

New Breed

M A G A Z I N E

April/May 2000

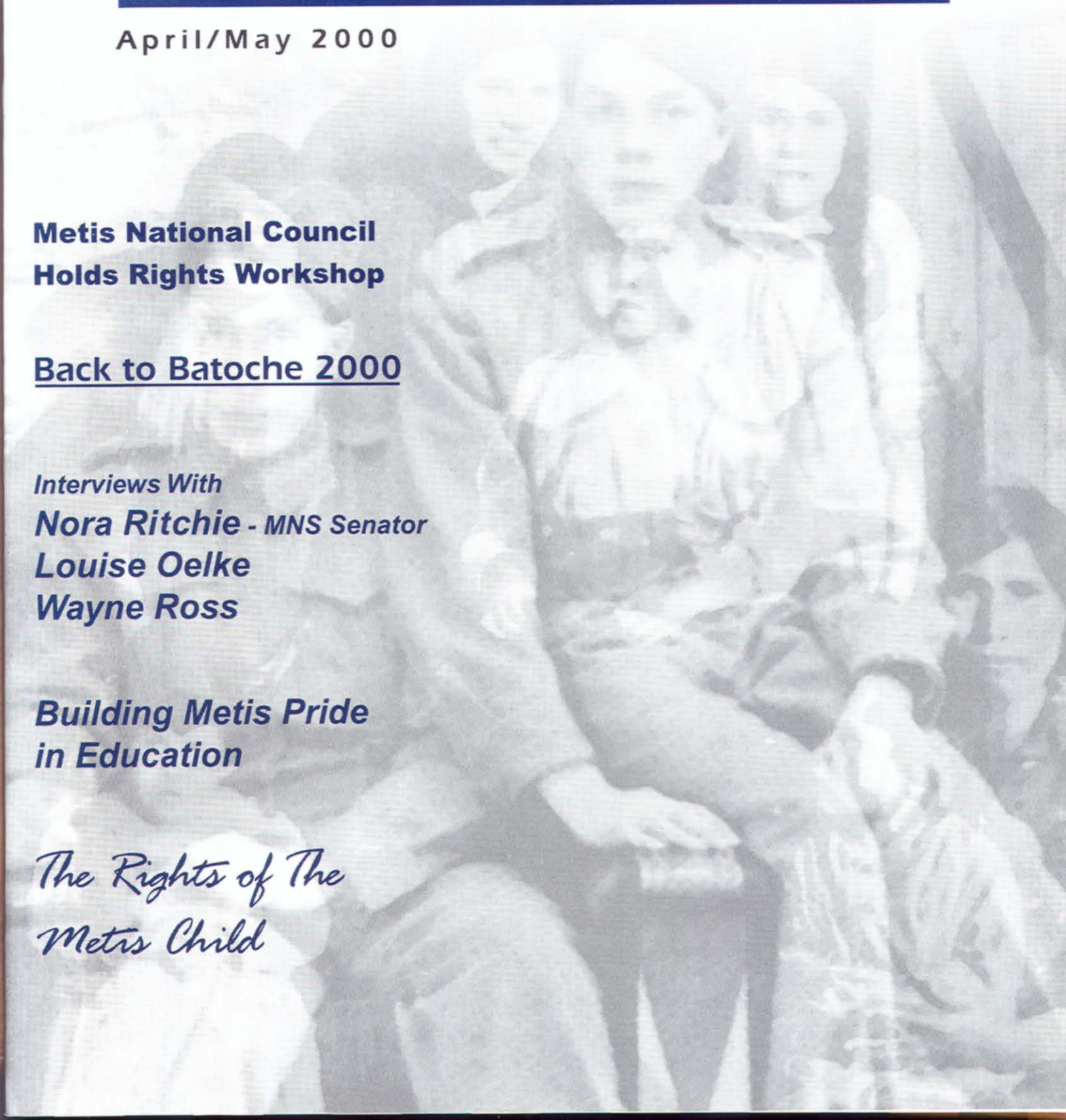
**Metis National Council
Holds Rights Workshop**

Back to Batoche 2000

Interviews With
Nora Ritchie - MNS Senator
Louise Oelke
Wayne Ross

**Building Metis Pride
in Education**

*The Rights of The
Metis Child*



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Cover Note: Photos courtesy of Gabriel Dumont Institute. Cover design by Mind Tap Multimedia

President's Message



Metis Rights Are Our Rights

Over the past 20 years, the Metis nation has been making great strides in getting the proper recognition that it deserves. While our people, who emerged in the seventeen hundreds as a new nation, have been continuously asserting our rights, it is only now that we are making substantial progress. The new nation, the Metis nation, covers the prairie provinces, north-west Ontario, northeast British Columbia, part of the North West Territories, and part of the northern United States. That was our homeland then, this geographic area is our homeland now.

There are many defining periods in history which evidence who we are as a people. At the Battle of Seven Oaks in 1816, the Battle of the Grand Coteau in 1851, the Red River Resistance of 1869/70, and the Batoche Resistance of 1885 we knew who our people were; it was those people who were involved in those struggles. Our people since the beginnings of our young nation have without fail and without regret, always defended our right to exist, and to exist as a distinct Aboriginal people. A people or nation does not voluntarily spill its blood in battle without reason. Those sacrifices were made for the benefit of future generations, for us, and for generations in front of us. The fight was for land, self-government and a way of life.

Our nation is defined by the actions which we have undertaken, actions such as those described above. It is defined by our social, cultural and economic activities. As Metis we developed our own music, dance, language, beading designs and clothing. Today, we remain proud to hear the fiddle bring to life the Red River Jig, watching our people wearing their sash as they jig around the floor, some of them wearing flower beaded moccasins, while people around us clap, some exchanging apprecia-

tive views in Michif. We are proud when we see our Metis nation flag flying at our functions, or when we drive through Green Lake, Ile a la Crosse, Lebret Metis Farm, Buffalo Narrows and the other communities that fly the flag daily.

We have continued our struggle for justice. During various periods since Batoche 1885, especially in the 1930s and again in the 1960s to present, we have continued to press for social justice and the recognition of our rights. In the 1930s and 40s, our leaders pushed hard for the recognition of our land rights. We continue to carry on this struggle today. In the 1960s and 70s, while land and harvesting rights remained as part of the agenda, much time and energy was spent on economic and social issues, such as getting sorely needed housing, education and employment for our people. During those hard years, we also had an alliance with Indian people who had been stripped of their rights by the Indian Act. Our social and economic issues were the same. It made sense to join forces to achieve our social and economic objectives.

In the late 1970s, the focus on land rights, Aboriginal rights, once again began to receive more attention. Aboriginal rights research grants were made available by the federal government between 1976 to

1981 and a lot of research on Metis lands and scrip was undertaken. During that same period of time, Canada as a whole was going through radical social and constitutional changes. Then Prime Minister, Pierre Trudeau, was pushing hard to bring (patriate) the Constitution governing Canada from Great Britain to Canada. Indian rights, particularly championed by Indian women who had lost their rights, were being vigorously pursued. Changes to the political and legal landscape were on the horizon, changes which would have a profound effect on the Metis.

With the passing of the Constitution Act 1982, Aboriginal and Treaty rights were finally recognized in Canada's Constitution. The Metis were included as part of the Aboriginal peoples. Equality rights of women were recognized, although the law would not be in effect for three (3) years. At the end of those three years, the Indian Act was amended by Bill C-31 which witnessed many non-status Indians regain their Indian status and Treaty rights. It was clear that Metis rights and non-status Indian rights were different. It was a time to realign our movement to achieve Metis rights, and secure our future based on our rights as a Metis people, our Metis rights.

The Constitution Act 1982 also provid-



MNC Press Conference on Riel Bill, July/99, Montreal - Photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith



Louis Chartier, Mike Shatilla, Dale Shatilla & Dennis Shatilla

ed for a constitutional conference which would define the Aboriginal and Treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples. This conference had to take place by mid-April, 1983. The Prime Minister was obligated to invite the representatives of the Indian, Inuit and Metis peoples. His invitation went to the three existing national organizations: the Assembly of First Nations, the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and the Native Council of Canada.

