

# New Breed

MAGAZINE

A New Cycle of Growth for the Métis Nation



Jan/Feb  
2001



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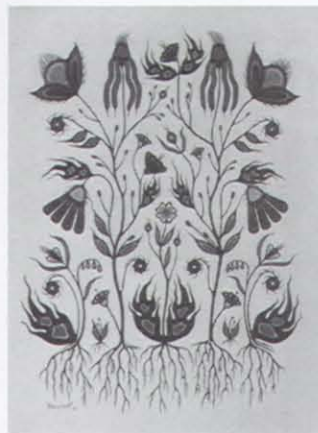
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Resilience of the Flower Beadwork People, 1999

By Christi Belcourt  
Acrylic on Canvas  
48" X 36"

When Louis Riel was trying to negotiate the rights of Métis, while bringing the province of Manitoba into Confederation, Sir John A. MacDonald was quoted in the House of Commons, telling his members not to worry because the Métis will become non-existent in a matter of a few years.



The Métis Nation has survived through incredible odds. We were a new nation being born, as Canada was being formed. We very easily could have been absorbed into the mainstream society. The pressures were there from all sides encouraging this to happen. And certainly in a lot of cases, we have been forgotten to this day. No matter. We are here.

Despite direct assimilation attempts. Despite the residential school systems. Despite the strong influences of the Church in Métis communities to ignore and deny our Aboriginal heritage. Despite not having a land base. And despite our diversity in heritage. We are still able to say we are proud to be Métis.

We are resilient as a weed. And beautiful as a wildflower. We have much to celebrate and be proud of.

I interpret this painting in two ways. First, the Métis are represented by the blue flower in the centre. The other flowers represent the many different Aboriginal nations, of which we are one. Yet we stand out, we are unique among our brothers and sisters. Secondly, I also see it as all the flowers representing the diversity within our Métis Nation. We have so many heritages - Cree, Ojibway, French, Scottish, English, Chipewa, Dene, Irish, Mohawk, Saulteaux and so on. Yet we can still grow along side each other, roots entwined, and call ourselves Métis.

The floral motif is inspired by the beadwork patterns of Métis and First Nation women. It is a metaphor that parallels our own lives. The roots in the painting show that all life needs nurturing from the earth to survive, it represents the idea that there is more to life than what is seen on the surface and that our heritage has a great influence over our lives. There are lines that connect the plants symbolizing our own interconnectedness between each other and with all of Creation. The flowers reach upwards as we seek out our individual spirituality and look to our future as Aboriginal Peoples.



# New Breed

MAGAZINE

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## Edward King: Veteran, Métis Senator & Rancher

By Jack Walton. Photos courtesy of King family

Edward King, Veteran, Métis Senator & rancher, passed away in Meadow Lake on January 5 at the age of 75 year after a courageous battle with cancer. Funeral services were held at Our Lady of Peace Roman Catholic Church in Meadow Lake.

Edward enjoyed visiting and telling stories as well as reading, taking pictures and he certainly loved music. However, his greatest joy was his grandchildren. He would attend their many activities with pride. Fittingly, at his funeral service, his granddaughter Christine King played The Last Post and grandson Michael Ludwig played a fiddle tune

Senator King was born on November 18, 1925 in Cochin, Saskatchewan. He lived in the Meadow Lake area as a child and was 13 years old when the Second World War started. He enlisted in the army in 1943 and on June 23rd, 1944 he landed on the shore of France. Edward King had returned to the country that his ancestor, Augustin LeRoi had left



over 200 years before. He was wounded twice and ended the war as a decorated soldier in hospital. Following the war Edward returned to Meadow Lake and worked for a number of farmers and ranchers. He married his wife of 48 years, Cecile Ouellette, in 1952. Edward was the past-president of the Royal Canadian Legion #76 and was a member of numerous other organizations and committees.



# PRIDE & RESPECT



Edward King  
June 28, 1943

Edward King, in his autobiography, "The Life and Times of Edward King" tells many stories of his early life and especially his years during the war.

*I first enlisted in 1942, in Saskatoon, but they must have known I was underage, because I was rejected. Then I went back in April of '43, in North Battleford. I was accepted even though I was still underage. It*

*happened this way.*

*There were six of us Métis boys in a beer parlour and there were some soldiers sitting at our table. Someone said that we should go and enlist, so we walked to the recruiting office, just a few blocks, and we started filling out the forms for enlisting. I remember some of the boys I enlisted with. There was Emile Ross, Jimmy Ross and Joe Lavallee all of Meadow Lake. But some of them couldn't write, so they were rejected right away. One was really young so he was rejected too. You had to be 18 and a half. It ended up that only two of us filled out the forms. We went for a medical in the next building and the other guy didn't pass, so there I was by myself. I got my train ticket and my meal ticket and then I went to the hotel room they gave me. I laid there by myself in the room thinking, "What did I get myself into now"*

Edward King had gotten himself into the adventure of his life, one that would end up on the battlefields of Europe and challenge not only his ability to survive as a Canadian soldier in battle, but as a Métis. He landed in France, a land that his



L-15940 RFN. KING, E.  
Regina Rifle Regiment

forefathers had left in 1725 and he was now returning to as a young soldier

*"From there we went to Regina...when it came time for me to be sworn in, they asked me what nationality I was. I said, "Métis". He said "There is no Métis nationality". So he asked me what part of European I was. I said "French". So he put French on the paper. I was disappointed not to be recognized as a Métis."*



Alan Morin, Treasurer MNS, Jack Walton, Producer Batoche 2000, Clem Chartier, President MNS, with Senator Edward King and Cecile King; Mr. & Mrs. Batoche 2000

photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

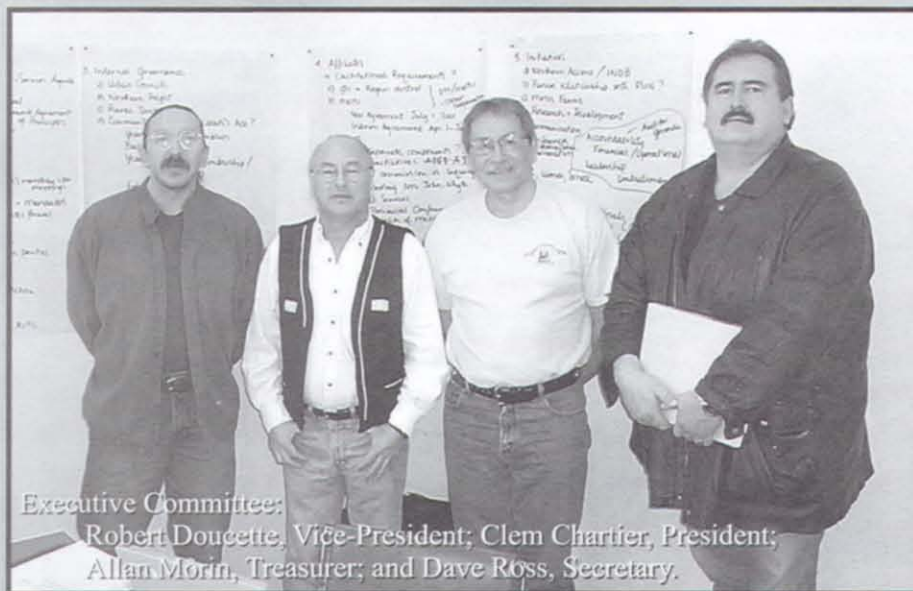
These quotes come from "The Life and Times of Edward King" recently published by his family. Edward King was a World War II Veteran and Métis Senator. He was most proud of his family life of his nine children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was proud of the north and his community of Meadow Lake. He was a strong supporter of Back to Batoche Days and was honored during the Batoche 2000 Millennium event along with his wife Cecile by being named Mr. & Mrs. Batoche. Edward King, wounded in action, a decorated veteran and a Métis Senator died in Meadow Lake on January 5<sup>th</sup>.



# ELECTION RESULTS

## Métis Nation - Saskatchewan General Election Official Results

POSITION	ELECTED
President	Clem Chartier
Vice President	Robert Doucette
Treasurer	Allan Morin
Secretary	Dave Ross
Area Director NR I	Al Rivard
Area Director NR II	Norman Hansen
Area Director NR III	Don Favel
Area Director WR I	Guy Bouvier
Area Director WR IA	Ralph Kennedy
Area Director WR II	Tammy Mah
Area Director WR IIA	Curtis Charney
Area Director WR III	Albert Delaire
Area Director ER I	Dale McAuley
Area Director ER II	Helen Johnson
Area Director ER IIA	Myles Pelletier
Area Director ER III	Vince Folk



\*Pending Appeals and Procedural Results  
Released by the Métis Nation Election Commission, March 2001



## Tracing Your Roots: Métis Genealogical Research

By Brenda Macdougall

I first became involved with genealogical research while teaching Métis history to second year Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) students at the University of Saskatchewan. Students in that course are expected to do a family history assignment based on oral and archival research. To complete the assignment, SUNTEP students have the unique opportunity to travel to and use the Hudson's Bay Company Archives (HBCA) in Winnipeg, Manitoba. It was the privilege of travelling with students to Winnipeg for several years that eventually led to my own efforts to compile genealogical information for Métis communities in northwestern

including: names of individual family members; their dates of birth, baptism, marriage(s) and death; and locations

While there is an abundance of documentation about Métis families in archives across Western Canada,



President Clem Chartier Addresses Primrose Lake Air Weapons Range Negotiating Committee and Community Members at the February 18, 2001 Meeting

Saskatchewan as a component of the work I am doing for a PhD in Native Studies. What follows are some helpful hints for Saskatchewan Métis on how to begin tracing your roots and a listing of archives and sources that can help you in your search.

There exists a wide variety of archival sources dealing with Métis genealogies and all of them are easy to access once you know where to look and what questions to ask. But, before even beginning an archival search, first visit with relatives and record as much information about the family as you and your relatives can remember. It is important to go to the archives with lists of specific information

of where the family lived, whether they moved and the legal land descriptions if available. If you are having difficulty with dates but know the names of family members, a good place to begin is contacting provincial Vital Statistics offices. For a fee, Vital Statistics can supply you with basic information regarding births, marriages and deaths, all of which are helpful when you are in an archive. Additionally, if your family belonged to a specific Christian church (Catholic, United, Anglican etc.), contact it to request copies of any documents or information they may have about your family. The more information and knowledge you have, the easier your search will be.

for newcomers to genealogical research there is often anxiety surrounding going to archives and accessing the records they contain. Part of that anxiety is because few people know what the purpose of an archives is or how they work. Archives, unlike libraries, contain original documents created by government departments, agencies and officials, private citizens, businesses, and newspapers to name a few. So, unlike a library, you cannot simply select what it is you would like to read by going to the shelf and picking out a book. Instead, when you visit an archive, you read through "finding aides" or catalogues created by the archive listing the types of



# FAMILY HISTORY

records available and the reference numbers for locating them.

