



**Metis Nation**  
Saskatchewan

**The PMC Bi-Weekly Mail-Out for June 22<sup>nd</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009**

1. **Title:** New Committee Formed to Advise Government of Northern Roads Strategy

**Ministry:** Highways and Infrastructure (Minister Jim Reiter)

**Date:** June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=8437d664-7589-4c36-bd08-624fea0aa42f>

**Contact:** Doug Wakabayashi, Highways and Infrastructure, Regina, Phone: 306-787-4804

**Synopsis:** The Government of Saskatchewan has created the Northern Transportation Advisory Committee to “develop a system for identifying and ranking potential upgrades to provincial highways in the north.” The system is modeled after the Rural Highways Strategy which was used to assess 300 southern highways with the “highest ranking corridors being included in the five-year capital plan.” Some members of the committee include New North, Meadow Lake Tribal Council, the Prince Albert Grand Council and representatives from northern industries, including mining and forestry. The committee is working towards having the model in place for the 2010-11 budget cycle.

2. **Title:** Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technology Program Announced

**Ministry:** Agriculture (Minister Bob Bjornerud)

**Date:** June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=d79796d7-93a0-42b8-80e5-7f92e6093a44>

**Contact:** Jenna Webb, Agriculture, Regina, Phone: 306-787-2359, Email: [jenna.webb@gov.sk.ca](mailto:jenna.webb@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** Saskatchewan and Canada have announced an \$800,000 Growing Forward program called Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technology (ADOPT) that “provides funding to help producer groups evaluate and demonstrate new agricultural practices and technologies at the local level.” The program is meant to aid in the dissemination of new agricultural knowledge and technologies to farmers and ranchers. Producer groups who apply for funding are eligible for \$10,000 per project and up to \$50,000 a year total. The deadline for applications is July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009

for fall projects and January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 for spring projects. Applications forms are available at:  
[evaluation.coordinator@gov.sk.ca](mailto:evaluation.coordinator@gov.sk.ca)

3. **Title:** More than \$100,000 for source water protection in the Lower Souris River Watershed

**Ministry:** Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (Minister Nancy Heppner)

**Date:** June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=dda8c85d-2df2-4696-8cfd-67c18aeee5a4>

**Contact:** Jeff Olson, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, Yorkton, Phone: 306-786-1364

**Synopsis:** The Lower Souris River Watershed Committee received \$64,472 from the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority to help in the implementation of the Lower Souris River Watershed Source Water Protection Plan. In total, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority has provided "\$820,000 in funding grants...to non-profit groups that are leading implementation of source water protection plans." The Watershed Authority helps with the creation of water protection plans by providing funding and bringing "together local leaders who work in partnership to create and implement an action plan for protecting their water."

4. **Title:** Meeting of Premiers and National Aboriginal Organization Leaders (August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

**Date:** June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Synopsis:** Premier Brad Wall announced a meeting in Regina on Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> between provincial Premiers and several national Aboriginal organizations, including the Métis National Council, the Assembly of First Nations, and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.

5. **Title:** UNICEF Canada Report on Aboriginal Children's Health Shows Disparities Between Aboriginal Children and National Averages

**Date:** June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:**

[http://www.unicef.ca/portal/Secure/Community/502/WCM/HELP/take\\_action/Advocacy/Leaving%20no%20child%20behind%2009.pdf](http://www.unicef.ca/portal/Secure/Community/502/WCM/HELP/take_action/Advocacy/Leaving%20no%20child%20behind%2009.pdf)

**Synopsis:** UNICEF Canada released a report called *Aboriginal Children's Health: Leaving No Child Behind*, which argues that the "health disparities between First Nations, Inuit and Métis children relative to national averages is one of the most significant children's rights challenges facing our nation." The report found that when comparing Aboriginal children to the national average on

health indicators, that Aboriginal children “fare at least two or more times worse” in many of them including areas like diabetes and suicide rates. As well, Aboriginal children fare worse than the national average when it comes to things like access to clean water and incidence of poverty, which further contribute to poor health circumstances. In terms of Métis children in Canada, the report found several causes of their higher than average poor health conditions. These causes include:

- Métis children do not have the same access to health programs and services provided by the federal government to First Nations and Inuit children.
- While Métis children have access to mainstream health services “little or no attention is paid to their specific cultural or geographical needs.”
- Funding for Métis organizations and communities for health related initiatives is not at the same level of First Nations and Inuit organizations and communities.
- There is a lack of Métis children specific health data in Canada.
- Social disparities such as living in overcrowded and substandard housing, inadequate social assistance payments for single parents, domestic violence, and over-representation in the child welfare and justice systems also play a role.

The report also has five Métis related recommendations aimed at improving the health status of Métis children. These recommendations include:

- Enhancing partnerships between provincial and federal governments and Métis organizations and communities.
- Increasing governmental “research funding aimed at improving the health and social status of Métis children.”
- The equalization of health and social services for Métis children as compared with First Nations and Inuit children.
- “Modify best and promising practices for health and social-service care to fit the cultural and social realities of Métis children.”

6. **Title:** CDTF Funding Available to Revitalize Communities

**Ministry:** Enterprise Saskatchewan (Minister Ken Cheveldayoff)

**Date:** June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=92bb24d4-f69f-48bb-8fe9-c576d9facc20>

**Contact:** Tim Tororey, Enterprise Saskatchewan, Regina, Phone: 306-787-5582

**Synopsis:** In 2008 the federal government of Canada announced one billion dollars for communities that were negatively affected by the global economic downturn. Saskatchewan received \$36.4 million of this money and it is currently being distributed by Enterprise Saskatchewan with “[t]he forestry sector and its communities ...being targeted for priority spending in Saskatchewan given the historic downturn that has occurred in this sector.” \$10.6 million in funding has already been provided for 13 communities across Saskatchewan including Prince Albert, Meadow Lake, La Ronge, Beauval, Green Lake and others. Enterprise Saskatchewan is currently accepting “community infrastructure project applications” by September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The application and guidelines for the CDTF funding are located at <http://www.enterprisesaskatchewan.ca/cdtfeedback>

7. **Title:** Minister’s Tour of Drought Area Results in Further Crop Insurance Enhancements

**Ministry:** Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (Minister Bob Bjornerud)

**Date:** June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=f20b2807-3089-424c-a4d6-182fd2ba8bc8>

**Contact:** Daniel Jungwirth, Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation, Melville, Phone: 306-728-7427

**Synopsis:** As a result of touring west central and northwest Saskatchewan, Agriculture Minister Bob Bjornerud has introduced two new measures to help farmers combat the current drought conditions in Saskatchewan. The first measure will see Saskatchewan Crop Insurance “raise the threshold at which a producer will be eligible for full payment for a crop loss.” The other measure will see farmers be allowed to “spray out or till their crop and be eligible for summerfallow coverage next year.” These two new measures bring the total to five introduced by the provincial government as they attempt to help farmers deal with the current drought. The three others introduced last week included the extension of greenfeed seeding to July 15<sup>th</sup>, permitting producers with Crop Insurance to “seed and insure any cereal greenfeed crop,” and an increase in the number of producers who will not have to have a field inspection before the payout of their insurance.

8. **Title:** New Trespass to Property Act in Effect

**Ministry:** Justice (Minister Don Morgan)

**Date:** June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=f9db7eb2-d5a2-4e93-a143-d579781fd285>

**Contact:** Linsay Rabyj, Justice, Regina, Phone: 306-787-2626

**Synopsis:** The new *Trespass to Property Act* comes into force on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. This Act provides police with the authority to give tickets for up to \$2000.00 to individuals trespassing on private or commercial property (or who ignore no trespass signs). One caveat is that this new Act does not “change trespassing rules contained in other provincial legislation, such as *The Wildlife Act* and *The Snowmobile Act*,” nor does it infringe upon people’s rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

9. **Title:** Government Allocates 496 New Child Car Spaces

**Ministry:** Education (Minister Ken Krawetz)

**Date:** June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=0a51a0a9-16df-4b9f-83fe-809edb57664c>

**Contact:** Sarah Still, Education, Regina, Phone: 306-787-1613

**Synopsis:** The Saskatchewan Government announced that it is committing \$1.67 million for 496 child care spaces divided up amongst 11 communities in Saskatchewan. This money is part of the Government’s strategy to invest \$4.22 million for 1,000 new child care spaces in the province. Communities who are ready to open those child care spaces in the year the money is allocated to them are given priority for the funding.

10. **Title:** Two More Regions Roll out new ER Program

**Ministry:** Enterprise Saskatchewan (Minister Ken Cheveldayoff)

**Date:** June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=82a4c189-7a03-42a2-9278-52c60aa8e45e>

**Contact:** Tim Tororey, Enterprise Saskatchewan, Regina, Phone: 306-787-5582

**Synopsis:** As part of the Saskatchewan Government’s new Enterprise Region (ER) program, two more new ER’s were rolled out – the Mid-Sask ER of Outlook and the Prairie Innovation ER of Humboldt. With these two new ER’s, that now brings the total to 10 out of a total of 13 that are being created by the province. Enterprise Regions consist of regional stakeholders from each

region's industries and businesses and they are meant to "assist each region to increase business and industry competitiveness, realize its economic potential and compete globally." The South Central Enterprise Region headquartered in Moose Jaw was launched on June 29<sup>th</sup>. For more information on Enterprise Regions, please visit the following link:

<http://www.enterprisesaskatchewan.ca/Default.aspx?DN=e655a8b3-adab-49e7-8e70-85f4aa478a71>

**11. Title:** Government's World-Leading Environmental Management Program Registers First Decommissioned Mine

**Ministry:** Energy and Resources (Minister Bill Boyd)

**Date:** July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=18daa85a-a917-4533-a695-99a341c7e987>

**Contact:** Bob Ellis, Energy and Resources, Regina, Phone: 306-787-1691

**Synopsis:** As a result of *The Reclaimed Industrial Sites Act* (passed in 2006), the province of Saskatchewan has ruled that the Contact Lake gold mine (near La Ronge), which was operated by Cameco between 1994 and 1998, is now officially decommissioned and reclaimed. Government inspection and monitoring have shown that the former mine site is now stable and "reclamation measures [are] performing as expected." As a result of this testing, the mine will be the first one entered into the province's Institutional Control Registry. Furthermore, Cameco has placed funds "in a trust managed by the government, to cover the cost of any future monitoring and maintenance the site may require."



# Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

## The PMC Bi-Weekly Mail-Out for July 6<sup>th</sup> – July 17<sup>th</sup> 2009

1. **Title:** Reactor Partnership Reached: Government, U of S to pursue medical isotope production

**Ministry:** Saskatchewan Government

**Date:** July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:**

<http://www.thestarphoenix.com/Health/Reactor+partnership+reached/1773364/story.html>

**Synopsis:** The Saskatoon Star Phoenix is reporting that the Saskatchewan government and the University of Saskatchewan “have struck a partnership to pursue a nuclear reactor that will produce medical isotopes in Saskatoon.” The U of S and the provincial government will be submitting a proposal to the federal government for the isotope reactor as a result of the shutdown of the Chalk River facility in Ontario. The government, who are currently undertaking public consultations on nuclear development in the province, has said that the reactor will not be used just for isotope development, but will also be used for research purposes.

2. **Title:** Government Funds Crisis Help Line Services

**Ministry:** Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (Minister Christine Tell)

**Date:** July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=f4fb55a4-ad14-4f66-8768-3be155edf636>

**Contact:** David Morris, Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority, Regina, Phone: 306-787-1721

**Synopsis:** Three gambling help lines are receiving \$280,000 from the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority. The money is being given to help support the Prince Albert Mobile Crisis Unit Co-Operative Ltd., the Saskatoon Crisis Intervention Service Inc., and the Mobile Crisis Services Inc. of Regina. This money “will be used to help support 24-hour a day, seven day-a-week crisis management services, including the toll-free Problem Gambling Help Line” (1-800-306-6789).

3. **Title:** Saskatchewan Makes Strides to Provide French-Language Services

**Ministry:** Office of the Provincial Secretary (Minister June Draude)

**Date:** July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Contact:** Nicole Fellingner, Office of the Provincial Secretary, Regina, Phone: 306-787-1370

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=0a1aea41-c666-44cd-b8d0-833ea2c58261>

**Synopsis:** Saskatchewan is touting the accomplishments of its French-language Services Policy. Enacted in 2003, the policy “is a formal commitment by the province to enhance French-language services and sets out goals for communication, service delivery and development, in consultation with the Francophone community.” To date, the Saskatchewan government has funded such French-language programs as French language child care facilities and the development of bilingual government websites. To view the French-language Services Policy report for 2008-09, please go to: <http://www.ops.gov.sk.ca>

4. **Title:** Government Invests in Addictions Treatment for Offenders

**Ministry:** Corrections, Public Safety and Policing (Minister D.F. (Yogi) Huyghebaert)

**Date:** July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=c7e0220d-d587-400a-b233-c74d88ff9648>

**Contact:** Linsay Rabyj, Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, Regina, Phone: 306-787-2626

**Synopsis:** The provincial government is investing \$858,000 to help offenders deal with addiction issues. The agreement will fund treatment programs for both Adults and Young Offenders. In Saskatchewan, “approximately 80 per cent of offenders in custody and 60 per cent of offenders under community supervision have serious problems resulting from frequent substance abuse.”

5. **Title:** Province Increases Funding to Foster Families Association

**Ministry:** Social Services (Minister Donna Harpauer)

**Date:** July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=6e58a4db-ac0c-44d3-931f-0ddacc2a9e55>

**Contact:** Trish Alcorn, Social Services, Regina, Phone: 306-787-0916, and Deb Davies, Saskatchewan Foster Families Association, Saskatoon, Phone: 306-270-3172

**Synopsis:** The annual funding for the Saskatchewan Foster Families Association is being increased by \$341,000 to bring the total to \$867,000 for this year alone. Part of the money will go towards “a new position dedicated to recruiting First Nations and Métis foster families.”



# Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

## The PMC Bi-Weekly Mail-Out for July 20<sup>th</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009

1. **Title:** Managing Our Fisheries For Tomorrow – Public Comments Welcome

**Ministry:** Environment (Minister Nancy Heppner)

**Date:** July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009

**Contact:** Jennifer Redston, Environment, Regina, Phone: 306-787-5796

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=8be68997-6e5f-47f8-a931-e148c3e8bfdd>

**Synopsis:** The Ministry of Environment has released their draft Fisheries Management Plan for comment by the public. As part of the process, the province is meeting with First Nations and Métis organizations and other “stakeholders from across the province to develop” the new plan. The government wants feedback by September 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. For a copy of the new plan, please visit this site: <http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/fisheriesmanagementplan>

2. **Title:** MP Calls for Métis Rights: N.L. Liberal Attends Back to Batoche Days, meets with MNS Leaders

**Date:** July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.thestarphoenix.com/calls+Metis+rights/1832590/story.html>

**Synopsis:** Todd Russell, a Liberal MP from Newfoundland and Labrador, attended Back to Batoche Days and called for Canada to recognize Métis peoples Aboriginal Rights. Russell, who is an Inuit Métis, believes that Métis across Canada are calling for inclusion and recognition of their rights, especially to land. Russell stated in regards to the land – “We have a traditional and historic attachment to it. There was always the sense that Métis would have specific lands and have governance over those lands.”

3. **Title:** Residential school nominee lauded by MMF

**Date:** July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/breakingnews/Residential-school-nominee-lauded-by-MMF-51047702.html>

**Synopsis:** Former Manitoba Mets Federation president John Morrisseau has been appointed to the federal Indian Residential School Survivor Committee as part of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The committee will act as an advisory committee to the Commission and help them “document the experiences of former Indian residential school students.” Morrisseau is the only Métis member of the committee of ten – seven are First Nations, while the other two are Inuit.

4. **Title:** Governments, City and Riders Partner on Feasibility Study for Domed Facility in Regina

**Ministry:** Executive Council (Premier Brad Wall)

**Date:** July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=3f4f302c-56c6-4250-b8e1-edefeb351df9>

**Contact:** Kathy Young, Executive Council, Regina, Phone: 306-787-0425

**Synopsis:** The Government of Saskatchewan along with the Federal Government, the City of Regina, and the Saskatchewan Roughriders has announced that they will join together to fund a \$1 million feasibility study “into an all-season, multipurpose entertainment facility in downtown Regina.” Of the \$1 million for the study, 40 percent will come from the province. Two companies, Stadiums Consultants International and Global Spectrum, have been authorized to conduct the study. PCL Construction, a Saskatchewan based company, will also play a role.

5. **Title:** Crime Rate and Severity Down But Still Work To Do

**Ministry:** Justice and Attorney General (Minister Don Morgan)

**Date:** July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=aedf752f-9b0f-407e-997d-38ef5c131993>

**Contact:** Laur’Lei Silzer, Justice and Attorney General, Regina, Phone: 306-787-0775

**Synopsis:** Stats released by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics Juristat found that “the crime rate in this province fell 4 percent in 2008 while the severity index dropped 5 percent.” However, even with these figures Saskatchewan continues to have the highest crime rate of any province in Canada. The government argues that the reduction in crime is the result of the “increased number of

police officers and prosecutor's, family violence prevention, rehabilitation programs, literacy initiatives, victims' services and anti-gang strategies."

**6. Title:** Government Introduces New Minimum Age of Employment

**Ministry:** Advanced Education, Employment and Labour (Minister Rob Norris)

**Date:** July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=ddef9f16-11fc-4e24-bdc9-3b3832935040>

**Contact:** Lisa Danyluk, Advanced Education, Employment and Labour, Regina, Phone: 306-787-7791

**Synopsis:** The provincial government has passed new Minimum Wage Regulations, setting 16 as the general minimum age of employment in Saskatchewan in all sectors of the economy. At the same time, these new regulations set the age of 14 as the 'absolute' minimum age. But in order for a 14 or 15 year old to be employed they must meet certain requirements such as getting permission from their parent or guardian, completing a health and safety standards certificate, not working after 10 p.m. on a school day, and working no more than 16 hours during a school week.

**7. Title:** Saskatchewan Crowns First To Join Climate Registry

**Ministry:** Crown Investments Corporation (Minister Jyne Draude)

**Date:** July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=c436d1b4-7cff-4deb-ad41-cbb082ec4a1f>

**Contact:** Debbie Clark, CIC, Regina, Phone: 306-787-5451

**Synopsis:** In their first step towards setting greenhouse gas emission targets for Saskatchewan's Crown corporations, two Crowns, SaskTel and the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation, registered with the Climate Registry which runs out of Los Angeles, CA. The Climate Registry is a "non-profit collaboration among North American states, provinces, territories and Native Sovereign Nations that sets consistent, transparent standards to calculate, verify and publicly report GHG emissions into a single source." SaskTel and Sask Gaming will now report their greenhouse gas emissions on a yearly basis to the Climate Registry, who will then have an independent third party verify them.

**8. Title:** Saskatchewan Hosts Council of the Federation Meeting – August 5-7, 2009

**Ministry:** Intergovernmental Affairs (Premier Brad Wall)

**Date:** July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=f6ee32db-98fe-4823-aaf5-684ae3e48221>

**Contact:** Jeff Welke, Intergovernmental Affairs, Regina, Phone: 306-787-6156

**Synopsis:** From August 5<sup>th</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup>, Saskatchewan will play host to the “Premier’s of Canada’s ten provinces and three territories.” Topics of discussion will include the economy, climate change, and building international relationships. On the afternoon on the 5<sup>th</sup>, the premiers will “meet with the leaders of national aboriginal organizations.”



# Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

## The PMC Bi-Weekly Mail-Out for August 4<sup>th</sup> – August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**1. Title:** MNC Gets Provincial Commitment to address Métis Nation Issues

**Date:** August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.metisnation.ca/PDF-May2009/frontpage/MNC%20CoF%20Release%20-%20Aug.%206,%202009.pdf>

**Synopsis:** At the Council of the Federation meeting held in Regina from August 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, Métis Nation Council President Clement Chartier received a commitment from the four western and Ontario Premiers “to work with the federal and Métis governments on pressing economic and public health issues facing Métis Nation citizens in Canada.” In October, “multilateral opportunities” with the provinces will be explored at the Métis Nation Economic Development Symposium, which will be hosted by Minister Chuck Strahl and to which the province’s Aboriginal Affairs Ministers will be invited as well.

