

New Breed

MAGAZINE



Spring 2007

New Breed

MAGAZINE

is a publication of Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research in partnership with the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan.

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New Breed MAGAZINE

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*New Breed Magazine.***

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A Gathering of Knowledge: Virtual Museum Continues Showcase of Métis Heritage and Culture

Article by Christa Nicholat

Celebrating its fourth year this May as the premiere site of Métis history, language, and traditions on the web, the Gabriel Dumont Institute's *Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture* continues its quest to provide free and user-friendly access to the thousands of print, audio and video files documenting the story of Métis people.

Launched in May 2003, in partnership with the University of Saskatchewan's Division of Media and Technology, the Virtual Museum was created in order to share its vast holdings of archival, cultural, and learning resources. In addition to historical material, visitors will also find information of a more contemporary nature.

Some of the newest additions to the Virtual Museum, for example, include video clips and transcripts from our Folklore and Political Activist interviews, conducted in 2003 and 2004. Listen to gifted oral storyteller and Métis Elder Norman Fleury recount epic tales of the buffalo hunt (<http://www.metismuseum.ca/browse/index.php?id=775>), or watch the spirited political leader Jim Sinclair give an impassioned discussion of the fiery Constitutional talks of the 1980s (<http://www.metismuseum.ca/browse/index.php/778>). Video and transcripts from interviews with Michif speakers from Île-à-la-Crosse, Saskatchewan have also been recently added to the Virtual Museum (<http://www.metismuseum.ca/browse/index.php?id=807>). The voices of Daniel Daigneault, Christine Misponas, and Leon Morin are a powerful testimonial to the determination and persistence of a people to keep their language vibrant and alive.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute supports the preservation and promotion of the Michif languages and through the Virtual Museum, ensures a permanent record of their use.

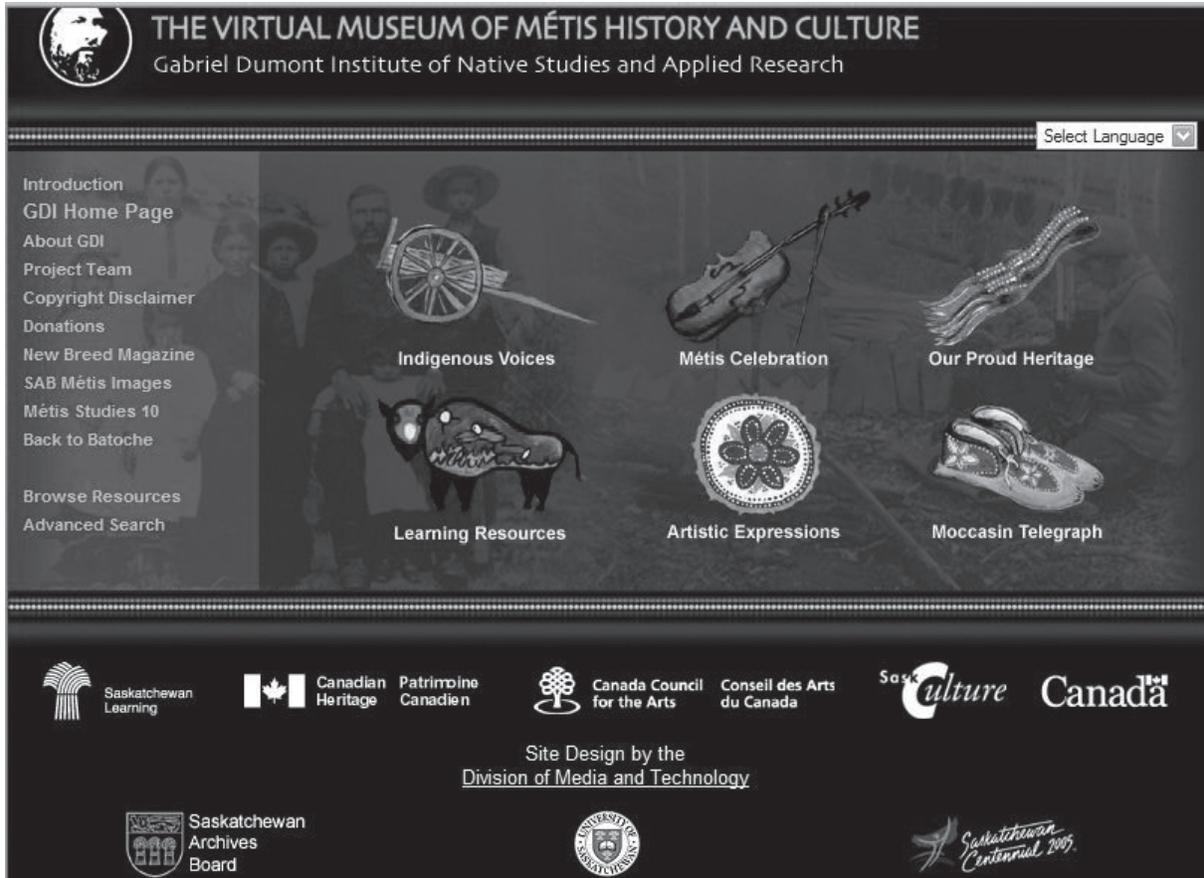
Photographs of a number of special events have recently been added. Browse through images of the Gabriel Dumont Institute's 25th anniversary celebrations in 2005 (<http://www.metismuseum.ca/browse/index.php?id=817>), or the opening of the new Gabriel Dumont Institute Saskatoon Office, Publishing Department and SUNTEP Central, in 2003 (<http://www.metismuseum.ca/browse/index.php?id=830>). You'll also find pictures taken during the launch of *The Beavers' Big House* and *The Métis Alphabet Book*, both written by Métis authors and proudly published by the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

Be sure to watch for videotaped footage of the proceedings of the "Métis in the 21st Century" conference held June 18-20, 2003 in Saskatoon, and the "Aboriginal People and the Criminal Justice System in Saskatchewan: What Next?" conference, also held in Saskatoon, January 26-28, 2005 both coming soon to the Virtual Museum!

In its short lifetime, the Virtual Museum has already proven itself to be an invaluable tool for researchers, academics, genealogists, students, cultural workers, teachers, and the general public.

It will continue to be an important instrument for the dissemination and sharing of Métis-specific content, and a gathering place for materials and resources that paint a vivid portrait of the rich cultural, linguistic, and spiritual traditions of the Métis.

The Virtual Museum relies on support from the community. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, notice any errors, or can provide missing or additional information for any of our resources, please feel free to contact us at: **metismuseum@gdi.gdins.org**



www.metismuseum.ca

Gabriel Dumont Institute Receives \$125,000 for Michif Language Preservation

Article by Janessa Temple and Photographs by Amy Gallagher

Canada's New Government supports the preservation and promotion of First Nation, Inuit, and Métis languages. Their enthusiasm was expressed with the presentation of a cheque addressed to the Gabriel Dumont Institute in the amount of \$125,000 on April 12, 2007. On behalf of the Honourable Beverley J. Oda, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Status of Women, the Honourable Carol Skelton, Minister of National Revenue and Member of Parliament, made a personal appearance to present the funds to the Institute. The funds supported a 2006-2007 project to promote the intergenerational transmission of the Michif language and culture, and to provide opportunities for the continued use of Michif.

"The strength of the Michif language is important for Canada's Métis communities, which are an important part of Canada's shared heritage," said Minister Oda. "Our government is pleased to help promote the use of this language."

Funding to the Gabriel Dumont Institute has supported community based projects, National Michif conferences, the production of language learning materials, and has allowed for a Speakers Association, consisting of Michif speakers within central Canada, to be formed. The primary goal of these initiatives is to increase the number of Michif speakers, expand opportunities for the use of the language, and to ensure that the present and future generations take an interest in learning Michif. The Government of Canada has provided this funding through the Aboriginal Languages Initiative, which forms part of the Department of Canadian Heritage's Aboriginal Peoples' Program.