Once you have a reference number, an archivist brings the files you request. Going through archival records is extremely time consuming so make sure you give yourself enough time to search for and read the records. Documents cannot be removed from an archive you must take detailed notes or get photocopies of anything of interest. Either way, keep track of the all reference information in case you ever need to return to the archive and look at them again and to make sure you don't search for information you already have at a later date. Remember that archive staff are knowledgeable about the types of records they have and are there to help you, however they can only help if you arrive prepared.

For Métis people, there are several important types of sources that can help you trace your family. The two main sources relate to our history in the fur trade and our struggles for the recognition of land rights beginning in the late 1800s.

Because virtually all Métis people descend from men and women who participated in the fur trade, those records are an invaluable source of genealogical information. The HBCA contains the records for Hudson's Bay Company's (HBC) activities throughout North America (including employment registers, post journals, account books, wills, letters in and out of the fur trading regions and the activities of enemy traders. What remains of all of these types of records are located at the HBCA in Winnipeg. If your family lived, or

continues to live, in an area where there was a Hudson's Bay Company post, it is likely there will be references to your relatives throughout the records associated with that post.


If, on the other hand, your family worked for the HBC's rival, the North West Company (NWC) there are fewer records available. Many of the

in 1824, court records and river lot maps. Much of that information has already been transcribed and published in, *The Genealogy of the First Métis Nation* by authors D.N. Sprague and R.P. Fryea book available in most libraries or which can be ordered by bookstores.

One of the most important sources for all Métis people doing their genealogies relates to our historic struggle to have our land rights recognized and acknowledged by the Canadian government and these are the Scrip Records. Scrip was a process devised by the federal government to try and extinguish Métis Aboriginal rights to large tracts of land in exchange for 240 acres of agricultural land or \$240. The records dealing with scrip were kept by the Canadian government's Department of the Interior.

Scrip was issued to the Métis in the late 1800s and early 1900s throughout the western provinces and Northwest Territories and, while it clearly did not provide the Métis with a recognizable land base that today sustains our communities economically, socially, politically or culturally, it is an important genealogical source.

In order to receive scrip, one had to fill out an application and these scrip applications today provide Métis people with the best source of comprehensive information about family members that lived a hundred or more years ago. One scrip application contains information about three generations of the individual applicants family at the



The Métis Rights Defence Fund pays for the defence of Métis Rights Test Cases.

Contributions can be made to the Métis Rights Defence Fund by mailing cheque or money order to:

Métis Rights Defence Fund  
Box 370  
Buffalo Narrows, Sask.  
S0M 0J0

NWC records were destroyed or lost when the two companies merged in 1821, however the HBCA does have some records such as NWC employee contracts, post journals, correspondence, and accounts.

The HBCA also contains records from the Red River Settlement including parish records of many of the churches located there, Parish census' compiled by the HBC over the years beginning



# FAMILY HISTORY

time the application was filled out including: name of applicant; age; birth date; place of birth and residence; occupation; names of parents; marital status; and names and numbers of children living and dead.

In order to access the scrip applications regarding your family, you must know when and where members of your family applied for scrip. In the Saskatchewan area, scrip applications were taken between roughly 1886 and 1907 in Willow Bunch, Fort Qu'Appelle, Touchwood Hills, Prince Albert, St. Louis, Duck Lake, Batoche, Sandy Lake, Battleford, Bresaylor, Green Lake, Onion Lake, Cumberland House, Ile a la Crosse, La Loche, Stanley Mission, La Ronge and the list goes on. The original scrip applications are located in Ottawa at the National Archives of Canada, however all of the scrip applications are available on microfilm (35mm snapshots of the originals contained on reels of film). Most of the microfilmed scrip applications are available at the

University of Saskatchewan main library (reference number FC125.C36) or the Saskatchewan Archives Board (SAB) which has offices in both Regina and Saskatoon.

Finally, one source not to overlook is the Canadian census records. Every ten years, beginning in 1881, the

information. For instance, the 1891 census recorded names, gender, age, marital status, country/province of birth of individual being recorded as well as parents, professions, religion, wage, and education level. In contrast, the 1901 census recorded names, gender, colour, age, place of birth, racial or tribal origin, education level, and languages an individual was fluent in.

Internet access where available can speed up any genealogical search. Many archives now have websites and have placed their finding aids on-line so that before even leaving home you can check what they have available. The Internet additionally can help you link up to

other Métis people in Canada doing genealogical research maybe on the same family name you are researching and can help you find additional sources in and out of Canada.

Below is a brief list of the archives that contain genealogical information for Saskatchewan Métis people and their website addresses:



Primrose Lake Air Weapons Range Negotiating Committee Holds Public Meeting in Beauval to Discuss Compensation

Canadian government undertook a national census to keep track of the Canadian population. Only three Canadian census' are actually available to the public 1881, 1891 and 1901 because of laws guarding the privacy of individuals. However, these three historic surveys can prove to be quite valuable in tracing family members as well as gaining additional

1. Hudson's Bay Company Archives, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
[www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca/index.html)
2. Métis Resource Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
[www.Métisresourcecentre.mb.ca](http://www.Métisresourcecentre.mb.ca)
3. National Archives of Canada, Ottawa, ON  
[www.archives.ca](http://www.archives.ca)
4. Saskatchewan Archives Board, Saskatoon and Regina, Saskatchewan  
[www.gov.sk.ca](http://www.gov.sk.ca)



# SUNTEP PRINCE ALBERT

## Another Successful Term

### STUDENT UPDATE

As of January 24, 2001 we have a total enrollment of 79 students.

Classes resumed on January 3, 2001. A total of 15 students successfully completed their internship. Unfortunately, we lost three students after the first set of exams so our total enrollment is now at 79 students. Two interns, Paige Sinoski and Christine Soles, have been nominated for the Bates Award for excellence in internship teaching. As well, a number of undergraduate students received Napoleon Lafontaine Scholarships. Congratulations to all.

### CENTRE ACTIVITIES

**PILOT PROJECT:** Because this was the first year of a three year pilot project between SUNTEP Prince



photo by Bente Huntley

Albert and the University of Saskatchewan, some changes were implemented to this year's internship. An extra inservice day was added and it was held at our annual fall Cultural Camp. Participants were involved in cultural arts activities and Elders' teachings, a first for some cooperating teachers. As well, the College supervisor incorporated and

By Bente Huntley, Acting Coordinator

encouraged story as a tool for the final evaluation. To build on the momentum of the first year of the project, the interns and cooperative teachers were involved in an evaluation of the internship pilot project to implement further changes. These results should be available shortly.

### SURVIVOR'S BANQUET

This year's annual Survivor's Banquet, held in the 15th of November, 2000, was a success. "I'm Strong Enough to Take These Dreams and Make Them Mine" was the theme for the evening. The first year students hosted and toasted 20 students who survived their first year and are now in their second year. There were plenty of stories, laughter and excellent food. The second year students who were honoured were Jennifer Barlow, Jesse Barlow,



The SUNTEP students of 2000-2001

photo by Bente Huntley



# SUNTEP PRINCE ALBERT



The Survivor's Banquet

photo by Bente Huntley

Florence Bear, Patricia Constant, Kim Dorion, Janelle Duplessis, Greg Duval, Jolene Everest, Amanda Fisher, Sharleen Fontaine, Trevor Gunville, Mike Hallam, Michael Havet, Melissa Hurl, Leeann Johnson, Rena Lafleur, Raymond Mink, Charlene Opoonechaw, Elisa Pelletier, and Jason Polowski.

## SUNTEP THEATRE

The Drama 116 class is working on a play called "A Thousand Supperless Babes:" a play about the story of the Métis people through slides, family stories, and historical facts. The play has a cast of 25 students and incorporates live fiddle music and dancing. We are looking forward to their performances in March.

## FIELD EXPERIENCE

All three years will be out in the schools from January 29 to February 2. The first year students head out to the separate and rural schools. They will also be having a tea and orientation for their cooperating teachers on January 24. The second year students will go north for their final week while the third years do their pre-internship in the public schools. Many of our students are getting extra teaching experience by volunteering in the schools, in the adult educational institutions (like the penitentiary), and in the workshops.

We have received numerous phone calls from prospective employers, now actively recruiting for the fall for various school divisions. The employment possibilities are very diverse and exciting! We would like to wish all of our students and instructors a rewarding and educational term and successful job hunting for our graduates.



The "Survivors" - These students successfully survived their first year of SUNTEP

photo by Bente Huntley



## My Eyes Saw and My Heart Felt

By Jonina Kirton

The other day I got on the skytrain and immediately felt something was wrong. Growing up in an abusive home has made me hyper-vigilant. Without even meaning to, I feel the energy of any room I enter. Since I felt something was amiss I quickly tried to feel or see what was happening. I almost go off; as the general feeling of the passengers seemed to be that they felt hostage yet I could see or hear no reason why. All this processing happened in a few

child for just having sworn.

I pretty quickly realized they were no threat to anyone. The women was the most obviously drunk with a few teeth missing, a beautiful smile and a spark of playfulness still left in her eyes. One of the men was so quiet I did not notice him for some time. The other man had the beautiful long traditional hair that I so dearly love. He was soft spoken and had that comforting lisp so many natives who have spoken native

**This is what my eyes saw and my heart felt.**

This was not so for the others on the skytrain. I felt their mixed feelings of disgust and pity loaded with the judgement that clouds their vision. I also felt their smugness and feeling of superiority after all we all know about drunken Indians don't we? I, on the other hand was all too aware that I did not have the luxury of distancing myself from these people as they were

"my people." When I look at them I see my grandma, my father, my brother and yes of course even myself. When I hear the native accent I feel warm, comforted and I have no idea why. I can only guess that as a small child my great grandfather was still living and that he spoke that way. At any rate as I became increasingly aware of the prejudice I felt tears welling up. The pain and shame I felt was almost overwhelming. I also became aware of this old feeling of needing to choose. The world has always said to me "them or us - you can't have both." Either you are white or you are red. Like the words of a song I once heard that spoke of this dichotomy "not white enough, not red enough."

