sacrifices of previous generations, it also provides us with a keener sense of who we are as individuals and as a community. For people my age, it is really interesting to imagine how different life was for our ancestors and our Elders, when they too were young. For example, imagine how different a person's life was during a period of war, or imagine how interesting it would be to grow up speaking

Michif. However, researching and then interpreting past events and the past lives of people can really be difficult without the proper tools. Fortunately, we have our Elders and many secondary resources such as old issues of *New Breed* to help us better understand the past. The article below, taken from *New Breed Journal* (November, 1991), discusses Claude Petit's induction into the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame. It is the first in a series of article reprints from previous volumes of *New Breed Magazine*, which will focus on many of the Métis Nation's builders.

Prominent Métis Inducted into Boxing Hall of Fame

September 20, 1991, Mr. Claude Petit was inducted into the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame during a ceremony held at the Saskatoon Army and Navy Club.

Petit joined the army in the early part of the 1950s. During this period in the armed forces boxing was one of the more popular activities to partake in. Petit, being athletically inclined, joined the boxing team. By 1958, he began making a name for himself in the Canadian Army's boxing realm.

The following is a chronology of Petit's achievements:

From 1958 to 1960, Petit won the Alberta Area Championship, the Western Command Champi-

onship and the Canadian Army Championship.

From 1961 to 1963, Petit held the Edmonton Golden Gloves title which he added to the Alberta Area and the Western Command Championships. In 1962, he was runner-up in the Canadian Army and he competed in the Pacific Northwest Meet of Champions in Victoria, B.C. In 1963, Petit regained his Canadian Army Champion title and gained the B.C. Golden Gloves title.

In 1964, Petit won the 4th C.I.B.G. championship in Germany and the British Army on the Rhine Championship. Petit's greatest accomplishment was attained in 1964, by becoming the first Canadian to win the Army Heavyweight Championship title and in 1965, Petit

retained the 4th C.I.B.G. championship title.

As well as boxing, Petit made quite an impression on the track and field world in the armed forces. In 1958, he won the 1st C.I.B.G. Tug of War Championship and in 1959, 64 and 65, he was the 4th C.I.B.G. Tug of War Champion respectively. In 1963, Petit won the 1st C.I.B.G. Shot Put Championship. In 1964 and 65, he claimed the 4th C.I.B.G. Shot Put Championships for both the German and Canadian Army. In 1964, he set a new record and in 1965, he broke his previous record and set a new one.

Following his success at the Tri-Service Boxing Championship, Petit attained his Level 5 Coaching Certificate and began coaching boxing in Germany.

The boxing program was cut by the Army shortly after he began.

After his retirement in 1965, Petit devoted his time and energies towards promoting boxing among the Native and non-Native youth, and generally across Canada.

Petit's coaching achievements are as numerous as his boxing achievements. He organized the following boxing clubs: In the early 1970's he started the Saskatoon Indian & Metis Friendship Centre Boxing Club which his brother, Norris Petit is currently managing. He organized the Beardy's Duck Lake Boxing Club in the 1980s and two years later the St. Michael's Boxing Club was founded under his guidance.

Currently, Claude is the President of the Saskatchewan Amateur Boxing Association and a member of the National Boxing Board where he represents Saskatchewan.

Petit organizes various tournaments. Two of the more notable ones are the provincials, the Golden Gloves and the Western Canadian Tournament.

Petit is no stranger to the sport of boxing. When he is not coaching or organizing he is officiating. Claude is a Level 4 official. Claude is a Level 4 official at the local and national level.

Claude is presently the Executive Director of the Sask. Native Recreation Corporation. He organizes and implements sporting events of all types and calibers.



Petit has also been inducted in the Canadian Forces Sports Honour Roll in Ottawa on October 10, 1991.

Mr. Claude Petit had the determination and will to succeed at what he had set his mind to. He is one of the few Metis people to not only make it in a non-Aboriginal institution but to be honoured by it. He is a role model for us all. Congratulations Claude, on a job well done.

Editor's Note:

Since this article was written, Claude Petit was awarded the Order of Canada (1993), served as president of the National Aboriginal Veterans Association and was the driving force behind the Aboriginal Veteran's monument in Ottawa. See Ned Powers, "Battlefield inspires a lifetime of service", *Saskatoon Star Phoenix*, October 29, 2002.

Profile

Ashley Norton: Métis Youth Leader

How did you get to *Back to Batoche 2004*? If I asked you this question, I bet you would reply that you hopped into your automobile and drove to the admission gates. You would then probably ask if there was another way to get to Batoche. Well of course there isn't ... that is unless you are Ashley Norton. For this year's festivities, Ashley Norton, along with a group of Saskatchewan youth and Canadian Union of Public Employees members and staff arrived at Batoche without a vehicle. Instead, the group organized twelve canoes, began their journey in the small town of Hague, 50 km northeast of Saskatoon, and then paddled *à la voyageur* along the South Saskatchewan River's gently meandering path.

On Wednesday the group paddled six hours from the Hague Ferry Crossing to Gabriel Bridge, covering 35 km on their first day. That evening, the canoeists had the honour of camping at Maria Campbell's residence, known as "Gabriel's Crossing" (where Gabriel Dumont lived and operated a ferry service). The next day they continued on with the less strenuous leg of their journey and arrived at Batoche just in time to enjoy the weekend-long celebration.

Ashley Norton was born December 1, 1982 in North Battleford, but grew up in Regina. As a child, her parents took her to Métis Nation of Saskatchewan Local meetings where she eventually became interested in serving her community. However, before she could make her contribution she had to

Article by Warren Dudar, photographs by Jesse Gardiner and photograph courtesy of Ashley Norton



Photograph courtesy Ashley Norton

Ashley Norton was one of a group of canoeists who paddled the South Saskatchewan River from Hague to Batoche in order to attend the *Back to Batoche Days* celebration.

overcome her shyness. Ashley said that in high school she sometimes skipped English class when it was her turn to give a presentation. Fortunately, she overcame her stage fright and learned that she had a knack for talking to and organizing people.

Ashley is very active in serving the needs of Saskatchewan's Métis community and is particularly interested in youth-related issues. She began working with the *Métis Elder Assistance Program* and then moved on to *Youth Voice*, an initiative under the *Regina Youth Justice Forum*, where she is currently a coordinator. Ashley also coordinated a conference called *Youth for Youth*, which focused on Aboriginal youth leadership development. She

explains, "The purpose of the conference is to increase Aboriginal involvement in areas such as politics, justice, social and cultural issues". Ashley also sits on various committees, where she is involved with HIV/AIDS education and gives presentations on *The Youth Criminal Justice Act*. Finally, she is currently lobbying the government to extend the life of a five-year initiative entitled *Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centres*. Designed in conjunction with Aboriginal youth, the program provides urban Aboriginal youth with a wide range of culturally-based programs, services and activities that are locally controlled.

Ashley has received numerous awards for her devoted service to the Métis community and to the province's youth. For example, in 2002, she won the *Sasktel Aboriginal Youth Award of Excellence*, which honours those who inspire, motivate, support and lead others, while demonstrating community-mindedness, respect for culture and language, a positive attitude, and a firm commitment to academic success. Ashley received the award largely for her contributions to the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Friendship Centres movement, in which she currently serves as President of the *Saskatchewan Aboriginal Youth Council*. In addition, Ashley was also awarded the *YWCA Young Women of Distinction Award*, in May 2004, for her dedication to her Métis heritage and for her strong leadership skills, which taken together make her a distinguished role model for all youth.

In the future, Ashley plans to keep working hard and dedicating herself to the youth of Saskatchewan, but would eventually like to become a MLA. She is also interested in organizing an eco-tourism program for youth in northern Saskatchewan. The Gabriel Dumont Institute would like to congratulate Ashley Norton on all of her past accomplishments and also wishes her the best of luck in the future.



Photograph by Jesse Gardiner

Ashley Norton at the 2004 *Youth Wellness Conference* in Ile-a-la Crosse.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees

The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) is one of Canada's largest unions and has been influential in signing partnership agreements with public institutions and governments to promote a more representative workforce. CUPE works with the Aboriginal community in order to promote Aboriginal awareness within the country's public institutions and the general public. It has also organized workers at the First Nations University of Canada and at Indian and Métis Friendship Centres, and has also established an Aboriginal Council in 2001.

Ninth Annual Eastern Region II Cultural Camp

Article and photographs by Jessee Gardiner

For nine consecutive years, the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, Eastern Region II has organized a free cultural camp at Mearan Lake Resort for Métis children. From August 9-13, 2004, children aged 8-12, from across Saskatchewan attended the camp, where they engaged in a variety of fun activities including sports events, canoeing, swimming, hiking, a Treasure Hunt, a Mini-Olympics and cultural events such as jigging. They also attended an Open House and various workshops, sang campfire songs and watched fireworks. The campers stayed in four cabins, which were broken down into age groups. The names of the cabins were Batoche (Blue), Red River (Red), Fort Carlton (Green), and Fish Creek (Yellow). Throughout the

week, the cabins went head-to-head in many different kinds of games, which became very competitive among both the campers and the councillors.

The Treasure Hunt occurred on August 12. To start the game, each group was given a piece of paper, which contained riddles that showed where the clues were hidden. The clues were about each of the councillors and had to be answered correctly. Each team started out with 100 points and for every minute that elapsed they lost 1 point. Teams also lost points for incorrect answers and for complaining. With the fastest time of just under four minutes, the Yellow Team was the first to answer all the riddles. The Blue Team, with a dramatic



The Batoche Team (Blue) - Winners of the Treasure Hunt and the Mini Olympics.

entrance, was the second team to submit their answers at just over five minutes. After a great deal of deliberation, each team was very anxious to hear who had won. Opening the door to the mess hall, the Treasure Hunt official dramatically announced that the Blue Team were the winners. Although the Yellow Team had a faster time, they lost points for a wrong answer. The Blue Team managed to pull off another win and didn't relinquish their chance to gloat. Winning both the Mini-Olympics and the Treasure Hunt made them very happy.

The Open House was also scheduled for August 12. The Open House began at 4:00 PM and included many activities. Saskatchewan Government Insurance had two workshops: one on drinking and driving, which tested the kids on their knowledge of the subject, and another on the various hand signals needed for driving. The Métis Employment and Training of Saskatchewan Inc. also had two dignitaries on hand to attend the Open House. Many of the children's parents came out to spend the day with their children and played some games. The day's finale included horse cart rides, which included Clydesdales and even a miniature pony. Overall, the week was a huge success: the young campers were sent home with fun and exciting memories and made many new friends.



Back to Batoche 2004



Three Days in the Lives of GDI Campers

Article and photographs by Warren Dudar, Jesse Gardiner, and David Morin, photographs also courtesy Kristen McWillie

It is Friday, July 23. The place is *Back to Batoche Days 2004*. My name is Warren and these are my partners, Jesse and David. We work for the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) and are here to report on this year's festivities. We hope you take the time to enjoy the celebration from our perspective as we guide you through three days of celebrations. (Also included are all contest results.)

