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Magazine

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**Cyprien Morin, Founder of
Meadow Lake & wife Mary Cook**

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NEW BREED

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Within the next few weeks, fishing rods will be out and the Pussy Willows will be blooming into full leaves. The beauty of a Saskatchewan spring can take your breath away. The fresh smell of sap rising in the young trees, the sound of grouse drumming or the sight of prairie chicken dancing can make an old man's blood run hot again like when he was young.

It is also a time to reflect a bit on the past six months. The time has slipped by so quickly that it seems only yesterday that this rendition of NEW BREED first hit the street. A lot of things have happened for we have survived our first trial and can now move on to (hopefully) bigger and better things. Advertising has doubled with each successive issue bringing us closer to the desired goal of NEW BREED breaking even and paying its own way.

Unfortunately there have been some mistakes, inadvertent ones of course. At times an interview is done over dinner in a restaurant amidst all the noise and clatter of the dinner hour. Then the notes are put away and in one case, not returned to until over a month later. That's not an excuse just an explanation of how one mistake was made.

In last issue's feature on Brian Macdonald, a Buffalo Narrows trapper and outfitter, a quote was not reported properly. In the story, Macdonald was quoted as saying that "I've always been a working man. I pay taxes and I end up resenting people on welfare. I refuse to live under the welfare system."

What Mr. Macdonald said was "I end up resenting people who *abuse* welfare." It's only one word but it makes for a world of difference in meaning and the editor apologizes for the error and hopes no hard feelings were caused.

Another error was Robert Doucette being referred to as Metis Nation of Saskatchewan Treasurer in the last issue when in fact he is the Secretary to the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan.

To err is to be human and to forgive is divine, which is easy to say when you're the one who has made the mistake. Still, things happen. Sometimes it's the computer that doesn't cooperate but mostly it's just human error and the reader's indulgence is appreciated. All together, that's two errors in three editions, not that bad really.

A joyous Easter and spring and summer to come to all the readers, present and future!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Opinions expressed in the Letters to the Editor Page are those of the author's only and do not reflect the views of NEW BREED Magazine or the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan Executive.

Letters can be mailed, or brought in person to Metis Nation of Saskatchewan Building at, 219 Robin Crescent, Saskatoon S7L6M8. Telephone inquiries can be directed to the Editor at 888-343-6667.

OPEN LETTER TO THE ABORIGINAL HEALING FOUNDATION

To Whom This May Concern;

I have just gone through your most recent glossy program handbook 1999 publication. As a victim of sexual abuse in a Roman Catholic Church run residential school, and having survived seven years of jail-like environment, it is very disappointing to find out that individuals who have successfully survived these horrendous abuses do not qualify for any type of compensation.

First of all, it concerns me as to who established the Aboriginal Healing Foundation and provided the ultimate authority to deal with the Government of Canada and ultimately control of millions of dollars.

Secondly, many Aboriginal survivors of residential school abuses such as myself, have survived and done well without having to blame society, the churches and governments of the day. As individuals, we have the God-given powers of the mind to deal with problems. People who blame others are usually looking for a cop-out! Much of what went on at residential schools has been talked away by self-healing and dealing with these atrocities in the best way we could.

Just because we have survived, have gone on, and done quite well for ourselves doesn't mean that we have totally forgotten about these issues.

What concerns me with this process is the bureaucracy that has been created including high paying salaries and what I call the "honorarium syndrome". This is a primary reason that people love to sit on boards. They can reap financial rewards at the expense of the victims.

I am also very concerned about what I call the "instant healers" who seem to find their powers by popping out just like popcorn. How can you re-assure the Canadian public that these so called instant healers aren't going to be popping out of the woodwork in the next few years simply to access the funds?

Also, I am very concerned about proposals such as dramas depicting all the types of abuse that took place without these organizations and / or groups considering the psychological impact they could cause to the viewing public, many of whom could be past victims or even extremely sensitive viewers who could be traumatized by these public plays, if you can call them that. Personally, I

feel that many of these so called playwrights are taking advantage of easy money and only looking at and doing this to line their own pockets.

I was abused as a young student all through my young teens by fellow students and then by a priest. I was eventually kicked out of the residence and school because I struck a priest. I was only fifteen, in grade nine, a once bright student who was the top two of the class until the abuses got so bad that I had to react. For that, I was booted out of school and, to me, I believe that the church and the system deprived me of my education.

It was not until 21 years later that I finally had the courage to re-enter into an educational institution at the age of 36. Now at the age of 44, I have two years towards my BA and have just recently completed my law degree. What I would like to see eventually for myself as a Metis and for all other Metis who have had to pay for their own education, is to be reimbursed for all the money we spent going back to school. In my case, it is probably in the neighborhood of \$90,000.

On the other hand if I were to decide to sue the Catholic Church, the federal and provincial governments I could very well sue them for loss of income because I could very well have achieved a law degree twenty years ago were I not so unceremoniously booted out. Loss of income as a lawyer could amount to several million dollars.

However, having said that and having observed this Aboriginal Healing Foundation process I see nothing in this process that is going to benefit the victim; all this has done is created a bureaucracy that will pay millions of dollars to a select few.

To be quite blunt I really don't have any faith in this foundation at all...it just gives the government the alibi that they have addressed the issues of residential school abuse.

Thank you for hearing me out, may the Creator bless you with insight and the courage to bend the rules so that the real victims are dealt with.

Michael J. Durocher



Section 40 Housing Unfair!



Re: Articles on Brian MacDonald and Eric Hartley of Buffalo Narrows, February 1999 issue of New Breed, dealing with Sask. Housing.

We appreciate the support because we too feel like victims of the same ridiculous unfair policies, under the section 40 housing program. We also experienced more than enough problems, hardships etc., when we were mortgaging a home from Sask. Housing Corp.

We mortgaged a house under the section 40 housing program. It turned out to be a very bad deal, but we found out too late that it was a deal too good to be true and we got burnt pretty bad.

We signed the mortgage documents because we were told that Sask. Housing wasn't requiring 25% of our monthly gross income. Our mortgage payments were set at \$290.00 per month. We felt this was a reasonable deal because over 25 years, this price was about right for the type of house we were buying. Sask. Housing later increased our mortgage payments to 25% of our total gross monthly income(s). We immediately refused to pay this amount. We felt it was a rip off, the house was not worth that kind of money (approximately \$230,000). We wouldn't have signed anything if we were required to pay that much from the beginning. We were obviously misinformed and feel this was a con job to get us to sign the mortgage documents. This house was built on a training program and was quite poorly constructed.

There is a serious screw up with the section 40 housing program. The biggest impact is on the legally married working families. In Buffalo Narrows alone, approximately 15 families were eventually forced to give up their homes (via) quit claim settlement agreements. In spite of all the complaints, concerns and attempts by home owners, Sask. Housing and other Government officials did not resolve these problems. To this day it seems that no one in authority wants to deal with this problem or try to resolve it.

Sask. Housing Authorities agreed that the policies weren't fair to us, but they said they couldn't help us, because the policies were set by the Federal Government. In 1996 we believe the Federal Government transferred all housing program(s) etc. over to Sask Housing. After this transaction, Sask. Housing Authorities took legal action against us. We couldn't afford to fight them in court so reluctantly we gave up our home of 13 ½ years, along with all the money we had invested into this house. Why didn't Sask. Housing take the same course of legal action against everyone else who is in arrears instead of singling out certain people.

Before the section 40 housing program was introduced around 1978, the government had affordable housing programs, an example being reasonable payments at 10, 12 or 15 years. After the section 40 housing program, they now come up with another extremely good and affordable housing program called the Remote Housing Program. We believe the home owners get approximately a \$50,000 grant etc. The government also has a program called the new rental market assistance program, where they give northern businessmen and / or contractors thousands of dollars to build their rental units (apartments). We believe these programs are great because they are very affordable. Also there's a desperate need for housing in northern Saskatchewan. The question is: Is it fair to those people in section 40 housing who lost their homes? Why couldn't the government make a fair and affordable policy under the section 40 housing program? How could there be a policy based on a percentage of the home owner's wages, when every home owner earns a different wage? Where is the fairness in this policy?

We feel we were mistreated and penalized because we didn't agree with the housing policy(ies) and didn't want to get ripped off. We feel that the only thing we might be guilty of is signing the legal documents. We feel that someone has got to step forward and take responsibility. A thorough investigation has to be done. We have suffered a great deal of damages at the hands of Sask. Housing Corp. because of the Section 40 Housing policies. We also feel that our names should be cleared and our credibility restored. Also we should be compensated for the ways in which we were treated.

Thank You!
Robert Aubichon

History!

For history teaches us that any nation, any culture, any group of people that refuses to grow, that does not change with the times, and that does not learn to adapt and cope with new situations, and meet the new challenges of the day, is subject to decline, to regression, and eventually to failure.

From "Prayers of a Metis Priest"
by Father Guy LaVallee

Straight and True: Like an Arrow!

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By Wil Smolkowski

Metis Artist/Carver Recreates Gifts from the Creator!

To Richard Richardson, the three greatest gifts that the creator has given to all mankind are knowledge, wisdom and choice. And the only price is to show respect to all creatures, man or beast.

Richardson is an artist/carver living in Green Lake who creates exquisite works of art from mainly moose antlers but he takes no credit for the beauty in his work. Rather, he believes that it is a gift from the creator and the only way to keep receiving the gift is to give some back. He normally donates two major works of art annually but showing respect is also a feeling, a way of life that goes back countless generations to our ancestors who lived by eating the flesh of animals but who also revered the beasts for giving their lives so they could eat.

