

SP E C I A L E D I T I O N

NEWS BREW

MAGAZINE



Anniversary
20th of
Gabriel Dumont Institute

NEW BREED Magazine
is a publication of the
Métis Nation of Saskatchewan

Offices are located at

219 Robin Crescent,
Saskatoon,
Saskatchewan S7L 6M8
Telephone: (306) 343-8285
Fax: (306)343-0171

Editorial Board

Wilf Blondeau,
Kathy Hodgson-Smith

Editor

Adrienne Dufour

Design & Layout

BIT Publishing

Advertising Sales Office

Metis Multimedia Inc.
CIBC Building
Suite 1000
201 - 21st Street East
Saskatoon SK, S7K 0B8
Tel: (306) 665-2095
Fax: (306) 665-2099
Email: contact@metisnews.com

NEW BREED Magazine is published
bi-monthly.

All views or opinions expressed in this
publication are those of the author's and
not necessarily that of the Métis Nation of
Saskatchewan, nor its executive.

No part of this publication in whole or in
part may be reproduced, in any shape or
form, type or electronic, without the ex-
press written consent of *NEW BREED*
Magazine.

Advertising rates may be obtained by con-
tacting the sales office number above

Advertisers and advertising agencies
assume full responsibility for all contents
of advertisements printed. Advertisers
also assume responsibility for any claim
arising therefrom, made against *NEW*
BREED Magazine.

NEW BREED Magazine can be pur-
chased for \$2.00 at any Local or Friend-
ship Centre or retail outlet or by calling
toll free 888-343-6667.

Canadian Publication Agreement
#1408968

NEW BREED

MAGAZINE

Jan/Feb 2000 Issue

Contents

President Message	Pg. 4
Metis Prayer	Pg. 5
Louis Riel	Pg. 6
A Chronology of the Gabriel Dumont Institute	Pg. 7
Cultural Gathering	Pg. 8
1999 National Aboriginal Headstart Training Workshop	Pg. 8
Celebrating Our Past, Present and Future	Pg. 9
Back to Batoche 2000	Pg. 10
The 1999 MET Awards Review	Pg. 12
North Battleford Street Youth Cultural Program	Pg. 13
Cultural Sharing Program	Pg. 14
Back to Batoche Lanches Web Site	Pg. 14
Metis Employment and Training Programs: Successful Stories in the Making	Pg. 15
Metis Rights Consultations Being Held Across Province	Pg. 16
Metis Employment and Training of Saskatchewan, Inc.	Pg. 18
Val Morrison of Northern Region 1 Represents Metis Nations at Canadian Study Conference	Pg. 19
Roy (Judge) Fosseneuve Message	Pg. 20
NEWS:	Pg. 22
- Racism Complaint	
- Metis Speak Out on Justice for Aboriginal Peoples	

About the cover:

Photos:

Courtesy GDI Gabriel Dumont Institute

Cover Design:

Crystal LaPlante-Nogueira

President's Message

It is good to see another issue of New Breed making its way to your doors and I am again honoured to write this message from the office of the President. This issue is specifically focused on education and training opportunities and successes for Métis in Saskatchewan. As we have heard, this year marks the 20th year of Gabriel Dumont Institute and the 8th year of our employment & training organization. It marks the 30th year of Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan, as well. I would suppose these markers of collective achievements can be further supported by the many individuals who have found their way toward better and richer lives through their experiences in the programs offered by these organizations. An alumni gathering will take place for Gabriel Dumont Students this year during the Batoche gathering and may mark the closing of one more circle and the beginning of the next generation of involvement in Métis education in this province.

It is the wish of the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly members that an education and training conference be held this year to revitalize the movement toward the development of Métis control of Métis education, toward the renewed interest in Métis-specific curriculum development, toward another round of discussions and considerations of where the Métis Nation will put its energy in education in the next decade. The Gabriel Dumont Institute had always provided this forum through its annual cultural conference. The Institute has faced financial hardship this last few years and it with excitement that the Métis Nation will be pursuing another conference during this year. Métis Employment & Training will play a significant role as well this time around.

For many Métis, the educational experience in this province has been with the residential school systems, including convent schools, boarding schools and day schools run by various religious orders and churches. Métis Addictions Council has submitted a proposal to the Aboriginal Healing Fund to support Métis communities and individuals in dealing with issues such as loss of identity and self-sufficiency, related addictions and high-risk behaviors. The legacy of residential school has meant achievement and struggle, in opposite intensity, for many of us. We celebrate our accomplishments and support one another through initiatives undertaken through our Affiliates to address the outstanding and evolving issues faced by the members of our Nation.

The Métis Nation has been focusing much energy on reaffirming the rights of Metis at both the Federal and Pro-

vincial level in all areas. Affiliate organizations, such as the Gabriel Dumont Institute, Dumont Technical Institute and Métis Employment & Training of Saskatchewan, Inc. were established for the direct purpose of achieving equality of access to programs and services, based on the absence of essential opportunities such as housing, education and employment, opportunities available to all. Today, we sometimes falsely separate the rights agenda from the programs and services agenda when they are so closely bound together. History bears out this truth. These Affiliate organizations are providing a valuable opportunity that was not available to Métis in this province twenty years ago. Thousands of Métis students are funded each year from the funds administered by these organizations to attend a variety of university and post-secondary level programs. I am told that the cost per client is lower and the success rates are higher than any other funding agency in this province and the outcomes have shown increased participation and involvement of our people in the labour force as a result. We are proud of the successes of these Affiliates and they affirm that we are best able to serve the Métis in this province.

This year's Batoche celebration will kick-start a number of educational and cultural opportunities in various fields of the arts, including a stage for traditional oral history to be shared. This oral tradition has continued to provide educational and cultural stability for many of our Metis communities. In the courts, the testimony of the Elders provides the link between cultural and community autonomy and just outcomes for our people as we move toward reclaiming our land and the subsequent ability to be self-determining. Methy Pathways Board, Inc. in Buffalo Narrows and Métis Employment & Training Board, Inc. of Beauval will be offering the first of hopefully many training programs in the documentation of oral history and the creation of traditional resource use maps based on the oral history of the elders in their respective communities. Over the past year, the Urban Métis Locals in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert have provided our youth with an opportunity to work with the Elders in the urban centers and to learn from the history and tradition held by them.

The Métis National Council Board of Governors has successfully negotiated a fund to support the further development of the Michif language with the intent of providing our youth an opportunity to learn this important part of their

Continued on page 5...

President's Message

...Continued from page 4

culture. The Métis Nation of Saskatchewan will receive a portion of these funds for specific use in this province. It will be a challenge to our Affiliate organizations to begin building educational programming around not only courses in Métis history but also around the Michif language. These are signs of good things to come.

The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly will also be reviewing new legislation on education at the next Assembly. The Gabriel Dumont Institute staff are currently revising the draft Métis Education Act. Métis Family & Community Justice will be tabling a Métis Child & Family Services Act as well. The Métis Nation Legislative Assembly continues to develop Métis-specific legislation to guide and direct our affairs as a self-governing people. In doing so, the Métis Nation Senate has been given an increased role to play as the guardians of our culture and history and to serve as a semi-judicial body in all matters. It is my belief that their collective wisdom and experience will strengthen our direction and provide the confidence of sound second thought on important matters.

In closing, our efforts in Métis education have focused primarily in the area of adult education in the past and perhaps as we move into a new century, our attention will focus on our children and youth. This is my hope and it is a challenge I put forward to all of our leaders, knowing that it is really a challenge for all. With that, I will close and wish you all the best as we move forward in our collective efforts to learn and to grow as individuals rich in our Métis heritage.

Clem Chartier,
President

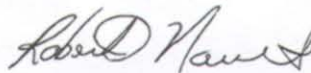
CONGRATULATIONS *winner* OF THE NATIONAL ABORIGINAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Congratulations on winning the first National Aboriginal Achievement Awards of a brand new millennium! These awards represent the highest honour Canada's Aboriginal community can bestow upon its achievers. They are also a reminder to all proud Canadians of the enormous fulfilment that comes from recognition at this level.

Each of you has earned the attention and respect of your peers by virtue of your ability to inspire others with your hard work and devotion to cause. While such individual accomplishments are personally rewarding, they also reflect greater collective improvements in Aboriginal communities across the country, where strength and independence of spirit continue to be the hallmarks of achievement.