During the year leading to the March 1983 constitutional conference, it became abundantly clear that organizations built around alliances to address those dire economic and social issues were not suitable to address the more fundamental legal rights as a people. The agendas of each were too diverse. The non-status Indians were seeking to regain their status under the Indian Act, and thereby the exercise of their Treaty rights. The Metis were seeking the recognition of their Aboriginal rights, including land, self-government and harvesting rights on the basis that the scrip process did not validly extinguish those rights.

By early March 1983 it became clear that the Native Council of Canada, which had only two Metis on its fifteen member Board of Directors, and no Metis on its Executive, was not going to be a strong advocate for Metis rights at the conference. Because of this, the Metis nation had to take action. Just days before the scheduled constitutional conference the Metis from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta came to an agreement in Edmonton that a new Metis national organization was the only solution and the 'Edmonton Accord' was signed paving the way for the establishment of the Metis National Council in Regina several days later. Through a court

challenge and an out of court settlement, the Metis National Council was invited to participate at the constitutional conference, and the Metis once again had their own voice at the national level to put forward a Metis specific rights agenda. Like in 1869-70 at Red River, the spirit was rekindled for the nation.

It was also agreed at that time that the same process would take place in Saskatchewan. This was not an issue in Manitoba or Alberta

as the non-status Indians in those provinces immediately formed their own organizations and stayed within the Native Council of Canada. In 1986, Allan Morin then Association of Metis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan (AMNSIS) Secretary tabled the first Metis specific constitution during the Annual Assembly at Batoche. That draft Metis constitution was adopted in principle for ratification the following year. At Batoche, during the 1987 Annual Assembly, a resolution and subsequent constitutional amendment was passed paving the way for a Metis-only constitutional conference to be held at Prince Albert in February 1988. The purpose of that conference was for the adoption of a constitution for a Metis-only organization. A Constitution Commission was elected with a mandate to hold consultations around the province and bring a draft constitution to that conference. This work was ultimately carried out by Morley Norton and myself, and tabled at the February 1988 Constitutional Conference where it was adopted and the Metis



Matriarch Annie Bronconnier, with son Louis, grandson Larry and his wife and two great grandchildren, four generations - Oct/98 - Photo by Clem Chartier

Society of Saskatchewan was reborn. This development was opposed through court action by some members of the AMNSIS Executive, and in August 1988 by referendum the Metis of Saskatchewan voted in favor of a Metis-only organization. This led to the declaration of self-government in 1993 under the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan.

As stated in the title, 'Metis rights are our rights'. We have Metis rights because we are Metis. We are a people with a history, culture, language, stories, and sense of identity and community. We are a nation. We have a distinct and identifiable historic Metis homeland. It is because of this that we have a basis to argue Metis rights. A non-status Indian, or a person of Indian ancestry in today's context, cannot establish evidence to prove a Metis right. They are limited to evidence to prove Treaty rights, or a fundamental human right to Indian Act inclusion if that is their objective. Rights are based on historical fact. The Metis nation and its descendants, us today and our children tomorrow, have historical facts on our side to establish our rights as Metis. It is us, and only us, that can feel secure in this knowledge.

This then leads back to the inevitable question of who are the Metis. It is my firm belief, and that of many others, that the Metis are those descendants and those descendants only, of the persons who formed and proclaimed the Metis nation those many years ago. The descendants of those who fought in past battles, many of whom gave up their lives in the struggle. The Metis nation is based on historical fact. That cannot, and must not be changed. Metis culture, existence and rights cannot be defined by other cultures. Only the Metis can determine Metis rights and identity. We cannot allow ourselves to be defined by outside influences of persons of mixed ancestry who have lost their rights or have been marginalized by their own people. There is a lot of pressure coming from outside our historic Metis nation homeland to do just that. This is something that must be resisted. We do not deny their rights or their existence, we simply want to protect our rights and our existence as a historic Metis people, today and into the future. ■

Clem Chartier,
President



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Editorial

by Adrienne Dufour

This issue of New Breed is focused on governance, and designed to tell our readership what Metis Leaders at all levels, are accomplishing for the Metis Nation.

Most importantly we must realize that self-governance is an inherent right, one which other Aboriginal groups have in place today so land and federal government programs are available to them. The Metis People struggle for that has been on going for hundreds of years, we have a history and traditions that date back to the early 1700's. The Metis People fought with resistance and in the process established Metis organizations that were to help the People. We were always aware of our inherit rights, now today we still fight for these rights.

Great strides made by leaders of the past and present now have our goal of self-government within reach. In 1982 the Metis Nation was finally recognized in the Constitution of Canada's Aboriginal People of Canada. And ten years later in 1992, our Metis Nation reached an agreement at the constitutional table, for governments to negotiate land, resources and self-government with our people. This was not easily reached and now our leaders are still building strength in issues such as land claims, economic development, and education just to name a few. The Metis Nation of Saskatchewan continues to push for recognition of claims and self-government. I hope land and economic stability will come in the future to make our culture and People whole again.

This is widely agreed upon by our leaders featured in this issue many who say, "Self-government requires a land base to establish concrete areas of self-government". Which is true and we the Metis People are one of the largest groups of Native People in Canada but are the poorest in areas of resources such as land etc. But despite our nations hard times we still are one of the wealthiest in culture, which has gained enormous attention in the past, present, and will certainly continue to lead us into the future, stronger than we even are today.

Metis Employment & Training of Saskatchewan Inc.

The Risk Management Consultation Introduction

Story by Perry Chaboyer - Risk Management Consultant

As you are aware the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan (MNS) is presently in agreement with Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) to provide employment and training funding for Metis people in our province through the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Strategy Contribution Agreement (AHRDSCA). This agreement is considered high risk because of the amount and the technicality of criteria for funds it provides the Metis people.

Metis Employment & Training of Saskatchewan Inc. (METSI) delivers the funding to twelve Metis regions through Service Delivery Agreements (SDA) across the province. Each individual SDA is managed by a regional Board of Directors who in turn decide which Metis clients will receive funding for employment and training.

Within the agreement there are several areas of concern that affect the MNS, METSI and HRDC the most important being a lack of communication, confusion and trust. This is an extremely important partnership with many players. All decisions made by the agreement holders effect the most important reason we are here, to provide training funds to Metis clients. Presently, there is no system in place to identify the issues or concerns within the agreement where a reporting strategy can be implemented to all parties. The Risk Management Consultant can provide training to the Boards and the staff in the regions utilizing them in identifying the major problems within the organizations.

The Risk Management Consultant will make recommendations on the appropriateness of tools and processes for dealing in high risk areas. Other responsibilities will include reporting to a Learning Committee that will be comprised of senior representatives from METSI and HRDC. The Risk Management Consultant will provide an independent report that will improve the effectiveness of METSI to ensure a stable partnership.

The following objectives may be met prior to the completion of the six month agreement between the MNS and HRDC for the employment of the Risk Management Consultant.

- To assess each regions financial issues and with their input decide on the priorities for change
- Train the regions and METSI defining the risk management process
- Suggest a solid decision making process
- Communicating risk to Boards, staff of the regions including METSI and HRDC
- Determine the governance and control structures that are in place and request means for betterment
- Recommend and support innovation/change
- Reporting practices to MNS/HRDC (communication)
- Assist in the implementation of contingency plans
- Recommend and support strategies for the implementation of a solid risk management strategy including a better understanding of risk
- A more transparent communication strategy between the MNS and HRDC in relation to the AHRDSCA.

The Risk Management Consultant will also provide support to METSI provincially on the implementation of the above objectives. Requesting the input from Metis on all issues will be the priority. They have to see their problems in order to deal with them.

The Risk Management Consultant position is crucial link to the positive relationships that must be had between the Metis Nation and its Regions, Metis Employment & Training of Saskatchewan Inc. and Human Resource Development Canada, Saskatchewan Region.

Listed above are a number of objectives the Risk Management Consultant is committed to accomplishing. The Risk Management Consultant has met with and discussed issues in some regions. All regions are in support of the training and are willing to work to make positive changes within the regions and METSI.

Without having a position that is independent and reporting information from both parties could mean that we are not willing to move ahead to search for positive outcomes. Through discussions with some Board representatives and staff in the regions and in METSI our goal is to make this venture work. ■

Metis National Council Holds Rights Workshop

Story & photos by Clem Chartier

The Metis National Council (MNC) held a two day Metis Rights Workshop in Edmonton, Alberta on April 7 - 8, 2000 to address pressing matters within the Metis nation. The session was attended by several members of the MNC Board of Governors, Metis Rights Panel members and several resource people.