Janessa Temple presents Minister Skelton with a gift on behalf of GDI



Left to Right: Executive Director, Geordy McCaffery; Elders, Harriet Oaks, Claude Langan, Dorothy Aubichon; and Minister Carol Skelton



Congratulations to the very first GDI Métis Health and Wellness Scholarship Recipients

Name	Program
Vanessa Aubichon	NEPS – SIAST – Saskatoon
Tara Bekolay	NEPS – SIAST – Saskatoon
Ashley Belbeck	Medical Radiation Therapy
Jeff Belhumeur	Pharmacy – U of S
Ashley Bell	Youth Care Worker - DTI – Meadow Lake
Denise Bell	NEPS – SIAST – Saskatoon
Rachelle Billo	Therapeutic Recreation
Tabatha Bircham	LPN – DTI - Prince Albert
Terri-Lynn Bishop	LPN – DTI - Saskatoon
Monica Bouvier	LPN – DTI - Saskatoon
Charlene Brass	LPN – DTI - Saskatoon
Calyn Burnouf	Nutrition – U of S
Donna Chikowski	LPN – DTI - Prince Albert
Lesley Clarke	Youth Care Worker – DTI - Meadow Lake
David Climenhaga	Pre-Medicine – U of S
Ashley Colombani	LPN – DTI - Saskatoon
Danielle Dejardins	Pre-Medicine – U of S
Helen Donald	Masters in Nursing – U of S
Melissa Erickson	Health Studies – U of R
Jessica Ertell	Addictions – SIIT – Saskatoon
Tobi Featherstone	LPN – DTI - Saskatoon
Lacy Folster	LPN – DTI – Saskatoon
Rachel Guy	LPN – DTI – Saskatoon
Shannon Hamm	LPN – DTI – Saskatoon
Jillian Hannah	Nursing – U of S
Jessica Jardine	Nutrition – U of S
Allison Lafond	NEPS – SIAST – Saskatoon
Angel Laliberte	Youth Care Worker – DTI – Meadow Lake
Stella Laliberte	Youth Care Worker – DTI – Meadow Lake

Denise Lalonde-Niccoli
Catherine Lefebvre
Janice Makely
Dawn Mardell
Nicole Marshall
Lindsay McCallum
Bev McKay
Priscilla Montour
Bailey Moore
Russell Murphy
Heather Nelson
Deanna Neudorf
Kendall Nicolas

Advanced LPN – Athabasca
NEPS – SIAST – Saskatoon
LPN – DTI – Prince Albert
LPN – DTI – Prince Albert
NEPS – SIAST – Saskatoon
LPN – DTI – Saskatoon
NEPS – FNUC – Prince Albert
LPN – DTI – Saskatoon
Therapeutic Recreation – SIAST – Saskatoon
Medicine – U of S
NEPS – SIAST – Saskatoon
NEPS – Prince Albert
LPN – DTI – Saskatoon



*Health Scholarship
Recipients -
Photograph by J.J.
Johnston*

Ashley Nolin
Virginia Nydegger
Rebecca Parent
Stacey Dougan
Josephine Phillip
Peter Poitras
S. Michelle Poitras
Janet Regan
Lee-Anne Riese
Theresa Ross
Amanda Russell
Theresa Serfas

Youth Care Worker – DTI – Meadow Lake
Youth Care Worker – DTI – Meadow Lake
Dental Hygiene – SIAST – Regina
LPN – DTI – Saskatoon
LPN – DTI – Saskatoon
Youth Care Worker – DTI – Meadow Lake
Post RN – Nursing – U of S
Youth Care Worker – DTI – Meadow Lake
NEPS – SIAST – Saskatoon
NEPS – SIAST – Saskatoon
Pharmacy Research Degree – U of S
LPN – DTI – Saskatoon

Jessica Sevigny
Alana Sinclair
Leanne Starblanket
Angela Thomas
Christine Tinker
Carla Toullelan
Aimee Trumier
Meagan Turgeon
Janene Umpherville
Dawn-Marie Werminsky
Natanis Yole-Merasty
Sasha Yole-Merasty

LPN – DTI – Saskatoon
Youth Care Worker – DTI – Meadow Lake
LPN – DTI – Prince Albert
NEPS – SIAST – Saskatoon
LPN – DTI – Saskatoon
LPN – DTI – Saskatoon
NEPS – SIAST – Saskatoon
Pharmacy – U of S
NEPS – FNUC – Prince Albert
LPN – DTI – Saskatoon
NEPS – SIAST – Saskatoon
NEPS – SIAST – Saskatoon



Gabriel Dumont College

Gabriel Dumont College Graduate Studies: Graduate Studies Bursary Recipients 2007

Article by Lisa Wilson



Louise Legare

"The focus of my doctoral dissertation is to describe the nature of personal and professional support required in TEPs in order for Métis and First Nations adult students to achieve their aspirations. Personal support requires developing positive, helpful and caring professional relationships with students so they can address personal issues which may arise during their training period."

Louise Legare received a GDC Graduate Student Bursary in December 2006 in support of her doctoral studies in Education Administration at the University of Saskatchewan. Ms. Legare's research builds on her many years of experience in Aboriginal Teacher Education Programs.



Keith Goulet

"My Ph.D. dissertation in history is on the Cumberland Cree concept of land. This proposed study is a response to the need for establishing basic research on the central issues of Métis, First Nations and Inuit peoples in the field of history. Whether it was the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland) in the early 1980s or land claims and land entitlement processes since the 1970s or the modern-day resource development strategies, the need to learn from Indigenous peoples knowledge, practices and understandings has been stated from time to time. While historical and anthropological research had been done in Québec and Ontario over the past century, little or no work has been done in Western Canada."

Keith Goulet received a GDC Graduate Student Bursary in December 2006 in support of his doctoral studies in History at the University of Regina. Mr. Goulet's research is on the Cumberland Cree concept of land.

2007 Millennium Awards for Excellence Recipients Announced

Article by David Morin

Four Métis students received the honour of a *Millennium Scholarship Excellence Award* this year, including Eric Wasylenko, Jordan Mihalicz, Bailie Mitchell, and Janique Richard. The *Millennium Scholarships* were created to recognize students for their leadership skills, community involvement, academic achievement, and interest in innovation.

Eric Wasylenko was one of nine students in Manitoba to receive the *Provincial Excellence Award*, which grants \$4,000, renewable each year to a maximum of \$16,000. Eric is from Dugald, Manitoba, and his accomplishments include serving as a peer tutor, being a peer support group member, holding executive positions on student council and

the Aboriginal awareness group, Gakina, Awiya Biindideg, as well as participating in numerous sports, including cross-country, curling, and rugby.

Jordan Mihalicz was one of 23 students in Saskatchewan to receive a *Local Excellence Award* for \$4,000. Jordan is from the Northern community of Beauval, where he attends Valley View School. Jordan is the coach of his school's weightlifting club and encourages his fellow students to pursue a healthy lifestyle. He also helps others become proactive on environmental issues by sharing his knowledge of entomology and biology. Jordan also shares his Métis heritage by teaching others the arts of woodburning, birch basket making, and canoe building.

Bailie Mitchell received one of the *Local Excellence Awards* given in Alberta for his achievements in Beaverlodge. Bailie is an advocate of drug and alcohol free living, and is a volunteer for many activities, which include volunteering for the Alberta's Uniting for Children Forum and the World Conference on the Prevention of Family Violence. He was also invited to be a member of the Youth Advisory Panel of Alberta, which is a panel that advises various government ministries and youth-serving agencies on how to better address issues affecting youth.

Janique Richard is another Albertan who received a *Local Excellence Award*. Janique is a bilingual student at the École

Notre Dame Senior High School in Bonnyville. Some of Janique's accomplishments include participating in a mission trip to Baja, Mexico and on her own initiative, collecting spare change for her school's Young Adopter's Group, which helped her group raise enough money to continue supporting children in developing countries for another year. She is also a volunteer with the Special Olympics at the bowling alley, and provides respite care for an autistic girl.

For more information on *The Millennium Scholarships* and how to apply, be sure to visit the website: www.millenniumscholarships.ca.

Upcoming Events...

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| July 01 | Canada Day Celebrations at Batoche National Historic Site featuring Christi Belcourt: <i>Great Métis of My Time</i> art exhibit |
| July 19-22 | <i>Back to Batoche Days "Spirit of the Métis"</i> |
| August 09-12 | <i>John Arcand Fiddle Fest @ Windy Acres</i> |
| August 16-18 | <i>Saskatoon Folkfest - Indian and Métis Pavillion at the Friendship Centre</i> |
| September 13-16 | Prince Albert Métis Fall Festival |
| October 25- 28 | 7th Annual National Michif Speakers Conference |
| November 17 | Honouring Louis Riel and our Métis Veterans - Batoche National Historic Site |



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research

GDI – Health & Wellness Scholarship & Bursary Program

The Gabriel Dumont Institute, in partnership with the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan and the Métis National Council, is pleased to offer this unique funding opportunity for Métis students entering into or already involved in health related studies.