I would like to offer my praise to the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation for establishing the tradition of bringing such contributions by First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in Canada into the national spotlight. By acknowledging these impressive talents often, we cannot help but foster both creative and intellectual development in the younger generations to follow.

Again, congratulations!



The Honourable
Robert D. Nault, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Indian Affairs and
Northern Development



Dr. Jo-Ann Archibald,
Education
A pioneer in the advancement of First Nations education.

Chief Simon Baker (Khot-La-Cha),
OC Heritage and Spirituality
Ambassador for the Squamish people and a national and international performer.

John Charles Bernard,
Business and Commerce
He turned a passion for computers into a multi-million-dollar enterprise.

Paul J. Birckel (Nashä),
Community Development
Spearheaded one of the first land claims settlements in the Yukon, created a template for future agreements in Canada.

Dr. Joseph Arthur Gosnell (Sim-oogit HLEEK)
Lifetime Achievement
President of the Nisga'a Nation and Chief Negotiator for the Nisga'a people.

Fjola Hart-Wasekeesikaw, R.N. M.N.,
Health and Medicine
President of the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada.

Waneek Horn-Miller,
Youth Award
This champion swimmer will lead Canada into the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.

Leetia Ineak,
Media and Communications
A writer, director, and producer of children's television.

Edith Josie, CM, OC,
Heritage and Spirituality
This historian and Justice of the Peace writes for the Whitehorse Star's Here Are the News

The Honourable Judge Steven Point,
Law and Justice
Appointed to the bench to serve British Columbians.

Miles G. Richardson (KILSLI KAJI STING)
Environment
This B.C. Treaty Commissioner designated Gwaii Hanaas as Canada's first national park reserve.

Konrad Haskan Sioui,
Public Service
He invited the Innu to join the Quebec Assembly of First Nations.

Chief Roy Albert Whitney (Onespot),
Business and Commerce
Leader of the Tsuu T'ina Nation, Chairman, Treaty 7 Tribal Council, and Chair, National Aboriginal Economic Development Board.

Tsa-qwa-supp (Art Thompson),
Arts and Culture
Master artist designed 1994 Commonwealth Games medals, carved totem poles for commissions in Canada and the U.S.

METIS PRAYER

Thank you God
For a roof, a bed...

a place to stay

Thank you...
for another day

For the Gloriously
setting sun...

The soft starry night

Another day...

Just begun

LOUIS RIEL

The following perspective on Louis Riel was written for the program booklet for the Trial of Louis Riel. A special performance of this production will take place at the Delta Regina Hotel on February 29, 2000.

By Calvin Racette & Rodger W. Ross
with assistance from Shelley Fayant.

Louis Riel is perhaps the most controversial figure in Canadian history. His story has been written several times by many different historians. Often times the stories look at Riel in a Canadian context as a challenger of the status quo, a menace to society or perhaps a man who was out of balance. Whatever the angle these stories do not tell of the Riel that the Métis people hold dear to their hearts. Nor do they present the Métis perspective or show any comprehensive understanding of what Riel was trying to do on behalf of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Many citizens of Manitoba acknowledge Riel as the founder of their province. The city of Winnipeg has embraced him as one of their sons. Winnipeg has buildings; street, etc. named after Riel and other prominent Métis people from the past. This creates a certain amount of recognition of the

Métis Nation and portrays an attitude and mind set that does not exist in mainstream society elsewhere in Canada.

Within the context of the prevailing opinions there are many variables that have never been mentioned. Louis Riel has never been looked at as an individual. Riel was a husband, a father, a teacher, an artist, a friend, and a family man. Never have these aspects of his life been described. Riel had a price put on his head by a faction of the government of Canada, more specifically, by a federal cabinet minister. For this he was, to quote

his own words "hunted like an elk". This situation prevented Riel from taking his elected position in parliament. The bounty on Riel's head dramatically affected all aspects of his life.

"Deeds are not accomplished in a few days, or in a few hours. a century is only a spoke in the wheel of everlasting time." Louis Riel (Montreal Star), 1885.

Was Riel's cause so unrealistic? The list of demands he put forward in 1870 formed the nucleus of the Manitoba Act and was the foundation for the present day structure. Riel's demands of 1885 are pretty much the

"I am glad the Crown has proved that I am the leader of the half-breeds in the Northwest. I will perhaps be one day acknowledged as more than a leader of the half-breeds, and if I am, I will have the opportunity of being acknowledged as a leader of good in this great country."

- Louis Riel 1885 -

basis of the Saskatchewan Act of 1905. Riel was found guilty of treason. In reality his "crime" was asking if Canada has a "responsible government". Lucien Bouchard and before him, Jacques Parizeau have held repeated referendums on Canadian unity and Quebec separating from Canada. Riel had raised issues of a similar nature. Amazingly Bouchard and Parizeau are given all sorts of recognition and hold office in the government of Canada. Louis Riel was hanged!

Some writers have done a particular disservice to Riel and the Métis

Nation. Their premise is that Riel was a madman and acted in a crazy manner and that if Riel was crazy, then so was his cause. An examination of Métis history shows that there are hundreds of examples where Métis people have been marginalized, discredited, ignored or treated unjustly. These are the reasons why Riel stood up for the Métis and challenged the Canadian government.

Riel's letters make reference to a fixation with death and his talk in the trial about the doctrines of the Sulpician order, have been attributed to a state of lunacy. When in fact, extreme stress caused by 15

years of being hunted, and being in an environment that was in a conflict indicates that Riel may have been suffering from a degree of nervous breakdown. Additional stress would have been added due to the fact that his wife was pregnant with their third child.

Sympathetic non-Aboriginal writers have revised the history. Their interpretation places Riel in a better light, but still does not give a

Métis perspective. We need only look at the structure of his trial, how it was conducted including the structure of the jury to know that it was unfair. Riel was charged, found guilty and hanged for something that would be classified as freedom of speech and would be viewed as a minor misdemeanor by today's standards.

"We shall fail, perhaps, but the rights for which we fought will never die." Louis Riel

"The trial of Louis Riel", as put foreword by John Coulter is not a true

Continued on page 7...



A Chronology of the Gabriel Dumont Institute

1976 A Métis cultural conference was held after extensive lobbying by the Association of Métis and Non Status Indians of Saskatchewan (AMNSIS). Once the delegates were assembled, active planning for a Métis and Non-Status Indian educational institute began in earnest.

1976-1980 All levels of government were lobbied for funding for the creation of the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI).

1980, January 21, the GDI came into formal existence in a formal signing ceremony with the Saskatchewan Department of Continuing Education.

1980, June 1, The Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) began operations.

1980, July 30, SUNTEP was formally launched.

1980, October 27, GDI was granted official status by the provincial government during opening ceremony.

1980, GDI's first cultural conference was held.

1981, 14 September, SUNTEP classes began in Prince Albert Centre.

1982, 28 January, The SUNTEP Centre in Prince Albert was opened.

1982, November, A cultural conference was held in Saskatoon.

1983, December 13, GDI relocated its main office to 121 Broadway Avenue East in Regina.

1984, 27 April, The first SUNTEP graduation was held at the Saskatoon Centre.

1984, 16 June, The first Regina SUNTEP graduation was held.

1985, the Napoleon Lafontaine Economic Development Scholarship was initiated.

1986, 15 September, The Gabriel Dumont Institute Scholarship Foundation was established.

1987, The Institute arranged for a co-management of the Native Studies Division within the SIAST system.

1988, 27 May, GDI purchased a building in Prince Albert for its operations there.

1992, 1 February, The GDI report Towards Self-Government : A Mandate For the Nineties.

1994, The Dumont Technical Institute began operations.

1994, January, The GDI report Vision and Direction for the Education and Training of the Métis People of Saskatchewan was released. □

LOUIS RIEL

Continued from page 6...

transcript of the trial, it is merely based on the transcripts. This work was written many years ago and does not do justice to the paradigm shifts we have experienced as Canadians. Today the reenactment does serve an extremely useful function. This performance has assisted in keeping the memory of Riel alive. However, to do Riel and his cause justice, we must look at the situation in a contemporary sense. His story must be presented from a Métis perspective. This great Canadian must be given his due and be put in the proper context. Riel is recognized as a father of confederation, a defender of rights. People debate whether or not he should be pardoned? Some say Riel did nothing criminal that would warrant a pardon.