**2. Title:** Six Northern Recreational Crown Land Leases Available

**Ministry:** Environment (Minister Nancy Heppner)

**Date:** August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=de37983b-88ba-4b81-8cad-7101a2d8f5c1>

**Contact:** Jennifer Redston, Environment, Regina, Phone: 306-787-5796

**Synopsis:** The Saskatchewan Government is making six sites available for lease – 3 in Napatak Subdivision near La Ronge, and one each at Lamp Lake (La Ronge), Dickens Lake (100 km NE of La Ronge), and Macbeth Channel (Buffalo Narrows). The deadline for applications is September 30<sup>th</sup>, with a draw to be held on October 1<sup>st</sup>. (**MN-S Note** – The DTCA Department has sent a notification to the Ministry of Environment stating that their Duty to Consult and Accommodate has been triggered with this action).

3. **Title:** Saskatchewan Submits Proposal for Production of Medical Isotopes

**Ministry:** Executive Council (Premier Brad Wall)

**Date:** August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=0cc63a53-5c73-4e6b-aed6-cc45293c24b5>

**Contact:** Leanne Persicke, Executive Council, Regina, Phone: 306-787-1321, e-mail:

[leanne.persicke@gov.sk.ca](mailto:leanne.persicke@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** The Saskatchewan government has released more information in regards to their joint proposal (along with the University of Saskatchewan) for a medical isotope production facility. The proposal calls for the creation of a “new world-class research facility at the U of S including a 20-megawatt, low-enriched uranium (LEU) research reactor facility.” The proposed facility will be dual use as it will produce medical isotopes and “provide neutron beams for Canadian neutron science research and industrial applications.” The government estimates that the cost of the research reactor will be between \$500 and \$750 million, with annual operating costs running from \$45 to \$70 million. Saskatchewan would fund 50% of the development cost, 25% of the construction cost, and 25% of the annual operating cost.

4. **Title:** Public Policy Forum to Establish Western Canadian Office in Regina

**Ministry:** Advanced Education, Employment and Labour

**Date:** August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=214a1975-847e-4f32-9752-f8bbc5ddb53f>

**Contact:** Lisa Danyluk, Advanced Education, Employment and Labour, Regina, Phone: 306-787-7791, e-mail: [lisa.danyluk@gov.sk.ca](mailto:lisa.danyluk@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** The Public Policy Forum, one of the Canada’s top think tanks, is opening an office in Regina and will receive a \$200,000 grant per year for the next three years. “The Public Policy Forum is an independent, not-for-profit organization that aims to improve the quality of government in Canada through enhanced dialogue among the public, private and voluntary sectors.” You can learn more about this group at their website: <http://www.ppforum.com>

5. **Title:** August Land Sale Brings 14.8 Million

**Ministry:** Energy and Resources (Bill Boyd)

**Date:** August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=770f8b8d-0328-4d8d-bb7f-48e0eea3c2d5>

**Contact:** Ed Dancsok, Energy and Resources, Regina, Phone: 306-787-2591, e-mail:

[ed.dancsok@gov.sk.ca](mailto:ed.dancsok@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** Saskatchewan's monthly petroleum and natural gas rights sale brought in 14.8 million in August 2009, bringing the yearly total to just over 50 million. "August's sale included five petroleum and natural gas exploration licenses that sold for 1.4 million and 211 lease parcels that attracted 13.4 million in bonus bids." The Weyburn-Estevan area received the most bids at 8.2 million because of the Bakken play located in the area.

6. **Title:** A line in the sands: Environmental group seeks moratorium on Sask. oilsands development

**Date:** August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.thestarphoenix.com/business/fp/line+sands/1891893/story.html>

**Synopsis:** The Saskatchewan Environmental Society (SES) has published a report titled Carbon Copy: Preventing Oil Sands Fever in Saskatchewan, in which they call on the Saskatchewan Government to pause oil sands development in Saskatchewan in order "to avoid making the same mistakes that have plagued the oilsands development in Alberta." The SES is concerned not only about pollution caused by oil sands development, but also wants to see the province "do a full regional assessment and collaborative land use planning process for the northwest, a plan that would take at least three years and cost a minimum of \$10 million." SES wants this mapping done to ensure that no underground water systems are affected by the oil sands and believes that full consultations with Aboriginal peoples must occur in order to complete it. **Finally, SES is calling for full public consultations on the development itself, including undertaking full consultations with First Nations and Métis peoples.** (MN-S Note – The DTCA Department is still in discussions with OilSands Quest in regards to oil sands development in NW Saskatchewan). Here is the relevant section from the report:

"Oil sands and their pollutants infringe on the hunting, fishing and trapping rights of Aboriginal Peoples. The Government of Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada have a constitutional obligation to consult with Aboriginal Peoples before any oil sands activity takes place on their lands. Moreover this constitutional right may well extend to pollutants that enter the lands of Aboriginal People from oil sands operations some distance away. In order for this consultation to be meaningful, it must take place before permits are issued to industry. Moreover, funding must be in place for First Nations and Métis governments to hire professional staff to evaluate oil company

proposals and assist in identifying local conditions that must be met before any oil sands exploration and/or construction proceeds. First Nations and Métis governments should have the right to identify lands on which oil sands exploration and construction will not be permitted. Consultation should not only be with local First Nations and Métis communities, but also with the Meadow Lake Tribal Council, the Prince Albert Grand Council, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan.”

You can read the report here:

<http://www.environmentalsociety.ca/issues/energy/Saskatchewan%20OS-Aug12-3.pdf>

**7. Title:** First Quarter Financial Report: Province Still on Track for Surplus Budget

**Ministry:** Finance (Minister Rod Gantfoer)

**Date:** August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=615a5a8c-1b9f-470b-b43b-f8b11630a580>

**Contact:** Randy Burton, Finance, Regina, Phone: 306-787-6578, e-mail: [randy.burton@gov.sk.ca](mailto:randy.burton@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** The provincial government released its first quarter financial report today stating that despite the downturn in potash prices, it will still post a surplus budget. The province argues that “[t]his decline is significantly offset by higher-than-expected oil, taxes and other revenue...” The government is also taking a special dividend from the Crown Investment Corporation, deferring capital projects in the planning stages (including 95 million for the Children’s Hospital in Saskatoon), withdrawing money from the Growth and Financial Security Fund, and taking other fiscal measures to ensure a surplus budget.



# Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

The PMC Bi-Weekly Mail-Out August 31<sup>st</sup> – October 5<sup>th</sup> 2009

(Volume I, Issue IV)

1. **Title:** Most oppose nuclear power in Saskatchewan, report says (Star Phoenix)

**Date:** September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/saskatchewan/story/2009/09/15/nuclear-plant.html>

**Synopsis:** The Saskatchewan Government's Future of Uranium consultation report was released and the response was overwhelmingly opposed to any future expansion of the nuclear industry in the province. About 84% of those who attended or sent in written testimonials opposed any further nuclear developments in Saskatchewan. The report also recommended that "a separate Métis consultation process be established for consultation and accommodation on any aspect of the uranium value chain, including the Uranium Development Partnership report." To view the entire report, go here: <http://www.gov.sk.ca/adx/asp/adxGetMedia.aspx?mediaId=918&PN=Shared>

2. **Title:** Government Prepares for Possible Influenza Pandemic

**Ministry:** Health (Minister Don McMorris)

**Date:** September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=6485096a-a0a4-454f-a334-c1cc864cee79>

**Contact:** Karen Hill, Health, Regina, Phone: 306-787-4083

**Synopsis:** The provincial government has stated that it is committed to preparing for a possible outbreak of H1N1 in the province. Preparations include: the creation of a special committee to oversee the preparations; "a strategy for timely and consistent information sharing with the public and key stakeholder groups"; ensuring that government ministries and departments have "updated pandemic plans to make certain that critical business functions are maintained"; stockpiling vaccines

and antiviral medication; and “addressing surge capacity in acute care facilities.” Currently, the Ministry of Health is working with several identified partners, including First Nations (**MN-S Note – There is no mention of Métis groups in the press release**) to finalize these pandemic plans.

**3. Title:** Saskatchewan Announces Seasonal and H1N1 Vaccine Plan

**Ministry:** Health (Minister Don McMorris)

**Date:** September 25, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=1521663a-445b-4195-b95b-803238a2528b>

**Contact:** Karen Hill, Health, Regina, Phone: 366-787-4083

**Synopsis:** The province announced new measures to help Saskatchewan citizens deal with influenza and a possible H1N1 pandemic. The government’s plan is to “provide seasonal flu shots to people aged 65 and over and residents of long-term care homes in October, followed by the H1Ni flu vaccination program for all residents of the province.” Once this is complete, seasonal flu vaccines will most likely be released to the rest of the province.

**4. Title:** Government Announces Northern Drug and Gang Enforcement Unit

**Ministry:** Corrections, Public Safety and Policing

**Date:** September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=74fd4e33-d4fe-46d5-899d-a1f19f9af5ff>

**Contact:** Linsay Rabyj, Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, Regina, Phone: 306-787-2626, E-Mail: [linsay.rabyj@gov.sk.ca](mailto:linsay.rabyj@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** The province has announced the creation of a northern drug and gang enforcement unit, which will be comprised of the RCMP and the Prince Albert Police Service. “Funded by the Government of Saskatchewan, the RCMP “F” Division and Prince Albert Police Service will dedicate a combined total of 7 police officer positions to implement a northern drug and gang enforcement unit to focus on offence in the north.” The unit, which will be operational October 1<sup>st</sup>, will be based in P.A.

**5. Title:** Witness Protection Legislation Now in Force

**Ministry:** Corrections, Public Safety, and Policing (Minister Yogi Huyghebaert)

**Date:** September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=784de321-104f-4828-8540-3363240dc691>

**Contact:** Lindsay Rabyj, Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, Regina, Phone: 306-767-2626, e-mail: [lindsay.rabyj@gov.sk.ca](mailto:lindsay.rabyj@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** Saskatchewan's new *Witness Protection Act* came into effect September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. The Act "protects witnesses testifying against individuals charged with criminal activities." Under the legislation, Correction, Public Safety and Policing will make the necessary arrangements for those witnesses who need the program and the program will be compliant with the federal Witness Protection Program. To view the new Act, go here: <http://www.legassembly.sk.ca/bills/pdfs/bill-66.pdf>

6. **Title:** Shelter Allowance for some Low-Income People to Increase October 1

**Ministry:** Social Services (Minister Donna Harpauer)

**Date:** September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=3e0c1118-82fa-4c5d-bd33-cd28d968a888>

**Contact:** Brian Miller, Social Services, Regina, Phone: 306-787-0531, E-Mail: [brian.miller3@gov.sk.ca](mailto:brian.miller3@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** The province has announced that it will increase the shelter allowance given by the Ministry of Social Services. The programs affected by this announcement are the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP), Transitional Employment Allowance (TEA), and the Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement (SHRS). This increase will see "SAP and TEA shelter allowances will rise moderately for childless couples and parents with one or two children in communities such as Prince Albert, Yorkton, Melville, Weyburn, Kindersley, Rosetown, Maclin, Creighton, La Ronge, and La Loche." The SHRS allowance will also increase for 300 families in the aforementioned communities.

7. **Title:** Alberta, B.C. and Saskatchewan Agree to Western Economic Partnership

**Ministry:** Office of the Premier

**Date:** September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=d387106b-a542-4ab5-a98a-9916e3f9de7d>

**Contact:** Ian Hanna, Office of the Premier, Phone: 306-530-3177

**Synopsis:** As the result of a joint Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia cabinet meeting, the three western premiers signed two deals – one concerning carbon capture and storage and the other a Western Economic Partnership. "The partnership will create a broad western interprovincial trade agreement to create the largest barrier-free trade and investment market in Canada." Other

issues discussed included a “regional voluntary pension plan for workers who do not have an employer based plan,” and the need to deal with organized crimes and gangs.

**8. Title:** Community Wastewater Details Available Online

**Ministry:** Environment (Minister Nancy Heppner)

**Date:** October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=71385560-b09a-4a7a-9b57-92868c0cd2ce>

**Contact:** Jennifer Redston, Environment, Regina, Phone: 306-787-5796

**Synopsis:** The province’s website dedicated to providing information to citizens on the safety of their drinking water has been expanded to provide information on water treatment. The website, <http://www.saskh20.ca/>, now provides additional information on wastewater treatment, “such as when the last inspection was conducted, what was the outcome and how to contact the facility operator.”

**9. Title:** Government Funds FASD Awareness and Prevention

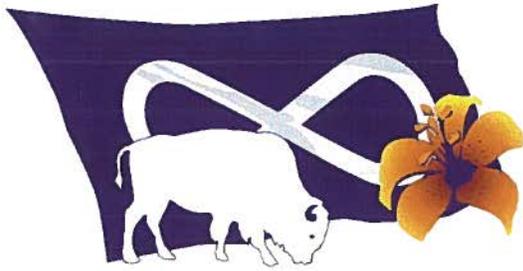
**Ministry:** Liquor and Gaming Authority (Minister Christine Tell)

**Date:** September 30, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=997a7acc-dc9b-43ea-9c7a-c382b630c120>

**Contact:** David Morris, Liquor and Gaming Authority, Regina, Phone: 306-787-1721

**Synopsis:** The Saskatchewan Government has provided \$165,000 in funding for agencies that “promote awareness and prevention of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).” The two agencies receiving the funding are the FASD Support Network of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute.



# Métis Nation Saskatchewan

**The PMC Bi-Weekly Mail-Out for October 6<sup>th</sup> – October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**(Volume I, Issue VII)**

**1. Title:** 12.7 Million to Train Northerners for Jobs in the Mineral Sector

**Ministry:** Advanced Education, Employment, and Labour (Minister Rob Norris)

**Date:** October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=4ec93c46-c699-49ed-ab5c-6fbb68d9adef>

**Contact:** Marieka Barrie, Advanced Education, Employment and Labour, Regina, Phone: 306-798-3170, E-mail: [marieka.barrie@gov.sk.ca](mailto:marieka.barrie@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** The Saskatchewan Government has partnered with private industry and other groups to provide “12.7 million over the next five years for *training and apprenticeship opportunities* in northern Saskatchewan.” This funding is part of the fourth phase of the Multi-Party Training Plan, which “addresses the skill barriers to northerners qualifying for jobs, combines training resources, and links training directly to the labour force demands of the mineral sector.” The money is provided by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment, and Labour, as well as First Nations and Métis Relations, and private business such as Cameco and AREVA.

**2. Title:** October Land Sale Generates \$32.4 Million

**Ministry:** Energy and Resources (Minister Bill Boyd)

**Date:** October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=91daccff-b3dc-4e93-8e11-61868420fb73>

**Contact:** Ed Dancsok, Energy and Resources, Regina, Phone: 306-787-2591, E-mail:

[ed.dancsok@gov.sk.ca](mailto:ed.dancsok@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** The provincial governments October sale of petroleum and natural gas rights generated \$32.4 million, double what the Crown made in August 2009. In total, the province has made \$83.2

million in land sales in 2009. This month's sales "included three petroleum and natural gas exploration licenses [which] sold for \$3.8 million and 273 lease parcels that attracted \$28.6 million in bonus bids." The Lloydminster area made the most revenue for the province with \$13.3 million in sales, followed by Weyburn-Estevan, Kindersley-Kerrobert, and Swift Current.

3. **Title:** Patient First Review Commissioner calls for More Caring, Better Coordinated Health System

**Ministry:** Health (Minister Don McMorris)

**Date:** October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Contact:** Mark Claxton, Patient First Review, Regina, Phone: 306-541-8766

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=920e5560-aaac-4f26-a9f6-a701045a5ab1>

**Synopsis:** The Saskatchewan government has released the Patient First Review, an independent study commissioned to "enhance patient-centered care at all levels of the system." The review includes 16 separate recommendations, including two that affect Métis citizens. They are: 4) *That health regions, the Cancer Agency and other health care organizations work with First Nations and Métis organizations, Elders, and patients to develop partnerships aimed at improving the health of First Nations and Métis people;* and 12) *That the health system, in collaboration with First Nations and Métis Elders, and patient and family advisors, work to develop a culturally safe and competent health system that better serves First Nations and Métis citizens.* The full report can be downloaded here: <http://www.gov.sk.ca/adx/asp/adxGetMedia.aspx?mediaId=954&PN=Shared>

4. **Title:** Canadian Rivers in Trouble, study warns

**Date:** October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:**

<http://www.leaderpost.com/business/Canadian+rivers+trouble+study+warns/2104100/story.htm>

**Synopsis:** A new study by WWF Canada warns that "[s]erious action is required to keep Canada's rivers flowing and to prevent them from being drained by expanding cities, soaring energy demands and climate change..." Ten rivers were evaluated by the WWF, *with the South Saskatchewan River being viewed by them as "the most threatened river of the country because of hundreds of dams and withdrawals of 70 per cent of its flow for agricultural and urban use, not to mention potential climate change impacts."* The full report can be downloaded here:

[http://www.canada.com/pdf/WWF\\_river\\_report101409.pdf](http://www.canada.com/pdf/WWF_river_report101409.pdf)

5. **Title:** Northern School Divisions Join Forces To Increase Aboriginal Employment

**Ministry:** First Nations and Métis Relations (Minister Bill Hutchinson)

**Date:** October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=8c55b1ac-4a7a-4f24-a6c8-98b4d193730a>

**Contact:** Bonny Braden, First Nations and Métis Relations, Regina, Phone: 306-787-5701, E-mail: [bonny.braden@gov.sk.ca](mailto:bonny.braden@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** Three of Saskatchewan's northern school divisions, the Northern Lights School Division, Creighton School Division, and Ile-a-la-Crosse School Division, signed an Aboriginal Employment Development (AED) partnership with First Nations and Métis Relations. As a result, the school divisions have pledged to "take steps to increase Aboriginal participation in their workplaces." Combined, the three organizations employ 789 people. The AED program works to "identify and address barriers to training, hiring and retaining First Nations and Métis people."





# Métis Nation Saskatchewan

**The PMC Bi-Weekly Mail-Out October 19<sup>th</sup> – October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**(Volume I, Issue VIII)**

**1. Title:** Opening of The Third Session of the Twenty-Sixth Legislature

**Ministry:** Office of the Provincial Secretary (Premier Brad Wall)

**Date:** October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=ab93191f-84f2-416b-b483-65e384a77c29>

**Contact:** Nicole Fellingner, Office of the Provincial Secretary, Regina, Phone: 306-787-1370, E-mail: [nicole.fellinger@gov.sk.ca](mailto:nicole.fellinger@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** The Third Session of the Twenty-Sixth Legislature will open on Wednesday October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009. The session will be opened with a Speech from the Throne by Dr. Gordon Barnhart, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan.