I can tell you this much; I will not choose, as I love both. Being a Métis woman I have had a rich life as I have had access to both worlds. Neither is perfect and trust me, neither am I.



Vancouver's Sky Train

seconds and as the doors began to close I decided to stay on board as I could see no immediate danger. No sooner did they close and I first heard then saw the cause of the discomfort on board that skytrain. To my dismay it was "drunken Indians" one of which was profusely apologizing to a young

languages seem to have. There was a distinct feeling that they existed in another world than the rest of those commuters on the skytrain. They were not filled with the inhibitions, the socialization that is so prevalent in this world. Not colonized victims as my friend Dance always says.

❧
  
**Where I have been**  
**Where I am going**  
**What does it matter**  
**I AM HERE NOW**  
**Let that be enough**
❧



## Greg Fofonoff: Chief Executive Officer, SNEDCO

By Kathy Hodgson-Smith

**G**reg Fofonoff, originally from Foam Lake, has lived, studied and worked in the Saskatoon area for most of his life. He took his first degree in Psychology, following up with a Masters Degree in Business Administration. Since graduation, he has worked in the small business consulting / lending field for about twelve years. Prior to his employment with the Métis Nation in SNEDCO in 1992, he worked with Community Futures in North Battleford and in Alsask. His appointment to CEO came in 1997.

Fofonoff sat back in his chair during the interview and with confidence and pride talked about the services of SNEDCO and of the need for such services within the Métis Nation. Métis entrepreneurs' lack the equity and the second family income required to start a small business and see it through its many growing and developing stages. On average, Métis people lack the wealth of the average borrower and in this regard, SNEDCO is designed to support sound business ideas of Métis people. While SNEDCO is a higher "risk-taker" than banks, Fofonoff says that they take "informed risks", determined after an investigation process that can be lengthy. In many cases, the entrepreneur spends several weeks working on a business plan with SNEDCO's Business Advisory Services Division. The business development staff at SNEDCO bring to the review all of their experience and knowledge of working with small businesses and a knowledge of the factors that can improve the likelihood of success.

While Fofonoff has seen more than 300 successful businesses funded by SNEDCO dollars, he has also seen

thousands of weak business plans. He says that the successful application is often not the first business plan submitted by the individual. Because the cost of a failed business is very



Greg Fofonoff

high, both personally and in terms of credit for an individual, SNEDCO sees its mandate to provide "real" opportunity for success. Typically, SNEDCO gives a first assessment to the applicant and if the results show potential problems, applicants typically withdraw the application and return with a new or modified idea.

SNEDCO received initial capital funds from Industry Canada in 1987 to the tune of \$5 million. Since that original contribution, an additional million in capital funds has been provided. SNEDCO's major source of revenue to cover its operating costs is the interest generated on its loans. New loans are made from the repayment of principal on existing loans. SNEDCO works off the lending capital and off of the repayment of the loans and subsequent interest. So, future funding is dependant upon successful business. Since its start in 1987,

SNEDCO has lent out approximately \$19 million to Métis businesses. So far this year, SNEDCO has given out about \$1.5 million to various entrepreneurs. One additional goal of the organization is to find additional loan capital from Federal or Provincial government departments to improve SNEDCO's profit and to meet the demand for loans. SNEDCO also seeks partnerships with other lenders and has secured a number of these over the years.

I asked Greg Fofonoff if an entrepreneur is born or made. He says that he has seen some common characteristics, such as an outgoing personality, persistent, confident, regular in habits with a specific attention to details. While

finance is not a prerequisite background, a business person must hire out for these skills in the absence of having them. "The reason for success as an entrepreneur is him or herself", he says. "We help, but we are not the business. I have seen a venture turn from having a gross revenue of \$25,000 a year to, within a three year period, turning a gross revenue of \$1.5 million with a payroll of \$600,000. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing someone get ahead, to see success and that they have money in their pocket. At the same time a struggling business is very stressful and we feel a responsibility to our clients to provide them with the information to avoid poor business opportunities. In your heart you want success. In your mind and experience, you recognize the possibility of failure. We are a very approachable group, Fofonoff says, so he encourages Métis people to follow their ambitions.



## Clarence Campeau Development Fund Creating Business Opportunities

Story & Photos By Jack Walton

**R**oland Duplessis is driven by a simple goal as General Manager of the Clarence Campeau Development Fund. "Small business is at the core of providing employment opportunities for Métis people in this province". His dark eyes squint and he leans forward on the table to stress a point. "This is a need CCDF can respond to", he explains. "We want CCDF to be more than just another funding agency", he continues. "CCDF has to be woven into the fabric of the Métis business community and the members have to know that they don't have to have all their ducks lined up to come and see us".

Duplessis is no stranger to the world of business finance. He left Fort Qu'appell at an early age to join the Royal Bank and his enthusiasm for financing small business development and community economic development has not changed or wavered. His years of experience in the Saskatchewan Provincial Government as Manager of Loans and investments for the Economic Development Corporation led to working with The Métis Nation of Alberta and to furthering his passion for sound business development.

Mr. Duplessis explains how many emerging Métis business people fall short when it comes to the basic equity to attract the financial partners.

"CCDF's main role is to respond to the equity needs of new Métis businesses.



Georgette Nicolas, Office Manager, with Roland Duplessis, General Manager

When a prospective Métis businessperson walks into the bank they need to have a well-developed business plan and some equity in their pocket, or else they won't be considered." That just about sums up the CCDF focus. They promote and provide programs for business plan

chair and reaches to answer. On the other end is a young Métis entrepreneur looking to start a business. It is clear that Duplessis is now in his element. He talks clearly and pointed to the young man, much like a father would advise his mature children. He might have learned that

skill from raising his own three children into the young adult stage of life and beams with pride of having allowed then the freedom to explore their independence but ensuring they had the basic support and sound footing. "It's much the same as developing a small businessperson. If you believe in the importance, then you find the ways to support. We can't do it



Roland Duplessis with Owners/Operators, Lawrence & Darlene Mullis of Jack Pine Stables

development, equity, management skills training and joint ventures.

In the middle of making an animated point, the phone in the small CCDF office rings. He swings around in his

all, but we find honest and practical ways to support where we can".

Talk to any financial analyst or economic development manager and you can't avoid the conversation



turning to numbers and statistics. Duplisses rolls out CCDF numbers with pride. For example, CCDF has supported 163 projects over the past two years for just over 3 million dollars. As a result this cautious but targeted investment has leveraged 11.4 million new dollars into the Métis business community. He smiles. The

real proof in the pudding is that the partnering of CCDF has created 223 direct jobs since July of 1998. These are some of the best stats in any economic development venture in the province and maybe even the country. Duplisses isn't shy about what he sees for the future.

"As Métis business people begin to feel more comfortable working with this affiliate and the opportunities continue to expand, we see great positive stories emerging. All I can say is bring on the deals and lets continue to build a strong Métis business community".

## Working For Children

# SUPPORTING FAMILIES

By Ingrid MacColl

**M**étis Family Community Justice Services of Saskatchewan Inc (MFCJS) has a provincial mandate to design, develop and implement services at the regional level for Métis in Saskatchewan.

Among many other things, MFCJS has been working with 30 Community Action Projects for children around the province. MFCJS are now at a point where they are looking to long-term funding for these projects. The projects have been running with very limited resources and have found significant success in working with children and families at risk. They need continued support from community, regions and government sources in order to continue programs and services for children. Health Canada is the program funder, employing three managers, one that works with MFCJS staff, one with First Nations organization and one for all other organizations. MFCJS works to support the projects and help them find resources. A call for proposals stimulated the following community organizations and after a few years of

development, the projects were realized. Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) is a program of Health Canada, designed to meet the needs of children, aged 0-6, "at-risk" and their families. They

Visiting Program at Pinegrove Correctional Institution, Mother/Child Futures; Child and Family Enhancement Program in Archerwill, Beauval Mom and Tots program, Child Hunger Program in

Moose Jaw; Ristus Program in Regina; SAK's Student and Kids Program in Saskatoon; EGADZ in Saskatoon; Kapachee in Fort Qu'Appelle; Métis Heritage Corporation crisis program in Melfort, Stoney Rapids, Uranium City and Wollaston, and Battleford have programs as well. While we continue to make headway on the issues faced by our families, there is so much more that needs to be done.



Ingrid MacColl

photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

offer various programs from pre-school, parenting programs, child care, community kitchens, community gardens, working in partnership with other community agencies and organizations to ensure access for families. A few of these include: Children's Haven in Prince Albert, Meyowayowin Children's

Another program we have is the Aboriginal Courtworker Program. Lori Skjeie and Debbie Ross are the two courtworkers. They work with youth and adults providing advocacy and information, speaking on behalf of clients in court. There are three half-time justice workers, who work with a community steering committee to address justice issues for youth and families, as well. This is an area of tremendous need



## A Framework for Cooperation

By Yvonne Vizina

On January 18, 2001 Premier Roy Romanow, MNS President Clem Chartier, Saskatoon Mayor Jim Madden, FSIN Chief Perry Bellegarde, and Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Minister Jack Hillson announced A Framework for Cooperation at Pleasant Hill School in Saskatoon. The Framework, collaborated on by 12 provincial government departments, is meant to provide a means of working together with the Métis and First Nations communities to bring better opportunities for all Aboriginal peoples.

The Framework is comprised of four main objectives in Education, Skills Training and Work Preparation, Jobs and Economic Development Opportunities, and Improving Individual and Community Well-Being. These four objectives will facilitate new developments with Métis and off-reserve First Nations



President Clem Chartier ...

photo by Yvonne Vizina

people, Aboriginal institutions, and all levels of government.

The atmosphere at Pleasant Hill School was positive and enthusiastic, with everyone being treated to

traditional dance performances by students, singing and drumming, and motivating speeches from the guests of honour. After a review of the Framework, the day closed with some high-stepping fiddle tunes played by



photo by Yvonne Vizina



# GOVERNMENT POLICY

Brent Peekeekoot, prompting some of the honoured guests, including the Premier, to get up and dance a jig. It was very nice to see our leaders celebrating some positive "steps" in the course of their careers! For more information on A Framework for Cooperation, contact Wendy Campbell at Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs in Regina (306) 787-8008.



photo by Yvonne Vizina

## Outreach Officer

I will start by introducing myself my name is Vanessa Beaudry, I am the new Outreach Officer for the Métis Employment and Training Institute of Saskatoon office for Western Region 11A. This has been a very enjoyable first three months for me.