"We must cherish our inheritance. We must preserve our nationality for the youth of our future. The story should be written down to pass on."
Louis Riel

Our school system for the past twenty years has been teaching using an inquiry method. This means that the students would look at many different interpretations of a situation and form their own conclusions. This has led to the freethinking, more open society that our teens

and young adults practice today. Recently, more emphasis has been placed on dialectical strategies. The students are presented both ends of the spectrum with degrees of interpretation in between. They then form their own beliefs as to what they think is the accepted standard for them.

It is here, that the story of Riel must be presented. Riel must be portrayed as an honorable man, a devoted husband and father, and as an artist. His eloquent poems should be included into our education system. Riel's family experienced great hardship before, during and after his trial. They faced great tragedy after his death. Today Riel has no direct descendants. The views, the perspectives of Riel studied in a modern context are reasonable. He was a man, perhaps born before his time.

Louis Riel spoke of a Métis resurgence he was once quoted as saying: *"My people will sleep for one hundred years when they awake it will be artists that give them back their spirit"*. His prophetic words hold true. The basis of this Aboriginal resurgence has been through cultural initiatives and indeed the artists are leading the way. □

**1999 National
Aboriginal Headstart
Training Workshop
Saskatoon, SK.
September 19-21, 1999**

*By Leah Dorion and
Darren R. Préfontaine,
Gabriel Dumont Institute*

From September 19 to the 21, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), in partnership with Health Canada, hosted a National Aboriginal Headstart (AHS) Training Workshop at the Sheraton Cavalier, Saskatoon. The theme of this year's conference was "Children of Promise: Tomorrow's Leaders". The AHS mandate is to strengthen the nurturing role of parents, educators and community people among preschool children. Much of the program's emphasis includes culture and language, education, parental involvement, nutrition, health promotion and social support programs.

Over 300 First Nations, Métis and Inuit AHS Program Coordinators, parents and teachers were registered for this event, which included an Elder's delegation, a trade show, training workshops and a cultural entertainment night. On Sunday September 19, the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew provided opening remarks to the delegates. Some of the workshop presenters included Maria Campbell, Sherry Farrell-Racette, Karla Williamson and others from British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario.

The trade show had over twenty-five exhibitors including Aboriginal artists and crafts people, Aboriginal book publishers and curriculum development units, non-profit agencies and preschool learning resource retailers. □

Cultural Gathering

On Monday September 20, 1999, the conference delegates attended a cultural gathering at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel. The event was opened with a prayer delivered by our Elder, Reverend Danny Umpherville. He spoke of the importance of nurturing and supporting our children. Guy Freedman provided opening remarks and welcomed all those in attendance on behalf of Health Canada. Leah Dorion then introduced the members of the Elders Delegation. The Elders Delegation was an integral part of the conference since they provided participants with support and guidance throughout the event.

The cultural evening was hosted by First Nations actor and comedian Don Burnstick. The evening began with some famous Métis fiddle tunes played by the band Maple Sugar, which featured Métis fiddler Russ Boyer. The Free Spirit Dancers then performed some Métis square dance reels and jig steps. Then six-year-old Chantel Bouvier demonstrated some of her fancy Métis jigging steps.

A surprise visit was made by the Paykaisktamik Aboriginal Headstart Program Powwow dancers from Regina. These children learned to powwow dance in their AHS program. It was wonderful to see Elder Lily Daniels passing on her knowledge and traditions by dancing with the little ones. Keynote speaker Tomson Highway spoke about his success as an author and playwright and how anyone

can achieve their dreams no matter what their cultural background. After a brief interlude, Highway performed some songs on the piano.

The last two events for the evening included First Nations Powwow dancing, Inuit throat singing, drumming and the Inuit Mask Dance. Chief Harry Lafond and the Muskeg Lake Powwow dancers and drummers demonstrated various kinds of Powwow dances. Sarah Williamson and Sylvia Cloutier performed Inuit throat singing and traditional Inuit drumming. The evenings finale included Karla Williamson, Sarah Williamson and Sylvia Cloutier performing the Greenlandic Inuit Masking Dance. This expressive dance scared a few of the conference participants. The closing prayer was given by our Saulteaux Elder Danny Musqua.

The organizers of the cultural evening would like to thank the Elders for the prayers, and especially the entertainers for their performances. The cultural evening had representation from all three Aboriginal groups. With the successful completion of this year's training workshop, we all hope that the AHS program staff were provided with further ideas and inspirations to make stronger programs for our Aboriginal children.

GDI wishes to thank Murray Guest for all of his hard work in organizing this workshop: his perseverance and compassion greatly contributed to the success of the event. □

Celebrating Our Past, Present and Future

The past year has seen MACSI continue to operate its addiction programs and services despite extremely challenging circumstances. We continue to enjoy good relations with our funding partners. It is notable that this challenging circumstances. We continue to enjoy good relations with our funding partners. It is notable that this year marks thirty years of service for MACSI as an affiliate of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan. This year, 1999, also celebrates Regina Addiction Services' 25th anniversary. Next summer the Board is inviting all its former clients, directors, staff, friends and supporters to join us, along with the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan, in celebrating MACSI' 30th anniversary during the Millennium celebration at Batoche.

With a strong board, healthy and skilled employees, a new Collective Agreement and a new Executive Director and management team, we are confident that the year 2000 will see continued stability, success and growth for the Council. We join together, board, staff and clients in continuing to show our families, communities and Nation that recovery from alcohol and drugs is possible and within our reach.

MACSI Contact Information

Board of Directors

Don Favel, Chair of the Board
Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan
Box 201 Ile a la Crosse,
Saskatchewan, S0M 1C0
Telephone: 306-833-2097

Administration/Finance Services

James Froh, Executive Director
Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan Inc.
100 – 219 Robin Crescent, Saskatoon,
Saskatchewan S7L 6M8
Telephone: 306-651-3021
Or toll-free at 800-236-5204

Regina Addiction Services

Bernie Amyott, Program Director
Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan Inc. – Regina
Addictions Services
329 College Avenue East, Regina Saskatchewan S4N 0V9
Telephone: 306-352-9601

Ethel Lee-Flannigan, Field Educator – ER2
Box 158, Archerwill,
Saskatchewan S0E 0B0
Telephone: 306-323-4232

Darlene Langan, Field Educator – ER2A
212 Myrtle Avenue, Yorkton,
Saskatchewan S3N 1R2
Telephone: 306-783-8755

Fabian Ironeagle, Field Educator ER3
Box 1188, Fort Qu'Appelle,
Saskatchewan S0G 1S0
Telephone: 306-332-4771

Don Balfour Field Educator – WR3
329 College Avenue East,
Regina, Saskatchewan S4N 0V9
Telephone: 306-522-3684

Saskatoon Addiction Services

Linda Pedersen, Program Director
Métis Addictions council of Saskatchewan Inc.
– Saskatoon Addiction Services
419 Avenue E South,
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7M 1S4
Telephone: 306-652-8951

Margaret Ruda / Billy Kenedy, Field Educators – WRIA
Box 1752, North Battleford,
Saskatchewan
Telephone: 306-445-3319

Prince Albert Addiction Services

Marlene Hansen, Acting Program Director
Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan Inc.
Prince Albert Addiction Services
334 – 19th Street East,
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan S6V 1J7

Stella Laliberte, Field Educator – NR3
Box 157, Green Lake,
Saskatchewan S0M 1B0
Telephone: 306-832-2211

Clara Cook, Field Educator – ER1
Box 141, Cumberland House,
Saskatchewan S0E 0S0
Telephone: 306-888-2090

Back to BATOCHÉ 2000

Photos by
Kathy Hodgson-Smith

Back to Batoche is special this year. There is a lot to celebrate and The Metis Nation of Saskatchewan, through the long tradition of Back to Batoche Days, will showcase Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation in an exciting seven day Family Event.

This year marks not only the new millennium but also other significant benchmarks for the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan. These are

- The 30th Anniversary of Back to Batoche Days,
- The 20th Anniversary of the Gabriel Dumont Institute,
- The 30th Anniversary of the Metis Addictions Council.

This is a special year and the MNS plans to celebrate it with the launching of new programs to compliment the events that have been present at Back to Batoche for 30 years.

What is Back to Batoche?