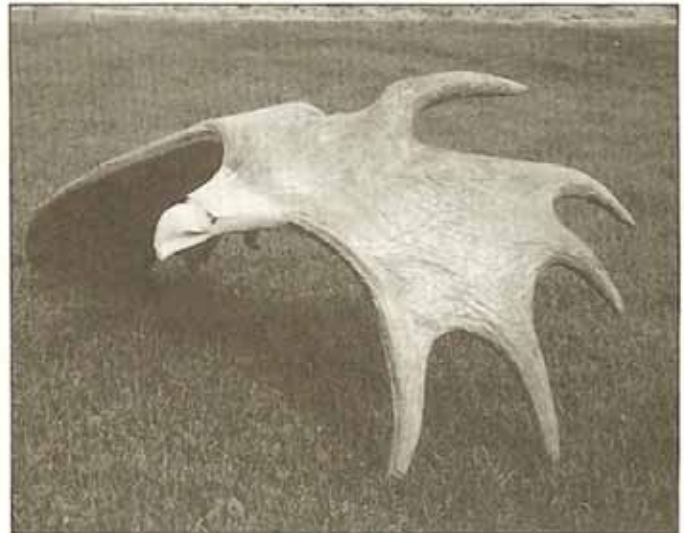
Richardson also works with Woolly Mammoth tusks carving buffalo and all manner of animals, always in a natural setting. Two of his works are a dolphin and a lion.

"I was taught we should show respect to all animals, especially the ones who have given their lives. The animal should not be wasted. If I kill a moose I always eat it," Richardson said. He also uses dropped antlers and prefers to barter rather than paying money for them.

"People will kill moose just for money."

The incredible thing is that Richardson had never carved anything in his life before he began working with moose antlers. At the time he was in Kamloops, after working in the Yukon in the late 80's developing prevention programs for the National Native Alcohol & Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP). His father was ill so he had returned to Kamloops, but work was scarce. He began doing Native traditional beadwork to relieve stress and then opened a store where he sold artwork created by other people. But business was not that good. It was then that Richardson had a dream of an eagle in flight carved into moose antlers.

"When I was finished. I had a feeling of... Wow! Thank you! As long as I show gratitude the



Eagle in flight

gift keeps coming. Its like a circle," he said during a recent interview from the home he and his fiancé Rose Bishop live in. "If you balance your choices with knowledge and wisdom... it flies straight and true like an arrow and you can stay totally focussed on accomplishing your goal."

After Richardson carved the eagle in flight the press and people became interested so he closed the store and kept on carving. He has moved since then to Green Lake and plans to remain there. He credits a lot of his work to his fiancé (Rose) who he plans to marry in July.

"She's a very beautiful lady. She gets a lot of compliments for my beadwork that she wears... but I think they're just seeing her," Richardson added.

The gift of creating does not stop at carving and beadwork for Richardson made a pair of wraps (Metis Moccasins) for the first time and they fit really well.

Gratitude is still the greatest way to show thanks for Richardson is also a grateful member of Alcoholics Anonymous, having sobered up in 1980 after his father. Did He then worked as a social benefits analyst for health and Welfare Canada.

At the moment, surrounded by the natural world just north of Green Lake, life is a circle, one of gratitude and showing respect for the gifts the creator has given him and his bride to be.

Nature: The Best Healer Of All!

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By Wil Smolkowski

To Rose Bishop, one of the ways to heal children in conflict is to teach them to see the positive in everything.

"If you search for the negative, you'll find it but if you search for the positive, you will find that too," Bishop said. Bishop is the director of Alex Bishop Child Care Centre but she does all sorts of work, along with Richard Richardson, her fiancé. Rose, however, is the one who does carpentry work and renovating along with helping run the centre.

The centre is for children in crisis or conflict with the law and operates as a group home. While there the children attend a main stream school, St. Pascal in Green Lake. The children are from ages 12 to 15 and presently there are eight living in the home. They come from as far away as Saskatoon, La Loche and Lloydminster. The Centre operates in a family atmosphere while all the workers are of native ancestry and are all women. There are workers present 24 hours a day and the majority speak Cree. The children call Rose and Richard Mom and Dad.

"When the children come into the home, I feel there's a purpose in life," Rose said. They are all high risk and she believes that they children are sent to the Centre to learn and so is she and the staff. It is the only home some of the children know and it is hoped that they will eventually go back to their own communities and set up similar homes to help future children in crisis.

The home is named after Alex Bishop who was in a residential school in Duck Lake which was rampant with abuse. While he was

still alive he said that, "If I ever had a chance to help children, it would have to be near a forest, for being close to nature is the best for healing."

The home came about in 1982 due to there being a great need. As far back as the 1960's native children were being taken out of their communities and placed into foster homes. Although some of the foster parents were caring people, there were homes where there was abuse and even racism. Along with that, the fact that most of the foster parents were non-Aboriginal, meant the children lost their heritage as well. If they were apprehended they were incarcerated into Open Custody Facilities.

Rose and the concerned people in Green Lake decided to do something about it because of the amount of native children being sent to residential schools and foster homes.

"There were many positive things but many negative aspects of institutionalization," Rose added. "As a result a group of people decided that we had to be part of the process to resolve these problems."

The group of people purchased an old building which had been an orphanage in the 1940's and then moved it to a 9.6 acre plot donated by the Bishop family. They totally renovated the building for it had been scheduled for demolition and was missing even windows. It was sold to the group for one dollar and they borrowed the money to furnish it but used Canada Works Projects

Cont/d Next Page

Nature...

grants to fix it up. In 1982, they negotiated with the government to have their own youth facility.

The staff do all the repair work themselves and save money by having people help out for they wouldn't survive if they called in outside contractors.

As well as providing a safe, family atmosphere the staff teach the children to be proud about their heritage but they focus mainly on taking them back to their homes and community.

"We try to involve a cultural, spiritual component," Rose said. To highlight the work Rose and the workers are doing with children who have known little if any love or even security in their young lives, there is the story of a little boy: When Rose and a counsellor were talking in an office, a little boy was pacing back and forth just outside the door. He refused to see anyone but Rose and when she talked to him she found out he was covered from top to bottom with bruises.



Rose Bishop & Fiancé Richard Richardson

He'd been fighting with other boys because they kept calling him a "Glue Sniffer."

Rose told him to tell them that he didn't do that anymore and that at least he wasn't a murderer... for every time someone calls you names, they kill you a little bit inside. She also told him that if he did that, he would receive a blessing. She didn't say when, only that when it came he would know.

Later that day, the little boy ran full tilt towards the home. His face was filled with a wide grin and he yelled, "Rose! Rose! I got my blessing! They came back." "They" were the little boys' parents and they had returned for him after a long time. From then on the little boy truly believed that he had created his own blessing.

To Rose and Richard and the workers at the Alex Bishop Child Care Centre, taking care of children in crisis is truly a labour of love. But most importantly they are teaching the children to be masters of their own destiny, or in other words, to believe that they can create their own blessings.



Alex Bishop Group Home living room

By Wil Smolkowski

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Opinions expressed in this column are those of the author only, not of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan.

Ancient Legend of Spring!

This is a tale told to me by "Uncle Ed" who was an old man a long time ago. Still, his wisdom holds true today and may carry the directions in which we must travel.

Anyway, here's the story.

A long time ago, there was a young warrior who feared no adversary for his strength and courage were legend. But this young man had flaws too for he was poor and not only was he poor but he was a bit naive or rather, he was the trusting sort who took people at face value. He found deceit so unacceptable, that he had a hard time believing that not all people were honest and well intentioned.

One day, this young man met a maiden, and like all young virile men of history, he fell madly in love with her. It didn't occur to him to check and see if the maiden was of his own social standing. He only let his heart lead the way. Well, it turned out that the maiden was the daughter of a very wealthy man who had just arrived in the country. The father was so busy trying to acquire the entire land before anyone else did that he didn't at first notice the loving glances being exchanged between his daughter and the young warrior. But when he did, all Hell broke loose. The wealthy man dispatched his strongest and bravest mercenaries to engage the young warrior hoping that they would kill him instantly. Then he could say how sorry he was. That way no one could accuse him of being prejudiced against poor young warriors. The wealthy newcomer, you see, had all the devious attributes that the young warrior couldn't believe existed in anyone else.

Anyway, the young warrior dispatched the mercenary fighters in short order. This left the wealthy man with a problem. What to do about the uppity young man who had the audacity to fall in love with his daughter. Then he had a brilliant idea. He would send the young warrior on a dangerous mission, thereby getting rid of him. The first part was fairly simple. Kill the giant bear that was eating people and the young maiden's hand would be his.

The young warrior accepted the challenge immediately for if he was very naive he was also very brave. He ran to the bear's cave and stood outside, his spear at the ready. But when the bear appeared he realized why it had eaten other men in one gulp. Its mouth was the size of a small cave. The young warrior paused, frozen for an instant, but then, he was really a bright young man in his own way. He ran forward and jammed the butt of his spear onto the bottom of the bear's mouth and the point at the top, effectively keeping him from closing it. Then he ran further forward and using his knife, carved up the insides of the bear's mouth. As the blood gushed forward, the young man ran back to where the young maiden and her father were, knowing the bear would soon

bleed to death. But if he expected to be the happy groom he was sadly mistaken.

The wealthy newcomer gazed at the young warrior for an instant, realizing he wasn't as dumb as he had thought him to be. What was he to do? Then he had another brilliant idea. He would send the young warrior on another mission. Only this time, he was sure, he would see no more of him. The new mission was to face the horrendous spirit who lived beyond the grave yard and caused men to slit their own throats.

This time the young warrior hesitated. Then once again he girded himself for battle and sallied forth. When he reached where the spirit lived, it was night so he settled down to wait. It didn't take long. The horrendous spirit suddenly appeared, all smoke and horrible smell, screeching and bellowing loud enough to make even the wolves and bears skulk off into the night. It was then that the young warrior took his first major step towards full manhood.

He calmly regarded the spirit and spoke quietly.

