

NEW BREED

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Metis Society
Annual Assembly**
- **Child Welfare
Our Responsibility**

Editor's Note

This issue of New Breed includes coverage of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan's Annual Assembly at which time, the M.S.S. made some important organizational decisions and established a provincial election date of February 25, 1989. As I was not able attend, Terry Lusty of Edmonton wrote a series of articles on the assembly. We then co-wrote an editorial on the Metis political scene and the necessity of reviewing current structures.

With the politicians hitting the campaign trail (sometimes in -40 weather), the M.S.S. membership are being asked to support various candidates and slates. The importance of the February 25th vote must be emphasized. This issue includes a listing of candidates and some leadership hopefuls have also placed advertisements. One of the more amusing slogans for one presidential candidate was "he was Metis when Metis wasn't cool".

This issue also includes a series of articles, again by Terry Lusty, on the Second Annual Metis Child Welfare Conference held in Winnipeg in November. Terry examines the concerns and issues facing Metis people in determining the future of their children. Obviously, current child welfare systems have failed to meet the needs of all Aboriginal children and our organizations must take control over these, and many other, services to our people.

We have also included information on the upcoming National Inquiry into First Nations Child Care regarding pending government policy on day care. Through our experiences in both child welfare and child care, we know the dominant society's systems are not working. Organizations at all levels should work to ensure government policies reflect the unique and special needs of our children. We must take control and should be supported in our efforts.

Also in this issue we conclude the four part series by Louise Moine entitled "Remembering Will Have Do". Thanks to Louis for permission to reprint her winning manuscript from the 1975 Native Writer's Contest.

In February's issue we will cover the M.S.S. elections. Once the elections are over, elected leadership will have many outstanding issues to tackle. Hopefully, the membership will support the leadership and perhaps bring to a close the many challenges that have faced the M.S.S. in the past year.

Gabriel Dumont Institute, a national leader in Metis and Non-Status Indian educational programming, recently held it's annual meeting in Saskatoon. In the next issue we will look at the many accomplishments of this institution.

Again, the importance of the February 25th vote must be stressed. All members of the M.S.S. are urged to cast their votes for leadership and participate in this election.

Sincerely,
Donna Pinay

NEW BREED

A Publication of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan

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NOTE: The resolutions of the M.S.S. Annual Assembly are unavailable at this time and will appear in next month's issue.

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MEMBERS RAISE CONCERNS AT M.S.S. ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

By Terry Lusty

When a few hundred Metis converged on Saskatoon's Bessborough Hotel on the weekend of January 6-7, many of the visiting delegates didn't know just what to expect. For one thing, rumors had been circulating that the annual assembly of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan (MSS) could possibly expect strong opposition, even trouble, by supporters of Jim Sinclair.

But, if such were the case, it failed to materialize. Sinclair was the president of the MSS's opposition, the Association of Metis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan (AMNSIS) which refused to relinquish the hold it formerly held over the Metis as a parent organization.

If the recently held assembly is any indication, the chips may finally be falling into place for Saskatchewan's Metis people. Despite some inner turmoil the assembly did manage to get quite a bit of work out of the way in structuring and organizing itself.

The initial thrust towards the re-creation of the MSS results from a July, 1987 motion to dissolve the AMNSIS group and to replace it with a "Metis only" organization.

The split created a lot of dissension in Saskatchewan and a lot of bitterness flowed in consequence.

Following a February, 1988 constitution conference (for the MSS) at Prince Albert, then a fall referendum which formalized the validity of the split between Saskatchewan's Metis and non-status Indians, and an October 7 court ruling by Justice J.G. McIntyre in Regina which recognized the MSS as the official body representing the province's Metis, the society is now gearing up for a February 25 election for a president, secretary, treasurer, and a dozen area directors.

The election will, for the first time, install a permanent board and executive for the MSS.

Until today, Clifford Larocque of Regina has acted as interim chairman for the MSS and has been supported by an interim council consisting of Norman Hansen, Harold Lajimodiere, Morley Norton, Edwin Pelletier, and Murray Hamilton who has served in the capacity of provincial coordinator.