As I myself am a graduate of a program offered by M.E.T.S.I. it is a wonderful experience to now be working in the service delivery of these programs and funding that is made available to the Métis community.

Without the program that was offered by DTI and funded by M.E.T.S.I., I would not have had the employment opportunities that I have had. I thank all of those who made the program possible.

Dealing directly with clients, to hear their career goals and accomplishments is a reminder of just why M.E.T.S.I. is so beneficial in the Métis community. Given the

chance to acquire employment skills and to increase their education Métis people are very determined and dedicated in obtaining career goals. A large number of clients that



Vanessa Beaudry

received funding to further their education are now employed or have been contacted to be employed once they complete the course of enrollment.

This is an empowering accomplishment for not just our Métis community but the entire labour market as it strengthens the

educational/skills market of the employable sector.

A large number of the clients that previously and currently receive training dollars have sent letters of appreciation and have informed us of employment in such fields as; travel agent, pilot, home care, computer design, nursing and the list goes on.

I am looking forward to this field of employment as I enjoy working directly with the clients. If you have any questions about the services offered by our office please feel free to contact me at (306) 244-1505 or via e-mail at [v.beaudry@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:v.beaudry@sk.sympatico.ca).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you and I wish you all well,

Vanessa Beaudry  
Outreach Officer  
M.E.T.I.S

## GREETINGS



# Battleford's Youth Empowerment Centre Cultural & Little People's Program

By Lyle and Laurie Lee

Greetings from Western Region AI's Youth Empowerment Centre Staff, Laurie Lee, Phyllis Lennie and Lyle Lee. Along with building onto our already successful youth data base and assisting R.C.M.P., parents and social services in locating missing children, we have two new and exciting programs. The

new level with a nine week program that involves Indian and Métis Cultural projects which includes camping, wilderness and emergency training. This program involves 13 youth who are being trained to deal with tourists and emergency situations should they be faced with this during the summer camping

have heard from people in England, Brazil, Hawaii, Germany, Sweden, Finland, the U.S.A., Russia, Ireland, Scotland, France, Netherlands, Australia, China, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Singapore, Slovenia, all across Canada, including the Noble High School in Lebanon Maine, who



Youth Empowerment Program Graduates

photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

first is a cosmetology program facilitated by Phyllis Lennie. Approximately 18 to 25 young ladies are involved in this program. Phyllis also has the drama class going full swing and they have produced to date two fine video tapes which can be viewed at the centre.

The Cultural Sharing program facilitated by Lyle Lee has moved to a

season. Added onto the regular cultural program are instructions on what to do if you get lost, how to find water, shelter building, how to splint a broken leg or arm, or where to set up camp, etc.

Because of our unique website, people and organizations have contacted us from all over the world and inquired about our cultural programs. So far we

have decided that they want to use our culture program for an exhibition. We have also been asked to put Métis Cultural exhibits in museums in Washington, D.C. and in Montreal, Quebec. Not bad for a centre that only opened its doors a little over a year ago. Within the first eight months of operation youth signed our guest sheets approximately 10,000 times making our stats number one in





Martin Knight and Friends

photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

Western Canada. Because of our staff shortage, the cosmetology, drama and the Little

Peoples program which is facilitated by Laurie Lee will take turns running since safety always comes first at our

centre and we ensure that someone is always supervising the TV and game room. We will run the drama and cosmetology program for a number of weeks and then Phyllis and Laurie will trade rooms and the Little Peoples Cultural Program will run for a number of weeks.

We at the Youth Empowerment Centre would like to thank all the parents and volunteers who've helped with the Friday night dances. Congratulations to the Métis Fathers of the Year: George Pritchard and James Lennie.

Congratulations from our staff and our youth to Ralph Kennedy re-elected as Area Director for Western Region IA... we have not forgotten that it was you who made it possible for our centre to become a leader in the struggle to make a better society for our young people.

## BEING MÉTIS

### Métisness: To Infinity and Beyond

By Kathy Hodgson-Smith

The question of the day, asked by scholars, lawyers, educators and by the general public on the matter of any topic regarding the Métis, seems to be what constitutes "Métisness" in the twenty-first century? The lawyer asks about traditional practices because the law states that in order for an Aboriginal right to exist into the present, the practices and traditions protected by the Canadian Constitution must have continued to the present. Further, Métis rights are site-specific rights, in that they are connected to the Métis community. The teacher asks about what it means to be Métis in this day and age when the buffalo have been gone since the mid 1800's and Métis were primarily buffalo hunters, or so the history goes. What of the Métis history and culture has remained today? The scholar and educator asks: What is Métis literature? What is Métis culture? What is a Métis community? What is Métis about Aboriginal education? The Courts want to know: If there are Métis rights, which are the rights of the collective and not of the individual, who can exercise them on behalf of the collective? Who are the Métis? Are you Métis? What is "Métisness" to you?

Please Respond



# WILLOW BUNCH

## A Glimpse at a Métis Community

Stories & Photos By Kathy Hodgson-Smith

Nestled in the rolling hills of southern Saskatchewan, rich with the history of its earliest people, is the small town of Willow Bunch. Following the dispersal of Métis from Red River in 1870, the pattern of Métis occupation and land usage developed in the regions now known as Willow Bunch and Wood Mountain. Along with Batoche, Prince Albert, Turtle Mountain and others, seasonal cycles for buffalo hunting and subsistence lifestyles were the way of life for Métis people. More than 175 Métis families, some of whose descendants remain settled near Willow Bunch today, called the prairie and badlands home. The family names remain well known



Museum and Convent



Sod Shack

even today, with families like Delorme, McGillis, Gosselin, Ouellette, Vallee, Parenteau, Gaudry, Azur, and Berger.

The community of Willow Bunch had an area known as the "Métis Hamlet" where more than 300 Métis made their home. In addition, eight townships had been set aside for the Métis in 1885, following the 1885-86 survey of the region. This land has since been taken over by the village, and

dispersed over the years. One of the early mud shacks of the Métis, and subsequently of the early settlers of the area, still stands in the community of St. Victor. The shack was owned by

Coteau McGillis, who lived to the ripe age of 105. The structure serves as a reminder of the Métis traditions, along with the buffalo hunt, respective laws and communal lifestyle that made permanent settlement possible in this region. The buffalo hunts are remembered in history as a spectacular and necessary event, with huge herds taking three days to pass by the community. It was no small

task to organize a buffalo hunt and the early history recounts the detailed structure necessary for a successful hunt. The officers of the Métis hunt were elected and included the President, 10 Captains, 15 Policemen, Scouts and Guides.

The first activities of the Roman



En Route to Willow Bunch...



# WILLOW BUNCH

Catholic Church began in this area following the Métis who exited Red River in 1870. The first mission was

facilities at Dianne's Care Home, a senior care facility for Level 1 and 2 care. The home is owned and run by

golf course and various surrounding parks. A population of about 475 call this town their home.



## ABORIGINAL HEALING FOUNDATION WILLOW BUNCH HEALING PROJECT

Willow Bunch Métis Local #17 has undertaken the task of examining the loss of Métis identity and to document a current profile of the Métis from the Willow Bunch and surrounding area. The Local has received funding from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. As well, the project goals include the re-education of the community on Métis culture, history and values, as well as establishing a better relationship with the non-Métis community. A final product of the project will be a book on the Métis of this area. The book will be an effort to correct the negative images that currently exist and to create an environment for healthy community relations for all.

The project workplan is to identify Métis contributions through research into Métis history, traditions, culture, values, arts, music for the Willow Bunch area, to honour the Métis survivors of the school system and to honour the children of those survivors, also. The project is meant to support the celebration of Métis history

set up in the winter settlement of 1870. The arrival of Jean Louis Légaré was close behind and served as the roots of the French families who also continue to call Willow Bunch home. The Catholic convent opened on September 15, 1914 for day students and October 1, 1914 for 40 or so borders. Many Métis attended the convent for their education. Today, the convent building houses the Willow Bunch Museum with a statue of the Willow Bunch Giant, Edouard Beaupré presiding over his gravesite in the shadows of the great spruce trees in the front yard.

Driving through the community, I made a quick stop to view the

Dianne and Ken Gaudry. Like this business, there are many in the town. The town is rich with opportunity for healthy living, with a curling rink, skating rink, outdoor horse-riding arena, swimming pool, playground,



Dianne's Care Home



# WILLOW BUNCH



Town & Fire Hall

and culture from the area. While the participants may have very well left these thoughts and ideas far in the back of their mind, it is a process of healing to bring these contributions, fears, injustices and future visions to the forefront of our minds. The Métis contribution is certainly found in the history books but at some point in time, the Métis become only part of the past. The project is designed to bring the past into the present and allow for the future development of the Métis Nation in the community of Willow Bunch.

## **COMMUNITY PIONEER, FIRST NATION AND MÉTIS SOCIETY CULTURAL DAYS AT THE WILLOW BUNCH SCHOOL**

The Willow Bunch School is undertaking its first cultural days festivities to celebrate the long history of First Nation, Métis and Pioneers in this area. The Kindergarten to Grade Twelve school, through a Saskatchewan Education Grassroots Program, has initiated a number of exciting community-based studies. The program will link this information to the use of various forms of technology, including web page design and digitization of information. While each grade has a project designed to fit within their respective curriculum, they

collectively turn to the history of the community as a valuable resource for learning and curriculum. They will be interviewing grandparents seeking to understand how things have changed since they were young, including genealogical and demographic studies. As well, the students are gathering photos for a pictorial history project.

For the Métis residents of Willow Bunch, though, one of the most significant undertakings is the cultural awareness activities of First Nations



Marielle Dionne & Randy Gaudry

and Métis peoples. The activities will include discussions and presentations by various speakers on topics such as

Aboriginal Rights, Land Claims and Treaties. The Métis Local was approached to provide leadership and guidance on the activities of the school. Randy Gaudry and Calvin Racette will attend to speak on Métis history and culture. Travis Ogle, with the help of Harold Thomson, will bring a collection of arrowheads, shells and other relics from the past found in the area of Wood Mountain. Bannock and bullet soup will be served as part of the festivities.

