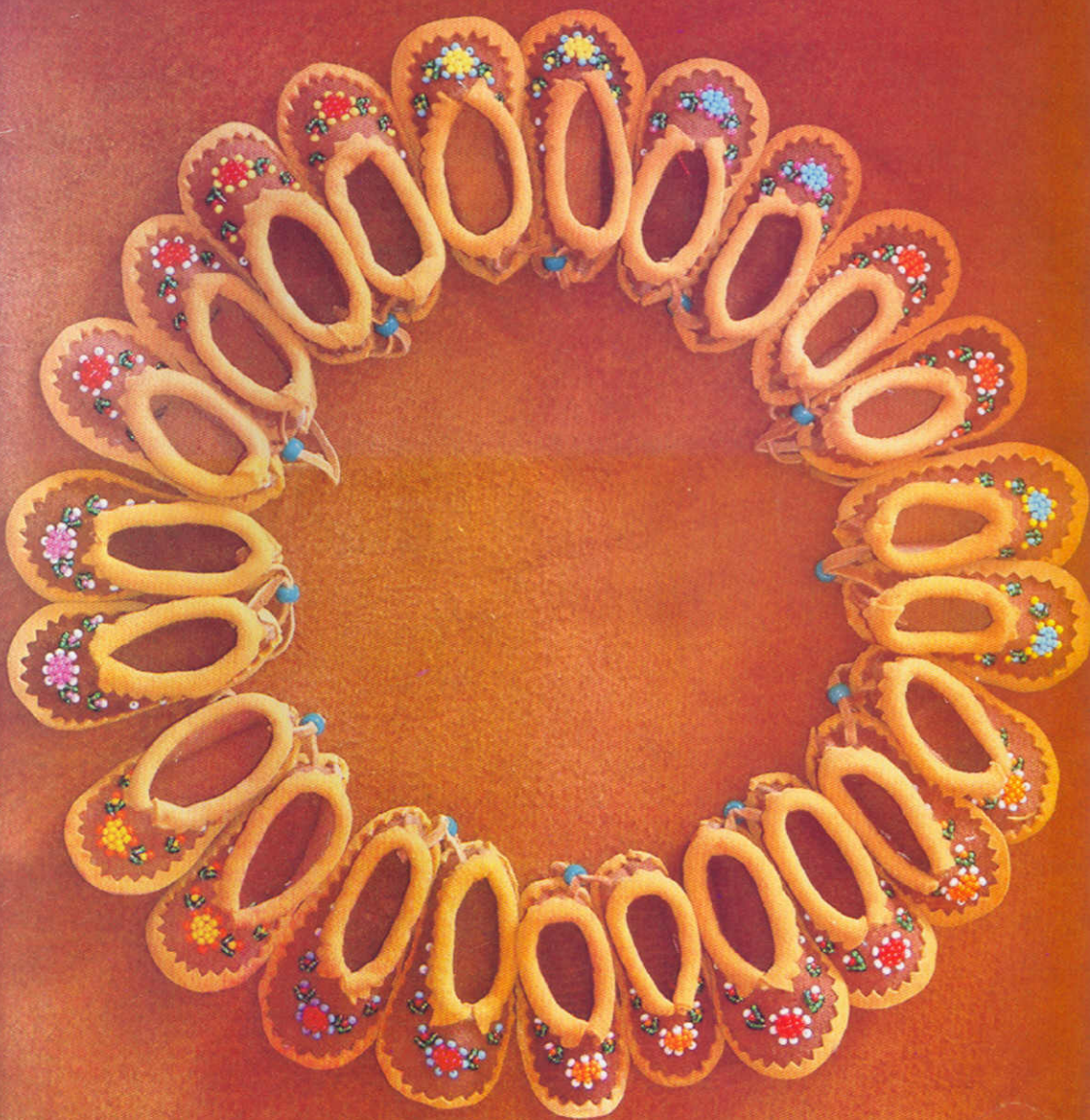


New Breed

MAGAZINE



March - April 2003
Volume 32, Issue 2

New Breed

MAGAZINE

is a Publication of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan

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NEW BREED Magazine is a published bi-monthly.

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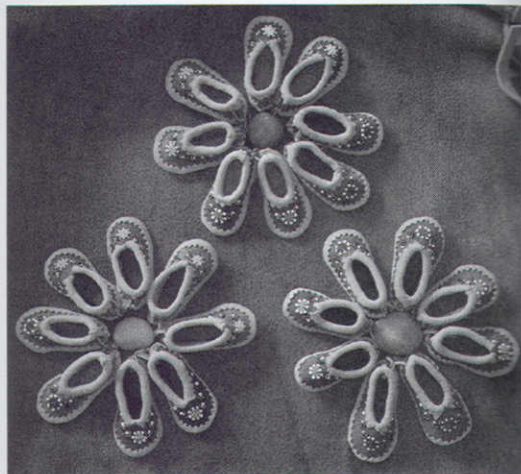
Cover Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

CANADIAN PUBLICATION
AGREEMENT NUMBER
1848917

With Thanks

New Breed Magazine would like to thank the following contributors to the March / April 2003 Issue, without whom the magazine would not have been produced:

Lori Nixon, Clem Chartier, Kelly Patrick, Kyle Vermette, Bruce Flamont, Gilbert Pelletier, Jim Durocher, Frank Tough, Pierre Chartier, Yvonne Vizina, Marc St. Germain, Jennifer Brown, Privy Council Office.



Cover Photos

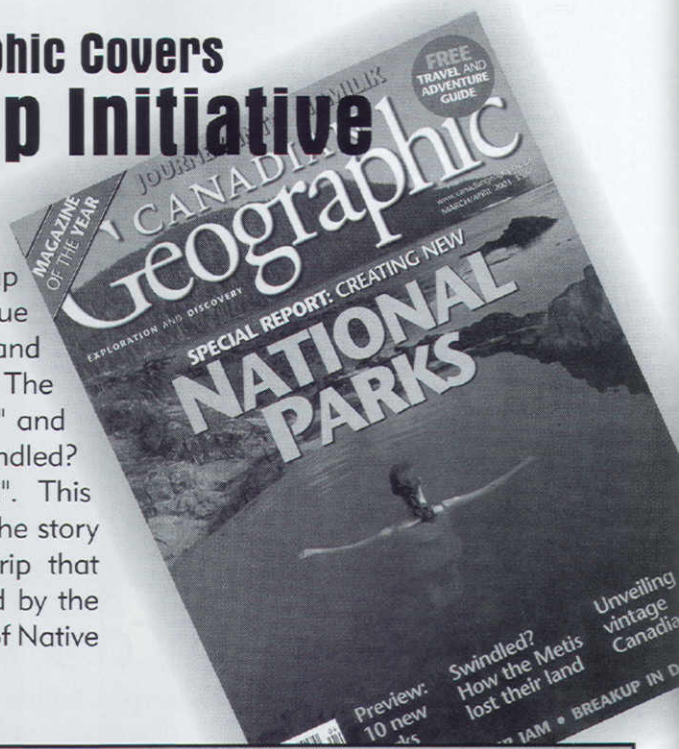
Both covers of this issue are photographs taken by Kathy Hodgson-Smith. The moccasins were made by Marie Trottier of Buffalo Narrows, Saskatchewan. The layout on the covers was done by Lori Nixon. We have enjoyed putting this together for your pleasure. These photos are from a series of photographs that will be made available for purchase as greeting cards from the photographer.



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Canadian Geographic Covers Métis Scrip Initiative



If you get a chance, pick up the March/April 2003 Issue of Canadian Geographic and find your way to Page 70. The Article is called "The X files" and tells the story of the "Swindled? How the Métis lost their land". This nine-page article discusses the story of Métis lands and the scrip that covered them as researched by the University of Alberta School of Native Studies MATRIX unit.

The Métis Rights Defense Fund

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Métis National Council Marks Twentieth Anniversary

March 8, 2003 marked the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Métis National Council (MNC). The MNC came into existence out of the need for the Métis Nation to have representation at the March 15-16, 1983 Constitutional Conference.

During the late 1970s and early 1980s, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau made renewed efforts to patriate Canada's Constitution from Great Britain. In early 1981, through the efforts of then Minister of Justice, Jean Chretien, momentum was growing within Canada to support patriation, including support from the Aboriginal peoples of Canada in exchange for the commitment to include Aboriginal and Treaty rights in the Constitution. Also key to this support was the commitment to define the Aboriginal peoples of Canada as the "Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples."

While eight of the ten Premiers continued to resist patriation, in the fall of 1981 all provinces except for Quebec agreed to bring the Constitution home to Canada. Unfortunately, to get that deal, Trudeau had to agree to drop the Aboriginal rights section, as well as the equality rights one. After protests and demonstrations across the country by Aboriginal peoples, their supporters and by women, the two dropped sections were added in November 1981. One of the previous sections which

Article by Kathy Hodgson-Smith. Photos Courtesy Clem Chartier

made it in the first round committed the Prime Minister to call a First Ministers (Prime Minister and Premiers) Conference within one year of the Constitution Act 1982 coming into force to which he was to invite the representatives of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada to participate. The Constitution Act 1982 came into force on April 17, 1982 and the Prime Minister several months later called the Constitutional Conference for March 15-16, 1983 inviting the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (ITC) and the Native Council of Canada (NCC) to participate.

During this time period, there was also a movement by Métis activists to promote Métis rights as a distinct entity. Activists such as Bruce Flamont of Saskatchewan and Elmer Ghostkeeper of Alberta,



Pierre Trudeau and Clem Chartier, 1983



Clem Chartier in the days after the formation of the MNC in Ottawa pressing for a seat at the table

along with several others from other provinces felt that the Métis should have their own Organization, a Métis-only Organization to promote and protect Métis Nationhood and rights. At this time, the Native Council of Canada (NCC) represented the Métis, as well as Non-Status Indians, and Status & Treaty Indians. The NCC was originally formed by the Métis organizations of Western Canada in 1971 but by 1981 had expanded to include representation from all provinces and territories, as well as the Native Women's Association of Canada. As a result, by 1982/83, the Board of NCC was comprised predominantly of Indian people, with the leaders of

APPENDIX 7

1983 CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD ON ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

Whereas pursuant to section 37 of the Constitution Act, 1982, a constitutional conference composed of the Prime Minister of Canada and the first ministers of the provinces was held on March 15 and 16, 1983, to which representatives of the aboriginal peoples of Canada and elected representatives of the governments of the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories were invited;

And whereas it was agreed at that conference that certain amendments to the Constitution Act, 1982 would be sought in accordance with section 38 of that Act;

And whereas that conference had included in its agenda the following matters that directly affect the aboriginal peoples of Canada:

AGENDA

1. Charter of Rights of the Aboriginal Peoples (expanded Part II) including:
 - Preamble
 - Removal of "Existing", and expansion of section 35 to include recognition of modern treaties, treaties signed outside Canada and before Confederation, and specific mention of "Aboriginal Title" including the rights of aboriginal peoples of Canada to a land and water base (including land base for the Métis)
 - Statement of the particular rights of aboriginal peoples
 - Statement of principles
 - Equality
 - Enforcement
 - Interpretation
2. Amending formula revisions, including:
 - Amendments on aboriginal matters not to be subject to provincial opting out (Section 42)
 - Consent clause
3. Self-government
4. Repeal of Section 42(1)(e) and (f)
5. Amendments to Part III, including:
 - Equalization
 - Cost-sharing
 - Service delivery

6. Ongoing process, including further first ministers conferences and the entrenchment of necessary mechanisms to implement rights

And whereas that conference was unable to complete its full consideration of all the agenda items;

And whereas it was agreed at that conference that future conferences be held at which those agenda items and other constitutional matters that directly affect the aboriginal peoples of Canada will be discussed;

NOW THEREFORE the Government of Canada and the provincial governments hereby agree as follows:

1. A constitutional conference composed of the Prime Minister of Canada and the first ministers of the provinces will be convened by the Prime Minister of Canada within one year after the completion of the constitutional conference held on March 15 and 16, 1983.
2. The conference convened under subsection (1) shall have included in its agenda those items that were not fully considered at the conference held on March 15 and 16, 1983, and the Prime Minister of Canada shall invite representatives of the aboriginal peoples of Canada to participate in the discussions on those items.
3. The Prime Minister of Canada shall invite elected representatives of the governments of the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories to participate in the discussions on any item on the agenda of the conference convened under subsection (1) that, in the opinion of the Prime Minister, directly affects the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories.
4. The Prime Minister of Canada will lay or cause to be laid before the Senate and House of Commons, and the first ministers of the provinces will lay or cause to be laid before their legislative assemblies, prior to December 31, 1983, a resolution in the form set out in the Schedule to authorize a proclamation to be issued by the Governor General under the Great Seal of Canada to amend the Constitution Act, 1982.