During the assembly's deliberations, delegates voted 71 to 57 in favor of having the society's head office switched from Regina to Saskatoon. In earlier debate, members such as Phillip Chartier and Mike Mercredi as well as others argued against the Regina Location. Their argument was, "we're not working for (Premier) Grant Devine but (for) the Metis."

Although the issue never really went public, some delegates confided that Regina only served as a reminder of the past president, Jim Sinclair, who they'd rather forget. As if to appease the action taken, a second motion voted in favor of establishing a southern sub-office in Regina.

At one point, discussions got sidetracked by Saskatoon's Nora Ritchie who questioned the membership of specific individuals. After a sharp exchange of words with her targets, the assembly rained a chorus of boos upon Ritchie who appeared to be making nothing but a personal issue of the matter.

The assembly went on to challenge the financial reports, using up almost half a day raising questions and offering criticisms and advice on how to better accounting procedures. In addition, some members chastised the chartered accountants for not providing more detailed and understandable reports.

On opening day, the meeting bogged down amid allegations of financial concerns and incurred bad debts involving over \$9,000 in unpaid loans and advances, and a \$10,000 fact-finding trip to Los Angeles which, to many members, did not appear to be justifiable.

The accountants were frequently subjected to sniping by members who felt they should be more accountable to the society at large. Defended for the most part by Les Cannam, the accountants informed the assembly that the expenditures of the organization was not a reflection of inadequacy on their part nor of the newly-formed MSS.

"The board approves those reports; the cheques are prepared and signed by that board," said Cannam who added that their only role is to document



St. Louis Elder Medric McDougall (left) and visitor Alberta Metis President Larry Desmeules listen to banquet speaker, Yvon Dumont.

where the money goes and in what amounts.

The MSS provincial coordinator, Murray Hamilton, also came to the defence of the accountants and pointed out that, "the auditors did their duty and shouldn't be faulted." He further explained that the accountants sent letters, outlined problems and made recommendations.

"It's not his fault if our board didn't accept the recommendations." As for the Los Angeles field trip, Ed Nofield said a report was submitted. He explained that the group looked at housing problems, economic development opportunities and cultural facilities.

The assembly chose not to let the matter rest. Maria Campbell and Bruce Flamont, among others, suggested that, in future, expenses should be more detailed and accounted for and that no future loans or advances be given out.

However, after all was said and done, a motion was carried to accept the financial statements and to continue the services of the same accountants.

In other business, five delegates were elected to the new MSS interim committee -- Gerald Morin, Chris Lafontaine, Clem Chartier, Edwin Pelletier, and John Dorion. They replace the outgoing committee of Clifford Larocque, Murray Hamilton, Morley Norton, Norman Hansen, Harold Lajimodiere and Edwin Pelletier.

Three others were elected to form the election committee. They were Rose Boyer, Ray Laliberte and Ron Rivard who are to pave the way for the February 25 elections that will determine the group who will represent the province's Metis over the next three years.

A motion to do away with the delegate system as provided for in the bylaws was defeated by a 154-30 vote.

The assembly wound up taking care of additional house keeping matters.

One of the more dramatic moves involved a motion which requires all staff members who are on the board(s) of any affiliate organizations to "resign immediately."

Still another in-house ruling states that members of the executive and regional directors may not sit on more than one board of the affiliate organizations at the same time. When one delegate attempted to empower the Metis commission with absolute authority to make changes (i.e. 'clean house'; change staff in MSS affiliates), the motion was defeated.

And, for the first time in the history of AMNSIS or MSS, the membership will not have to elect a vice president, only a president, secretary and treasurer in addition to 12 area directors.

In the area of child care, Rose Boyer addressed the fact that Metis youth are often neglected. "It's a sad day," she said, "when our children have to sit on the back burner." Apparently, there was concurrence to her statement in that a subsequent motion that was carried called for the institution of a three-member committee to apply pressure on the provincial government regarding Metis children in care.

An emotional plea by an unidentified spokesman called for more attention and direction by Metis people to attend the needs of their children who are their greatest future resource. His words, however, fell on few ears for many of the delegates had already excused themselves from the assembly which was coming to a close. For the same reason, discussions about Back to Batoche 1989 were not commenced even though they were an agenda item.

