

**MÉTIS FAMILY & COMMUNITY
JUSTICE SERVICES OF SASKATCHEWAN,
INC. (MFCJS)**

Annual Report 2002/03

Submitted to

**Métis Nation – Saskatchewan
Annual General Assembly
July, 2003**

By

Alex Maurice, Minister

Message From the Minister

On behalf of Métis Family & Community Justice of Saskatchewan, Inc. (MFCJS). I am pleased to submit this report to the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Annual General Assembly. I was elected Area Director for Northern Region III in February 2001 and assigned my portfolio shortly after.

Over the past 2 years, we have successfully overcome many of the obstacles facing us at the beginning of my term as well as expanding in many areas. MFCJS has once again established a strong foundation and are now able to focus on assisting and supporting our Regions to develop partnerships within their communities.

I am strongly committed to the empowerment of Métis individuals and families through the development of our communities. I look forward to the opportunity to work throughout the province to ensure that locally identified needs are met and Métis children, Elders and families have access to the supports they need to achieve their goals.

Respectfully yours,



*Alex Maurice, Minister
Métis Family & Community Justice
Services of Saskatchewan, Inc.*

Mission Statement

"To develop, implement and manage our own justice and social programs in order to ensure that our children have a healthier environment in which they can flourish."

BACKGROUND

Métis Family & Community Justice Services of Saskatchewan, Inc. was incorporated in 1992 as an affiliate of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan as a result of our recognition of the need to empower Métis communities to address the social and justice issues facing our people. Our mandate is to promote the spiritual and cultural well being of Métis individuals, families and communities throughout Saskatchewan.

The focus of MFCJS is on supporting the delivery of holistic, community-driven social and justice services in a manner that values and utilizes the wide range of geographic and demographic needs and resources within the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan. Our priority is the promotion of strong Métis family values as the core of our Nation. We envision an environment in which Métis children are protected and cared for by their families and communities. We rely on the knowledge and experience of our Elders to ensure that programs and services will be delivered in a holistic, culturally sensitive manner.

MFCJS is governed by a Provincial Board of Directors consisting of:

- Alex Maurice, Minister
- Marianne Gagnon, Associate Minister,
- representation from Métis Women of Saskatchewan,
- representation from Métis Youth Council and
- representation from each MN-S Region,

Over the past 10 years, MFCJS has implemented various initiatives ranging from the Aboriginal Court Worker, Community Justice Development, Social Development, Community Action Program for Children, Prenatal Nutrition, as well as numerous other short term services.

CURRENT

Over the past year, MFCJS has maintained long-standing partnerships with Health Canada, Sask. Justice/Justice Canada and as well as developing new initiatives with Corrections Services Canada; the Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform; National Crime Prevention – Community Mobilization; Department of Social Services; MN-S Tripartite

These partnership have resulted in the development and delivery of the following programs;

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Saskatchewan Aboriginal Court Worker Program

The role of the Court Workers is to ensure that Aboriginal people who are charged with a criminal offence and/or family members of the accused receive just, equitable and culturally sensitive treatment. The Aboriginal Court Workers ensure that each client fully understands the criminal justice processes which they will be involved in and has the support that they need. Priority is given to first and second time offenders.

MFCJS Court Workers have developed excellent working relationships with Court personnel. This has proven to be an asset in working with our clients and assisting them in reducing the linguistic barriers and cultural misunderstandings between themselves and employees of the Criminal Justice system.

MFCJS currently has 2 full-time positions serving the provincial court areas of Saskatoon, Beardy's First Nations, Rosthern, and Blaine Lake.

Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform

MFCJS was approached by the Commission in mid-April 2002 for the input of Métis people across Saskatchewan to the justice forum.

Through many negotiations with the Commission, Alex Maurice and the office personnel, an agreement was finally made. In June, the staff of MFCJS redesigned the 1997 Justice Survey and handed it out to as many MNS members as they could at the AGM.