Participants were brought up to date on current litigation dealing with land rights issues, as well as hunting and fishing cases. It was identified that the MNC should concentrate its resources on the Blais appeal in the Manitoba Court of Appeal and the Powley appeal in the Ontario Court of Appeal. The Blais case will have a significant impact on the three prairie provinces which are subject to the Natural Resources Transfer Agreements (NRTAs) of 1930. In Saskatchewan, we experienced the results of a court ruling that Metis had benefits under the NRTA 1930 in the Grumbo case. While that particular case was sent back for a new trial and subsequently stayed by the province, the Blais case has a potential for setting a precedent which will affect the Metis, not only of Manitoba, but in Saskatchewan and Alberta as well. The MNC has received intervenor status in Blais and will be represented by Jean Teillet of Toronto and Clem Chartier. To date, Mr. Blais has been convicted at the provincial court level, which was upheld in the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench.

The Powley case is also important, as the courts in that case have taken it upon themselves to deal with the definition of Metis. The current definition used in the Superior Court decision is nowhere close to being acceptable to the Metis people who have had an opportunity to discuss it. As the Ontario Court of Appeal may deal with that issue, it is important that the MNC also intervene in that case. That recommendation is going forward to the MNC Board of Governors for a decision at their next meeting. The case also has potential significance if it proceeds to the Supreme Court of Canada. If it goes there, the Supreme Court will set out tests which must be followed by all Canadian courts in subsequent litigation. It is therefore important that the MNC be part of the process, as an intervenor, to ensure that our views on what the tests for



Paul Chartrand, Metis Rights Workshop-Edmonton AB, April 7-8, 2000

establishing Metis Aboriginal rights and title should be.

The workshop participants then agreed that the second batch of court cases to support are the Dumont case in Court of Queen's Bench in Manitoba, the Northwest Saskatchewan Land Title Case in Court of Queen's Bench in Saskatchewan, and the Maurice case in the Federal Court - Trial Division in Edmonton, Alberta. The Dumont case initiated in 1981 is seeking the fulfillment of s. 31 of the Manitoba Act, 1870 which set aside 1.4 million acres for the Metis towards the extinguishment of their Indian Title. The Northwest Sask Land Title Case is seeking a declaration that the scrip process utilized in 1906 did not validly extinguish the land rights of the Metis affected by that scrip commission. The Maurice case is seeking a declaration that the federal government's specific claims and Indian Claims Commission policies violates the Metis' section 15 Charter rights, and that the federal government be ordered to settle the claims of the Metis arising from their



Allan Morin, MNS, Metis Rights Workshop-Edmonton, AB, April 7-8, 2000

dispossession from the Primrose Lake Air Weapons Range.

There was also a discussion with respect to the definition of the term 'Metis', with a consensus agreement that the MNC and its governing members must come to an agreement soon, so that the courts are given guidance on this matter. It is hoped that progress can be made on the definition issue at the MNC's General Assembly to be held in Saskatoon on July 21 - 22, 2000. In the meantime, each member of the MNC is to continue consulting their members on the three options developed by the Metis Rights Panel in November 1999.

The workshop participants also concluded that the MNC should work on adopting a renewed Constitution for the Metis nation, which would address the definition of Metis, include a statement of principles and a restructuring of the current manner by which the MNC conducts its affairs. It was agreed that further work should be done on this initiative on a priority basis.

In addition, the workshop participants agreed that the MNC must find ways to become more involved in the international forums available as part of the MNC's status at the United Nations as a Non-Governmental Organization with consultative status. It was felt that the MNC must continue to promote the Metis nation internationally, as well as the issues facing the Metis people. In particular it was recognized as important that the MNC must be part of every initiative taking place internationally with respect to Indigenous peoples so that we are not left out or marginalized in the process. In this connection, both the United Nations and Organization of American States, respectively, are working on Draft Declarations dealing with Indigenous peoples' rights.

The workshop concluded by recognizing that much work and analysis is still required, and with agreement that a retreat of the MNC Board of Governors and the Metis Rights Panel should be held in July 2000 to continue this process. ■

Northern Aboriginal Trappers Meeting

Story by George Morin-Lands/Resources Coordinator

Northern Aboriginal Trappers met in Prince Albert on March 3, 4, & 5th, 2000. This meeting was their annual general assembly. Attendance for the meeting was excellent with over 150 registered delegates. Ivan Morin welcomed the assembled trappers and gave introductory remarks. The first day proceedings was chaired by George Morin, co-chaired by Ivan, the second day was chaired by Norm Hanson, and co-chaired by Norm Wolverine. The Northern Fur Conservation Area Trappers Association represents all trappers in the north which are mostly Metis and First Nations. All regions from the north were represented.

Trappers were graced with some special guests from Provincial Government Ministers Belanger and Goulet, National President of the Metis National Council, Gerald Morin, the President of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan, Clem Chartier, the Minister of Lands/Resources for the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan, Dale McAuley. In addition to previously special guests, there presenters that added to the success to the meeting such as Alex Robertson, who spoke on the market trends of fur. The Canadian Fire Centre gave a very useful and practical view of the Federal Gun Law, Ron Lamabe. Brian Morin gave an overview of the new Fire Protection and Insect Control Policy, from SERM.

For many years, northern trappers have traveled to Prince Albert to attend these

annual meetings. It would not do honor to these fine and dedicated people to the trapping industry in not mentioning their commitment and love for the land People like Joe Iron, Leon Iron, Oscar Beatty, George Smith, Albert Ratt, Martin Smith, Vital Morin and many others that have come thru the years.

The trapping industry has experienced trying times in the past few years. International market demand for Canadian wild fur continues to shown signs of recovery. The shift of the market has fur going to Asia rather than Europe. In recent years the Asian economy has been in turmoil resulting in an uncertain market for fur. This situation is turning around with the Asians buying more wild fur this year. It is expected to continue as the Asian economy improves and stabilizes.

The presentation done by Ron Lamabe, from the Canadian Fire Arms Centre on the Federal Gun Control was informative as well as an eye opener to the trappers on the potential problems associated with this law. Many trappers expressed great concern on the possible impact on Metis Hunting rights, as well as First Nation treaty rights to hunting. A trapper without a gun is like a farmer without a tractor, both need these essential pieces of equipment to be able to trap or farm. Suggestions were made to the Firearms officials that perhaps they should go to the northern communities to do workshops.



MNS Minister of Lands and Resources-NFCATA Annual Meeting, Prince Albert, March/00- Photo by Clem Chartier

On January 1, 2001, the Gun Law begins to kick into high gear in that all gun owners must have a license just to own a gun. Without a license, trappers will find themselves in violation of the gun law. This situation is very disturbing to trappers.

SERM's new Fire Policy was viewed by trappers as opportunity to make useful and practical suggestions on how the Government could work them (trappers) on developing a policy that would be sensitive to trappers. Brian Morin, who works for SERM, confirmed that the policy that was presented at trappers meeting was in draft form and more consultation would take place at the local for more input.

An issue that also arose was the funding that Indian Affairs had made available to the Fur Institute of Canada. The concern was that the Fur Institute of Canada was basically a non aboriginal organization and were not accountable to aboriginal people. Most trappers agreed that funding available from Indian Affairs should be directed towards aboriginal people.

Despite the fact the monies had been available to the Fur Institute, the Northern Fur Conservation Area Trappers Association contact them to see if they would be willing to cooperate in having the Fur Institute's information meetings in conjunction with the annual meeting that was planned for early March. The Fur Institute refused to cooperate and instead conducted and executed their own plans.

A letter written by National Chief Phil Fontaine was circulated in which the National Chief stated clearly that funds



Newly elected Board of NFCATA, March 2000 Annual Assembly - Photo by Clem Chartier

Continued on page 9

should not be made to non aboriginal organizations especially when aboriginal organizations have proposals for these funds.