Marielle Dionne is the school librarian and coordinator of the grassroots project on behalf of the Principal and staff of Willow Bunch School. She is excited about the additional information that will be generated through the project. At this time, there is little information in the school library on First Nations and Métis history and the school is looking forward to developing and building these resources. The work of the Métis Local #17 on the Aboriginal Healing Foundation project seems a timely and compatible effort to the work of the whole community. Healing within the community will bring forward clear understandings for the future of Willow Bunch.



Gaudry Homestead







## Ontario Court of Appeal Hears The Powley Case

By Kathy Hodgson-Smith

From January 10 to the 12, 2001, the Ontario Court of Appeal heard the Crown's appeal from the lower court decision which

court of appeal for all of Canada.

This case will set a precedent which will be binding on all of the courts in Ontario, and if it goes to the Supreme Court of Canada, will be binding on all the courts within Canada. As such, it has a great potential for being the first case to reach the Supreme Court of Canada, and could be the case which sets the precedent for all courts by establishing the test which is necessary for Métis to meet in establishing Aboriginal hunting and fishing rights under s.35(1).

To date, when doing Métis cases, the lawyers are guided by

the SCC's decisions from the 1990s

which state that the Aboriginal hunting or fishing right being claimed by Indians must be a practice, custom or tradition which was integral to the culture of the Indian community claiming the right prior to contact with the Europeans. With respect to the Métis, the SCC acknowledged that the Métis would not be able to meet the "pre-contact" test, stating that the Aboriginal rights of the Métis may flow from their Indian ancestors or from the Métis community itself. This, they stated, would be answered when they have a Métis-specific fact situation before them.

The SCC has also stated that the proper time frame for determining the existence and content of the Aboriginal right is at the time "effective control" is asserted by the Europeans. Based on these principles, lawyers representing Métis defendants in Aboriginal harvesting rights cases have argued that Métis rights flow from the Métis communities/peoples themselves, as



Jean Teillet

recognized the Métis of Sault Ste. Marie's Aboriginal right to hunt as found in s.35(1) of the Constitution Act, 1982. This is the 3rd level of court for the father and son Defendants (Steve and Roddy Powley). They were first acquitted in provincial court and then in the Ontario Superior Court. The Ontario Court of Appeal is the highest court in Ontario. Any further appeal will have to be to the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) which is the last



President Métis Nation - Ontario  
Tony Belcourt, Jean Teillet, Steve Powley

Powley Victory



# MÉTIS RIGHTS

A Métis is a person who,

- (a) has some ancestral family connection (not necessarily genetic)
- (b) identifies himself or herself as Métis and
- (c) is accepted by the Métis community or a locally-organized branch, chapter or council of a Métis association or organization with which that person wishes to be associated.

The lawyers (Jean Teillet & Art Pape) for the Defendants/Respondents, along with the lawyer for the Crown/Appellants asked the Court of Appeal to adopt the definition of Métis from the trial level, while the lawyers for the Interveners Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, Ontario Métis and Aboriginal Association and Toronto Aboriginal Legal Services asked the Court of Appeal to adopt the definition put forward by the Superior

court judge. The lawyer (Clem Chartier) for the Intervener Métis National Council made the argument that the Court of Appeal judges should not adopt any definition of Métis as only the Métis Nation or people have the right to define who are the Métis.

This case also dealt with a number of other issues which may have a bearing in other parts of the Métis Nation homeland, particularly the Crown/Appellant's argument that where the historic Métis community has dispersed, that the present-day descendants no longer have an Aboriginal right to hunt and fish which their ancestors previously possessed.

Needless to say, this case will provide a lot of interesting issues for discussion around the Métis family kitchen tables.



## Ontario Court of Appeal Judgment

TORONTO February 23, 2001 --- The highest court in Ontario has upheld the Métis right to hunt. The unanimous decision by the Ontario Court of Appeal in *R. V. Powley* was announced today in Toronto. Steve Powley and his son Rod, two citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario of the historic Métis community of Sault St. Marie, were charged in 1993 for illegal hunting and illegal possession of moose. The charges were dismissed at trial in 1998 and the Superior Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the trial judge in January 2000. The court ordered: *the government must proceed with immediate dispatch to establish a scheme that accords respect and recognition of [Métis] rights.*



# Important Information

for all Canadians about

## responsible firearm ownership

### *An update on licensing*

FIREARMS LICENCE / PERMISSE  
POSSESSION ONLY • POSSE

Name / Nom  
WAYNE PETERS



Date of Birth / Date de naissance  
1968 • 01 • 01  
Y / A M D / J

Height / Taille  
170 CM

Gender / Sexe  
MALE

Number / Numéro  
1234567890.01

### Temporary licences issued to meet demand

To comply with the *Firearms Act* requirement for firearm owners to have a licence as of January 1, 2001, Canadians sent in their licence applications in record numbers. To meet this demand, temporary licences are being issued to eligible firearm owners.

#### **Public safety remains the cornerstone of the firearms program.**

Temporary licences are only being issued to those who are successfully screened against Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) databases. And, like all other firearm licence holders, those with temporary firearms licences will be continuously screened against police databases.

**These public safety checks conform to the *Firearms Act* and keep firearms away from those who should not have them.**

Temporary licence holders are not permitted to acquire firearms. However, they will be in legal possession of their firearms and they will be able to get ammunition. Temporary licences are only valid until June 30, 2001 or until those eligible receive their five-year licence.

#### TEMPORARY FIREARMS LICENCE (POSSESSION-ONLY)

This licence authorizes the holder to possess firearms lawfully possessed by the holder on the date of issue of this licence. This licence is valid for acquisition of ammunition.

Name - Nom	Date of issue
Height - Taille	Eye colour - Couleur des yeux
Expiry date	

This licence must be produced on demand if requested by a peace officer.

#### STANDARD CONDITION

You must inform the Chief Firearms Officer of the province or territory within 30 days after any change in name or address.

Issued by the Chief Firearms Officer (of the province or territory) under the authority of the *Firearms Act*, Statutes of Canada.

### Grace period introduced

**Firearm owners who applied for their licence before the deadline will not be penalized if they did not receive their licence by January 1, 2001**

This grace period will last until June 30, 2001. It only protects people who applied for a licence before January 1, 2001. Firearm owners and users who did not apply for a licence or who don't have a valid Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC) may be subject to penalties under the *Criminal Code*.

For more information, assistance or forms, call **1 800 731-4000** or visit our Web site at **www.cfc.gc.ca**

Canada



## Working to Bring Opportunity to Northern Saskatchewan

By Yvonne Vizina

The Interim Northern Development Board (INDB) met January 15, 2001 to continue its work on the development of the structure of the organization that will bring new opportunities to Northern Saskatchewan. As one of his last

official duties in office, Premier Romanow was invited to attend a luncheon with the Board in Prince Albert.

With representatives from The Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, New North, Prince Albert Grand Council, Meadow Lake Tribal Council, Government of Saskatchewan, and the Government of Canada in attendance, the Premier was thanked for his involvement with the work of the INDB over the past four years. The Premier encouraged the



Premier Roy Romanow

photo by Yvonne Vizina

representatives to continue their hard work, and expressed regret that he was not able to do more during his time in office to bring the Northern Accord and permanent board structure to fruition.

Presently, the INDB is working to develop the governing board structure, as well as the business organizational structure which will bring new economic development opportunities to the North. The next INDB meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 2001.



Grand Chief Gary Merasty and Max Morin thank Premier Roy Romanow

photo by Yvonne Vizina



### Interim Northern Development Board

Back Row: Al Rivard, Philip Chartier

Middle Row: Eric Sylvester, Randy Brothen, Grand Chief Gary Merasty, Premier Roy Romanow, Max Morin, Dale McAuley, Allan Morin, Chief Elmer Campbell, Alex Campbell, Ina Fietz-Ray

Front Row: Michelle Fraser-CrowShoe, Wilf Boychuk, Clem Chartier, Jim Favel, Keith Goulet, Don Favel, Elaine Bigwin

photo by Yvonne Vizina



## Northern Project

Stories & Photos By Yvonne Vizina

The Northern Project is concluding its fourth year of work in North West Saskatchewan.

Negotiated as a northern governance project under the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan's Intergovernmental Affairs Unit, work at building relationships and exploring opportunities in the region

have been arduous. Those who have been involved with the NP, including municipal Mayors, MNS Local Presidents and Regional Directors, and MNS Executive members have worked long and hard to break new ground in seeking alternative governance options and better programs and services for North West Saskatchewan. There have been hard times for the NP when negotiations seemed at a standstill, when some lost faith that the process would ever produce any tangible results, and when some simply walked away from the process in frustration. For those who stayed, work has continued, along with the recognition that working together will be the only way that North West residents will benefit from the many opportunities at hand.

The Northern Project Committee (NPC) met January 9, 2001 in Ile-a-la-Crosse, to discuss accomplishments

NWSMC, participate in meetings of each other's organizations to share information, and to submit an Alberta

Oil Sands Impact Assessment and Plan to the Interim Northern Development Board in January 2001.



The Northern Project Committee

The coming weeks will see the development of a new two-year plan for the

to date, barriers to overcome, and plans for the future. At this meeting, the North West Saskatchewan Métis Council and the North West Saskatchewan Municipalities Association provided a new mandate for the Northern Project to continue its

Northern Project which will be submitted to the MNS, and the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan for review. It is hoped that the vision and expertise of all North West leaders will contribute to achieving the best possible

governance strategies being developed. It is hoped that existing organizations in the North West will benefit from, and contribute to, new programs and services for all NW residents as a result of the work of the Northern Project. We have come a long way, and have a long way to go still, but it is important to continue.



The Northern Project Committee

work. As well, the NPC agreed to work on joint efforts between the two organizations concerning programs and services, support land claim funds to be administered by the

The Northern Project wishes to thank Philip Chartier, who is completing his term as Clearwater Clear Lake Regional Director, for his leadership and direction in this initiative.