The awards available include **Entrance, Continuation, Graduate-level, Completion, and Loan Remission Scholarships**. All scholarships are also available in bursary format. Bursaries are available based on assessment of financial need and available resources.

The **Entrance Scholarship** is designed to encourage Métis high school students and adult upgrading students to enter health-related careers. The **Continuation Scholarship** is intended to encourage retention of Métis students in health-related training programs. The **Graduate-level Scholarship** is available to students enrolled in Graduate level programming in a health related field of study. The **Completion Scholarship** is intended to encourage and reward students who have completed a certificate, diploma, or degree program at an approved institution within a prescribed time-frame. The **Loan Remission Scholarship** is designed to offset large debt burdens for Métis students who have taken health-related training programs.

Health and Wellness Programs (* denotes priority health training for the Métis Health and Wellness Scholarship Program)

Dentistry*	Pharmacy*	General Radiography	Environmental Health Officer Training*
Medicine*	Nursing*	Health Information Management	Health Administration*
Optometry*	Social Work	Cytotechnology	Addictions Counselling
Pre-Medicine Studies (Year 1 or 2)*	Physical Therapy*	Diagnostic Medical	Home Health Aid
Chiropractic	Respiratory Therapy*	Medical Technologist	Continuing Care Aid
Audiology	Occupational Therapy*	Sonographers	Medical Record Transcription
Speech-Language Pathology	Radiation Therapy	Medical Laboratory Technology	Mental Health Worker
Nurse Midwifery*	Dental Assisting*	Medical Radiologic Technology	Youth Care Worker
Psychiatric Nursing*	Dental Hygiene*	X-Ray Technician	Medical Office Assistant
Psychologist*	Practical Nursing*	Primary Care Paramedic	Radiation and Environmental Monitoring Technician
Dietetics*	Pharmacy Technician	Advanced Care Paramedic	Rehabilitation Worker
Nutrition*	Dental Laboratory Technician	Optician	Therapeutic Recreation

For more information visit www.gdins.org or contact:
Health and Wellness Scholarship Program
2nd Floor, 219 Robin Crescent
Saskatoon, SK S7L 6M8
Phone: 306.934.5927 Fax: 306.934.5928

Meadow Lake Youth Care Worker Program

Article by Shelley Bellanger

On Friday, April 27th, 2007, many family and friends gathered at the Mezzanine in Meadow Lake to celebrate the graduation of nine future Youth Care Workers (YCW). The tables were tastefully decorated with black and red tablecloths topped with art pieces symbolizing mother and child/youth. Each table glowed with candles, a different art piece all in theme with youth caregivers. The wall art enhanced the décor with glitter and candle light. Red, silver, gold, and black balloons and ribbon mingled with the graduates' thoughts as they reflected on their past journey.

The afternoon began with emcees John Campbell and Shelley Bellanger (a former SUNTEP graduate) playing the Métis National Anthem, followed by the introduction of the graduates.

Colleen Kehler, Academic facilitator, brought greetings from SIAST Saskatoon. On behalf of Dumont Technical Institute (DTI), Program Coordinator Tracy Stephensen congratulated the students and gave them the customary Métis sash and a Certificate of Achievement. A former instructor and keynote speaker, Tara Million empathized about the struggles of being a student. She recognized the hardships and obstacles that students with families have to endure while striving toward their goals.

Congratulations was also given by Sandy Danchuk, a former DTI Instructor, and employee of GDI Training and Employment. She encouraged any potential students to come and visit her for funding for their educational venture.

The highlight of the afternoon occurred when the graduates received *Health and Wellness Scholarships* of

\$2061 from Jason Johnson (J.J.), a Program Coordinator of the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI). He also handed out infinity pins, GDI pins and t-shirts. GDI, the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan, and the Métis National Council have worked collaboratively to offer the *Métis Health and Wellness Scholarships* to the YCW students.

The afternoon ended with a great meal by A & E Catering, owned by Edna Vandale and her daughter Janice Weibel-Macnab.

The 2007 YCW Graduates and the awards given to them by John Campbell and Shelley Bellanger were:

Ashley Lynn Bell	Independence
Lesley D. Clarke	Most Improved Student
Angel M. Laliberte	Good Humour
Stella M. Laliberte	Leadership & Spirituality
Ashley A. Nolin	Honour Roll
Virginia A. Nydegger	Outstanding Student
Peter B. Poitras	Tolerance
Janet L. Regan	Diligence
Alana M. Sinclair	Perseverance

Fiddle Dancer launched June 21st

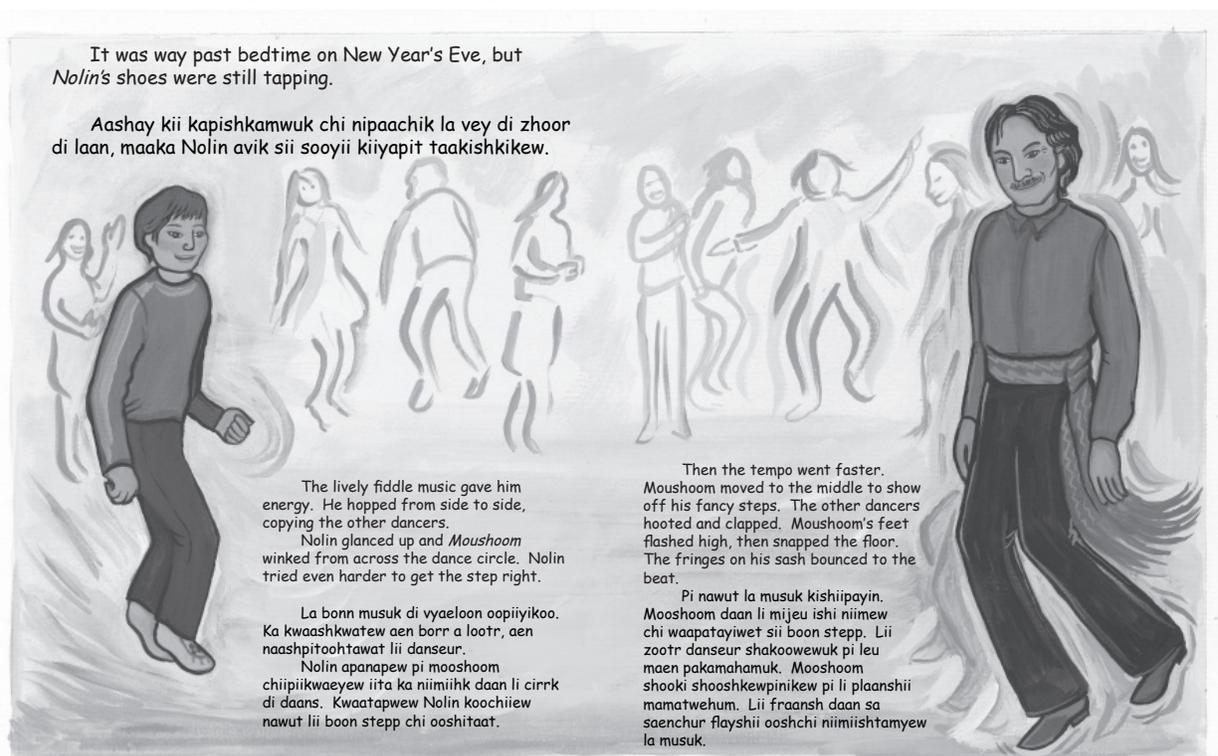
Article by David Morin and Illustrations by Sherry Farrell-Racette

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI)'s newest children's book, *Fiddle Dancer* was launched on June 21st at the *National Aboriginal Day* celebration at Batoche.

Fiddle Dancer, written by Anne Patton and Wilfred Burton and translated into Michif-Cree by Norman Fleury, is a story about a young boy named Nolin, who discovers his Métis heritage and how to jig while spending time with his *Moushoom*. The story is rich in Métis culture and language, and captures the importance of Elders as role models, a child's apprehension at learning new things, and the special bond between grandparents and grandchildren. Vivid images by artist Sherry Farrell Racette make a visually stunning accompaniment.