Clem Chartier, President of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan spoke at the annual meeting bringing greetings to the trappers on behalf of the Metis Nation Executive as well as the members of all Metis Nation locals in Saskatchewan. Clem mention the fact that he is from northern Saskatchewan and full appreciation of trappers lifestyle. The Minister from the Metis Nation responsible for Lands and Resources,

Dale McAuley also addressed the trappers. The Minister gave overview of the SERM and Metis Nation Bilateral Task Force which Dale explained would assist trappers in that some of their issues can be discussed. Dale as well offered continue technical support to the Northern Fur Conservation Area Trappers Association.

The Metis Nation has always supported the trappers in their struggles for their ties to the land. Support has been given in many ways from outright donations to technical support, to which the trappers can continue to rely on.

Both Ministers Keith Goulet and Buckley Belanger gave their pledge to assist the trappers by consulting with on Government policies. Minister Goulet spoke of his trip to Europe along with Metis and First Nation War Veterans to lobby European governments from banning Canadian wild fur.

Minster Goulet gave a life time achievement award to Martin Smith for years of living off the land. The Minister gave special recognition of the fact the Martin still goes out to the land in spite of the Martin's age. Some say that Martin has been trapping for 65 years so one imagine how old Martin is.

Elder trappers like Martin were given a chance to talk about their life's as trappers. Albert Ratt although no longer able to go on the land any more still continues to help trappers by providing advice and support when he can.

Elections were held for Executive and Board for the Association with Ivan Morin being re-elected as President, Norm Wolverine as Vice President and Marlene Nicols as Secretary Treasurer. The Board of Directors include: George Smith, Clifford Ray, Pierre Robillard, Rose Hegland, Paul Sylvestre, and Mr. Laprise. ■

Press Release

Tansi! The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) is pleased to announce the release of the following publications:

•New children's book entitled 'Changes', written and illustrated by emerging Metis artist and author Penny Condon. In the book, a small Metis child named Kona asks the Gathering Spirit a number of questions about the changing seasons. Kona learns from the Gathering Spirit that a person's changing emotions and the changing seasons are positive and natural developments.

The artwork in 'Changes' is innovative, blending traditional and Post-Modern motifs. Written in evocative language, Changes could be described as culturally affirming, wholesome, colorful, traditional, respectful, vibrant and inviting. Perhaps the single most important aspect of this book is that it teaches children to appreciate and respect Traditional Knowledge.

•New Michif-language video entitled 'Li Michif: Kakee Peekishwaywuk-Oma' or 'Michif: The Language of Our Families'. Narrated by Michif speaker Gilbert Pellitier, this video is available with and without English subtitles. It contains interviews and numerous historical images. The video also highlights the strength of traditional family life, the vibrancy of traditional story telling, the seasonal cycle and other Metis life ways. Interviews were all Michif speakers from southern and central Saskatchewan.

This unique video is designed for both the novice speaker or for those who want to be reacquainted with the language of their childhood. It is useful for Michif language immersion programs and Native Studies courses.

•New e-commerce site at www.gdins.org/ecom. Our customers can now access diverse resources relating to the Metis experience in Canada. GDI's new e-commerce site is customer friendly, convenient and secure. Purchases can be made by Visa on a secure link. Orders are filled and shipped immediately upon receipt to anywhere in the world. If you are searching for Metis specific resources such as flags, sashes, children's books, music and videos we make it easy with our user customer friendly shopping cart system. This site was created with funding assistance from the Canada Council and the Western Cultural Fund.

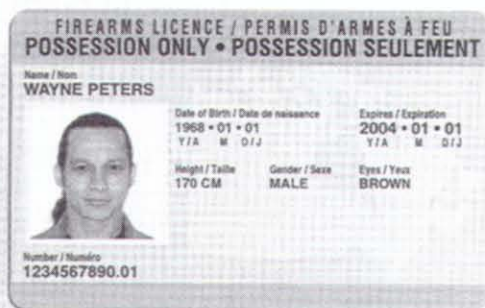


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Interview with Nora Ritchie - MNS Senator

Story by Marcel Guay

Defining who is Metis is a big issue in self-government, according to Senator Nora Ritchie. Being Metis included historical, political and geographical issues. "I'm excited about the enumeration but yet I'm not at the same time," Senator Ritchie said in a recent interview in Saskatoon by New Breed staff. "Is it really going to be fair?" she said. There are problems of adoption, the historical Metis colonies of Ontario and Manitoba, and the Metis in the U.S. "Will the enumeration weed out the people registered with MNS who are not Metis? she asked "there is a problem...even within the families" about who is Metis.

In forming the Metis political action groups in the late 60's there was not enough interest to even get there to form a board. "People didn't want to be involved, they didn't know what it was about." By the early 70's there were meetings in Saskatoon with 600 attending and Batoche Days was built up to 10,000 attending. In 1975 "I never saw so many Metis,"...but then the decision was made to divide the Metis and Non-Status Indians, and it has taken a long time to get over it."

Ritchie remembers early organizational meetings fondly. "There was always politics but when it came down to it, we always stood together." There were many arguments, and they could get pretty heated sometimes, "but in the end there was harmony. That feeling of harmony is not there now," she said. When the split between Metis and Non-Status Indians within the Metis Nation occurred, Ritchie remembers an example of how the harmony between Metis and Non-Status Indians worked. "Jim Sinclair and I were having breakfast on the day of the vote which separated the two groups, I stood up at the end of the meal, and shook Jim's hand and said something like: 'we are on different sides of this issue, but I will always think of you as my brother,' Ritchie said. That day made such an impression on the Senator that she remembers what they both ate. It was an important day for the defining of the Metis people as only those with historical ties to the Red River, the defenses of Metis land in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. All those who came from mixed marriages or unions later



Senator Nora Ritchie at Batoche 99 - Photo by Clem Chartier

are to be considered Non-Status Indians and outside the definition of Metis.

Ritchie remembers the first serious talk of a New Metis self government starting in the early 90's. "But it really began with the the founding constitution of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan," and includes talks about lands claims, housing programs, educational issues, employment programs. This process led to a Metis land claim in northern Saskatchewan in 1993. "In my opinion, the

"We have to get our house in order. Self government can only be as strong as the people are,"

south also has Metis communities, and claims should be made across the board...we are Metis across Saskatchewan..we should have taken a provincial approach. I feel we should have done that right away. I also feel the Metis have a legal land claim across homeland, interprovincially."

Senator Ritchie is very concerned about the issues of land claims and self government. "There was a lot of ugliness out there" when the northern land claim was made in 1993. "Because the provincial government thought we might succeed, it upset them," she warns about this happening again. About the land claims, the Senator observes that just rural land claims are

made, what happens to the urban Metis people. "Right now, there is not enough information given to the people," to even make a decision about Metis land or claim rights or self government. "We need round table talks first", before self government is possible. "Also we need good housekeeping within our Metis organizations. We need to know in advance how we are going to administer this" self government. "We have to get our house in order. Self government can only be as strong as the people are," she said.

The leadership of the MNS supports self government for their Metis Nation, she said. "But for the people, self government may not be good. It's kind of scary." Basically Senator Ritchie believes, "we should have our own order of government." "I feel it can be done," but the questions remain what will this self government mean, and how will it work. Senator Ritchie laid out some of the issues: Do the Metis have the money for self government? Will the Metis government be a part of a larger coalition? Will the MNS really be a separate government as long as the Metis are allowed just to self identify as Metis? Will the self-government mean being a service provider for the local or provincial governments? "If we just handle the programs for the province, then we will never be self-governing." It comes down to legal issues about Metis rights, she says.

"What is rightfully ours? If we have inherent rights (under the 1982 amendments to the Canadian Constitution as is written in it), then these rights should be given to us." But if we don't (have inherent rights) then we must deal with that." Ultimately, "there is no reason why we can't have our own Nation, our own People and govern ourselves," she says. The problem is how we get to that point.

As solutions, Senator Ritchie suggests several things. First the educated people of the Nation should donate time to helping the Nation emerge. Negotiations have to begin and the changes must be made to existing government, including the MNS, Provincial and Federal governing bodies, and all these negotiations has to be done. "Metis lawyers should get together and donate time to this issue"...for the good of the Nation, she suggests. In the end, Senator Ritchie says, "we need a lot more consultations and more talks before we can even begin to deal with the self government." ■

Interview with Louise Oelke

Story by Marcel Guay

A model for self-government of the Metis people of Saskatchewan is being set up in Saskatoon. The Metis Urban Self Government Council of Saskatoon Inc. (MUSGCSI) has joined with another Metis Nation of Saskatchewan group, the western A1 to share educational resources. They have shared a working arrangement that will allow the Metis Nation to spend educational grants in their own programming structures.