5. In preparation for the constitutional conferences contemplated by this Accord, meetings composed of ministers of the governments of Canada and the provinces, together with representatives of the aboriginal peoples of Canada and elected representatives of the governments of the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories, shall be convened at least annually by the government of Canada.

6. Nothing in this Accord is intended to preclude, or substitute for, any bilateral or other discussions or agreements between governments and the various aboriginal peoples and, in particular, having regard to the authority of Parliament under Class 24 of section 91 of the Constitution Act, 1867, and to the special relationship that has existed and continues to exist between the Parliament and government of Canada and the peoples referred to in that Class, this Accord is made without prejudice to any bilateral process that has been or may be established between the government of Canada and those peoples.

7. Nothing in this Accord shall be construed so as to affect the interpretation of the Constitution of Canada.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada / Affaires Indiennes et du Nord Canada
 Published under the authority of the Hon. John C. Munro, P.C., M.P., Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Ottawa, 1982.
 95-3218-000-BB-A1






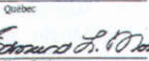


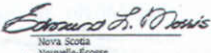
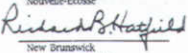



the Prairie Provinces only holding three votes out of sixteen on the Board, with the three Executive all being Indians (one Status, two Non-Status who have since become Status under Bill C-31). Of the three leaders from the Prairie Provinces, two have since acquired Bill C-31 Status, so in reality, there was only one Métis (Don McIvor of the Manitoba Métis Federation) on the NCC Board in 1982/83.

In late 1982 and early 1983 it became apparent that the NCC was not going to take a strong position of Métis rights, and that the Indian agenda of NCC was going to dominate, and in the minds of many concerned Métis, there would be no







voice for the Métis. The concern was justified. Shortly before the March 1983 FMC, the NCC agreed to an agenda that took off any reference to Métis, as well as passed a resolution negating a previous arrangement whereby the Métis within NCC would have one of the two seats of NCC at the Constitutional Conference. The two seats were now to be occupied by the President (Non-Status Indian) and the Vice-President (Status Indian), thereby totaling freezing out the Métis voice.

This prompted a series of quick activities by the Métis leadership. Mr. Don McIvor, President of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), Mr. Clem

Signed at Ottawa this 16th day of March, 1983 by the Government of Canada and the provincial governments:

 Ottawa	 Canada	 British Columbia Colombie-Britannique
 Quebec	 Prince Edward Island Île-du-Prince-Édouard	 Saskatchewan
 Nova Scotia Nouvelle-Écosse	 New Brunswick Nouveau-Brunswick	 Alberta
 Manitoba	 Newfoundland Terre-Neuve	

AND WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF:

 Assembly of First Nations Assemblée des Premières Nations	 Joint Committee on National Issues Comité mixte sur les Affaires nationales	 Métis National Council Conseil national des Métis
 Native Council of Canada Conseil des Associations du Canada	 Yukon Territory Territoire du Yukon	 Northwest Territories Territoires du Nord-Ouest



First Ministers Meeting, 1984 showing Jim Sinclair; (Late) Don McIvor, Sam Sinclair and Paddy McGuire (photo from 1983 unavailable)

Chartier, Vice-President of the Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan (AMNSIS), and Mr. Frank Tompkins, Secretary of AMNSIS joined Mr. Sam Sinclair, President of the Métis Association of Alberta (MAA) in Edmonton, Alberta for a Métis Summit to determine what action should be taken to enable a Métis voice to be heard at the March First Ministers Conference. It was agreed by the Leaders that there was no choice but to establish a Métis Organization, which would represent the Métis, and only the Métis. An Accord was struck by the representatives of the three Organizations on March 6, and subsequently ratified by their respective Boards. After driving all night to Regina, Chartier and Tompkins on March 7th presented the Accord to the AMNSIS Board where it was endorsed, and Chartier, Tompkins and Jim Durocher, AMNSIS Treasurer were selected as the delegates to represent AMNSIS the next day when they were to be joined in Regina by delegations from the MMF and MAA. In the meantime, Jim Sinclair, AMNSIS President left that day for Toronto, Ontario, where preparations were to begin seeking a court injunction to prevent the Prime Minister from convening the FMC until the Métis were invited to participate. As the Métis from the three Prairie Provinces were now withdrawing membership from NCC, NCC could no longer

legitimately claim to represent the Métis people. Therefore, the Prime Minister was no longer fulfilling his constitutional obligation as the Métis were not involved in the Conference.

On March 8, 1983 the delegates from the MMF, MAA and AMNSIS agreed to form the Métis National Council (MNC) and immediately incorporated the

Organization under Saskatchewan law. The first Council was represented by three members from each of the three Organizations, with Clem Chartier selected as the Chairman of the Council. With the successful incorporation of the MNC on March 8th, Mr. Jim Sinclair was able to take the action forward in the Superior Court of Ontario in Toronto.



Clem Chartier and Sam Sinclair, two of the three Edmonton Accord Signatories

Mere days before the March 16th FMC was to begin, the federal government agreed to an out of court settlement by which the MNC would be invited to the Conference and be provided with one seat at the table, while the other three Aboriginal Organizations and the provinces/territories would have two seats. It was also agreed that the Prime Minister would add "Métis land base" to the agenda. The new Council Leadership agreed to the out of court settlement.

At the opening of the FMC, Clem Chartier, Chairman of the MNC occupied the lone MNC seat and made the opening remarks on behalf of the Métis Nation. At the end of the Conference, Mr. Chartier also signed the 1983 Constitutional Accord on Aboriginal Rights whereby several amendments were made to the Constitution Act 1982, including a provision which ensured that the Aboriginal and Treaty rights within s.35 applied equally to Female and Male Aboriginal peoples, as well as a provision providing for three further FMCs to deal with the rights of the Aboriginal peoples. At the subsequent three constitutional conferences of 1984, 1985 and 1987 the MNC had two seats like everyone else.

The MNC has continued to represent the best interests of the Métis Nation by later expanding to represent the Métis within B.C. and Ontario; by participating in the 1992 Constitutional talks; by achieving consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in 1997; by adopting a national definition of "Métis" in September 2002; and by supporting and intervening in key Métis rights court cases, including the March 17 18, 2003 arguments in the Powley and Blais cases in the Supreme Court of Canada.



*Métis Delegates Back: (late) Dan McIvor and Jim Sinclair
Front: Clem Chartier and Fred House, 1984 FMC*

SECRETARY'S REPORT

EDMONTON ACCORD

We, the three undersigned Métis political associations agree that we will pursue a political process which will lead to the formation of a Métis National Council.

The Council will be based on a formula reflective of representation by population.

It is further agreed that each of the signatories will respect each other's respective jurisdiction within our respective boundaries and will operate on the basis of non-interference.

Each of the signatories agrees to pursue all political options to ensure the creation of a Métis National Council.

March 6, 1983

Jim Sinclair
JIM SINCLAIR, Métis Association of Alberta

Dan McIvor
DAN MCIVOR, Manitoba Métis Federation

Clem Chartier
CLEM CHARTIER, Association of Métis & Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan

Secretary's Report - Page 12

Jim Durocher:

Reflections of the Métis Nation

Article and Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

Jim Durocher was born in the spring of 1940 in Ile-a-la-Crosse, Saskatchewan. "Kayas", he remarks with a chuckle. He was one of seven children born to Hermaline Caisse and Pierre Durocher: Mary, Yvonne, Irene, Bernice, Marlene, Edwin and Jim. Edward and Aldina (nee Daigneault) Caisse were the parents of Hermaline, Jim's mother, and Celistin and Adelaide (nee Alcrow) Durocher were the parents of Pierre, Jim's father.

Jim Durocher grew up in Ile-a-la-Crosse and after high school, Jim, joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and trained for almost three years. He was stationed at St. Jean, Quebec (for boot camp) and Camp Borden and Trenton, Ontario. At Camp Borden, he trained as an aero-engine technician. "If I knew then what I know now", Durocher commented, "I would have stayed much longer in the Air Force. But I was such a young man at that time I didn't know to stay." Leaving the Air Force, Jim returned to the north where he worked as a fire patrolman for the Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources. Not too many years later, he registered and attended the Western Washington State College in Bellingham, Washington, where he studied for two years. Jim Durocher had an interest in the social sciences—anthropology, sociology, and related fields—and began his studies in these fields. After working various jobs and going to school, he ran out of money and returned to Saskatchewan once



Jim Durocher

again. Jim then registered to take private pilot training through Athabasca Air in Prince Albert where he graduated with his Private Pilots License. He went on to Saskatoon and completed his Commercial Pilots License in 1968.

But the Jim Durocher, or "Jimmy D," as he is known in the Métis community, that we know is the Métis politician and leader. Jim's first job with the Métis Nation began in 1969 under the leadership of Jim Sinclair. Jim Sinclair had visited Ile-a-la-Crosse, along with Howard Adams, and they offered Jimmy D a job finding ways to organize the north to address the

"bread and butter issues." For \$400 per month, Jimmy D began his long career with the Métis Nation. He recalls the effort to bring attention to the issues of poverty and housing in the north and the "Flour Power" campaign. They convinced the National Farmers Union to donate two truckloads of flour to northern residents and Seimens Transport donated trucks to haul it north, creating public awareness on children's hunger. "There were mixed feelings that time", Jim states, "as not everyone wanted that image in the north". But the Flour Power campaign gained the attention of the federal government and various Cabinet Ministers, including National Health and Welfare Minister John Munro; Housing Minister Bernie Danson; and most importantly Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. They sent a delegation to Ottawa to speak to these issues and Jim Durocher recalls a few of those in attendance with himself and Jim Sinclair: John Beatty (Timber Bay); Nap Johnson (Ile-a-la-Crosse); Oscar Beatty (Weyakwin); Martin Smith (Pinehouse); Nap Lafontaine (Lestock). "We asked the Prime Minister for only one thing that time", Jim stated: "To open doors for us so we could meet with

who we felt we needed to," and that is what he did. He also recalled the Housing Survey, a title coined by Nap Lafontaine as the "Winter Warmth" program of home repair and the building of old folks homes in Duck Lake, Cumberland House, Ile-a-la-Crosse and Fort Qu'Appelle. Jim Durocher recalls this as the beginning of core funding for the Métis Society of Saskatchewan, now the Métis Nation Saskatchewan.

Jim Durocher began his political career in Métis politics in 1971 when he ran successfully for Treasurer of the Métis Society and served in this capacity along with Jim Sinclair, President, Nap Lafontaine, Vice President and Rose Schneider of Fort Qu'Appelle who held the position of Secretary. "Those were powerful times," Jim recalls, recounting the events around the patriation of the Canadian Constitution and the establishment of the Métis National Council in addressing Métis issues. In the 1980s, we felt the need to leave our affiliation with the Native Council of Canada where the eastern votes outvoted the west. It caused issues in the Métis community, too, and the resistance was there by some individuals. We had to take the Prime Minister to

court for denying the Métis a seat at the Constitutional Table and just days before the talks were to begin, we were given our seat which was filled by Clem Chartier and Jim Sinclair on behalf of the Métis Nation. We formed the Métis National Council, despite eastern opposition and recognized Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba as the founding members. Northwest Ontario and northeastern British Columbia were also felt to need representation at the Métis table.