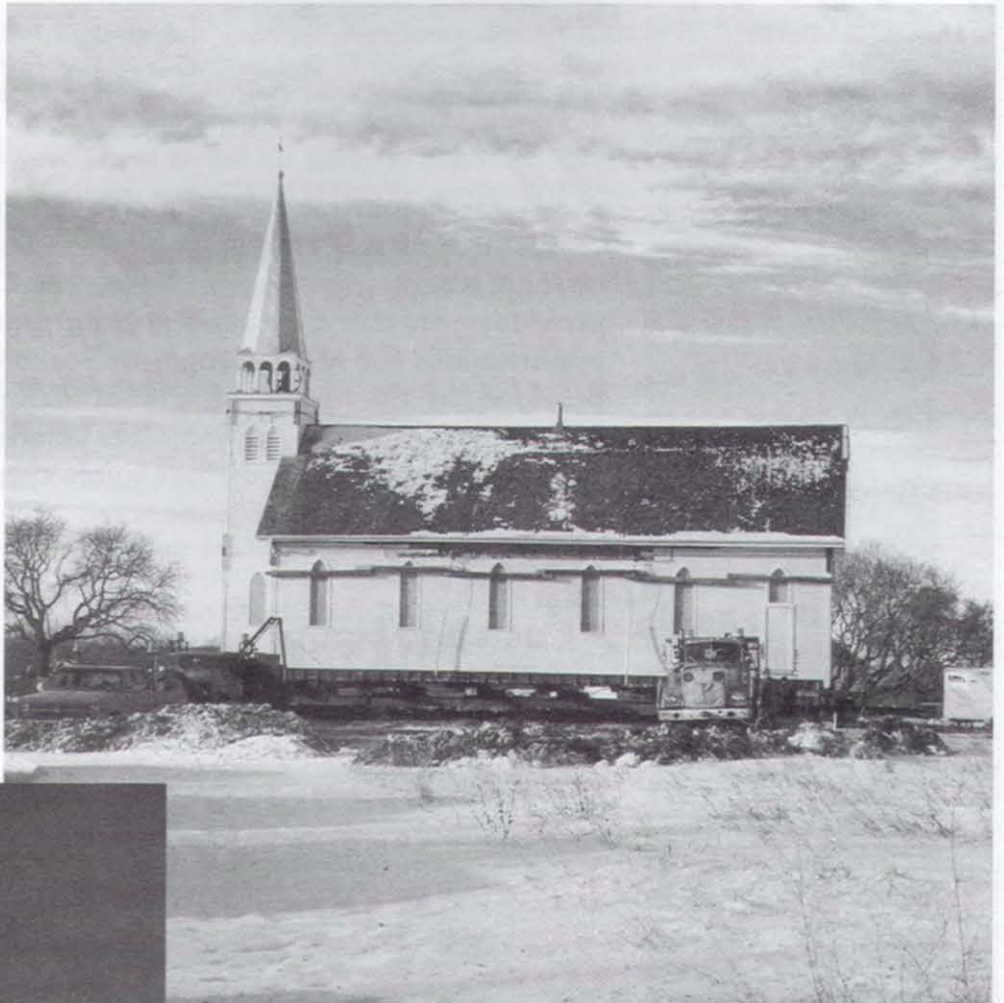
# BATOCHÉ HISTORIC SITE

## Moving Heaven and Earth

Photo & Article by Rod Andrews courtesy, *Valley News*

The 118 year old historic Saint-Antoine-de-Padoue church at Batoche was a little closer to heaven January 22, 2001 as it was lifted off its foundation to make way for engineers to rebuild its crumbling base.

Parks Canada has taken on the challenge of restoring the church before it is lost to natural deterioration. Located on land designated as the Batoche National Historic Site, the surrounding area includes the actual battleground where the Métis fought the Northwest Mounted Police, a cemetery where several Métis people are interred, and other historic buildings. In the summer of 2000, several of the rifle pits



nearest the Saskatchewan River fell victim to erosion and collapsed into the river. No one wanted to see the church suffer a similar fate.

The work commissioned by Parks Canada will see some of the original stonework of the base salvaged and included in the new foundation. As well, restoration plans for the church itself will continue.

The Batoche National Historic Site now has the assistance of a Shared

Management Board, comprised of three members appointed by Canadian Heritage Minister Sheila Copps, and three members appointed by the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan. The newly formed Board is in the process of reviewing the existing Management Plan, developed in collaboration with the MNS in 1998, and will provide suggestions for implementation. It is hoped that the Shared Management Board will provide a means to revitalize the Batoche National Historic Site so that it remains an honoured place for Métis people and Canadian citizens to remember those who lived and died there.





*M*étis Employment & Training of Saskatchewan Inc (METSI), an affiliate of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan. Through an agreement with Human Resources Development Canada provides on-going training programs and employment opportunities for Métis people in Saskatchewan. Services are provided in the areas of Career Counselling, Employment Preparation, Résumé Writing, Job Referrals, Job Postings and Access to Financial Support for eligible clients.

## *F*acts and Figures

- METSI offices find employment for over 300 Métis per year.
- METSI offices fund on average 90 clients per month to attend training.
- METSI offices serve over 300 Métis clients per month.
- METSI has nearly 70 employees province-wide.
- METSI spends only 9% of its total budget on administration.
- METSI is a community driven initiative operating programs designed specifically to meet the needs of Métis communities.
- All community activity is governed by 15 management boards and councils involving more than 150 grass roots Métis.
- METSI is governed by a 16 member provincial Board comprised of representatives from each of the 12 regions, the Métis Youth and 2 seats for the Provincial Métis Council
- METSI has one head office located in Saskatoon, 12 regional offices province-wide and an additional 7 outreach offices.





## Saskatchewan Métis Hunting Case Reserved For Judgement

By Kathy Hodgson-Smith

A test case involving two Métis men from northwest Saskatchewan was argued in Meadow Lake Provincial Court on February 6 & 7, 2001, with the decision to be handed down on Friday, August 31, 2001. Mr. Clem Chartier represented the two Métis Defendants, and Mitch McAdam represented the Crown.

Mervin Maurice and Walter Gardiner of Sapwagamik, currently living in Meadow Lake were charged with hunting at night with a light contrary to s.11.1(3) of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Regulations which was adopted by the province in February 1998 following five meetings throughout the province (Beauval, Prince Albert, Yorkton, North Battleford & Regina) in January 1998 between SERM and the Métis. The Regulation was adopted to deal specifically with the night hunting rights of the Indian and Métis peoples in Saskatchewan, which the Métis were then exercising by virtue of the Grumbo case.

Mr. Gardiner had moved he and his family to Meadow Lake around 1995/96 in order for this children to


attend school, while maintaining his house in Sapwagamik to which he and this family return for Christmas and summer holidays. Mr. Maurice had moved he and his family to Meadow Lake several days before the incident for the same reasons. The evidence disclosed that they continued to use their traditional territory for hunting, fishing and trapping purposes since moving to Meadow Lake. Both Defendants are descendants of the Métis who received scrip at Ile a la Crosse in 1906. Both Defendants are also related to Dennis Daigneault of Turnor Lake, Saskatchewan, one of the Defendants in the Morin & Daigneault case in which the Court of Queen's Bench in 1997 upheld the Aboriginal fishing and hunting rights of the descendants of the 1906 Métis scrip takers from Ile a la Crosse and La Loche.

As the Morin & Daigneault case already set a precedent for the Métis of northwest Saskatchewan, its application in this case played a central role. Clearly, both Wally Gardiner and Mervin Maurice should be able to benefit from that case, as they are direct descendants of the Métis who received scrip at Ile a la

Crosse in 1906. However, SERM has decided to apply four (4) criteria drafted by the Department of Justice constitutional law branch to determine which Métis in northern Saskatchewan they will allow to hunt and fish under Morin & Daigneault without charges being laid. Those four criteria are: Must demonstrate Métis identity; Must reside permanently in northern Saskatchewan, north of the NAD line; Must have a longstanding connection to that particular northern community; and Must be living a traditional lifestyle or be living off the land.


The judge in this case will have to determine whether these four criteria are a correct interpretation of the Morin & Daigneault case. In particular, the fourth criteria, that one must be living a traditional lifestyle or be living off the land, if allowed to stand, would strip thousands of northern Métis of their s.35(1) Aboriginal hunting and fishing rights, as a SERM officer testified that only five (5) to ten (10) percent (%) of the Métis in northern Saskatchewan would fit that criteria. He also stated that if the Aboriginal hunting and fishing

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# MÉTIS RIGHTS

right extended province-wide, that less than one (1) percent (%) of the Métis within the province would fit that criteria. Essentially, a Métis person has to live in the bush hunting, trapping and fishing on a full-time basis before SERM and the Department of Justice will recognize their Aboriginal harvesting rights. In other words, if a Métis has a job, or a business, or is in a training program, or attending high school, or receiving welfare or Old Age Pension or Employment Insurance, he or she cannot exercise their constitutionally protected Aboriginal right to hunt and fish.

If the court accepts that Mr. Maurice and Mr. Gardiner have established that they have an Aboriginal right to hunt under the Morin and Daigneault case, then there are further arguments to be made. The first argument is that the Métis fall within the term "Indian" contained in paragraph 12 of the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (NRTA) 1930 which gives constitutional protection and enables the Indians of the province to hunt, trap and fish for food at all times of the year on all unoccupied provincial Crown lands. This was the issue before the Courts in the Grumbo case. In that case, the Court of Queen's Bench sitting in Yorkton agreed that the Métis fell within the term "Indian" in the NRTA. As a result, the Métis throughout the province were able to hunt and fish for food without the requirement of a licence. At that time, this also included hunting at night with lights. Upon appeal to the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal, the Court of Appeal in May 1998 decided that they needed more information before they could make a decision and sent the case back for a new trial. The charge was later stayed, so no decision was ever made. The Court of Appeal stated that before they could decide if the Métis were included in the term "Indian" in the NRTA 1930, it first had to be established that the Métis had a hunting right in 1930, which was then

meant to be included in the 1930 protection clause (paragraph 12).

As the Morin and Daigneault case has established that the Métis of northwest Saskatchewan continue to have an existing Aboriginal right to hunt and fish, which right was not extinguished in 1906, it is clear that such right existed in 1930 at the time of the passage of the NRTA 1930. Having passed the first part of the Grumbo test, the provincial court judge has been asked to make a ruling as to whether the Métis fall within the term "Indian", as was so found in 1996 by the Court of Queen's Bench in the Grumbo case. Even if the provincial court judge so finds, it will still have to be determined if this includes the right to hunt at night with a light, since the province passed the new regulation in February 1998 while the Métis were still exercising hunting rights under the Grumbo case.