(Yawwwnnnn)...Good Morning and welcome to our campsite. We set-up our tents back in the trees in order to get some shelter from the wind. It sure is a beautiful morning for our first day at *Back to Batoche Days 2004*. The sun is shining and I

hope it stays this way for the rest of the weekend, but I guess it wouldn't be Batoche if there weren't any bad weather. Enough chatter though, it is time to get to work. Grab your water and your sunflower seeds and follow me.

We should first check out some of today's recreational activities. The petting zoo, one of my personal favourites, has everything from pet goats to ducks and even has small horses that you can ride around a small track. You can even get right into most animal cages if you are feeling adventurous and want a closer inspection. Rumour has it, at this year's petting zoo, some baby puppies were born during the weekend, but I think they were too shy to come out of the trailer to join in the festivities. Next, there is a horseshoe pit that always seems to be full of people playing games. And over here is the play structure where kids can crawl around on tires and play on the swings with their friends. Another fun activity is the guided horse and carriage tour of Batoche. However, I think many of you already know about all of these activities, so let's move on to some of the more unique things that we have the chance to experience.

All of this walking around is making me hungry. Let's go see if we can find some breakfast. There shouldn't be any problem finding food or places to shop at *Back to Batoche 2004*. For food, the various Métis Locals' and privately-owned concession stands sell ice cream, shaved ice, hot chocolate, chilli, perogies and of course the usual burgers, hot dogs and homemade fries. Besides having a variety of food to wet every palate, there are plenty of other items to buy including neat trinkets and glow-in-the dark jewellery (which are located in a toy bus), GDI resources, BC salmon and sashes, Simone McLeod art, clothing and all kinds of jewellery.



Top: Children play in the playground
Bottom: Riding ponies at the petting zoo.



Left: One of many booths at *Back to Batoche Days*. This one features the artwork of Simone McLeod.
Right: The Hatched Throw competition at the *Back to Batoche Days' Voyageur Games*.

In preparation for *Back to Batoche 2005*, GDI is developing a new interactive, multimedia website about the impact of this annual celebration upon Métis identity. In order for this project to come to a successful fruition, much information about Batoche and the history of this celebration needs to be gathered. This is where our co-worker, David Morin, Curriculum Development Officer, comes in handy.

The sun has really heated up this afternoon and of course the wind has showed up right in time for the Voyageur Games. Jessee, my partner, is now going to report on these events. He usually participates in the different events and won the 180 lb flour sack race last year, but this year he has chosen to be a spectator. Here is what he has to say about this year's Voyageur Games.

Interviewing Elders

by David Morin

I arrived in Batoche at around 10:00 am, Friday morning, and I went straight to work. I had interviews lined up all morning to learn about Batoche's history, as well as the festival's evolution. Victor Boyer, Ray Fayant, and Octave Fiddler shared their time and their stories. They told me stories about Louis Riel, Gabriel Dumont, and also about how the celebrants were provided with tents and food rations by the Canadian Forces, when the modern festival was revived in the early 1970s. I also took video footage and pictures of the festival's events, and of people enjoying the weekend. So keep your eyes open for the final product, which is scheduled for release at *Back to Batoche 2005*. You may be in it!

If you have a special Batoche memory and would like to be interviewed for the Batoche interactive website, or if you have any photographs that you would like to donate, please contact me at 306-657-5714 or at dmorin@gdins.org.

Voyageur Games

by Jessee Gardiner

As I walked over to the Métis Voyageur Games, I could feel the excitement in the air. At this year's Batoche celebration, I found out that there would only be three events, unlike last year's five. This year there will be a Strongman Competition, a Hatched Throw, and a Slingshot Contest. The two events that have been left out are the Youth 90 lb Race and the Women's 90 lb Race.

On Friday, July 23, the Hatched Throw and the Slingshot Competitions took place. Then on Saturday, July 24, the Strong Man Competition started at 1:00 pm. It is a relay race that involves carrying two 150 lb rails for 100 metres, then lifting and hauling a telephone post for a distance, and finishes with the lifting of three progressively heavier stones to three different heights. The person with the fastest time to complete these tasks wins first place. This event takes a great deal of strength and stamina to finish. Winners of the Métis Voyageur Games are:

Hatchet Throw

- Adult Male
 1st Jean Landgren
 2nd Derrick Bouvier
 3rd Mike Trottier

Slingshot

- Youth Male
 1st Rafe Almighty Voice
 2nd Blaine Trottier
 3rd Jeremy C?

Hatchet Throw

- Youth Male
 1st Nathan Spyglass
 2nd Jarette Laliberte
 3rd Michael Laliberte

Weight Packing

- Adult Female
 1st Amy C?
 2nd Kim Trochie
 3rd Laurie Water

Slingshot

- Adult Male
 1st A. Maurice
 2nd Jonathan Morin
 3rd Terrance Landry

Weight Packing

- Adult Male
 1st Ron Geisbrecht
 2nd Billy Kennedy

Weight Packing

- Youth Male
 1st Mathieu Kennedy
 2nd Cody Trottier
 3rd Lawrence Morin

Relay

- Adult Female
 1st Ashley Norton
 2nd Christi Strong

Relay

- Adult Male
 1st Jonathan Kennedy

Relay

- Youth Male
 1st Mathieu Kennedy
 2nd Laurence Morin
 3rd Jeremy Gaudet
 3rd Jeremy C?

It is time for a coffee break so we will head back to the GDI display, which is located beside the main stage underneath the grandstands. This is where all the music and dance competitions are held.

Dance Competitions

by Jessee Gardiner

Métis fiddling is at the core of the entertainment in the large dance hall. Whether it is the Fiddling Contest, the Jigging Contest, Open Stage, or the Square Dancing Competitions, the Métis fiddle is always present. Toe-tapping is ever-present as people keep rhythm to the Métis fiddle players' fast-paced tunes. The catchy melody lingers throughout the Batoche grounds for all to hear before dissipating.

Bright and early on Friday, at 10:00 am, there is fiddling and open stage entertainment for all to enjoy. You can hear "The Duck Dance", "The Red River Jig", "Whiskey Before Breakfast", "Big John McNeil", "Drops of Brandy" and many other Métis fiddle tunes as you wander around to the different activities. At around 1:00 pm, the Jigging Competitions begin for Children 12 & Under, Ladies, and Men. The jiggers' age and skill ranges from small children, who have learned their steps from their parents, to adults. Our culture comes alive as I watch the Métis jiggers compete. It is really pleasant to see that there is still a great interest in our culture. Of course, as in all competitions, there are winners in each category. The Jigging Competition has many great performances; however here are the winners in each age group:

Jigging

- Women
 1st Joy Laframboise
 2nd Jennifer Kootenay
 3rd Felice Gladue

Jigging

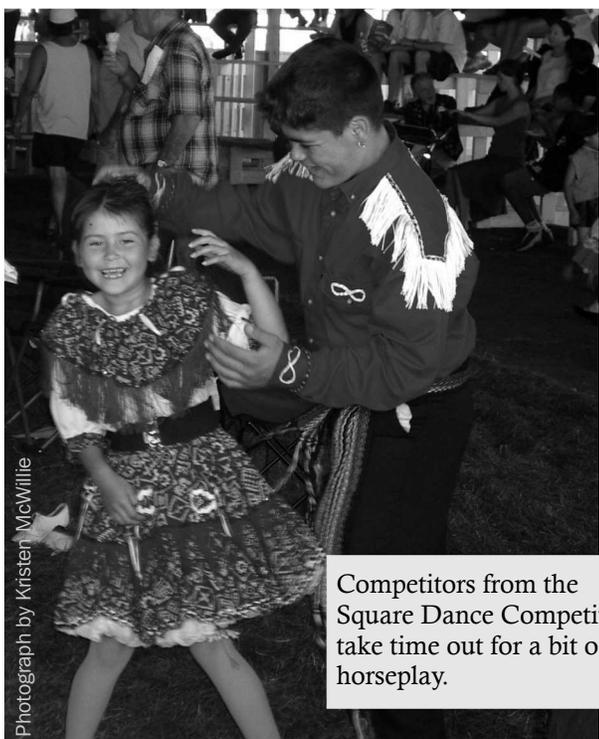
- Men
 1st John Keplin
 2nd John Whitford
 3rd David Garson

Jigging

- Junior
 1st Mary Quin
 2nd Lance Boucher
 3rd Katlin Ray

Jigging

- Open Mix
 1st Melanie Dejarlais
 2nd Blaine Dejarlais
 3rd Megan Morin



Photograph by Kristen McWillie

Competitors from the Square Dance Competitions take time out for a bit of horseplay.

Square Dancing Competitions also take main stage on Friday at 2:30 pm. Dancers from across the Métis Homeland make their way to Batoche to compete. Throughout the weekend, the competitions continue for Novice 12 & Under, Juniors 13-16 and Adult 17 & Over. On Sunday, the following were winners in their respective categories:

Square Dancing

Adult

- 1st Tastaskeweyak Mikisew Dancers - Split Lake, MB
- 2nd Edmonton Dancers - Edmonton, AB

Square Dancing

Intermediate

- 1st Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement Dancers - Buffalo Lake, AB
- 2nd Turtle Mountain Métis - North Dakota, USA
- 3rd Kikino Northern Light Dancers - Kikino, AB

Square Dancing

Junior

- 1st Lefty's Little Steppers - North Dakota, USA
- 2nd Edmonton Cultural Métis Dancers - Edmonton, AB
- 3rd Joey Gladue Memorial Jiggers - Edmonton, AB

Along with the excitement of the Dance Competitions, fiddlers from far and wide compete to win the *Back to Batoche* Fiddling Competition. This year's winners include:

Fiddling

Female

- 1st Cammy Romanuk
- 2nd Sarah Romanuk
- 3rd Sarah Quick

Fiddling

Male

- 1st Ryan Kiplin
- 2nd Henry Gardipy
- 3rd Rene Gervais

Fiddling

Junior

- 1st Chris Villebrun
- 2nd Nathan Baker
- 3rd Dallas Fiddler-Boyer

Other contest results include:

Talent

20+

- 1st Jennifer Waniandy
- 2nd Mervin Morin
- 3rd Leroy Laliberte

Talent

13-19

- 1st Aime Jacknife
- 2nd Marisha Morin

Mr. and Mrs. Batoche

Mr. and Mrs. Parenteau - Batoche, SK



Competitors in the Junior Square Dancing Competition.