Jim Durocher was also involved in mainstream politics for many years of his life. Jimmy D has been involved in the Liberal Party running for election on two occasions, once federally and once provincially. Jim feels that the Métis have to have a voice in all levels of government and encourages Métis people to run for election in these arenas, also, and not just for the Liberals, any party. "If we are going to bring our issues to the forefront, we have to be inside the government. Look at leaders like Buckley Benger. He has the power to bring Métis issues to the table within government now. If he is not successful at this, the people will



Jim Durocher as Master of Ceremonies at Veterans Day Ceremonies at Ile a la Crosse, 2002 with Alex Maurice, Sarge McCallum and Chummy Raymond

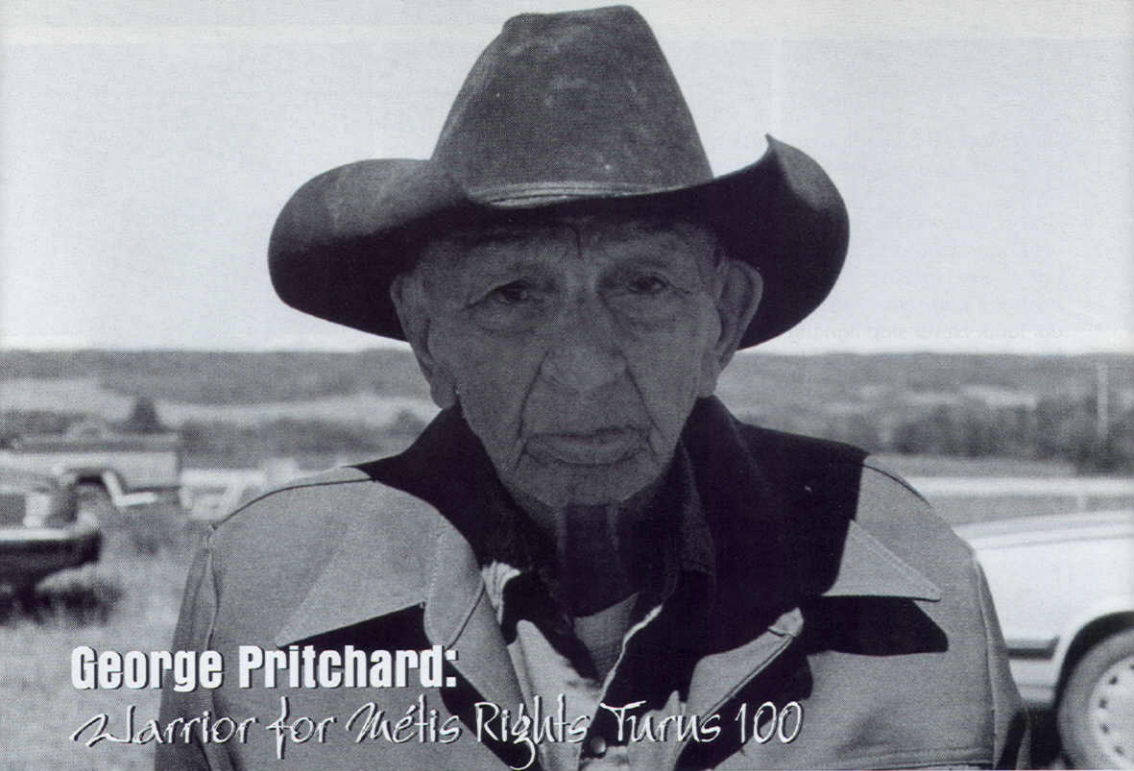
call him on this at election time. This is the power of being an elected official. But you will always answer to the people who voted you in. That's what the political system is about." Jim Durocher also urges Métis people to get behind their political leaders. "Many times our Métis leaders are taken for granted," he says. "It is tough being the leader and you always need the grassroots people behind you when you are out there fighting for change within government. Sometimes hard decisions have to be made and the leader is the one who has to make these calls. The leadership needs to know that they have the support of the people. Between elections, we need to set our differences aside, and get behind the people who are elected, that is the only way we will see positive change" Durocher says.

Although Jimmy D has left politics behind, he remains active and reflective. "We need to work

together, looking at the big picture and at the real world. Governments, I feel, purposely give us meaningless small projects to keep us fighting amongst ourselves. It is a conscious action. Programs are important, don't get me wrong, but they are not gifts from government, they are part of our rights as Métis people. They can create jealousy in the communities. We must be careful and we must maintain the big picture. We must guard against fighting over programs. We need to remain focused on three things: Métis rights; nationhood; and the establishment of a land base. This is the big picture." Jim Durocher holds the position of co-Chairperson for the Primrose Lake Air Weapons Negotiating Committee which continues the 50 year struggle for compensation for displacement from the weapons range lands for the Métis of that region.



Primrose Lake Air Weapons Range Negotiating Committee in Saskatoon, 2001



George Pritchard: *Warrior for Métis Rights Turns 100*

Article and Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

On March 1st, 2003, George Pritchard celebrated his 100th birthday at the Battleford Legion Hall, Saskatchewan, along with numerous family and friends. George comes from a healthy and famous line, his father Solomon (Sam) Pritchard, who lived to celebrate his 105th birthday, was featured on Front Page Challenge 1954 for saving three women at the Frog Lake Massacre. George Pritchard was born to Solomon and Rosalie (nee Trottier) Pritchard in 1903 at Lake Pelletier, fifteen miles north of Swift Current, Saskatchewan. Of the twenty-two children born to Solomon and Rosalie, seven children lived: George, Rosia, Adeline, Mary, Pat, Ed and Margerise.

George married Priscilla Whiteford in 1925 and brought forth fifteen children, most of whom are still living today: William (Pritchard - Late); Florence (Roy); Leona (Falcon - Late) Hilda (Falcon); Victoria (Pritchard); Henry (Pritchard Late); Bert (Pritchard - Late); Helen (Trottier); Esther (Wuttunee); Dennis (Pritchard Late); Myrtle

(Littlebear); Fern (Atchenym); Steven (Pritchard Late); Georgie (Pritchard); Ronnie (Pritchard); Darlene (Thomas); most of whom are more likely known by their nicknames. George Pritchard celebrates his 347 grandchildren and great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. Lori Church, a gifted singer and artist in her own right and one of the many descendants of George Pritchard, led the singing of Happy Birthday to her Mooshum.

In the opening remarks by the family, they recounted that George had belonged to the Métis Society for 100 years. As part of this celebration, President of the Métis Nation Saskatchewan, Clem Chartier, presented George Pritchard with the 1st President's Recognition Award for his lifelong struggle on behalf of Métis people and Métis land and harvesting rights. In the 1960's George Pritchard successfully defended his son on a court charge for hunting without a license. George continued his struggle well into the 80's meeting

with lawyers in Edmonton and Saskatoon on land research and the struggle for Métis land rights.

This was the first time I had met George Pritchard and when I approached him to wish him birthday greetings, he shook my hand and said: "Never stop fighting for our land. Never stop fighting for our rights." His weathered hand and blue eyes held my attention and his words etched themselves in my memory forever. New Breed Magazine commemorates the life and times of a Métis Warrior, Role Model and Family Man - George Pritchard.

PRESIDENT'S RECOGNITION AWARD

AWARDED TO

GEORGE PRITCHARD
ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION
TO THE
MÉTIS NATION

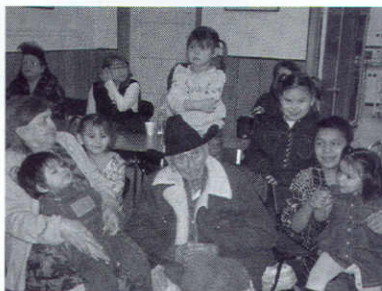


March 1, 2003

President Clément Chartier
Métis Nation - Saskatchewan



The Children of George Pritchard celebrate with him on his 100th Birthday



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- Live Entertainment
- Nightly Dances

The Métis Voyageur Games

Children's Events

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Co-Ed Ball Tournament

Batoche Theatre Company



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Youth (7-18)/Seniors	\$15. ⁰⁰
6 and under	Free

Daily Pass

Individual	\$10. ⁰⁰
Youth (7-18)/Seniors	\$8. ⁰⁰
6 and under	Free

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The Batoche 2003 Committee assumes
no responsibility for personal injuries.

For further information contact: Batoche 2003 in Saskatoon at 343-8285, Or visit our Web Site at: www.metisnation-sask.com

Michif

A Language of Our Own

Article by Bruce Flamont

A Nation, and more specifically the Métis Nation, is made up of individuals. Each individual is born with an inherent identity and language that is similar to other members of that Nation. It is the inherent responsibility of all of us, as individuals, to maintain and foster our inherent language Michif. The measure of a Nation's viability is the ability of its citizens to speak their language. The above information is a very important element of Nationhood that we as the Michif people have to understand fully.

Michif identifies you and allows you to identify yourself. Michif demands that you think, feel and thus react in a Michif way. Michif allows for a psychological independence. Michif is the language the Creator gave us as a People.

The true history of the Métis Nation can be compared to the history of its language Michif. Where the Métis once were the dominant Nation, Michif was similarly the working language. Following the events of 1870 and 1885, both Métis people and the Michif language survived in a

secretive underground society and for this reason were threatened with extinction. Since 1885 the federal and provincial governments have engaged themselves in implementing not the Inherent Right of Self Government policy but rather what I would describe as a policy of assimilation for the Michif. This policy framework, in my opinion, will inevitably see the extinction of all Aboriginal languages and cultures, Michif included.

Today there are few Michif speakers left; these people are essentially sixty years old or more. It is these speakers, working in conjunction with all Métis people and institutions that may lead the path to the reversal of this extinction and build the foundation for the use of Michif the foundation of the Métis Nation.

This article, as well as some instructional Michif material, is intended to introduce a series of Michif articles for New Breed Magazine. There is a lot of Michif information available as well as essays on Michif. Please stay in touch.

Reading the Dictionary

A Conversation Between Bruce Flamont, Kathy Hodgson-Smith and Kyle Vermette

The dictionary that is included in this issue of New Breed Magazine has been developed through a research process, using primarily the work of the Manitoba Métis Federation La Lawng: Michif Peekishkwewin The Canadian Michif Language Dictionary (2000). A second reference was very helpful in considering spellings and meanings, Patline Laverdure and Ida Rose Allard's The Michif Dictionary: Turtle Mountain Chippewa Cree (1983).

The pronunciation of the words provided in this issue of the magazine is rather complicated, although I will state that the spellings are meant to

be said as they would sound spoken in English as spelled. Does that make sense? At the present time, there is no agreed upon spelling of words within the Michif language. This work of standardizing and writing Michif is being discussed today by Michif speakers and linguists. The Manitoba Métis Federation has begun this work through their publications as has the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan through various projects. So, in preparing this dictionary for you, we have gained the support of Bruce Flamont, a Michif speaker, who has reviewed our dictionary insert and has

Michif

A Language of Our Own

sanctioned these words to be part of the Michif language.

When you are reading these words, they are provided in English, and then in Michif through English phonetic spellings. What is meant by this is that you will pronounce them as they sound in English. So "to rain" (verb) is spelled "payshtow." The "tow" in English sounds like "tow"-truck, if you were to follow phonetics. The "tow" in this Michif word is actually pronounced as "tow" as in "now." It would only be through hearing the word that you would get the proper verbalization of the word. There are many many small sounds which are imbedded in these words and we cannot possibly provide an example for each. You probably would not even read our attempt to do so. We would bore you to sleep. Despite this, *New Breed Magazine* makes an effort at providing an "Exposé" of the Michif language through inclusion of this dictionary.

According to Bruce Flamont, you can't learn Michif language by reading it. You can't teach it by writing it. You can only learn it by hearing it. You can only teach it by speaking it. Gesturing is an important part of learning and teaching a new language. We may find our early roots in learning languages through the process of gesturing. Watching the features of the speaker is an important teacher of meaning. You can't teach Michif in the abstract. Michif is a language to be learned by living and experiencing.

Michif language is oral. English is an oral and a written language. Michif is not like that. It is an oral language and an oral tradition. We are just now grappling in how to record our sounds and our meanings in our own way, utilizing the English language to do so. The mode of discussion on the transmission of the language is through English at this time. This is a significant problem. We are not writing and spelling Michif in Michif. We are spelling

it in English. Much work needs to be done in this area. For many of us, English is our language and learning Michif via English may be one avenue to learn. And we should all learn. However, it is not the ideal way to preserve a language for the future.

But what of new words, you might ask? How would you say "computer" in Michif? This is a whole other issue. This is where the element and integrity of culture comes in to play, Bruce Flamont says.

"In the Michif language, we were able to utilize the Cree language and the French language and retain the integrity of both. Our language, as Michif, expresses who we are in our culture. Our language has to express what is North American and what was the North American culture before Columbus. Then we incorporated the European philosophy/paradigm. The new culture manifests itself through the use of Michif, by creating words and sounds that reflect contemporary Métis culture".

Michif has not evolved to account for our contemporary reality in that the language is not used in everyday life for many of us. Michif does not have a word for "computer", at this time, however, it is understood that the response to this is not to imbed the English word into the Michif language, but rather, the Michif speakers must determine the Michif interpretation of contemporary Métis culture as it relates to computers and capture this meaning in the Michif language.

Who uttered the first Michif word and why? What necessitated the use of the language? These are the questions asked by linguists. For the purposes of *New Breed*, take these words and sit down with a Michif speaker and learn how to use them in a Michif way. This is the recommendation for learning Michif. Perhaps, in the future, we will be able to provide you with an audio version. Stay tuned.