A definite pattern throughout the deliberations at the assembly was the expressed dissatisfaction of members over perceived past improprieties or wrong-doing of staff and board members. As a result, members demanded a better accounting of how monies are expended, how the organization is structured and functions, and a means of strengthening communication lines with members so they know what is going on at all times within the organization at any given moment. □



Counting voters' ballots.

ACCOUNTING AND EXPENDITURES ATTACKED

By Terry Lusty

The fact that many organizations go through a lot of money and report back to their membership in a language they don't understand is nothing new nor revolutionary. The cycle has continued ever since organizations first received funding.

At the January 6-7 MSS annual assembly in Saskatoon, Metis delegates found the situation to be no different.

One particular concern voiced was the fact that the financial statements only represented the period to March 31, 1988 which provides no accounting whatsoever for the nine months thereafter.

Severely attacked was \$9,036 that went to "wage, travel and sustenance advances and loans to certain employees, officers and directors." Accountant Les Cannam refused to cave in when challenged from the floor about the \$9,036 or any other shortages. He explained that many of the bad debits were amassed over the previous years and were not necessarily the fault of the current board of administration.

When delegate May Henderson accused the accountants of knowing what was going on and asked, "why didn't they tell us about the wrongs?" The response from one of her own fellow delegates (Rena Sinclair) was, "it's up to our own treasurer to itemize expenses."

The only requirement of the accountants is to provide explanations when so ordered or directed to by the board but have no right to rule on where, why, when or to whom money is released or in what amount.

When Mike Mercredi and others criticized the financial report for its complexity and suggested that they be explained in a fashion which would be understood by the membership, Cannam said they are willing to do whatever they are instructed to by those authorized to make such directives.



L. Guest Speaker at the banquet was M.M.F. President Yvon Dumont. R.M.S.S. delegates cast their votes with a show of hands.

HISTORY OF MSS

1964 - Malcolm Norris starts Metis society in southern Saskatchewan.

1968-69 - MSS expands province-wide under president Joe Amyotte.

1969-70 - Howard Adams, a Metis professor, elected president.

1971-88 - Jim Sinclair reigns as president.

1975 - MSS name is changed to reflect representation of non-status Indians. The new name is the Association of Metis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan (AMNSIS).

1979 - For voting purposes, the ballot box system is invoked.

1987 - A move to have the society represent the Metis only is pursued.

1988 - On February 20, an Interim Council of the MSS is elected at a constitution conference in Prince Albert. Clifford Larocque is elected interim chairman; Murray Hamilton as provincial coordinator.

1989 - Saskatchewan's 120 Metis locals are recognized to be contained within 12 regions represented by 12 area directors. A January 6-7 assembly approves February 25 to be election date for a president, secretary, treasurer and 12 area directors for a three year term.

Missinipi Broadcasting on location live during MSS Annual Assembly. (LtoR) Vital Morin, Robert Merasty and Yvon Dumont.



Our children, our future...tomorrow's conference delegates.

FIVE CANDIDATES SEEK PRESIDENCY

At press time and unofficially, five people have thrown their hats into the political arena and announced that they will contest the position of president of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan.

Three of these -- Maria Campbell, Clem Chartier and Clifford Larocque -- made their intentions known at the time of the January 6-7 annual assembly in Saskatoon.

Two additional contestants, Jim Durocher and Bruce Flamont, entered the race by the time the deadline of January 18 rolled around.

A sixth contestant, according to election committee member Rose Boyer, was denied entry to compete. Boyer explained that his nomination was turned down by the interim committee of the MSS on the basis that he had not declared himself to be Metis on the nomination form.

According to the bylaws of the MSS, anyone desiring to be a member must fulfill three requirements. One of these state that the person, "declares himself/herself to be a Metis."