The book is accompanied by an audio CD with an English narration by Wilfred Burton, and a Michif narration by Norman Fleury.

Below is an excerpt from the story:



Métis Alphabet Study Prints Hot off the Press

Article by Janessa Temple

To accompany the launch of *Fiddle Dancer*, GDI was pleased to launch the newest addition to the *Métis Alphabet Book - The Métis Alphabet Book Study Prints*. One side of the print provides the reader with a large version of the illustrations and text as seen in the book, the other side showcases a detailed description of the term. The prints are a great resource for anyone interested in Métis culture.

Youth Suicide Prevention Consultation Held in Saskatoon

Article and Photographs by David Morin

Approximately 50 people gathered together on March 20 and 21, 2007 to discuss the increasing problem of Métis youth suicide. With a suicide rate three times that of non-Aboriginals, the situation needs to be addressed, and through funding support from the Métis National Council's health initiative, provinces across the Métis homeland are doing just that.

Bonnie Start, Métis Health and Wellness Coordinator, organized Saskatchewan's consultation by choosing a grassroots strategy, which brought stakeholders together. She felt it was important to include people affected by suicide in the consultation, because they are the ones who have the most knowledge of what people go through when a suicide does happen or is attempted. The 50 people from across the MN-S Regions included a cross-section of our community members including Métis Elders and fifteen Métis youth.



Participants during a brainstorming session

Some of the priorities and recommendations identified in the consultation included having community support, inclusion of Métis elders and

Métis culture, peer support systems, and youth involvement in the design and delivery of programming being tailored to their needs. The need for more recreation centres, sports programs, and other physical activity was also discussed as a method of keeping youth healthy in body and mind.

The consultation gave people from across Saskatchewan a chance to talk, and increase awareness and acceptance in a non-judgemental environment. It also helped them realize that youth suicide is not just a Northern problem, but that the issue is province-wide. It provided youth from Sandy Bay to have the opportunity to talk about how youth suicide is affecting their community which has had over 20 attempts from last August to March. Having the chance to be heard was a big part in their healing process.

Following the Saskatchewan consultation, three of the youth from Sandy Bay, along with six adults brought their results to the National level when they attended the *Youth Suicide Prevention/Intervention Think Tank* in Winnipeg. Representatives from across the Métis Homeland were in attendance to provide input and feedback to the Métis National Council on their consultations.

Presenters at the conference included Dr. Nicole Coupe, Massey University, New Zealand who had gone through the same process and discussed their approach and findings. It was very interesting to note the similarities between our people and New Zealand's Aboriginal peoples.

They chose a very thorough grassroots approach to their research, going door-to-door and sitting down with families to talk about the risk factors and incorporated their input into prevention and intervention strategies.

The youth from Sandy Bay were also given a chance to present about their experience to the approximately 100 participants. The feedback for them was outstanding. People reached out, listened, talked, and through them, the whole event became very personalized and added a human touch to the issue of youth suicide.

The next step will be for the Métis National Council to use the data collected in Winnipeg to seek resources to support the initiatives presented by the provinces.



J.J. Johnston promotes the Métis Health and Wellness Scholarship to participants



Max Morin and Elders

O.C.R.E. Experience 2006

Article and photographs by Christina Johns

Imagine yourself in the solitude and tranquility of quaint little country Bed and Breakfast, "Jack Pine Stables", nestled at the edge of the Nesbitt Forest near Duck Lake, Saskatchewan. The air is crisp and clean, the wind is gently rustling the autumn leaves, the birds are singing, and the horses are whinnying in the corral out back. These were the images and scenery that the SUNTEP Regina's third year students and staff experienced for their fall O.C.R.E. trip held in early September.

O.C.R.E. (Off Campus Residential Experience) is an annual event for University of Regina Education students. Over the past three years, SUNTEP Regina has held their O.C.R.E. at Jack Pine

Stables, Duck Lake and surrounding area. Students experienced a wide range of educational, team-building, and cultural experiences in a jam-packed, fun-filled, three-day trip.



Over the three days we not only experienced Métis and First Nation history and culture, but we also made connections to our own family histories, and learned more about each other as a group. The main purpose of O.C.R.E. is to provide students with a unique learning opportunity that brings together the learning and skills attained through various education and cross-cultural classes. They, in turn, expand their professional knowledge, learn more about different teaching strategies, and multiple contexts for learning through this hands-on, experiential learning approach.

We enjoyed the fantastic hospitality and organization of Darlene Mullis, owner of Jack Pine Stables during our stay. We were invited to a sweat lodge ceremony on Beardy's Okemasis First Nation, facilitated by Herb Seesequasis and family. This was an experience that many students and staff will not soon forget. We were also treated to an interpretive walk where Justin Scott, naturalist, taught us about plants native to the area and their uses. Rose Fleury, Elder, was invited to share her knowledge with us and do some storytelling around the campfire.

We also experienced the culture and history of the Batoche and Duck Lake areas by touring many museums and historical sites. We were lucky to

encounter many knowledgeable people and tour guides at St. Laurent Grotto and Buffalo Jump, Duck Lake Interpretive Centre, and Batoche National Historic Site.

Many students recognized the connection of the Duck Lake/Batoche O.C.R.E. experience to the Winnipeg Métis History and Genealogy trip the previous year. It was interesting and humbling for students to feel a strong connection to the Batoche area, to stand on the ground where our forefathers and relatives once stood, to see where families were raised or where our ancestors stood their ground in a battle for Métis rights.

To walk on the Carlton Trail that once connected the exodus of Métis families from the Red River Settlements was a meaningful experience that brought personal knowledge, history, culture, and heritage full circle. O.C.R.E. 2006 contributed to our knowledge and our pride as Métis people.



Students at the museum in Duck Lake



Students playing traditional games at Jack Pine Stables near Duck Lake

August 9-12, 2007

10th Anniversary
**JOHN ARCAND
FIDDLE FEST**

Just southwest of SASKATOON
Windy Acres, Pike Lake Highway (#60)

Major Sponsors



GENERAL ADMISSION:
Per Person, \$20 Per Day or \$40 Weekend
12 & Under Free
Rain or shine / Bring your lawn chair
Free unserviced camping
Concession / Activities for kids
Please bring a non-perishable food
donation for the Saskatoon Food Bank

THURSDAY

- Fiddle & Jigging Workshops
10 am to 4:30 pm
- Evening Concert

FRIDAY

- Fiddle, Jigging, Guitar
& Piano Workshops
9 am to 4 pm
- Andy DeJarlis Category
Preliminaries
- Concert Showcase
7 acts back to back
- Old Time Dance

SATURDAY

- Fiddle Contest Preliminaries
- Canadian Red River Jigging
Championship Preliminaries
- 10th Anniversary Concert
- Old Time Dance

SUNDAY

- Fiddles & Flapjacks Breakfast
- Gospel Hour
- Fiddle Contest Finals
- Jigging Championship Finals
- Fiddle Finale

Over \$10,700
in prize money



Funding Agencies



Workshops in fiddle, jigging, guitar & piano, free with general admission

Competitions Sanctioned Fiddle Contest
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Youth Story Corner

The Unbroken Promise

Story written by Talia Humenuik

Talia Humenuik is a Métis student currently in grade seven at Stobart High School in Duck Lake, SK. Talia wrote this story as part of an assignment for school with inspiration stemming from the idea to create a story that shares emotions. In her story, she wanted to share how to express yourself and "wanted to get out there and tell people" about these issues.

This summer Talia will be participating in many equestrian shows throughout Saskatchewan, as well as a few in Alberta, in a variety of classes. The most recent show she was involved in took place in Lloydminster, where she received a High Point Award for receiving the most points overall.

It was a perfect day, the sky was powder blue, the sun shone gently, the grass was a lush green and the trees swayed in the warm summer breeze. My mom and I were walking on the beach together. For a few months now, Mom had felt tired and also had frequent headaches.

Then one day, I came down from upstairs and said, "Mom, you don't look well, maybe you should stay home from work today." Mary just said, "Don't worry Lauren, I'll be fine."

Mary worked at Sewing and Stuff, a new sewing store downtown. She said she liked her job and the staff were nice, but one day when I walked in to see her, she looked so tired and pale from sewing so much all day. That's why whenever I had a chance I tried to make her stay home, but Mom was such a hard worker that no matter how tired she was, she would still go to work. That's just the kind of person she was.