Michif

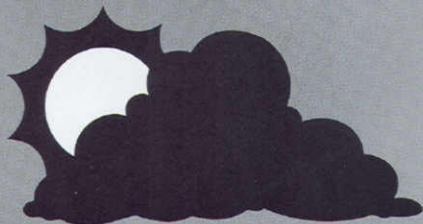
A Language of Our Own

Parts of the Body

Arm	li braw	Head	la tet
Armpit	disour le braw	Heel	aen taloun
Back	li doo	Hip	la hawnsh
Body	li kor	Knee	aen zhnoo
Cheek	la zhoo	Knuckles	lee zhwaencheur
Chin	li mawtoon	Leg	en zhawnb
Elbow	li koudr	Mouth	la boush, la yol, ki-toon
Eyebrows	lee soussiss	Neck	li koo
Eyes	lee z'eux	Nose	li nee, kichawn
Face	li vizaesh	Nostril	en nawrinn, aen trou'd nee
Finger	aen dway	Shoulder	li poul
Foot	aen pyee	Teeth	lee dawn
Forehead	li frohn	Thigh	(la) fess
Hair	lee zhveu	Tongue	la or ta lawng
Hand	la maen		

Springtime (kaw-see-kwahk)

Spring	li praentemp	Yootin.	It's windy.
March	Mawr	Weeyootin.	It is going to get windy.
April	Awvree	Kimouwan.	It's raining.
Grass	li fwaen	Kee kimouwan yayr.	It rained yesterday.
Green	vayr	lyary ki kishitayw.	Yesterday was quite warm.
Rain	la pwee	Wawshayshkwun or Wawshayyow.	Clear skies.
To rain	payshtow	Mawchi eekwashkwun anoush.	It's getting cloudy today.
Rubbers	lee klak		
Storm	enn tawnpet		
Stormy	machi keeshikow		
Sun	li salay		



Dictionary Developed by Bruce Flamont and Kyle Vermette

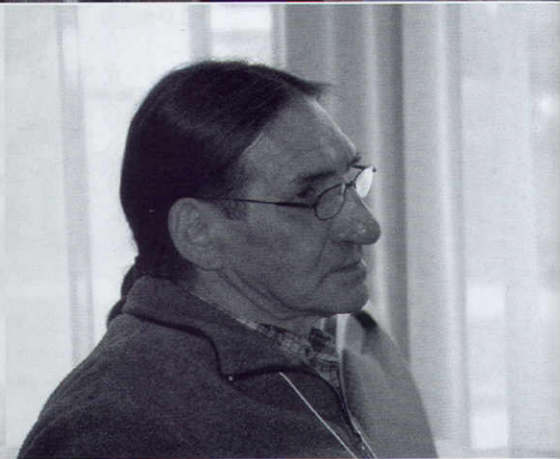
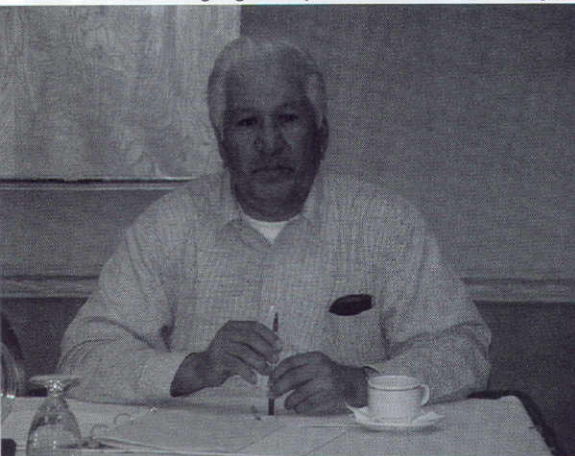
2nd International Michif Conference

Saskatoon, April 11-12, 2003

Article and Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

This year, delegates from across the Métis Nation homeland joined together to discuss the issues related to the Michif Language. The conference was entitled "Our Michif Language for Tomorrow: Nutr Lawng Michif Pohr Dimaen". The goals and objectives of the conference were "to develop and build a new tomorrow where the Michif language is a recognized and used language that promotes our Métis heritage,

culture and traditions." The conference was to build awareness and knowledge of the Michif language; to promote culturally appropriate education and training in all aspects of our society of the Michif language; to promote community-based research and development that leads to the preservation of the Michif language; and to promote a collaborative action with our

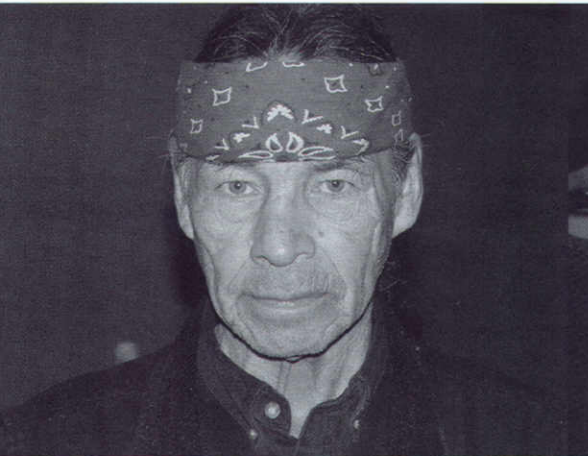


educational institutions, libraries and other agencies to get the Michif language into the public arena.

The conference started off with a performance of the Batoche Theater Company production of "All Mixed Up" starring Old Ernestine, a character who many of you may have met at last year's Back to Batoche Days performance, and Dr. Ivana Peacefulfeeling. This year's conference was co-chaired by Norman Fleury and Bruce Flamont and workshops were offered on a number of important topics and were facilitated by Gilbert Pelletier (How to Learn and Preserve Michif), Verna Demontigny (Teaching of Michif and Curriculum Development), Norman Fleury

(National Michif Language Resource and Sanctioning Centre) and Bruce Flamont (Future of Michif). About 200 delegates participated in this year's conference.

The conference produced a number of recommendations which will guide the national and provincial working groups in future year's work plans. Displays were set up by the various Michif projects funded through the Métis Nation Saskatchewan Cultural Committee, which is co-chaired by President Clem Chartier and Ralph Kennedy, Minister for Sports, Youth and Recreation, including displays by the Gabriel Dumont Institute, New Breed Magazine, Métis Nation Senate of Saskatchewan, and Yvonne Vizina's Métis



*Facing Page: Top Left - Senator Gilbert Pelletier, Yorkton
Top Right - Darren Deschambeault, Cumberland House
Bottom Left - Conference Delegates
Bottom Right - Jeffery Morin, Ile a la Crosse*

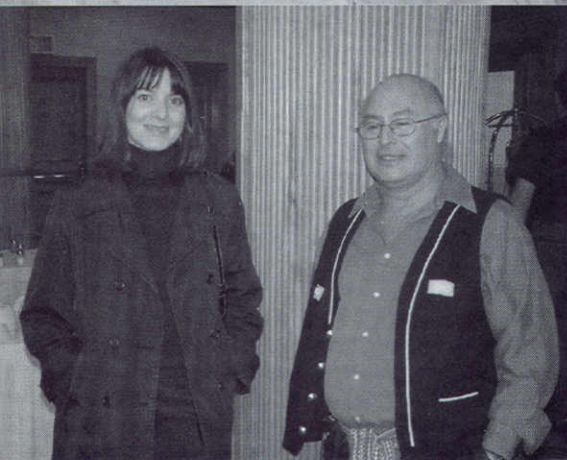
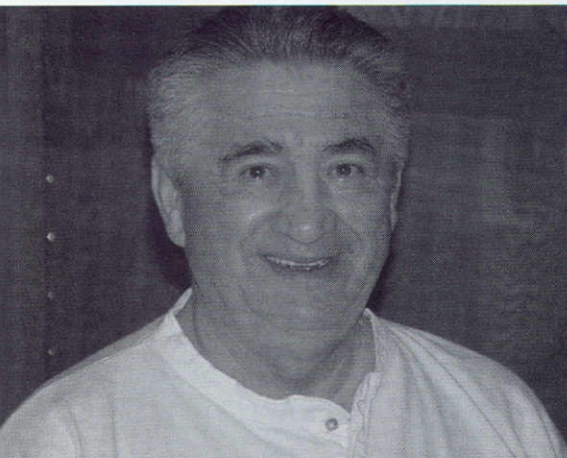
*Above Left: Armand Murray, La Loche
Above Right: Mary Millar, Christopher Lake
Left: Henry Cummings, Saskatoon and Michael, Regina*

Traditional Knowledge Workshop. These projects, along with others, will be featured in the next issue of *New Breed Magazine*.

This year's conference was made possible with funding from Canadian Heritage Aboriginal Languages Initiative and the Métis National Council, Métis Nation of Ontario, Manitoba Métis Federation, Métis Nation Saskatchewan, Métis Nation of Alberta and the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia.

As noted above, a number of recommendations were made including the need to have a central database of existing materials (in whatever forms it may exist) to be housed in a resource

center which would first of all be nationally based, and then extended to the provincial, regional and local levels as fiscal resources became available. A further recommendation was that we must protect the Michif language, make more use of our Michif speaking Elders, and teach Michif in the schools and day-care centers. There was also a strong call for developing a standardized written Michif language, while taking into account that there are various dialects in different communities, and while having only one unique way of writing Michif that the various dialects would nevertheless be identified. It was also felt that while there were various dialects of the Michif language, that



a uniform teaching of Michif should nevertheless be undertaken.

In addressing Minister Copps' announcement last winter of the new Aboriginal Languages Initiative and proposed Aboriginal Languages and Culture Center, it was recommended that the Métis do not want to be classified under the generic term "Aboriginal", but rather as "Métis", as we are a distinct Nation of people. With respect to the proposed Task Force which will be asked by Canadian Heritage to consult on the future of the program, the recommendation was to participate in the Task Force only if the following conditions were met: That there

must be equitable resources made available to the Métis and that there will be equitable representation of the Métis on the Task Force and that when fiscal resources become available to Michif people that these resources are under Michif control. In terms of the proposed Institute or Center, if the government is adamant in going in that direction, it was recommended that there be three as opposed one: One each for the Métis, First Nations and Inuit.

Lastly, the conference reaffirmed that the Métis have rights, including the inherent right to their Michif language which is included in the Constitution of Canada.


Facing Page:

Top Left: Mr. Belrose, Alberta

Top Right: MNS Senator, Regina

Bottom Left: Wenda Watteyne, MNC Ottawa and Clem Chartier, Saskatoon

Bottom Right: Delegate from British Columbia



We are the people in your neighbourhood.


Eldon Lautermilch
Minister of
Aboriginal Affairs

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, I extend best wishes to all First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in Saskatchewan as we celebrate National Aboriginal Day, June 21st.


National Aboriginal Day gives all people of Canada an opportunity to celebrate the important contributions of Aboriginal people to our province and our country.

This year's theme – *We are the people in your neighbourhood* – highlights how the Canadian community is made all the more vibrant by the cultural diversity in our province and the richness of Aboriginal culture and traditions.

Congratulations to everyone involved with National Aboriginal Day.



Saskatchewan
Government
Relations and
Aboriginal Affairs



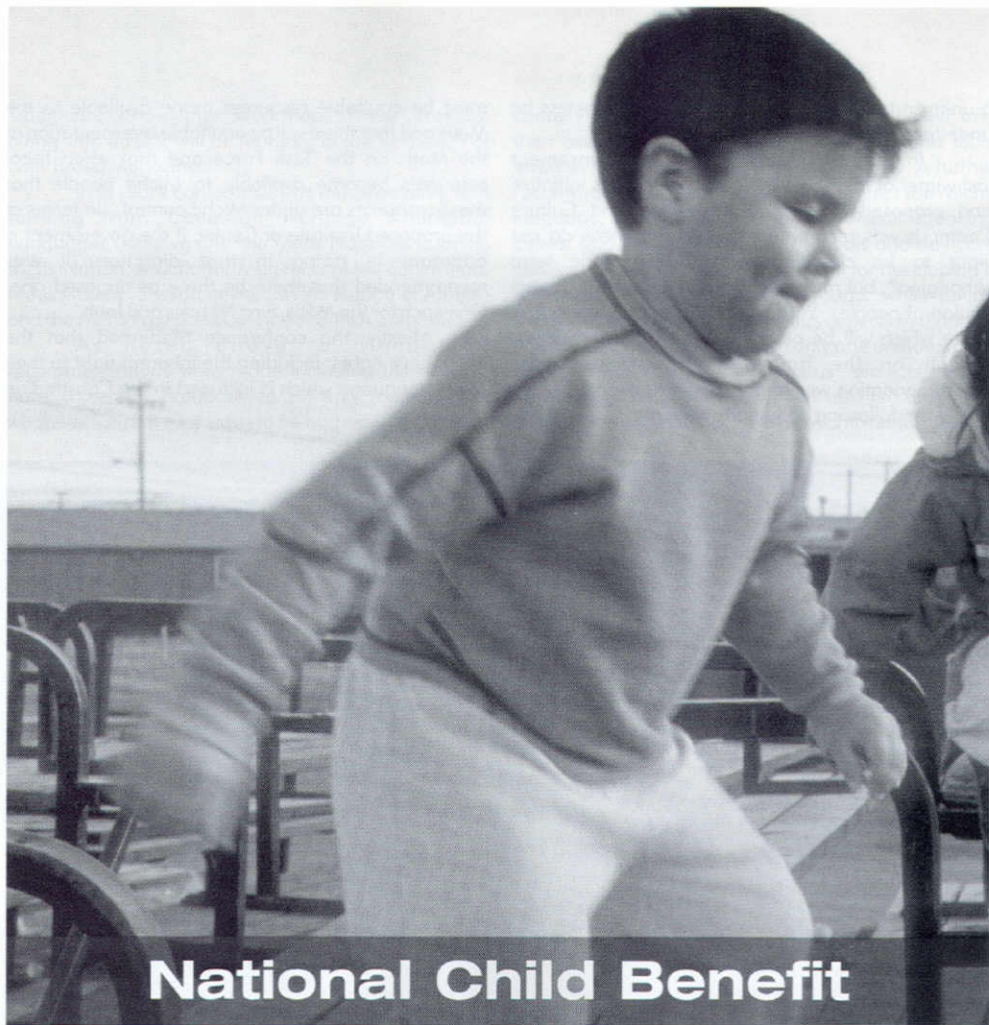
Saskatchewan
Our Future is Wide Open



2ND ANNUAL NATIONAL
MICHIF LANGUAGE
DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