Jennifer Conley was hired as a ½ time Researcher on September 9, 2002, to work closely with the Commission but to be employed by MFCJS. Over the past nine months Jennifer has traveled extensively with the Commission to many communities across Saskatchewan and attended a multitude of presentations made by various organizations. There have been many presentations to the Commission by Métis Locals and organizations:

- ◆ Metis Women's Council
- ◆ Metis Youth Council
- ◆ CUMFI
- ◆ Infinity House
- ◆ Denholm Local
- ◆ Western Region IA
- ◆ Metis Children's Wellness Conference.
- ◆ Metis Elders Dialogue
- ◆ MN-S Southern Plain Region
- ◆ Meadow Lake Community Dialogue
- ◆ Beauval Community Dialogue
- ◆ La Loche Community Dialogue
- ◆ Fort Qu'Appelle Community Dialogue
- ◆ Archerwill Community Dialogue

MFCJS has also held dialogues in the following communities:

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- ◆ Beauval Community Dialogue
- ◆ Ile ala Crosse Community Dialogue
- ◆ Cumberland House Community Dialogue
- ◆ La Loche Community Dialogue

The following meetings are upcoming:

- ◆ Métis Elders Forum
- ◆ Duck Lake Community Dialogue

Jennifer is also beginning to write the final report to the Commission based on her travel to the Métis communities, presentations and various meetings with Métis organizations, locals, and regional councils. **If you would like to voice any concerns, comments or recommendations for inclusion in the final report, please forward them to Jennifer, as soon as possible.** Although we are in the process of winding down, she can also be available to come and meet with your local, region or organization. Please contact her at (306) 242-6886 or 1-866-622-2220.

The Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform is now in the process of winding down the consultation phase of their term and will now begin writing the final report. The next interim report will be released in September 2003 and the final report is targeted to be released in March 2004. Please feel free to contact Jennifer if you have any questions regarding the Commission.

Correctional Service of Canada

MFCJS contacted Frankie Berland of the MNC to negotiate on our behalf for an initiative that was proposed for reintegrating Métis offenders back into their communities. The result of this was that we were contracted by Shelley Trevethan, the Director of the Research Branch, Correctional Service of Canada, to initiate a research project for the reintegration of Métis offenders in Saskatchewan. The research projects are being carried out respectively in three phases.

Phase I - This project examines the needs of Metis offenders inside of federal correctional facilities in Saskatchewan. The project involved interviews with Metis offenders and family members, as well as with parole officers. This information should help CSC and Metis organizations to better understand how to implement Section 81 and 84 of the CCRA for Metis offenders. The Correctional Service of Canada funded this project. CSC is still compiling and analysing the data, which we are anticipating will be sent in the next few months.

Phase II - The purpose of this research project is to compile information to be used in the development of the five-year strategic plan in regards to Community Justice and Corrections for Métis Family and Community Justice Services Inc. This phase involves visiting Métis communities that have been identified by the Métis inmates and by MFCJS. Activities will include conducting community needs assessments and consultations, identifying community needs, gaps, priorities and potential partnerships. The Solicitor General, Aboriginal Corrections Policy Unit will be funding this phase.

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Phase III – In this phase, a five-year strategic plan will be developed to guide discussions with Métis stakeholders for the delivery of community-based justice and corrections programs and services, which support the successful reintegration of Métis offenders in Métis communities.