- It is an opportunity for Métis people to gather in celebration of past traditions
- It is an opportunity for Métis people to come together to participate in sport and cultural activities.



**Clem Chartier President MNS
Committee Member**

➤ It is an opportunity to promote a better understanding of the history of the Metis people and the significance of the homeland of Batoche

➤ It is an opportunity to create a tourism event that draws from a wider audience of visitors

➤ It is an opportunity to develop an economic cultural tourism generator, which will fuel the continuance of educational, economic, social and justice initiatives already underway and envisioned for the future

➤ It is an opportunity to develop cooperation and partnership with other peoples, governments and communities.

Two Events make up Back to Batoche 2000

Like the Métis flag, Batoche 2000 is going to grow into two circles of events. One will be the Métis Nation Arts & Culture Festival and the other, the Métis Nation Sports & Recreation Games.

The Arts and Cultural Festival

There will be plenty of the traditional music and dancing along with traditional competitions at Batoche 2000. This year's 30th Anniversary of Back to Batoche Days will showcase Métis Art and Artists. Writing, Theatre, Visual Arts including photography,

Film & Video, Music and Dance will all take place in celebrations at Batoche 2000.

The Metis Nation Sports and Recreation Games

The Sports and Recreational area will be alive with activity including Boys and Girls Softball, Co-ed Slow Pitch, Men's Fastball, Cross Country Run-



**Allan Morin Chairperson
Back to Batoche Committee**

ning Relay, the return of the Rodea with Wagon Races and the Traditional Voyageur Games in both Individual and Team Competitions.

Children's Culture Camp

Children's mini culture camps will dot the Batoche site hosting all the children attending Batoche 2000. A mix of cultural and recreational activities will take place for the full 7 days of Back to Batoche.

BATOCHÉ 2000

**The Métis Nation Millenium
Arts & Culture Festival
Celebrating the Creative Spirit
of Metis Artists and
Traditions Writing**

- A Reading Series which will recognize celebrated Métis Writers as well as Introduce Young Writers to their First Reading Opportunities
- An Introductory Lecture on the His-

tory of Metis Literature

- A Poetry and Short Story Competition with an Open Category and a Youth Category

Theatre

Gabriel at the Crossing, a Metis Musical set on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River. Traditional music, dance and stories spring to life as the community of Batoche gathers to welcome Gabriel back to the Crossing. A blend of traditional and contemporary Métis Dance and Music, sprinkled with stories of the past and the future, will drive this 90-minute musical.

In conjunction with Gabriel Dumont Institute and the Saskatchewan Playwrights Centre, the project will be developed from a collective writing process.

The Batoche Youth Theatre Camp, designed to provide opportunities for creative and technical development, will be launched in conjunction with the Gabriel Dumont institute and the production of Gabriel at the Crossing.

Visual Arts

A Showcase of established and emerging Métis painters sculptures and photographers in an Art Show hosted by Parks Canada.

The Batoche Summer Photography Camp will provide an introductory opportunity for young Metis photographers.

Film and Video

- A Mini Festival of the works of Métis Film and Video Artists hosted by Parks Canada.
- Reflections of Being Metis: A Short Video Competition for Youth.
- A Documentary / Archival Video of Batoche 2000.

Music

- A showcase of Métis Fiddlers including performances, competitions and displays of traditional styles.
- Contemporary Métis performers, including singer-songwriters from across Canada, will highlight the 3 evenings of Main Stage performances.

Dance

- Traditional Dance Demonstrations, Performances and Competitions
 - Arts Lecture Series
- A series of introductory lectures in the areas of writing, visual arts, music, dance, film and video will present a retrospective of Metis art and artists.

BATOCHÉ 2000

The Métis Nation Millennium Sports & Recreation Games Celebrating the Spirit of Metis Athletes Ball Tournaments

All the Sports Facilities will be improved for Batoche. The rodeo grounds will be rebuilt for an exciting three days of rodeo. The Track will be upgraded and rebuilt for three days of Wagon Races.



Honourable Yvon Dumont
Governor General Metis Nation Council

Cross Country Running Relay

The first Annual Fish Creek to Batoche running relay will retrace a historic trail from Fish Creek to the Batoche site and will include several age classifications and team competitions.

The Voyageur Games

These traditional Games tell a story of the rich history and culture of the Voyageurs. Most voyageurs were in fact Métis traders working the river systems of Western Canada. The skills required to survive as a Voyageur are preserved in the running of The Voyageur Games. This exciting event will include both individual and team competitions in all age groups and genders. Each Provincial Métis Organizations will be represented at Batoche 2000.

The Voyageur Games are comprised of the following events.

- Hatchet Throwing
- Archery
- Sling Shot
- Voyageur Run
- Horseback Riding
- Log Carry

For Further Information:

Jack Walton 343-8285

mail: jack.w@sk.sympatico.ca

http://www.backtobatoche.ca



Dancers

The 1999 MET Awards Review

By The Southeastern Métis Development Corp.

This year's first ever Métis Employment and Training (MET) Awards were held at the Echo Valley Conference Centre in Fort Qu'Appelle. The evening was hosted by the Southeastern Métis Development Corporation, one of the 12 delivery sites associated with Métis Employment and Training of Saskatchewan Inc. (METS I).

Judging from the responses we have received, the event was a huge success and is rumored to be hosted by METSI in Saskatoon for the year 2000. Close to 300 people purchased or received complementary tickets for this prestigious event. And everyone had a wonderful sup-

per as they sat back to enjoy the Awards presentation immediately following desert.

Geordy McCaffrey, Principal of Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) was Master of Ceremonies and he performed his duty remarkably.

The following Awards were presented: Group Awards NGO/CBO Participation:

- Recipient: Kapachee Training Centre Education Institution Participation
- Recipient: Dumont Technical Institute Government Participation
- Recipient: Canada-Saskatchewan Career Employment for Fort Qu'Appelle Business Participation

➤ Recipient: SaskTel Head Office Regina Division Regional Participation

➤ Recipient: Southeastern Metis Development Corp. Individual Awards METSI Staff.

➤ Recipient: Betty Fisher, Director of Administration Services, Service Delivery Site Staff.

➤ Recipients: Roxanne Ludwig, Meadow Lake & Mechtild Morin, Fort Qu'Appelle Board of Director

➤ Recipient: Beverley Worsley, Fort Qu'Appelle Service Delivery Site Manager

➤ Recipient: Mavis Taylor, Meadow Lake Lifetime Achievement

➤ Recipient: Guy Bouvier, Meadow



**1999 MET Award Winners
Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan,**

L to R: Roxanne Ludwig, Guy Bouvier and Mavis Taylor.



Mr. Perry Chaboyer, Chief Executive Officer, Metis Employment and Training, presenting Roxanne Ludwig with the Service Delivery Site Staff Award.



Mr. Clem Chartier, President of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, presenting Mr. Guy Bouvier with the Life Time Achievement Award.

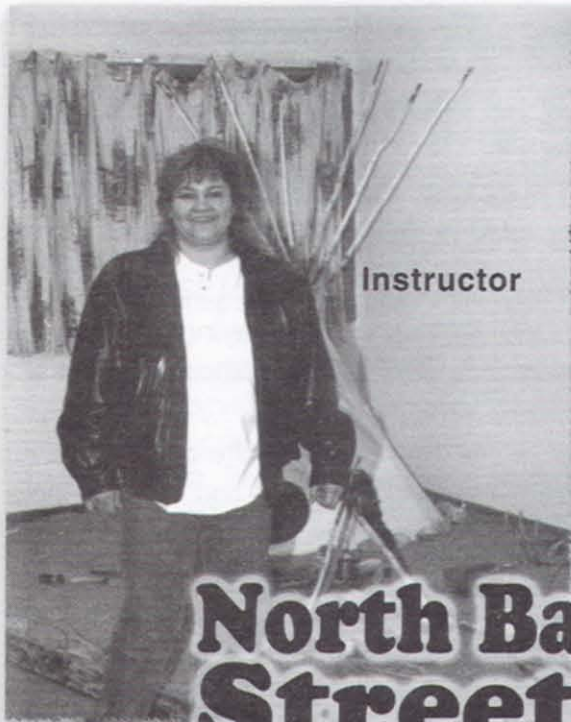


Mr. Al Rivard, Associate Minister of the Métis Employment and Training, presenting Mavis Taylor with the Service Delivery Site Manager Award.