Those clouds are getting darker. Upon our arrival at the GDI display, our current supervisor, Cheryl Troupe, has set up an interview with Norman Fleury and Lawrence Barkwell. They are promoting their new book, *La Lawng: Michif Peekishkwewin: The Heritage Language of the Canadian Metis*, a two-volume guide designed for learning and enhancing Michif-language skills. Here is an excerpt from the fifty-minute interview that took place in Brent Dumont's tipi at *Back to Batoche Days 2004*:

Interview: Norman Fleury and Lawrence Barkwell

Norman Fleury: *The Michif language is a language that is very, very old. My mother celebrated her 102nd birthday on the 22nd of June and it was her first language and her parents spoke this language. They were born in 1873 and their parents spoke this language. So, it is a very old language, but it's also been an oral language with a lot of oral tradition. There haven't been any records of documents that were written previous to what we are trying to do now in writing the language. We write the language phonetically by sounds, using the Roman Orthography and it's working. We are talking about things now in terms of standardizing the language, having a common writing system because there are a lot of people who would like to learn the language but it seems we've learned things by writing. I learnt by seeing and by learning it traditionally which was oral. I was born with it. You can't teach a lot of parts of culture. You can't really teach a lot of parts of the language.*



Photograph by Kristen McWillie

Norman Fleury and Lawrence Barkwell, on tour to promote *La Lawng: Michif Peekishkwewin: The Heritage Language of the Canadian Metis*.

You have to live it. You can find some of this stuff but when I speak the language Michif to another Michif-speaking person, I can feel it. It depends on what you are talking about. If something really hits home for you, you can feel it. You can feel the hair going up on the back of your neck. You can really feel the language. The adrenaline flows in your veins when you know it is something that is a part of you.

Warren Dudar: *You were talking about how people just like to ... come out here and sit by the campfire, even though there is music playing (at the grandstands), they just like to listen to the music (from their campsites). What kind of things do you look forward to most coming out to Batoche? What are your favourite activities here?*

Lawrence Barkwell: *Seeing people you haven't seen, perhaps for a year or two or three. There are people here that I haven't seen for two or three years and I think when you are sitting around the fire of course what are the people doing? They are telling stories and you know the old stories start to come out and then the people are remembering even more because one person remembers one and that triggers the memory of another person ... There is something about being*

outside and the other night, on Thursday night the Northern Lights were dancing above us.

Norman Fleury: *It's nature hey. It's a relaxed environment.*

Note: For further information about *La Lawng: Michif Peekishkwewin*, please see the book review by Darren R. Préfontaine in this issue of *New Breed Magazine*.

Well you have just read what it was like to spend a weekend with GDI staff during *Back to Batoche Days*. It is probably good that we are starting to wrap things up because it appears as though a storm is quickly rolling in. From all of us at GDI, we would like to congratulate everyone that helped organize and participate in *Back to Batoche Days 2004*.

As the GDI crew start to pack up their gear to head back to their campsite, suddenly, without warning, there is a blinding flash of light followed by an immediate and almost deafening crashing sound. The music abruptly ends and everyone stops packing to peer shockingly into the sky. Like I said, it wouldn't be Batoche without some kind of bad weather.

La Lawng: Michif Peekishkwewin: The Heritage Language of the Canadian Metis.

Two Volumes. *Volume 1: Language Practice. Volume 2: Language Theory.*

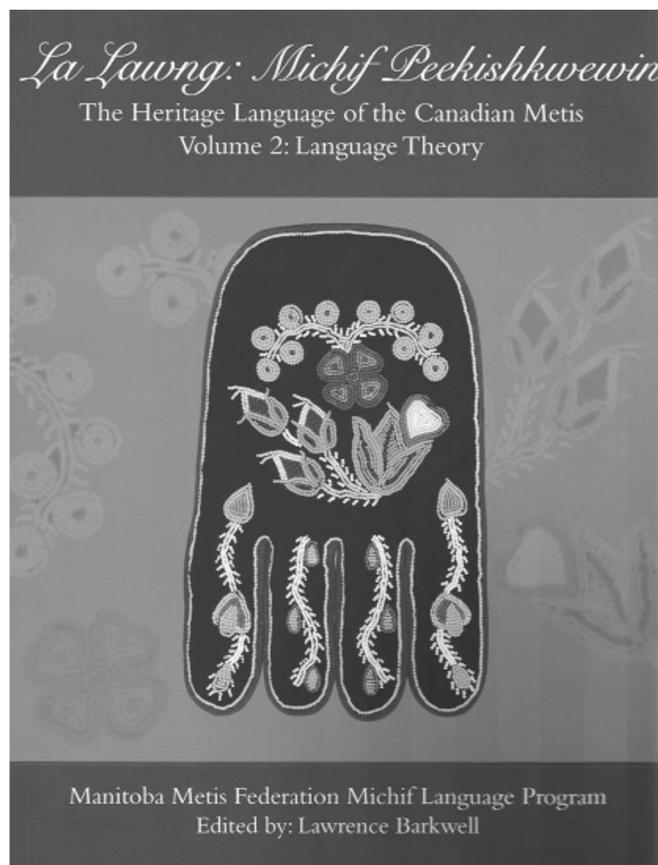
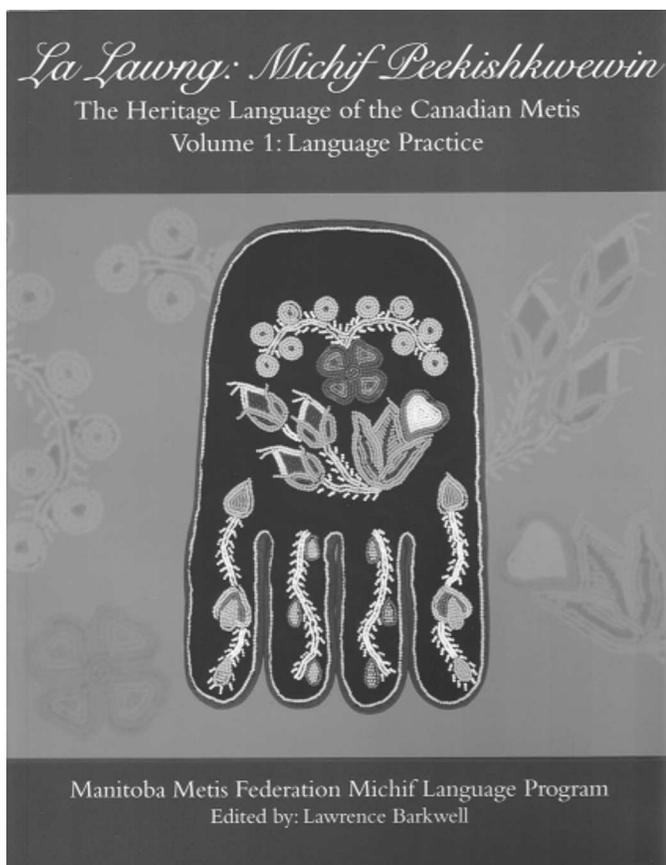
Lawrence Barkwell. Editor. Winnipeg: Pemmican Publications, 2004. Pp. 86 and Pp. 136.

Review by Darren R. Préfontaine

Michif, a hybrid language emphasizing largely Cree (Algonquian) verb phrases and French (Latin) nouns, is perhaps one of the most unique languages in the world. However, outside of academia and the Métis community, little is known about Michif, which is rapidly dissipating from its homeland in Western Canada and the US Plains States. These tomes, the most systematic analysis of Michif by various contributors, provide a useful overview of the language, and its grammar, syntax and phraseology for lay persons. Volume 1 focuses on language lessons by two well-known and very capable Michif teachers: Norman Fleury and Rita Flamand. Volume 2 stresses language theory and has contributions by three linguists:

Peter Bakker, Robert Papen and Nicole Rosen and by ethnomusicologist, Lynn Whidden. Volume 2 also contains a useful annotated bibliography. As a compendium, these two volumes are extremely beneficial for all those interested in learning more about this language or for those that want to enhance their spoken Michif. Easily readable, devoid of academic jargon, and intended for a popular audience, these books are a welcome addition to the growing body of literature on Michif.

To order these books, contact Pemmican Publications at 204-589-6346 or visit their website at www.pemmican.mb.ca.



The 7th Annual ***John Arcand Fiddle Fest***

July and August are very festive months for the Métis Nation. Many Métis community celebrations occur during the summer, which involve a great deal of work and months of planning. John and Vicki Arcand, along with the help of many others, have been extra busy organizing and preparing for the *John Arcand Fiddle Fest*.

Article and photographs by Warren Dudar

Fiddle Fest has become one of the largest outdoor fiddle festivals in Western Canada. This year proved to be no exception as 2,300 attended the weekend-long event, which was held on August 13-15, 2004 at the Windy Acres Vacation Farm, seven kilometres southwest of Saskatoon. On Friday, visitors had the chance to participate in a variety of different workshops, including Métis fiddling, Red River jigging, and guitar and piano playing. After the workshops concluded, the stage opened up for a four-hour concert featuring Daniel Gervais, Junction 40, Jeff Soucy and Friends, Alex Lamoureux, Nikamok and Jess Lee. Most of Saturday was dedicated to fiddle and dance competitions. However, Saturday evening's old-time dance featuring Bannock Country provided a reprieve from competition. The Fiddle Finale took place on Sunday after the Sunday Morning Gospel Hour, and was followed by the trophy and prize money presentations.



Right: Jody Smith was one of the fiddlers competing at the 7th Annual *John Arcand Fiddle Fest*.

Competition Winners

Fiddle Playing

Junior

Ryan D'Aousst, Norway House, MB
Chris Villebrun, Cutknife, SK
Haven Rees, Outlook, SK
Ryan Zuchkan, Foam Lake, SK
Sydney Ellan, Delisle, SK
Shane Kerslake, Saskatoon, SK
Jessy Elian, Delisle, SK

Open One

Jody Smith, Allan, SK
Sarah Romanuck, Saskatoon, SK
Bryn Rees, Outlook, SK
Sarah Quick, South Carolina, USA
Ivanka Watkin, Winnipeg, MB

Senior

Al Procyshyn, Revelstoke, BC
Kaz Rudniski, Rivers, MB
Gilbert Anderson, Edmonton, AB
Donald Pfeifer, Saskatoon, SK
Jack Flett, Pequis, MB

Novice One

Alex Lamoureux, Ottawa, ON
Taresa Bergen, North Battleford, SK
Katie Hannah, Poplar Point, MB

Open Two

Garry Lee, Edmonton, AB
Scott Duffee, Prince Albert, SK
Fay MacKenzie, Cold Water, ON
Michelle Amy, Carlyle, SK

Championship

Karmnel Sawitsky, Saskatoon, SK
Cammi Romanuck, Saskatoon, SK
Rebecca Smith, Whiterock, BC
Daniel Gervais, St. Paul, AB
Dale Amyotte, Davis, SK

Novice Two

Nathan Baker, Prince Albert, SK
Sarah Halls, Saskatoon, SK
Calleigh Renduck, Creston, BC
Celine Honjet, Grandora, SK

Golden Age

Henry Hince, Winnipeg, MB
Victor Rose, Lloydminster, SK
Fred Easton, Kenosee Lake, SK