“OUR MICHIF LANGUAGE
FOR TOMORROW”
NUTR LAWNG ~ MICHIF POHR DIMAEN

April 11 - 12, 2003
Radisson Hotel
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



National Child Benefit

For our children to be happy and healthy, they need many things. Some are free, but many are not. The National Child Benefit (NCB) gives financial support to low-income families. This helps parents work towards a brighter future for their children. And it also helps to reduce child poverty in Canada.

To find out more about all our services for children and their families and to receive your guide:

☎ 1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232)
TTY: 1 800 465-7735

🌐 canada.gc.ca

📍 Service Canada Access Centres



Canada



Métis Nation Youth Advisory Council Role Model Awards Ceremony Ottawa, April 26th, 2003

Article and Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

One of the greatest events of the year is the National Métis Youth Role Model Banquet. It is often said that we value our young people and on this night, each year, I am reminded that we truly do. Across the stage walks some of the most amazing and wonderful people you will find in Canada. Their words are





humbling and their accomplishments great. You know they have had to overcome incredible hurdles to find their way onto this stage and you know that there are many more like them out in our communities. I was very grateful to have the opportunity to witness this celebration and I imagine in my mind a long line of individuals just like them who will be celebrated in the days to come, and a long line of people who will make contributions at home without recognition. Perhaps you will read this article and next year you will nominate someone from your community. It is so worthwhile.

This year, we saw recognition of eight Métis youth: Remi Dupont (Personal Achievement); Kristinn Frederickson (Career Achievement); Real Carriere (Culture and Heritage); Jennifer Brown

(Volunteer Services); Jacqueline Lavallee (Athletic Achievement); and Christian Anderson (Academic Achievement). As well, a new award was established - Gabriel Dumont Award for Valour. Claude Lambert Jr received this award.

The event was held in the Museum of Civilization in Hull, Quebec, in the grand First Nations Hall. Rick Laliberte, Member of Parliament for Saskatchewan's Churchill River, was the Masters of Ceremony. The event was attended by the Métis National Council Board of Governors MPCBC President Harley Desjarlais; MNA President and Interim Métis National Council President Audrey Poitras; MNS President Clem Chartier; MMF President David Chartrand; MNO President Tony Belcourt, along with other elected officials of the Métis Nation and numerous family and guests.



Above: Saskatchewan Delegates Audrey Poitras, Chris Andersen, Clem Chartier; Jacqueline Lavallee, Dale McAuley and Réal Carrière

Facing Page (Clockwise): Grand Entrance led by John Arcand, Daryl Gardipy and Dancers, Guests at the Great Hall, and Child Musician.

Below Left to Right: John Arcand; Métis Musicians; and Banquet Onlookers



2003 Métis Youth Role Model Award Recipients

Personal Achievement: Rémi Dupont

Battling moderate scoliosis in his back, Rémi Dupont is not letting it slow him down. On the contrary, this young Métis man is excelling in academics and is an accomplished athlete in long distance running. Accelerating a grade in Junior High, Rémi is now graduating in June of this year, one year ahead of his peers while maintaining a grade average of 90% or higher. Rémi's belief is that he can make a difference in someone's life, one person at a time.



Career Advancement: Kristinn Frederickson

Kristinn Frederickson received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Biosystems Engineering in 2001 and is currently working on obtaining his Masters degree in this same field. Concerned about ineffective and often dangerous water waste treatment in northern Manitoban Aboriginal communities, Kristinn is working with the affected Aboriginal communities, along with the Manitoba provincial government to reach an acceptable solution. In addition to these major accomplishments, he also has taken it upon himself to aid the Aboriginal student recruitment program and the University of Manitoba and is Student Member appointed to the Board of Governors for the University of Manitoba.



Culture and Heritage: Réal Carriere

Réal Carriere comes to us with a multitude of accomplishments. Raised and home schooled on traplines and fishing and hunting camps in Northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan, this young man is very proud of his Métis heritage. Overcoming the challenges of being isolated, Réal ventured forth into the world, and in May of 2002 graduated from Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific and since has moved on to Simon Fraser University. He has a strong interest in music and encourages a healthy lifestyle.



Volunteer Services: Jennifer Brown

Born and raised in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Jennifer Brown is a 23 year old Métis youth with an active interest in Métis politics. Jennifer has long had a passion of the Métis movement and has actively been involved on a local, regional, provincial and national level. Serving on various committees as a representative of the Métis perspective is something that she takes great pride in and has been able to expand her knowledge on issues facing our people. Next to her passion for the Métis, her greatest concern is the environment. Currently Jennifer holds the Aboriginal seat on the Youth Environmental Network, an organization she helped to form.



Athletic Achievement: Jacqueline Lavallee

Jacqueline Lavallee is a talented 25-year-old athlete from Saskatoon, SK. She has become a celebrated individual within the Métis community as well as the Saskatchewan and Canadian public for her outstanding athletic accomplishments. Taking interest in two sports, basketball and soccer, she has received numerous awards recognizing her achievements not only in sports but in academics as well. Currently she is training with the Canadian National Basketball team to prepare for the next Olympics. Jacqueline was also scouted for the National Canadian Soccer Team. Her other interests include coaching mentally challenged co-ed adults in soccer.



Academic Achievement: Christian Andersen

At the young age of 17, Chris Andersen graduated with an 'A' average from his high school in Prince Albert, SK. After graduating, Chris attended Queen's University, where he received his Bachelor of Arts, and continued on to receive his Master of Arts. He didn't stop there; Chris received a full scholarship to begin his PhD studies at the University of Alberta Department of Sociology. Currently, Chris has passed his PhD candidacy exam in the third year of his program and is working on completing his PhD on a part time basis while teaching full time at the University of Alberta.





Claude and Guests

Gabriel Dumont Award for Valour: Claude Lambert Jr.

Born and raised in St. Laurent, MB, Claude comes from a very proud Métis family. Of a family of four, Claude was the "miracle baby" for his parents and as the only boy he would carry the name of this father. Coming from a family of commercial fishermen, Claude Jr. has been learning the ways of his family for several years. On November 20th, 2001, Claude Jr. proved to truly be the miracle baby. He ventured forth that morning with his father and mother to go commercial fishing at the lake where years before his Grandfather (his father's dad) drowned while commercial fishing. Suddenly Claude Sr. fell through the ice, without thinking Claude Jr. who was wearing a floater jacket, rushed forward to save his father, ultimately falling through the ice. Not giving up, Claude tried once again to get to his father, with his mother frantically screaming for help. She turned when she heard "Mom" and saw that Claude Jr. had pulled his dad from the freezing waters and had saved his life.



Our mission is to encourage and support Aboriginal people in building and reinforcing sustainable healing processes that address the legacy of physical and sexual abuse in the residential school system, including intergenerational impacts.

Board of Directors Call for Nominations

The Aboriginal Healing Foundation is now accepting nominations to fill a Director's position on its Board of Directors.

Directors are chosen through broad-based canvassing of eligible and interested Aboriginal candidates from among representative groups, residential school survivors, organizations and communities. Directors establish overall policies and direction for the Foundation's programs and serve for a two-year term. Meetings are held approximately 4 times per year and last two to three days.

Anyone may nominate a Director.

To find out more about the nomination process and the Director's eligibility requirements, please contact:

Higgins International, Inc.
15 Zachary Drive
St. Andrews, Manitoba R1A 3B8

Tel.: (204) 257-9929
Fax: (204) 257-9707

or visit the Aboriginal Healing Foundation
Web site at: www.ahf.ca

Deadline for nominations: June 30, 2003

Professor Chris Andersen, BA, MA

Article by Dr. Frank Tough, University of Alberta
Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

Educational Achievements

In 1990 at the age of seventeen, Chris Andersen graduated, with an A average, from Carleton Comprehensive High School in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

He left Saskatchewan to pursue university studies at the prestigious Queen's University (Kingston, Ontario) and after four years of study completed an Honors Bachelor of Arts, with distinction, in Sociology, in 1994. During his undergraduate years, Chris was a member of the Queen's University Golden Gaels football team. He also completed an innovative Honors thesis titled: "Things that Go Bump in the Night: The Role of the Doorman in Maintaining Order in the Bar-room."

Chris stayed at Queen's University an additional two years, completing a Master of Arts. His academic awards at Queen's University included: the John R. Houston Memorial Bookprize and Queen's Minority Fellowship. He also supported his studies with a graduate Teaching Assistantship as well as acting as a residence Don, a position which required him to supervise more than forty first year students. He completed a M.A. thesis titled "La Belle Province' and the Wild West: Investigating the Effect of Regional Location on Victimization Risk."

After completing his Masters degree, Chris accepted a full scholarship to begin his PhD studies at the Department of Sociology, University of Alberta. This department has an international reputation in sociological theory and criminology. Andersen passed his PhD candidacy exam in his third year of his program and is currently working on completing his PhD on a part-time basis while working full time.

His academic achievement has been recognized through the award of numerous scholarships. He received the University of Alberta

PhD Scholarship (two years), Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Scholarship, and the prestigious and nationally competitive Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) PhD Fellowship. He was also awarded a SSHRC Federations and Federalism Supplemental Fellowship, and a National Aboriginal Achievement Award. The SSHRC support enabled him to travel to New Zealand to meet with Maori academics to learn about Maori urbanization. While in New Zealand, Chris presented a Métis sash to the members of the International Research Institute on Maori and Indigenous Education at the University of Auckland.



Chris working at a *matriX* (Métis Aboriginal Title Research Initiative) display with Sally Warr and Aaron Wilson

Research

His PhD dissertation is titled "Courting Colonialism: The Judicial Formalization of Métis Identities" which looks at how Métis legal identities are being recognized in recent Aboriginal rights court cases. He has published several peer-reviewed



The Recipients of the Métis National Council Youth Role Model Awards, 2003



Chris Andersen and his Uncle, John Arcand

academic papers and has made numerous presentations at national and international conferences.

Chris has been involved in the archival research for the Métis claim in Northwest Saskatchewan and has been awarded several grants to work in this area. Chris also secured \$24,000 in funding for the School of Native Studies to do research on an Urban Aboriginal Migration study—the principle investigator for this multi-city study is Dr. Evelyn Peters, Canada Research Chair Geography at the University of Saskatchewan.

In 1999, after an extremely competitive process, Chris Andersen was elected for a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor with the School of Native Studies, University of Alberta. To be offered a full-time University position at the age of 26 is unheard of these days and it reflects his impressive academic achievements at such a young age. He is very consistent about ensuring that Métis-specific views are heard.

Students find Chris to be approachable and outgoing. He maintains an "open door" policy and can often be found engaging students in lively exchanges of ideas and views. At all levels, Chris strives to challenge students; his senior level courses

attract a large number of students interested in Chris' enthusiasm, commitment to the subject matter, and an "open forum" approach to teaching.

As a University professor, Chris Andersen is in a position not only to contribute to the education of young minds and the development of "leaders of tomorrow", but also to change the academy. He stands to influence, for the next several decades, how mainstream institutions revise their thinking on Aboriginal peoples. He will play a key leadership role in the convergence of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal understandings about the future sharing of this space we call Canada.