If the provincial court judge decides that the Métis do not fall within the term "Indian" in paragraph 12 of the NRTA 1930, a further argument was made that because the Métis fall within the term "Indian" in s.91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867 it is only the federal government which can pass hunting legislation which affects the Métis, and therefore the provincial regulations cannot apply. In this case, the Crown has admitted that the Métis fall within the term "Indian" in s.91(24) which is contained in that section of the Constitution which assigns jurisdiction to the federal government over certain matters, including "Indians and the lands reserved for the Indians".

If the Métis were also included in the term "Indian" in paragraph 12 of the NRTA 1930, the province would be able to legislate with respect to the Métis, as the NRTA amended the division of powers to enable the province to enact wildlife legislation with respect to Indians (which in the

generic [wide] sense in s.91(24), includes the Métis). Again, in order to get around the argument that provincial laws of general application will apply to the Métis, the trial judge has to find that the Métis Defendants have a s.35(1) Aboriginal right to hunt.

If the trial judge finds that the provincial wildlife legislation applies to Métis by its own force, even if the Métis are included in s.91(24), and even if the two Métis Defendants have a s.35(1) Aboriginal right to hunt, their final argument will be that the night hunting regulation infringes their Aboriginal hunting right by denying them the right to use a light to hunt at night, and that this infringement has not been justified.

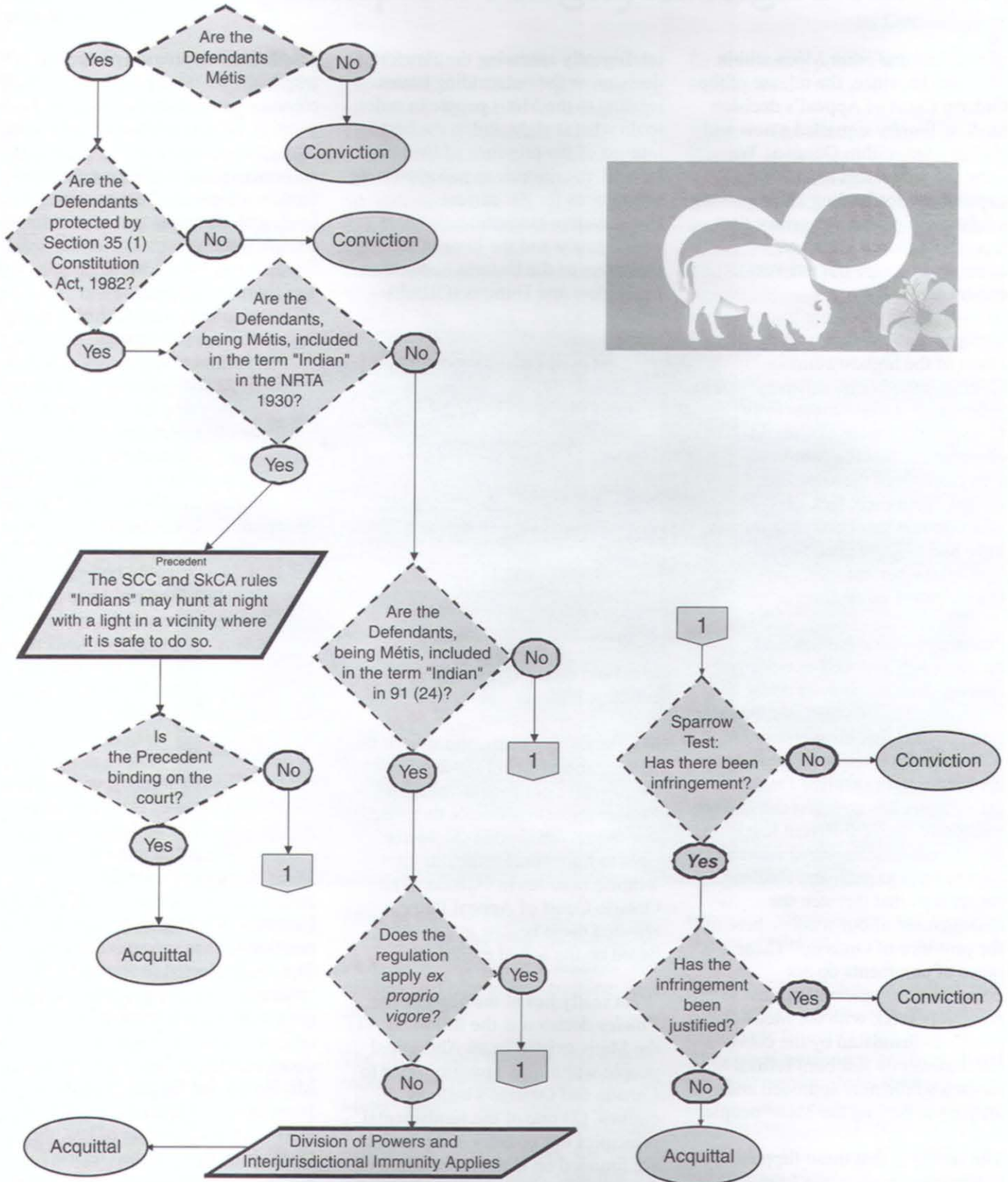
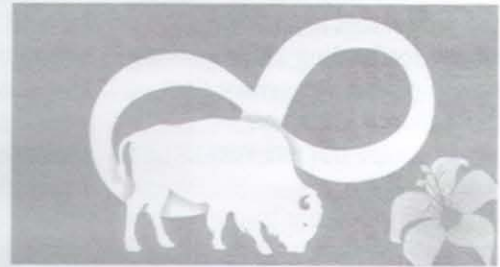
The Crown at this stage has argued that, based on cases from outside Saskatchewan, banning the use of lights to hunt at night does not infringe the hunting right, based on the issue of safety. The Crown has also argued that other cases from outside the province, while agreeing that there is an infringement, have ruled that such infringements are justified based on the issue of safety. In this particular case, the Defence has argued that the regulation surely can't be based on safety, as the regulation specifically states that Indian Reserves are exempted from the regulation, and therefore hunting at night with a light can take place within Indian Reserve boundaries, but not outside. The Defence argued that, if it is safe to hunt at night with a light within an Indian Reserve, then surely it is equally safe to hunt at night with a light in the traditional territory where the two Defendants were hunting, as there were no dwellings or persons living for miles around.

All of these issues may be dealt with by the trial judge when he delivers his judgment on August 31, 2001 at the provincial court in Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan.



# HUNTING RIGHTS

## R.v. Maurice & Gardiner





## 'Mr. Harris, Do the Right Thing!'

By Jason Maddon

For me and other Métis within this province, the release of the Ontario Court of Appeal's decision in *R. v. Powley* signalled a new and exciting day within Ontario. We view the judgement as an opportunity for healing and renewing a relationship with a province that has often ignored and even attempted to wipe out our very existence.

Unfortunately, within a few hours of the highest court in Ontario releasing its' historic judgement, the comments from the current Premier of Ontario demonstrate that the Métis can expect much of the same old racism, ignorance, lack of understanding and bullying we have had to grow accustomed to from the current Conservative government.

Probably without having read the thorough and well-reasoned *Powley* decision or even being briefed by his own officials, Premier Harris stated that his government will seriously consider appealing the decision once again (the Ontario government has now lost the *Powley* case before three different levels of the Ontario court system) and will "... continue to push and challenge any groups that threaten the management of our wildlife here in the province of Ontario." These types of comments do not demonstrate a new willingness to positively work with the Métis people as mandated by the court; but, indicates a stubborn refusal to adopt a whole new approach and attitude in dealing the Métis people.

The reality is that these flippant statements do not come from

intelligently assessing the *Powley* decision or the outstanding issues relating to the Métis people in order to do what is right and in the best interest of the province of Ontario; instead, the rhetoric is just appeasing sound bites for the current Conservative government's "core" constituency and the likes of the executive of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OHAF)

**Mr. Harris' continuing disrespect towards the Métis people and our legal rights undermines (this) public trust and the honour of our province.**

who hold a very narrow view of equality, fairness and justice.

Mr. Harris' comments flow from the same fearmongering strategy counsel for province put forward at the *Powley* appeal by falsely threatening that the recognition of the Métis right to hunt could wipe out the wildlife reserves in Ontario. The Ontario Court of Appeal flatly rejected these hollow arguments based on the actual evidence.

What really lies at the heart of the *Powley* decision is the following: (1) the Métis existed as an Aboriginal people within this province prior to Canada and Ontario's birth as entities, (2) one of the fundamental principles our country and province are founded on is the recognition of this pre-existence of Aboriginal

peoples and to provide protection which allows these peoples to continue to exist on their lands, as peoples, (3) subsistence hunting is an integral component to the continued existence of the Métis, as a people; it feeds our families, keeps us on our lands and allows us to transmit our culture from one generation to another, and (4) the Métis people have historically hunted and

continue to hunt within this province, the current government regulatory scheme did not recognize or allow for this on-going hunt; therefore, it was unconstitutional with respect to the Métis.

The main issue with respect to Ontario's wildlife in this case is really one allocation of resources, not conservation. If Mr. Harris would bother to understand the real history of this province and the findings of fact in *Powley* he would not have to just spew rhetoric, but

could comment intelligently on a decision that is important to all Ontarians.

On the contrary, implicit within his comments, Premier Harris' signals that his government will continue to make it difficult on and harass the Métis as they exercise their constitutionally entrenched rights. However, Mr. Harris' personal position fails to recognize that the Premier is elected to represent all citizens within this province, not just his government's "choice" constituencies. I find it disappointing to have to point out to Mr. Harris that the office of the Premier is vested with the public's trust to uphold the rule of law, the legal obligations of the Ontario government, as well as, to continue

*continued page 36*



## The MNCR Group Lobbies for Equal Citizenship on Ability Issues

By Laura Langstaff

"A long time ago a man named Louis Riel, and one of my relatives named Gabriel Dumont fought the government of Canada to protect Métis rights. While the days of armed insurrection are over, I cannot in good conscious stand by and let Métis people with disabilities be without a voice. I serve notice now that I cannot, and will not stand by and allow Métis people with disabilities to be ignored." affirms Kim Gernack, Labour Market Co-ordinator, Persons With Disabilities, Métis Nation of Alberta.