Traditional Métis

Victor Rose, Lloydminster (AB/SK?)
Daniel Gervais, St. Paul, AB
Chris Villebrun, Cutknife, SK
Al Procyshyn, Revelstoke, BC
Gilbert Anderson, Edmonton, AB



Jigging

Junior

Charmaine Ahpay, Green Lake, SK
Jessica Duffee, Saskatoon, SK
Chantelle Bouvier, Saskatoon, SK
Luc Gauthier, St. Albert, SK
Brandon Baker, Prince Albert, SK

Women

Madeline Thomas, Winnipeg, MB
Yvonne Chartrand, Vancouver, BC
Kathleen Stienhave, Saddle Lake, SK
Natashya Ledoux-Wuttnee, Red Pheasant, SK
Alanna Poochay, Yellow Quill, SK

Men

Henry Hince, Winnipeg, MB
Raymond Shumi, Tisdale, SK
Scott Duffe, Prince Albert, SK

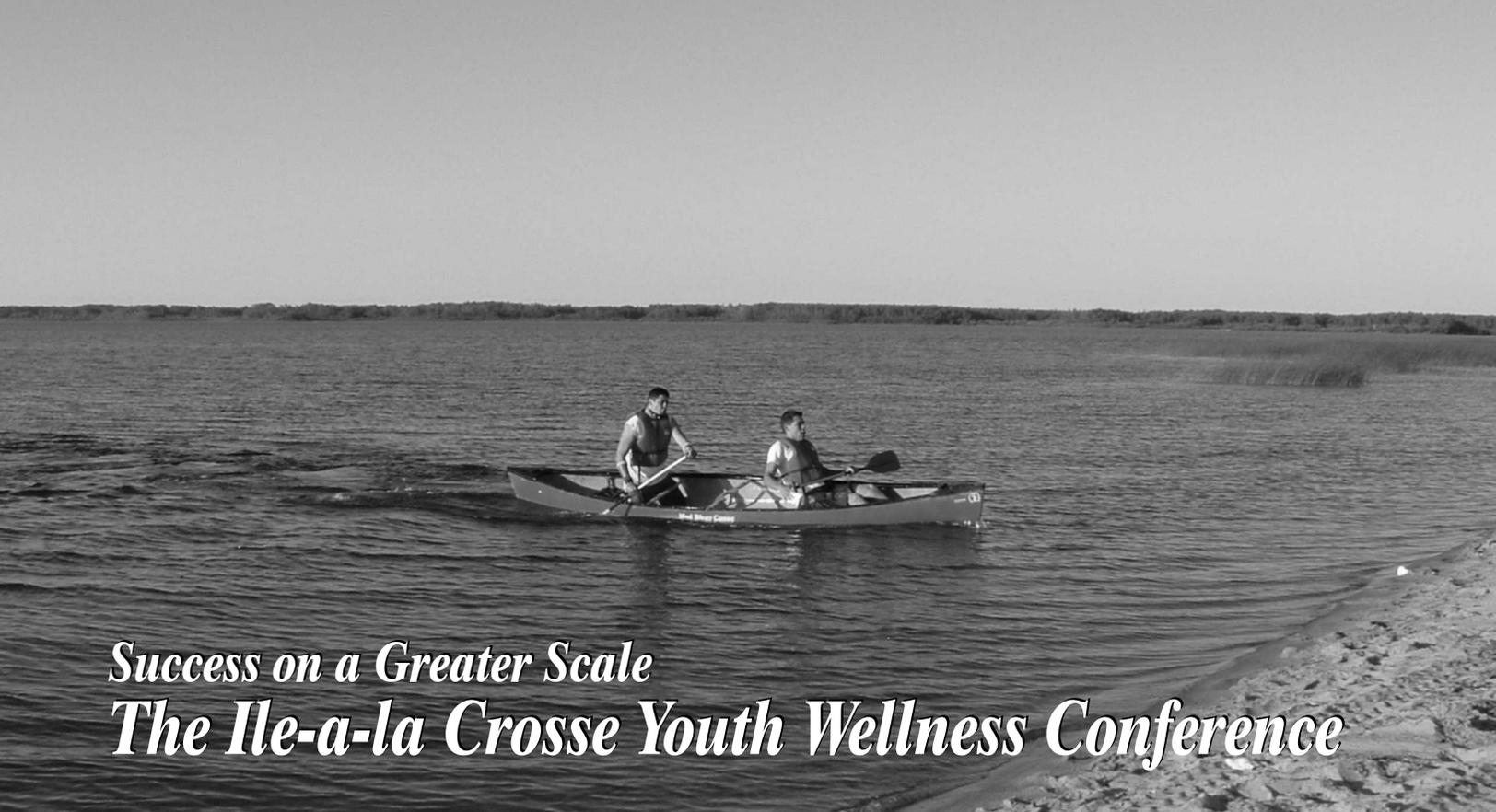
Pairs

Chantel Bouvier, Green Lake, SK
Samantha Bouvier, Green Lake, SK
Charmaine Ahpay, Yellow Quill, SK
Raymond Shumi, Tisdale, SK
Melissa Lee, Edmonton, AB
Jessy Elain, Deslisle, SK

Overall Grand Champion

Madeline Thomas, Winnipeg, MB

Left: A young jigger competes in the Jigging Competition.



Success on a Greater Scale The Ile-a-la Crosse Youth Wellness Conference

Article and photographs by Jesse Gardiner

The Ile-a-la Crosse Youth Wellness Conference was held from August 2-7, 2004. The night before the conference was to start, five rather inquisitive bears decided to visit the campsite, freighting the young campers in the process. However, a conservation officer calmed the situation by placing several bear traps around the campsite's perimeter. With the bears long gone, the conference's opening ceremonies were held on August 2 at 1:00 PM, and included the following dignitaries: the Honourable Buckley Belanger, Minister of Northern Affairs, Government of Saskatchewan, Ralph Kennedy, Provincial Secretary, Métis Nation - Saskatchewan and Ashley Norton, President of the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Youth Council.

Although attendance to this year's conference was down from past years, it still remained a great success. Many different activities, some informative and others entertaining, were planned for this year's conference, including: a performance by a hypnotist, workshops, canoe



Above: Youth enjoy a meal.
Top: Canoeists prepare for the canoe races.

racing, sumo wrestling, drama skits, the "Golden Garbage Can Award" and "South Bay Idol". The "Golden Garbage Can Award" is awarded to the cleanest campsite throughout the week. The winners of this honour were the Ile-a-la Crosse team, which was also known as the "H & R Block". "South Bay Idol" participants came from Jans Bay, Cole Bay, Beauval, and Ile-a-la Crosse. The winner of the 2004 "South Bay Idol" was Ranelle Hansen.

This annual conference has been highly successful since it began in 1994, as an initiative of the Ile-a-la Crosse Friendship Centre. The founding chairperson of the Friendship Centre, Buckley Belanger, and eight other board members recognized that Aboriginal youth were a rapidly growing population. At the time, more than 68% of the population in this northern community was under the age of twenty-nine. Due to many social issues that were plaguing local youth, the conference's founders recognized that prevention awareness was needed to ensure that the region's young people could have healthier and longer lives. The conference's workshops have always focused on health promotion and education, training and career planning, certification courses, promotion of positive lifestyles, recreation and cultural activities, entertainment and sports events.

The *Ile-a-la Crosse Youth Wellness Conference* will continue to raise awareness for many of the social issues facing our northern communities. For more information about the conference, visit its website at: www.yowc.ca.



Top: Sumo wrestling was one of the activities youth enjoyed at the conference.
Middle: Youth enjoy some free time.
Bottom: Participants in one of the many conference workshops.

The Napoleon LaFontaine Scholarship

Article by Warren Dudar, photograph courtesy the Gabriel Dumont Institute Collection

Since 1985, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI)'s *Napoleon LaFontaine Scholarship* program has encouraged Métis and Non-Status Indian applicants to pursue post-secondary studies, while providing them with much-needed financial aid. Available award categories include Entrance, Undergraduate, Loan Remission, Graduation, Graduate, Special, and *SaskEnergy* Scholarships. Applicants for the *Napoleon LaFontaine Scholarship* must:

- ▶ Be Métis or Non-Status Indian.
- ▶ Have resided in Saskatchewan for at least five years.
- ▶ Be enrolled, or about to enrol in a diploma, certificate, or degree program that is at least

eight months of full-time studies.

- ▶ Be enrolled in a public educational institution, or an Aboriginal educational institution in Canada providing a recognized diploma, certificate, or degree program.
- ▶ Achieve a "B" average in the most recent eight-month period of full-time studies, over a period of twelve consecutive months.

The program is awarded twice a year, with application cut-offs occurring in May and October. Eligibility and criteria guidelines, and application forms can be picked up at any GDI office or can be downloaded from the Institute's [w e b s i t e](http://www.gdins.org/GDI/scholarships.shtml) at (www.gdins.org/GDI/scholarships.shtml).



Napoleon LaFontaine (1927-1998).

Recent Napoleon LaFontaine Scholarship Recipients

| ENTRANCE | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Bercier, RONALDA | Dunbar, DELLA | Koeck, TAMMY | Palidwar, KYMBER | Strom, ASHLEY |
| Blondeau, RICHARD | Horan, RACHEL | McAllister, MELANIE | Pelletier, DOUG | |
| UNDERGRADUATE | | | | |
| Acorn, KRISTA | Fiddler, DANIELLE | Henderson, JANELLE | Lamontagne, DAWN | Wendelborg, ASHLEY |
| Bandas, AMANDA | Fiddler, JUDY | Hudon, CHRISTIAN | Neilson, DAVID | Wendelborg, COURTNEY |
| Belanger, LINDSAY | Gale, CRYSTAL | Hudon, RAIGAN | Proulx, REBECCA | West, PAMELA |
| Bouvier, AIMEE | Gordon, SHANNON | Jonasson, JOANN | Sanderson, DARLENE | |
| Dams, ALLISON | Guenther, TRONA | Lamont, RHONDA | Unger, BEIGE | |
| GRADUATION | | | | |
| Choumont, LORI LEE | Fetch, TYSON | Pelletier, CORINNE | Sinoski, KAREN | |
| Dams, ALLISON | Henry, ROBERT | Racette, CALVIN | Snow, CHRISTIE | |
| Dempster, TERI-LYNN | Huntley, THERESA | Rosenkerr, TRINA | | |
| GRADUATE | | | | |
| Pouteaux, PRESTON | Racette, CALVIN | | | |
| LOAN REMISSION | | | | |
| Crooks, NATASHA | Fisher, LUCILLE | Huntley, THERESA | | |
| SPECIAL | | | | |
| Blondeau, RICHARD | West, PAMELA | Fiddler, DANIELLE | Lamontagne, DAWN | |
| SaskEnergy | | | | |
| Lindsay, LINDA | Lindsay, MIRANDA | Palidwar, KYMBER | | |

Napoleon LaFontaine (1927-1998)

Napoleon John LaFontaine, affectionately known as "Nap", spent most of his life working for the Métis Society of Saskatchewan/Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan. Christopher LaFontaine, one of Napoleon's nine children, said that his father believed "that if you didn't have a proper house, you couldn't get a proper education. If you didn't get a proper education, you couldn't get a good job. He modelled his life after this." Adequate housing for the Métis was, therefore, one of his major concerns. As a result, he either built or organized the construction of hundreds of houses and in his earlier years, worked to develop Métis farms in Willow Bunch, Lestock, and Lebret. Napoleon LaFontaine also believed that educational attainment was key to the Métis' future. Thus, in the 1970s, he was a major contributor in the establishment of the Kapachee Training Centre in Fort Qu'Appelle, which later became affiliated with the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI). He was also one of GDI's founders, and according to James Durocher, former President of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, provided the Institute with its name. To properly honour Napoleon LaFontaine's legacy and lifetime of service to the Métis people, GDI therefore created the *Napoleon LaFontaine Scholarship* program.