Community Commitment

Despite his commitments to studies and research, Chris has never forgotten his obligations to

community. At Queen's University, he was the President of the Native Students' Association, and also, a founding member of the Queen's University Aboriginal Council. At the University of Alberta, Chris has tutored Aboriginal students. Since 2000, Andersen has served on the Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee and the committee for the Center for Excellence on Youth under the direction of the Edmonton Social Planning Council. In addition, Chris was also awarded a Métis Youth Role Model Award at the 1997 Métis Fall Festival in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

Chris has given freely of his time to further the cause of Métis rights. Indeed, he has cleverly divided his time between the classroom and the community.

Chris Andersen was also awarded the Métis National Council Youth Role Model Award at the Métis National Youth Council Conference on April 24th and 25th, 2003 in Ottawa, Ontario.



The matriX (Métis Aboriginal Title Research Initiative) team: Nonnie Jackson, Brandy Mowatt, Kevin McLennan, Chris Andersen, and Philip Chartier

Métis Nation Youth Advisory Council National Conference

Ottawa, April 24-27, 2003

Article and Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

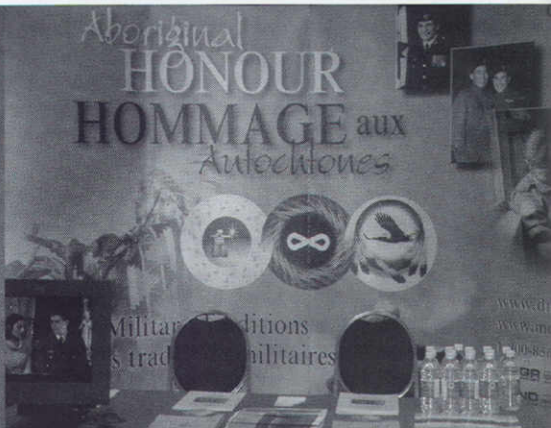
The 2003 National Métis Youth Conference was a great opportunity for New Breed Magazine to open its doors and invite young people to get involved in Métis communications and to learn the various skills involved in producing a magazine. In a joint presentation between APTN's journalist, Karen Pugliese, and myself, the conference delegates got a glimpse into the real tasks and the learning involved in creating images, clips and stories for media and public consumption. This was just one of the many workshops on communications set up by the Youth Advisory Council to bring greater awareness of the



opportunities that are out there for young people today. In conjunction with the Independent Filmmakers Cooperative of Ottawa, a digital video was produced over the course of the conference, featuring the delegates, presenters, leaders and guests. The video project gave the participants an opportunity to experience this mode of expression, a project made possible with funding from the Canada Council for the Arts. Other conference topics included How to Start Your Own Business (Aboriginal Business Canada and Can. Youth Business Foundation); Engineering (Kris Frederickson), Métis Jigging (Daryle Gardipy and John Arcand), RCMP and Military Careers (Sgt. Don Laducour and Lt. Ian Pacey), Employment and Training through the AHRDS (Keith Henry), Transferable Skills (Jody Anderson) and Passion: Are

you doing what you should be doing? (Guy Freedman).

The Youth Conference opened with remarks from Interim MNC President Audrey Poirtras, MNO President Tony Belcourt and David Chartrand, Minister of Social Development for the MNC. Jennifer Brown, the newly re-elected Chairperson for the MNYAC, brought greetings. A keynote address was given by Kelly Lendsey. The conference also featured a career fair, ending with tours of Ottawa for conference delegates. Delegates attended from each of the five provinces and the conference closed with a circle event, allowing all the delegates to share their experiences and opinions of this conference and their dreams for the future.



Facing Page

Top Left: David Chartrand and Alberta Youth Rep Kim Mueller

Top Right: Kelly Lendsey, Keynote Speaker

Bottom Left: Audience at the Opening Ceremonies

Bottom Right: Jennifer Brown, MNYAC President

Above: Karen Pugliesy, APTN Journalist

*Above Right: National Defence Booth honouring
Aboriginals in the military*

*Right: The SIFC booth for the National School of
Dental Therapy*





Morris and Maryanne Poitras: Friends for Life

Article and Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

On a lovely spring morning, March 29, 2003, at their home in Regina I had the opportunity to interview Morris and Maryanne, which was also the day before Maryanne's 80th birthday.

Morris was born in Lebrét, Saskatchewan, May 10, 1921. His mother was Emily Brabant from Ituna, and his father, Tom Poitras. Emily's father was Clem Brabant and her mother was Joe Larocques' sister. Tom's parents were Pierre Poitras and Freisen Desjarlais. As a young child, Morris moved to File Hills to live with his grandfather, Pierre. Later, at eight years of age, his grandfather took him to Lestock where he was adopted by Norbert Lafontaine and his wife Melanie (nee Desjarlais). Morris has one sister Nora (now late), married to George Braun who currently lives in Saskatoon.

Maryanne was born in Lestock on March 30, 1923. Her mother was Francis Denomie, nee Boucher, the daughter of Hilliard Boucher. Her father was Antoine Denomie, the son of Francis Xavier Denomie. Maryanne was raised by Lestock on her parent's farm. Maryanne was a sister to eight siblings.

December 13, 2002 marked their 57th year of marriage. Together they raised nine of their own children, adopted two more, raised two grandchildren and also raised 18 foster children.

As a young man, Morris worked for a farmer in Cupar before joining the army in Saskatoon in 1941. He first went to Dundurn, then to Petawawa. From there he went to Nova Scotia and later shipped out of Halifax on the Empire Pride for an 18 day trip to

Liverpool, England. From Liverpool, Morris went to Sicily and then to Italy. He also served in theatres of war in Holland, Belgium and France, with the 9th Field Battalion and the 1st Division Royal Canadian Engineers (1st Div.). Morris was wounded three times, once sustaining a head wound and another time, a bullet in the back. He was also hurt another time when he was caught in a collapsing building. Morris received a number of medals in recognition of his contribution to the war effort for world peace. Upon his return in 1945, Morris recalls that he only received a small amount of lumber to help build a house, along with a small amount of unemployment insurance. He had however bought Savings Bonds with his army pay, and after the war was able to buy land upon which to build his house.

In the meantime,

Photo courtesy: the Poitras



Maryanne recalls that during the war she picked apples in B.C., getting 10 cents for every box full she picked. She had also married her first husband, who died before the war was over. When the war ended, she became reacquainted with Morris, who used to be a childhood friend through his activities with her brothers. Shortly after his return they got married.

In terms of schooling, both Morris and Maryanne recalled that they could not take advantage of going to school as Morris lived 4 miles from the school and Maryanne, 31/2 miles. While Morris missed out on an education and can't read, Maryanne was more fortunate as her father taught his children at home. Morris is also proud to say that although he can't read, he does speak Cree, Saulteaux and Michif, that the people who adopted him, the Lafontaines, spoke Michif. He also speaks English, and says that he picked up some Italian while stationed in Italy.

After the war, Morris recalls that they used to pick Seneca roots, receiving \$1.00 per pound, which Maryanne stated certainly beat picking apples at 10 cents a box. Morris also trapped and hunted, stating that his favorite meals were partridge and rabbit. Both Morris and Maryanne recalled that the Métis around Lestock lived on the road allowances in log shacks. The log shacks were spread out, with about 12 of them. The shacks were chinked with clay and generally not whitewashed. They also had sod roofs, with weeds growing on them.

Morris stated that a lot of the Métis trapped. He recalls trapping muskrats, getting about \$2.00 per rat, and 10 cents for each rabbit fur. Generally, Morris recalls that the Métis around Lestock made a living in a similar way, that is, trapping, picking Seneca roots,



Morris' father, Tom Poitras

shooting rabbits and so on. He further stated that they would have other Métis give them fish from the Qu'Appelle Lakes.

In terms of Métis culture, Morris and Maryanne stated that a lot of the Métis men from around Lestock and Fort Qu'Appelle played the fiddle, including one of her brothers. They recalled a lot of dances being organized, including at their house.

Morris recalled that in those days it cost about \$2.50 to "make a dance", by supplying sandwiches, tea, and coffee. They also fondly recall that their daughters, Lyla and Lisa won the jigging contest at Batoche in 1995 or '96.

Morris and Maryanne eventually moved to Regina where Morris worked as a welder. However, due to his injuries in the war, Morris finally had to receive medical attention in order to have



Morris Poitras' Medals, including the Holland Medal and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal

corrective surgery to his back in the late 1950s. Maryanne, in order to cope with this new development decided to move her family back to Lestock. By that time they had 5 young children. So Maryanne rented their Regina house out at \$75 a month, and rented a small farm house in Lestock for \$10. She next sold their television and other non-essential household goods and purchased a cow and calf. Soon she was able to sell \$60 worth of cream a month. She also put up hay with her brother and shared in the profits. Soon she was able to get more livestock. Maryanne emphatically stated, with great pride, that she did all of this because she did not want to rely on welfare. After Morris' successful surgery, and his convalescence, everything was sold and they moved back to Regina around 1961. Further, after a lot of inquiries, Morris was finally provided with a pension from DVA beginning in 1961 due to the back injuries sustained in the war.

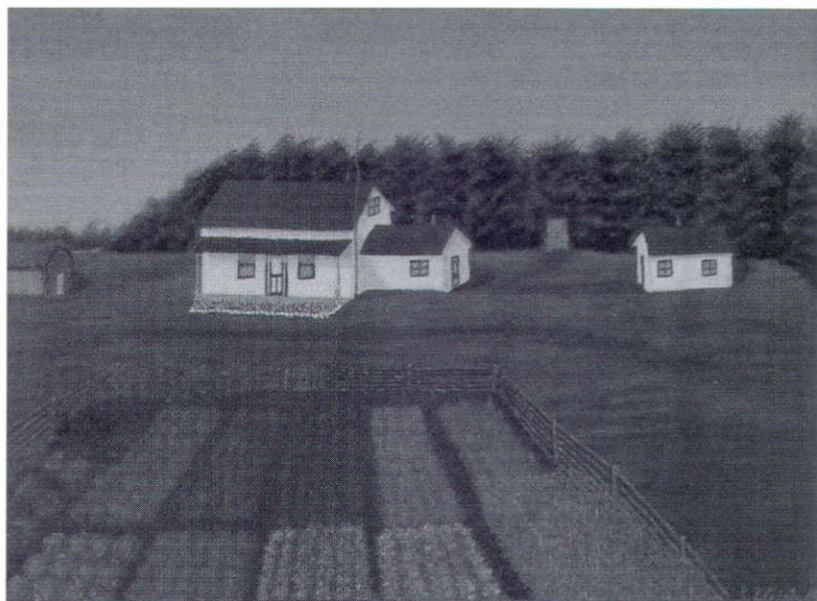
In 1962, Morris went to work at Ipsco as a welder until his retirement 19 years later, at which time they moved to Maryanne's father's farm in Lestock. Thirteen years later they moved back to Regina, buying the current house they are now living in. In reference to the farm, Maryanne quite emphatically states that the farm which her father left to his family will never be sold. She firmly believes that one of her sons will take it over, and keep it in the family.

During the interview, Maryanne proudly displayed her crafts. Being the industrious person that she is, Maryanne continues to generate income by making crafts which she sells at farmers markets, especially at Fort Qu'Appelle. The crafts made by Maryanne are many, including quilts, knit socks, wrap around moccasins, pin cushions, hat sets, wall hangings,

earrings, dream catchers, mitts, and many more. She actually made a good sale when I bought a number of these beautiful pieces.

As for Morris, he was quite pleased to tell us that he was finally able to reconnect with his sister Nora's boy, Richard Allan Brown who now lives in Chilliwack, British Columbia. Morris and Maryanne had raised Richard until he was five at which point he was taken back by his mother, to only then be taken from her by Social Services. A few years ago Social Services connected Richard to Morris and Maryanne. As it turns out, although they had seen him on television, they had not recognized him. Richard for many years was on the Mr. Dress Up show acting as Mr. Patches, a program their children enjoyed watching. They have since visited with him, and plan to do so again this summer.

Morris, reflects that while he has lived a good life, he still is waiting for justice to happen for the Métis veterans who proudly served their country and the world, but did not receive the same treatment accorded non-Aboriginal Veterans.



Painting of the Denomic/Poitras Family Farm at Lestock



PRESS STATEMENT

Historic Métis Rights Cases Conclude at the Supreme Court of Canada

(March 18, 2003) Ottawa, ON After two historic days, when the first substantive Métis rights cases were heard by the Supreme Court of Canada, the Métis National Council is confident that the court will support Métis rights. "Following these historic proceedings, it is my belief that the case put forward by our Métis lawyers is a strong one and that the Supreme Court will make a decision that respects our Aboriginal rights," said Interim President of the Métis National Council, Audrey Poitras.