ALBERT
Drumming
& Singing



Instructor



North Battleford Street Youth Cultural Program

Instructor

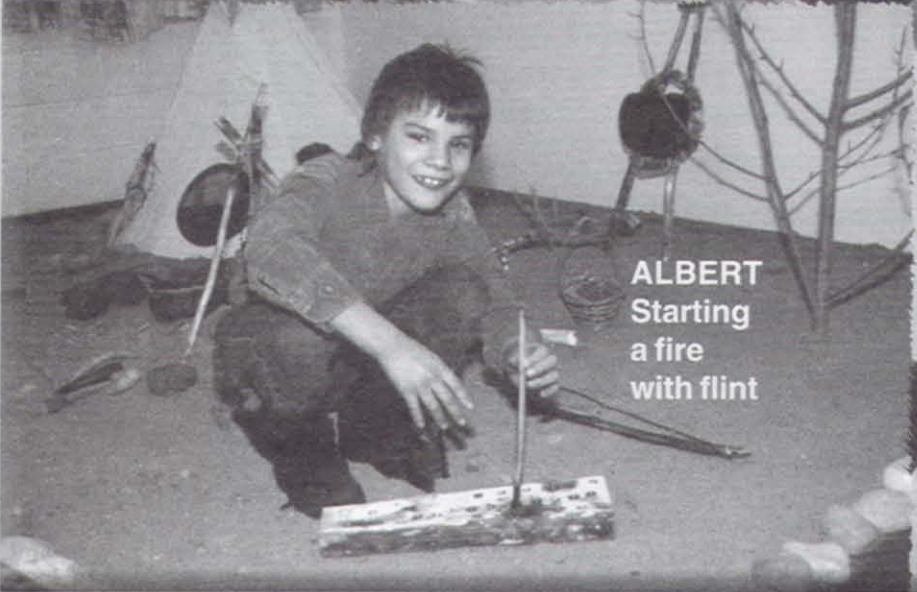


Honourable
Jack Hillson,
Minister of IGAA
and graduate
Hadassaha
Flamond



Photos by Clem Chartier

ALBERT
Starting
a fire
with flint



Graduate
Hadassaha
Flamond



SEE - CULTURAL SHARING
PROGRAM - PAGE 14

Cultural Sharing Program

By Trevor Kennedy

The Cultural Sharing Program of North Battleford is a very successful program designed to provide constructive activity through the teaching of traditional life skills to North Battleford youths. This program, which was modelled after similar programs in Manitoba and British Columbia has been operating out of North Battleford in six-week sessions for the past three years.

Traditional survival skills are often lost or forgotten. Giving youths the opportunity to participate in activities such as story telling, making traps, or lighting fires using only sticks draw the youths toward a deeper understanding of their rich cultural heritage. At the same time, it keeps the youths off the streets, and involves them in constructive rather than destructive activity.

The Cultural Sharing Program is funded by the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, and has a waiting list of over 200 youths. However, due to space restrictions, each 6 week session can only provide for approximately 30 youth, in two groups of about 15. Clem Chartier, President of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan and the Honourable Jack Hilson, MLA were among others attending recent graduation ceremonies.

The ceremonies were a joyous occasion, for the success of the youths lends to the success of the Nation. □

Back to Batoche Launches Web Site

GATHERING IMAGES & STORIES OF A PROUD 30 YEAR HISTORY

Batoche 2000 has launched a new web as part of the development of the 30th Anniversary and Millennium celebration of Back to Batoche Days. The site will be used to present information as the program evolves but also as a new source of information. The 7-day festival planned for the historic site north of Saskatoon will be held July 24 – 30 and will include activities in the Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation.

Gathering information from the past is also part of the purpose of the web site. A Photo Contest is calling for people to send their best shots of previous Back to Batoche Days to the Committee. An independent jury will review the pictures and select three winners who will re-

ceive cash prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50 as well as having their photos published in the Batoche 2000 souvenir program.

Photos aren't the only input that the Batoche 2000 committee is looking for. They are soliciting a collection of memories of Back to Batoche from the past 30 years, which will be edited and be added to the web site and for future print publications

Entries can be sent to Batoche 2000, 219 Robin Cres. Saskatoon S7L 6M8 or through the Batoche 2000 web site at:

<http://www.backtobatoche.com>

For further Information
Jack Walton 343-8285 or 956-7563
Email to: jack.w@sk.sympatico.ca

Leadership: Choices 2000+ A Provincial Career Symposium for Youth

May 10 & 11, 2000

Saskatoon Prairieland
Exhibition Park
Saskatoon, SK. Canada

Hosted by:

STC URBAN FIRST NATION SERVICES INC. &
FEDERATION OF SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN NATIONS

Contact:

VISIONS MARKETING INCORPORATED

PHONE: (306) 934-4706 - FAX: (306) 934-6819

TOLL FREE: 1-877-772-7790

TOLL FREE FAX: 1-877-934-6819



MÉTIS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS: SUCCESSFUL STORIES IN THE MAKING

By Martin Bembridge, METSI Resource Officer

Métis Employment & Training of Saskatchewan, Inc. (METSI), in partnership with community members across the province, has been integrally involved in providing employment and training opportunities to Métis people in Saskatchewan. These programs exist in a variety of forms, including the development of new programs, adaptations to existing programs, or the provision of funding to individual students. Such initiatives have been developed and delivered in response to the needs identified by community members themselves, so that the service provided is a good fit with the goals and aspirations of each region. This overview of the programs being delivered in the various regions provides a snapshot of the efforts being made to strengthen the cultural, economic, and social position of Métis people in Saskatchewan.

In Eastern Region I, Northcote Métis Development Corporation, whose head office is in Cumberland House, an emphasis in programming was placed on providing Adult Basic Education for adult learners. As well, a course that provided students with a certificate as a Heavy Equipment Operator was delivered in the region. The delivery of this training was accomplished through vibrant partnerships established in that region between Woodlands Campus, Northlands College, Cumberland House Cree Nation, and Can-Sask.

The central office of Eastern Region II, Eastern Assiniboine Training and Employment, located in Archerwill, has been involved in the development of several diverse educational and training programs. Such programs include: Life Skills, Business Administration, Pathfinders, and Office Education. Again, these programs owe their success to the strong links developed by local agencies and organizations such as Social Services, Can-Sask, and SIAST Palliser Campus, in conjunction with the LLMB.

The Métis Employment and Training Center of Saskatoon office, located in Western Region IIA, has been experiencing dynamic change of late. The huge demand for programs that meet the needs of urban people, as well as urban youth, has been a great challenge. This region delivered two large projects over the past year: a major initiative that focussed on delivering Employment Programs for urban youth; and a Life Skills program.

Western Region III, Missouri Coteau Development Corporation, in Regina is currently providing support for Adult Basic Education and Grade Equivalency Diploma programs in that region. These programs were delivered in partnership with other organizations such as Dumont Technical Institute and Can-Sask.

The Meadow Lake office, Northwestern Métis Employment and Training, Inc. located in Western Region I, has funded several educational and training programs, including a Teacher Aide program, Market Garden program, and an Economic Development program for community members. As well, a conference was delivered that provided cultural and personal development opportunities for local youth.

Western Region IA, through the North Battleford office, BattleRiver Métis Development Corporation, has assisted students in acquiring diplomas in Social Work through the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College. Other individuals have received funding to obtain certificates in Computer Enhanced Training, in a program that contains opportunities for practical training. Program participants have shown a strong commitment to completing these ventures.

The Métis Employment & Training Centre Corp. located in Prince Albert, Western Region II, has been involved in funding a large and diverse array of projects over the

Continued on page 21...



NEWS
news
CANADIAN ABORIGINAL NEWS
www.canadianaboriginal.com



Metis News
For Canada and 
the United States
www.metisnews.com



CANADIAN INDIAN NEWS
Your Source for First Nations News
www.canadianindian.com

Canadian Aboriginal News is placed first on Yahoo, Northern Light, Snap, WebCrawler, MSN, Excite, and many other important web search engines. That means that a news release on this site will reach most of the people searching for Canadian Aboriginal News. This site now **averages 3000 hits per day**.

In addition, two sister sites: Metis News and Canadian Indian News are gradually reaching similar positions as first in their categories on the web.

As a service to advertisers, Metis MultiMedia Inc. offers you a unique and **useful opportunity** to place your news releases on the web. This **can be done free** as a news story, or for as little as \$100 for a page per month.