Article by Bente Huntley

SUNTEP Prince Albert Graduation

“**B**orn to try” was the theme chosen by the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Prince Albert's 2004 graduating class. The graduating class of 26 was one of the largest in the history of SUNTEP Prince Albert. This year saw a new format to the ceremonies. Instead of the formal banquet, program and dance, we tried something different. Prior to the ceremonies, people arranged for their own suppers before going to celebrate with this year's graduating class at the new A.E. Rawlinson Centre in Prince Albert, which can accommodate up to 600 people. Beautiful fiddle music greeted the approximately 400 guests and graduates as they entered the auditorium. Leather dream catchers, made for each graduate by the third-year SUNTEP students, hung at the front and around the auditorium. Twenty-six empty chairs were waiting centre stage against a huge slide backdrop of a Métis painting. As the lights went down, a slideshow entitled “Proud Past Bright Future” began and with its conclusion, the graduating class of 2004 made their way down the aisles to centre stage as the drum group Ironswing played the “Honour Song” followed by the “Victory Song”. The graduates were introduced individually and were given roses, some of which were presented by family members. The audience loved to see the little children make their presentations to their moms or dads.

What graduation would be complete without greetings from the various institutions, which work behind the scenes to ensure our students' success? Representatives from the Gabriel Dumont Institute, the Prince Albert Grand Council, the Government of Saskatchewan, the University of Saskatchewan College of Education, the Sask. Rivers School Division and the SRC all congratulated the students on their accomplishments and wished them well in

the future. The students chose Bill Robertson, their English Professor, as their keynote speaker. As usual, Bill entertained everyone with his wonderful sense of humour and heartfelt words. We were also fortunate to have Adele Gaudet play a piece of music during the program. The other form of entertainment was none other than *SUNTEP Unhinged*. This is a corny group of SUNTEP Prince Albert faculty and friends, who provided a musical tribute to the graduates.

A special presentation by Trish Watier, on behalf of SaskEnergy, was given to a graduate who showed outstanding contributions to the community. This year's recipient of the *Sharing the Warmth Award* was Diana Smith, who was chosen by her classmates. Lori Choumont, who received the *Superannuated Teacher's Award*, was also recognized for her contributions to the teaching community. Both Lori and Diana were unable to attend the ceremonies because they were in Cuba taking a special class!

One of SUNTEP Prince Albert's graduation ceremony traditions is a slideshow of the graduates. The slideshow provides each graduate with the opportunity to say a few words to their families, friends and peers. It is also a unique opportunity for the families to see slides of the graduates with the children at the schools where they interned. The evening's conclusion brought more presentations by the third-year students. Each graduate received a Métis sash, which was tied by a Métis community representative and by Dean Cecilia Reynolds, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan. Many stayed for the wine and cheese reception, which followed.

It was a very exciting and successful evening. The venue at the A.E. Rawlinson Centre was ideal. In fact, we have already booked the facility for next year.

Congratulations to the 2004 Graduating Class:

| | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Laren Ball | Judy Eninew | Tanya Klein | Corinne Pelletier | Petrina Turner |
| Celena Bear | Tyson Fetch | Kerri McKay | Maggie Roberts | Paula West |
| Jodi Boyer | Bobby Henry | Ann Merasty | Trina Rosenkerr | |
| Lori Choumont | Kevin Henry | Annette Nelson | Karen Sinoski | |
| Allison Dams | Nicole Hicks | Linda Netmaker | Diana Smith | |
| Teri Dempster | Patricia Ives | Bradley Parent | Christie Snow | |



SUNTEP Regina Graduation

Article and photographs by Erma M.L. Taylor

On Friday, May 28, 2004, the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) Regina held their nineteenth annual graduation celebrations at the Delta Regina. The colours were burgundy and silver and this year's theme was "*The Journey is the Reward*". The crowd of more than 200 family and friends was hushed as the drum played the "Honour Song", before the graduates walked to the podium to the strains of Métis fiddle music and guitar playing.

Corey Matthews and Jessi McCulloch, the Co-masters of ceremonies, did a marvellous job of moving the program along, acknowledging guests and announcing the awards. Jacqueline Ross was the recipient of the *David Amyotte Memorial Scholarship* and Allison Schill received SaskEnergy's *Sharing the Warmth* award.

Sashes in the SUNTEP colours were also presented to each graduate. Since 1984, Clara Bear and Eric Honetschlager, long-time friends of SUNTEP, have

made sashes for every SUNTEP Regina graduating class. SUNTEP staff also carried on their tradition of designing and hand-making beautiful leather briefcases, which they presented to each graduate. Finally, Donna Scarfe, a long-time SUNTEP Regina faculty member who retired last year, was the guest speaker. She did a wonderful job of inspiring both graduates and current students.



The 2004 SUNTEP Bachelor of Education Graduates:
Left to Right: Sharon Anaquod-Sparvier, Tatroy Lerat, Angela Miller, Jacqueline Ross and Allison Schill.



Left: Fiddler Malcolm McLeod provided entertainment; Middle: Jacqueline Ross, recipient of the *David Amyotte Memorial Scholarship*; and Right: Allison Schill, recipient of SaskEnergy's *Sharing the Warmth* award.

SUNTEP Saskatoon Graduation



Article by Nicole Amiotte

On Saturday, May 8, 2004, many family and friends gathered at the Saskatoon Inn to celebrate the graduation of nineteen future educators from the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) in Saskatoon. The evening began with traditional Métis fiddle music provided by John and Vicki Arcand, followed by the introduction of the graduates. This year's graduating class includes:

Kari Arcand
Kristen Chenier
Carla Fitch-Bernier
Pamela Fosseneuve
Nicole Gardiner
LeeAnn Gervais
Cory Gratton
Cosette Green
Kariann Gusikoski
Renee Hammersmith
Terri Huntley
Tracy Laverty
Darren McDougall
Tannis Meyers-Blanchard
Jason Murfin
Danelle Parenteau-Van Steelandt
Nicole Pocha
Roxan Prafke
Rhoda Yakubowski

A variety of special guests were on hand to honour the graduates. The Honourable Pat Atkinson, Deputy Government House Leader, delivered greetings from the Government of Saskatchewan. On behalf of the Gabriel Dumont Institute, Doyle Vermette, current Chairperson of the Institute's Board of Governors, congratulated the graduates. Dr. Cecilia Reynolds, the Dean of the College Education, also brought greetings from the University of Saskatchewan. Dianne Janvier presented a star blanket from SaskEnergy to Rhoda Yakubowski, a representative of this year's graduating class. The graduates in turn donated the blanket to upcoming first-year students to use in their fundraising endeavors. Also present was Métis Elder and veteran, Charles Fosseneuve, whose daughter, Pamela, was graduating.

The 2004 class asked two of their instructors, Bob Lindsay and Skip Kutz, to be the evening's keynote speakers. Two of the evening's highlights occurred when the graduates received gifts to recognize their achievements and when each of them thanked family, friends and staff for supporting them along their journey. The evening's atmosphere was wonderful: Silver and blue balloons and ribbons mingled with the graduates' thoughts as they fondly reflected upon their journey past, while looking forward to the upcoming school year. The ceremony was clearly reflected in this year's theme: *"We must cherish our inheritance. We must preserve our nationality for the youth of the future. The story should be written to pass down."* (Louis Riel)

Congratulations and best wishes to the graduates of 2004!



SUNTEP Saskatoon First-Year Students Travel to New Mexico

Article and photographs by Nicole Amiotte

On May 18, 2004, a group of twenty-three Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) staff and students flew to Albuquerque, New Mexico. For the past several years, the trip has been a highlight for SUNTEP Saskatoon's first-year program, and is a meaningful component of **EDFD. 335**, "First Nations and Cross-Cultural Education: An Introduction". Each year, the first-year students fundraise for this exciting and educational trip by holding bingos, raffles and food sales.

For many students, this is an opportunity to learn about other Indigenous cultures. New Mexico is home to many diverse First Nations, who are struggling to improve their children's educational attainment rates, while trying to heal from the devastating effects of a colonial education system. There are a number of similarities between the

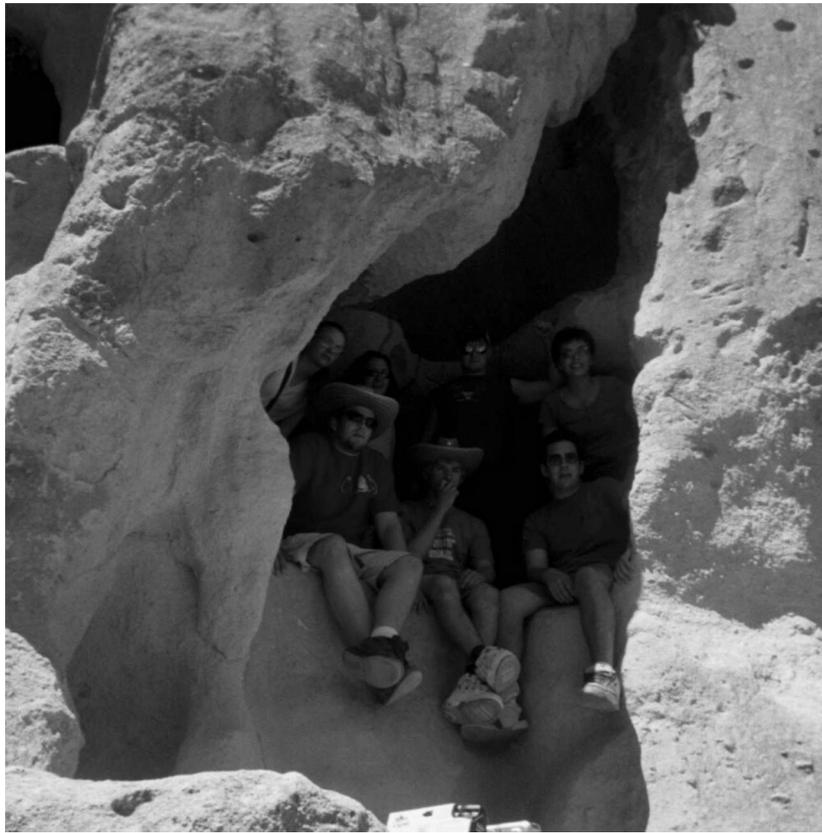
history and experiences of New Mexico's Aboriginal peoples and those in Canada, especially regarding education. The trip was also an opportunity to share with others our experiences as members of the Métis Nation. The students distributed pins to start conversations and to tell a little about where we are from.