Métis people from across the Métis homeland crowded into the courtroom and also filled an overflow room for the chance to see history unfold. Many of them offered words of thanks to the Métis hunters who were the focus of the cases and to the Métis lawyers who made eloquent arguments in defense of our Aboriginal rights.

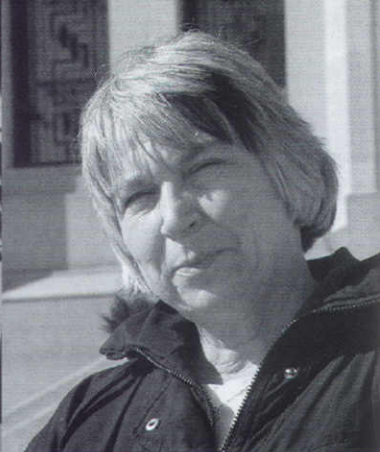
Clem Chartier, Vice President of the Métis National Council said, "We made our case before the Supreme Court and we trust that justice will be done to protect the on-going existence of our nation within the Canadian family. We told the court that we know who we are, we know what our rights are and it is Canada who continues to be wilfully blind when it comes to the Métis people."

Vice President Chartier faults governments within Canada for forcing Métis people into expensive litigation. "This is not what we want

Photo Courtesy: Marc St. Germaine, MNC



Métis Lawyers Clem Chartier, Jean Teillet and Jason Madden



Left: Métis Lawyer Lionel Chartrand, Ernest Blais; Middle: Mr. Rod Powley; Right: Audrey Poitras

to do. It's been over 20 years since the Métis' Aboriginal rights were affirmed in the constitution yet governments refuse to sit down with us and negotiate the nature of our rights. It has fallen on us to stand up for Canada's constitution and say, this is not an empty promise."

The Supreme Court heard arguments for two cases, *R. v. Powley* and *R. v. Blais*. On March 17, 2003 the Supreme Court heard *R. v. Powley* which will determine whether the Métis community at Sault Ste. Marie has an Aboriginal right to hunt and will set out the legal test that other Métis communities will have to meet in order to establish a right to hunt. Today, the Supreme Court heard *R. v. Blais* which will determine if Métis in the three Prairie Provinces are considered "Indians" under the *Natural Resources Transfer Act*. A finding that Métis are "Indians" for these purposes would result in Métis having the same harvesting rights as First Nation peoples in the Prairies.



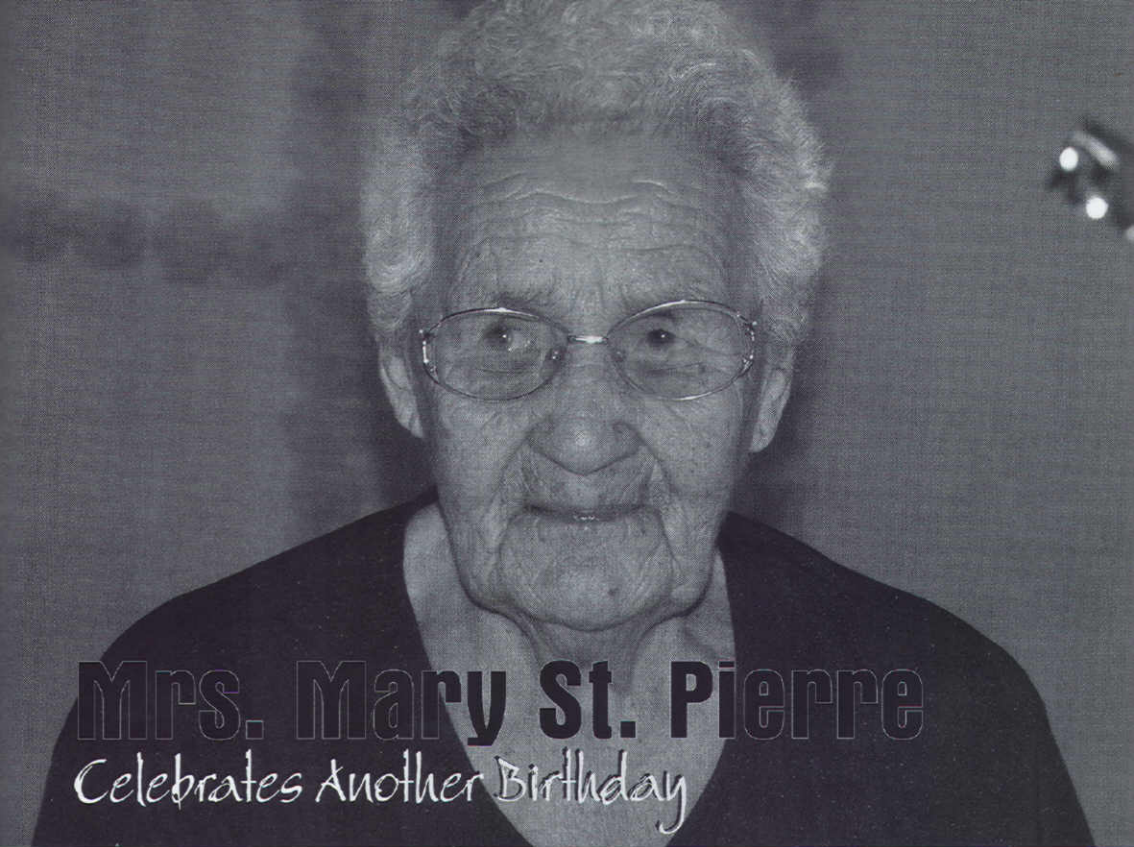
Jean Teillet (*Pape v. Salter*), Jason Madden (MNC), Clem Chartier (MNC) and Arthur Pape (*Pape v. Salter*)

"This is a significant step in our ongoing work to advance Métis rights and to continue to strengthen the Métis Nation," said Interim President Poitras. "To have these cases heard by the highest court in the land represents another chapter in our history. Another story about how our people stood up to the government of Canada and said, this is who we are and these are our rights."

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Mrs. Mary St. Pierre

Celebrates Another Birthday

Article and Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

On Thursday, April 17, 2003, Mrs. Mary St. Pierre, along with numerous family and friends celebrated her 93rd birthday. Her son, Edwin was the master of ceremonies.

Mary St. Pierre was born Mary Flamond to

Alexandre Flamond and Marie Adele Flamond, nee Allary, at Crooked Lake and married Martin St. Pierre in 1930 at a church in Yorkton. Together they had eight children: four girls and four boys. Flora; Lucy; Stella;

Florence; Edwin; Lawrence; Frank Martin; and Gerald.

From Crooked Lake, Mary moved with her family to Crescent Lake when that Métis settlement was established. While she was not able to attend school as a child at Crooked Lake, her children were able to attend the school built at Crescent Lake.

This 93rd birthday party was reminiscent of her 90th birthday party, and showed the love and commitment shown to her by her children. The evening was



successful, with a lot of Michif spoken and a lot of happy exchanges made amongst family and friends.

As part of the celebration, MNS President, Clem Chartier presented the "President's Recognition Award" to Mrs. St. Pierre for her contributions to the Métis people. Also presented to Mrs. St. Pierre was a photo taken by President Chartier at Prince Albert in February 1988 at the constitutional conference which established the Métis Society of Saskatchewan. Mrs. St. Pierre is the last remaining Elder of the seven in the picture.

New Breed Magazine wishes Mrs. St. Pierre many more birthday gatherings.



Top Left: Mrs. St. Pierre with Clem Chartier; Middle: 5 Generations of St. Pierres; Top Right: Children of Mrs. St. Pierre.; Bottom Left: Mrs. St. Pierre cuts her birthday cake; Bottom Right: Métis Only Conference, February 1988; showing Harold Laqimodiere (late), Jules Dumas, Edward King (late), Euclid Boyer (late), Medric McDougal (late), Mary St. Pierre and Louis Morin (late)

A black and white portrait of Charissa Amyotte, a young woman with long, dark, wavy hair, smiling slightly. She is wearing a dark top. The background is a textured, light-colored wall.

Charissa Amyotte

Making Her Own Way

Article and Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

Charissa Amyotte was born on February 5, 1974 to Velma Amyotte of Lebret, Sk, granddaughter to Frank and Florence (nee Blondeau) Amyotte. Florence was the daughter of Louis and Sarah Blondeau (nee Desjarlais). Charissa went to the Gladys McDonald Elementary School in Regina, completing grade five, then moved on to Athabasca Elementary where she completed her grade eight. Not unlike most Métis students, her high school years saw her attending a number of different high schools, eventually leaving without completion. While her experience with the numerous high schools she attended was not conducive to her success, she made her way to the Dumont Technical Institute in the fall of 2001, the technical training arm of the

Métis Nation - Saskatchewan's Gabriel Dumont Institute, where she completed her grade twelve studies in January 2002, graduating with recognition.

Nearing the end of her studies, she was approached by one of her instructors at the Dumont Technical Institute, to apply for training in the Circle Helpers Program, offered by the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College. This program was a camp-situation where the students were offered a background in First Nations history through the Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Program, Residential school impacts, traditional lifestyles and traditional ceremonies. The instruction was offered by the First Nations Elders. One of these Elders was Isadore





Five generations of the Amyotte Family

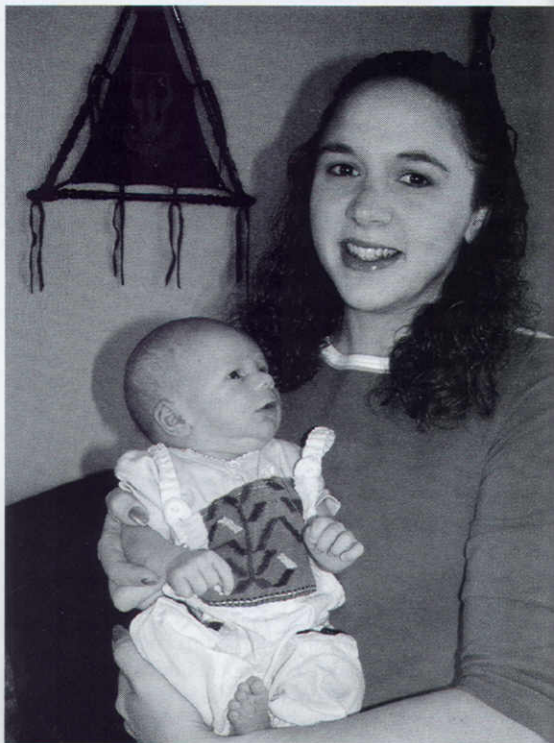
Pelletier, born into two cultures Métis and Cree, raised in the Lestock area. His stories brought Charissa to a greater understanding of the oral history of both the Métis people and the First Nations people and especially of his own life growing up on the road allowance lands in southern Saskatchewan.

Charissa Amyotte celebrates the strong Métis men and women in her family, recalling that her great-grandmother was a wet nurse, giving sustenance to the babies of other women, being raised herself by her mother who was a mid-wife for women in the area. Her grandmother, Florence Blondeau, was taken from home at the age of fourteen to live in the seminary at Lebret. It was then that she met her husband-to-be, Frank Amyotte, married and began working as a seamstress at the Residential School. She had several children: Anne, Barbara, Velma, Holly (Susan) and one son, Dixie, who passed away at a young age. She lost her husband, becoming a single-parent, and continued her work at the Residential School, an occupation she held for much of her adult life. For an eight-month period, she found herself a patient at the Sanatorium where she had been diagnosed with Tuberculosis, at which time the community came together to raise her children. Florence married again, to Eddie Napoleon Fisher, moving the family to

Regina, where Charissa's mother, Velma, graduated from high school and began her work with SaskPower, a position she holds to this day, celebrating twenty-five years with them. She has heard the stories of her grandmother's contributions to the community, where she ran youth programs and was a member of all sorts of clubs and socials, including a sewing club for women.

Today, Charissa works for the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College in the Department of Aboriginal Youth Leadership in the Centre for International Development. She is indeed a model of determination and pride within the Métis Nation and it is with admiration that we tell her story today.

Charissa gave birth to a baby boy.