**2. Title:** Saskatchewan Throne Speech Declares 2010 The Year of the Métis

**Date:** October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/adx/asp/adxGetMedia.aspx?DocID=0129c8e3-7827-4701-ba4a-76c397c0088d&MediaID=3339&Filename=09ThroneSpeechEnglish.pdf&l=English>

**Synopsis:** When the Fall Legislature was opened on October 21<sup>st</sup>, Lieutenant Governor Gordon Barnhart announced that "The Métis Nation of Saskatchewan has requested that 2010 be designated as the Year of the Métis in Saskatchewan. My government will recognize the unique history and culture of Métis people by honouring this request and by working with the Métis Nation and other organizations to honour the Trails of 1885 celebrations in 2010." Other references to Métis peoples in the Throne Speech were as follows: "The coming year will see further work on developing guidelines covering Saskatchewan's legal obligations under court rulings that outline the duty to consult... My government will continue to focus on greater First Nations and Métis

engagement in the economic prosperity of Saskatchewan. Provincial government funding to the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, the Gabriel Dumont Institute and other educational institutions will help ensure First Nations and Métis young people have the skills they need to enter Saskatchewan's growing workforce." For more information on this, please see the MN-S website:

<http://www.mn->

[s.ca/index.php?id=news&tx\\_ttnews\[tt\\_news\]=51&tx\\_ttnews\[backPid\]=34&cHash=ff04e93ee6](http://www.mn-s.ca/index.php?id=news&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=51&tx_ttnews[backPid]=34&cHash=ff04e93ee6)

3. **Title:** First Nations and Métis Relations to Establish Three Enterprise Regions in the North

**Ministry:** First Nations and Métis Relations (Minister Bill Hutchinson)

**Date:** October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=dded5352-1b4a-438d-8f35-6c391a439381>

**Contact:** Bonny Braden, First Nations and Métis Relations, Regina, Phone: 306-787-5701, Email:

[bonny.braden@gov.sk.ca](mailto:bonny.braden@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** First Nations and Métis Relations and Enterprise Saskatchewan have created three Enterprise Regions within the Northern Administrative District. These regions, located in the west, central east and Athabasca, "will receive greater resources than were previously provided to the Regional Development Corporations." The Enterprise Region program was created two years ago and is intended to produce more responsive economic development that "follow natural trading patterns."

4. **Title:** Employment Program Provides a Step Up for Provincial Offenders

**Ministry:** Corrections, Public Safety and Policing (Minister Yogi Huyghebaert); Advanced Education, Employment and Labour (Minister Rob Norris)

**Date:** October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=336efc86-a967-445a-8056-efeabff6a28f>

**Contact:** Linsay Rabyj (Corrections, Public Safety and Policing), Regina, Phone: 306-787-2626

**Synopsis:** Two Saskatchewan Ministries, Corrections, Public Safety and Policing and Advanced Education, Employment and Labour, have joined forces with Prince Albert's Jubilation Residential Centres in the development of the Supported Transition to Employment Program (STEP) which provides "provincial offenders with the assistance they need to become employed and integrate back into the community." The program was created by the Catholic Family Services of Prince Albert, along with The North Saskatchewan River Métis Local #269 (Barry Robertson, President).

5. **Title:** Nominations Open for Saskatchewan Youth Awards

**Ministry:** Office of the Provincial Secretary (Premier Brad Wall)

**Date:** October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Contact:** Nicole Fellingner, Office of the Provincial Secretary, Regina, Phone: 306-787-1370, E-mail: [nicole.fellinger@gov.sk.ca](mailto:nicole.fellinger@gov.sk.ca)

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=585c483d-8939-442d-80a7-216e18543439>

**Synopsis:** Nominations are now open for Saskatchewan's Youth Awards – this award is given yearly to youth “the ages of 15 and 24 years...who deserve recognition for their personal achievements or contributions to their community.” To nominate someone, visit the Saskatchewan Youth Awards website at [www.ops.gov.sk.ca](http://www.ops.gov.sk.ca). The deadline is December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

6. **Title:** H1N1 Influenza Update – Province Outlines Immunization Plans

**Ministry:** Health (Minister Don McMorris)

**Date:** October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=96b0757b-c725-4f6d-9b2a-d40e18b55f92>

**Contact:** Karen Hill, Health, Regina, Phone: 306-787-4083

**Synopsis:** The province made public the details of how the H1N1 vaccine will be distributed across Saskatchewan. “It’s expected the vaccine will begin arriving in health regions over the next several days and vaccinations will begin and continue for the following three weeks for health care workers, rural and remote and higher risk populations including, First Nations and **Métis Nations** and children six months up to five years old, to protect them and their families and co-workers against H1N1 influenza.” Vaccines will be made available to Métis populations the weeks of November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. For more information on the vaccine rollout please follow this link:

<http://www.gov.sk.ca/adx/asp/adxGetMedia.aspx?mediaId=965&PN=Shared>

7. **Title:** Saskpower Leading the Way in Wind Generation

**Ministry:** SaskPower (Minister Bill Boyd)

**Date:** October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=c01931b6-9656-4e0d-a5bf-1994f343fecc>

**Contact:** James Parker, SaskPower, Regina, Phone: 306-536-2886, E-Mail: [jparker@saskpower.com](mailto:jparker@saskpower.com)

**Synopsis:** SaskPower is increasing the amount of energy generated by wind in Saskatchewan with the creation of two new wind generation projects. “The Green Options Plan and the Green Options Partners Program will add another 200 megawatts (MW) of wind power to SaskPower’s generation capacity.” This expansion means that when completed, 8.5% of SaskPower’s total generating capacity will be from wind. The Green Options Plan will see Saskatchewan take bid on the procurement of “up to 175 MW of wind power from one of more independent power producers,” while the Green Options Partners Program will see SaskPower purchase up to 25 MW of wind power from private sector wind farms.

**8. Title:** New Saskatchewan Housing Corporation Board Announced

**Ministry:** Social Services (Minister Donna Harpauer)

**Date:** October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=79d91c6e-bd1f-4d46-9470-3844d81619c8>

**Contact:** Brian Miller, Social Services, Regina, Phone: 306-787-0531, Email: [brian.miller3@gov.sk.ca](mailto:brian.miller3@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** As a result of a recommendation by the Task Force on Housing Affordability, the provincial government has “enhanced the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation’s governance through the appointment of an expanded, more representative Board of Directors.” The new Board of Directors has already met and is currently focused on strategic planning for the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, as well as reviewing the corporation’s financial affairs. The 8 person board includes: Keith Hanson (Chairperson), Bob Linner (Vice-Chair), Bob Jeanneau, Lester Lafond, Colleen Mah, Roger Parent, Kevin Reese, and Marian Zeer.



# Métis Nation Saskatchewan

## The PMC Bi-Weekly Mail-Out November 1<sup>st</sup> – November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009

1. **Title:** Province Kicks Off Year Of The Métis

**Ministry:** First Nations and Métis Relations (Minister Bill Hutchinson)

**Date:** November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsid=e3d2543a-5643-463c-a954-1b21ef5a9c60>

**Contact:** Tyler Hopson, First Nations and Métis Relations, Regina, Phone: 306-787-7177, Email: [tyler.hopson@gov.sk.ca](mailto:tyler.hopson@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** Métis pride shone today in the Rotunda at the Legislative Building where Premier Brad Wall, accompanied by Métis Nation - Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette and First Nations and Métis Relations Minister Bill Hutchinson, officially proclaimed 2010 as the Year of the Métis in Saskatchewan.

"Long before we were a province, there were Métis here," Wall said. "They have formed a significant, vibrant and distinct culture across Western Canada. The coming year will be a chance to celebrate that past, as well as being an opportunity to look towards the future."

The Year of the Métis was announced in the Throne Speech on October 21 as an opportunity to acknowledge Métis history, celebrate their accomplishments and commemorate the 125th anniversary of the 1885 Northwest Resistance.

"This is a historic proclamation," Métis Nation - Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette said.

"Never before has there been recognition like this given to the Métis citizens of Saskatchewan. I am deeply honoured and proud to be a part of today's celebration, as it marks another chapter in the future of this great province."

"Métis people live, work and thrive in every corner of this province and their contributions span every industry and sector throughout the country," Hutchinson said. "The Government of Saskatchewan is very proud to help showcase and celebrate Métis spirit and success by proclaiming 2010 as the Year of the Métis."





# Metis Nation Saskatchewan

## The PMC Bi-Weekly Mail-Out November 15<sup>th</sup> – November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009

1. **Title:** NEW LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TODAY PROTECTS HUNTING, FISHING AND TRAPPING

**Ministry:** Environment (Minister Nancy Heppner)

**Date:** November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=cc2b4f2c-0933-40f2-b08b-51ed0104cfa9>

**Contact:** Michele McEachern, Environment, Regina, Phone: 306-787-0412

Darrell Crabbe, Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, Moose Jaw, Phone: 306-693-9022

**Synopsis:** Hunting, fishing and trapping are an integral part of this province's heritage. New legislation introduced today will ensure that in Saskatchewan, hunting, fishing and trapping are part of our way of life, now and in the future.

For generations, Saskatchewan residents have pursued these activities for food, for recreation and for commercial and cultural purposes. The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act acknowledges the importance these activities have in our society. The new legislation does not deter or alter an Aboriginal person's constitutional right to hunt, fish or trap.

2. **Title:** NORTHERN MUNICIPALITIES ACT UPDATED - ALLOWS CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS

**Ministry:** Municipal Affairs (Minister Jeremy Harrison)

**Date:** November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=bae5b7a3-acd9-47e5-8863-ceeab99d8192>

**Contact:** Jeff Welke, Municipal Affairs, Regina, Phone: 306-787-6156, Cell: 306-536-1185, Email:

[jeff.welke@gov.sk.ca](mailto:jeff.welke@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** The provincial government has introduced the Northern Municipalities Act, 2009, a foundation for municipal government which responds to specific needs, including allowing criminal record checks, of people in Saskatchewan's north.

The provincial government has decided this option should also be extended to The Cities Act and The Municipalities Act.

The provision appears to be unique across Canada for municipal elections.

The updated Act provides increased authority for northern municipalities to respond to situations involving dangerous dogs. It continues provisions to create municipal development corporations with strengthened requirements for financial accountability and includes streamlined provisions for regional municipal service districts where two or more municipalities can choose to share multiple services or provide services to another party.

**3. Title:** GOVERNMENT LOOKS FOR OPTIONS TO IDENTIFY AND PROTECT BURIAL SITES

**Ministry:** Justice and Attorney General (Minister Don Morgan Q.C.)

**Date:** November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

**Web Link:** <http://gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=65687673-1a9f-46ed-ba83-9ca20220f98d>

**Contact:** Laur'Lei Silzer, Justice and Attorney General, Regina, Phone: 306-787-0775, Email:

[laurlei.silzer@gov.sk.ca](mailto:laurlei.silzer@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** The Government of Saskatchewan announced a new initiative to look at ways to preserve and catalogue cemeteries and burial sites.

Minister responsible for The Cemeteries Act Don Morgan has asked Al Dwyer to convene a working group of stakeholders and interested individuals to look into this issue and make recommendations on options to encourage greater community involvement in the care and maintenance of local, non-commercial cemeteries. Dwyer is the former Registrar of Cemeteries.

"I believe that something needs to be done to preserve our cemeteries and places of interment, to maintain our heritage for future generations and honour the memory of those who helped build this province," Morgan said.

There are about 3,500 known cemeteries throughout Saskatchewan, many of these run well and cared for by owners, local communities and religious organizations. However, there are a significant number that are abandoned and uncared for as well as many more that are unknown or uncatalogued, including many Aboriginal burial sites.

The working group is to report back to the Minister with their recommendations in the new year.

Interested groups, individuals and organizations are encouraged to contact Mr. Dwyer at 1-877-880-5550.



# Métis Nation Saskatchewan

## The PMC Bi-Weekly Mail-Out December 16<sup>th</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009

1. **Title:** Saskatchewan's Population Hits An All-Time High

**Ministry:** Executive Council (Premier Brad Wall)

**Date:** December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009.

**Web Link:** [http:// www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=1da8575c-14bd-4246-9c8f-fe7ebb1670cf](http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=1da8575c-14bd-4246-9c8f-fe7ebb1670cf)

**Contact:** Rebecca Rogoschewsky, Executive Council, Regina, Phone: 306-787-0980, Email:

[rebecca.rogoschewsky@gov.sk.ca](mailto:rebecca.rogoschewsky@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** Saskatchewan's population on October 1, 2009 was 1,034,974 - an increase of 4,845 over the past three months and 16,080 over the previous year. Saskatchewan's previous population record was 1,032,799 set back on July 1, 1987.

Over the past two years, Saskatchewan has grown by nearly 30,000 people - the biggest increase in any two-year period since 1952-54.

2. **Title:** Hunter Survey 2009

**Ministry:** Environment (Minister Nancy Heppner)

**Date:** December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009.

**Web Link:** <http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/Default.aspx?DN=8166169c-5c6c-4b4b-af74-a43bf369ccce>

**Synopsis:** The Ministry of Environment is once again asking hunters to assist in the management of Saskatchewan wildlife populations. Wildlife population biologists use this information along with wildlife population census data to determine what impact hunting is having and to determine future season quotas that will maintain big game and upland game bird populations.

If you receive a Hunter Harvest Survey, please complete and return it to the Ministry of Environment in the envelope provided. The fact that someone was unsuccessful in their hunt is every bit as

important as their success. Each survey has a question to determine how many days you hunted. If the answer is "zero", that is valuable information.

**3. Title:** Saskatchewan Receives Ownership of Federal Minerals

**Ministry:** Energy and Resources (Minister Bill Boyd)

**Date:** December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=40982457-45a9-47f2-b65f-3d0e74b21077>

**Contact:** Bob Ellis, Energy and Resources, Regina, Phone: 306-787-1691, Email:

[robert.ellis@gov.sk.ca](mailto:robert.ellis@gov.sk.ca)

Jocelyne Turner, Office of the Minister, Natural Resources Canada, Ottawa, Phone: 613-996-2007

**Synopsis:** Saskatchewan is receiving title to more than 34,000 hectares of federally-owned minerals in the province. Transfer of title also comes with payment to the province of \$32.9 million in consideration of revenues earned from these minerals in recent years.

Energy and Resources Minister Bill Boyd announced today a settlement and release agreement with Natural Resources Canada. The agreement resolves an existing lawsuit by the provincial government related to the ownership of Soldier Settlement Board minerals. This issue dates back to the transfer of natural resources to Saskatchewan under the terms of the 1930 Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (NRTA).

As part of today's agreement, Saskatchewan will relinquish any claim to ownership of an additional 24,000 hectares of Soldier Settlement Board minerals within the boundaries of surrendered Indian reserves. This decision will assist the Government of Canada to honour its commitments to Saskatchewan First Nations.

The provincial government will also honour federal crown mineral dispositions held by private companies and issued before the transfer of title.

Under the terms of the agreement, the provincial government agreed to a full and complete release from its lawsuit related to the ownership of Soldier Settlement Board minerals.

**4. Title:** Minister Strahl, Provincial Ministers and Métis Leaders Meet to Discuss Métis Economic Development

**Ministry:** Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (Minister Chuck Strahl)

**Date:** December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

**Web Link:** <http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ai/mr/nr/s-d2009/23303-eng.asp>

**Contact:** Minister's Office, Office of the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Press Secretary, 819-997-0002  
Media Relations , Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 819-953-1160  
Métis National Council, Greg Taylor, Director of Communications, 613-296-9263,  
[gregt@metisnation.ca](mailto:gregt@metisnation.ca)

**Synopsis:** Calgary, Alberta (December 18, 2009) - The Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-status Indians, and Métis National Council (MNC) President Clément Chartier, together with the MNC Board of Governors, the Métis Settlements General Council and Aboriginal Affairs Ministers from the five western-most provinces met this week to discuss Métis Nation economic development.

This meeting of Ministers and Métis leaders stems in part from the Métis Nation Protocol, signed in September 2008 by President Chartier and Minister Strahl. The Protocol commits the Government of Canada to work with the MNC and its Governing Members on issues important to the Métis Nation.

On December 15, 2009 in Calgary, Alberta, the Ministers and Métis leaders discussed the challenges and opportunities of fostering Métis-specific economic development initiatives and programs. It was agreed they would meet again next year and report back on tangible results achieved.

The meeting was followed by a two-day Métis Economic Development Symposium. Officials from the five western-most provinces, the federal government, the Métis National Council and its Governing Members, the Métis Settlements General Council and private industry discussed ways to more effectively utilize existing provincial and federal programs and services to support Métis Nation economic development goals.

**5. Title:** Literacy Projects Receive Provincial Funding

**Ministry:** Education (Minister Ken Krawetz)

**Date:** December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=3ad4b14b-8512-4be7-aecf-6930f2796285>

**Contact:** Jacquie McLean, Education, Regina, Phone: 306-787-5609, Email: [jacquie.mclean@gov.sk.ca](mailto:jacquie.mclean@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** Fifteen community partnerships from across Saskatchewan are receiving \$535,000 from the SaskSmart Innovations Fund to address local literacy needs.

Communities that will benefit from the SaskSmart Innovations Fund include: Regina; Nipawin, Tisdale, Hudson Bay and Melfort area; Black Lake First Nation; Kipling, Kennedy and Langbank area;

Ocean Man First Nation and Estevan; Saskatoon; Yorkton, Melville and Weyburn area; Fort Qu'Appelle; Gravelbourg; Sandy Bay; Hazlet and Whitecap Dakota First Nation.

This year, seven community partnerships are receiving funding to implement Community Literacy Plans, and six organizations are receiving \$10,000 each to support the development of a viable Community Literacy Plan in 2010-11. The Saskatchewan Literacy Network and the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network are also receiving grants to provide consultative services and direct support to the thirteen organizations receiving funding.

**6. Title:** Government Announces Strategic Direction on Uranium Development

**Ministry:** Energy and Mines (Minister Bill Boyd)

**Date:** December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=4c9d1ce3-a344-4b4e-a0f5-a1e02670cbea>

**Contact:** Bob Ellis, Energy and Resources, Regina, Phone: 306-787-1691, Email:

[robert.ellis@gov.sk.ca](mailto:robert.ellis@gov.sk.ca)

Chris Dekker, Enterprise Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Phone: 306-933-6744, Email:

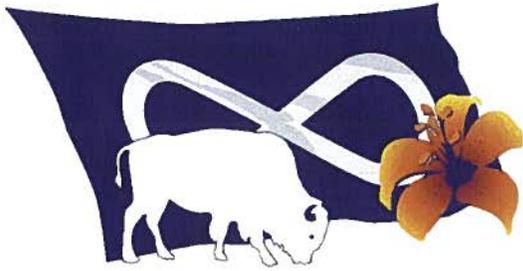
[chris.dekker@enterprisesask.ca](mailto:chris.dekker@enterprisesask.ca)

**Synopsis:** The provincial government today outlined its strategic direction for uranium development in Saskatchewan. Under that direction uranium exploration and mining will be enhanced, value-added nuclear research, education and training will be encouraged, but a specific proposal for a large-scale nuclear power plant will not proceed at this time.

Energy and Resources Minister Bill Boyd said that the government has accepted most of the recommendations of the Uranium Development Partnership (UDP) report. It has also accepted the general recommendation from The Future of Uranium in Saskatchewan public consultation process that additional information and consultation are required, particularly as they relate to any future decision to pursue nuclear power in Saskatchewan.

Boyd noted SaskPower's proposed options will be outlined in the strategy it is preparing as part of a fall Throne Speech commitment and will take into consideration the final report from the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies on Saskatchewan's future power needs.

As a result, Boyd said the government will not support the UDP recommendation to accelerate plans for nuclear power, nor Bruce Power's November 2008 proposal for a large scale nuclear power plant in Saskatchewan at this time.



# Métis Nation Saskatchewan

## The PMC Bi-Weekly Mail-Out January 1<sup>st</sup> – January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010

1. **Title:** 2009 A STRONG YEAR FOR TOURISM IN SASKATCHEWAN

**Ministry:** Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport (Minister Dustin Duncan)

**Date:** January 12th, 2010.

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=7fbceef6-47cc-4e30-8a35-740671e15c8a>

**Contact:** Art Jones, Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, Regina, Phone: 306-787-3506, Email: [art.jones@gov.sk.ca](mailto:art.jones@gov.sk.ca)

Regan Mathiason, Tourism Saskatchewan, Regina, Phone: 306-787-7815, Email: [regan.mathiason@sasktourism.com](mailto:regan.mathiason@sasktourism.com)

**Synopsis:** More people stopped at Visitor Reception Centres, contacted Tourism Saskatchewan and visited Tourism Saskatchewan's websites in 2009 compared to 2008

- an increase of 19.7 per cent over the 2008 season and the highest level in more than three years. Also in 2009, there were more than 815,000 hits on Tourism Saskatchewan's websites, an increase of 41 per cent over 2008's record levels. And, there were more than 63,500 inquiries to Tourism Saskatchewan with name capture, an increase of 0.3 per cent over 2008.