"Horrendous Spirit! I have no fear of you for I have no fear of myself. And I do not hate you, for within me lies only goodness and peace."

The horrendous spirit snorted and hissed but to no avail. Not only would this young warrior not slit his own throat out of hopeless terror, he didn't have an ounce of anger in him. The horrendous spirit finally slunk away for how do you fight goodness of spirit when all you have is hate and fear.

The next day the young man ran to the wealthy newcomer and his daughter. The newcomer said nothing, he only stared and then fell back onto his last and final plan.

"I want you," he said to the young warrior, "to make fire out of water. Then you can marry my daughter."

The young warrior was crushed. He went to lie down in the forest and wept but late at night, under the stars, he prayed. He didn't pray with fancy words, he only let his anguish rise upwards to the Creator.

Next morning, he rose and ran to where the newcomer sat, surrounded by his council of sycophants and butt kissers.

Right in front of the newcomers, the young warrior knelt and dropped a tiny drop of water onto tinder and very dry grass. Then he sat back and waited. It took awhile but eventually a fine wisp of smoke rose heavenwards, for the water had magnified the sun's rays and finally a tiny flame appeared. The young warrior had done the impossible and the newcomer had no choice but to allow him to marry his daughter.

The moral of the story?

We, as Metis, have demonstrated plenty of physical courage. Now all we have to do is become at peace with ourselves and we can do the impossible.



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Voice of the La Ronge Ice Wolves

In My Opinion!

Opinions expressed in this column are those of the author only, and not of the Metis Nation Of Saskatchewan.

By Tyler Fetch

We as Metis should let racial remarks slide like water off a duck's back.

I was in Prince Albert during their Winter Festival, and wearing my Metis Nation of Sask. Pin. A fellow, who identified himself as a businessman was standing next to me, and noticed the pin I was wearing. He started talking about Metis people, their claim to lands, and to be an individual people. I had told him what I did for a living, (working for NEW BREED) and he returned the favour. I was looking for advertisers and had an offer I thought he might be interested in.

Now as far as I have been taught Metis people were among the first to populate these lands. Our place of origin, in my understanding, has always been Red River, until we were pushed out into the lands we now populate.

In contradiction to everything I have just said, this fellow said that the Metis homeland was "someplace" (I can't recall because I have never heard of it before) and that we deserve nothing, not even the right to be recognized as Metis..... A SEPARATE PEOPLE.

I was a little upset at that remark, but he continued by saying that he was from "a small red neck town in Northern Saskatchewan, which was quite racist," and he continued by saying "when they announced that Metis people now had rights to fish and hunt, there was a sudden 'outbreak' of Metis. All these so called 'racists', were now Metis." The word "outbreak" was an interesting and disturbing word to use, because it seems to suggest a plague of some sort. I agree with the fact that a lot of people had suddenly "become Metis" because of these rights, however I don't agree with people doing this. That right is meant for those of us who need to feed our families, not so you can go and bag a big buck as a trophy. I personally don't need to hunt to feed my family, I love wild meat, but I don't need it.

When my dad was a young boy, no one ever discussed being Metis, you would be ostracized for even

being native. In fact it is sad but you were better off if no one knew. My father always knew he was Metis, so it was no surprise to him when my grandmother made it official. It just didn't matter, he went on living life, and not worrying about it or denying it. When we were given our rights to hunt and fish, for a short while, it was a time of reckoning. It is okay to be who you are for once... METIS. All of those people who kept the Metis culture alive, might be able to live without the oppression they have had to endure for years.

This fellow also said he was married to a First Nation's girl and that meant he could not be a racist. I have seen racism towards Metis before, and being married to a First Nation's girl does not mean you are not racist towards Metis. I guess you could call it jealousy towards us, because now we are a force to be reckoned with. Also, the fact that his wife was not on a reserve, and had to pay income tax, seemed to really strike a nerve and made him seem quite bitter towards the Metis and our rights.

After the previous part of our "discussion", he decided not to advertise. His reasoning was that his demographic was not Metis. I asked what his demographic was, and he said "Oh... the ages are 30 - 65 and 25 - 29." My immediate thought was that there are a lot of Metis people within those age groups. He said that he had never seen a Metis person in his establishment before, and I asked, "Well, what do you think a Metis looks like? I mean you can't look at us and tell right away!" I also thought that it was no use arguing with someone so unintelligent, and uneducated.

I guess the point is if you have something against us, at least do your research. Don't just wake up one morning and say, "I hate those Metis." Metis forefathers fought many battles, physical, emotional, and legal, in order to get us where we are today. It is for that I am grateful.



Just a note that this is my first real shot at column writing.

Northern Saskatchewan Training Needs Identified!

By Lorna Docken

Dumont Technical Institute was invited to participate in Northlands College Training Needs Assessment process again this year. We appreciate the invitation, as our involvement means that we will cooperatively plan with Northlands, reducing duplication and covering a wider range of training needs. This benefits the communities.

I personally attended sessions in Stony Rapids, Creighton and La Ronge. Each session began with training needs identification from the communities represented as well as presentations from the institutions and funding agents. We broke into small group sessions to prioritize training and to categorize into local or regional initiatives. The sessions went beyond these goals and provided innovative ideas for training delivery systems.

Every consultation identified Development Studies (Life-skills/Adults Basic Education) as the area of greatest need. Each region was careful to link economic and employment opportunities to technical/vocational training. Entrepreneurship and business training was seen as an opportunity to become meaningfully linked to the economy.

At the Stony Rapids meeting, Athabaska Basin residents identified opportunities with the

building and operation of a new health care facility. There will be a need for construction and trades persons as well as health care workers and related occupations. Adventure Tourism was also identified as an economic activity in which area residents are under represented.

The eastside communities represented at Creighton identified a need for forestry related training in connection to the renegotiation of timber resources in the area. Opportunities for value added processing, (alternative) forest products and adventure tourism were identified as well.

Central communities attended the La Ronge consultation. Participants voiced concerns over accessing apprenticeship training, due to shortage of positions and contractors not utilizing northerners. A need was expressed for New North to pass a resolution committing to help tradespersons through the apprenticeship system. Healthcare, mining and forestry were identified as areas requiring training or retraining as the case may be.

Organizer Denise D'Armour was pleased with the sessions and said, "Northlands values the input of community members in our yearly planning process." DTI likewise welcomes the opportunity to attend and looks forward to a new training year.



CYPRIEN MORIN!

Meadow Lake's First Entrepreneur!

Front page: Cyprien Morin and his wife, Mary Cook.

Story by Wil Smolkowski

Special Thanks to Mary Gehl, great grand daughter of Cyprien Morin and Edward King, Metis Senator.

Chairman of First School Board!

It has been said that a person's life and contribution to society can best be summed up by the memories others have of you, after your passing.

The name Cyprien Morin brings up so many memories to those who have known or who have descended from him that it could fill volumes. He is the founder of the town of Meadow Lake, the first entrepreneur in the area, and is credited with helping build the first Catholic Church and the first school. Two of his more notable great-grandsons are Allan Morin, Metis Nation of Saskatchewan Treasurer and Gerald Morin, President of the Metis National Council.

"This proves (Cyprien's personal history) that Metis people have had a large part to play in the development of Western Canada. He also proved that the Metis played a large part in developing the economy of Western Canada," Allan Morin said about his great-grandfather who established and was the first manager of the Hudson Bay Company's trading post in the area. Cyprien also was the first fur buyer since the Bolsover House days in the early 1800s. He had ranches at Island Hill and on the Meadow River which were run by his sons Joseph and Jean. They raised many good quality horses and cattle on these ranches and many settlers and others were proud to own a horse or cow raised by Cyprien Morin.

"We're proud as descendants, (Allan and Gerald Morin) that we are able to carry on his tradition as leaders," Allan added.

"His spirit and inspiration stays with us in the development of the evolution of the Metis, in the building of entrepreneurship, leadership and fighting for our economic and political rights."

Cyprien first came to the area and worked for the Hudson Bay Company in Ile-a-La Crosse. He then moved south to what is now Meadow Lake in 1873 and settled on land west of the actual lake where he raised a few cattle and horses. Following is an account from

Edward King (Metis Senator who remembers Cyprien) and Mary Gehl, great grand daughter of Cyprien.

"Cyprien was the first rancher and settler in Meadow Lake. He was true to his family traditions, he was a trader and he ran a little Hudson Bay Company post on what is now the Meadow Lake Golf Course, about one mile south of the present Meadow Lake. Cyprien helped to build the first Catholic Church in 1908 on the same quarter of land that the St. Cyprien Cemetery is located on. It was Cyprien and two of his Morin kinsmen who formed the first school board, called the 'Cochin School District No. #1201' on October 23, 1912. Cyprien was the Chairman of the Board, although he could not write his name. The minutes of the first year were footed 'X' by this grand old man. Cyprien was the foreman of the highway crew that cut the first highway from Meadow Lake to Midnight Lake. To the oldest of the old timers it seems as if Cyprien was always here. He was the 'Father Abraham' of Meadow Lake, our 'grand old man'. Cyprien was a truly, remarkable pioneer, honest and respected by all. Cyprien Morin lived to be 87 years of age. He passed away November 4, 1924 and was buried November 8, 1924 in St. Cyprien Cemetery. The was Cemetery named after him."

A small vignette of Cyprien's family life can be best summed up by these words, from Edward King and Mary Gehl, "Cyprien Morin, he celebrated St. Joseph Day every year on the 26th of July. There were ball games, foot races and horse races. There were no race tracks those days. They ran their horses straight out, on an open area, and they had a big feast at the end of the day. In the evening there was fiddle music, jigging, square dancing and a pow-wow."

The life and times of Cyprien Morin offer a brief glimpse of how it was well over a hundred years ago, but more importantly, every Metis in the province owes a deep debt of gratitude to him for he not only founded a town, he showed the way to lead and build.