Louise Oelke, Vice Chair of the new organization says that is the first time all three Saskatoon Metis locals (#165, #11, #126) have banded together to start a shared program. "It's the first time the locals have come together to cooperate on issues and work toward one common goal," she said.

"It's such a positive program. Getting elders and youth together, and getting the connection between these two opened. Then this line of communication really pays off."

Plans for the group began some time ago but it was just incorporated in March. In January there were grants for board training and legalities, but the group has already hired an urban manager, Gabe Lafond, and has of course elected an urban council. Mr. Lafond is currently working out of the Saskatoon Metis Employment and Training Office. The council has elected four representatives, as well as a youth representative and an Elder from each Metis Local in Saskatoon.

The group is involved with the committee responsible for Youth Center Initiative together with the City of Saskatoon and the First Nations organization in the city. The group has a youth seat on the planning committee. The group has also obtained a grant to study homelessness in Saskatoon and is using a U.S. model to study and produce a report on this issue. The problems identified in this study is already evident. Homelessness is essentially an invisible problem, involves people with conditions, involves prejudice, and overcrowding in Aboriginal urban housing situations, said Louise.

From the City/Municipal government point of view, the new MUSGCSI group is

seen as a positive within the Metis community in that it is an elected grass-roots group, easy to reach and flexible plus well placed in the Metis governance. Essentially MUSGCSI is under the authority of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan but over the Saskatoon Metis Locals. It deals strictly with the urban center of Saskatoon and does not replace or act as a Metis Regional Office.

A copy of the new groups' founding protocol agreement is available from the new MUSGCSI group office at Metis Employment and Training Institute of Saskatoon Inc. (METIS Inc.) Essentially the agreement lays out a plan to allow joint projects for creation of employment, training, education and other opportunities for the people of the Metis Nation. It will employ joint strategies to achieve common goals, maximize funding resources, share benefits of a working relationship with Metis Nation Affiliates, develop a joint communication plan and maintain autonomy where practical. It does not limit autonomous action by groups involved in the formation of MUSGCSI.

The group hopes to find partnership opportunities for its members, promote joint management systems, reduce administration costs develop business opportunities and the like.

All the positives of bringing youth and elders together have blossomed in a great program developed by the Gabriel Dumont Metis Local #11. It started as a home care program combined with a youth at risk program, said Louise Oelke, coordinator. About 100 Elders were contacted for visits either daily, weekly or monthly and about 10 at youth risk worked through the life of the program, as the people who did the home care chores for the elderly. Out of the 10 youth that were hired or who worked in the elderly care program, all went back to school, some graduating from SIAST on home care aid and one, Rachael Tanton even won a scholarship to attend Kelsey Institute, Louise said. Now the program allows the the Local to hire four youths and four adults, not just at-risk-youths as before, said Louise. "It's such a positive program. Getting elders and youth together, and getting the connection between these two opened. Then this line of communication really pays off." ■

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Mary St. Pierre Celebrates 90 Years

Story by Kathy Hodgson-Smith
Photos by Clem Chartier



Mary St. Pierre is a long time resident of Crescent Lake, who raised her family on the lands of that area. Her roots go deep in this region and many of the guests that gathered to celebrate her birthday on April 22, 2000, traveled from her husband's region, Turtle Mountain, North Dakota, along with relatives attending from Alberta and Maine. The celebration took place at the Yorkton Friendship Centre where friends and relatives gathered to honor the occasion of her ninetieth birthday. It was a community event and included the presentation of many kind words as well as a hand-sewn infinity quilt crafted by the Metis Women of the area. A delicious buffet was prepared by her granddaughter, Velma, along with the volunteer help of community members. The

Master of ceremonies for the evening was her eldest son, Ed St. Pierre.

Her children celebrate her long life, which spans the tough times of the 40's and 50's. 'They [Our parents] always kept us in mind, kept us together as a strong family unit. We thank her for that'. This was met by a standing ovation from all. The President of the Metis Nation, Clem Chartier, recognized her contributions to the Nation, for being a strong member of the Metis community and supporting the Metis movement through its many struggles. Vice-president Murray Hamilton wished her birthday greetings and said he looked forward to the next celebration.

Mary St. Pierre is celebrated for her history, for her lifestyle of living off the land, hunting and fishing with her husband to feed the family, delivering all but one of her children at home, including a set of twins, sewing their clothes from fabric and from hides that she tanned herself, travelling by horse and buggy and speaking the language of her people and community, Michif. She is celebrated especially for being a loving woman whose devotion to others will be her legacy and a hallmark of the spirit of the Metis Nation. ■



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.

Back to Batoché 2000

Batoche 2000 - A national Celebration of Metis Culture, Sport and Recreation

Story by Jack Walton - Coordinator Batoche 2000

The grounds at Batoche will come alive in the last week of July with the 30th Anniversary of Back to Batoche Days and the launching of many new elements in celebration of Metis Culture, Sport and Recreation. The week long festival will include many of the traditional events in music, dance, craft and entertainment including Metis fiddlers John Arcand, Calvin Volrath and Gary Lapine along with performers Jess Lee and Winnipeg's Ted Longbottom. Featured sporting events at Batoche 2000 will be the return of the Rodeo and the wagon racing, the introduction of a number of fastball and slow pitch

tournaments and the introduction of a road race. There is extensive development already underway which will upgrade the grounds for this year's event.

The children will have plenty to do during the afternoons in their own mini kid's festival, which will include entertainment, workshops, sports and recreational activities. Music Theatre, art exhibitions, literary readings, film and video showings will be introduced this year and will be scheduled throughout the weeklong event.

The detailed program will be completed at the end of May and released along with the poster and a media blitz on June 1.

Also, check out the Batoche 2000 web site at www.backtobatoche.com for more information.

On June 1st the web site will be updated to include all the detailed information of the program schedule and the performers.

The event begins on July 24 with opening ceremonies followed by the opening of the art exhibitions, film and video show and the literary reading series. Stay tuned for the June edition of New Breed for all the detailed information. The site at Batoche from July 24 to 30th is going to be a celebration of Metis culture and a



Voyageur Games winner Andrea Menard with games organizer Nelson Sanderson (L) and Governor Yvon Dumont (R) - Photo by Clem Chartier

welcoming ground for Metis people from across the country. It is an open event that will celebrate the elders, the youth and the families. It is a celebration and an opportunity for all Canadians in pursuit of a better understanding of Metis Culture and Heritage. Plan to be there and join family and friends at this special Batoche celebration. Metis Musical Theatre to be launched at Batoche

Metis Music Theatre to be Launched at Batoche

The sound of music will fill the hills at Batoche this summer. Think river dance, instead of Celtic revival, think Metis Revival. The river will be the South Saskatchewan River, the music will come from the Metis Fiddle and the dance will be traditional Jiggers. The one hour theatrical performance, starring Andrea Menard, will be launched as an annual musical that will be performed at Batoche each summer as well as the possibility of touring throughout the province. The creative development team has been at work for several months developing the concept and the script. The team is comprised of



3 year old Letecia Obleman savors the fun and activities during Batoche '99 - Photo by Clem Chartier

Dwayne Favel, Rita Bouvier, Maureen Belanger and Bruce Sinclair with development assistance and facilitation from Lon Borgerson and Producer Jack Walton.

The musical element will be made up of existing material from Metis song writers and composers as well as the commissioning of new works. Stay tuned. There will be a call for auditions for the acting and singing in June but all those interested in having their name put on an audition list please forward your name and a description of your experience by fax to 343-1071.



Leah Dorion competing in the Voyageur Games at Batoche '99 - Photo by Clem Chartier

Team Competitions to highlight Metis Voyageur Games

A new twist has been added to the very

successful Metis Voyageur Games set for the Batoche site during Batoche 2000 July 24 - 30th. Team competitions between provinces will bring a whole new element of excitement and challenge to the games. Provincial Teams will represent British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. As one could expect the challenge has spurred a flurry of training leading up to the games. The bragging rites for the provincial championship are up for grabs.