"Tourism Saskatchewan's marketing campaigns, online advancements and activities in all departments are planned strategically," Tourism Saskatchewan President and CEO Dr. Lynda Haverstock said. "Careful consideration is given to up-to-date research, current travel trends and markets where we know the return on our investment is strong and the prospects for further growth are significant. The positive figures in 2009 are reassuring. With confidence, we look forward to building upon our accomplishments in 2010."

In addition to the tourism numbers, Saskatchewan hotels and motels saw average occupancies of 67.2 per cent as of October, 2009. That percentage is significantly higher than the Canadian average over the same period of 58.2 per cent.

Those numbers, on top of the record summer for provincial parks, demonstrates Saskatchewan is desirable for tourism. The 2009 summer saw 3.3 million visits to Saskatchewan provincial parks, which is an increase of two per cent over 2008 and 10 per cent over 2007.

**2. Title:** 2010 CDTF FUNDING NOW AVAILABLE

**Ministry:** Enterprise (Minister Ken Cheveldayoff)

**Date:** January 8th, 2010

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=f5e1f05e-07b1-4b8f-8912-20125cdfd81d>

**Contact:** Tim Tororey, Enterprise Saskatchewan, Regina, Phone: 306-787-5582, Email: [tim.tororey@enterprisesask.ca](mailto:tim.tororey@enterprisesask.ca)

**Synopsis:** In 2008, the federal government announced a \$1 billion CDTF intended to help support activities that strengthen economic opportunities for communities negatively affected by global financial and commodity market disruption. Saskatchewan's share of the fund is \$36.4 million over three years.

Enterprise Saskatchewan, which is disbursing the CDTF funds, is currently accepting applications until May 14, 2010. The application and guidelines for the CDTF are posted on the Enterprise Saskatchewan website at [www.enterprisesaskatchewan.ca](http://www.enterprisesaskatchewan.ca).

The government is calling on Saskatchewan communities that were adversely affected by the economic downturn to apply for funding from the Community Development Trust Fund (CDTF) for economic revitalization projects.

Funding has been allocated to 15 communities across the province, with over \$17 million provided, to develop economic plans, carry out feasibility studies, do infrastructure upgrades or construct new infrastructure projects for economic revitalization.

**3. Title:** PROVINCE AWAITS FIRST NATIONS AND MÉTIS CONSULTATION POLICIES

**Ministry:** First Nations and Métis Relations (Minister Bill Hutchinson)

**Date:** January 8th, 2010

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=fe03d523-5580-49da-9f44-43e1dfdc0b94>

**Contact:** Shelley Fayant, First Nations and Métis Relations, Regina, Phone: 306-798-4071, Email: [Shelley.Fayant@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Shelley.Fayant@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** The province will release the new Consultation Policy Framework (CPF) after the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) and the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MNS) release their consultation position papers in March of 2010.

"We want to build our relationships with First Nations and Métis people so the right thing to do is to wait until they release their own consultation policies," First Nations and Métis Relations Minister Bill Hutchinson said. "We make First Nations and Métis our priority."

In the meantime, consultation activity will continue to be governed by the Government of Saskatchewan Interim Guide for Consultation with First Nations and Métis People.

First Nations and Métis Relations officials continue their planning for a dialogue process that will focus on issues that fall outside the CPF including traditional use and territory mapping, consultation capacity, dispute resolution, economic benefit sharing and environmental stewardship.

Through this dialogue, officials from First Nations, Métis, industry and government will explore mechanisms that will create better participation in the economy for Aboriginal people.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: On December 18<sup>th</sup> 2009, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan mailed our final position paper on consultation to several Federal and Provincial government officials, including officials of INAC and FNMR.**

**4. Title:** ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDS ANNOUNCED FOR NORTHERN COMMUNITIES

**Ministry:** Enterprise (Minister Ken Cheveldayoff)

**Date:** January 7th, 2010

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=610c95f0-78e6-4239-9b02-e863c4502662>

**Contact:** Tim Tororey, Enterprise Saskatchewan, Regina, Phone: 306-787-5582, Email: [tim.tororey@enterprisesask.ca](mailto:tim.tororey@enterprisesask.ca)

**Synopsis:** Four northern Saskatchewan communities have been allocated funds from the Community Development Trust Fund (CDTF) that will go toward economic revitalization.

The communities of Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN), Flying Dust First Nation (FDFN), Sakitawak Development Corporation (SDC) and the Town of Nipawin have each been allocated \$100,000 to draw up economic plans and carry out feasibility studies on economic projects.

All of these communities were affected by the global economic downturn that affected the forestry industry resulting in the closure or scaling down of lumber mills and operations that these communities depended on.

PBCN will use their funds to conduct a feasibility study on producing value added wood waste materials. FDFN, SDC and the Town of Nipawin will use their funds to draw up comprehensive Economic Development Plans aimed at diversifying their economies.

In 2008, the federal government announced a \$1 billion Community Development Trust Fund intended to help support activities that strengthen economic opportunities for communities negatively affected by global financial and commodity market disruption.

Saskatchewan's share of the fund is \$36.4 million over three years. Since last year, the province has been allocating funds to various communities for feasibility studies, drawing up economic development plans and upgrading or constructing infrastructure projects.

Funding requests from other communities are still being finalized and further details will be provided once this process is complete. The application and guidelines are posted on the Enterprise Saskatchewan website at [www.enterprisesaskatchewan.ca](http://www.enterprisesaskatchewan.ca)

**5. Title:** SHELTER FUNDING TO HELP WOMEN, CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN REGINA AND SASKATOON

**Ministry:** Social Services (Minister Donna Harpauer)

**Date:** January 7th, 2010

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=413d29c4-c854-48d0-8739-0a90f0ec2330>

**Contact:** Brian Miller, Social Services, Regina, Phone: 306-787-0531, Email: brian.miller3@gov.sk.ca

**Synopsis:** Vulnerable women and children in Saskatoon and at-risk male youth in Regina will have better access to shelter and help they need, following the approval of provincial funding for two separate initiatives.

The Saskatoon Salvation Army will receive about \$65,000 per month in 2009-10 to operate a new 41-bed emergency shelter for women and women with children. In addition, the John Howard Society - Regina Council will receive up to \$50,000 in capital funding to assist in the purchase of a

Regina dwelling that will be utilized as a five-space peer-home residence for male youth, ages 15 to 18, who are in the care of the Ministry of Social Services.

The Salvation Army shelter is expected to open in Saskatoon in February 2010. The new peer home for male youth is expected to open in Regina in early spring 2010.

6. **Title:** Metis fight for hunting rights: Historic trial expected to drag on for a year as ancestral connections argued

**Source:** Edmonton Journal (Darcy Henton)

**Date:** January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010 8:43 AM

**Web Link:**

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/technology/Metis+fight+hunting+rights/2410747/story.html>

**Article:** A historic trial that began last spring to determine the extent of Métis hunting rights in Alberta could drag out a year, with final arguments not expected until May, lawyers for the province and the Métis say.

The last witnesses are expected to be called during two weeks of hearings later this month at the Medicine Hat trial of three hunters who shot deer and antelope in southern Alberta to assert their claims.

The court has heard 22 days of testimony in the case that Métis Nation president Audrey Poitras says could have been avoided if the province had been willing to negotiate rather than prosecute. "It's not a fight that we ever wanted," she said Tuesday. "I don't believe we had to be in court wasting money and time. We certainly should have been able to iron it out."

The Métis launched a number of community hunts in 2008 to protest the government's decision to tear up an interim agreement that allowed them to hunt for food anywhere in Alberta on provincial Crown land or with the permission of landowners. The government replaced the agreement in 2007 with a policy that permits Métis to hunt only within a 160-kilometre radius of eight northern Métis settlements and 17 northern communities. The new policy prevents any Métis hunting in central or southern Alberta.

Hunter Ron Jones, who shot an antelope during a communal hunt near Suffield, told the court that if the government could take away the Métis right to hunt anywhere in the province, all Métis rights were at risk.

Jones and Garry Hirsekorn, who shot a mule deer near Cypress Hills, argue that the Constitution and a 2003 Supreme Court ruling called the Powley decision recognizes their right to hunt. Another

hunter, Bruce Bates, who shot a whitetail deer near Blairmore, started the legal battle, but paid a fine and dropped out, citing the toll the case was taking on his family.

During one day of the trial, the court gathered at the home of 79-year-old Métis Medicine Hat resident Henry Aaker, whose medical condition had prevented him from testifying at the courthouse. The Medicine Hat News reported that Aaker testified he had lived in the community since he was three weeks old, and had hunted and trapped the area without a licence all his life. The defence is attempting to establish that Métis lived in the area and were part of historic and contemporary communities.

Crown lawyer Thomas Rothwell told Provincial Court Judge Ted Fisher that Métis must demonstrate they have an ancestral connection to a historic Métis community that has a tradition of harvesting in the area, and they must show they have been accepted by the contemporary community.

"Alberta's position is that being a member of the Métis Nation of Alberta is not sufficient," he told the court.

The defence, represented by the two Métis lawyers who won the Powley case, argues that Métis were mobile people who followed the buffalo and hunted and resided in southern Alberta. The Métis hope to prove through evidence from scholars and elders, and records from the time, that despite the territorial ferocity of southern aboriginal tribes, Métis established a presence.

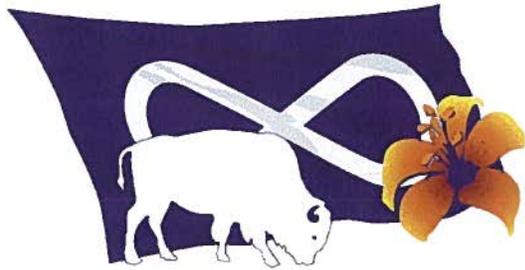
Métis lawyer Jason Madden said the trial will resume Jan. 11 for two more weeks as defence and Crown call final witnesses.

The Alberta government is expected to call historian Clint Evans to testify.

Both sides will file written arguments later in the spring and return to court May 11 for closing arguments.

Madden said important defence evidence has come from Gwynneth Jones, who prepared a lengthy report on the historic Métis of central and southern Alberta.

"We feel some days like we're having to prove that the sun rises. Just the idea that there's no Métis in the Cypress Hills is like saying there are no Métis in Manitoba."



# Métis Nation Saskatchewan

## The PMC Bi-Weekly Mail-Out

1. **Title:** French-Language Services Strengthened in Saskatchewan

**Ministry:** Office of the Provincial Secretary (Minister D. Wayne Elhard)

**Date:** January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010.

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=fbee1190-681b-416a-95f7-e9e51c4aa5f2>

**Contact:** Tyler McMurchy, Office of the Provincial Secretary, Regina, Phone: 306-787-5193, Email: [tyler.mcmurchy@gov.sk.ca](mailto:tyler.mcmurchy@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** Saskatchewan's French-speaking citizens will now have better access to government information and services in French through the renewal of the Canada-Saskatchewan Agreement on Francophone Affairs between the Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan. The announcement was made today in Saskatoon at the launch of the new virtual French-language Service Centre.

For more information on intergovernmental co-operation on services to official-language minority communities, visit the website of the Department of Canadian Heritage at [www.canadianheritage.gc.ca](http://www.canadianheritage.gc.ca).

For more information on the Saskatchewan French-language Service Centre, visit [www.bonjour.gov.sk.ca](http://www.bonjour.gov.sk.ca), call 1-888-345-0850 or email [bonjour@gov.sk.ca](mailto:bonjour@gov.sk.ca).

**[ ALL REGIONS ]**

2. **Title:** BHP Billiton investment will fund preliminary stage work for Jansen potash project

**Ministry:** Energy and Resources (Minister Bill Boyd)

**Date:** January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

**Web Link:**

<http://www.thestarphoenix.com/Billiton+takes+240M+step+toward+mine/2466657/story.html>

**Contact:** Cassandra Kyle, The StarPhoenix [ckyle@sp.canwest.com](mailto:ckyle@sp.canwest.com)

**Synopsis:** BHP Billiton's \$240-million US investment in its Jansen potash project is an important step toward the potential creation of a new Saskatchewan mine that could employ up to 1,000 people, project director Gordon Graham said Wednesday.

But the investment, which the company refers to as pre-commitment capital, doesn't mean BHP Billiton has finalized plans to build a potash mine at the Jansen site, located about 140 kilometres east of Saskatoon, just north of the community of Lanigan.

The funds approved by the Australia-based company will be put toward ground freezing work for the sinking of two shafts -- one production and one service -- along with required engineering and associated work that must be completed before the company receives environmental permits, which are anticipated to arrive in mid-2011.

He said the communities surrounding the Jansen site have supported the project.

#### MARKETING OPTIONS OPEN

The company is also studying potash transport logistics and the location of a new port on the West Coast from which it could ship the key fertilizer ingredient to international markets, Graham said.

Although the company has yet to commit to a full-scale mining operation, Boyd said BHP Billiton's recent movement on the project indicates it is "getting pretty serious" about Jansen.

The project director expects ground-freezing work at Jansen to begin this spring.

#### [ EASTERN REGION II ]

**3. Title:** Initiative to help Métis people with disabilities

**Date:** January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

**Web Link:**

<http://www.thestarphoenix.com/health/Initiative+help+Metis+people+with+disabilities/2462401/story.html>

**Contact:** Greg Taylor, MNC Communications, 613-296-9263 [gregt@metisnation.ca](mailto:gregt@metisnation.ca)

Jeanette Stewart, The StarPhoenix [jstewart@sp.canwest.com](mailto:jstewart@sp.canwest.com)

**Synopsis:** Federal stimulus funds will be used to assist Métis people with disabilities.

Representatives from across Canada gathered in Saskatoon Tuesday to sign a memorandum of understanding between the Métis National Council (MNC) and the Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work, which would see the two groups work together to improve employment opportunities and skills development for Métis people with disabilities.

"We hope to identify the best tools and services available and develop innovative ways to help Métis citizens with disabilities enter, or in some cases re-enter, the labour market," said Clem Chartier, MNC president.

The goal is to create a 14-member national advisory group to assist Métis people with disabilities, with funded initiatives to include a national Métis conference on disabilities.

The advisory group will include activist Gary Tinker, who created a foundation to address the needs of disabled people in northern Saskatchewan. Twenty years ago he walked from La Ronge to Regina in 79 days to raise awareness of the needs of northern people with disabilities. At that time, there was little knowledge on issues faced by people with disabilities.

"Now it's a big issue in Canada and across the province," Tinker said. Concerns include health issues, training, employment, a disability income plan and pensions for disabled people.

People across the province have good ideas, said Tinker, and now it's up to governments to ignore politics and work together on this issue.

A similar committee on disabilities was in place in the past, noted Chartier, though funding ceased.

The number of Métis people reporting disabilities is "very significant," said Carole Barron, president and CEO of the Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work.

She cited a 2006 survey that looked specifically at Métis people. Of those surveyed, 54 per cent of all Métis age 15 and over reported that they have been diagnosed with a chronic condition; 25 per cent of these people reported one condition and 28 per cent said they had two or more conditions.

The new program has a completion date of March 31, 2011, when federal funding ends.

**[ ALL REGIONS ]**

**4. Title:** Sask. Government Not Ruling Out Bus Route Cuts

**Ministry:** STC (Minister Responsible Jim Reiter)

**Date:** January 19th, 2010.

**Web Link:** <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/saskatchewan/story/2010/01/19/sk-stc-routes-1001.html>

**Contact:** CBC News

**Synopsis:** On the road to receiving a record subsidy from taxpayers in 2010, the Saskatchewan government's bus company is considering shutting down some of its routes.

Jim Reiter, the minister responsible for STC, says wages and fuel costs continue to go up, but the number of people riding the bus continues to go down. The company has tried promotions — including a special \$7-per-trip deal for seniors last fall — to try to change that. However, the company will also consider scrapping some routes to save money, Reiter said. **[ ALL REGIONS ]**

5. **Title:** Hunting, Angling and Trapping Photos Wanted

**Ministry:** Environment (Minister Nancy Heppner)

**Date:** January 19th, 2010.

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=ea8eaa4d-e1a1-4c33-b5eb-b35a81e9c581>

**Contact:** Michele McEachern, Environment, Regina, Phone: 306-787-0412

**Synopsis:** The Ministry of Environment is inviting the public to submit their favourite hunting, fishing and trapping themed photos for potential use in the annual Hunters' and Trappers' Guide and the Anglers' Guide.

The Government of Saskatchewan introduced The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act this past fall to recognize that these activities are part of our way of life, now and in the future.

Photos will be accepted on an ongoing basis for use in this year's and/or subsequent years' guides.

Criteria for submitting photos and submission details are available at

[www.environment.gov.sk.ca/photos](http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/photos)

**[ ALL REGIONS ]**

6. **Title:** Province gauges support for daylight savings vote

**Source:** Saskatoon Star Phoenix

**Date:** January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

**Web Link:**

<http://www.thestarphoenix.com/news/Province+gauges+support+daylight+savings+vote/2439656/story.html>

**Contact:** James Wood [jwood@sp.canwest.com](mailto:jwood@sp.canwest.com)

**Synopsis:** Saskatchewan residents will likely still get a chance to vote on whether they want to change their clocks when they go to the polls in the 2011 provincial election, Premier Brad Wall said Wednesday.

Saskatchewan is one of the few jurisdictions in North America not to change its clocks, sharing the same time as Alberta in the summer months and Manitoba during the winter.

**[ ALL REGIONS ]**

7. **Title:** Province Tenders 15-KM Upgrade to Highway 155 in Northern Saskatchewan

**Ministry:** Highways and Infrastructure (Minister Jim Reiter)

**Date:** January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

**Web Link:** <http://www.highways.gov.sk.ca/Default.aspx?DN=5bd7bcb0-4f12-44cc-97f5-1dea1cba02fa>

**Contact:** Doug Wakabayashi, Highways and Infrastructure, Regina, Phone: 306-787-4804

**Synopsis:** Work on a 15-km section of Highway 155 will begin this year as part of the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure's Northern Transportation Strategy.

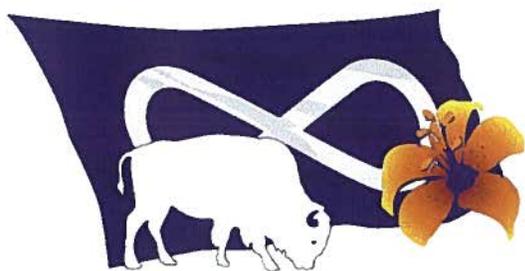
"Highway 155 links both economic activity and communities in Saskatchewan's northwest areas," Highways and Infrastructure Minister Jim Reiter said. "Highway 155 has been ranked as the highest priority highway corridor by the Northern Transportation Advisory Committee, which has extensive and diverse representation by northern Saskatchewan stakeholder groups."

The work involves upgrading a section of Highway 155 from the junction of Highway 965 to 15 km north. Gravel crushing will start this winter with the bulk of construction to occur during the 2010 construction season. The tender will be advertised this weekend and will be awarded within the next few weeks.

Highway 155 supports the mining and logging industries in the west side of northern Saskatchewan. It also links many northern communities; including Beauval, Ile-a-la-Crosse, Buffalo Narrows and La Loche to the rest of the province and is an important tourism corridor.

**[ NORTHERN REGION III ]**





# Métis Nation Saskatchewan

The PMC Bi-Weekly Mail-Out February 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010.



Metis Nation -- Saskatchewan executives Gabe Lafonde (from left), Allan Morin, Robert Doucette and Max Morin display their MNS membership cards Monday at the newly unveiled Genealogical and Archival Research Centre in Sutherland

Photograph by: Greg Pender, The StarPhoenix , Saskatchewan News Network

**1. Title:** Centre will help register Métis population

Genealogical facility will foster research, history

**Ministry:** Registry (Minister: Max Morin)

**Date:** February 2nd, 2010.

**Web Link:** <http://www.thestarphoenix.com/Centre+will+help+register+Métis+population/2511843/story.html>

**Contact:** Story by Jason Warick, Saskatchewan News Network

**Synopsis:** Monday's official opening of a Métis archive and research centre will help people better understand the history and contributions of Métis people in Saskatchewan, officials said at a news conference.