"Equal citizenship is not something one acquires, it is something one lives and exercises", Brenda Belhomme-Giesbrecht, activist and advocate for Métis persons with disabilities.

"People are used to us (persons with disabilities) being invisible, well, we're here and we are not going away!", Evelyn Major, role model and elder with disabilities.

The MNC Reference Group on Ability Issues (MNCRGAI) was established in July 1999 during a capacity building workshop in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Membership is made up of people with disabilities who have been appointed by the Presidents of the provincial governing member associations of the Métis National Council. The mission of the

MNCRGAI is to work with Métis, provincial, and federal governments to ensure the equal citizenship of Métis persons with disabilities.

The MNCRGAI has been very clear in its message. In its first year of existence, the MNCRGAI developed and released an Issues and Recommendations document entitled, "Empowerment: The Key to Better Living for Métis Persons with Disabilities". The document

be developing policy on behalf of the Métis Nation in Canada.

Human Resources Development Canada is the lead ministry taking action on the national disability file, and significant policy changes are under consideration with reference to Aboriginal persons with disabilities. The MNCRGAI has been adamant in communicating to HRDC, the need for enhanced horizontal management within the department, and an



Jim Roberts, Joyce Roberts, Orville Stowell, Brenda Giesbrecht, Brian Giesbrecht, Pat Thibeault, Herb Snow, Gary Tinker, George Ward, Katelin Gillis, Nicholas Boudreau, Laura Lanstaff, Mori Tilton and Evelyn Major

identified barriers to equal citizenship for Métis persons with disabilities, as well as a strategy to address the barriers to education, training and employment.

The MNCRGAI believes that it is no more appropriate for able-bodied Métis people and provincial and federal governments to be developing policy and programming for Métis persons with disabilities, than it is for provincial and federal governments to

education process for the regional offices of HRDC.

The MNCRGAI has identified that while significant policy change has been made federally with reference to Aboriginal persons with disabilities, the information about these changes has not made its way to the 'worker bees', the regional HRDC workers.

Information about the Métis Accord, and the Métis Human Resource



# EQUALITY RIGHTS

Development Agreements, and the spirit contained in these agreements, is not information that is understood by local and regional HRDC staff. At a time when the new and innovative ways of serving Métis persons with disabilities are encouraged, local and regional HRDC staff remain inflexible. The result is that often, federal policy is being undermined regionally. The tragedy is that the population that is most fragile (persons with disabilities) continues to be marginalized and ghettoized into a seemingly never-ending series of 'special' projects.

Despite the challenges, however, there have been successes. The Métis National Council has been recognized by the Aboriginal Relations Office of

HRDC, as the leading Aboriginal organization dealing with disability issues. The MNCRGAI and the strategy to address education, training and employment barriers for persons with disabilities, has been identified as a 'best practice' and has been included in a document reporting on the results of the implementation of the strategy outlined in, "In Unison: A Canadian Approach to Disability".

The MNCRGAI enjoys the full support of the MNC President, Gerald Morin, and the entire Board of Governors. Recommendations made to the MNC Board of Governors have been acted upon. The results are an impressive gain in the capacity of provincial governing member associations of the MNC to engage

Métis persons with disabilities in the provision of culturally relevant and community-based services.

The members of the MNCRGAI are committed to forging ahead, along with the Métis leaders who empower them, to continue to set national standards in the support of Métis persons with disabilities.

As one member of the MNCRGAI, Brenda Belhomme-Giesbrecht insist, "It is not enough that we lobby for the rights of Métis persons with disabilities. We must convince our Métis brothers and sisters, that what is in the best interest of Métis persons with disabilities, is in the best interest of all Métis people".

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### Metis Musical: Front and Centre for Prince Charles

Andrea Menard, Saskatoon Métis actress and singer has been selected to perform for Prince Charles when he visits Saskatoon on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Menard will be performing two songs from the smash musical hit of last summer "The Batoche Musical". The performance includes Menard's original song "A Boy for One More Day" which describes the angst of a young Métis woman at Batoche as her fiancée Alphone prepares to join the battle. Also included in the program will be Don Feed's Métis anthem of hope "When this Valley".



"This is a great honor and I'm so pleased", said Menard by phone from the road where she is currently touring with Persephone Theatre.

"What a great opportunity to present the Métis story through music and to perform for Prince Charles".

The Batoche Musical began as a legacy project of Batoche 2000 and the MNS. It was produced to sold out houses

last summer at Batoche. The play was designed as an annual production and will create

opportunities for Métis theatre people. The production tells the story of the people who lived in the village of Batoche in 1885 and received critical acclaim from across the country. As well, it created the bases for the recently founded Batoche Theatre Company, which is the first professional Métis Theatre Company in Canada.

"Plans are being finalized for a special announcement concerning the future of *The Batoche Musical*," said Producer Jack Walton. "It was a very successful project and will remain as a true legacy of Back to Batoche."

Details of the announcement will be available in the next edition of *New Breed* magazine.



# Métis National Youth Advisory Council Activities

On February 23rd 25th, 2001 the Métis National Youth Advisory Council in partnership with the Métis National Council held the 4th National Métis Youth Conference in Regina, Saskatchewan at the Regina Inn. Youth from across the Homeland gathered to participate in "Métis Youth Arresting Crime, 2001", the conference being justice and crime prevention focused. With an agenda full of learning workshops that are both informative and educational, being done by funding partners, representatives of the Federal and Provincial governments and those from the private sector. Workshops

were held on presentation skills, leadership skills, and the favourite of the youth the cultural workshops.

A customary event at past conferences has been to have Elders that hold strong representation in the host province to attend the conference. This year we had the honour to have Senators John Boucher and Nora Ritchie at the conference as the Saskatchewan Elders to provide wisdom and inspirational guidance to youth participants.

The 4th Annual National Métis Youth Conference banquet took place Friday

February 23, 2001 to recognize the achievements of the recipients of the first ever Métis specific National Métis Youth Role Model Program. This was a tremendous opportunity to recognize the achievements of all the Métis youth across the Homeland for their fluid and dynamic nature. Lute Calder Chair of the Métis National Youth Advisory Council and Saskatchewan Member of Parliament Rick Laliberte presented at the role model event. Of the seven recognition categories and out of 67 nominations it came down to 6 recipients who were recognized for their successes, as one category had



Conference sign-in showing Lute Calder (President of the MNCYAC), with Trevor Gladue



no applications. This has been a very exciting year for the Métis National Youth Advisory Council as they managed to successfully see the vision of one come to light. As a Nation we are able to stand up and recognized those youth who have managed to make a difference in their personal life, community, province and nation.



the talent show by providing the trophies for the talent show.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the funding agencies for helping with the development of the conference: Department of Canadian Heritage - Urban Multi-Purpose Aboriginal Youth Centre Initiative, Aboriginal Justice Learning Network, and Youth Justice Renewal Strategy. With out the assistance and guidance from

Turtle Island Associates Roxanne Harper and Kim Kremzar the conference could never have reached its full potential and to them we are grateful. We would also like to thank all individuals who have donated so much to the conference and for their effort in supporting the Métis youth movement.

As the youth gather to celebrate one another's successes we will continue to recognize the achievements of those youth who are not recipients but are still role models. As there is not just one winner, for all youth nominated and all youth making a difference are winners. We would like to congratulate those youth nominated across the Homeland for

the contribution they are making to make our homes a better place.

Following the announcement of the Role Model recipients a display of talent was presented during the 2nd Annual Métis Youth Talent Show. Dwayne Roth, a prominent Métis lawyer from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan graciously sponsored

*continued from page 32*

to push for a just, fair and upstanding society which we all hope for in this province.

Mr. Harris' continuing disrespect towards the Métis people and our legal rights undermines this public trust and the honour of our province. I ask any citizen to just imagine how you would feel if you had been persecuted for years and finally win a resounding court victory, only to have one individual, who is supposed to respect and support your legal victory to flippantly imply that he will continue to ignore and

disrespect your vindication. I would suggest that most Ontarians should be concerned with this type of arrogant attitude on the part of the Premier, not just the Métis people.

At the end of the day, I hope Premier Harris reassesses his current approach and shows the requisite respect for the law within Ontario and upholds the honour of the office he currently fills. The leadership of the Métis has already indicated that they are more than willing to enter into a

court advocated, "consensual decision-making process" to address their rights. Mr. Harris, I would encourage you to see the *Powley* decision as a wonderful opportunity to reconcile and assist a people who are a beautiful part of this province's history and future. Do the right thing!

Jason Madden  
Toronto, Ontario

## MY OPINION



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I invite you to take advantage of a unique opportunity to advertise your valuable business and service with one of Saskatchewan's first and most long-standing Aboriginal magazines, New Breed.

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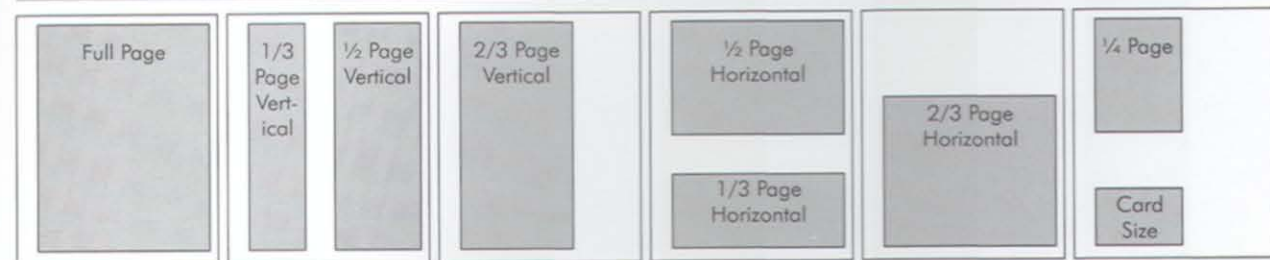
We publish and distribute 1500 copies bi-monthly and reach in excess of 130 communities across Saskatchewan through the Métis Local and Affiliate offices. There are also numerous subscription holders across the province and nation.

We welcome your organization's participation and thank you for your support. A *New Breed Magazine* inquiry can be directed to Métis Employment & Training of Saskatchewan Inc, by calling 306-668-7671, by fax at 306-244-5336 or by e-mail at [kathyhs@metsi.sk.ca](mailto:kathyhs@metsi.sk.ca).

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