One day I got off the bus and ran to my front door, I was so excited to tell my mother that I got 87% on a history test I had been nervous about for days. But when I got in, the house was quiet. I quickly ran to my bedroom to put my jacket and bag away. Then I yelled, "Mom, where are you?" There was no answer. I yelled again. "Mom, where are you?" No answer. So I ran to the phone to call my mother's work, just then I saw a note on the table - 'Gone to hospital, Mom.' Why

would she go to the hospital?

I got ready, got onto the bus and went to the hospital. Twenty minutes later, I finally arrived. I got off the bus and ran to the door. I saw a nurse pushing a cart with my mother's name on it, Mary Wilson. But what was on the cart? I wanted to know. I finally caught up with the nurse. "Excuse me?" I said politely. But before I could say anything else, the nurse said, "You must be Lauren Wilson, Mary's daughter?" "Yes, I am," I replied. "Well, I am so sorry but your mother has come in for a check up and," the nurse paused, "she is very sick." "How sick?" I replied. "She, she has cancer." The nurse said uneasily.

I felt my brain turn to mush. No, no, no, she can't! My life had just been ruined, my life had just ended. I sat down on the floor and cried. My body lay on the cold hospital floor, limp and shocked. Yet my mind lay in devastation. I was so devastated I felt like crawling in a hole, curling up in a ball and never coming out. A few hours later, I woke up and found myself lying on a bench in the nurses' office. "Hello dear," a familiar voice said. I got up and looked around. "You didn't get a chance to see your mother yet, would you like to now?"

I wanted to, but should I? I nodded my head and then I was led into a room where, in a hospital bed, silently and motionlessly, lay my mother, Mary

Wilson, a beautiful hardworking woman, who worked all her life for everything she had. All that work had gotten her nothing except a dark hospital room, with no company and no strength to do anything, nothing at all.

"She just got her needle," the nurse quietly said. "That's why she isn't talking." Hours passed and as it neared midnight she finally woke up. "Lauren," she said in a dull, low whisper. "Please take care of yourself." I felt like I had just been hit by a bus, I could barely talk. "Yes Mom, I promise." "How did your history test go?" she whispered. "Really good!" I replied, "I got 87%, an A!" "Wow! Well done my girl."

Before I could reply, the nurse came in and gave my mom another needle. "These will be her last couple of days," the nurse said sadly. "Yes," I replied, "I know." Then I heard my mother say, "I love you." I said, "I love you too."

A couple of days passed and my interest in life was quickly dropping. It seemed like whenever I tried to think, all I could think about was my mother and her low, faint, weak whispers.

Right after school, I went to the hospital to go visit Mom. When I got there, the nurse said, "Lauren, honey, why don't you come take a walk with me?" I went along and finally, she said, "Your mother is quickly going, she only has a few days left." "I can still go see her though, right?" "Of course you can," she said gently. Then she walked me to her room.

"Mom, I'm here." "Hello my girl," she said weakly. "How was school?" she asked. "Good, I guess," I replied. "Mom?" "Yes?" "The nurse said you only have a couple of days left and..." My eyes filled with water and my throat felt like it had a basketball in it. "I just wanted to tell

you that I'm really sorry if I ever made you mad..." "Lauren, it's okay. You're my daughter and I will always love you, no matter what." Her words grew weaker with every breath.

"I will always love you too, Mom," I said quietly. "Take care of yourself and promise me you will keep on with life until it is your time. Promise?" "I promise," I said, after many seconds had passed. The nurse came and gave her a needle. "I love you Lauren." "I love you too, so much."

I left and had another sleepless night, so the next day I decided not to go to school and visit Mom for the day instead. But when I got to the door the nurse came and hugged me like she was comforting me for something. Then I knew what happened.

"NO, NO, NO! SHE CAN'T!" I yelled and the nurse squeezed even tighter. I was so devastated and felt everything at once. I couldn't live like this, not without her. I ran to the bathroom and sat by myself, and then I got out and saw a cupboard full of pills. "No, I can't, I promised Mom I wouldn't," I thought to myself. But how, how could I go on with my life and just wait until it was my turn to die? I collected myself and decided not to, I couldn't. I had promised.

After a couple of hours I got up to go see my mother's body but I thought to myself, "I can't. I want to remember her for the hard working woman she was."

I woke up the next morning and it all felt like a bad dream. I wanted to just give up, but then I remembered Mom. Finally, after a year, I started healing. My aunt moved in to keep me company and just like I promised Mom I would, I took care of myself and kept going.

Learn Michif at Learnmichif.com

Article by David Morin

The Michif languages are the languages of the Métis, and sadly, they are endangered languages. The number of speakers are declining yearly. There has been a resurgence in the language due to the hard work of the speakers themselves as well as the youth who are taking the time to learn Michif from their Elders.

A very accessible teaching tool that has been created is the website **www.learnmichif.com**. Started in 2005 by Jeff Ward, the site was created due to the lack of online Michif instruction. With the help of Ryan Bresser, Amy Place, and others, the site was completed in early 2007. LearnMichif.com is a joint project by the Métis Nation British Columbia and the BC United Métis Youth Circle. It was created with funding from the Canadian Culture On-Line Project, a division of the Department of Canadian Heritage.



Welcome to LearnMichif.com!

You are now looking at the new and improved LearnMichif.com as presented by the BC United Métis Youth Circle and the Métis Nation BC. Learn more about this project by clicking [here](#). Begin exploring this site by clicking one of the links below.

 <p>Language Lessons</p> <p>We're proud to announce 4 new lessons. Come on in and learn the Michif language.</p> <p>>TAKE A LESSON</p>	 <p>Video Centre</p> <p>See and hear people speaking the Michif language right on your computer screen! This and so much more in the video centre.</p> <p>>WATCH VIDEOS</p>	 <p>Métis Culture</p> <p>An overview of Metis history from the wilds of pre-confederation Canada to the present day.</p> <p>>LEARN THE CULTURE</p>	 <p>Podcast</p> <p>Subscribe to our video podcast feed. Click the link below and add the feed into iTunes or your favorite podcast viewer.</p> <p>>RSS FEED</p>
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The site uses work done by Norman Fleury, Peter Bakker, Heather Souter, Pemmican Publications, and others, in order to teach users basic Michif. The user can choose between interactive lessons on greetings, months, days, numbers, seasons, weather, and simple Michif verbs. Users begin by learning a word list by clicking on Michif words to hear them, and then using that knowledge in the lessons that follow.

The lessons range from multiple choice, to clicking and dragging Michif words on their English meanings, to dialogue practice, and to quizzes. The website also features videos on storytelling, contemporary Métis, Michif, and culture, as well as background information on Métis history, including links to more information.

Overall, this website is well laid out, easy to understand, and very accessible to students of the Michif language. If you're interested in Michif, and would like to learn some of the basics, then be sure to visit **www.learnmichif.com!**

6th Annual Michif Speakers Conference a Success

Article and Photographs by Janessa Temple

Michif speakers from across the country gathered in Winnipeg in March of 2007 to converse, celebrate, educate, and strategize about ways to preserve the Michif languages. The Winnipeg Delta was buzzing with Michif for three days as speakers were given the opportunity to attend workshops and clinics geared to preserve, share, and educate each other and non-speakers on the importance and significance Michif has in the Métis culture. The annual Conference was hosted by the Manitoba Métis Federation.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) seized this event to launch their newest resource: *Métis Legacy II* and gave the public a sneak preview of the upcoming *Michif Resource Guide*.



Michif speakers brainstorming at the conference

Conferences such as this one have been occurring annually since 2001. The Gabriel Dumont Institute will be host to the 7th Annual Michif Speakers Conference October 25-28, 2007. These gatherings are essential for the speakers to converse, plan resolutions, create initiatives, and correspond with interested parties capable of helping to preserve the Michif languages.