The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MNS) held a grand opening for its Genealogical and Archival Research Centre on Jessop Avenue in Sutherland.

The centre will help Métis people research and connect to their roots, aid Métis officials in their negotiations over hunting rights and educate citizens about the contributions of Métis people to Saskatchewan, said MNS president Robert Doucette.

"It will bring to light important elements of Saskatchewan history. That's important to us," Doucette said.

For example, few people know Métis settlements existed along the South Saskatchewan River well before Chief Whitecap met John Lake and advised him to establish the settlement that became Saskatoon, Doucette said.

The centre contains historical records dating to the early 1700s, he said.

Métis citizenship requirements will be clarified and formalized and a new registry will help to quantify how many Métis people live in Saskatchewan and where they're located, he said. The former registry contained 21,000 names, but Doucette thinks the actual number of Métis people in Saskatchewan is closer to 100,000.

He said it could take years to complete the registry, but it's vital to identify the true size and makeup of the province's Métis population.

"Today is a great day," said Doucette, who was given a citizenship card and blanket, as were other MNS officials, following Monday's news conference.

Four components will be necessary for someone to receive a Métis Nation-Saskatchewan citizenship card.

The person must self-identify as Métis, have a connection to a historic Métis settlement, be distinct from other aboriginal people such as First Nations or Inuit and be accepted as a member of the MNS or an MNS local.

**2. Title:** Infant Mortality Highest in Sask.

**Ministry:** Health (Minister: Don McMorris)

**Date:** January 22nd, 2010

**Web Link:**

<http://www.thestarphoenix.com/health/Infant+mortality+highest+Sask/2471122/story.html>

**Contact:** Jason Warick, Saskatchewan News Network.

**Synopsis:** Saskatchewan was panned Thursday over its high infant mortality rate by the author of a new article in the journal Paediatrics and Child Health.

In his article, The health of Canada's children: Part 1, released Thursday, York University Prof. Dennis Raphael cites a 2008 Statistics Canada report pegging Saskatchewan's infant mortality rate at 8.3 deaths per 1,000 live births, the highest of any province.

If Saskatchewan was a country, its infant mortality rate would fare near the bottom of 30 industrialized nations listed in the study.

Infant mortality is defined as babies who are born alive but die before their first birthday.

Raphael said Canada as a whole has been "slipping" in its relative ranking over the years. In 1980, Canada's infant mortality rate was 10th lowest in the industrialized world. It now sits in the 24th spot.

Factors affecting infant mortality include the growing gap between the rich and the poor and the child poverty rate, he said. Canada has 15 per cent of its children living in households with less than 50 per cent of the Canadian median income. Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway all come in at five per cent or less.

In Saskatchewan, the high percentage of aboriginal births may affect the infant mortality rate, as this demographic has consistently had a higher incidence, he said.

Saskatchewan's chief medical health officer, Dr. Moira McKinnon, said there have been improvements since Raphael's data was compiled. In the most recent year available, Saskatchewan's infant mortality rate was 6.2 per 1,000. However, rates remain unacceptably high, she said. This is especially true in Saskatchewan's two northern health authorities, where rates are 10.5 and 14.5, respectively.

3. **Title:** Children's Rail Safety Books Have Left The Station

**Ministry:** Highways and Infrastructure (Minister: Don Reiter)

**Date:** January 21st, 2010.

**Contact:** Roger Gadd, Saskatchewan Shortline Railway Association, Phone: 306-297-2777  
or

Dan Palmer, Highways and Infrastructure, Regina, Phone: 306-787-4805

**Web Link** [www.highways.gov.sk.ca/sask-rail/shortlinesafety/](http://www.highways.gov.sk.ca/sask-rail/shortlinesafety/)

**Synopsis:** The 2009-10 edition of Train Safety Activity Book and companion Teacher's Guide, produced by the ministry in partnership with the Saskatchewan Shortline Railway Association (SSRA), can be found in PDF format at [www.highways.gov.sk.ca/sask-rail/shortlinesafety/](http://www.highways.gov.sk.ca/sask-rail/shortlinesafety/).

The content of the activity book was originally developed with the assistance of the University of Regina education students and Operation Lifesaver, a national rail safety organization involving various transportation, government and safety partners. The books have been regularly distributed by the ministry since 2005.

Saskatchewan children living in communities served by shortline railways will soon receive free colouring books aimed at teaching them train safety.

The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure, which regulates Saskatchewan's 10 privately-owned shortline railways, is once again distributing the books to Grade 4 children in schools along the provincial railway network. Teachers and parents can also download the books for the first time from the ministry's website.

**4. Title:** Saskatchewan Celebrates Archival Treasures

**Ministry:** Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport (Minister: Dustin Duncan)

**Date:** February 1st, 2010.

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=8b9e17ff-5789-4cb6-bcd2-44dad7288562>

**Contact:** Audrey Price, SCAA, Regina, Phone: 306-780-9414, Email: [scaa@sasktel.net](mailto:scaa@sasktel.net)

or

Sean St. George, Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, Regina, Phone: 306-787-9087

**Synopsis:** February 1-7, 2010 Proclaimed Archives Week in Saskatchewan

Discover your history this week by exploring Saskatchewan's past through photographs, documents and other archival treasures preserved and protected in one of the many archives found around our province.

Archives Week is organized by the Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists (SCAA). The SCAA helps foster a cooperative and successful archival network in Saskatchewan, encouraging the establishment of new archives in the province, providing education and advice about archival practice and promoting public understanding and use of the province's archival and historical resources.

Archives across the province are holding events and displaying their collections to introduce the public to these treasures. Northern Saskatchewan Archives is holding an Open House in Air Ronge in conjunction with Paskisimon Nuyehâh Library System's 20th Anniversary Celebrations. On display will be copies of more than 100 historic photographs of the North. Two archives, in Humboldt and Rosetown, are using Archives Week as an opportunity to display copies of historical photos and documents from their collections and to ask for the public's help identify people and events in photographs within their holdings.

There are more than sixty archives in Saskatchewan ranging from volunteer-run community archives to the provincial archives. Sponsoring bodies include religious organizations, educational bodies, healthcare institutions, municipalities, heritage interest groups, museums and theatre groups. Together, these institutions act as custodians and preserve the extraordinary resources documenting virtually every facet of Saskatchewan's people, landscape and history. Archives Week highlights how archival records are vital in preserving our public memory and sense of identity. The SCAA receives funding from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation through SaskCulture Inc.

**5. Title:** Government to Introduce Legislation to Extend Municipal Terms to Four Years from Three  
**Ministry:** Municipal Affairs (Minister: Jeremy Harrison)

**Date:** February 2nd, 2010

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=ab56f992-6a40-42b9-a8e6-894401cac861>

**Contact:** Greg Urbanoski, Municipal Affairs, Regina, Phone: 306-787-2155,

Email: [Greg.Urbanoski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Greg.Urbanoski@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** Municipal Affairs Minister Jeremy Harrison today announced plans to lengthen the term of office for urban, northern municipal and school board officials.

Amendments to The Local Government Election Act will be introduced in the fall of 2010 and will lengthen the term of office from three years to four in the 2012 municipal and school board elections.

The Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) convention passed a resolution in 2008 to extend the term of office from three to four years. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs consulted with the education sector as school board elections are held concurrent with municipal elections.

The move would not affect rural municipalities. Rural municipalities prefer the two-year term of office under which they currently operate, but do not object to a four year term for other local governments.

The move would see Saskatchewan join seven other provinces which have four year terms (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba). British Columbia and Alberta have three year terms, as well as the Yukon. The Northwest Territories and Nunavut have two-year or three-year terms dependant on the size of the community.

**6. Title:** Eight Straight Months: Saskatchewan's Unemployment Rate Remains Lowest in Canada

**Ministry:** Advanced Education and Employment (Minister: Rob Norris)

**Date:** February 5th, 2010.

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=55c6a2ea-fa42-4f0b-b8c4-f71c1ac6f831>

**Contact:** Christopher Jones-Bonk, Advanced Education, Employment and Labour, Regina, Phone: 306-798-3106

**Synopsis:** Saskatchewan's January unemployment rate of 4.7 per cent (seasonally adjusted) is once again the lowest in Canada - well below the national rate of 8.3 per cent. Saskatchewan has now held the lowest rate in Canada for eight months.

There were 511,000 people working in Saskatchewan in January, a decrease of 1,600 compared to January 2009. Despite the decrease, full-time employment saw an increase of 7,200 over the past year.

Saskatoon and Regina (tied at 4.8 per cent) hold the second lowest unemployment rates among major Canadian cities (behind Quebec City at 4.5 per cent). Saskatoon saw an increase of 2,700 jobs over last year.

Norris pointed to the more than 6,000 vacancies currently on SaskJobs.ca as a sign that Saskatchewan is the place to be in Canada for skilled workers looking for employment.

**7. Title:** DO NOT TRANSPORT, STORE OR SELL ELM FIREWOOD

**Ministry:** Environment (Minister: Nancy Heppner)

**Date:** February 8th, 2010.

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=5038b87f-ec23-459b-940e-a096826d12f8>

**Contact:** Jeff Gooliaff, Environment, Prince Albert, Phone: 306-953-2987,

Email: [jeffery.gooliaff@gov.sk.ca](mailto:jeffery.gooliaff@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** In Saskatchewan, it is illegal to transport, store, sell or use elm firewood because of the risk of spreading devastating tree diseases, including Dutch elm disease.

Anyone removing elm trees, including Siberian elm shelterbelts, must dispose of the wood properly, by burning or burying it. Check with local municipal authorities for designated disposal sites and methods.

Transporting other types of wood with the bark on can also be hazardous. For example, moving wood from trees killed by the mountain pine beetle can help the beetles to spread into new areas, with potentially disastrous results. The beetle has devastated British Columbia's lodgepole pine forests and has moved into Alberta. As yet, none have been found in Saskatchewan's northwest pine forests, but the beetles are found in lodgepole pine forests in *the Cypress Hills area*.

**For more information, call 1-800-SASK ELM (1-800-727-5356).**

**8. Title:** WORLD OIL EXPO SHOWCASING SASKATCHEWAN'S ENERGY SECTOR

**Ministry:** Enterprise (Minister: Ken Cheveldayoff)

**Date:** February 8th, 2010.

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=1157de8d-9dfa-4376-ab39-c7713458aea1>

**Contact:** Jamie Shanks, Enterprise Saskatchewan, Regina, Phone: 306-798-0503,

Email: [jamie.shanks@enterprisesask.ca](mailto:jamie.shanks@enterprisesask.ca)

**Synopsis:** Energy investors will be drilling down into information about Saskatchewan opportunities this week in Houston, Texas during the global oil and gas industry's largest exploration and production expo.

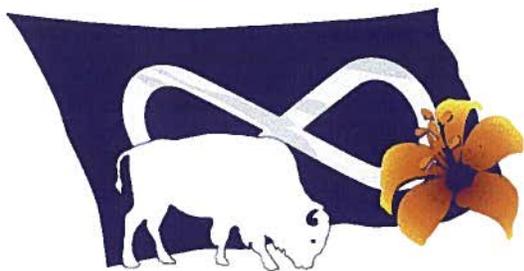
NAPE 2010 (formerly North American Prospect Expo) takes place February 10-12 in Houston and will include several high-level meetings featuring representatives from one of the most important exporters of crude oil to the U.S. - the province of Saskatchewan.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, in November 2009 Canada exported two million barrels of crude oil per day to the U.S. - more than twice the amount of Mexico, the second largest exporter of crude oil to the U.S. Saskatchewan is the second-largest producer of crude oil in Canada, and in any given year between 65-70 per cent of the province's oil production is exported to the U.S.

Planned activities for NAPE are co-hosted by Enterprise Saskatchewan and the Ministry of Energy and Resources. They include a business breakfast for selected delegates to learn more about the province and network with Saskatchewan business representatives, an information booth at the expo trade show, and meetings with media and private sector entities to raise awareness and potential interest in the Saskatchewan energy sector.

NAPE brings state-of-the-art prospects, advanced technology, and energy capital formation together in one location, creating a pure marketplace to establish strategic alliances for doing business and initiating purchases and trades.

AMC Bi-Weekly Mail Out



# Metis Nation Saskatchewan

## The PMC Bi-Weekly Mail-Out February 13<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> 2010.

1. **Title:** NORRIS DISCUSSES JOBS, ECONOMIC FUTURE

**Ministry:** Advanced Education, Employment and Labour (Minister Rob Norris)

**Date:** February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=c38a0847-4253-40cf-8d09-537ed31947ca>

**Contact:** Bill Stovin, Advanced Education, Employment and Labour, Regina, Phone: 306-787-0926,

Email: [bill.stovin@gov.sk.ca](mailto:bill.stovin@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** Advanced Education, Employment and Labour Minister Rob Norris met today in Ottawa with federal, provincial and territorial Labour Ministers to discuss Canada's economic recovery and steps to support businesses and workers.

Over the course of the two-day meeting, the ministers participated in panel presentations and roundtable discussions. Among the issues addressed were the significance of skilled labour and the protection of temporary foreign workers as well as emerging workplace trends and international labour activities.

The ministers meet each year to discuss key public policies and opportunities for joint projects and initiatives.

2. **Title:** COYOTE CONTROL PROGRAM HELPING TO ADDRESS LIVESTOCK PREDATION

**Ministry:** Agriculture (Minister Bob Bjornerud)

**Date:** February 19th 2010

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=de9873af-ee6e-4797-8e3a-54a666a8258f>

**Contact:** Scott Brown, Agriculture, Regina, Phone: 306-787-4031, Email: [scott.brown@gov.sk.ca](mailto:scott.brown@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** The latest numbers from the Saskatchewan Coyote Control Program indicate that residents have removed nearly 18,000 coyotes since the program was introduced in November.

Under the program, the provincial government pays hunters \$20 per coyote killed.

According to Saskatchewan Environment, an average of 21,000 coyotes are hunted or trapped for their fur each year, with up to 35,000 in some years. However, due in part to lower prices for coyote pelts, these numbers decreased to 17,700 pelts in 2008-09.

Currently, 241 RMs are participating in the pilot program, representing more than 80 per cent of RMs in the province.

The deadline to submit applications to the Saskatchewan Coyote Control Program is March 31, which is when the pilot program will end.

For more information or to complete a declaration form, contact your local RM office, local Ministry of Agriculture Regional Office, visit [www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca](http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca), or call 1-877-874-5365.

**3. Title:** TORY MP CALLS LOUIS RIEL A 'VILLAIN'

**Date:** February 19th 2010

**Contact:** CBC Manitoba

**Web Link:** <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/manitoba/story/2010/02/19/mb-louis-riel-newsletter-villain-manitoba.html>

**Synopsis:** Edmonton MP Peter Goldring sent out a pamphlet in December to "set the record straight" about Riel's actions in the late 1800s.

In the newsletter, titled *The Truth About Louis Riel*, Goldring calls the former Métis leader a "villain" who has blood on his hands from leading the Northwest and Red River rebellions.

Goldring said Riel doesn't deserve a statue on Parliament Hill and that such a tribute would condone his "civil disobedience."

Winnipeg Liberal MP Anita Neville said the Conservative party should apologize to the Métis for what she calls a "smear campaign" against the founder of Manitoba.

Although he was hanged as a traitor, Riel is regarded as a folk hero by many for his defence of Métis rights and culture.

Winnipeg Conservative MP Shelley Glover, who represents the city's St. Boniface riding where Riel is buried, distanced herself on Friday from her colleague in Edmonton.

Glover, who is Métis, said she was shocked and offended when she saw the article.

"We have different opinions. I, of course, disagree with him wholeheartedly with regards to Louis Riel," she said.

"I was very disturbed about what I read because I found it to be unjust and inaccurate and unfortunate."

Glover spoke with Goldring on the telephone Thursday and said the two Tories agreed to disagree on the matter.

**4. Title:** GOVERNMENT APPLAUDS SASKATCHEWAN VOLUNTEERS HEADING TO HAITI FOR LONG-TERM RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS

**Ministry:** Corrections, Public Safety and Policing (Minister Yogi Huyghebaert)

**Date:** February 17th 2010

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=6e82d255-cfeb-45b5-85d9-a78885a87478>

**Contact:** Judy Orthner, Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, Regina, Phone: 306-787-5883, Email: [judy.orthner@gov.sk.ca](mailto:judy.orthner@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** Corrections, Public Safety and Policing Minister D. F. (Yogi) Huyghebaert today is applauding the efforts of "Western Canada Relief for Haiti", a group travelling to Haiti to provide long-term solutions for smaller communities. While the government is not funding the effort, there is a special tie, as it is a group led by Roland LaFrance, Chief of Staff to First Nations and Métis Relations Minister Bill Hutchinson.

Partnering with the Canadian-based NGO Haiti Arise, the Saskatchewan delegation will be living and working inside a 12-acre tent city, assisting 3,000-5,000 refugees daily. Relief work will be provided in a variety of areas, from water and food distribution, to simple emergency medical care and the reconstruction of the compound's perimeter security wall, which collapsed in the quake.

Saskatchewan Roughrider and Regina City Councillor Chris Szarka is also part of the team of seven who will be heading to Haiti on March 5.

Another government employee, Haitian-born and raised Carlos Petit-Homme, now a resident of Regina and Gaming Control Officer with the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation, will also be heading home to offer support.

The Saskatchewan delegation includes:

- Roland LaFrance - Chief of Staff to Saskatchewan First Nations and Metis Relations Minister Bill Hutchison and former RCMP officer who lived and worked in Haiti while training for CIDA;
- Carlos Petit-Homme - Security, surveillance and intelligence specialist for the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation. He was born and raised in Haiti, worked for the Red Cross and Haitian police force;
- Chris Szarka - Saskatchewan Roughrider, Regina City Councillor, and certified construction and carpentry specialist;

- Sharon McDaniel - Environmental engineer, certified public health inspector, and water, drinking water and wastewater treatment expert;
- John Bower - 35-year certified Saskatchewan public health inspector, with a special focus on sanitation and sewage systems;
- Tammy Robert - Executive Producer, Rawlco Radio Ltd., who has background in international logistics, media and communications; and
- Brad LaFrance - Trained in search and rescue, is a licensed heavy equipment operator and construction worker.

Saskatchewan corrections staff and inmates from facilities, probation offices and community training residences have risen to the call for aid and raised nearly \$7,000 to support the Haitian relief effort.

Corrections staff raised their \$4,300 share of the total donation through holding bake sales, book sales, silent auctions and bottle drives. The \$2,300 raised so far by inmates was accomplished through money donated from the inmates' own trust accounts and from wages earned through work assignments.

**5. Title:** BUILDING PRIDE THROUGH CELEBRATIONS ACROSS SASKATCHEWAN

**Ministry:** Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport (Minister Dustin Duncan)

**Date:** February 16th 2010

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=f154f71a-97e1-42f6-9942-ce4cd94bf5af>

**Contact:** Art Jones, Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, Regina, Phone: 306-787-3506, Email: [art.jones@gov.sk.ca](mailto:art.jones@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** The Government of Saskatchewan today announced that it will contribute \$434,450 through the Building Pride program to help 29 communities and organizations celebrate important milestones and undertake legacy initiatives.

The contributions range from \$2,000 for the RM of Brokenshell to help celebrate its centennial to \$45,000 for the Poundmaker Cree Nation Historical Society, which this year will commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Battle of Cut Knife, also known as the Battle of Poundmaker. The majority of the activities and events will take place in rural communities and several will commemorate important locations and events associated with the 1885 North West Resistance.

Also included in the grants announced today were two Building Pride projects of province-wide interest.

2010 is the 100-year anniversary of professional football in Saskatchewan. To help mark this milestone, the Government of Saskatchewan is contributing \$60,000 to support projects being undertaken during the year through a partnership between the Mackenzie and Dunlop Art Galleries, Football Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Roughrider Football Club. These projects include the commissioning of original artwork by professional and youth artists and hosting of special skill-development clinics for minor football coaches.