MÉTIS RIGHTS CONSULTATIONS BEING HELD ACROSS PROVINCE

Story & Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

The Métis Nation of Saskatchewan Executive, along with Bruce Flamont, have travelled across the province the past two months providing communities with information, and an opportunity to provide guidance, on issues surrounding Métis Rights and the development of a Métis Nation Agenda. Similar consultations took place last year across the Métis homeland in order to facilitate the drafting of a set of recommendations to the Métis National Council on the Métis Nation Agenda in Canada. The final result was presented to Federal Interlocutor Ralph Goodale in July of 1999 by the Métis



*Clem Chartier, Allan Morin, Murray Hamilton
Fort Qu'Appelle*

National Council in a document entitled, Moving Forward. The recommendations regarding the Métis in

Canada as set out by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples had been, for the most part, disregarded by the Federal Government and remained unaddressed in their formal response document, entitled Gathering Strength. Federal Minister Ralph Goodale, however, acknowledged the absence of the Métis in the Gathering Strength document and invited the Métis, through the Métis National Council, to undertake an internal consultation process in order to draft a formal national agenda.



Clem Chartier - President

During the consultations, MNS President and Board of Governor for the Métis National Council, Clem Chartier, along with Treasurer Allan Morin and Vice-President Murray Hamilton, made available all of the material gathered to date and sought to affirm the ideas imbedded within them. The consultations were held to give community members another opportunity to direct the resulting position. The consultations were held in each of the twelve regions and were well-attended and, in most locations, were met with serious concern and support for the continued struggle for recognition of rights. Bruce Flamont had been engaged by the Executive

Metis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan Inc.

The Council is a community-based organization established in 1969 to provide alcohol and drug recovery programs to Métis and off-reserve Indian Peoples of Saskatchewan. As an affiliate of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, the Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (MACSI) is funded by Saskatchewan Health's Community Care Branch to provide alcohol and drug recovery programs and services.

While services target Metis and Indian peoples, the Council's services are open to all citizens of Saskatchewan. MACSI also has contracts with Correction Services Canada to deliver services in reintegrating inmates on a mandatory release program into the community.

Our Mission Is ...

To reduce and eventually eliminate the harmful effects of alcohol and drug abuse among Aboriginal people and to assist communities in restoring a balanced and harmonious lifestyle. The key to overcoming the addiction is to restore harmony – to become WHOLE.

Each time a client leaves our programs with a feeling of being whole, with an inner peace and equipped with the necessary living skills to continue their journey and assist others, we have achieved our goal.

The goal is lifelong recovery – mentally, spiritually, physically and emotionally. □



Métis Farm - Lebret

and long usage. Currently, the courts have set precedent that Métis, as one of the three Aboriginal Peoples in Canada according to the Constitution Act of 1982, had to have been afforded due process in the extinguishment of their Aboriginal rights. Governments generally hold that Métis rights were extinguished through the scrip process that took place

at varying times and places between 1870 and 1923. A legal defence requires proof that an Aboriginal right existed for that individual in that specific geographic area and that due process had not been followed in order to legitimately extinguish the Aboriginal right. Test cases are currently underway to present to the courts such legal defences. It is the position of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan Executive that governments must hasten the negotiation process and move toward recognition and respect for those same rights as were fought for at Batoche in 1885 and for which Louis Riel lost his life.

to coordinate and facilitate the consultations and provided very powerful and eloquent commentary on the history of Métis rights in Saskatchewan.

A number of issues were presented, including remarks by Treasurer Allan Morin on the issue of fiscal responsibility and the concept of multi-year funding that would allow for the Nation to plan more effectively and to move confidently into future commitments. The President provided members with an overview on the situation of Métis rights as is being determined in the courts through various hunting, fishing and land cases across the Métis homeland. It was acknowledged that in many of the court cases, it is not individuals that

rights as a people, to define our own citizenship and to govern ourselves as we determine collectively as a Nation.

The consultations will wrap up at the end of February or early March and will have provided us, collectively, one more opportunity to speak of matters of concern to all. Rights are the most basic element of our Nationhood, are deeply rooted in the history of the Nation, one family at a time, in the experiences of the Elders and remain silently imbedded in the hearts of the youth. In this special issue of *New Breed* magazine, the Executive of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan welcome readers to take this opportunity to begin or for some to continue to learn of the Métis and of the vibrant heritage and history of our people. □



Local President - Assiniboia, Steve Lidberg, Vice President Lawrence, President - Willow Bunch, Randy Gaudry, President Clem Chartier, Meeting Assiniboia



Gathering at Lebret Farm for Presentation

are on trial but whole communities that stand to lose or gain recognition of Métis rights by virtue of traditional

process and the efforts of the Métis National Council to draft a national definition for Métis across the coun-

METIS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING OF SASKATCHEWAN, INC.

Staff looks forward to the Second Year of a Five Year Agreement with Human Resource Development Canada

*By: Kathy Hodgson-Smith, Interim
Chief Executive Officer, METSI*

As Métis Employment & Training of Saskatchewan, Inc. (METSI) comes to the end of its fiscal year, the staff at head office and at each of the twelve regional Local Métis Management Board (LMMB) offices are taking time to examine the past year, and also to look toward the future.

As we look back, we can see the growing pains of an organization that doubled its budget in only one year. In response to this sudden growth, METSI and the LMMBs jointly developed and implemented many new policies and procedures this past year. METSI worked closely with the LMMBs, enabling community-based decision-making for all employment and training program dollars. Funding was provided for more than a thousand clients, sponsoring their participation in a variety of education and work-experience programs. The organization assisted several thousand other clients to find employment or access other career development support. In total, the entire organization employed more than sixty individuals province-wide, the majority of which are Métis. Further to this, on behalf of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan and its subsequent members, METSI and the LMMBs entered into partnerships with several private and public organizations and institutions, such as our own Dumont Technical Institute, Gabriel Dumont Institute, SIAST and Northlands College. Various government departments have also undertaken joint ini-

tiatives with the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan through METSI and the LMMBs, including Can-Sask Employment & Career Services, Canadian Heritage, and the federal Department of Labour.

As we look ahead to the programs and opportunities for the upcoming year, the organization must recognize that we have entered into a new millennium of increased competition for shrinking employment and training budgets. To address this challenge, METSI is focusing on developing new partnerships, and targeting funds at training that will provide the greatest employment opportunities. Currently, METSI represents the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan at various tables including the Common Labour Market Planning Forum (CLMPF), where all three governments meet to discuss issues of common concern as they relate to labour market activities. The Gabriel Dumont Institute is also represented at this table.

Three targets were set for the next fiscal year which seemed to provide the greatest opportunity for employment and training in the province: forestry, health and apprenticeship. In this new year, METSI will be working closely with Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs and the Apprenticeship Commission to bring increased opportunities to Métis in Saskatchewan through joint efforts in these areas. In both the forestry and health sectors, work plans have been developed by these organizations which will lead to direct employment

opportunities based on economic development activities. The opportunity for increased dialogue at the CLMPF table will hopefully move us forward toward increased success and increased community-level input into program development.

Another initiative that has been discussed at this table is the undertaking of a Métis Labour Market Study to assess the position of the Métis in terms of labour market programming. At present, the statistics are not available to either of the three governments to make strategic plans for the development of education and training programs that will reflect the reality of Métis in Saskatchewan. For example, it is unclear if our employment and training efforts should be focusing on entry-level programming, secondary education upgrading, or post-secondary training.

Our organization is growing, building – it is dynamic and changing. As we look forward, it is our hope that we will continue to improve our services and continue to meet the employment and training needs of Métis communities in the Province of Saskatchewan. METSI, in conjunction with our regional offices, will make every effort to provide program information to our communities upon request. METSI is currently designing a web page which we hope to be functioning by April 1, 2000. All policies, procedures, programs and contact information will then be readily available to the public. □

Val Morrison of Northern Region 1 Represents Metis Nation at Canadian Study Conference

By Al Rivard,
Northern Region 1 - La Ronge



Val Morrison of La Ronge was selected from 225 applicants from across Canada to participate in the Governor General's Canadian Study Conference.