A Steering Committee has been established and we also have some new members on the committee for Phase II, the committee members are as follows:

1. Alex Maurice – Minister
2. John Patrick Moore – Research Officer, CSC – Research Branch
3. Frankie Berland – Director of Corrections and Justice, MNC
4. Corina Hayward – Policy Analyst, Aboriginal Correction Policy Unit, SGC
5. Crystal Pinay – Aboriginal Community Development Officer/CSC/Parole
6. Mike Maurice – Métis Elder
7. Denise McCafferty - Senior Program Consultant, Community Transition and Support Services, Department of Community Resources and Employment
8. Gail Sheppard – Regional Manager, Community Operation - Corrections and Public Safety
9. Kim Laliberte – MFCJS Board Member

MFCJS is currently at the end of phase I and we are anticipating completion of the final report within the next few months. We are very excited about the report and the findings of the research. We are now moving into Phase II which will involve conducting community needs assessments in three selected target communities: Beauval, Saskatoon and Fort Qu'Appelle. These communities were selected based on phase I research findings and Solicitor General's funding guidelines. Phase II will involve in-depth community profiles, interviews with key community members, leadership and service providers. This information will assist MFCJS in the development of Phase III, a five-year strategic plan for MFCJS as well as identifying the needs of Métis offenders and their family members in Saskatchewan.

The purpose of these projects is to facilitate the development of Section 81 and 84 for Métis inmates being released from federal institutions as well as development of a five-year strategic plan for community-based justice and corrections programs and services.

Tripartite Justice

As of April 1, 2002, MFCJS was reintroduced into the 2002-2003 Tripartite work plan. Utilizing Tripartite funds to supplement existing budgets, MFCJS was able to undertake and/or expand several initiatives in the 2002 – 2003 fiscal year that support MN – S/MFCJS participation in the Aboriginal Justice Strategy. MFCJS strongly believes in a holistic approach to the development and healing of our communities. Therefore, several other initiatives have been maintained and/or established promoting this perspective. These initiatives include both provincial and federal partnerships such as National Crime Prevention – Community Mobilization, Department of Community Relation and Employment (formerly Department of Social Services, Correctional Service of Canada, Solicitor General of Canada and, Health Canada. MFCJS is anticipating receiving Tripartite this year although the MN-S is still in the negotiation process.

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Quarter One: April 1, 2003 – June 30, 2003

- ◆ Quarterly reports to be submitted.
- ◆ Development of provincial MFCJS Community Awareness Campaign.
- ◆ Participation in Aboriginal Justice Strategy (AJS) through project development and submission.
- ◆ The Tripartite Justice Coordinator, with MFCJS, will continue to nurture relationships between communities and the major stakeholders in the province and where appropriate, with Federal Agencies,

Quarter Two: July 1, 2003 – September 31, 2003

- ◆ Quarterly reports to Tripartite.
- ◆ Implement Public Awareness Campaign.
- ◆ Focus on establishing more CJC's, partnering with Police Boards where applicable, using those in existence as positive role models.
- ◆ Development and submission of new initiative particular to AJS guidelines.
- ◆ Update of 1997 Justice Survey Report – Interim Report.

Quarter Three: October 1, 2003 – December 31, 2003

- ◆ Quarterly reports to Tripartite.
- ◆ Implement Public Awareness Campaign,
- ◆ MFCJS to facilitate meetings with Metis Communities to encourage partnerships between MN-S governing bodies (Locals and Regions) and government agencies for the delivery and devolution of justice programs.
- ◆ Implementation of Youth Justice Project under AJS upon approval.
- ◆ MFCJS will make recommendations regarding the development regarding the development of partnerships with community police for Community Justice Committees/Police Management Boards to address the issues of common concern.

Quarter Four: January 1, 2004 – March 31, 2004

- ◆ Quarterly report to Tripartite.
- ◆ Assess Public Awareness Campaign.
- ◆ Achieve representation on existing Community Justice Committees/Police Management Boards, or facilitate the formation of new ones in communities where they are not developed.
- ◆ Continued implementation of Justice Project,

Community Justice Program

The Community Justice Program is an initiative established to promote the use of alternative measures such as mediation, family group conferencing and traditional Métis healing practices as a means of reducing incarceration and recidivism rates. Community Justice Committees have been established to support and monitor the progress of individuals as a means of demonstrating their commitment to the communal responsibility for our people. MFCJS currently have funding for 3 – ½ time positions in the following communities:

- Eastern Region II
- Meadow Lake

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values. In order to achieve this goal a Co-ordinator was hired to work with the Metis Elders Working Committee to assist in documenting Metis culture and heritage.