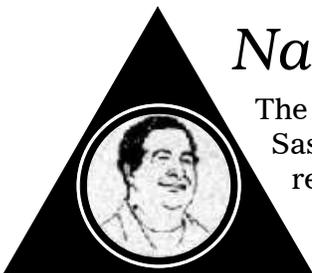
Above: Students posing in front of the Santa Fe Indian School.
Top: View of archaeological remains at Bandelier National Monument.

Each day was full of diverse activities. We visited Acoma, also known as “Sky City”, a still-inhabited Pueblo community built on top of a high rocky hill. We enjoyed the tour and the lively, informative and entertaining presentation of our tour guide. Other highlights of our New Mexico trip included hiking around and into the cave dwellings once inhabited by Pueblo Indians in the Bandelier National Monument Park. We also visited places such as the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, the Institute of American Indian Arts, the University of New Mexico and the Petroglyph National Monument. We toured the Santa Fe Indian School and learned about their community-based education programs. Another highlight included watching children perform traditional dances at a powwow held by the Ohkay O’Wingeh Community School.

Overall, the trip was a success. Both students and staff returned with a greater understanding of other Indigenous peoples’ experiences, while learning new perspectives about educating our communities. Perhaps just as important, while preparing for the trip and with the time spent on it, the students grew closer. The trip to New Mexico begins the SUNTEP program with a meaningful educational experience that will always be remembered by its participants.



Exploring the cave dwellings at Banadlier National Monument.



Napoleon LaFontaine Scholarship Program

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

Napoleon LaFontaine was instrumental in organizing the Metis Nation - Saskatchewan (previously the “Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan”). Over the years, he devoted himself to developing social and educational policies 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,

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.**

Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program

A Brief History

Article by Darren R. Préfontaine

The Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) is the Gabriel Dumont Institute's oldest program. Created in 1980 in order to address the chronic shortage of Aboriginal teachers in the province's education system, particularly in larger urban centres, SUNTEP has graduated approximately 700 students. By employing cross-cultural educational techniques, SUNTEP excels at producing teachers who can seamlessly integrate theory and practice. SUNTEP is located in three centres: Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Regina and receives its accreditation through the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina (for Regina only). Each SUNTEP centre is unique and provides its students with a quality education, focusing on different cultural aspects. For instance, SUNTEP Prince Albert specializes in drama and has its own theatre troupe, Saskatoon emphasizes Métis history and Regina promotes traditional Métis dancing. Other Aboriginal educational institutions in Canada have emulated SUNTEP's successful example of personal empowerment. SUNTEP remains, however, the only Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (TEP) with a specifically Métis focus. Many of its graduates have become employed in a variety of fields other than teaching including academia, administration, consulting, curriculum development and Métis governance.

For Further Reading

Ernst and Young. *Gabriel Dumont Institute: Operational Review*. Saskatoon: Ernst and Young (March), 1995; The Gabriel Dumont Institute. *Annual Reports* (1982,1985-2003). Regina and Saskatoon: The Gabriel Dumont Institute; The Gabriel Dumont Institute. *Portraits of Progress: Students of the Gabriel Dumont Institute, 1987*. Regina: The Gabriel Dumont Institute, 1987; The Gabriel Dumont Institute. *The Gabriel Dumont Institute: 1996 Update Report*. Saskatoon: The Gabriel Dumont Institute, 1997; The Gabriel Dumont Institute: *2002 (SUNTEP) Update Report*. Saskatoon: The Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2002; Richert, Ruben. *The Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program: Are the Goals, Principals, Mandate and Philosophy Being Realized?* Regina: The Gabriel Dumont Institute, 1987.

Dumont Technical Institute

Youth Care Workers' Graduation

Article by Rose Bentley

On July 9, 2004, in Meadow Lake, the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI), in partnership with North-West Métis Training and Employment Inc, held a graduation for 15 students enrolled in the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST)'s *Youth Care Worker Certificate* program. The gruelling course ran from September 15, 2003 to July 8, 2004, and included 12 weeks of practical training at various community-based, educational and residential institutions.

The *Youth Care Worker Certificate* is one of the most intensive academic programs offered by SIAST's Human Services Department and includes courses in Psychology, Family Dynamics, Social Justice, Sociology, Communications, Lifespan Development, Health, Helping Skills, Behaviour Management and Youth Care Practice. The program provides students with a strong theoretical and factual background for working with youth, particularly those at risk, and is combined with hands-on experience during its practicum phases.

Several of the program's students obtained a high academic standing. Val Bell and Tamara Schwartz were the two most successful students, both achieving a 94% average. In addition, several students were commended for their performance during the practicum phases of their training, obtaining high ratings and praise, and even some job offers from their host institutions.

The program's proud graduates are: Trina Alexander, Ashley Bell, Valerie Bell, Judy Fillion,

Kristen Gorst, Jennifer Kennedy, Darcie King, April Laliberte, Jenni Larson, Jolie Paul, Valerie Pedersen, Peter Poitras, Tamara Schwartz, Lawrence "Muggy" Sinclair and Joey Villeneuve. Their instructors were John Campbell of Glaslyn and Rose Bentley of North Battleford. DTI Program Coordinator Tavia Inkster, Adrian Fiddler of the Waterhen First Nation and the staff from the Meadow Lake Métis Employment and Training of Saskatchewan Inc. and CanSask offices were key contributors to the program's success.

The graduation ceremony took place on Friday afternoon, July 9th and concluded with a catered dinner. Following the procession of the graduates in their caps and gowns and the playing of the Métis national anthem, Elder Theresa Tourand led the opening prayer. Judy Fillion, SRC President gave a welcoming speech to open the ceremony followed by speeches by special guests Geordy McCaffrey, Gabriel Dumont Institute Executive Director, Tavia Inkster, the course's Program Coordinator, and Mavis Taylor, Regional Director of Western Region I, Métis Nation - Saskatchewan. The students were presented with certificates from DTI and traditional Métis sashes from North-West Métis Employment and Training Inc.

The students should all be congratulated for their achievement in attaining their *Youth Care Worker Certificate*. Several of them are planning to further their education in this field in the near future.

The Dumont Technical Institute

A Brief History

Article by Darren R. Préfontaine

The Dumont Technical Institute (DTI), the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI)'s largest program, began operations in 1992 in order to serve the basic education, skills, technical and vocational training needs of Saskatchewan's Métis. DTI is affiliated with the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIASST), and delivers programs in partnership with the Métis Employment and Training of Saskatchewan Inc., Human Resources Development Canada (through the "PATWAYS" program), Saskatchewan's Provincial Training Allowance program, the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and the province's regional colleges. DTI's administration is based in Saskatoon, but its programming is province-wide. DTI's origins can be found in 1983 with the creation of the "Saskatchewan Training for Employment Program" or STEP, which was a partnership between GDI, Employment and Immigration Canada, and the Department of

Advanced Education and Manpower, Saskatchewan. Through STEP, GDI offered SIASST-accredited Human Resource Development, Childhood Development, Business Administration, Electronics and Mechanics programs, with counseling and Native Studies components. In 1987, GDI and SIASST signed an agreement creating the "Native Services Branch", which provided counseling services to SIASST's Aboriginal students. Though the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Native Services Branch delivered a variety of courses tailored to meet the socioeconomic and cultural needs of the province's Aboriginal population. However, by the early 1990s, the increasing demand for basic education, vocational and skills training delivery within the Métis community necessitated the creation of an independent Métis technical institution. As a result, in 1994, DTI signed a formal affiliation agreement with SIASST.

For Further Reading

Dumont Technical Institute. *Dumont Technical Institute: 2001 Update Report*. Saskatoon: Dumont Technical Institute, 2001; Ernst and Young. *Gabriel Dumont Institute: Operational Review*. Saskatoon: Ernst and Young (March), 1995; The Gabriel Dumont Institute. *Annual Reports* (1982, 1985-2003). Regina and Saskatoon: The Gabriel Dumont Institute.

The Plaid Jumper

Story by Gloria Fleury

During periods of melancholy, I often sit ever so quietly and through my pensive meanderings, I reflect upon my childhood. While growing up, life's many struggles were far from easy. Food and clothing were often very scarce in those times. Despite such hardship, many special memories come to mind. However, one in particular stands out rather vividly. I would like to dedicate this little story to my late mom, Eva (Pritchard) Gardner. It took place in 1949 on the farm where I was raised.

It was a long and cold winter, with never-ending snowstorms. The soup pot simmered constantly on the wood-burning cook stove. Each day the meals varied, but usually included venison, cabbage or potato soup.

During those long winter evenings, the anxious mother constantly fretted about her child's need for a spring outfit. There was really no spare money, as all that was coming in was a little bit from milking cows. The family couldn't even rely on cream cheques. What was she to do?

The mother, in her thrifty way, took a measure of her wardrobe. She found nothing to choose from except for her plaid spring coat. The little mother held the coat in her arms, stroked it with her hands and wondered who needed it more. Without hesitation, the decision was made.

That very evening, sitting by the coal oil lamp, she began to unravel the plaid coat. To start, she carefully removed its satin lining. This would be set aside for mending and other uses. It took several more evenings to slit seams and pull threads from the plaid coat. By this time, the little mother's fingertips were sore and inflamed.

It was time to give her fingers a rest. She brought in snow, melted it into soft water and gently sponged the plaid material. She then laid it out flat on the end of the large wooden eating table. Pieces were subtly pressed-out with hot sad irons.

A few evenings later, she brought out the newspapers. She made the child stand perfectly still. Pencil in hand, she began to outline the child's size, body and length. A jumper pattern was soon cut out and devised from the newspapers, which she carefully laid flat on the plaid material. Hoping that she wouldn't make any mistakes cutting, she began to carefully trim the plaid fabric. She knew the scissors were old and dull. She also knew she

would have difficulty cutting straight.

Finally one evening, with light from the coal-oil lamp, she laid the material for the jumper together. She didn't have the luxury of a sewing machine; so all sewing would be performed by hand. Her needle and thread went in and out of the material swiftly, but surely.

Days passed and she continued to sew patiently. Sometimes she sewed during the day, while the soup simmered on the stove. Often she sewed at night, while the father read from a book that the child had borrowed from school. Her fingertips were once more irritated.