Metis Nation Agenda: Community Consultation Process

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By Michael Durocher, National Coordinator

Metis Nation Agenda - Community Consultation Process

This is a short discussion paper explaining the highlights of the Metis Nation Agenda and, the reason for the community consultation process. The Metis Nation Agenda actually came about after the "Gathering Strength" federal document which was a response to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal People, pretty much left out the Metis People. The Metis National Council (MNC) approached the Federal Office of the Interlocutor for Metis with their concern that Metis people were again left out of the process. As a result, there has been a three year plan established and a contribution agreement has been signed which allows for community consultations to take place over the first year. Therefore, below is a short description of what this involves. Below are the four main topics that the Board of Governors of MNC decided to deal with in the first year.

- National Metis Definition (includes enumeration and registry issues)
- Land Claims and Land Use Issues
- Urban Metis Concerns
- The Louis Riel Issue.

National Metis Definition:

The reason why it is important that the Metis communities and general membership are consulted about this topic is that the Metis hunting and fishing rights cases are before the courts at the present time. The courts have already begun to deliberate the definition of a Metis! What this means is: "Who is a Metis and then how does one become a Metis Citizen? The courts may look at and consider: (i) self-declaration; (ii) community acceptance, (from which guidelines might include descendants only or even a blood quantum rule); (iii) a 'life-style' rule which has already been accepted by the courts; and,

(iv) the kinship rule, (v) adoption (has also been considered).

Therefore, it is important that the provincial Metis Nation organizations come up with a unanimous agreement as to a national definition. This in turn will be the Metis National Council national definition and which will be adopted into each province's constitution. It is of the opinion that the courts would consider and accept a national definition by the Metis National Council. If each province has its own definition, then this may confuse the courts and, what may happen and has happened is rights will only be applicable within provincial boundaries. For example in Saskatchewan, Northern Metis that are unemployed and can prove they have lived a traditional lifestyle can hunt and fish without a license; this I feel discriminates against the working Metis or the Metis that are not considered northern. On the other hand, if the courts find that the federal government is responsible for the Metis as they are responsible for the Indian and Inuit, then Metis Rights could be recognized on a national scale.

An enumeration project is currently in the works in Saskatchewan. This will basically be a 'one-time' count of all Metis that want to be included. The project is mandatory, but participation by Metis is not. If Metis do not want to participate then they don't have to, even though I would strongly urge that all Metis participate. Along with the enumeration we must also seriously consider a "registry" which would be a permanent record of all Metis from the newborn right up to our Metis Elders. These same registered Metis would then be de-registered upon their death. If we are to be recognized at a national level then we may have to consider a national registry system. At present various Provincial Metis

Cont/d Next Page

organizations are working towards establishing their own registry.

Land Claims and Land Use Issues:

The second issue is land claims and other land use issues. There is a land claim filed in the courts which involves the entire northwest from Green Lake across to Smoothstone Lake, up to but, below Black Lake, along the south side of Lake Athabasca to the Alberta border and down to and including the the Primrose Lake Air Weapons range. In my recent visit to Uranium City and meeting with residents from that community as well as Camsell Portage, there is a real concern as to why they were totally left out of the process. They were not even consulted about the land claims at all. It is important that our leaders must consider the grassroots people at all levels of any process involving Metis Rights.

Land use issues include harvesting rights and access to renewable resources. These are hunting, fishing, trapping, wild rice and, food gathering which would include berries, eggs, mushrooms, and plants both for consumption and medicine. Access to land includes forestry, as well as economic opportunities relating to the mining and oil industries.

Urban Metis Concerns:

The third issue is Urban Metis concerns. The Metis Urban Council has recently been established and includes Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and North Battleford, however, it is conceivable that other centers may be included in the future. What about other smaller urban settings which are regulated by urban municipal laws? This consultation will examine how Metis people and institutions in urban centers would relate to and interact with other Aboriginal people and institutions, as well as, provincial, municipal governments and other interests such as the business community.

What new federal housing programs and initiatives are required to meet housing needs of the urban Metis? Metis must participate in the long term planning of urban environments. What are the unique needs of our Metis youth? We need to ensure our youth and members at large that we can assist them with their post-secondary needs. We must identify Metis women concerns. How does a Metis Nation deliver services to urban Metis and do we deliver to non-status and non-Aboriginal people in the larger urban centers?

The Louis Riel Issue:

The last point in the Metis Nation Agenda is the Louis Riel Bill issue. Denis Coderre a Liberal Member of Parliament introduced a "Private Member's Bill" Bill C-417, on June 3, 1998. This Bill has been available for over six months, yet, the majority of the Metis have not even heard of it. The Bill would "reverse" the conviction. What does a reversal of a conviction mean? To reverse a judgment means to overthrow it by contrary decision, make it void, undo or annul it for error. (Definition comes from Black's Law Dictionary.) What is a pardon? Forgiven for past wrongs. What is an exoneration? To clear from accusation or blame. So, in essence an exoneration would result from a reversal of a conviction.

The MNC's stand on this is that this should not be a Private Member's Bill even if it becomes law. This Bill should instead be introduced by the Liberal government that would include federal recognition and responsibility of the Metis People. Only when the government recognizes our Aboriginal rights as Metis people can the MNC support any type of Bill which would reverse the conviction of Riel. If a Bill reversing Riel's conviction is to be supported by the Metis, then the rest of the Metis who died fighting for our rights should be equally recognized. For the time being the MNC feels that Canada should continue having an embarrassing black mark on its relatively young history. To show the rest of the world Canada's reputation of neglect against the Metis people of this country. I have also added this information to my website "The Metis Man" <http://members.tripod.com/~Metis/index.html> If any of you have access to the internet go to this site and there is an automatic email link to Coderre's office. You can either express your displeasure regarding this Bill or you can inform him of your support and give reasons why you are against the Private Member's Bill or why you support it.

These are topics that I wish to instill in peoples' minds. I have addressed the Metis in Cree and Michif as much as possible. Your opinions by phone or in writing will be greatly appreciated. You can call me at 1-888-343-6667 or send me a letter with your opinions to myself at 219 Robin Cres., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7L 6M8. Your voice, your grassroots opinions are greatly appreciated.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Held In Esterhazy

by: Yvonne Vizina

The Métis Nation of Saskatchewan was invited to speak at the Potash and Multicultural Association gathering held March 17, 1999 in Esterhazy, Saskatchewan. I had the honour of attending on behalf of our Nation. Esterhazy Local President Bev Shauf also supported the event by attending with a delegation of Métis people. The evening began with speeches by local dignitaries and a multicultural cuisine supper. I gave a presentation on Human Rights, and a presentation on The Métis Nation of Saskatchewan. The gathering was held to recognize March 21 as The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

As a teacher, I am always aware of the importance of educating myself, and others, about issues that affect us. Racial discrimination exists. It is one of the worst experiences that a person can face, and it leaves psychological scars on people for life. We all have very personal experiences that we may, or may not, share with others. We do, however, share a common history of movement towards greater human rights.

The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, following World War II. Although the Declaration is not legally binding, it serves as a moral conscience to the world community by providing international standards that the world is expected to follow. March 21, 1960 saw 70 peaceful demonstrators against apartheid wounded or killed in Sharpeville, South Africa. The United Nations acknowledged this terrible tragedy by declaring March 21 The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Canada was one of the first supporters of this day and began holding anti-racist campaigns in 1989. Today, we have the 1960 Canadian Bill of Rights, the 1977 Canadian

Human Rights Act, and the 1982 Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. We also have a Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission that review and handles claims of human rights violations.

Métis people have a long history of persecution in this country, and it continues today. In spite of all the legislative processes that exist to combat racism, educating ourselves, and others, is still the key to building a strong social network in this province and this country.



UPCOMING EVENTS

IN PROCESS

National Aboriginal Curling Championships - April 1 - 5th 1999 - Granite Curling Club, Saskatoon

FUTURE

Spring Fest 1999 - May 21st.
Saskatoon Metis Cultural Society.
Palmbere Days - July 1999
Back to Batoche - July 1999
Duck Lake Rodeo & Chuck Wagon Races & Cultural Events - Sept. 4, 5 & 6th

To announce upcoming events, contact Wil or Tyler at 306-343-8285



Are you a Michif speaker?



The Métis Nation of Saskatchewan and the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research wish to identify Michif speakers throughout Saskatchewan. The Michif language must be preserved as a part of our cultural heritage. Connecting Michif speakers will facilitate this process.

What is Michif? Every language is a repository of the history, belief systems, values and philosophy of the people who speak it. Michif is a heritage language developed by the Métis during the early days of the birth of the Métis Nation. It is a historically significant language which is on the verge of becoming extinct. Michif is also a unique, "made in Canada", language and is complex in that it has combined the verbal system of Cree and Saulteaux and the nominal, or noun system, of French. Like Michif people who spoke it and who still speak it, it has its roots here in the Michif homeland.

Obviously, if the language is to have any chance of surviving, resources are needed for primary and secondary students and community members. Please lend your support.

If you are a Michif speaker, please identify yourself using the form below or visit the Gabriel Dumont Institute web site to register on-line at, www.gdins.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

I wish to identify myself as a Michif speaker.

Name _____ Telephone Number (306) _____

Mailing Address _____ Postal Code _____

If available: Fax number _____ E-mail address _____

Return this form to: GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE OF NATIVE STUDIES AND APPLIED RESEARCH
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Fort Qu'Appelle - Saskatchewan



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Diploma



Crystal Kowalyk
Microsoft Office
Certificate



Christa Wowchuk - Cyr
Executive Secretary
Diploma



Isabelle Konecni
Microcomputer Business
Applications Diploma



Wendy Rosebluff
Business Office Skills
Diploma



Sherry Chalmers
Computerized Accounting
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Annette McLeod
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Nancy Thomas
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Diploma

The Academy of Learning - Fort Qu'Appelle was established in March of 1997 as a contract with Southeast Metis Development Corporation to train an initial group of 8 individuals. The goal of this pilot project was to provide the participants with the computer and business skills necessary for entry into the workforce. As word spread of our successful training methodology, we recognized the need for opening a centre in this small community. Since that time, our reputation and class sizes have grown dramatically, and we continue to experience great success with our programs within the community as evident by our 70% placement rate of graduates.