"The event has been very well received throughout Canada", says Nelson Sanderson, producer of the Metis Voyageur Games. "We have demonstrated and organized the event in many places in Canada and it is a good way to teach people about the life of the voyageurs and to have some fun and competition while doing it", he added.

The traditional events include competitions in strength with the can carry, the log carry and the flour sack carry. Also hatchet throwing and slingshot will test hand eye coordination. Individual events will take place along with the Team events and is open to all those wishing to test their strength and skill.

These traditional Games tell a story of the rich history and culture of the Voyageurs. Most voyageurs were in fact Metis traders working the river systems of Western Canada. The skills required to survive as a Voyageur are preserved in the running of The Metis Voyageur Games. ■

Congratulations!



Mary Gumulcak is the winner of the Saskatoon Gabriel Dumont Metis Local #11 Home Care Assistant Program Metis Cash Draw! The Metis Cash Draw proceeds will be used to establish a Metis Elders Resource Center in Saskatoon. The 50/50 draw awarded Metis Elder Mary Gumulcak the prize amount of \$400.



Louise Oelke, Home Care Assistant Program Coordinator presented Mary with her winnings.



Procession to grave site during Batoche '99 - Photo by Clem Chartier



Clem Chartier, President of Metis Nation Saskatchewan drew her name on March 31, 2000.

"A Night at the Movies"

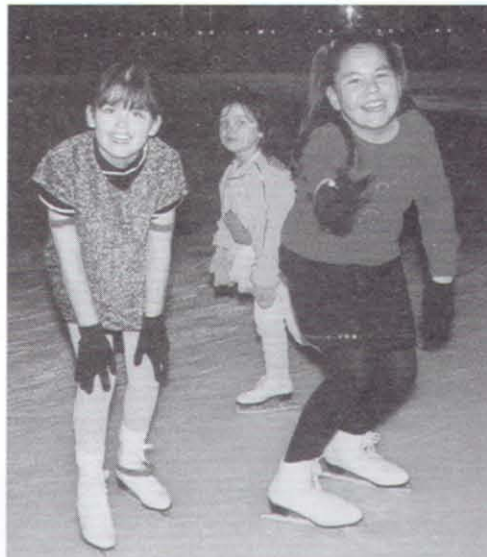
Story & Photos by Clem Chartier

The La Loche Figure Skating Club on Friday March 17, 2000 held its annual community presentation of the skills learned over many hours of dedicated practice over the winter months. This year's theme was "A Night at the Movies", featuring performances from various movie soundtracks, including: Spice World, Footloose, Batman, Grease, Lion King and the Prince of Egypt.

The event was well attended by the community, which showed its appreciation by boisterous clapping at the end of each of the sixteen performances. Watching their children, from ages 5 to 18, surely filled the hearts of the parents with very warm feelings and pride. The success of this event is a great tribute to the school teachers, parents and volunteers who made the figure skating club a reality. ■



La Loche Figure Skating Club, March 17, 2000-Photo by Clem Chartier



Candace Herman-La Loche Figure Skating Club, March 17, 2000-Photo by Clem Chartier



Deardra & Tanzy Janvier-La Loche Figure Skating Club, March 17, 2000-Photo by Clem Chartier

Interview with Wayne Ross

Story by Adrienne Dufour

For many years the provincial and federal government held the responsibility of family and justice issues for the Metis people. Now, under a trilateral agreement, the Metis people will oversee programs and will address these very important issues.

Wayne Ross, interim director of the Metis Family Community and Justice Services Inc., says this is a major step towards Metis self-government. MFCJS is responsible for facilitating, coordinating and supporting the planning, development, implementation, management and monitoring of local community justice and social program development.

Metis family and Community Justice Services, Inc. is an affiliate of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan, which has a mandate to develop a provincial Metis governing body and establish an organization to address justice and social issues as they relate to Saskatchewan Metis.

"MFCJS in partnership with both governments, provides funding for a justice worker", says Ross, "The worker is responsible for identifying needs in the community and work closely with steering the community to develop proposals for justice programs and services"

One positive step already taken is hiring of two courtworkers for the Saskatoon area. The courtworkers work closely with the justice department and ensure communication is clear for clients. Because the courts are complicated, especially in the northern residents who attend court in the city, it is important that clients know their legal rights. "we can now make an application to the courts, on the clients behalf, for sentencing and healing circles", says Ross. "this is an important step towards Metis self government", concludes Ross.

Another initiative taken by MFCJS is the Community Action Program for Children (CAPC). This program provides services to children at risk and their families. MFCJS has a contract for a community developer and researcher position who works with eleven Metis CAPC projects throughout the province.

Family, justice and community work is a big responsibility. But, the employees are

Continued on page 17

eagerly taking on the task with enthusiasm. "Our staff are great", says Ross. "And, the support we get from the executive of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan has been tremendous".

The mission of the Metis Family Community and Justice Services, Inc. is to promote, strengthen and empower metis people and their communities by supporting cultural and spiritual needs. And, empowering family centered and justice programs. To oversee and coordinate the direction and development of the regional Metis social and justice services. ■

Building Metis Pride in Education

Story by Cindy Hanson-Program Coordinator, Dumont Technical Institute

Incorporating Metis content and pedagogy delivered by the Dumont Technical Institute is part of our mandate. Instructors in the Adult Basic Education 5-10 (also known as ABE 5-10) programs have developed innovative ways of taking on this task.

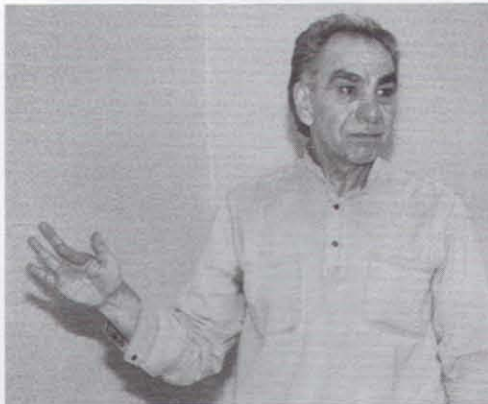
When asked about the adult science fair the Prince Albert class recently held for the public, Elizabeth Mojacha, faculty member of DTI's Prince Albert program, said it really builds confidence in the students. An example of a project designed by a student, Thelma Turner, was a model of how smoke leaves a tipi. Mojacha enthusiastically added, "I'm really proud for the students. They had to do public speaking and they were really scared but they did it and it was beautiful." Another example of a technique Mojacha uses in teaching science is stories. She says this helps the students understand how things are connected and how things like animal parts are used.

Mojacha says that computer software with Aboriginal content has been a source of learning for her students. "They are excited about using symbols of their own culture. They can create and be imaginative in their work."

One of the ways Brian Guiboche, and

Metis National Council Meets to Preserve and promote the Michif Language

Story by Leah Dorion



Bruce Flamont at MNC National Michif Workshop, Saskatoon, April 1-2, 2000-Photo by Clem Chartier

Representatives from the Metis National Council (MNC) and the provincial governing organizations met in Saskatoon on April 1-2, 2000 to develop a national michif language strategy and to report on project and activities funded by the Canadian Heritage National Aboriginal Languages Initiative.

Bruce Flamont, a fluent michif speaker, was the workshop facilitator. Ed Swain and Jim Lanigan represented the MNC. Michif-speaking Elder Dorthy Aubichon conducted the opening and closing prayers and i reminded the group that all the work should be done with the Metis children in mind.

Several important emerged from the workshop discussions such as, the importance of recording, documenting and preserving the the Michif language, conducting assessments of the status of Michif use at



Jim Lanigan at MNC National Michif Workshop, Saskatoon, April 1-2, 2000-Photo by Clem Chartier

the community level, developing materials to increase Michif language use and proficiency, developing programs for training and certifying Michif language teachers and community based resource people.

The group emphasized that it was important to develop short and long term strategies and plans for revitalizing and maintaining the language, and for supporting the community and public understanding and appreciation of the Michif language. There was a general interest by the group to form a National Michif Committee to follow-up on these and other issues.

At the gathering each provincial representative recent Michif initiatives in their region. Saskatchewan and Manitoba provided a bulk of information about recent Michif projects. Both Saskatchewan and Manitoba are completing videos about Michif language and Norman Fleury from the Manitoba Metis Federation is working on a new Michif dictionary and CD ROM.