*Audreen Hourie, MMF President
David Chartrand, and Lawrence
Barkwell at McNally Robinson,
Winnipeg, MB for the launch of
Métis Legacy II*



METIS LEGACY II: MICHIF CULTURE, HERITAGE AND FOLKWAYS

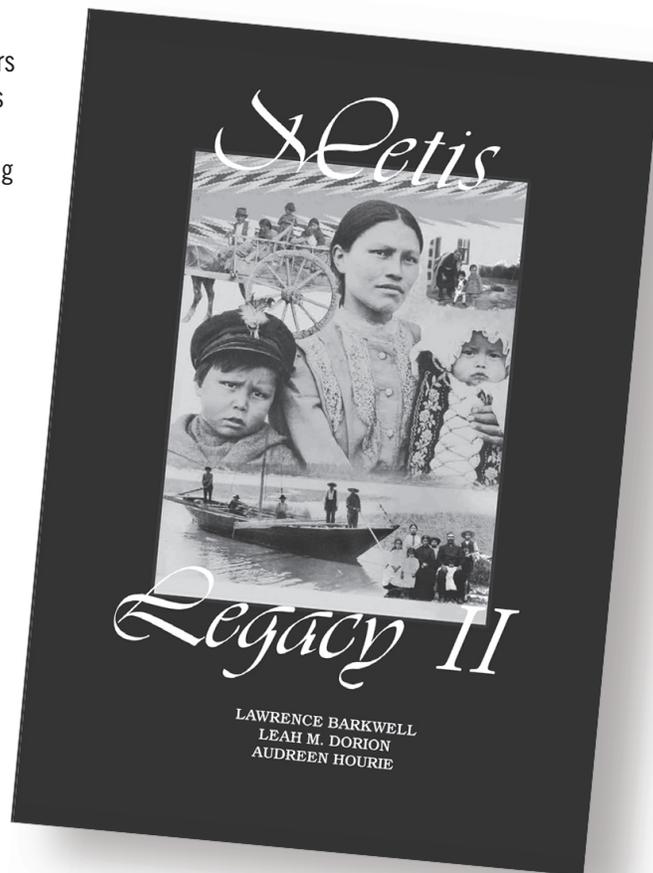
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This groundbreaking book, the first time that a systematic account of the Michif worldview has appeared in one volume, provides readers with a holistic appreciation of what it means to be “Michif.”

With contributions from Elders, scholars and laypeople, *Metis Legacy II* provides a thorough overview of all the central tenets of the Michif worldview including languages, spiritualism, storytelling, music, dance, healing traditions, and celebrations. This highly anticipated tome clearly demonstrates that being Michif is not merely about self-identification, but is, rather, about being part of a community of people who share a common heritage, firmly rooted in both time and place.

ISBN: 978-0-920915-80-6 • \$45

A co-publication of Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research and Pemmican Publications Inc.



Look for *Metis Legacy II* in your favourite bookstore, or contact us directly:



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Original painting by David Garneau

Who Amongst Us?/Conspiracy Theories Métis Style (Part 1)

Article by Murray Hamilton

Everyone enjoys a conspiracy story. One of the best known is the assassination of JFK. Was the mob really involved, was it the Cubans, or perhaps the Russians? Books have been written, movies made, and the speculation continues. More recent conspiracy theories include the now infamous 9/11 incident which has profoundly impacted world events. Michael Moore's movie entitled *Fahrenheit 9/11* raised the possibility that the Americans themselves were responsible for the attack on the World Trade Centre, using the incident as a ploy to manipulate foreign policy in the Middle East. Six and a half years into the world's greatest manhunt and the Americans have yet to capture the alleged mastermind Osama bin Laden. In the Métis community a few good laughs have been had over the hunt for Osama. One individual suggested to me that the CIA were incompetent because everyone knows Osama bin Laden has been hiding out at Armand Murray's place in La Loche.

If you are of a more spiritual bent or interested in the history of the Catholic Church perhaps *The Da Vinci Code* is more to your liking. *The Da Vinci Code* contends, amongst other things, that the Vatican sanitized the history of the Catholic Church and further that Jesus Christ was married to Mary Magdalene who bore him children, leading to the notion that there may actually be descendants of Jesus Christ walking the earth.

Conspiracy stories are also alive and well in the Métis community and have been for some time. We still don't know what happened to the late Métis leader Jim Brady and his prospecting partner Abbie Halkett, both of whom disappeared while on a prospecting trip in June of 1967. Since their bodies were never recovered, several theories have been

put forth. Some believe that Brady was killed for his political activities. Others believe that Brady and Halkett were done in for the mining claims they had filed. Still others think they just plain got lost and died of exposure to the elements. The area they were prospecting in was rich in uranium deposits and other minerals. Perhaps we will never know or maybe in time new information or evidence will shed some light on the disappearance of Jim Brady.

More recently, the missing Bell of Batoche has sparked some interesting and humorous conspiracy stories. As in days of old, fiddle tunes, poems, and songs have been written about the bell. Grant money received by Métis playwrights, actors, and would be producers has not been insignificant. If nothing else the bell has been a substantial makework project, and has contributed mightily to the Métis economy. Likewise the media have had a field day with the story and politicians, Métis and non-Métis alike, have attempted to make political hay with the issue. Oh to be the hero who returns the bell to Batoche! The liberators of the bell have been honoured as Métis patriots and freedom fighters in one breath and then vilified as nothing more than common thieves, no better, one Métis politician stated, than the ilk that stole the bell in 1885. Is there any substance to the rumours that a red truck with Saskatchewan license plates was involved, or was it as one individual stated, a lark by some Métis hockey players returning from a tournament down east? Where is the bell, who has the bell, who knows? We are left to ponder and wait.

Most conspiracy stories have a considerable political weave to their make-up. At no time in our history have conspiracy stories been more prevalent than during the turbulent days of the sixties and

seventies. During that era some Métis individuals and organizations were seen as threats to the security of the Canadian state. Those of us who were present during that time or have spoken with people who were deeply involved in the political struggle know that the RCMP, and later CSIS, monitored the activities of the Métis Society of Saskatchewan (MSS), the Native Youth Movement (NYM), and the Native Council of Canada (NCC). It is also interesting to speculate what the state's security interests may be in the activities of the Métis today, although at the present time we probably wouldn't be considered a threat to anybody but ourselves. Are security activities intended only to monitor or are they intended to infiltrate and where possible, manipulate the Métis agenda? Some Métis conspiracy theorists believe that the current chaos and apathy are the direct result of State infiltration and manipulation.

Is there any evidence to support such speculation? There is for activities of individuals and organizations during the 1960's and 70's, and in years to come no doubt new evidence will surface detailing the State's interest in current matters. Do you think the State is not concerned about the recent incidents in Caledonia or if there is the potential for such an outburst in Saskatchewan or elsewhere? Of course CSIS and the RCMP are interested. They are probably also interested in what Métis academics, lawyers, and intellectuals are teaching and conveying to Métis students. The State no doubt is very interested in what may result from an emerging Métis community that is more affluent and therefore independent, but at the same time may be becoming more impatient with the social and economic conditions facing large segments of marginalized Métis people. Although today's Métis environment may lack the radicalism of previous decades, there has been a significant growth in the education levels of Métis people and a higher level of discourse and analysis of contemporary issues that could lead to future challenges

to the status quo. The intellectual and political development currently underway in Métis society is analogous to the quiet revolution that took place in Quebec.

The formulation of policy and the gathering of information requires personnel whether the final objective is fisheries or State security. During the work and research that went into the autobiography of *Howard Adams: OTAPAWAY*, access to a file that the Mounties had kept on Howard Adams was obtained. The information in the file gives an interesting historical insight into the past, but should also serve to remind us that we can never be sure when the State is watching, or who they are interested in and why. In July (19th & 20th) of 1969, the MSS, under the leadership of Howard Adams and others, organized a meeting in Duck Lake, Saskatchewan. Some portions of the event can be seen on a National Film Board production entitled *Pow-wow at Duck Lake*. The same file indicates that Howard Adams and other members of the MSS were under surveillance during this period. The agent or informant was amongst those in attendance. It is also probable that the individual was Métis or of Aboriginal descent as a non-Métis person present at such a meeting during that era would have been too conspicuous. The file also indicates that the same agent/informant was present at a 1974 meeting held at the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre. While hostilities between the American Indian Movement (AIM) and U.S. authorities were developing at Custer, South Dakota during early 1973, the MSS sent representatives and financial support. The file reports on April 10, 1973, "The MSS in itself is not a subversive organization", however, the author/agent goes on to write, "more recently we have seen involvement by members of the MSS with the radical American Indian Movement in their confrontations with the U.S. authorities at Custer and Wounded Knee, S.D. At this time we have established

that approximately \$1200.00 (funds provided by the Federal Government) have been used by the MSS to support AIM, both in the physical presence of representatives and outright donations. We are continuing this line of investigation into the activities of MSS."