Charissa and her son

Lil Butto Memorial:

Youth Helping Youth

Article and Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

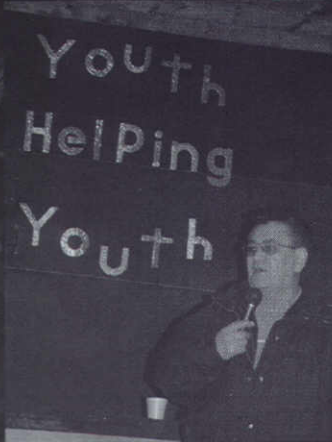
Young and old of Buffalo Narrows came together to participate in the 1st Annual Lil Butto Memorial of cultural events, speakers, traditional meals and theatre and dance. The morning began with bannock making, trap setting, log sawing, nail pounding and moose calling. After the opening prayer, many dignitaries were there to welcome the participants, including President Clem Chartier, Area Director Norman Hansen and Métis Local President Philip Chartier. The family of Lil Butto (David McCallum) spoke about the danger of alcohol and drugs and the sadness that

they felt in losing him because of this. They encouraged families to stick together and to listen to one another. Later on, before the traditional meal of fish, bannock and moose meat stew, the Churchill River Reelers, the Buffalo Narrows Stompers and the Tiny Tots brought the crowd alive with their fast stepping dancing and smiles. The evening ended with a theatre performance by Maureen Belanger of Upsasik Theatre and a dance with entertainment by The Rez Boys and Darrel Boots McCallum.



Left: Raymond Laliberte, MC
Right: Lil Butto Photo Memory Wall
Bottom Left: Youth Participants

Bottom Centre: Norman Hansen, Area Director
Bottom Right: Trapping Demonstration





Métis Nation - Saskatchewan

Tripartite Process and the Development of Métis Urban Governance

Article by Kelly Patrick, MNS Tripartite Unit, Edited with Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

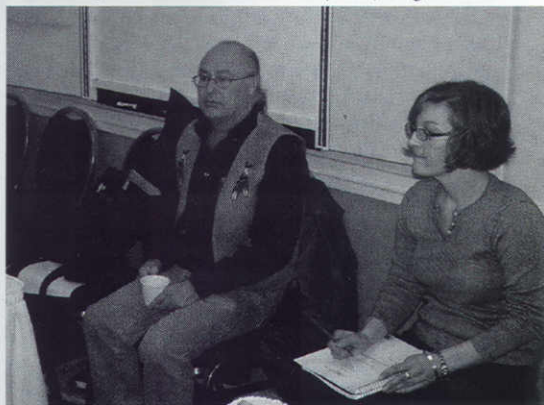
In 1998 under the direction of President Clem Chartier the urban Métis governance initiative was incorporated into the Tripartite workplan. Under the Tripartite agreement, which involves The Government of Canada, the Saskatchewan Government and the Métis Nation Saskatchewan (MNS) through the portfolio of Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Allan Morin, urban governance became a major policy initiative with the intent to strengthen Métis representation and capability at the local level. Urban governance became a major focus due to the growth in Métis population in Saskatchewan's urban centers of Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert and North Battleford.

To define how urban governance would unfold, Article 6 of the MNS constitution was developed and implemented and is as follows:

"The Métis Nation Saskatchewan shall initiate, assist, support, assign, recommend and facilitate the development, implementation and establishment of Métis Urban Self Government Councils in Saskatchewan."



Lisa McCallum, Cliff Larocque, Lloyd Schoenthal, Dawn Quiring-Reimer, Bob McLeod and Ed Harper



Clem Chartier and Kelly Patrick

Consultation began with MNS Local Presidents and Regional Directors in the four urban areas to develop a process to carry out Article 6 and to strengthen urban governance within the Métis Nation.

The first plan of action was to develop an Urban Métis Council Partnership/ Protocol Agreement to create a one-model Urban Métis governance model by an interim Urban Métis Council. Four discussion papers were tabled for consideration on urban Self-government model development. A working committee was struck with representatives chosen by local Presidents. At the time, it was difficult to incorporate a governance model without determining who was going to oversee the development of the governance structure. So the committee was mandated to make recommendations on developing a protocol agreement first, and secondly to develop a Métis urban governance Discussion Paper for the council's consideration. From this committee a process was determined to formally operationalize the urban council towards the permanent establishment of a Métis Urban Council. In August of 1998, after

further consultations, a 2nd Draft Protocol Agreement was presented to the interim Métis Urban Council at a meeting of eleven local presidents and area directors from Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and the Battlefords. From then, urban Local Presidents held meetings with Local Councils and members to facilitate acceptance of the Protocol Agreement. In December of 1998, with the signing of the Protocol Agreement by the MNS Locals, the Métis Urban Council of Saskatchewan (MUCS) was officially formed.

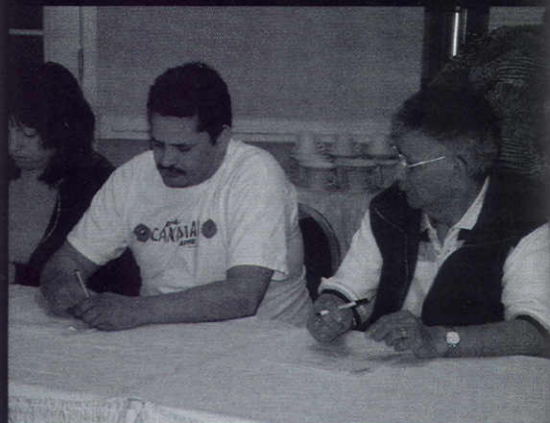
The Mission Statement of the Protocol Agreement is as follows:

"The Métis Nation Saskatchewan (MNS), working with the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Associate Minister responsible for Urban Governance and the MNS urban Locals of Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and North Battleford (being the parties) will work together in partnership for the purposes of implementing the inherent right of self-government, securing a land and resource base, along with the devolution of programs and services for urban Métis communities. The above will be pursued by the Parties on the basis of unity, integrity, accountability and professionalism."

The Protocol Agreement governs the council, its working committee and all urban Métis governance activities under the MNS tripartite process and mandates MUCS to assist locals in their efforts to deliver urban programs and services.

An example of this is the relationship that MUCS has to METSI (Métis Employment and Training of Saskatchewan Inc.) an affiliate of MNS. In 1998 The Urban Aboriginal and Urban Youth process began under the Canadian Government's Gathering Strength Document and initiatives. This initiative was to address the high demand for Métis training and employment services in Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon. A three-year project ending March 31, 2001 was negotiated with an amount of \$1,975,000.00 allocated each year.

The newly created Common Labour Market





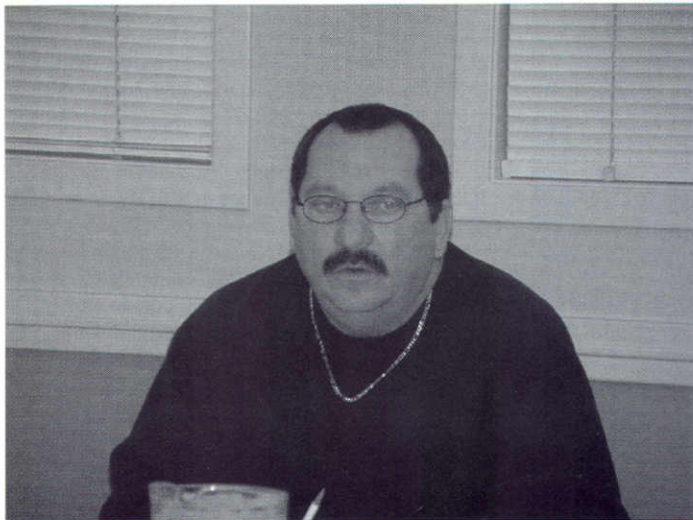
Planning Forum (CLMPF) committee made provision for the delivery of these funds. The CLMPF consisted of the Métis Nation Saskatchewan (represented also by METSI and the Gabriel Dumont Institute / Dumont Technical Institute), Human Resource Development Canada (HRDC), and Post Secondary Education and Skills Training (PSET), now known as Saskatchewan Learning. The mechanism for administering the earmarked urban funds was outlined in an appendix to the CLMPF agreement.

Within the Métis nation, Urban Steering Committees were formed to oversee the urban process. These committees were formed in each urban center and consisted of all local presidents, one HRDC representative, and one PSET representative. In addition, technical committees were formed to assist the Urban Steering Committees. In order to assist the Urban Councils in the delivery of Urban Aboriginal and Urban Youth funds three Urban Managers were recruited.

Today, through assistance of the Urban Council and the urban process many Métis have received an education and/or employment. METSI at present operates 12 regional offices throughout Saskatchewan as well as a number of outreach offices in order to better serve the unique employment needs of Métis individuals and communities.

With the role MUCS played in METSI's establishment it was determined that a strong emphasis should be placed on the Urban Council within the Métis Nation Saskatchewan. In May 2001, the MNS created the Métis Urban Governance Ministry to further urban development by providing direction and leadership on Métis Urban Governance. The Ministry incorporated the non-profit Corporation, Métis Urban Governance of Saskatchewan Inc. (MUGSI), signifying a positive step toward the realization of Métis Governance of Urban Métis communities.

Although there are no institutions within the Métis Nation Saskatchewan to deliver programs and services in the area of health and homelessness, we do have Ministries to deal with these issues. The Métis Nation Saskatchewan did bring forward a joint proposal between the Métis



Albert Delaire, MNS Minister responsible for Urban Affairs

Addictions Council, Métis Employment & Training and Provincial Métis Housing to address the homelessness challenges facing Métis communities across the province, but was not supported in this initiative by the federal funding agencies. Projects are in place within the Métis Nation in these areas, including the Homelessness project of Saskatoon CUMFI Métis Local 265, Métis Local 7 in Prince Albert, and the Métis Addictions Council through the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, to name a few. This is a key area for the Métis Urban Council. It is vital that Urban Councils build partnerships with government agencies to bring greater capacity and services to the Métis community through discussion and representation. Urban Councils represent individual Métis citizens and are at the grassroots level to view needs respectfully. Urban Councils also have the formal ability to work with the MNS and Affiliates to negotiate partnerships. Eventually, urban governance of the Métis Nation will involve the effective participation of Urban Councils along with their Northern, Southern and rural counterparts.

Tripartite members Métis Women and Métis Youth are allowed representation at Métis Urban Council meetings to ensure representation within the Métis nation is inclusive and has a strong diverse

voice. The Métis Urban Council meets quarterly and has constant contact with Locals through meetings with Local Métis Management Boards, MNS tripartite staff, Affiliates, and elected officials in their respective ministries. At present, Urban Affairs is directed under the leadership of Minister Albert Delaire and Associate Minister Ralph Kennedy.

For the Tripartite 2003-2005 Workplan, the Urban Governance Ministry, with assistance from the Intergovernmental Affairs Unit and Tripartite staff, is working on a Blueprint for Action that will establish the rules of governing at local levels. Work will be carried

out with the intent of providing a means of determining what human and financial resources will be required to put Métis urban governing systems and institutions into place and to provide access to and control over existing programs offered to the Métis communities in Saskatchewan. First though, a Framework Agreement must be developed between the MNS, the Province of Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada that identifies, develops and implements policies which will directly impact on programs and services for Métis in urban centres. Amendments to the 1998 Protocol Agreement are being drafted to strengthen and clarify the rights and responsibilities of Urban Councils within the Métis Nation.

The work being done by the Métis Urban Council of Saskatchewan and its representatives will assist the MNS in effectively devolving programs and services towards Métis community governance and will lead the path towards self-determination, self-sufficiency and self-government. If you would like more information on Métis Urban Governance contact Albert Delaire, Minister of Urban Affairs at (306) 569-9945 or Butch Durocher, Director, Tripartite Unit, MNS at (306) 244-7441.

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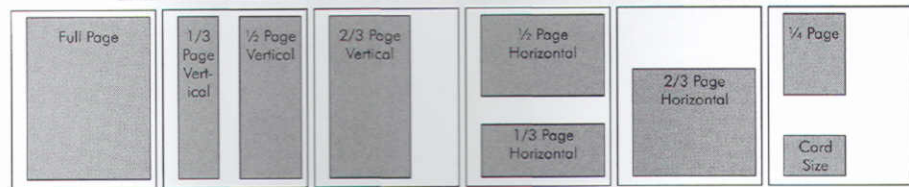
Since its first publication in the early 70's, *New Breed* has been the "voice of the Métis in Saskatchewan." We take pride in knowing we have become an important media source for Métis and Aboriginal people throughout Saskatchewan. Through means of feature articles, editorials and submissions, we bring forth a strong sense of identity, history and pride among Métis people. Our magazine also serves as an important communication outlet to highlight important information, current events and issues within our communities on matters of employment, training, education and others. It also focuses on many of our accomplishments, future endeavors and includes profiles of successful Métis individuals, programs and businesses.

We welcome your organization's participation and thank you for your support. A *New Breed Magazine* inquiry can be directed to *New Breed Magazine*, by calling 306 343-8285, by fax at 306 343-0171 by e-mail at kathy@newbreedmagazine.com.

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