MSS DEFINES TERM "METIS"

Bylaw No. 2 of the MSS defines who is qualified for membership according to the following formulas: A Metis is a person Aboriginal ancestry who: 1. can provide proof of his/her ancestry; 2. declares himself/herself to be a Metis; and 3. meets one of the following tests: a) is accepted as a Metis by the Metis community, b) has traditionally held himself/herself out to be a Metis, c) has been recognized by the community-at-large as a Metis. □

MANY CHALLENGES FACE METIS LEADERSHIP

PERSONAL VIEWPOINT

By Terry Lusty and
Donna Pinay

Nothing comes easy. These words never rang truer than they do today as Saskatchewan's Metis flounder in a sea of uncertainty. This past year proved a challenging and difficult one for Metis and Non-Status Indian people. There were many difficulties to overcome including legal and political challenges, internal disputes and the uncertainty of membership. It is perhaps one of the most difficult times our people have encountered since the M.S.S. first formed in terms of organizational and political development. Although the Metis Society of Saskatchewan won in court, other tasks await leadership. Perhaps the first and foremost is to gain unity and support Metis constituents.

While an orderly separation of Metis and Non-Status Indians would have been preferable to lengthy and costly legal proceedings, this was hardly possible due to the divisions and attempts by AMNSIS to retain the power. We do not need the courts determining our political fate - we must do so ourselves. The only ones who benefit from such battles are lawyers and, of course, government who laughs at our people and our organizations.

The outcome of the referendum was very close, perhaps too much so. Only a margin of 7% of the vote determined that the Metis Society was preferred to AMNSIS. The M.S.S. has its work cut out in terms of gaining the support of membership and after the election, ensuring this support remains behind the elected leadership. It is a formidable challenge but a very necessary one if we are to have a unified body to tackle the many concerns that have been left largely unattended during the legal challenges and ensuring election.

The Society has partly improved the election process. An impartial body was selected to oversee the process and to ensure equal opportunity and fairness to all candidates. Any employee of M.S.S. and its affiliates who seek elected positions must take a leave of absence. This ensures a greater degree of fairness than former practices where employees or elected leaders could continue in their positions while seeking office.

However, there are still some difficulties with the current election process. A total of 5 candidates are seeking the Presidency and this could well result in a split vote. Under the current system, a candidate with about 21% of the vote could win the election. This would mean that over 70% of the people did not support the winner. Thus, disunity and dissension could follow.

Perhaps something is to be learned from the Metis Association of Alberta's election process. A winner is not declared unless he/she has a clearcut majority of not less than 51% of the vote. If a candidate does not secure this on the first ballot, a second round of voting is necessary even if it means the top two candidates running for the final selection as leader. Such a system ensures a majority of support from membership.

Hopefully the MSS will elect a leader who can work for improved unity while developing harmony among the warring factions. Ideally every person who casts a vote in the election will support the elected leadership regardless of who wins. All who participate in an election must have a strong commitment and be willing to work for the betterment of the people before and after the election. Perhaps differences will be put aside and all members will rally behind the issues facing the Metis.

Hopefully, internal disputes will cease after elections. The conflict has been too much a part of the Metis political situation over the years. As in any election, there are promises and alliances made. There appear to be certain 'camps' or 'sides' and in some cases, there may be certain pay-offs expected. These are dangerous and could well lead to further complexities. Any candidate who makes such promises puts himself or herself in a difficult situation in that payoffs could become a factor in future decision-making.

Hopefully, the elected leaders will mend divisions and begin the many tasks facing the Metis. We have all sorts of needs...in housing, employment, conflict with the law, alcohol and drug abuse, and so on. These are outstanding issues. If the leadership is wise, it will make every effort to erase the doubt and confusion that exists. If achieved, leaders will gain the support of membership.

There are many expectations of the leadership and all those voting on February 25th must carefully consider the choices. One must ask why the candidates are running? What has motivated them to seek the leadership? Do they care? Are they committed to the people? What are their political and negotiating skills? Is their bid in the best interests of our people?

We not only need leaders who can spew forth political rhetoric; we need leaders who have a genuine love and commitment to our people. We need leaders who care about our people above all else. We place trust and responsibility with our leaders and do not want that broken as has been the case in the past. Positions and personal ambition have no place in our leadership selection. This should not be a motivation for any candidate. Nor can motivation be the 'power' that so often becomes a factor in many of organizations.