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Tourism Is A Booming Industry!

We have to recognize what Saskatchewan has to offer the tourist, first!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE SASKATOON, March 4th.

By Tyler Fetch

Northern Saskatchewan is one of the last truly beautiful, pristine wildernesses left in the world today. The clear air, water and breathtaking scenery of a northern lake is well known to Americans, Japanese and Europeans. However, this beauty comes at a price.

The lack of development in these regions means few jobs and this is where tourism comes into the picture. It is one of the largest growing industries in the world, and a very lucrative one at that. About 12% of tourism dollars are spent on the attraction itself. The other 88% is spent on services, such as; gas, accommodations, souvenirs, etc. With a strong knowledge of the land, the communities could start outfitting tourists for hunting and fishing, which would create jobs in those service sectors.

Unfortunately, Saskatchewan Environment Resource Management (S.E.R.M). has a different opinion. They put a freeze on new outfitting companies. However, existing companies can expand, and "these outsiders will move into our lands." says Ray Laliberte, the mayor of Buffalo Narrows.

Mr. Laliberte gave an emotional set of opening statements on Thursday, March 4. He said, northern communities must change with the times, which also means examining existing communications and technology, in order to compete in today's market.

However, in order to make Saskatchewan attractive to the tourist, we must first recognize what Saskatchewan has to offer.

"There are some obstacles that we must overcome first," said Mr. Ian McGilp of Sask Tourism. There is a lack of support for tourism, because local communities don't even know what they have to offer the tourist, and highway conditions in this province are not up to par. Few

tourists want to destroy new motor homes on poor roads.

Mr. McGilp also mentioned some of the different types of tourism. Winter tourism is one little known part of the industry where there is a lot of opportunity. There are places in the province, in the winter, that you could never find a room to rent which means tourism dollars to anyone who wishes to take advantage.

Eco Tourism is another area. This means taking people into the untouched wilderness, and letting them catch and release fish and watch bears or other woodland creatures.

Randy Gaudry, president of Local # 17, talked about his area's plans for tourism; An authentic Metis settlement town in the Willow Bunch area. This will create many jobs for this area, as well as an awareness of the Metis presence in southern Saskatchewan. He thinks construction will be finished in the year 2000 or 2001.

There is much work to do, but the future is looking bright for the tourism industry in Saskatchewan. In order to benefit, Metis people must make the world aware of our rich history, find the means to attract tourists, and take advantage of the opportunities that exist.



Community & Grass-Roots Participation

*Grass-roots participation is the very heart of
Metis political organizations*

From "Prayers of a Metis Priest"
By Father Guy LaVallee

Metis History Researched!

By Leah Dorion, Publisher Coordinator of the Gabriel Dumont Institute

From February 16 - 21, 1999, Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) staff and students spent time in Winnipeg, researching Metis family and community history. The students were all from the Native Studies 200.6, Metis History Course, instructed through our Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education program (SUNTEP) in Saskatoon. This article will share with you the things we learned and experienced during this research trip.

A majority of our time was spent at the Hudson Bay Company Archives (HBCA) and the Provincial Archives of Manitoba (PAM) both located in downtown Winnipeg. The HBCA provided us with useful material on the fur trade such as, employee contracts, employee profiles, post ledgers, post accounts, post correspondence, post reports and historical photographs. Many students found information about their Metis ancestors in these records. The PAM collection provided us with census records, church records, oral history projects, map, scrip applications, treaty pay-lists, maps and historical photographs.

We toured other pertinent libraries and archives and found many genealogical and church records at the La Societe Historique de Saint-Boniface. This archive had a database for many Metis families in Western Canada. We also visited the Metis Resource Centre which runs a Metis Roots Genealogical Project that offers family history research services for a reasonable fee to individuals wishing to document their Metis ancestry. Some students visited the Manitoba Genealogical Society (MGS) library which held vital statistics such as birth, marriage and death certificates for families in Manitoba.

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) staff gave us a tour and overview of their programs and services. At the MMF we learned about the lost moccasin family reunification program and the Michif language project. We were fortunate to be in Winnipeg while the Festival du Voyageur was occurring. The festival activities occurred at the restored NWC Fort Gibraltar near the river forks and fiddling, step dancing, jigging and maple sugar taffy were in abundance at this event.

While in Winnipeg we paid our respects to Louis Riel's grave at Saint-Boniface and visited several statues that were made in his likeness, including the controversial

distorted statue. Our last day included trips to the Seven Oaks historic marker and the remnants of Upper Fort Garry. Our trip was very rewarding as Winnipeg has much to offer Metis History and culture.

If you are ever in Winnipeg you may want to check out the following places: Hudson Bay Company Archives (HBCA) Provincial Archives of Manitoba (PAM) Manitoba Archives Building - 200 Vaughan St; Manitoba Metis Federation - 412 McGregor St; Metis Resource Centre - 506-63 Albert St; The Manitoba Genealogical Society - Box 2066 Winnipeg MB R3E 0M4; St. Boniface Historical Society (Centre Du Patrimoine/Heritage Centre) 340 boulevard provencher Saint-Boniface, MB R2H 0G7.





Poetry Page



HALF-BREED

By Dee Johnston

Not Indian, not White
They call me Half-Breed.
Where is my heart?
And where is my need?

An old man once told me
That I'd learn to be strong;
If I let go of hatred
Life would carry me along.

So I stopped learning hate
And I started to learn love.
I began putting trust
In our creator above.

My skin may be light
But my blood it runs red.
I know who I am
And I don't care what is said.

Now I'm an Elder
That is such an Honour;
To be thought of as wise
And to help those who are younger

Celebrating What We Are!

**What we cease to celebrate,
we will soon cease to cherish.**

Father Guy Lavallee

KOKUM

In Loving Memory of My Kokum!

By Dee Johnston

She thought of her children
As she rocked in her chair.
How long it had been
Since she'd seen them all there.

Yesterday they were small
Playing and learning about life.
Now they were all grown
And each had a wife.

Life seemed so different
For this woman of old.
Yesterday was gone
And would Tomorrow hold?

Her life, it had been good
As she thought about her past.
Many blessings had come
And the years had gone fast.

By Standards of tradition
She was very old and wise:
It was up to her to teach
Life seen through her eyes.

Life's lessons were done
And she'd heard all the drums.
She was ready for "The Sleep"
In life... that always comes.

She thought of her children
As she rocked in her chair.
She looked down the road.
Suddenly! They were there!

SOLUTION TO ABUSE, ALCOHOL & CHEMICAL DEPENDANCY: A COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY!

By Wil Smolkowski

There are few people who would argue that abuse along with alcohol and chemical dependancy wrecks countless lives and communities, but there are also few people who know the solutions.

Fortunately however, there are those who will continue to seek solutions no matter how daunting the problem. On March 12 through 14th Green Lake community did just that with Stella Laliberte and Josephine Bishop coordinating the event with the theme "A community Responsibility." The idea was to find solutions from the grass roots level with open discussions between parents and elders at the community hall. The students/youths stayed at St. Pascal School and wrestled with the problems in their own workshops.

The purpose of the conference was to make Green Lake a better community to live in. Individual evaluation forms were handed out to the participants which provided an opportunity for each person to contribute. The results were taken back to the conference to discuss the solutions.

Tom Merasty (Elder) opened the conference with a prayer and the participants were welcomed by Mayor Fred McCullum. Buckley Belanger (MLA - Athabasca Region) was a guest speaker along with Don Favel - MNS Area Director Northern Region 3, Metis Nation of Saskatchewan.

Travis Dugas facilitated the youth conference at St. Pascal School Gym on Friday, March 12th. On the other days the discussions were held in the classrooms.

On the second day Winston Wuttunee, (entertainer/singer) opened the workshops and Liz Bouvier spoke on Addictions. After lunch Joe Naytowhow (storyteller) entertained the participants and Harry Morin also told stories as an Elder. John Brooks facilitated Life Skills, Virgil Paul, Grieving and Marv Zehner, Chemical Dependancy.

On the final day Margaret Ruday facilitated Chemical Dependency, George Laliberte, Abuse Issues/Cycles and Brenda Villeneuve, Parenting. After a special banquet in the community hall the closing remarks were made by Gerald Morin, President of the Metis National Council while Winston Wuttunee and Travis Dugas reviewed the conference. Entertainment was provided by the Pine House Square Dancers.



Winston Wuttunee



Joe Naytowhow

Métis National Council Rights Conference 99

By Yvonne Vizina

The Métis National Council hosted a two day Métis Rights Conference in Toronto, Ontario on March 27 - 28, 1999. The event was preceded by an election for Métis National Council President on March 26 which saw Gerald Morin reelected as MNC President by a majority vote. The election and the Rights Conference were well attended by delegates from The Métis Nation of Ontario, The Manitoba Métis Federation, The Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, The Métis Nation of Alberta, and The Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia.

The Rights Conference theme for March 27 focused on "Reviewing the History and Law on Métis Rights". Co-Chairs for the day were Tony Belcourt and Suzanne Rochon Burnett. Following the opening prayer and introductions, MNC President Gerald Morin gave a welcoming address to the conference participants.