The evenings passed slowly. The diminutive family was certainly looking forward to Easter and a visit by the grandparents. Dolefully, the snow kept coming.

One day when the child returned from school, she was surprised to see a splendid little jumper hanging from a hanger on the inside clothesline. She couldn't wait to wear it.

Easter came, and so did the grandparents. However, there was no spring thaw. Snow remained in large banks among the trees and machinery. The child waited anxiously to wear her jumper and to have her photo taken. The extreme cold and snow required the child to wear her parka and long boots. What a disappointment!

As it is with the seasons, spring eventually came. Along with spring, came fresh grass, green leaves, lilacs, Saturdays and spring outfits. The mother beckoned the child, saying it was picture time. The child scooped up her puppy, happy to finally display her spring outfit.

The wee girl didn't realize 'till years later, after looking through a box of old snapshots, how much labour, sacrifice and love had been poured into that little plaid jumper.

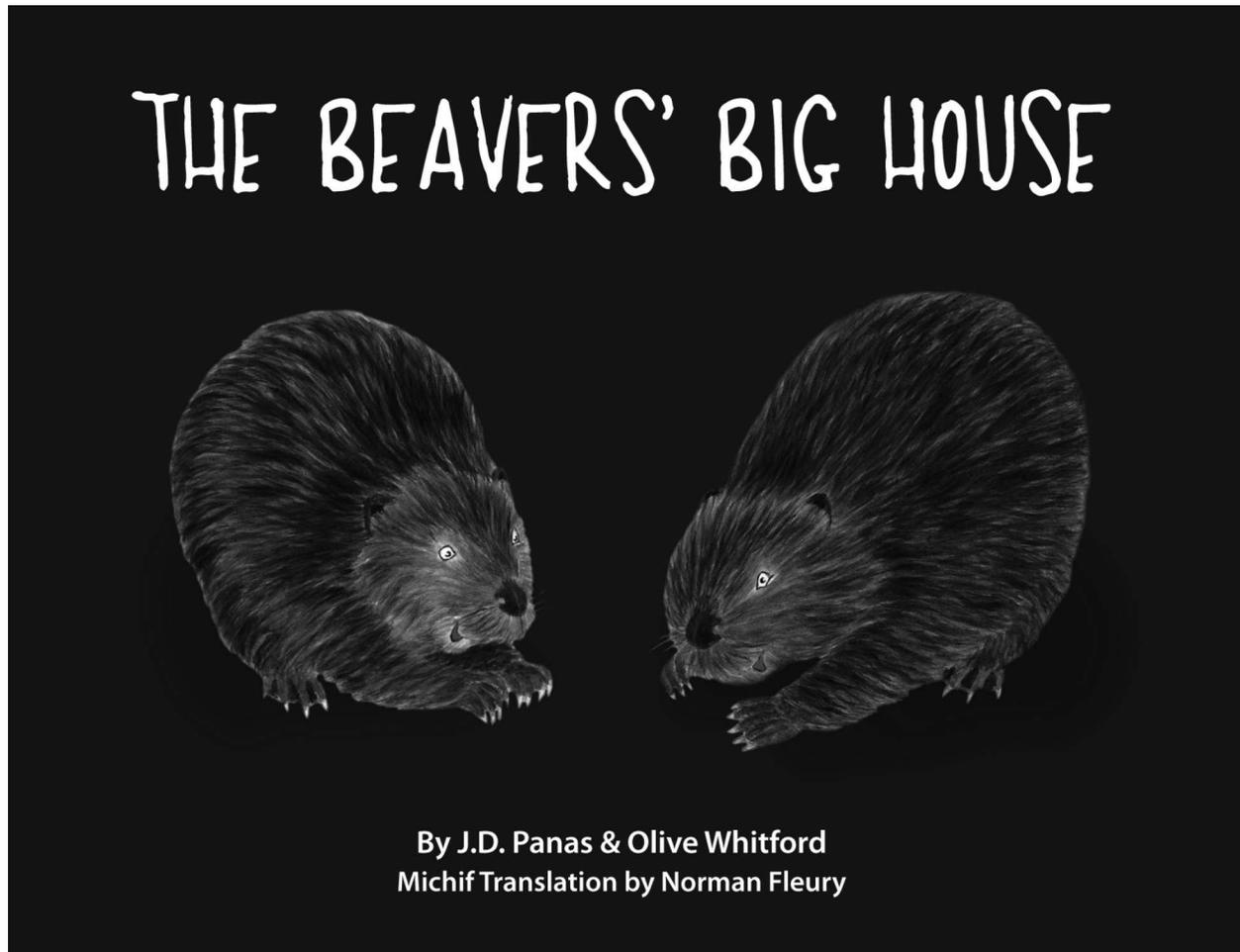
Gabriel Dumont Institute Releases New Children's Book ***The Beavers' Big House***

Review by David Morin

The children's book, *The Beavers' Big House*, by J.D. Panas and Olive Whitford has just been released. The authors' first book tells the story of two beavers named Baptiste and Betsy and how they, along with other animals, fight a forest fire. By reading the book, children learn the necessity of preparedness and cooperation. *The Beavers' Big House* includes bright and inviting illustrations by

J.D. Panas, a Michif translation by Norman Fleury, a glossary, colour photographs of various animals by Dennis Chamberlain, and a compact disc, which includes both English and Michif narrations of the book's text.

To order this book, contact the Gabriel Dumont Institute at 306-934-4941.



By J.D. Panas & Olive Whitford
Michif Translation by Norman Fleury

Frank Tomkins: The Story of a Smoke Jump Master

Article by Warren Dudar, photographs courtesy Frank Tomkins

The La Ronge Smoke Jumpers, the only ones of their kind in the Commonwealth, were an eclectic group of dedicated, hard working and skilfully-trained firefighters. From construction workers to university students, many attempted to brave such a perilous job, but the few that actually enjoyed it, did so with great passion and chose to make smoke jumping a full-time task. I recently had the chance to speak with Frank Tomkins, a Métis Elder, who currently resides in Saskatoon, about his seventeen-year career with the La Ronge Smoke Jumpers. In this article I will summarize Frank's amazing story about his life fighting fires in northern Saskatchewan.

Frank Tomkins, born on February 28, 1927 in Grouard, Alberta, is the son of Pete Tomkins, a well-known Métis leader and organizer. After completing a grade nine education, Frank pursued a variety of seasonal occupations, including commercial fisherman, logger, sawmill worker, railway worker and mink rancher. His diverse occupational background provided important experience that would help him in his future endeavours. In 1951, he was posted to Uranium City, after receiving a letter from his father about a job opening with the Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in La Ronge. Frank packed his gear in anticipation of what the future had in store for him in Saskatchewan.

Frank arrived at La Ronge in November. However, upon arrival he was sadly disappointed when he was informed that his position wouldn't start until the spring. Much to his chagrin, he flew to Uranium City where he was told that there was temporary short-term work, if he signed a three-month contract. At fifty cents an hour, and living in a tent in 50c weather, the job wasn't what he had hoped for. Frank was responsible for surveying cut lines, ice cutting, coal moving, and sawmill cutting for community development projects.

After only one-and-a-half months, Frank's



Frank in his jump uniform, 1956.

wife, a Métis woman named Irene Patterson, decided to leave the small desolate settlement, which consisted only of tents. Unfortunately, the company wouldn't pay for his flight back to Alberta

because he had not fulfilled his three-month commitment. As a result, Frank was eager to get back home to his wife, so he sold his good sleeping bag and used the money to purchase a plane ticket to go home. However, before he could leave, Frank's supervisors withheld his final cheque claiming that because he didn't honour his contract, he had to pay for this initial flight (in which he actually had to lay on cargo) to Uranium City. Suspicious of his supervisors' integrity, Frank told them that they

could have the money only if he was allowed to send it straight to the company's treasurer. They relented and let Frank leave. Frank's quick thinking prevented the men from pocketing the seventy-five dollars for themselves.

Frank's bad luck passed when spring came. It was finally time to become a Smoke Jumper. In 1952, he was hired as the Smoke Jump Trainer in La Ronge, a position with a fair amount of responsibility, as he was in charge of not only teaching his crew how to jump but also for conditioning them to handle the stresses involved with such a dangerous profession. In 1964, during the latter stages of Frank's tenure with the DNR, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) compiled an hour-long documentary on the La Ronge Smoke Jumpers. The documentary shows the intensity of the Smoke Jumper's three-week long training sessions, while providing a glimpse at their excellent conditioning, which they needed to perform their varied and dangerous duties.

To train the aspiring Smoke Jumpers to deal with the different aspects of jumping, Frank built a "mock tower". "If they couldn't jump off of the tower, then they couldn't jump off a plane", he explains. The recruits were often extremely anxious about their first plane jump, so the



Bob Reguly and John Deets at the Saskatchewan Smoke Jumpers La Ronge Headquarters.

platform eased the transition. "They would jump off the platform first to learn how to roll and then they would graduate to jumping off of a truck", Frank says with a chuckle. In the documentary, a group of trainees are doing exactly that: one-by-one the kneeling men jump out the back of a speeding pick-up truck onto a narrow gravel road.

After the Smoke Jumpers completed their training, it was time for their real adventure. They flew on Norseman Aircraft, which were later upgraded to the Otter because of the latter's larger carrying capacity. They followed a storm until a bolt of lightning sparked a tree and a trail of smoke could be spotted. Next, a drift chute was tossed out of the plane to test wind conditions and to find a safe place to land. Then one-by-one the jumpers took turns falling into the burning terrain, and using nothing but their utensils, such as shovels, put out the small fires. Ground fires have to be dug out because underneath the top layer of rubbish, there is often a layer of moss or leaves that "burns like gasoline" if not dealt with properly. Very seldom would jumpers get injured while putting out fires because the intense training sessions conditioned them to handle dangerous situations.

Frank explains that there are three kinds of jumpers: "Those that would pay to jump, those

that wouldn't jump if they got paid and those that jump to show-off but wouldn't jump otherwise". Frank found himself in the first category and from the beginning had a true love for jumping. He explains that once the nervousness disappeared and the parachute was successfully deployed, the thrill of jumping was very liberating.

The thrill lasted until 1967. In that year, he received an unfavourable letter, which brought nineteen charges against him and indicated that he had one month to resign before he was to be relieved of his duties. At the time, he couldn't understand why the DNR was trying to get rid of him. However, the province's polarized left-right political culture provides some clues to his dismissal. In 1964, after twenty years of rule by the democratic socialist Co-operative Commonwealth Federation/New Democratic Party, the provincial government switched hands to Ross Thatcher's Liberals. Adhering to their "free enterprise" ethos, the Grits quickly reduced taxes, encouraged mineral exploitation and industrial development and opened publicly-owned enterprises to increased competition from the private sector. Water Bombing, a new venture, was one of these privately-owned enterprises. Herein lies the reasoning behind Frank's dismissal and the Smoke Jumpers' disbanding: a Liberal supporter was put in Frank's place to ensure the transition from smoke jumping to water bombing went smoothly.