This year also marks the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Stanley Mission - Saskatchewan's oldest building. The Government of Saskatchewan will contribute \$85,000 to support celebrations being organized by the Stanley Mission Reserve, which is part of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. These activities include commemorative artwork, a history book and a community celebration which will be held June 10. Holy Trinity Anglican Church has been designated a Provincial Heritage Property, a Provincial Historic Site and a National Historic Site.

Building Pride is an annual \$750,000 allocation that celebrates the unique history and culture of Saskatchewan communities. Visit [www.tpcs.gov.sk.ca/buildingpride](http://www.tpcs.gov.sk.ca/buildingpride) for more information on the Building Pride program. The next application deadline will be April 30, 2010.

**6. Title:** FASTER WIRELESS DATA ACCESS FOR CHARETTE LAKE AREA

**Ministry:** SaskTel (Minister responsible Don Morgan)

**Date:** February 16th 2010

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsid=38947477-50ff-4e9a-b4e1-f419088e7ce>

**Contact:** Andy Tate, SaskTel, Regina, Phone: 306-777-4548, Email: [andy.tate@sasktel.sk.ca](mailto:andy.tate@sasktel.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** SaskTel cellular network customers in the Charette Lake area now have access to faster data speeds thanks to the new EV-DO Rev A enhancement. EV-DO technology enables a host of wireless data services, including web browsing, content downloads and video streaming. This expansion is part of an ongoing \$11.3 million project to expand or improve EV-DO service in 64 locations across the province.

"EV-DO service offers residential and business customers faster speeds and increased bandwidth for a better wireless experience," Minister responsible for SaskTel Don Morgan said.

"With the much higher speeds made possible by EV-DO Rev A technology, and an EV-DO capable device, SaskTel cellular customers will be able to use wireless data services such as web browsing, content downloads, streaming video, streaming radio, email and instant messaging at speeds close to residential Internet high speed connections," SaskTel President and CEO Robert Watson said.

**[WESTERN REGION 1a]**





# Metis Nation Saskatchewan

## The PMC Bi-Weekly Mail-Out March 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

1. **Title:** REPORT ON STATE OF FORESTS RELEASED

**Ministry:** Environment (Minister Nancy Heppner)

**Date:** March 11th, 2010

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=258928bb-8646-446c-ba1f-314ba27380a6>

**Contact:** Bob Wynes, Environment, Prince Albert, Phone: 306-953-2491, Email:

[bob.wynes@gov.sk.ca](mailto:bob.wynes@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** The 2009 State of Saskatchewan's Provincial Forests Report was released today, indicating that they are in a healthy state.

The report assesses 23 indicators, each focused on a specific aspect of sustainable forest management in three categories; environmental, economic and social.

This is the first full reporting on all the selected indicators and showed that overall progress toward sustainable forest management in Saskatchewan is positive. Of the 23 indicators, 18 were rated good or fair. Three economic indicators were judged poor due to the current downturn in the forest industry.

The ministry will use the information provided in the report to help set its priorities as it plans its future activities. The 2009 State of Saskatchewan's Provincial Forests Report is available online at <http://www.environment.gov.sk.ca/soereport>.

**REGIONS:** *E.R.1, E.R.2, N.R.1, N.R.2, N.R.3, W.R.1, W.R.1a, W.R.2*

2. **Title:** ARCHAIC SECTION OF INDIAN ACT ENDS

**Ministry:** Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (Minister Chuck Strahl)

**Date:** Wednesday, March 10, 2010 | 10:28 PM CT

**Web Link:** <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/saskatchewan/story/2010/03/10/sk-mb-ab-indian-act-agriculture-rule.html#ixzz0ht3V5Z2Y>

**Contact:** CBC News

**Synopsis:** Treaty Indians in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba have been cleared to sell farm products produced on a reserve, according to an order issued by the federal government Feb. 3. The unusual directive was published in the Feb. 17 edition of the Canada Gazette, making it official. It provides a specific exemption from section 32 of the Indian Act, the federal legislation that covers almost all elements of the relationship between Canada's status Indians and the government. The order about agricultural products is found in a section of the act that states "a transaction of any kind whereby a band or a member thereof purports to sell, barter, exchange, give or otherwise dispose of cattle or other animals, grain or hay ... root crops or plants or their product from a reserve in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta, to a person other than a member of that band, is void."

The section adds that such a transaction is valid if a government superintendent gives written approval.

In ordering an end to the provision, the government notes that the section likely violates the anti-discrimination laws of the Canadian charter.

Provision not enforced

The government also believes the rule prohibiting trade in farm products has not been enforced for several decades.

It adds that there could be practical ramifications, in that there would be no questions raised by potential investors in reserve-related farm businesses.

The government went through a six-month consultation process leading up to the February announcement.

It says it received two responses: An Alberta First Nations chief and a First Nations band councillor in Manitoba phoned Indian and Northern Affairs Canada expressing support for the move.

#### **ALL REGIONS**

### **3. Title: INDIAN STATUS COMING FOR THOUSANDS OF CANADIANS**

**Ministry:** Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (Minister Chuck Strahl)

**Date:** Last Updated: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 | 8:42 PM CT

**Contact:** CBC News

**Web Link:** <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/saskatchewan/story/2010/03/10/native-status.html#ixzz0ht8TbwCh>

**Synopsis:** More than 45,000 Canadians could be recognized as status Indians under changes the federal government plans to make to the Indian Act, CBC News has learned.

The changes come after Ottawa lost a court challenge addressing the different ways that men and women are treated when it comes to Indian status under the Indian Act.

In 1985, Ottawa changed the rules for women who married non-natives. They would retain their status, as would their children, but not their grandchildren.

The rules are different, however, for Indian men. A man who married a non-native can pass status to two generations.

Last year's court decision has prompted the government to extend Indian status for one more generation. This means grandchildren of such a union will now have native status, but not great-grandchildren.

Shawn Atleo, the head of the Assembly of First Nations, said it's a question of who has the right to define citizenship.

Still, Atleo said he welcomes any changes that make the rules fairer for aboriginal women and their descendants.

#### **ALL REGIONS**

#### **4. Title: MANITOBA'S TB RATE HITS THREE-DECADE HIGH**

**Ministry:**

**Date:** March 10, 2010.

**Web Link:** <http://www.thestarphoenix.com/business/Manitoba>

**Contact:** Saskatoon Star Phoenix/Winnipeg Free Press

**Synopsis:** The number of Manitobans with tuberculosis hit a 30-year high last year, raising alarm among First Nation leaders and medical experts that nothing is being done to address the root cause of the disease.

The latest statistics reveal Manitoba recorded 156 TB cases in 2009 - the highest number recorded in a single year since the late 1970s. In the past four years TB cases have jumped by 50 per cent, leaving Manitoba with higher rates of the disease than any other province.

Former provincial TB control director Dr. Earl Hershfield said TB is getting worse because the health care system is not doing enough to prevent new cases and no one has proposed solutions to the overcrowding and poverty that helps TB spread.

Some northern Manitoba communities have recorded more than 600 cases of TB per 100,000 population. In developing countries such as Bangladesh, the rate is slightly below 400 cases per 100,000.

**5. Title:** SASKTEL TO INVEST \$239 MILLION IN ITS SASKATCHEWAN NETWORK

**Ministry:** SaskTel (Don Morgan, Q.C., Minister Responsible)

**Date:** March 10th, 2010.

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=4b5f0610-81f3-4f9d-a1bd-445e71eff430>

**Contact:** Andy Tate, SaskTel, Regina, Phone: 306-777-4548, Email: [andy.tate@sasktel.sk.ca](mailto:andy.tate@sasktel.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** SaskTel will invest \$239 million in its Saskatchewan network in 2010. Residential and business customers in communities across the province can expect improved and expanded SaskTel services as a result of this latest major capital investment.

Highlights of this year's investment program include:

- In 2010, SaskTel will invest \$88 million to continue construction of a new \$172 million Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS)/High Speed Packet Access (HSPA) wireless network
- SaskTel will invest \$48 million to continue the Rural Infrastructure Program to deliver 100 per cent high speed internet coverage and to build 55 new cellular towers to improve wireless coverage across the province within three years.
- SaskTel will reach 100 per cent high speed Internet coverage in 2010 following the launch of high speed Internet service from private sector partners RNow and YourLink in 15 communities.
- In 2010, SaskTel will invest \$17 million to expand and improve its existing wireless network, including the addition of new digital cellular sites across the province, scheduled to be complete in 2011.
- This year, SaskTel will invest \$31 million to expand rural broadband.
- Next Generation Access Infrastructure (NGAI) - Initiated in 2006, NGAI is a five-year \$310 million program to offer increased bandwidth by providing fiber optic cable closer to customer homes and businesses.
- Evolving SaskTel's leading-edge MaxTM Entertainment Services

Other network expenditures - \$26 million, which includes:

- High speed Internet expansion for First Nations (dependent upon additional federal funding) - \$6 million.
- Fiber to the premise (technology to deliver increased bandwidth by connecting fiber optic cable to the customer premise) - \$9 million.

Basic network growth and enhancements - \$59 million.

***VARIOUS REGIONS***

**6. Title:** FINANCE MINISTER SIGNS ON-RESERVE LIQUOR TAX AGREEMENTS WITH FIRST NATIONS

**Ministry:** Finance (Minister, Rod Gantefer)

**Date:** March 9th, 2010

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=ba38d15a-5619-42f0-baaa-d1c7946b7597>

**Contact:** Randy Burton, Finance, Regina, Phone: 306-787-6578, Email: [randy.burton@sk.gov.ca](mailto:randy.burton@sk.gov.ca)

**Synopsis:** The Government of Saskatchewan has entered into agreements with several First Nations that will permit them to levy their own on-reserve liquor fees.

The Liquor Consumption Tax Administration agreement allows proceeds from liquor fees to remain on-reserve to fund local priorities and will replace provincial taxes formerly collected on-reserve for alcohol purchases. These fees will stay the same as the tax collected off-reserve by the province (currently 10 per cent) and must apply to all consumers.

"We believe there are many benefits to these agreements, such as promoting on-reserve governance by First Nations people and providing them with a new and stable revenue source to help fund local priorities," Finance Minister Rod Gantefer said.

The Ministry of Finance developed a pilot project involving liquor taxes over two years ago at the request of the Whitecap Dakota First Nation, host of the Dakota Dunes Casino. Approximately \$15,000 in liquor taxes per month is first collected by the Ministry of Finance and then remitted to the Whitecap Dakota First Nation to meet local on-reserve needs.

"Having a reliable and sustainable revenue stream provides our Council with the ability to spend on areas that fit the needs of our people," Whitecap Dakota First Nation Chief Darcy Bear said. "As these priorities and needs change over time, it's critical to have this spending flexibility."

The latest First Nations to sign this agreement was the Mosquito, Grizzly Bear's Head, Lean Man First Nation (host of the Gold Eagle Casino in North Battleford) in early February. They now join the Kahkewistahaw First Nation in Yorkton (host of the Painted Hand Casino), the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation in Prince Albert (host of the Northern Lights Casino), and the White Bear First Nation (host of the Bear Claw Casino) in recently entering these agreements.

**REGIONS:** *E.R.1, E.R.2a, E.R.3, W.R.1a, W.R.2a*

**7. Title:** HOUSING STARTS IN SASKATCHEWAN - CITIES ON THE RISE

**Ministry:** Enterprise Saskatchewan (Minister Ken Cheveldayoff)

**Date:** March 8th, 2010.

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=dce2575b-97de-445c-9046-df6044491d7b>

**Contact:** Rebecca Rogoschewsky, Executive Council, Regina, Phone: 306-787-0980, Cell: 306-529-1601

**Synopsis:** Saskatchewan Leading the Nation in the First Two Months of 2010

Statistics on urban housing starts for February 2010 were released today and show a remarkable improvement from last year.

There were 211 urban housing starts last month, up from 89 in February last year (seasonally unadjusted), an increase of 137 per cent. Saskatchewan had the second highest percentage change among Canadian provinces.

Urban housing starts were up by 199 per cent in the first two months of 2010 to 485 units, compared with 162 units in the first two months of 2009. Saskatchewan had the highest percentage increase in the nation in this time period.

In Saskatoon, housing starts were up by a whopping 405 per cent in the first two months of 2010 compared to the same period last year - from 57 to 288 starts. Housing starts in Regina were up 112 per cent from 77 to 163 in the same period.

Single family home construction in February 2010 totalled 129 units, up from 83 units in February 2009. Multiple units were up 1,267 per cent from six to 82 units during the same time period, February over February.

**VARIOUS REGIONS**

**8. Title:** YORKTON'S YOUTH TO BE TICKETED FOR GOOD BEHAVIOUR

**Ministry:** SGI (June Draude, Minister Responsible)

**Date:** March 5th, 2010.

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=02806b86-70c8-48c1-8b04-0a7c310d89e5>

**Contact:** Tony Playter, Saskatchewan Government Insurance, Regina, Phone: 306-751-1837, Email: [tplayter@sgi.sk.ca](mailto:tplayter@sgi.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** Yorkton Law Enforcement is on the Lookout for Good Behaviour

SGI, the Yorkton Alliance of Asset Champions and RCMP are launching the Positive Ticketing program in an effort to continue building positive relationships with young people in Yorkton.

This project was developed by the Yorkton Alliance of Asset Champions, which is supported by 20 Yorkton community agencies and business leaders.

The program's main goals are to engage youth, increase positive interaction with law enforcement and develop future community leaders.

Local enforcement will give out tickets to youth in the Yorkton area for practising good behaviours. Positive tickets can be given out for things like attending school regularly, wearing a helmet when riding a bike or using a seatbelt while driving.

The tickets will include free passes for swimming, movies or sporting events as well as for food and other treats.

**REGIONS: E.R.2a**

**9. Title:** IMPROVED CELL COVERAGE FOR CORMAN PARK, RED WING, FOX VALLEY, STURGIS

**Ministry:** SaskTel (Don Morgan, Q.C., Minister Responsible)

**Date:** March 5th, 2010

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=be580004-6126-4562-a8a2-16f9512ceab7>

**Contact:** Andy Tate, SaskTel, Regina, Phone: 306-777-4548, Email: [andy.tate@sasktel.sk.ca](mailto:andy.tate@sasktel.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** SaskTel today announced digital cellular coverage improvements in the Saskatoon Corman Park, Prince Albert Red Wing, Fox Valley and Sturgis areas. Customers can expect generally improved coverage in the Corman Park industrial area northeast of Saskatoon and in the Red Wing area north of Prince Albert. Customers can also expect improved coverage in the oil and gas region east of Fox Valley. Customers in the Sturgis area can expect improved coverage in town and the surrounding area.

Digital cellular service provides advanced functionality that allows customers to use the newest and most innovative services such as sending and receiving text, picture and video messages, communicating via push-to-talk service, browsing the Internet, downloading video clips, watching streaming video, performing banking transactions and accessing real-time information such as news, weather and stock quotes all from their cell phone.

**REGIONS: E.R.2, W.R.2, W.R.2a, W.R.3**

**10. Title:** BIG RIVER GROUP RECEIVES \$150,000 FROM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND

**Ministry:** Energy and Resources (Minister Bill Boyd)

**Date:** March 4th, 2010.

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=9e158ab9-87c1-4d8d-867f-395a29c8b3de>

**Contact:** Bob Ellis, Energy and Resources, Regina, Phone: 306-787-1691, Email: [robert.ellis@gov.sk.ca](mailto:robert.ellis@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** A group representing Big River forestry interests is receiving \$150,000 in research monies from the Community Development Trust Fund.

The newly formed Big River and Area Forestry Committee was created by the Town and RM of Big River to look at new economic development opportunities in light of challenges facing the province's forestry industry.

The Community Development Trust Fund (CDTF) is an initiative to support communities negatively affected by international economic uncertainty, particularly in the resource sector.

Forestry is an industry undergoing a transformation from a commodities base to more market-driven value-added products. The industry continues to play an important role in our economic progress, contributing roughly \$1 billion a year to our provincial economy.

Saskatchewan received \$36.4 million in CDTF support, \$7 million of which has been allocated to establish a value-added research program.

**REGIONS: W.R.1, W.R.2**

**11. Title: SASKPOWER SELECTS CARBON CAPTURE TECHNOLOGY FOR BOUNDARY DAM PROJECT**

**Ministry:** Bill Boyd (Minister Responsible for SaskPower)

**Date:** March 3rd, 2010.

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=ffeaca54-7dda-41bc-989d-b0db37ad0dd3>

**Contact:** Paul Spasoff, SaskPower, Regina, Phone: 306-566-3179, Email: [pspasoff@saskpower.com](mailto:pspasoff@saskpower.com)

**Synopsis:** SaskPower has chosen SNC Lavalin-Cansolv to provide the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) capture system for the Boundary Dam Integrated Carbon Capture and Sequestration Demonstration Project. SNC Lavalin-Cansolv's proposal was selected after a rigorous evaluation of three proposals shortlisted by SaskPower in February 2009. The evaluation was undertaken by SaskPower and an independent consultant, Stantec Engineering.

Should it proceed, the carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) project would transform an aging unit at Boundary Dam Power Station near Estevan into a reliable, long-term producer of 115 megawatts of clean baseload electricity, while enhancing provincial oil production and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The two companies involved in the partnership bring a significant amount of experience and skill to this project. With the innovative technology developed by Cansolv and the project management prowess of SNC Lavalin, SaskPower can take the next step in developing an innovative project that would ensure Saskatchewan has a reliable, affordable and clean supply of electricity for many years to come.

SaskPower will make a final decision on whether to proceed with the Boundary Dam Integrated Carbon Capture and Sequestration Demonstration Project later this year. There remains important

work to do in the areas of finalizing project cost estimates, securing customers for the captured CO<sub>2</sub>, and making an assessment of the timing and extent of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions regulations.

Plans call for the carbon dioxide captured at Boundary Dam to be sold to the oil and gas industry for enhanced oil recovery. The system also has the potential to produce a marketable byproduct - sulphuric acid.

SNC Lavalin-Cansolv will begin its work immediately and will be paid for work completed if the project does not proceed.

**REGIONS: E.R.3**

**12. Title: PILOT PROJECT WILL BE THE FIRST GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED PEACEKEEPER PROJECT IN SASKATCHEWAN**

**Ministry:** Corrections, Public Safety and Policing (D.F. (Yogi)Huyghebaert, Minister)

**Date:** March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=545940ab-931e-48db-8f88-98005713119a>

**Contact:** Judy Orthner, Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, Regina, Phone: 306-787-5883, Email: [judy.orthner@gov.sk.ca](mailto:judy.orthner@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** The Government of Saskatchewan, in partnership with Public Safety Canada and the File Hills Tribal Council today announced a pilot project that will introduce peacekeepers to the File Hills Tribal Council.

Under the two-year pilot, five peacekeepers will be assigned to the File Hills First Nations Police Service. Their role will be to support the seven officers currently on the police service by developing crime prevention and public awareness programs that speak to the needs of the community for greater involvement and cultural awareness.

File Hills First Nations Police Service is currently the only First Nations self administered police service in Saskatchewan. The cost of the project is \$300,000 annually for two years, cost shared with Public Safety Canada. Public Safety Canada pays 52 per cent. The province pays 48 per cent.

**E.R.3 & W.R.3**

**13. Title: TELEHOMECARE PILOT PROJECT KICKS-OFF IN KELSEY TRAIL REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY**

**Ministry:** Health (Don McMorris, Minister)

**Date:** March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=e273e1e3-1e4e-4ed6-b8db-26d0ef85e85e>

**Contact:** Karen Hill, Health, Regina, Phone: 306-787-4083

**Synopsis:** People who have chronic health conditions like diabetes and hypertension now have access to an innovative approach to improved patient care. Telehomecare is a remote patient monitoring system that allows a client's condition to be monitored by a health professional via a computer.

The pilot project in the Kelsey Trail Health Region (KTHR) is a joint venture between the Ministry of Health, Kelsey Trail Regional Health Authority, HealthLine and SaskTel.