The spirit of the MNC meeting was eloquently captured in Bruce Flamont's closing statement. Flamont stated " I would like to think 200 years from now our children will be saying thank you for all the work we are doing today to preserve and promote the Michif language for future generations. ■



Ed St. Pierre & Doris Hubichon at MNC National Michif Workshop, Saskatoon, April 1-2, 2000-Photo by Clem Chartier

ABE instructor in Saskatoon, tries to set a standard for his students and give them encouragement by having SUNTEP students teach classes, and regularly involve resource persons from other institutes. In addition their class has sweats with students from Joe Duquette School and the Elder, John Cuthand. Guiboche acknowledges that his students come from diverse backgrounds and having lots of exposure to Metis resource people gives them a chance to reflect and say, "If i can do it, you can do it too."

Sam Nie, the ABE instructor at Fort Qu'Appelle tries to include articles and stories about the Metis on a regular basis, but he acknowledges that the speakers he brought into his classroom assist students the most in understanding their cultural identity. His class recently spent a half-day with Val perreault, and Elder from Weyburn. She spoke about the importance of family history and names in tracing and comprehending the identity of the Metis Nation.

Nie also takes his students on fieldtrips, he remarked that the metis farm near Lebret was a real opportunity for students to have a hands on approach to learning and that the guided tour gave them more than just physical appreciation for what was there.

Students at the ABE program in Regina speak enthusiastically about the Aboriginal play they attended and about the Metis symbols they made using beadwork. Several students in Regina had this to say about the Bannock bake-off they had in Metis studies class: "we broke up into four groups, and each group consisted of one person who was experienced in making bannock. There were five people in each group. We went to selected students houses and made different types of bannock. There was fried bannock, Pizza bannock, baked bannock and Indian tacos. Then the group met back at the school at lunchtime, and we all tried the different kinds of bannock. There was not the best bannock because they were all delicious, scrumptious and yummy for the tummy. Each group was marked for their participation and efforts in the bake-off."

Sharing knowledge about ideas and innovations in Aboriginal education is important for our students. We hope our programs continue to build pride in their lives. ■

The Rights of The Metis Child

Story by Roy Fosseneuve

Is'nt it ironic how some dates or events will remain with you no matter how long it has been, such is the case for me when every year March 8th comes along. This date marks the day when the dep't of Social Services decided to take us away from Cumberland House and place us in an orphanage at Green Lake, Sask.

I was at school that afternoon when a social worker along with an RCMP officer appeared at the school asking if my self, or my younger sister Irene were at classes, as well two brothers Robert and Frank Budd were present as well. For awhile i thought we were in trouble, because the police didn't come to the school for unless they wanted to talk to someone.

The year was 1947 and most of the kids were talking about going to spring trap lines as the tradition had been for many years at Cumberland House. I myself was going with my late grandfather that spring to the trap line, at least those were the plans at the time and i didn't foresee any changes until the social worker walked in.

My baby sister who was five at the time wasn't old enough to be in school yet. I don't know who went and got her at my mom's place, but there she was waiting at the plane when the rest of us arrived at our point of departure. We had been instructed by the constable to proceed directly to the plane that landed on the lake on skis and were told to wait there until the social worker arrived.

As we were approaching the aircraft I could see the pilot sitting at the cockpit and had started the planes motors, he told us to get in and be quiet and don't touch anything. Like good little halfbreed kids, we obeyed his orders and sat there looking at each other. I turned to Robert and whispered in Cree "what is happening?", he just shrugged his shoulders and replied back in Cree "I don't know".

After what seemed like hours the Social worker and the RCMP officer finally arrived at the plane. This is when the worker told us we were being taken to Green Lake to be placed in a home for homeless children. We all looked at each other not understanding what the hell he was talking about and wondering where in the hell was Green Lake.

We took off, not even having the opportunity to say goodbye to our families and friends. Years later I learned from my late mother that she was told by policemen not to bother come and see us off. She said if she was there things would be more difficult for us. As well, she no longer had any authority to decide what happened to us from that day on.

During the flight to our destination the plane was cold inside. We tried to keep warm by snuggling close together, I held my sister on my lap while she fell asleep and made a promise to her that i would look after her no matter what happened to us, even though I was scared not knowing what the future held.

We finally landed at Green lake after what seemed like eternity. It was late in the afternoon. We waited for about 30 minutes before we were picked up by car. We were driven to the orphanage that was to become my home for the next five years, during which time I didn't see my family once while I was there. It was like I was doing time for five solid years - no home visits during the summer holidays or at Christmas time. No wonder my family were like total strangers when i finally met them five years later. One might say five years is'nt a long time, but when your a kid it's a long stretch. Trust me on this one, I know.

Shortly after our arrival we were instructed to go up stairs, that we were going to be given a bath. I was told to undress to which i disobeyed because i didn't want the female worker to see me in the state of being nude, my first lesson of many to follow afterwards. Talk about humiliation. Then we were deloused with some kind of powder and washed again. Our old clothes we discarded and we were provided with other ones. To this day I still don't know what ever happened to my clothes I was wearing that day. I honestly think they were torched.

As pointed out before, the next five years Green Lake was to be my home. The first day at my new school was quite the experience. At recess time we went outside with the rest of the kids. They had formed a circle with myself, Robert and Frank in

Continued on page 19

the middle surrounded by kids just staring at us and not saying a word. Finally one of the older students came to our rescue and dispersed the students and told us to join him for play time. The student name was Josh Laliberte who later became one of my friends.

The towns people had a name for the orphanage. It was known as the "Shelter", so when the people said the "shelter kids" we knew who they were referring to. The shelter like any other institute had the hierarchy system especially with boys. Because of this system newcomers like myself and Robert were forced to challenge the system by the other boys.

The system had been established before we arrived, how it worked was if the boy was older than you then he had power over you. A 13 year old boy gave me orders to do his chores for him. If he was older and i refused then i was seen as challenging the system that evening i was told by other boys a fight had been arranged for me to fight the 13 year old. Needless to say, I was scared but to chicken out would have been a disaster for me.

The rules of battle were simple - No kicking, No biting and No pulling hair. You could box or wrestle or simply give up. Each of us had one boy to act as seconds . My second was a boy named Harry Fulton who told me that every time this boy would throw a punch he would close his eyes I looked for this weakness. When the fight had ended i had beaten him. Many other fights ensued. I lost some won some, but I had gained the respect of the other boys. Harry Fulton became one of my best friends and that friendship is still with us to this day. He now resides in Prince

Albert.

My first year in the shelter was quite hectic, between the fights and learning new rules, making new friends and getting used to my new environment wasn't that easy. I hated the shelter. I hated some of the staff and even to the point that i disliked some of the kids, particularly those who were forever ratting on you. Little did i realize then they were doing this for their own survival at the time.

As a result of this I made a promise to myself to run away and never come back. Robert and I made plans one night that the next day we would both take off. Our first of four tries, we tried to run away. Naturally, we failed each time and paid

dearly for it by having the matron administering one hell of a licking to both of us. You should have seen the strap she would use on us. It was a piece of conveyor belt about two feet long and about three inches wide. believe me, you felt it when it struck you on your back and on your neck. You would think we learned our lesson the first time but not us. I took three more beatings of the same after that.

My spirits and desire to run away came to a crushing halt after my fourth try when i was threatened to be placed in a reform school should i run away again. The horror stories told by the staff of what would happen to me in reform school was enough to make me change my mind about running away. But that didn't change my hopes of the day i would be able to leave on my own free will. That day didn't come till about the summer of 1952.

The second year of my stay at the shelter became easier as i had made new friends, not only with shelter kids but as well as kids from the community. Jules Roy from the community became my best friend we did many things together as kids. This is where i met the late Rod Bishop. Even at the time he was kind of a radical, always questioning school rules and defending other kids from whatever the reasons were. He was ahead of his time, as he was to prove that many times over in his adult life fighting for the rights of Metis in Sask. and Canada.

I became an alter boy. I could say the mass entirely in Latin even though i didn't know what the hell i was talking about. The beauty of this was the priest paid me 35 cents a week for my role as alter boy. This enabled me to buy candies, go to a movie and as well by this time i was starting to take notice of the opposite sex, so now and then I would ask a girl if I could take her to a show.