Far too often we see organizations faced with hardship simply because there are some professional politicians who cannot accept their fate and the fact that it may be time for change. It is a shame that some people cannot be 'big enough' to step aside for others when it is relatively clear it is time for a change in leadership.

We've seen this happen everywhere from our local to national levels. "Power" destroys our organizations and our communities because it sometimes has been the motivating factor. One could write a book about the leaders unwilling to step aside and the effect this has had upon an otherwise productive group.

It is necessary to question our past methods of organizing and governing and what has taken place in many of our groups. We appear to have adopted a system modelled after Non-Native forms of government. We must ask whether such a system truly meets our needs. In the past, our people developed systems of government that were co-operative and contributed to the well-being of the community.

Can we not look at other systems, ones based on our traditions and cultures, that may better meet our political and economic needs? Any change would likely be an improvement over what we have today. Instead of examining alternatives and modifying these to meet our present needs, we have literally been 'sucked' into following systems that have largely failed us. How many of our organizations operate as councils reaching decisions through consensus? How much business development focuses not on individual gain but upon the common good of our communities and our people?

Can other systems work today? Perhaps but these require people who are prepared to share responsibility (not power - this word has no place in our organizations) with others and work co-operatively in the best interests of all. Without our people, we have nothing.

In some ways, we have allowed our organizations to become 'puppets' dancing to the government's purse strings. Perhaps we are too reliant upon funding. While it is essential, one must remember that funding can be and has been cut at the whim of government. With or without funding, we should be able to tackle issues and gain broadly-based support for our causes. We have to. We cannot allow the government to control us.

For the Metis Society of Saskatchewan, the election results will hopefully bring to a close some of the internal disputes and dissension. The organization has its work cut out. There are issues to tackle. One of the first will be to gain the political support of Metis constituents. How can we ever expect to gain the support of others when we cannot secure, first and foremost, the support of our membership?

Our leadership will have to have 'Aboriginal common sense' to deal with many tasks. They will have to make a commitment to work collectively for the betterment of our people. It should not matter who the leaders are - they should have the support of all membership after the election.

Now is not the time for any organization to be focussing its energies on internal disputes. We must be unified, if not among all people, then at least with our membership. Present levels of disunity will not help further our causes.

We must remember that internal disputes only allow the government to get 'off the hook'. If in-fighting continues, we will not be taken seriously. The government has no particular use for our people - Metis, Non-Status Indian or Treaty Indian - and this has been quite obvious. If we allow the government to play games with us, we will not accomplish anything.

Despite the challenges and struggles facing the Metis Society, there is support for its goals and objectives. This was evidenced by the interest shown by the many who attended the January annual assembly; people who care and want to see changes in their communities. People at every level have a commitment to better the conditions for our people.

It should be remembered that Saskatchewan's Aboriginal people have been leaders in many different areas. We once developed institutions that met our needs and we can do it again. These initiatives must stay in place and continue to serve our people. We can accomplish more if given the opportunity.

There are valuable institutions in place which must be supported and maintained regardless of the election outcome. It took a great deal of energy and commitment to build these institutions and while some may need improvements, these must remain intact to ensure that the needs of our people are met. These institutions are ours - these have been, and must continue to be, sources of pride and benefit to our people.

Whoever assumes the reigns of leadership, may they be wise, strong and committed for that is what we want and need, badly. □

Some Helpful Insights About The Character Of A Successful Leader (Are Our Politicians Reading???)

By Mary R. Kellar

1. *Always set a good example.*
2. *Do not give orders. Instead, you should suggest or request.*
3. *Treat everyone equally and as a special individual.*
Let the other person know he/she is important.
4. *Lead people. Do not boss them.*
5. *Ask questions before you criticize. Always criticize in private.*
6. *Keep all promises.*
7. *Praise the other person when it is due.*
8. *Be positive. Praise good performance rather than criticize the bad.*
9. *Welcome suggestions for improving.*
10. *Let the other person know where he/she stands. Suggest positive ways to improve.*
Be encouraging.