The Governor General's Canadian Study Conference is a registered non-profit organization whose objective is to introduce Canada's future business, labour, public sec-

tor and community leaders to a myriad of complex issues in order to expand their ability to interact with people, develop improved decision-making processes, and test their capacity to deal with the unexpected. This is a unique experience designed to enhance leadership skills across Canada. Participants are typically in mid-career and have been identified by their organizations as individuals who are part of their succession planning and likely to occupy senior level positions in the future.

Conference participants will discuss significant socio-economic issues with other national, regional and community leaders in order to attain a broader understanding of the direct consequences their decisions may have on individual Canadians. An immersion with fourteen other

participants from diverse backgrounds who form part of the study group creates an intensive group-dynamic environment where preconceived ideas will be challenged. Val is currently the Regional Director of Saskatchewan Social Services.

She is an active supporter of the Aboriginal Women's Council, and sits as a regular Board Member of the Jim Brady Métis Local #19. Northern Region 1 is very proud of Val's recognition and appointment to the Study. The Region will benefit greatly by the experience and skills that Val will develop and build during the conference.

The conference begins on May 17th in Banff and will continue with study tours to specific regions throughout Canada through to wrap-up on June 2nd, 2000. □

DWAYNE (TRUDEAU) G. ROTH, LL.B.



A General Practice of Law Including:

- Aboriginal Law
- Corporate / Commercial
- Criminal Law
- Impaired Driving
- Personal Injuries
- Wrongful Dismissal
- Civil Litigation
- Economic Development
- Municipal / Administrative Law
- Divorce / Family Law

242-6927

√ **Trusted**

√ **Reliable**

*Fixed fees for many services
Free Initial 1/2 hour consultation
Province wide representation
Extended Hours*

Roy (Judge) Fosseneuve

Message

Did you notice when you got up on the morning of January 1st 2000 that the water was still running from your taps, you were able to flick your lights off and on in your house, as well, you still could control the heat by rotating your thermostat to the desired temperature of your choice. What happened to the Y2K crap that was supposed to have created such havoc throughout the universe? Was it just a hoax manufactured by some computer whiz bent on making mega dollars and that he did. The amount of money spent for the preparation of Y2K was astronomical and guess who will be paying for it I do have one suggestion where we can get the money, maybe we can convince the federal government to start spending some of the E.I. funds since no one can access it anyway, that should alleviate some of our financial burdens as to how we can pay for the Y2K.

Oh well life goes on, as for me the last century will always have a special place in my life memories. I celebrated another birthday in December which made me another year older and closer to my old age pension. Then I sit back and start to think about my old age benefits that's when realization sets in and I ask myself "where have all the flowers gone." In my life time I have lived through several provincial premiers, was born during the hungry thirties, lived through one world war, the Korean war and have witnessed many different changes that have affected the lives of our people in many ways.

I have observed and participated in various Metis elections, I have supported candidates whom I thought would make a difference at the executive level and many times I have been disappointed, but the fact still remains I have remained loyal to the leadership of our nation after each election, even if the candidate of my choice didn't get

in. I have slept on the marble floors of the legislative building in Regina in support of Métis issues and concerns. I have been harassed by the police, I have been charged because of my strong beliefs to the betterment of our nation, in spite of all this I'm still around and will continue the struggle for our cause.

I have seen our Nation at it's peak and as well I have seen it at it's lowest point I have seen many of our people struggle to try and maintain and keep focused on matters for the survival of programs and services that we thought were crucial at the time. And yes, I have also seen many of our people in their attempts to try and bring down our Nation to it's knees and try to destroy what we had accomplished through bitter struggles with governments and agencies who to this day continue to control the purse strings. My hope for the new millennium is that we as Métis people will strive as a Nation, bring about positive changes and be proud to claim to be a MÉTIS. As my old buddy Jim Favel from Ile-A-La-Crosse would say 'we must work together'.

As I sit here writing this article, I have to sit back and reminisce of some of the persons who were an influence in my life. These men and women have nothing but respect from me, men like Jim Sinclair, Ray Hamilton, Gerald Morin, Don Neilson and many others that are too many to mention, women like Linda Finlayson, Nora Ritchie, Rose Boyer, these are the women who stood in the front lines during the early years and what great work they did and then there are those who are no longer with us, people like Rod Bishop, Lionel Deschambeault, Clarence Trotchie, Jonas Favel, Nap LaFontaine. We owe a lot to these individuals. These are the men and women who had visions and lived up

to them no matter what the odds were.

I can recall the formative years in Cumberland House, when we were struggling to get the Métis people organized at the local level sure we had some opposition but we overcame all obstacles and became one of the strongest locals on the east side as many politicians will attest to when it came to electing leaders. I can also recall the first time I met the late Malcolm Norris in the early 60's at Cumberland House. I bought my first Métis membership card from him. The card was from the Alberta Métis Association. We had to scratch out Alberta with a pen and write the word Saskatchewan on it, many times I regret not keeping the card would have been something to cherish as I get older.

I can recall the early local meetings at Cumberland House when we had to battle the Catholic priest, the Hudson's Bay Company, local non Aboriginal offices such as Social Services, and the R.C.M.P. We were accused of leading the Métis astray, away from the church by having our people standing for their rights, and started asking questions. I challenged the priest at a school meeting what right he had to sit on the local school board when he didn't have children attending classes. I ran against the priest that night needless to say the die hard Catholics saw to it that I didn't get elected, the priest got in shortly after I was excommunicated from the church. Their reason was I didn't get married according to their rules.

Catholic rules or not I still believe I will end up in Métis heaven when I kick the bucket. I say this, cause if there is such a thing as hell then we as Metis have lived in hell here on earth and we deserve better fate than that. I hope Murray Hamilton doesn't accuse me

Continued on page 21..

MÉTIS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS: SUCCESSFUL STORIES IN THE MAKING

past year. Six employment and training programs were offered in 1999, with other programs continuing to date. As well, two bridging programs were developed and offered in Prince Albert and Shellbrook, in response to requests for partnership with local communi-

ties. As well, METCC assisted local individuals in the process of developing proposals for submission to the Aboriginal Healing Selection Committee.

The Northern Region III offers a variety of services through its head office in Beauval, Métis Pathways Board, including: employment counseling and referral; funding for education and training; youth programming; and information brokerage. The resources of this office are currently engaged in delivering a number of programs designed to provide employment and training programs and services to Métis people within that region. Financial assistance continues to be provided to individual students attending various educational institutions.

The Yorkton head office in Region IIA, Eastern Assiniboine Training and Employment, Inc, is presently offering a number of programs in various locales, with a view to expanding the range of education and training opportunities offered over the next year. An exciting new initiative will access modern technology through the use of the Internet to develop individual training plans

The Methy Pathways Board in Buffalo Narrows, Northern Region II, has sponsored four major community-based projects in the region. The following programs were developed to meet training needs that were articulated by community members: Forestry/Portable Mill Training, Young Entrepreneur Training, Fisheries (Hatchery), and Adult Basic Education. In addition to developing these programs, Methy Pathways provided assistance to individual students enrolled in a diverse range of

labour market activities.

The Fort Qu'Appelle office, Southeastern Métis Development Corporation, of Eastern Region III provides a number of services designed to meet its mandate of increasing the skill levels and participation rates of Métis people in the workplace. This is accomplished by linking services with a number of Métis organizations in the region, including the Leuret Métis Farm, Kapachee Training Centre, the Southeastern Métis Development Corporation and the Gabriel Dumont Institute. Furthermore, the office has worked diligently to create partnerships with local employers.

The Jim Brady Employment and Training Centre in La Ronge provides services to the Métis people of Northern Region I. Initiatives in this region are designed to create sustainable employment for community members through a variety of mediums. An exciting new project is the Stay in School initiative, which encourages Métis youth to obtain their high school diploma. This program is viewed as being preventative in nature, thus allowing more resources to be allocated for post secondary education and training.

It is evident that METSI, through the dynamic partnerships created with regional offices, community members, and other Métis organizations, is providing vital employment and training opportunities to Métis individuals. In this way, Saskatchewan communities may continue to achieve cultural, economic, and social growth for all of its members. □

Continued from page 20...

Roy (Judge) Fosseneuve *Message*

of getting to sentimental in my old age, he's bad for that. Any way Murray if I get to Métis heaven before you I will put in a good word for you. Cause old buddy I'd rather see you playing the harp then shoveling coal.