Yvon Dumont, former Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, was introduced as the new First Governor of the Métis Nation. Mr. Dumont gave the keynote address on "Métis Rights in History". In his speech, Mr. Dumont spoke about the Métis as founding members of Canadian Confederation who have not been recognized. He added that the plight of the Métis has not gone unnoticed in the international community. In speaking about some of the last buffalo hunts, and the Manitoba treaty which gave rise to the Manitoba Act, Mr. Dumont reminded the conference participants of our ongoing struggles with existing governments to protect the Métis way of life. He stressed that the Métis culture provides us with an identity.

A panel presentation was held next on "What are Rights?" Panelists included Mr. Paul Chartrand and Mr. Fred Shore. The panelists provided a review of different kinds of rights including legal, moral, political, constitutional and supra-constitutional, as well as important precedents affecting Aboriginal rights.

The panel presentation was followed by a computer-generated Power Point presentation on "Métis Rights as Seen by Métis". The presentation included photos and tape-recorded transcripts describing the highlights of the Métis Rights Conference held April 3 - 4, 1998 in Winnipeg. A written summary document of that conference was available to the Toronto participants.

The afternoon session included a Power Point presentation and panel discussion on "Métis Rights and the Courts". Panelists included Mr. Clem Chartier, Ms. Jean Teillet, Mr. Lionel Chartrand, and Mr. Dwayne Roth. Some of the current Métis cases highlighted were Blais, Dumont, McPherson, Laliberte, Grumbo, Vermeylen & Branconnier, Morin & Daigneault, Maurice, Northwest Saskatchewan Métis, Powley, and Ferguson.

The final session for March 27 was "The Métis Metronome:

Back and Forth on the Jurisdictional Issue". Panelists Paul Chartrand, Dale Gibson and Brad Morse provided discussion on the Constitutional Context of the 91(24) issue, and how we might move ahead.

The morning of Sunday, March 28 was reserved for presentations and discussion on "Putting Métis Governance in Place." Panelists included Mr. David Chartrand, Mr. James Froh, and Mr. Jason Madden. Topics included Federal Policy on Self-Government, The Tripartite Process, Devolution, and the Urban Aboriginal Issue. Each panelist spoke on a particular topic, which provided a focused view of current information. Jason Madden spoke of pan-Aboriginal urban initiatives as something that causes the loss of personal cultural heritage and pride. He spoke of the potential for them to slowly erode communities, and the fact that pan-Aboriginal projects have no longevity and governments would have no reason to support them in the future.

Mike Durocher provided an overview of "The Metis Nation Agenda", with comments on his work done with the Rights Agenda as National Coordinator. Topics included the national definition of Métis, land claims and land use issues, urban Métis issues, and the Louis Riel Issue.

The final afternoon of the conference was reserved for "Taking Charge of the Riel Issue". Panelist Jean Teillet and Paul Chartrand delivered motivating speeches regarding the issues at hand, various perspectives of the issues, and the Métis National Council's position. Essentially, the Métis National Council does not support the private members Bill C-417. Paul Chartrand describes the Bill as "forgive and forget...forgive Riel and forget the Métis". Ms. Teillet, who is the great grand niece of Louis Riel provided insights into the Riel family's desire to accept the Bill, but does not support it personally.

A tremendous amount of printed material was provided to each delegate in attendance at the conference. A comprehensive book was provided with information on Métis Nation Rights items. As well, research papers were available separately on The Métis National Council, The Winnipeg Rights Conference, the Riel issue, and Yvon Dumont's paper on The Rights of the Métis People.

Last, but certainly not least, entertainment was at a premium for the conference. The Edmonton dancers provided an exciting dance demonstration, followed by Jigging lessons for participants. A dinner on a three-tiered harbor ferry was well attended Friday evening. The band Les Michif played Friday night on the boat, and again Saturday night in the hotel. Saturday night also saw a national fiddling championship and singing/guitar competition. All entertainers were top notch, and generated a lot of clapping, dancing, and singing. The Métis National Council's Rights Conference 99 sent everyone home with much to think about, and a renewed spirit of the cohesiveness of the Métis Nation.

Metis Nation of Saskatchewan Youth Council

By Jennifer Brown

The Metis Nation of Saskatchewan Youth Council (MNSYC) would like to thank the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan Executive Clem Chartier, Murray Hamilton, Robert Doucette, and Allen Morin, as well as Ralph Kennedy - Minister of Sports, Youth, Culture and recreation, and others, who provided the remaining funding needed to send 7 of our board members to Toronto. We would also like to thank the Metis National Council and the Metis National Youth Advisory Council for providing funding to send the remaining 5 council members to Toronto.

I believe all of the MNSYC members enjoyed the time that we spent in Toronto, including the friends we made and new people we met. We had the opportunity to attend various workshops, including the Role Models Workshop.

We were very happy to see a Metis person from Saskatchewan, Kathy Hodgson - Smith, being recognized as a Metis role-model. We are very proud of our Metis people and very pleased that she received the recognition she deserves.

While in Toronto, we held the MNSYC meeting. We were honoured to have some very special guests attend, in Mr. Jason Madden, Chair of the Metis National Youth Advisory Council (MNYAC), and Ms. Wendy Blackmon, the Youth Intervener for the MNYAC. Mr. Madden talked

about the MNYAC and what they are doing at this time.

Trevor Kennedy, Chair of the MNSYC, enjoyed the conference. He felt that there was a need for more Metis youth from all across Canada to be in attendance. The youth not in attendance could have learned a lot about economic development and taken that knowledge home with them.

Deanna Obleman, Treasurer of the MNSYC, also agreed with Mr. Kennedy in that there weren't as many Metis youth at this conference as there was last year. She enjoyed the cultural aspect of the conference the most. The dancers from Edmonton were energetic and very good teachers, as well as offered a good look at our culture.

I was attending my first National Metis

Youth Conference, and was very pleased at how the days went. I feel the incorporation of our Metis culture with the Labour Market Awareness Conference, was a great idea. I also feel that the role models did an excellent job at showing the youth that we can do anything we want to.

Of course the three people who have statements here were not the only MNSYC members in attendance, the general feelings received from the conference are those of happiness, and a total learning experience.



ABORIGINAL STARS IN FILM ARE ON THE RISE!

SANDS HOTEL, SASKATOON

By Wil Smolkowski

The future for Aboriginals in film in Saskatchewan has never looked better, according to the speakers at the Aboriginal Motion Picture Arts Symposium held in late February. The industry has grown from a mere five million worth in 1992 to 50 million in 1998 and it is estimated that it will grow from 65 to 70 million dollars by the YEAR 2000. In 1998 there were 750 person years in jobs and the films are being shot in rural settings while most of the post production work stays here.

All this will provide a great opportunity for budding actors, directors and writers along with technical workers but they have to present themselves to the industry. They have to stay in touch with the Saskatchewan Motion Picture Industry and they have to know what's going on. Information regarding membership and work can be accessed by calling the Saskatchewan Motion Picture Industry Association (SMPIA) toll free in Saskatchewan at 1-877-247-6742 or writing to 2431 8th Avenue, Regina S4R 5J1.

Also, despite strong opposition from the CBC and cable companies, the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) has recently been granted its license to broadcast from the CRTC. It will begin this fall and will broadcast from Winnipeg and keep a head office in Ottawa. The conditions of licencing are that there will be 18 hours per week of French programming, 30 in 15

aboriginal languages and 85 hours in English. Ninety percent of the content will be Canadian and the cost to the subscriber will be 15 cents, charged by the cable company to help pay for programming. Ordinarily specialty channels like CTV Sportsnet cost 80 cents. APTN is an offshoot of Television Northern Canada.

Other than the obvious jobs that are becoming available like principal performers, actors and extras there are opportunities as photographic doubles, stand-in performers, special skills extras and stunts persons. Behind the cameras there are many more opportunities titled; Production Designer, Art Director, Assistant Art Director, Graphic Artist/Illustrator, Drafts Person/Set Designer, Art Department Coordinator, Property Master, Assistant Property Master and Props Buyer. After the Director there are the First Assistant Director, the Second Assistant Director and the Third. Casting has a Director and an Assistant while in Cinematography there are the Director of Photography, Camera Operator/Assistant, First Assistant Camera/Focus Puller, Second Assistant Camera/Clapper Loader along with the Stills Photographer/Unit Publicist.

There are numerous jobs in the trades as well such as lighting and equipment. There is also a need for Hair Stylists and Make Up Artists along with Location Scout Manage and people who work with sound equipment. For more information anyone can contact SMPIA at the address and telephone number listed in this story.

Les Metis Mamawatoushkay

“The Metis Working Together”



By Wil Smolkowski
SASKATOON

Metis from across Saskatchewan and Western Canada met at the Sands Hotel, March 3rd & 4th to discuss economic development and opportunity and how to benefit from Forestry, Agriculture and Tourism while maintaining traditional lifestyles.

Mike Mercredi chaired the conference in the Diefenbaker Room and introduced the main speakers who spoke on all aspects of investment and running a business.

Allan Morin, Metis Nation of Saskatchewan Treasurer was one of the first speakers and said, “The Metis have called upon the leaders so the Metis way of life and traditions can be protected.” Self-government is key to strong economic development in order to preserve traditional hunting and fishing livelihoods. “All you need is a vision, to build upon,” Morin added..

The first workshop was on how to identify opportunities for Economic and community development, moderated by Mr. Mercredi while the panellists were Leonard Gauthier, Edmonton Metis Business Association and who owned the Mona Lisa Pub, Marlin Strangland from Western Economic Diversification and Patty Conkin from Beaver River Community Futures.

Conkin described how one lady created work by making coveralls for a mining company when she was out of work and how it is necessary to take the initiative in order to succeed. Mr. Gauthier talked about initiative and how running a pub is a 16 hour day. Most importantly though the participants were told that a business plan is of utmost importance.

Later Greg Fofonoff, SNEDCO and Roland Duplessis, Clarence Campeau Development Fund described financing and funding opportunities.