The report confirms that demonstrations held in Canada in support of the armed occupation at Wounded Knee were under surveillance. The information in the file indicates that the RCMP had infiltrated the MSS or were receiving internal information through other means. The security concerns of the State would have been heightened as the MSS leadership during this period held meetings with leading members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) and also with members of the American based Black Panthers. Concurrently, then as now, obtaining information on activities of Métis organizations is not difficult, internal squabbles as well as State access to internal activities provide a ready conduit of information. As the old saying goes, "loose lips sink ships."

It is highly probable that many of the more militant sit-ins, occupations, and roadblocks that took place throughout this era came under the scrutiny and surveillance of the RCMP and CSIS agents. In April of 1973, RCMP Headquarters advised its various divisions throughout Canada that a "Photograph Album" was being developed and "individuals of interest" were to be included. It should come as no surprise that the RCMP and CSIS have kept tabs on the activities of various individuals and organizations, part of their mandate after all is the internal security of the Canadian state. In the fall of 1978, the Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan (AMNSIS) held a roadblock at the entrances to the National Park at Waskesiu where a meeting of Provincial Premiers was being held. Relations between AMNSIS and the NDP government of Allan Blakeney

had deteriorated and while a roadblock may now seem extreme, it did achieve results. That the Métis were able to involve several hundred people in a roadblock which was a potential security threat to the assembled Canadian Premiers was no doubt of concern to the RCMP. By pure fluke, AMNSIS leadership had managed to obtain information that all available RCMP personnel in the northern half of the Province had been sent to Edmonton to provide additional security at the Commonwealth Games where members of the Royal family were scheduled to make an appearance. It looked like AMNSIS had planned the Waskesiu roadblock to coincide with the RCMP manpower shortage, however, it was all coincidental.

It should not be assumed that intelligence gathering was a one way street. Although I do not have personal knowledge of an organized Métis intelligence gathering service, there were individual Métis leaders who were students of the game and enjoyed the spy-vs-spy activities. The leadership of the time was also well versed in the lifestyles and personal habits of various politicians and senior bureaucrats. Such information was useful in negotiation and bargaining forums. Individuals in the federal and provincial civil service sympathetic to the Métis cause often kited anonymous envelopes of information, and yet other information was leaked intentionally. A number of break-ins to government offices were attributed to Métis intelligence gathering efforts and became the subject of discussion between Métis leaders and the RCMP.

We should not assume this all part of a bygone era. In the spring of 2000, the U.S. Embassy based in Ottawa requested meetings with representatives of the western based Métis organizations. The stated intent was to update the Embassy file on Aboriginal issues, however it became readily apparent that they were very knowledgeable about a series of meetings that had been held between representatives of the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan and Métis individuals and groups from North Dakota.

Someone, somewhere, had taken notes.

The most recent conspiracy theories arise from the current difficulties facing the Métis community. The question becomes how far is the State involved in the directing and manipulation of the Métis political agenda? The impasse resulting from the 2004 Métis election raises a multitude of questions regarding the policy intentions of both the provincial and federal governments. Those who support the election results despite numerous criminal charges alleging serious wrongdoings have vehemently stated that both levels of government have no business interfering in the Métis electoral process. Alternatively those who contend that the entire electoral process was invalid oppose government intentions to pump yet more money into a Métis electoral process with obvious structural flaws. It appears that neither faction is pleased and the impasse grows wider despite the efforts of three separate committees to resolve the matter. Ironically, some individuals in both factions contend that the province of Saskatchewan created the environment for the current difficulties by choosing to ignore the findings and recommendations

of an Electoral Reform Study written by Marilyn Poitras following the 2001 Métis Nation—Saskatchewan election. The Poitras report and the subsequent Lampard Report, as well as the report prepared by The Métis Electoral Consultation Panel called for the creation of a central Métis registry. Thus far the province of Saskatchewan and the Federal Government have strenuously refused the call for the creation of a central registry. Such an omission serves only to lend credence to proposition of State policy that circumvents the best interests of the Métis community. Past Métis leaders such as Malcolm Norris, Howard Adams, and Rod Bishop warned of the dangers of State intervention through the manipulation of the Métis political agenda. Some may consider such matters highly speculative, alternatively if the State has, in the past, deemed it necessary to monitor Métis meetings, how far is it prepared to go to undermine large scale land claims and Métis rights initiatives?

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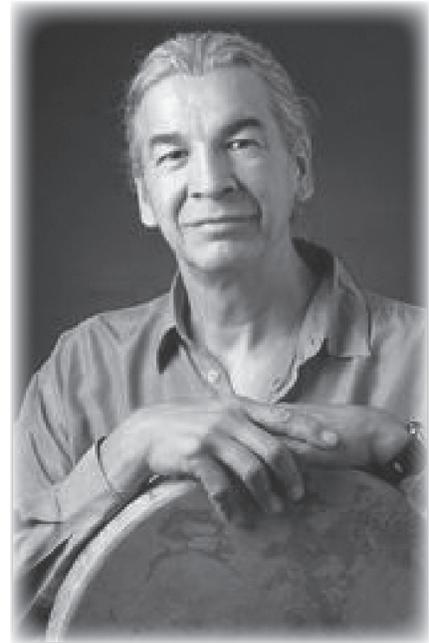
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Aboriginal Storytelling Week 2007

Article by Regina SUNTEP

As part of the fourth annual *Aboriginal Storytelling Week*, the Gabriel Dumont Library in Regina hosted storyteller/singer/songwriter Joseph Naytowhow on Tuesday, February 27, 2007. Joseph is a Woodland Cree from the Sturgeon Lake First Nation, Saskatchewan. The recent recipient of the *Keeper of Traditions* award at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards, he has traveled extensively around the world sharing his songs and stories. He most enjoys the Métis jig, Cree round dance, and powwow.

Joseph began his storytelling session by telling the audience who he was and where he comes from. He then asked the audience to introduce themselves in Cree. Accompanying himself on his drum, Joseph sang and told a story or two, a talent he picked up from listening to Elders, storytelling tapes, and reading short stories.



Joseph Naytowhow



Speaking at times in Cree, at times in English, Joseph captivated his listeners with the Yes/No story and a Wesakaychak story. He also taught the audience, which included students in the Education Library class as well as students from year one and three of the SUNTEP program, how to sing "Happy Birthday" in Cree. Joseph concluded the session with a song called "All One People" before inviting students to ask questions. Joseph and the students enjoyed bannock and juice after the session.

Symposium held in Ottawa on Aboriginal Education

Article by David Morin

On May 22 and 23, 2007, a symposium entitled, "Eastern Ontario Symposium on Aboriginal Education: Telling our Stories – Crafting a More Promising Future" was held. The goal of the symposium was to better understand how to improve the academic achievement of Aboriginal students in Ontario.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) was invited to give presentations on how to address the needs of the 26,000 Métis students in Ontario elementary and secondary schools, and to give background on what resources are available to teach Métis content and affirm Métis students.

David Morin and Janessa Temple began the presentation by giving the

teachers, board members, administrators, and parents a background of GDI, outlining the needs of Métis students, and an overview of culturally affirming teaching materials. The participants expressed frustration at the lack of resources available to them in their school and local libraries, and were very impressed with what was demonstrated and the amount of free material that GDI offers on the internet with the Back to Batoche Interactive Website:

www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Batoche and The Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture: www.metismuseum.ca.

The Last Buffalo Hunt - Kaayash Mana

Story by Louise Moine

As a descendent of Cree, French, and Scots, my life was guided by a mixture of these three nationalities, and since my parents were Cree Métis, it was only natural that my Indian blood predominated. Even our first language was a mixture of French and Cree. We followed in the footsteps of our ancestors, adopting their ways and customs to suit our way of life and lived from day to day with no anxiety for the future.

My father's birthplace was Trois-Rivieres, Quebec. His birth certificate showed that he was born November 1, 1867. When fourteen years old, my father rode through the valley of the Whitemud River (Frenchman River). Throughout 1883 - 1884, before the railroad came south, that the great ranches developed with the arrival of homesteaders. Up until

that time, we were a free and happy people. Not only did their way of life infringe on our liberties, but their discrimination was not easy to accept because we were a proud race. In time, we learned that we couldn't fight them. We had to learn to live with them.