The Saskatoon Metis Elders Mentorship Project objectives are:

- document and promote the revitalization of Metis traditions, culture and family values;
- Develop networking and partnerships with existing services;
- Develop recruiting and ongoing screening processes

The Saskatoon Metis Elders Mentorship project ended March 31, 2003 and we are currently utilizing the remaining funds to assist in the Elder's Forum scheduled for July.

Social Development/Capacity Building Project

Based on the MOU signed in 1998 between the Department of Social Services, the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan and MFCJS, a provincial Social Development/Capacity Building was signed in the fall of 2002. The objective of this agreement is to build capacity within the Métis community to support the strategic direction of Social Services within the scope of Child & Family Services.

The objectives of this project are to:

- provide consultation to the department on the design and delivery of services and programs to ensure cultural relevance and sensitivity;
- liaise with DSS staff and the Métis community in the development of policy to support culturally appropriate programs and services for Métis children and families;
- provide a written report to the Department identifying outcomes and recommendations of the Métis Children's Wellness Conference to be used in the development of a child and family focussed workplan.

In February, 2003, MFCJS, in conjunction with the MN-S hosted a 3 day Métis Children's Wellness Conference. The focus of this consultation was the development of a Draft Child and Family Services Policy and Action Plan. In follow up to this, a meeting was held between MFCJS, MN -S and Minister Hagel of the Department of Community Resources and Employment (formerly Department of Social Services) on June 11th, 2003. Discussions involved the long-term processes and capacity-building required to implement these documents. The concept of a joint management committee was presented and further discussions will take place over the summer to define terms of reference and specific roles and responsibilities of each partner.

In the short term, the Department has indicated that they would be willing to support prevention and diversion initiatives as a first step in building partnerships and capacity within our communities. MFCJS is currently working with the Department and 3 MN-S Regions to build on existing contracts and/or develop new partnerships. The projected start date of these initiatives is September 01st, 2003.

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Métis Community Development and Research - Community Action Program for Children (CAPC)

The Community Action Program for Children is a federal initiative designed to help community groups address health and developmental needs of high- risk children (0-6 years) and their families. Guiding principles of CAPC are:

- Children first;
- Strengthening and supporting families;
- Equity and accessibility;
- Partnerships
- Community-based;
- Flexibility.

Métis Family and Community Justice Services, Inc. (MFCJS) – Métis Community Development and Research is intended to empower families and communities as they develop knowledge and skills through designing and implementing programs and services. It is not intended to duplicate or replace other government programs, but rather to work with existing federal, provincial and community programs. This program will assist Métis Regions in accessing funding and developing proposals for children. As well, they organize and co-ordinate community forums to provide information on available resources and how to access them. Specifically, MFCJS – Métis Community Development and Research will:

- support designated CAPC Projects;
- provide community development/research support for existing and potential projects;
- improve Métis linkages and identify gaps in services;
- ensure programs reflect Métis culture, beliefs, values and traditions;
- deliver relevant training, as requested;
- attend meetings and workshops pertaining to children's issues;
- act as liaison and support to Health Canada, in particular Health Canada Program Consultants.

Saskatchewan Métis Urban Youth Center Initiative – Canadian Heritage

MFCJS is currently working with the Saskatchewan Métis Urban Youth Committee (SMUYC) and the Department of Canadian Heritage in developing an agreement for the administration of the funding allocation under the terms and conditions of the Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Center (UMAYC) Initiative.

Following completion of the application review process, a provincial proposal will be submitted to the Department for review and recommendation to the Minister of Canadian Heritage. If accepted, the contracting process will take place and the 03/04 funding allocation will be distributed to those applicants who have been recommended for funding by the SMUYC.

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