Forestry was the next topic for discussion and Mr. Fofonoff, Philip Chartier, Area Director of Clearwater Clear Lake Region (Northern Region 2), and owner of Chartier Wood Products along with

Darcy Morin of Three Rivers CREDO were the panellists. Unfortunately, in places like Buffalo Narrows there is 30 - 40% unemployment and the people need work. Bush work however, is back breaking work and the rewards are small. Now the big companies are eager to do business in Northern Saskatchewan but they are there for profit above all else and the need to be careful was stressed.

Agriculture was a large topic, moderated by James Froh with Ernie Spencer, Assistant Deputy of Sask. Agriculture and Food, Rodney Parenteau, Parenteau Gourmet Foods and Garrett Cormin, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, a branch of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada were panellists.

Agriculture has been Saskatchewan’s mainstay for nearly a 100 years but there is a price to pay from too much seeding, and use of chemicals to control weeds and to fertilize. Fortunately though, Saskatchewan practices low intensity agriculture which may at first appear to be a disadvantage but it also means low pollution. Regardless, the face of agriculture is changing. Last year for the first time in history wheat was not the main crop grown in the province and farmers are looking more and more to diversification.

One example is Rodney Parenteau of Langham who owns Parenteau Gourmet Foods and who specializes in Saskatoon Berry Jam and chocolates.

“Owning your own business is not as easy as it seems,” he said for a high percentage of small businesses don’t make it past the first two years. The need is there however, for people to expand and diversify due to the rapid changes in farming. There is also a need for networking in order to find out what the market demands.

Tourism was also discussed in length along with Women and Entrepreneurship. For related stories see pages 18 & 28.

Saskatchewan Hosts 1999 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards

By Lorna Docken

It was a privilege to attend the 1999 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards (NAAA) at Regina's Saskatchewan Centre of the Arts. Words cannot describe the excitement and glamour of the evening. The 6th annual NAAA is the creation of Mohawk humanitarian and musician, John Kim Bill.

As the curtain rose, the audience was suddenly in a west coast Rain forest. Vibrant, almost luminescent, shades of green ferns, mosses and trees surrounded reproductions of famous works by Aboriginal artists. This authentic backdrop set the stage for the Gala Evening. Co-hosts Michael Greyeyes and Jennifer Podemski introduced eminent sponsors and presenters as well as the cast of talented entertainers. The audience was treated to performances by Murray Porter, Karen Donaldson, the 5th Generation, the Tommy Dixon Dancers, the Creeland Dancers and Fara. It was a special treat to see Tantoo Cardinal, Gordon Tootoosis and Carla Robinson on stage.

The worthy award recipients included five of Saskatchewan's best.

Dr. Howard Adams is known widely as an educator/academic and most important to himself, an activist. Most New Breed readers remember him for his years at the helm of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan and the inspiration he has provided to the leaders of the future.

Dr. Lillian Dyck is a neuropsychiatrist who has gained worldwide respect for her study of the brain. Growing up in small town Saskatchewan made her the exceptional woman she is today. Dr. Dyck was honoured for her contributions to science.

Alika Lafontaine received the Youth Award. This 16 year old is in his first year of pre-

med studies at the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College. He had a 90 plus average in grade 12 and is a super athlete, excelling at martial arts and basketball.

The term lifetime achievement may not be enough to encompass the contributions of Dr. Allan Sapp. This world renowned artist has received many honours in his day, but none so prestigious as the two standing ovations he received that night from his greatest fans. Many had to wipe away tears as he received his award. His works have brought to life for so many around the world, the people and reserve he grew up with.

Theresa Stevenson was honoured for her work in feeding hungry children in the city of Regina through the Chili for Children program which she started. Ms. Stevenson has also served as a cultural role model through her founding of the Regina Indian Community Awareness program.

Honorees from other provinces included:
- David Tuccaro for Business and Commerce -
Mitiarjuk Nppaaluk for Heritage and Spirituality -
Dr. Malcom King for Medical Research - Judge
James Igloliorte for Law and Justice - Dorothy
Grant for Business and Commerce - Dr. Edward
Kantonkote Cree for Medicine - The Honourable
Madam Justice Rose Toodick Boyko for Law and
Justice - High Commissioner James K. Bartleman
for Public Services.

At the conclusion of the evening, one could not help but sit up a little taller and want to try a little harder because the award recipients instilled so much pride in our heritage as Aboriginal people. The awards were followed by a reception where the recipients graciously met their admirers. In a word, the night was unforgettable.

Metis Cuisine

NEW BREED Magazine

Spring 1999

27

Tickle your taste buds

*With a treat from the Community Kitchen
of Fort Battleford Urban Development*

Hare/ Rabbit Roast

1 Hare or rabbit
Salt and pepper
poultry fat or oil
currant jelly
sausage stuffing

- Wash dressed hare or rabbit under cold water and dry.
- Season with salt and pepper. Stuff and sew it up.
- Roast uncovered in a 325°F oven for 1 ½ to 2 hours, or until tender.
- Baste with fat.
- Serve on a hot platter with mushroom gravy and a current jelly.

Mushroom Gravy

2 cups water
½ cup flour
pepper
2 vegetable bouillon cubes
1 cup thinly sliced mushrooms
3 tablespoons tamari sauce
3 teaspoons vegetable broth powder

- Mix all the ingredients together.
- Heat over medium heat, stirring constantly until boiling.
- Reduce heat. Simmer until thick and mushrooms are tender. Add pepper to taste.

... And Armand Bourassa

Canned Fish

These are only suggested recipes for canned fish

LAKE TROUT

Fish cut to fit in jars
1 one pint jar
1 teaspoon of vinegar
½ teaspoon of salt

Put all ingredients into jar and seal it.
Cook 90 minutes in a pressure or boil in water for 3 hours.

RED SUCKER

Fish cut to fit in jars
1 one pint jar
1 teaspoon of vinegar
1 teaspoon of Russian Dressing
½ teaspoon of salt

Preparation is the same as with Lake Trout.

These recipes allow you to experiment with all types of fish and dressings. The red sucker tastes better than salmon.

Please Note!

The purpose of this page is to encourage readers to submit recipes which were handed down from their mothers or their grandmothers, just as long as they are metis in origin and culture.

Please submit to: 219 Robin Crescent
Saskatoon, SK S7L 6M8
C/O Cuisine Editor
Telephone: 343-8285

Women and Entrepreneurship

28

by: Yvonne Vizina

As part of the Metis Nation Economic Development Conference, moderator Yvonne Vizina, MNS Tripartite Unit, led a workshop

on issues important to women getting into business. Invited panelists included Terry Parent of Women Entrepreneurs in Saskatoon, Linda Prafke of BMG Consulting and Donna Boyer, a student in the Economic Development

Officer (EDO) training program of Dumont Technical Institute. Topics included home based businesses, success stories, barriers encountered by the panelists and unique needs of women entrepreneurs. Delegates were encouraged to participate by directing the panel discussion to areas and issues of particular interest.

Each of the panelists had an opportunity to discuss the wide range of services and skills that they have, and how they can be of assistance to women planning to develop a business venture. Panelists answered many questions from the participants, sharing helpful information, as well as personal stories about obstacles they had to overcome in becoming successful businesswomen.

The majority of the participants had

come to the workshop with business ideas, and expressed a need for direction in making their ideas a reality. Some very good ideas were generated for next year's workshop to provide further experience in the steps

required to start a business. With successful businesswomen like Terry Parent and Linda Prafke, who provide assistance to others, it is becoming easier for women entrepreneurs. The EDO program will also enable more

Métis women and men to provide specialized help to communities in developing their economies. Women and Entrepreneurship was a very lively and interactive workshop!

See you next year.



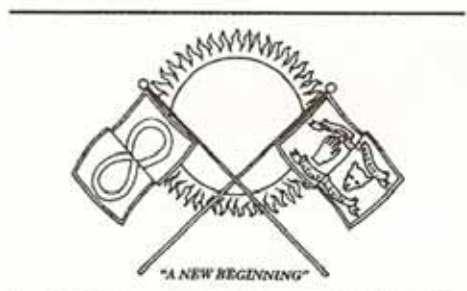
From Left: Yvonne Vizina, Donna Boyer, Terry Parent & Linda Prafke



Appendix **Prayer is the Oxygen of the soul**

From "Prayers of a Metis Priest"
By Father Guy LaVallee

Communication Lines Open Between MHACSI and Saskatchewan District health Boards



The Metis Health and Addictions Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (MHACSI) has hired Marlene Hansen as Health Co-ordinator. The primary task of the Health Co-ordinator will be to organize meetings between Metis people and the Health District to allow for open discussion on health issues

The communication process began on November 15, 1997, with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), between the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Department of Health. The Health Co-ordinator will assist in developing a strong, working partnership that will result in identifying the necessary steps to implement the MOU.

This process will strengthen and enhance the relationship between the Metis people of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Health while working toward the goal of ensuring that Metis health issues are being

properly addressed.

To contribute to the improved health of Metis people, you are welcome to contact Judy Panko, Executive Director/CEO, MHACSI at the office in Saskatoon at 306-651-3021 or Marlene Hansen in Prince Albert at 306-953-8250.

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IT'S YOUR CALL!

Since this is the third issue of **NEW BREED** Magazine, it is not only time to thank you the reader, but also time to ask for your opinion. Please fill out the questionnaire below and mail it to **NEW BREED** Magazine: 219 Robin Cres., Sk.S7L 6M8 or call 888-343-6667.

READABILITY:

Do you like reading human interest stories (features etc.) about successful Metis?

Would you like to see more stories dealing with the governing of the Metis Nation?

Would you like to see more stories about your local/area?