The project uses SaskTel's LifeStat™ Remote Monitoring and Health Management Service. LifeStat uses Bluetooth wireless technology in conjunction with a regular home phone or compatible cell phone, allowing health care professionals and clients to monitor blood pressure and blood glucose levels.

LifeStat can also be programmed to generate alerts to HealthLine or those authorized if the blood pressure or glucose levels are outside predefined alert parameters. In addition, Telehomecare offers an increased opportunity for client education and disease self-management.

**REGIONS: E.R.1, E.R.2, N.R.1, W.R.2**

**14. Title: PROVINCE PROCLAIMS RURAL WOMEN'S MONTH IN SASKATCHEWAN**

**Ministry:** Agriculture (Bob Bjonnerud, Minister)

**Date:** March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=2fd92990-1c3f-4241-a691-1e04d5a2b620>

**Contact:** Jenna Webb, Agriculture, Regina, Phone: 306-787-2359, Email: [jenna.webb@gov.sk.ca](mailto:jenna.webb@gov.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** The Government of Saskatchewan has proclaimed the month of March as Rural Women's Month in Saskatchewan.

Rural Women's Month will be observed in conjunction with events held in March by various women's groups in communities across the province. Some of these events are organized in association with the United Nation's International Women's Day on March 8.

**ALL REGIONS**

**15. Title: SASKATCHEWAN STUDENTS WILL KNOW THE SCORE**

**Ministry:** Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (Christine Tell, Minister Responsible)

**Date:** March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=438cf8b4-b05a-45c1-b669-83e5a157d5f2>

**Contact:** David Morris, Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority, Regina, Phone: 306-787-1721

**Synopsis:** A new interactive program is educating post-secondary students across the province about preventing problem gambling.

The Responsible Gambling Council today launched its Know the Score 2 (kts2) program at the University of Regina. The program will also make stops at the University of Saskatchewan as well as at SIAST campuses in Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon and Regina. The Saskatchewan kts2 tour is being funded by the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA).

The program interacts with students with an on-campus staffed display as well as an interactive website that allows students to test their knowledge about gambling. The program explores the real chances of winning and losing, highlights signs of problem gambling and suggests ways to keep gambling safer.

The Responsible Gambling Council (RGC) is an independent, non-profit organization committed to problem gambling prevention. RGC designs and delivers highly effective awareness programs, like kts2. For more information visit [www.kts2.ca](http://www.kts2.ca).

The kts2 program will visit the following Saskatchewan campuses:

- University of Regina, Regina, March 1-4.
- SIAST Kelsey, Saskatoon, March 8-9.
- SIAST Woodland, Prince Albert, March 10-11.
- University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, March 15-18.
- SIAST Palliser, Moose Jaw, March 22-23.
- SIAST Wascana, Regina, March 24-25.

**REGIONS: W.R.2, W.R.2a, W.R.3**

**16. Title: CANADA AND SASKATCHEWAN CELEBRATE NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN PRINCE ALBERT**

**Ministry: Human Resources and Skills Development (Canada - Diane Finley, Minister)**

**Social Services (Saskatchewan - Donna Harpauer, Minister)**

**Date:** February 26th, 2010

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=9ea126e9-a125-442f-a398-b340204face7>

**Synopsis:** Funding in the amount of \$679,500 has been made available for the initiative through , the federal government's plan to stimulate the economy and create jobs during the global recession. The federal and provincial governments are contributing equally to this overall investment of \$132 million under the amended Canada-Saskatchewan Affordable Housing Program Agreement. Other funding includes \$400,000 from the Homelessness Partnering Strategy and \$54,500 from the City of Prince Albert.

The eight-plex, located at 74-18th Street West in Prince Albert, will provide safe, affordable housing for very low-income youth with mental health and cognitive disabilities. Four of the units will be for

those who are also homeless or at risk of homelessness. The residence is located within walking distance of the downtown core and a local drop-in centre, The Nest, which provides meals and programs that address independent living skills and employment initiatives.

The Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) is a community-based program that provides funding to communities across Canada for projects that prevent and reduce homelessness. The HPS emphasizes longer-term supportive and transitional housing by focusing on a housing-first approach to help people make the transition out of the cycle of homelessness.

The amendment to the Canada-Saskatchewan Affordable Housing Program Agreement brought federal housing support of \$74 million to the province. The Government of Saskatchewan will match that commitment for a total of \$148 million to assist those in housing need and, in collaboration with other levels of government and community partners, to make various types of affordable housing programs possible. In Saskatchewan, federal-provincial housing programs are delivered through the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation.

**REGIONS: W.R.2**

**17. Title:** SGI REWARDS ILE A LA CROSSE DRIVERS

**Ministry:** SGI (June Draude, Minister Responsible)

**Date:** February 25, 2010.

**Web Link:** <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=c20d88ca-e22b-4fb5-bb4a-a1a5d42b0c03>

**Contact:** Tony Playter, Saskatchewan Government Insurance, Regina, Phone: 306-751-1837, Email: [tplayter@sgi.sk.ca](mailto:tplayter@sgi.sk.ca)

**Synopsis:** SGI is rewarding Dylan Gauthier and Robert Gardiner for practising their driving skills.

During driver education sessions all learner drivers are asked to record their in-car hours in a practice log. SGI recommends that a learner driver log a minimum of 36 hours under different driving conditions over their nine-month learning period.

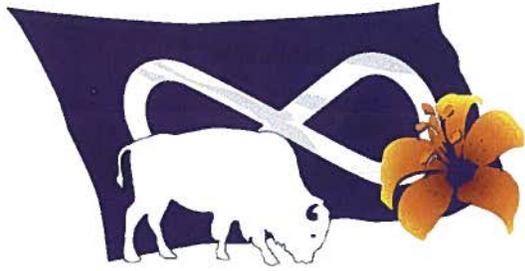
The information recorded in the practice log will help learner drivers focus on the skills they need to improve before visiting the driver examiner for their road test.

SGI randomly chose 10 winners from all the completed practice logs submitted during the year. Each winner will receive a \$250 gas card.

To be eligible for the 2010 reward program, learner drivers must submit their practice log with 36 hours completed to the driver examiner at the time of their road test or mail it to SGI.

For more information on the practice log program visit [www.sgi.sk.ca](http://www.sgi.sk.ca).

**REGIONS: N.R.3**



# Metis Nation Saskatchewan

**The PMC Bi-Weekly Mail-Out March 15<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010.**

**1. Title: Native gangs spreading across Canada.**

**Ministry:**

**Date: Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**Web Link:** <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/saskatchewan/story/2010/03/16/mb-native-gangs-manitoba.html#ixzz0iNlf0Ht7>

**Contact: CBC News**

**Synopsis:** Aboriginal gangs are proliferating across Canada as criminal organizations exploit the intense poverty and squalid conditions of First Nations communities, says a top officer with the RCMP's aboriginal police division. The gangs' stock-in-trade includes drug distribution, prostitution and theft, and they're only growing more sophisticated, said the RCMP.

"The gangs are brought on by poverty," said RCMP Sgt. Merle Carpenter, who holds the aboriginal gangs file with the National Aboriginal Policing Services.

"They intimidate by violence and these aboriginal youth are just wanting to belong to somebody."

'They are certainly increasing in numbers and becoming more sophisticated in how they do business.' RCMP Sgt. Merle Carpenter. While Winnipeg, with its large aboriginal population, is still the epicenter for native gangs, outfits like the Indian Posse, the Manitoba Warriors and the Native Syndicate have spread from coast to coast and into the Far North. The gangs are growing through the country's network of jails and prisons, which act as hotbeds for recruiting and teaching inmates the tricks of the trade. Inmates that are not members of a gang when they enter jail often are by the time they're released, say police officials in Manitoba. Many prisoners simply cannot survive incarceration without the protection of a gang. Gang violence is at 'epidemic levels'

Last week, an aboriginal policy conference in Ottawa heard that aboriginal youth membership in gangs could double in the next 10 years. Observers say the explosive growth can't be combated unless the federal government steps up and addresses the woeful conditions underlying the startling trend.

**ALL REGIONS**

**2. Title: Ottawa urged to end Indian Band Council's post – secondary funding.**

**Ministry: Indian and Northern Affairs (Minister Chuck Strahl)**

**Date: March 16, 2010.**

**Web Link:** <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ottawa-urged-to-end-indian-band-councils-post-secondary-funding/article1501658/>

**Contact: Globe and Mail**

**Synopsis:** Indian and Northern Affairs, in a statement, said it "welcomes" the report, and would include it with other input the department has been gathering over the past two years as it prepares to announce a new plan for Indian and Inuit post-secondary education funding. Calvin Helin, a first-nation entrepreneur and co-author of the report, states Chiefs and councils decide who deserves funding and much of the money doesn't get spent on students at all. "Education is far too important to be politicized in this way," Mr. Helin maintains.

Registered Indians who finish high school, whether they live on or off reserve, are eligible for grants to attend a vocational school, college or university. Ottawa spends \$314-million annually on those grants. But no one has a clue about how much actually benefits students. Ottawa simply gives the money to band councils, who disburse it as they see fit. Any money left over goes into the general budget. The authors of the report consider this outrageous..

A new think tank wants Indian band councils stripped of their power to give out post-secondary education grants. Instead, it says, Ottawa should create accounts for each Indian child at birth that would be used later for tuition and living expenses. The proposal from the Macdonald-Laurier Institute arrives as the Conservative government prepares to unveil a new plan to finance native and Inuit post-secondary education.

**ALL REGIONS**

**3. Title: It's wrong to exonerate Riel.**

**Ministry:**

**Date: March 8, 2010**

**Contact: Gerald Morin**

**Web Link:**

<http://www.thestarphoenix.com/opinion/op-ed/wrong+exonerate+Riel/2653609/story.html>

**Synopsis:** The exoneration of Métis leader -- and our hero -- Louis Riel, although well intentioned, is misguided.

As usual no attempt has been made to inquire about the views of Métis people and leaders on this subject. It's as if there is no value in our opinions and views on the subject.

The debate on Riel "rages on" in Canada without anyone mentioning how we feel about the issue. Obviously, racism and paternalism against Métis people in Canada continue today in the attitudes and actions of mainstream society.

If anyone had bothered to look into it, they would know that successive Métis leaders and Métis people in general do not agree that Louis Riel should be exonerated. What has been done in the past cannot be undone.

Initiatives such as ending the entrenched and historic discrimination against the Métis Nation, particularly by the federal government, and negotiating self-government and land claim agreements with the Métis Nation.

The Métis today are still shut out of the existing land claim processes and, in spite of the government's policy of recognizing the inherent right of self-government for the Métis, we are still excluded from negotiations and self-government.

Métis are still a landless people living in poverty. Of the \$6 billion a year plus that the federal government earmarks to aboriginal people, the Métis receive a mere pittance to address pressing and urgent socio-economic issues in our communities. Our people suffer from the same socioeconomic circumstances of other aboriginal people, yet we receive little or no support to address these burning issues in our communities.

Our people are ignored and are still suffering. Symbolic gestures do nothing to change the situation in our communities. If the good will towards the Métis could be converted into real and concrete actions on the Métis agenda, Riel's sacrifice would not be not in vain.

This is more important to the Métis than symbolic gestures of good will. If we could exchange the failed Riel bills tabled in the House of Commons over the last 25 years into \$1 billion each, we would certainly have enough money to turn things around in our communities and then some.

#### **ALL REGIONS**

**4. Title: Ottawa pledges \$3 million for struggling First Nations University.**

**Ministry: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (Minister Chuck Strahl)**

**Date: March 31, 2010**

**Web Link: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ottawa-notebook/ottawa-pledges-3-million-for-struggling-first-nations-university/article1518435/>**

**Contact:**

**Synopsis:** Students at the country's only aboriginal-run university will be able to complete their school year with a \$3-million pledge from the Harper government. After that, however, it is not clear that Ottawa will continue its funding of the university.

"We are determined to help them finish their academic year," Indian Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl said this morning.

The federal money stops at the end of the academic year on August 31.

What Mr. Strahl did today was to restore the same amount of funding the federal government had given the school last year on a month-by-month basis until the end of August.

Last week, FNU, which is based in Saskatchewan, was in a perilous situation; its money was about to run out. But an agreement was reached between the province and the school that restored \$5.2-million in funding. Then pressure was put on the federal government to help.

According to reports, the school has suffered for years from allegations of financial mismanagement. Under the agreement with the province, the University of Regina will oversee the school's finances for the next three years.

Both the provincial and federal governments had earlier this year halted their annual funding of \$12-million after reports of questionable spending practices. In his remarks today, Mr. Strahl noted that the university had to show some progress and improvements.

"What's not clear to us," said Mr. Strahl, "and is not completely evident is whether all of the planned reforms that are being talked about are going to happen or whether it's doable."

He said he has heard promise before.

"We've been promised that big reforms are coming, that new financial arrangements are going to be in place, new checks and balances.

"That is to be hoped for," he said.

**ALL REGIONS**



*Métis Nation*  
Saskatchewan

## The MNS Bi-Weekly Mail-Out

**1. Title: SaskPower contractor destroys teepee rings at sacred site near Willow Bunch**

**Ministry: Environment (Minister Nancy Heppner)**

**Date: March 25, 2010**

**Web Link:**

**<http://www.leaderpost.com/life/SaskPower+contractor+destroys+teepee+rings+sacred+site+near+Willow+Bunch/2717897/story.html>**

**Contact: Regina Leader- Pamela Roth**

**Synopsis:** Randy Gaudry's heart sank when he saw the destruction caused by a contractor from SaskPower to a sacred aboriginal site near the small community of Willow Bunch. The Métis leader noticed last week that poles had been erected on the site where at least 300 teepee rings are found, along with Indian graves, so he went to have a closer look.

According to Gaudry, the machinery ran over teepee rings, crushed rocks and left behind a trail of ruts in the ground. His guess is about seven rings have been destroyed, but for him, the destruction runs much deeper.

In early March, SaskPower hired a contractor to construct a high-voltage transmission line from the Poplar River Power Station near Coronach to a switching station near Moose Jaw.

With part of the ground obscured by snow, James Parker, spokesman for SaskPower, said the contractor left the right of way to gain access to the construction site and inadvertently drove through one of the teepee rings, damaging it slightly.

Prior to construction, Parker said SaskPower was aware there were a number of environmentally and archeologically sensitive areas, so a route was designed with the Heritage Resources Branch that would create as little disturbance as possible.

Parker said SaskPower has already begun damage control, and has contacted nearby reserves, along with the Heritage Resources Branch, to consult on the mitigation of the damage and begin reclamation.

Gaudry added the site is one of few like this left in southern Saskatchewan. It was used as a stopping point by travelers headed from Cypress Hills to Fort Qu'Appelle until about 1910.

**2. Title: Education pays off for Canada's aboriginal women: Study.**

**Ministry: Education (Minister Ken Krawetz)**

**Date: April 8, 2010**

**Web Link:**

**<http://www.canada.com/business/Education+pays+Canada+aboriginal+women+study/2775564/story.html>**

**Contact: Norma Greenaway Canwest News Service**

**Synopsis:** OTTAWA — A university degree is proving to be the ticket for aboriginal women in Canada to earn higher incomes than their non-aboriginal counterparts with equivalent education, says a groundbreaking report that's expected to be released Thursday.

The study says an analysis of 2006 census information uncovers the "truly remarkable fact" that income inequity between aboriginals and non-aboriginals is entirely eliminated for women with university degrees.

The report, sponsored by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, said aboriginal women with a bachelor's degree earned \$2,471 more in 2006 than their non-aboriginal counterparts, a spread that grew to \$4,521 for aboriginal women with a master's degree.

In 2006, aboriginals earned only 70 cents for every dollar earned by non-aboriginals, up from 56 cents in 1996, according to the study.

They found the median annual income of Aboriginal Peoples was \$18,962 in 2006, or 30 per cent less than the \$27,097 earned by non-aboriginals.

They also found the "stubbornly high" median income gap persists no matter where aboriginals live. It was \$7,083 in urban settings in 2006 and \$4,492 in rural areas

The authors say the study is the first to quantify the aboriginal income gap in Canada, and that it adds to a growing collection of studies calling for a dramatic shift in economic-development policies pursued by the federal government.

While higher education is part of the answer, they said, it is not a "silver bullet" for erasing the aboriginal income gap. A more comprehensive approach is required, one that replaces the policy of assimilation with consultation and reconciliation, they argued.

Among the report's other findings:

- Only one per cent of aboriginal women have graduate degrees, versus five per cent of non-aboriginal women;

- Aboriginal women are finishing high school and obtaining university degrees at a higher rate than aboriginal men;

- Those without high school diplomas make up 32 per cent of the aboriginal population, compared with a rate of 15 per cent in the rest of the population;

- Eight per cent of aboriginals have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with 22 per cent of non-aboriginals;

- Aboriginal women are earning median incomes closer to those of aboriginal men; and

- For those with an apprenticeship, trades certificate or diploma, the annual income gap in favour of non-aboriginals over aboriginals is \$4,692.

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**ALL REGIONS**

**3. Title: Sask Government reinstates portion of Dutch elm disease program funding**

**Ministry: Environment**

**Date: April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**Contact: Angela Hall – Regina Leader Post**

**Web Link:**

**<http://www.leaderpost.com/technology/Sask+government+reinstates+portion+Dutch+disease+program+funding/2875876/story.html>**

**Synopsis:** REGINA — The Saskatchewan Party government has backtracked on a decision to cut a provincial Dutch elm disease program and reinstated a portion of the funding to monitor stands of trees outside of cities.

Environment Minister Nancy Heppner said that in the wake of the March 24 provincial budget — which axed \$500,000 used to help combat Dutch elm disease — the government realized buffer zones in rural areas around communities such as Regina would no longer be monitored. Heppner said the ministry has since found about \$100,000 within its existing budget to continue the rural surveillance.

However, the province will no longer foot the bill for removing trees that are identified as having the disease, Heppner said.

There isn't anything to compel rural municipalities to remove the trees, but Heppner said she expects they will act in good faith to stop the spread of the disease. The minister couldn't say whether diseased trees identified on shelterbelts that are on private property would be the responsibility of the rural landowner or the municipality.

About 300 trees were removed from buffer zones last year, and about 400 were taken down the year before that, Heppner said.

The NDP Opposition argued during question period that the full program should be reinstated, saying it was an effective use of funds.

Regina and Saskatoon are each losing about \$22,000 that went toward their Dutch elm disease monitoring and surveillance programs. A City of Regina official has said the city can continue its work without the provincial funding, but had expressed concern that neighbouring areas, such as Sherwood Forest, Qu'Appelle Valley and farm shelter belts, would be impacted by the province's cutback.

Dutch elm disease is a fungus spread by elm bark beetles, which kills trees.

**WR1, WR2, WR1A, ER2, ER2A, WR2A, ER3, WR3**

**4. Title: Northern youth suicide prevention project receives funds**

**Ministry: Health**

**Date: April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**Web Link: <http://www.paherald.sk.ca/News/Local/2010-04-09/article-997036/Northern-youth-suicide-prevention-project-receives-funds/1>**

**Contact: Angela Hill- Prince Albert Daily Herald**

**Synopsis:**

Saskatchewan plans to hire health promotion co-ordinators with funding from the federal government.

This comes after \$300,000 was given from Health Canada's Aboriginal Health Transition Fund to a joint youth suicide prevention project between the Ministry of Health and the Métis Nation was announced Wednesday.

The three health promotion co-ordinators will be charged with identifying the extent of suicide risk among Métis youth, creating partnerships and finding best practices that will be implemented in programs.

While the statistical data is going to be Métis-based, the results will help all northerners, said LeClair-Harding.

Along with administering the funds from the government of Canada, the provincial Ministry of Health will encourage MNS to work with Northern Health Strategy and northern regional health authorities, Willerth said.

The Northern Health Strategy facilitates partnerships with government, northern groups, families, young people and individuals, said the strategy's co-ordinator, Nap Gardiner

The funding will cover the first year of the project, but LeClair-Harding said she hopes it continues with additional funds to implement programs designed from the research.