In conclusion I would like to comment on the lack of interest the Métis Nation has had on the issue of our Métis veterans. The leadership must appoint someone who will take a very active role in working with these men and women.

I look at the Indian veterans that are taking a class action suit against the federal government by taking them to task, and should they be successful on their endeavors the stand to gain plenty of benefits as opposed to our Métis veterans, who in my mind have never received any thing of beneficial for the sacrifices they made during both World Wars and Korea as well. To the leadership I wish them well and I hope things work out. Give the Nation back to the people by letting our people be part of the decision making process. That would be a big step forward in reaching our goals of self-government.

Yours In Métis Unity,

Roy (Judge) Fosseneuve. □

Racism complaint

SASKATOON (CP) - A Métis employee of the embattled Saskatoon city police force has complained of racism and discrimination to the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission.

Charlene Lavallee, a special constable now on stress leave, alleges the attitudes of her co-workers poisoned her work environment.

She also claims police Chief Dave Scott told her she shouldn't be involved in the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan.

Lavallee's complaint was filed before the RCMP was asked to investigate the city force over allegations that officers have been taking aboriginal troublemakers to the outskirts of the city and abandoning them in sub-zero weather.

Two officers were suspended last week after Darrell Night filed a complaint alleging they had dumped him after taking his coat and telling him to walk home.

The freezing deaths of four aboriginal men are now being investigated. Two police officers were suspended with pay last week in two of the cases.

Lavallee attended a news conference Tuesday where Métis leaders called for an independent public inquiry into the provincial justice system.

Her complaint is dated Jan. 5 _ well before the other allegations came out. In it she alleges she was subjected to derogatory remarks from co-workers and a supervisor about aboriginal people.

Her claim says in one case a sergeant told her that aboriginals don't work and couldn't survive without hand-outs.

On another occasion Lavallee claims a constable complained about residential school lawsuits, saying, "I'm sick and tired of paying for the damned Indians for stuff that happened to them hundreds of years ago."

Her complaint is being investigated by the commission. She is to meet with Scott this week to discuss her concerns.

The police service had no comment on the case Tuesday. Gerald Morin, president of the Métis National Council, said a judicial inquiry is the only way to restore faith in the justice system.

"The standards of the community have been violated," he said. "We must get to the truth."

Justice Minister Chris Axworthy has already rejected the idea of such an inquiry. He says the province wants to wait until the RCMP investigation is completed.

Also on Tuesday, the RCMP announced it will not reopen a decade-old investigation into the suspicious freez-

ing death of an aboriginal teenager on the outskirts of Saskatoon.

"Right now we have five things to deal with and sometime we have to decide where to maintain our focus," said Sgt. Rick Wychreschuk, who heads the investigative task force. "We want to deal with these issues first. That's the decision right now."

Neil Stonechild, 17, was found frozen to death in a field in November 1990.

Saskatoon police concluded that Stonechild died while trying to walk to a correctional centre to turn himself in. He was wanted for escaping from a youth group home where he was serving a sentence for break and enter.

But a friend of Stonechild's, who asked to remain anonymous, said he saw his buddy being taken away in the back of a police cruiser screaming, "They're gonna kill me!"

(Veteran Ken Munson & Daniel Hutchen suspended 30 days with pay starting Feb. 15). □

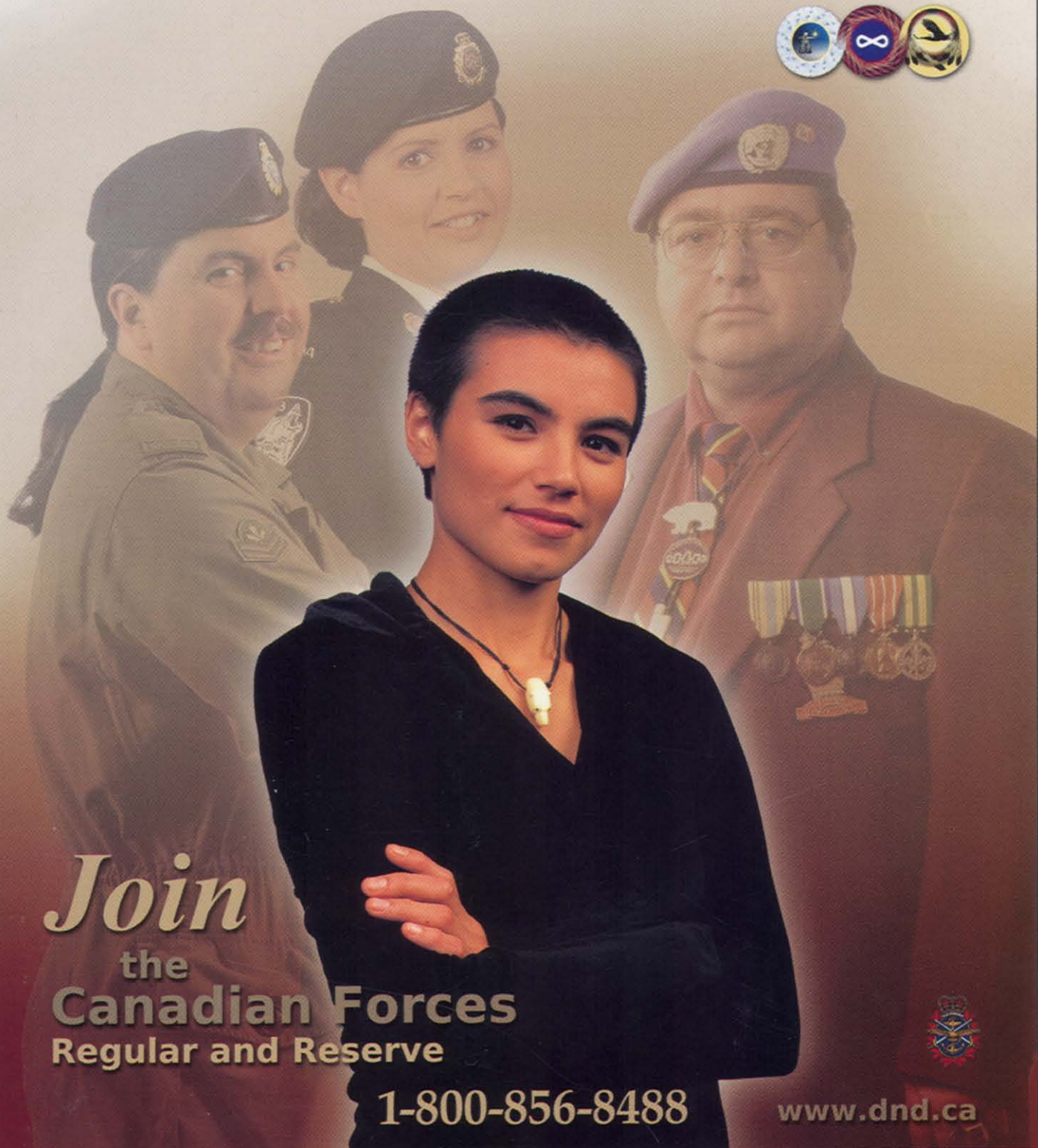
(Saskatoon StarPhoenix)

Metis Speak Out On Justice for Aboriginal Peoples

The Métis National Council and the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan are deeply disturbed by the revelations made over the week of Feb. 20th with respect to the unfortunate deaths of Rodney Naistus and Lawrence Wegner, and the treatment received by Darrell Night. The MNC and the MNS add their voice and support for meaningful action by Saskatchewan Justice. In particular we see a need for a judicial inquiry into the deaths that have occurred in Saskatoon, in addition to the current criminal investigation conducted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Further, we see a need for immediate action to address the root cause which allows such deplorable situations to occur, as well as to make good faith efforts by all parties to examine the means by which Aboriginal Peoples can feel secure within a justice system, which must be changed to accommodate Aboriginal values, traditions and laws. The only way that this can be done is through the establishment of an open, public and transparent inquiry into the justice system and Aboriginal Peoples. This proposed inquiry must have a mandate by the government of Saskatchewan which is arrived at through negotiations with the MNS and the FSIN, and which must include representation from those Aboriginal governments. □

Aboriginal HONOUR



Join
the
Canadian Forces
Regular and Reserve

1-800-856-8488

www.dnd.ca



National
Defence

Défense
nationale

CAMPUS
workLink
<http://www.CampusWorkLink.com>

Canada