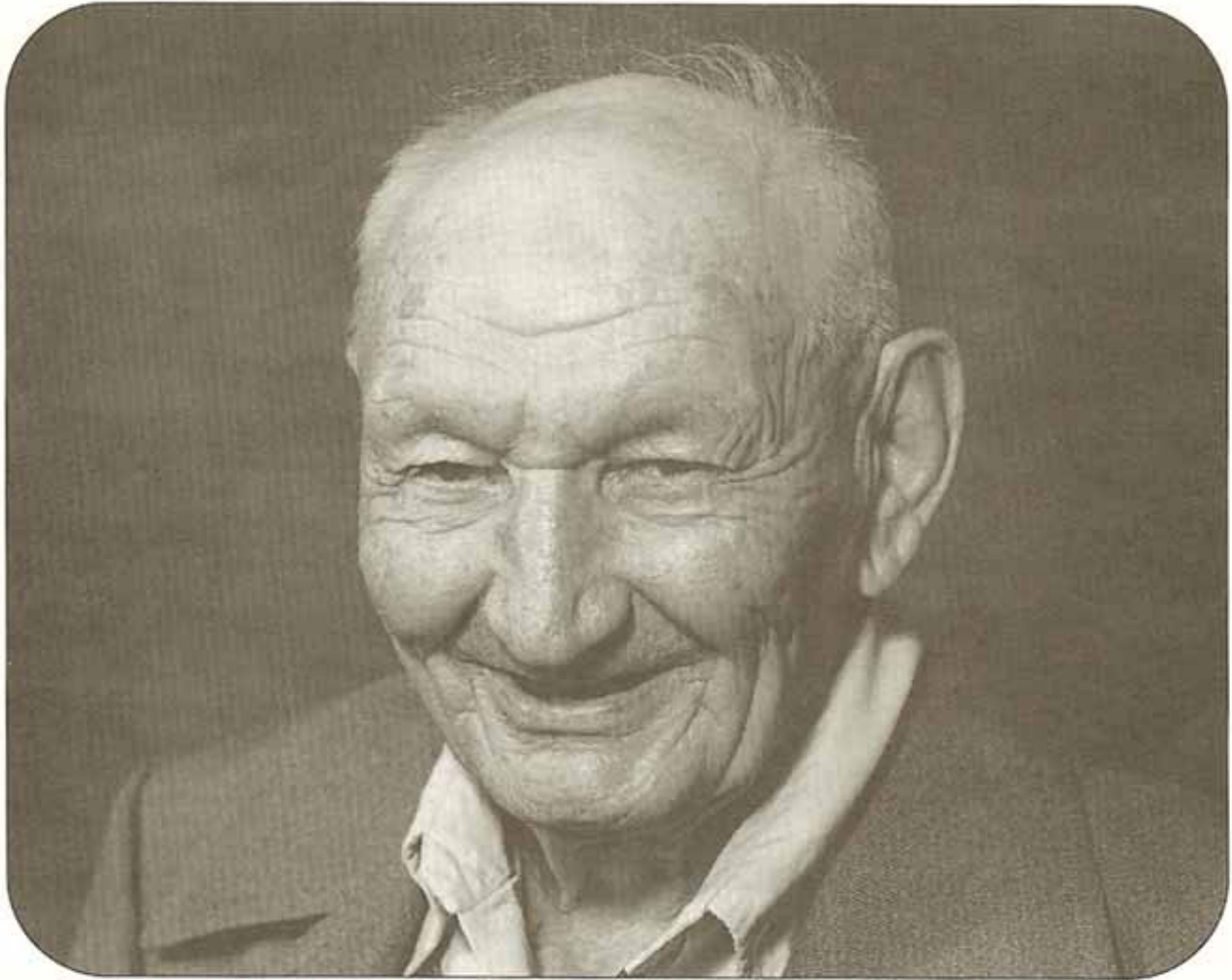
Would you be willing to submit stories to **NEW BREED**, regarding your local or area?

What do you think **NEW BREED** should mean to you?

Would you like to see **NEW BREED** on the INTERNET?

Would you like to see **NEW BREED** become a permanent voice for the Metis Nation?

Metis Nation Mourns!



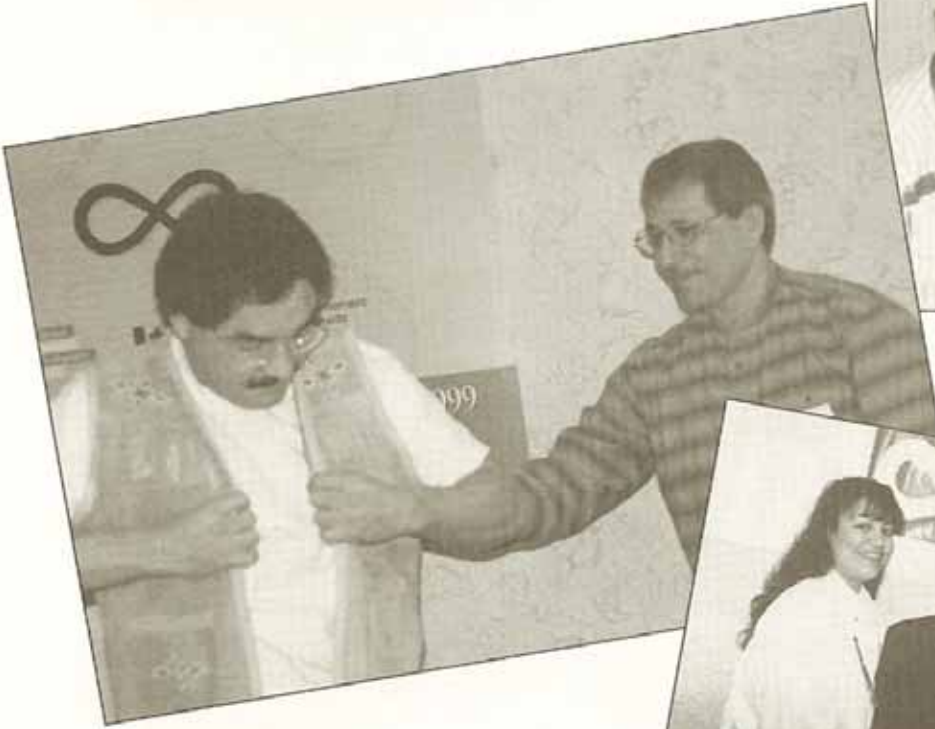
The Metis Nation of Saskatchewan mourns the passing of Senator Alfred Genaille, who passed away Thursday, March 25th, 1999, at the age of 86 years. Mr. Genaille was the Senator of Eastern Region 2 and was very vocal about his beliefs when it came to Metis rights and was one of the founding fathers of Eastern Region 2.

Mr. Genaille was born to Sam and Marie Genaille on October 3, 1912 in Wadena and was the oldest of five children. During his younger years, he was a jack of all trades; running threshing crews and saw mills, as well as breaking land. In 1939 he married Annie Kowalchuk and they moves to Chelan, in the early 40's, where they set up a saw mill. He also took up farming and did some trucking. In the winter months, he tended to his trap line, up until his passing. Mr. Genaille was well know as a character who loved to tell a good story. His favourite activities were curling, hunting, trapping and fishing.

Mr Genaille was pre-deceased by his parents Sam and Marie, one sister Alma McLean, and his son Leonard. He leaves to mourn his passing, his loving wife Annie, his children, Marie, Joe (Louise), Harvey, Zonie (Alden) Willerton, Roger (Laverna), Sandra (Lloyd) Thorpe, 15 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, sisters Josphine Whitford and Louise Goldstone, brother Marcel, as well as many more relatives and friends. Funeral services were held on Monday, March 29th, 1999 at Chelan Community Centre, conducted by Rev. Nancy Steinbachs.

Mr. Genaille will be sorely missed by the entire Metis Nation of Saskatchewan.

Images from Special MNLA Meeting & Economic Development Conference



M.N.S. Staff Introduced!

By Tyler Fetch

The Metis Nation of Saskatchewan (M.N.S.) head office is the "Grand Central Station" of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan. At one point, every Metis passes through here, either by a phone call or coming in personally.



Brenda Gust

The first person they will most likely meet is Brenda Gust. Brenda is the Secretary/Receptionist for the M.N.S.. She's been handling incoming calls, people, mail, and faxes for the past year. Before coming to the Metis Nation, Brenda was an accountant at Sedgwick Ltd., an insurance firm, for 5 years.



Wilf Blondeau

Every business needs someone to make sure everything runs smoothly. That person at the M.N.S. is Wilf Blondeau. Wilf has been the Chief Executive Officer (C.E.O.) of the M.N.S. for the past 5 years. He is chiefly responsible for the overall administration and management there.

Some of Wilf's duties are to work with the Executive members, the Provincial Metis Council,

liaison with the Provincial and Federal governments, and assist in bringing our Metis people together. These, again, are just *some* of the duties of the C.E.O. of the M.N.S.

Before taking on the task of C.E.O. of the M.N.S., Wilf was the General Manager of BND Construction in Saskatoon, he was also the Executive Director of the Saskatoon Tribal Council, before that. He was born and raised in Lebret, SK., and took his high school classes there. He then went on to attend business college at the Reliance School of Commerce. Wilf has a lot of experience, and has earned the respect he receives.



Sandra Wilton

A business without an accountant is like a one legged man in a butt kicking contest. He doesn't have a leg to stand on. That leg in the M.N.S. is Sandra Wilton. Sandra has been the Accountant at the M.N.S. for 1 year, on March 16, 1999. She has a Business Administration Certificate from the U of S, and is a 3rd level Certified General Accountant (C.G.A.). She is responsible for the overall financial administration and management for the M.N.S.

Before coming to the M.N.S., Sandra worked with the North West Territories Housing Corporation for 6 years. There she was the Eastern Arctic Program Manager. From 1984 - 1992, Sandra worked with the Saskatoon Tribal Council as an accountant for Cress Housing. She is hard working and usually busy, either crunching numbers or, occasionally, answering phones.

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