Warren McCall, the NDP critic for First Nations and Métis Relations in Saskatchewan, calls the project a good first step.

While the program is to be piloted in the north, LeClair-Harding said she hopes it will eventually spread across the province.

**WR2, WR1, ER1, NR1, NR2, NR2A**

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# Métis Nation Saskatchewan

**The MNS Mail-Out April 15<sup>th</sup> – May 15<sup>th</sup>**

**1. Title: Funding of \$4.3 Million for Child and Family Services**

**Ministry: Social Services**

**Date: May 12, 2010**

**Web Link:**

**Contact: Trish Alcorn, Ministry of Social Services 306-787-0916 [trish.alcorn@gov.sk.ca](mailto:trish.alcorn@gov.sk.ca)**

**Synopsis:**

The ministry of Social Services is continuing its funding agreement with nearly 20 community-based organizations (CBO) and 4 northern villages that provide services to vulnerable women, children, families and other Saskatchewan people in need. The agreements will provide these CBOs and villages with up to \$4.3 million in 2010-11.

“The continuation of these partnerships will help provide much-needed child and family services in communities across Saskatchewan,” Social Services Minister Donna Harpauer said. “Funding agreements with many other CBOs have also been continued over the past few weeks, as part of our government’s commitment to ensure that an array of human services are available to all Saskatchewan people in need.”

“Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI) is pleased to be one of the many CBOs which is continuing its partnership with the provincial government in 2010-11” CUMFI President Shirley Isbister said. “Over the past 17 years, CUMFI has become a leader in Métis program and service delivery in Saskatoon, developing partnerships and alliances which help address the social and economic challenges faced by our people.”

Following input received at 2008 CBO summits; many of the province’s human-services CBOs now operate with the security of multi-year funding agreements.

CBO allocation in 2010-11 reflect the one per cent funding increase to Saskatchewan CBOs, announced as part of this year’s provincial budget. This brings the overall increase provided to CBOs for salary and operating costs to 13.3 per cent compounded over three fiscal years.

**ALL REGIONS**

**2. Title: Federal Government contributes \$5 million to Clarence Campeau Development Fund to establish Métis Energy and Resource Fund**

**Ministry: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada**

**Date: April 22, 2010**

**Web Link: <http://www.canada.com/business/story.html?id=2939526>**

**Contact: The Regina Leader-Post**

**Synopsis:**

A new program aimed at increasing the participation of Saskatchewan Métis businesses in the resource and energy sectors was announced in Ottawa this week.

The federal government has contributed \$5 million to the Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF), which added \$1 million from its own capital, to establish the new Métis Energy and Resource Program.

The Métis Energy and Resource Program will be a self-sustaining program managed by CCDF. The program will have two components: an equity contribution program, providing support to independent Métis entrepreneurs, and a community infrastructure program to create and build Métis-owned businesses.

Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl said the investment demonstrates the government's "ongoing commitment to the long-term, sustainable economic development of Métis people and businesses.

As a result of this new program, Métis people and businesses will be better able to take advantage of the emerging opportunities in Saskatchewan's energy- and resource-rich economy," said Roland Duplessis, CEO of CCDF.

CCDF was established in 1997 through an agreement between the provincial government and the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan to provide funding for business development, community economic development, management skills development, and other assistance to new and existing Métis-owned businesses.

**ALL REGIONS**

**3. Title: *The Northwest Resistance Remember***

**Ministry:**

**Date: May 13, 2010**

**Contact: Jason Warick, Saskatchewan News Network (Taken from the Regina Leader Post)**

**Web Link:**

**<http://www.leaderpost.com/news/Northwest+Resistance+Remembered/3021682/story.html>**

**Synopsis:**

SASKATOON — It was 1885, and history was being made on the plains of what would one day become Saskatchewan.

Louis Riel, one of Canada's most controversial historical figures, led what's traditionally been called the Northwest Rebellion. This year marks the 125th anniversary of those pivotal events.

\* \* \*

Jackie Gaudet walks across the field once farmed by her great, great grandparents, Margeurite and Jean Caron, as she discusses their central role in the Northwest Resistance 125 years ago.

Gaudet, a 42-year-old Metis mother of three who lives in the Batoche area 70 kilometres northeast of Saskatoon, is hopeful the events taking place across Saskatchewan this year will serve as a "turning point" for relations among First Nations, Metis and the province's more recent arrivals.

"What does the 125th anniversary mean to me?" she said. "It means freedom -- freedom from the negative feelings I've had for years."

In May of 1885, Canadian government forces, led by Major General Frederick Middleton, arrived in the Batoche area to confront Louis Riel and his supporters. Middleton sought an open, elevated section of land to establish a base.

The Caron homestead, located just outside the village of Batoche on river lot No. 52, was commandeered. The Caron house was levelled and their livestock butchered to feed the 900 government soldiers. The Carons and their children fled behind Metis lines.

"Our family lost everything," said Gaudet.

Caron and his three eldest sons fought in the Battle of Batoche, a bloody, desperate and eventually losing attempt to assert Metis rights in the area.

"It is our region's Plains of Abraham," said Darren Prefontaine of the Saskatoon--based Gabriel Dumont Institute, referring to the famous 1759 British victory over the French near Quebec City.

While the Battle of Batoche remains a key event of 1885, there's much more to the story. It was a year of child starvation, guerilla warfare and the largest mass execution in Canadian history -- all on the soil of

present-day Saskatchewan. From Duck Lake to Battleford to Cut Knife Hill, 1885 shaped the Canadian prairies.

"It is a painful story to tell," said Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall. "but it must be told."

\* \* \*

Until recent years, the 1885 narrative seemed straight-forward. A rebellion led by Louis Riel and abetted by chiefs such as Poundmaker was defeated by the government forces of Major General Middleton. The story was written by the victors. Metis and First Nations voices were largely absent.

Today, for many reasons, a more nuanced view is possible. New perspectives have been revealed as aboriginal leaders, academics and the descendants of the combatants, assert their versions.

For example, the events of 1885 were traditionally described as a rebellion. That term has rapidly been overtaken by the word "resistance."

"The change has come from a re-evaluation of history," said Darren Prefontaine, the curriculum development officer for the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

"Canadian history is maturing."

The Canadian government webpage of the Batoche national historic site now includes both terms -- rebellion and resistance. Premier Wall said last month the Saskatchewan government uses the words interchangeably, but that he prefers "resistance." A plaque on the Gabriel Dumont statue in downtown Saskatoon describes the "resistance."

"We were not rebels," said Jackie Gaudet.

Also, the events of 1885 -- while momentous -- were erroneously depicted as a unified, mass uprising of Metis and First Nations people. In reality, the issues raised and battles fought by First Nations at Cut Knife Hill and other locations were largely separate from those of the Metis.

And the decision to fight was far from unanimous. Even at Batoche, only 200 Metis and a few dozen First Nations people with family ties agreed to fight with Riel. The majority of First Nations, as well as Metis in other parts of the region, declined.

\* \* \*

The armed conflicts of 1885 were years in the making.

In 1870, Riel successfully pressured the federal government to recognize Metis claims in the Red River region, leading to the creation of the province of Manitoba. However, with the arrival of hundreds of Canadian government troops and European settlers, aspirations for a true Metis homeland would not be realized.

Many of these "Red River" Metis moved west and in 1872 established a settlement on the bank of the South Saskatchewan River. It was named Batoche, after prominent resident Xavier Letendre dit Batoche.

Riel was forced into exile in the U.S. During Riel's time in Red River, he'd overseen the execution of a prominent opponent in Manitoba, Irish-Canadian Thomas Scott. Riel also had two stays in asylums.

Around this time tens of millions of buffalo had been wiped from the prairie landscape, eliminating the main source of food for First Nations and many Metis.

First Nations chiefs entered into treaties with the Crown. But by the early 1880s, the chiefs saw the federal government had no intention of honouring the terms. Federal Indian agents acting under government orders decreased the promised food rations to reserves, resulting in mass hunger and starvation. Discontent threatened to erupt in violence across the region.

In 1884, in present-day southeast Saskatchewan near the town of Grenfell, 30 armed warriors from the Sakimay band, led by chief Yellow Calf, occupied a federal warehouse in an attempt to secure food. Violence was averted after extensive negotiation by Chief Louis O'Soup. In the Battleford region, chiefs petitioned federal officials at the decrease in food rations and the failure of the government to provide the promised medicine, agricultural tools and other items.

\* \* \*

The Batoche Metis were angry. Upon arriving from Manitoba, they established farms along the South Saskatchewan using the Quebec-style river-lot system. Long, narrow plots ensured riverbank access. However, Metis attempts to obtain land titles proved unsuccessful. Federal workers soon arrived and began surveying according to the English-Canadian square township system. The Metis feared loss of their land.

White farmers in the area were angry at the lack of assistance from the federal government and the decision to build the trans-continental railroad several hundred kilometres south of them.

When peaceful protests and petitions accomplished nothing, a council of Metis and disgruntled European farmers decided it needed Riel's help. In 1884, Gabriel Dumont and three other men travelled to Montana. They convinced Riel, now a father of two and a U.S. citizen, to come to Batoche.

At first, Riel enjoyed broad support as he petitioned the federal government on behalf of area residents. The federal government of John A. Macdonald appointed a commission to study the issue, but declined to make immediate decisions.

On March 19, the Batoche Metis established a provisional government, with Riel as the political leader and Dumont its military head. Riel lost most of his European allies as he took several hostages and began preparing for war.

\* \* \*

The first confrontation occurred one week later -- on March 26 -- in a field near Duck Lake. A Dumont and Riel-led party clashed with dozens of North West Mounted Police and volunteers. An apparent misunderstanding led to the first shot fired by "Gentleman" Joe McKay, a railroad engineer working as an interpreter for the North West Mounted Police, said amateur historian and area native Dennis Fisher. The dead included 12 police and volunteers, five Metis and one First Nations man.

In the Battlefords region, First Nations people faced rampant starvation and disease. On March 30, Chief Poundmaker led a delegation to Battleford to ask for assistance. To his surprise, the town was deserted. Hundreds of residents had heard about the Duck Lake battle, as well as the murder of another white man, and feared a general uprising. They sought refuge in nearby Fort Battleford. Poundmaker requested a meeting with federal officials, but none came out for several days. In the interim, some in the party raided Battleford homes, stealing food and other items. Negotiators eventually emerged and after discussions Poundmaker and his men returned to their reserve several kilometres to the west. Although no one was injured and no fighting occurred, it earned the historic designation of the "Siege of Battleford."

Not all First Nations people were content to negotiate. On April 2, just across the present day border of Saskatchewan and Alberta, nine people, including an Indian agent and two priests, were murdered in the Frog Lake massacre. Chief Big Bear apparently tried in vain to stop his starving band members, but was later jailed for treason.

Tensions rose across Canada as word of the killings spread. But even before the incidents at Frog Lake and even Duck Lake, Middleton and his troops had begun the trek from Ontario out west.

\* \* \*

On April 6, Middleton and his 900-strong force got off the train at Qu'Appelle and began the 300-kilometre march north to confront Riel. There were hundreds of other soldiers as well, but Middleton was forced to send them further down the rail line to Swift Current and Calgary, where they walked north to quell what they feared to be a full-scale war with Big Bear, Poundmaker and others.

From Qu'Appelle, Middleton and his men covered more than 30 kilometres a day, arriving at Clark's Crossing 50 kilometres south of Batoche.

After several days of rest and planning, Middleton began what he likely believed would be an uneventful advance on Batoche, positioning half of his forces on each side of the river. One of the scouts for Middleton was Jerome Henry, recalled Henry's great-grandson Bob McLeod.

But Henry, who McLeod described as a light-skinned Metis, was working as a double agent. Henry secretly spied for Dumont. He drew maps of Middleton's camp at Clark's Crossing and Middleton's expected marching route and had it smuggled back behind Metis lines, said McLeod, a Saskatoon man who serves as a director for the Metis Nation-Saskatchewan.

On the morning of April 24, Middleton and his troops marched along a trail 20 kilometres south of Batoche at Tourond's Coulee, also known as Fish Creek. As the government troops approached, they were ambushed by Dumont's men, who opened fire from the cover of brush and deep ravines.

Henry "led Middleton right into Fish Creek," McLeod said.

The Metis inflicted heavy damage before both sides retreated later that day. The other half of Middleton's force remained helpless on the river's west bank, getting across on a makeshift ferry only after fighting ceased. At least six government soldiers were killed and dozens wounded, while four Metis died.

Henry fled Middleton's camp around this time. He took refuge behind Metis lines, joining his father, Joseph Vermette. Both father and son were wounded in the Fish Creek battle. While Henry survived, his father died of his injuries several days later, said McLeod.

The Metis dug rifle pits and trenches around the town of Batoche, preparing for Middleton's inevitable assault.

\* \* \*

Middleton waited more than two weeks before moving on Batoche. In the interim, on May 2 just west of Battleford, Lieutenant-Colonel William Otter attacked members of Poundmaker's band at Cut Knife Hill.

The band's leader in time of war, Chief Fine Day, routed Otter, who retreated. According to various accounts, Poundmaker stopped the warriors from pursuing the fleeing troops, averting further bloodshed.

Six band members were killed, compared with eight of Otter's men.

\* \* \*

On May 9, Middleton's forces arrived at the homestead of skilled carpenter and farmer Jean Caron Sr. and his wife, Marguerite, the local midwife. Fearing the Metis would use the now-abandoned Caron home for cover, federal troops burned it down.

Middleton established his camp on their land, constructing a "zareba." The 12-acre enclosure, a combination of trenches and fortification of North African origin, sheltered the soldiers, 600 horses, 50 cattle and all the supplies.

"It must have been one crowded little camp," Batoche-area resident Ron Jobin said recently as he stood on a viewing platform. Jobin's great, great grandfather, Joseph, and brother Ambrose fought for the Metis side.

Middleton planned to attack on two fronts during the first day of fighting. One group would make a direct attack. Another would attempt to travel on the fortified steamship Northcote and attack the Metis from the side and rear. However, when the Metis saw the Northcote coming, they raced down to the river and lowered a ferry cable, decapitating the ship's smoke stacks. The boat floated helplessly downshore and out of the battle zone.

Middleton's ground force was slow to co-ordinate its assault. The Metis had time to regroup before engaging Middleton. The day ended in a stalemate, but Metis fighters harassed the government forces inside the Zareba, firing guns every 10 minutes until the following morning.

The next two days also saw heavy fighting, with neither side gaining significant advantage. According to accounts, some of the Metis fighters were in their 70s and older, while a number of Middleton's troops were as young as 15.

\* \* \*

Many of Dumont's fighters were skilled marksmen with extensive hunting backgrounds. Many of Middleton's men were volunteers or part-time militia members with limited training.

However, Middleton had an overwhelming advantage of numbers. His force outnumbered the Metis by a ratio of more than three to one. He also had superior firepower and loads of ammunition.

Middleton also had A.L. (Gat) Howard on his side. Howard was an American soldier-of-fortune and arms dealer. Howard's ancestry in North America can be traced to 1620, when his relatives arrived with other English separatists by sea on the Mayflower, according to Howard's great, great granddaughter Gina Sammis.

Sammis, who lives in California, said Howard got his first taste of battle as an underage recruit in the U.S. Civil War.

He then spent five years in the U.S. Cavalry's "Indian wars." A machinist by trade, Howard manufactured shells and other munitions, owning several businesses.

In 1885, he offered his services to the Canadian government in the hopes of marketing the now-famous Gatling gun. Howard was part-owner of the company manufacturing the guns -- the world's first automatic weapon capable of firing many bullets a second.

He traveled with Middleton to Batoche and fired on the Metis forces throughout the Battle of Batoche.

"He was a pretty tough guy," Sammis said. "He was fighting wars all over the world, marketing the Gatling gun. He probably enjoyed being a soldier."

Howard survived Batoche unharmed. He was killed after enlisting to fight for Canada in South Africa's Boer War in 1901.

"He was fearless," Sammis said.

\* \* \*

By the fourth day of fighting, the Metis had nearly exhausted their ammunition. Howard was to play a key role. Middleton and some of his men were supposed to flush the Metis from their rifle pits and into an open area where the Gatling gun was positioned to open fire. When the rest of the federal government forces heard the shots, they were supposed to attack from another side.

However, the wind was strong and the second group couldn't hear the shots. Their attack did not come at the time Middleton had ordered. Middleton, apparently furious, went back to the Zareba for lunch.

However, the Metis had indeed been drawn out into another area, and the second group easily charged them. By this time, Ambrose Jobin and the other remaining Metis fighters were shooting nails, stones, forks -- anything they could desperately find.

"You've got to be proud of them," said Ron Jobin. "They had something to do and they did it."

Joseph Jobin and others escaped, including Riel and Dumont. Ambrose Jobin was wounded on the battlefield. Ron Jobin said some of the Metis were bayoneted by government troops in the final moments of battle. He thinks his great, great uncle may have been spared because he spoke English. Ambrose Jobin was taken to the Marr residence in Saskatoon, where he was one of only two Metis patients in the makeshift field hospital filled with government troops. He died of an infection before the end of the month.

He was one of eight resistance fighters killed. About 22 were injured. More than double that number of government fighters died or were wounded.

The Metis resistance had been crushed. A handful of minor incidents took place involving First Nations people at places such as Frenchman's Butte and Loon Lake, but were of little consequence.

Dumont fled to the United States, working in a travelling carnival before returning to Batoche under a general amnesty.

Riel surrendered three days after the Battle of Batoche and was taken to Regina for trial. He was found guilty of treason.

Macdonald rejected appeals for mercy and Riel was executed Nov. 16, just days after Prime Minister John A. Macdonald's national dream -- the transcontinental railroad -- was completed.

On Nov. 27, the six Cree convicted in the Frog Lake Massacre, as well as two First Nations men convicted of an earlier murder, were hung at Fort Battleford. It is the largest mass execution in Canadian history.

Poundmaker and Big Bear also turned themselves in and were jailed.

"If you were aboriginal, you had to be put in your place -- that's what 1885 was all about," said Darren Prefontaine of the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

For 90 per cent of the Metis who had property destroyed or confiscated during the battle, such as the Caron family, no compensation was granted, said Gaudet. Many left the Batoche area, attempting to make yet a fresh start in Alberta and other locations.

For other Metis who did not participate, such as those in other regions, the merchant class, or those with ties to the federal Conservative party -- life went on as before, Prefontaine said.

As for First Nations people, they faced continued deprivations and harsh rule, such as the pass system which forced them to obtain permission from the Indian agent to leave the reserve.

With the west pacified and the railroad complete, European settlers streamed into the region which became the province of Saskatchewan in 1905.

\* \* \*

For years, the Batoche battlefield and surrounding areas were treated as any other farmland. Dennis Fisher, who lives in Saskatoon, has spent hours combing through the dirt and dust and brush. He has amassed more than 1,000 artifacts from the area, including Gatling gun shells, a nine-pound cannon projectile, jacket buttons, wrappers from some of the government's 267 pounds of tobacco and even pieces of doorknobs from both Gabriel Dumont's and Xavier Letendre dit Batoche.

Fisher's basement is a treasure chest. The retired draftsman has documented the date and precise location of every find.

"The kids don't like it so much," Fisher said with a laugh.

Today, the battlefield is part of a national historic site. The house which was rebuilt by the Caron family in 1890 and occupied by descendants until 1970, has been restored through a partnership between the Gabel Dumont Institute and the federal government.

The bodies of Ambrose Jobin and another fighter, Joseph Ouelette, were recently discovered to have been in the Batoche cemetery. Following a successful fundraising campaign, a formal ceremony takes place this weekend to mark the installation of new headstones for the men.

This summer, events are planned for Batoche, the Poundmaker Cree Nation and other location to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the resistance.

"It was a tragic period. All sides lost somebody or something," said Metis Nation-Saskatchewan president Robert Doucette.

"We can't undo the past, but we can chart a better future where we all benefit."

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Read more:

<http://www.leaderpost.com/news/Northwest+Resistance+Remembered/3021682/story.html#ixzz0oOnFs1N3>