

Joan Beatty, M.L.A.

A former CBC journalist, Beatty became the first Aboriginal woman and elected to the Saskatchewan legislature when she was elected on November 5, 2003. Beatty served as a vice-president of the Saskatchewan NDP organization before winning the Cumberland nomination. She replaced Keith Goulet who did not seek re-election. She was appointed to cabinet a month later as Minister of Culture Youth and Recreation and Provincial Secretary. Beatty was re-elected in the 2007 general election that defeated the NDP government and sat as Opposition Critic for Women's Issues and Northern Affairs.

On January 3, 2008, she was appointed the Liberal Party as a candidate for the House of Commons in Desnethe-Missinippi-Churchill River riding for the March 17, 2008 by-election. She lost to the Conservative candidate. She sought the Liberal nomination again for the forthcoming 40th general election, this time in an open vote of the Liberal riding association with David Orchard also a candidate, Orchard won the nomination.

Beatty, who was a senior customer service manager with SaskTel before being elected, has an extensive record of volunteer work. While with the provincial telephone company, Beatty founded the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards of Excellence, now in its fourth year.

She is a past president of the Interprovincial Association of Native Employment, and has also been a member of the Saskatoon District Health Board, the Regina Board of Police Commissioners, the University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors, and the Saskatchewan Forest Science Advisory Board. Before joining SaskTel, Beatty was a reporter and producer at CBC Television in Regina and an award-winning filmmaker. She has received a number of awards in journalism for real life stories about Aboriginal people. She also received the YWCA Woman of Distinction Award for Community Development in Saskatoon and the First Nations Award in Journalism. In the 1980s, she worked as the Editor of *New Breed Magazine*.

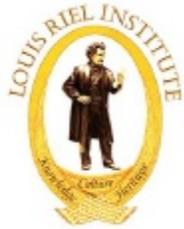
Joan Beatty was born at Deschambault Lake, the Métis/Cree daughter of Oscar and Jean Beatty. Joan speaks fluent Cree. Oscar Beatty was a Métis resident, fisherman, trapper and member of the local Co-op store Board and of the Co-op Fisheries Board, for the Deschambault area. Deschambault is a small community located on Deschambault Lake approximately 90 miles (140 km) west of Flin Flon, Manitoba on highway 911, and it is part of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation.

In 1930, Edward Beatty, Joan Beatty's paternal grandfather moved his family north from Kinistino, Saskatchewan to Caribou Creek. The following year, they moved again, this time to the west shore of Big Sandy Lake. It was here they lived until their home was destroyed by a forest fire in the late 1940s. After this, they settled on the north shore of Big Sandy, an area that was trapped by the Beatty sons, Oliver, Oscar, and John. In 2003, Oscar Beatty from Deschambault Lake received the Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee medal.

Family Metis Scrip:

Cook, Polly; address: Prince Albert; claim no. 2259; born: 10 April, 1870 at West End Bear Lake; father: John Cook (Métis); mother: Jane McKenzie or Lariviere; married: July, 1888 at Stanley Mission; to Edward Beatty; scrip for \$240.00

Application for scrip of Edward, Charlotte, Catherine, Walter and Caroline Beatty
by Thomas Cook. 1907-1910. File, RG15-D-II-1.



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
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