I could write many stories about the many things that happened to the kids, the many injustices we had to endure , but to do that would require pages upon pages. I would rather leave that until we as survivors of the orphanage decide to take legal action for the treatment we got while we were wards of their system. As i write this I'm in the process of starting to communicate with former survivors.

I conclude by wishing everyone a good summer and hope to see many of you at Batoche this July. ■

New Hotel Opens In Buffalo Narrows

Story & Photos by Clem Chartier



Waterfront Inn, Buffalo Narrows, SK

On March 18, 2000 the Waterfront Inn opened for business. Overlooking the lake at Buffalo Narrows, the Inn and its restaurant offer an excellent view. Besides offering such a beautiful vista, the restaurant offers good meals.

The Waterfront Inn is owned by local businessman Isidore Desjarlais, who is assisted in its management by his daughter Diana Tinker.

The Inn has 10 rooms. For reservations or further information you may contact Diana at (306)235-4830.



Diana & Isidore Tinker, Waterfront Inn, March 18, 2000



Waterfront Inn Restaurant

Celebrating Our Past, present and Future

The past year has seen MACSI continue to operate its addictions programs and services despite extremely challenging circumstances. We continue to enjoy good relations with our funding partners. It is also notable that 1999 marks thirty years of service for MACSI as an affiliate of Metis Nation of Saskatchewan. As well 1999 celebrates Regina Addiction Services' 25th anniversary. Next summer the board is inviting all the 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 a Nation that recover from alcohol and drugs is possible and within our reach.

MACSI Contract Information

Board of Directors

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

Administration/Finance Services

James Froh, Executive Director
Metis 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 Addictions Services

Bernie Amyott, Program Director
Metis 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 Archwill,
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Telephone : 306-323-4232

Darlene Langan, Field Educator ER2A

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Saskatchewan S3N 1R2
Telephone: 306-783-8755

Fabian Ironeagle, Field Educator ER3
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Saskatchewan S0G 1S0
Telephone: 306-332-4771

Don Balfour, Field Educator - WR3
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Regina, Saskatchewan S4N 0V9
Telephone: 306-522-3684

Saskatoon Addictions Services

Linda Pederson, Program Director
Metis Addictions Council of
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- Saskatoon Addictions services
419 Avenue E South,
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7M 1S4
Telephone: 306-652-8951

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

Prince Albert Addictions Services

Marlene Hansen, Acting Program
Director
Metis Addictions Council of
Saskatchewan Inc.
Prince Albert Addictions 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 Batoche 2000



A National Festival in Celebration of Metis Culture

July 24th - July 30

Traditional Metis Fiddle & Jigging

Children's Festival

Cultural Workshops

Literary Readings

Metis Film & Video Festival

Learn to Build a Red River Cart

The Metis Voyageur Games

Rodeo & Wagon Races

Ball Tournaments

Craft Fair

Art Exhibitions

Fish Creek to Batoche Road Race

Main Stage Performances

With

Ted Longbottom, John Arcand, Calvin Vollrath, Gary Lepine and many more

And introducing

The Batoche Musical

The banks of the South Saskatchewan River come alive in River Dance style with singing, Metis Fiddlers and traditional Jiggers in a story of two young lovers caught in the Battle of Batoche.

A Family Event for the New Millennium

No Alcohol or Drugs Strictly Enforced

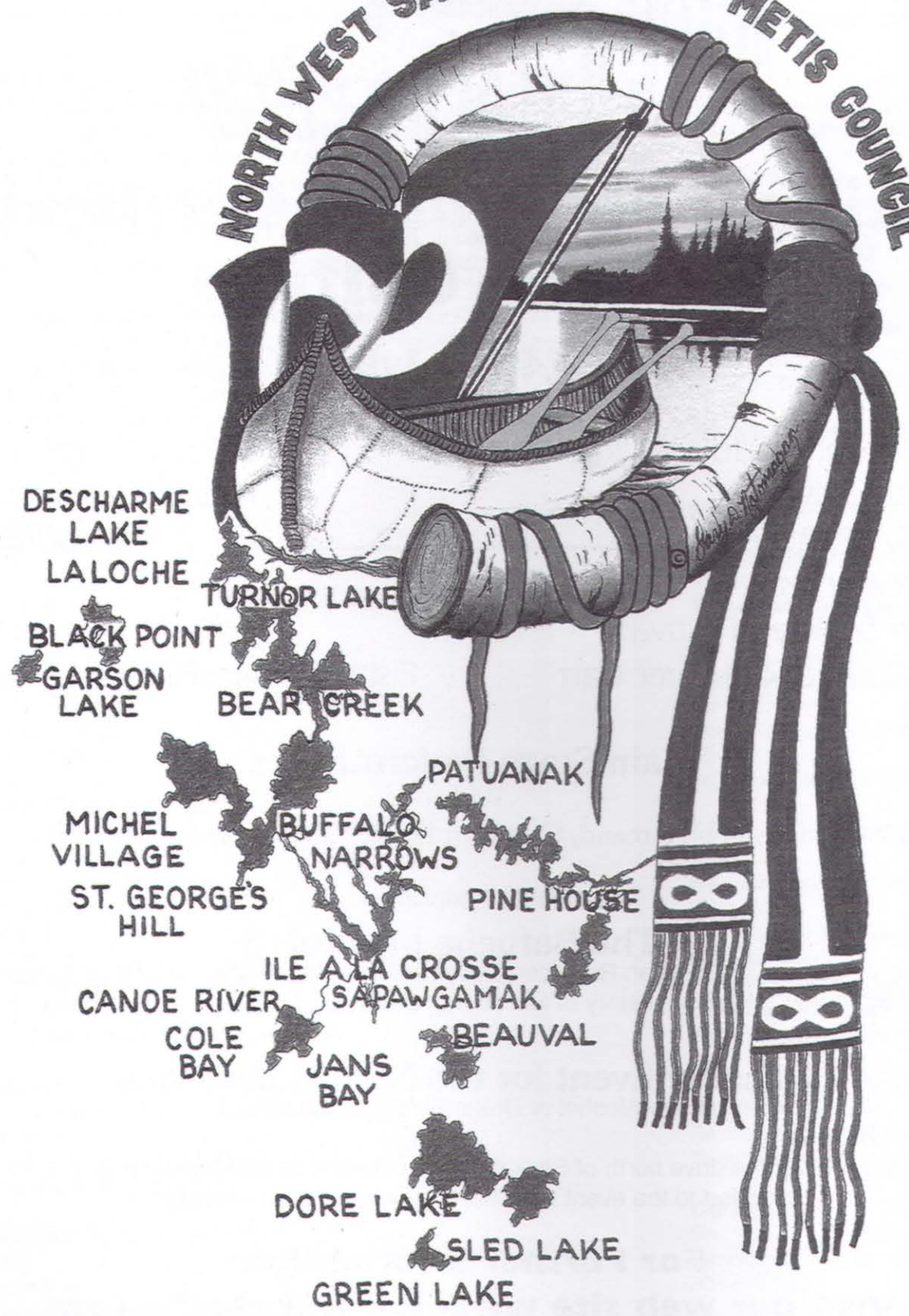
Batoche is a one-hour drive north of Saskatoon Saskatchewan with transportation services provided to the event from Saskatoon. Packages Available.

For Further information

Visit our web site www.backtobatoche.com

Or call (306) 343-8285 Toll Free 1-888-343-6667

NORTH WEST SASKATCHEWAN METIS COUNCIL



DESCHARME LAKE
 LALOCHÉ
 TURNOR LAKE
 BLACK POINT
 GARSON LAKE
 BEAR CREEK
 PATUANAK
 MICHEL VILLAGE
 BUFFALO NARROWS
 ST. GEORGE'S HILL
 PINE HOUSE
 ILE A LA CROSSE
 CANOE RIVER
 SAPAWGAMAK
 COLE BAY
 JANS BAY
 BEAUVAL
 DORE LAKE
 SLED LAKE
 GREEN LAKE

SHARE IN THE CELEBRATION!



National Aboriginal Day

June 21, 2000



On June 21st, join in the celebrations to commemorate the unique accomplishments and contributions of Aboriginal peoples. Contact your local community organization to find out what's happening in your area, and get involved! For more information, visit the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development website: www.inac.gc.ca

Remembering our past,
honouring our heritage
and celebrating our future!



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