In 1887, Sir John Lester Kaye founded the huge cattle empire known as the '76 Ranch' which reached from Swift Current to Calgary and parts south through the Whitemud River Valley. It was in the year 1900 that the Turkey Track Ranch reportedly ran from 18,000 to 30,000 head of cattle on the range extending from Swift Current to Wood Mountain. In 1910, they made their way southward from Swift Current following the winding prairie trails across the hills. To a fourteen-year-old it must have seemed

like riding through virgin land.

By that time, the herds of buffalo were gone; the few remaining had retreated westward toward their last refuge in the Cypress Hills. Little did my father know that two years later he would participate in what was known as 'the last buffalo hunt'.

In the fall of 1885, hunters gathered on a long sloping hill (La Roche), about 10 miles southwest of Val Marie. Known locally as McCarthy Butte, one can climb the hill and find many tipi rings which attest to its long-term use. Having an altitude of 3,117 feet above sea level, the butte was an ideal look-out post. From its flat top, an impressive view stretched in all directions. In the fall, when the natural prairie grass turned to gold, it was possible to spot a grazing buffalo about 25 miles away.

Hunters had to be cautious when approaching these large beasts who had a keen sense of smell and hearing. Tribes like the Plains Cree and the Blackfeet had developed effective hunting techniques.

One type of drive depended on hunters funneling the buffalo into a corral and killing them with bows and arrows. Another type used was where open terrain gave way to a sharp drop. The herd would be stampeded over the precipice, breaking their necks and their backs in the fall. The latter method was used when my father was invited to join the hunt with a party consisting mainly of

Métis, some on horseback and some on foot.

A single buffalo bull could provide 700 kg of meat and the cows as much as 450 kg. The fresh meat was roasted on a spit over an open fire, or boiled by placing hot stones in a skin bag holding water and the buffalo meat. The meat to be dried was taken from the lean part of the animal and cut into thin slices then hung on racks to dry in the sun. This dry meat, or jerky, could be stored in bags for a long time.

Living next to nature as we did, time and distance meant nothing to us. Our main occupation in summer was putting up hay from the plentiful grass which grew on the flats to feed the stock throughout the winter. At times, there was a surplus which was sold to buyers who also needed hay for feed.

In fact, it was on one of those excursions that I was born. The folks were travelling north and had stopped to camp for the night at Saskatchewan Crossing. My unexpected arrival caused the trip a delay of four days and thus I became the eighth member of this wandering pioneer family.

There are no more old-timers left at the Lac Pelletier Valley. They have all passed away. What was once a lively Métis community is no more and has faded with the past. My parents, too, are gone; both are buried in the Ponteix cemetery. There were ten children, and now I am the only remaining one of our family.

Louise Moine was the eighth child in a family of ten born to Patrice Edward Trottier and Tillie Rose Whitford, who were both Métis. She met and married Victor Moine in Val Marie where they raised three children.

Louise's published works, *My Life in a Residential School* and *Remembering Will Have to Do* are a treasured legacy. At her passing, September 2, 2006, a few weeks short of her 102nd birthday, she was the oldest residential school survivor in Canada.



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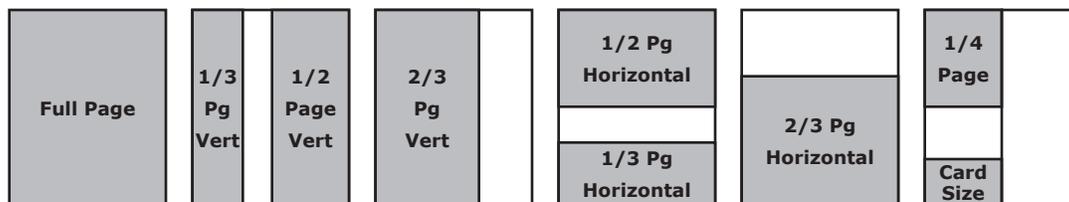
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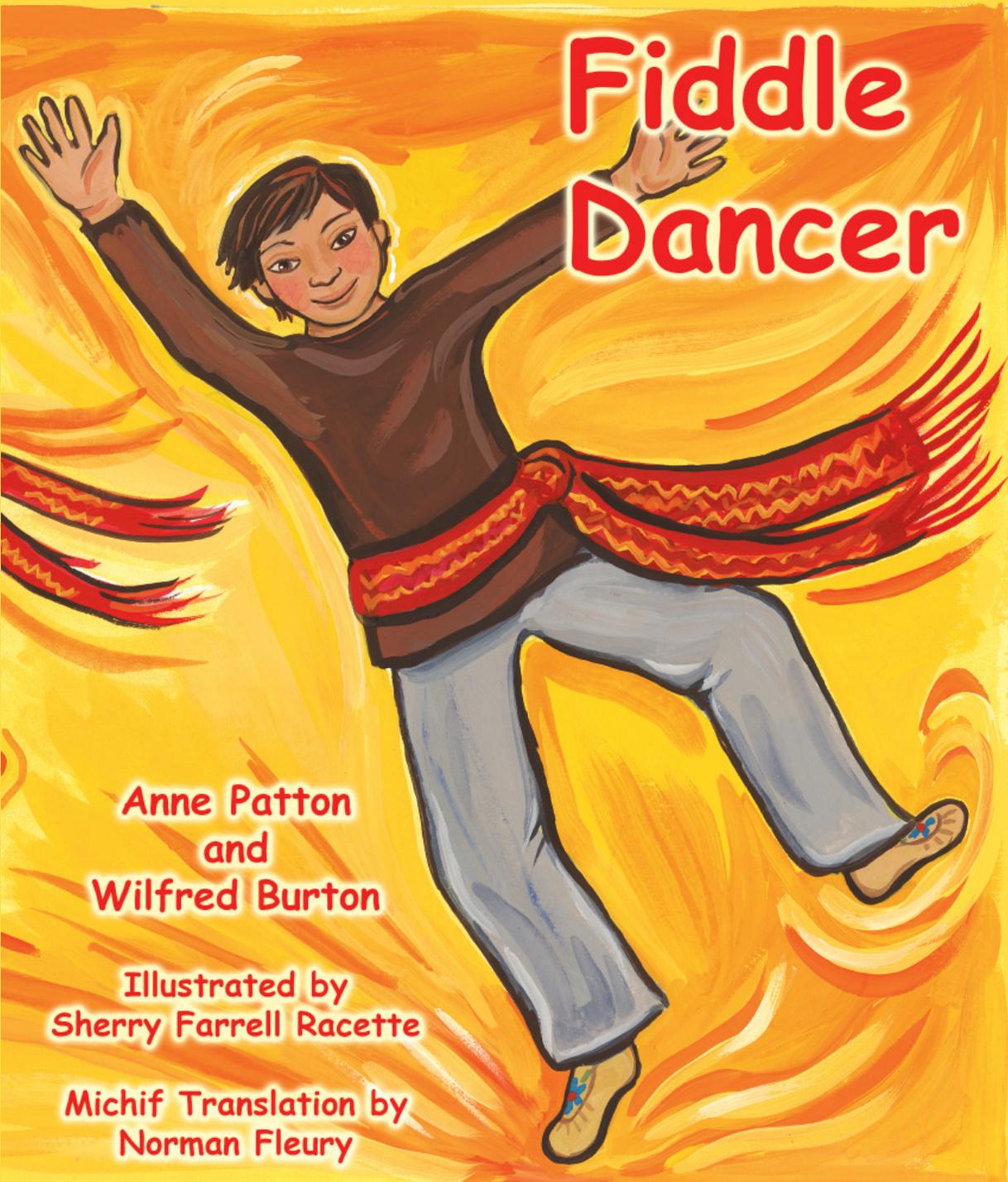
Since first being published in the early 1970s, *New Breed* has been the "voice of the Métis in Saskatchewan". We take pride in knowing that we have become an important media source for Métis and other Aboriginal people throughout Saskatchewan. Through feature articles, editorials and submissions, we bring forth a strong sense of identity, history and pride among Métis people. Our magazine also serves as an important communication outlet to highlight important information, current events and issues within our communities relating to economic, social and political development, employment, training, education, and cultural preservation, etc. We also focus on many of our accomplishments, future endeavours and include profiles of successful Métis individuals, programs and businesses. We welcome your organization's participation and thank you for your support. A *New Breed Magazine* inquiry can be made by telephone (306 657.5714), by fax (306 244.0252) or by email (david.morin@gdi.gdins.org).

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