Frank had to act quickly and fortunately he had some help. A friend, who was once a Liberal but who was now a Smoke Jumper, had a copy of Frank's dismissal letter. Frank received this letter and then after a little help from a lawyer, he showed it to his crew. After refusing to resign from a job that he felt "didn't actually exist anymore", the government wrote to Frank and indicated that if, after a temporary trial period under a new Jump Master, the Smoke Jumpers were to be re-deployed, Frank would be rehired as Jump Master. However, ever since his dismissal, the Smoke-Jumping program was never resumed.

The efficiency of Frank's team was no longer important. In fact, Frank still remains dubious about the over-all efficiency of water bombers: "Water bombers are effective for small fires, but

for big fires, water will just make the fire bigger, especially if it is crowning", explains Frank. Moreover, he argues that water bombing is ineffective when trying to put out large forest fires because much of the water dropped on the fire evaporates in the air before reaching the fire.

After his career with the Smoke Jumpers, Frank was involved in the Métis Veteran's Association, was one of the Gabriel Dumont Institute's founders, and became Provincial Secretary of the Métis Society of Saskatchewan. In his public life, he served Saskatchewan's Métis for seventeen years. Frank is interested in writing a book about his experiences as a Smoke Jumper but would rather share his stories with an aspiring author, instead of writing it himself. Having only spent an hour or two with Frank, I now know about something I didn't even know existed prior to our interview. I hope that his story, which contributes greatly to both Métis and Canadian history, is not forgotten.



Gabriel Dumont Institute
Of Native Studies and Applied Research

Métis Cultural Development Fund

The Gabriel Dumont Institute and SaskCulture, Inc. have entered into a partnership to provide funds for activities that preserve, strengthen and transmit Métis culture and traditions in Saskatchewan. The *Métis Cultural Development Fund* is funded by *Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sports, Culture and Recreation*.

Application Deadline:

May 1, 2004 and October 1, 2004

For information please contact:

**Secretary,
Métis Cultural Development Fund,
Gabriel Dumont Institute
#2 604 22nd Street West,
Saskatoon, SK
S7M 5W1
Phone: (306) 934-4941
Fax: (306) 244-0252**

Métis Internet Radio

“The Métis Show with Shane Anthony”

Article by Jessee Gardiner

Spring 2004 witnessed the broadcast of “The Métis Show with Shane Anthony”, the first Métis-specific radio program to appear on the Internet. “The Métis Show”, the result of a partnership between Aboriginal Voices Radio (106.5 FM/www.aboriginalradio.com) and Métis Nation Radio (www.metisradio.fm), highlights both traditional and contemporary Métis artists. The 45-minute program also contains news, general information, stories and discussion and analysis of current events, from a Métis perspective.

“The Métis Show” airs on Aboriginal Voices Radio in Toronto, Ontario, from 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (EST) every Tuesday. If you are not in Toronto, the show is simultaneously broadcast over the World Wide Web at (www.aboriginalradio.com). If you miss the show, it will be rebroadcast on Métis Nation Radio (www.metisradio.fm). In the very near future, it will be possible to listen to all the programs at any time. A continuous stream of Métis music will also soon be made available.

Shane Anthony, the program's host says that “The Métis Show” serves many purposes. “I'm looking to expose listeners to new Métis artists as well as all the great ones that are already established that we should listen to again and again.” He further says: “But it's not just about the music. I want it to be about our communities as well, both past and present. So for each show I'm looking to talk with someone about an issue, an event, about a Métis story or perspective that we should all consider.”

Shane Anthony, a Métis singer and songwriter, has a few albums of his own. In fact, he is very artistically inclined and works in a variety of media. For instance, he attended film school, makes dramatic films and documentaries and writes

articles, graphic novels and screenplays. Along with all of these varied activities, he also manages to find time to be a multimedia designer. His company the Breath.com has done a great deal of work with the Métis community. Along with the Métis Nation of Ontario, they created Métis Nation Radio.

“Since the creation of Métis Nation Radio, our dedicated on-line radio station, we've been looking for an opportunity to start generating our own Métis radio shows and this seemed like a perfect opportunity to do just that,” states Tony Belcourt, the president of the Métis Nation of Ontario. He further adds, “We hope that this is just the beginning, that from this we will expand upon it and find some other Métis radio shows and radio jockeys.”

With just over 100 Métis artists in their library, “The Métis Radio Show” is looking to expand their collection. There are many talented Métis artists that Shane Anthony would like to showcase on the program. He feels that it is beneficial for both the program and the artists to add their music to the playlist. For instance, once an artist agrees to submit his/her music, their songs will be added to the “Pemmican Mix”, which according to Anthony is “everything we got” mixed into a continuous Internet radio signal. In addition, there is a section within the Métis Nation Radio website dedicated to the artists' music containing a continuous radio streaming loop of songs, CD discographies, biographies, contact information, and even the option to buy CDs online.

By mid-September, more artists will be included on Métis Nation Radio website. For further information, contact Kyle Burton at 1 (416)-516-3534, or at Kyle@thebreath.com

Métis Professor at the University of Saskatchewan Wins 2004 University Faculty Award

Article by Jesse Gardiner

Lee Wilson, the first Métis to receive a Ph.D. in chemistry, is also now one of only two Aboriginal professors in Canada to have received the *University Faculty Award (UFA)* sponsored by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. He is also one of twenty-six professors, nationwide, to receive this award, which is aimed at appointing more women and Aboriginal peoples to tenured faculty positions in the Natural Sciences and Engineering. Through the *UFA*, Dr. Wilson received, on May 1, 2004, his tenure within the University of Saskatchewan (U of S)'s Chemistry Department.

Dr. Wilson grew up in Lake Francis, Manitoba, a small community of about 500 near Lake Winnipeg. His Chemistry teacher sparked his interest in the subject. "In high school I really looked up to one of my teachers as a role model, and that was my chemistry teacher. I just thought that science was a good area to study in university and ended up having a good experience with it during my undergraduate years," he said. After completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Manitoba, he came to the U of S in 1992. His undergraduate project supervisor, Dr. Aziz, suggested that the U of S was a good place to obtain his doctorate (which he did in 1998).

Dr. Wilson is currently a research associate in the U of S Chemistry Department. He is also the science advisor to the Dean's Office in the University's College of Arts and Sciences. In the near future, he will use the Canadian Light Source (CLS) Synchrotron and the Saskatchewan Structural Sciences Centre to create new porous materials that will be used in water purification, pesticides, the timed release of agricultural fertilizers, and for improving drug delivery

methods. He believes that "This award offers an opportunity to develop an exciting area of Chemistry that was merely a thought not so long ago," said Dr. Wilson. "With the installation of the CLS and the Structural Sciences Centre, new areas of emerging research look very promising."

The Chemistry Department head Dr. Ron Steer stated, "He's a superb scientist whose research in materials Chemistry fits perfectly with the emerging research developments in the Department."

While working toward his Ph. D., Dr. Wilson received the *Governor General's Gold Medal in Graduate Studies*, the *University of Saskatchewan Graduate Thesis Award* and the Chemistry Department's *Taube Medal* for highest achievement in research. He was also the recipient of a *National Aboriginal Achievement Award*.

Along with his dedication to his profession, he is also connected to the Métis community. He is the organizer of an Indigenous Summer Science Camp through the Chemistry Department. He stresses the importance of making the right choices in high school and of taking advantage of all available opportunities. "What I see now is that there are a lot of younger people who want to go further in a career but they just don't have the right background and they're sometimes limited in their choices because of that fact." He encourages youth to "Try to get a good grounding in each of the sciences Chemistry, Biology, Physics, and especially in Math because many of the areas in science require those skills. Whether you choose to go on into Engineering or other disciplines, it's good to have all those basic, fundamental ideas in place so that you can make the right decision and basically give yourself a fair chance."

PRESS RELEASE

The Métis Nation Congratulates Prime Minister Paul Martin and the Liberal Party on their Electoral Victory



The Right Honourable Paul Martin, Prime Minister

(Ottawa, Ontario) June 29, 2004 On behalf of the Métis Nation, President Clément Chartier offers congratulations to Prime Minister Paul Martin and the Liberal Party on their successful re-election. "Prime Minister Martin and his government have been living up to their commitment to renew the relationship between Canada and the Aboriginal Peoples within Canada," said President Chartier. "We believe that the Prime Minister's re-election will mean that the Métis Nation can continue to build and strengthen its relationship with Canada."

In the few short months that Paul Martin has been Prime Minister, there was a significant shift in the federal government's relationship with the Métis Nation. "Following our breakthrough Supreme Court of Canada decision with *R v. Powley*, we have been dealing with a federal government that is committed to working in partnership to assess Powley's implications and implementation," said President Chartier.

Other developments included an historic reference in the *Speech from the Throne* that announced that the Métis would no longer be left out of federal Aboriginal policy. The Prime Minister also held a private meeting with the leaders of Canada's Aboriginal Peoples: President Chartier, National Chief Phil Fontaine of the Assembly of First Nations and President Kusugak of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. This meeting led to the *Aboriginal Roundtable* and a full day of discussions with ministers and other officials on such significant issues as housing, economic development and health. The Prime Minister has also spoken on the phone with President Chartier to discuss issues of importance to the Métis Nation.

"In the past year since the Powley decision in support of the Aboriginal rights of the Métis was rendered by the Supreme Court of Canada, the Métis Nation has been working to build a relationship with the federal government that is based on our historical relationship and our constitutionally-protected Aboriginal rights. The Paul Martin government has shown that it is committed to that same goal," said President Chartier.

In the weeks leading up to the election, the Métis National Council made an unprecedented decision to encourage its citizens to support the Liberals in the federal election. The decision was based on the respectful relationship that was being built with the current federal government and a concern that a Conservative government would have an anti-Aboriginal rights agenda.

"Canadians had concerns regarding Stephen Harper and the Conservative's hidden agenda. For Aboriginal peoples and for the Métis Nation in particular, there was nothing hidden about their agenda. They are still driven by right-wing philosophies that are anti-Aboriginal and anti-Métis." Conservative campaign chairman Tom Flanagan has built his career on anti-Aboriginal rights writings and has gone so far as to say that the Métis Nation doesn't exist. "In the face of such outright attacks on our rights, our Nation; we made that unprecedented decision as a means to best protect the rights of our people and our existence as a people."

It is unknown at this time how the Métis vote made an impact in this election campaign; however, President Chartier says that we must continue to exercise our democratic responsibility. "The Métis Nation, whether at a community, local, provincial or national level, has always been committed to the values of democracy. This is a fundamental belief of the Métis Nation and we must continue to encourage our people and the younger generation to be involved, to be informed, to be heard, and to vote."

For more information please contact:

Miles Morrisseau
Director of Communications -
Métis National Council
613-612-5753 (Cell)

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