A NEW GRASSROOTS CONSTITUTION

By the Jim Brady Local of La Ronge

The following is a discussion paper recently distributed by The Jim Brady Local which recommends a change in the current M.S.S. structure.

ARE WE PREPARED AND READY TO GIVE POWER TO THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL???

The Old AMNSIS Political Structure



Disadvantages

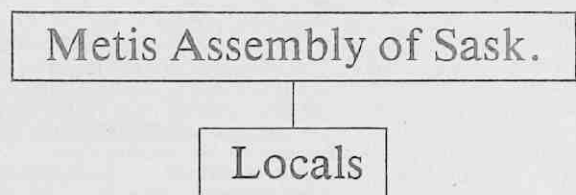
1. Only 15 people are regularly involved in the decisions. The executive only required 4 more people to make a decision 8 people could make decisions which affected the whole Metis Nation!!
2. Only the areas who agree with the executive can get a piece of the action. So many areas suffer because of the political structure.
3. The locals who work well with the existing area director gets all the benefits while the rest of the locals suffer with little or no input.
4. The local has an area bureaucracy to go through before they can get to the top.

The first annual conference of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan is now over. It was held in Saskatoon on January 6-7, 1989. Important new hope for change and directions were set.

One of the most significant new developments was the creation of a Metis Constitutional Commission. People at the grassroots level can now provide their own ideas and have a say into what their own political structure will look like. If you have any ideas on how to improve our own Metis Constitution, now is the time to do it. Your input will be very, very important. A new grassroots political structure requires grassroots input. Let's make 1989 the year when we can come together to form the best model of self-government and self-determination in the whole history of the Metis Nation.

The Jim Brady Local No. 19 - La Ronge has had many meetings discussing the issue of improving our political structure and provides the following comparison and recommendations.

A Proposed New 1990 Metis Assembly of Saskatchewan



Advantages

1. A majority of all Metis locals are directly involved in all policy decisions affecting their lives. The executive will be forced to work with over 50 locals in order to make a decision. There is more involvement and control from the local level.
2. We wouldn't have to worry about area directors who go against our locals because our locals will be directly at the top levels of decision making. The area director would be replaced by the local president.
3. All locals will have direct access to the executive and legislative assembly through their president.
4. The local will be directly represented at the top. We get rid of one level of bureaucracy. The money we save can go directly to the locals.

JIM BRADY LOCAL RECOMMENDS A BRAND NEW POLITICAL STRUCTURE - A NEW METIS ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

There are many other pros and cons of the systems but one thing is clear - WE DO NOT WANT TO BE STUCK WITH A SYSTEM THAT HAS CAUSED US PROBLEMS IN THE PAST. We want more control, more accountability and responsibility coming from the local level. Our new Metis constitution has to be truly democratic. We no longer want to be controlled and put down, we simply want to be directly involved into decisions that will affect all our people and our children in the present and the future.

Let's work together and make changes and additions to this general recommendation. It is only through YOUR INPUT that we can truly say - YES, IT'S OUR OWN METIS CONSTITUTION and YES, IT'S MORE DEMOCRATIC AND MORE GRASSROOTS CONTROLLED THAN ANYTHING WE HAVE HAD IN THE PAST. Let's learn from our own mistakes and make this organization something that we can all be truly proud of.

LET'S GET OUT THERE AND FIGHT FOR A NEW GRASSROOTS METIS POLITICAL ORGANIZATION.

MSS Candidates

The Metis Society of Saskatchewan held its General Assembly on January 5-7, 1989. Out of this Assembly an Election date was set to hold the MSS Province-wide elections. Election date is February 25, 1989, with no advance polls. The General Assembly elected 3 Metis Election Commissioners who are empowered to oversee and conduct the general elections and byelections of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan. These three commissioners are Ray Laliberte, Rose Boyer, and Ron Rivard. The Commission has initiated steps in setting the election process in motion by appointing Mr. Ed Pelletier as chief electoral officer.

Running for the executive positions are the following:

PRESIDENT:

Maria Campbell
Clem Chartier
Jim Durocher
Bruce Flamont

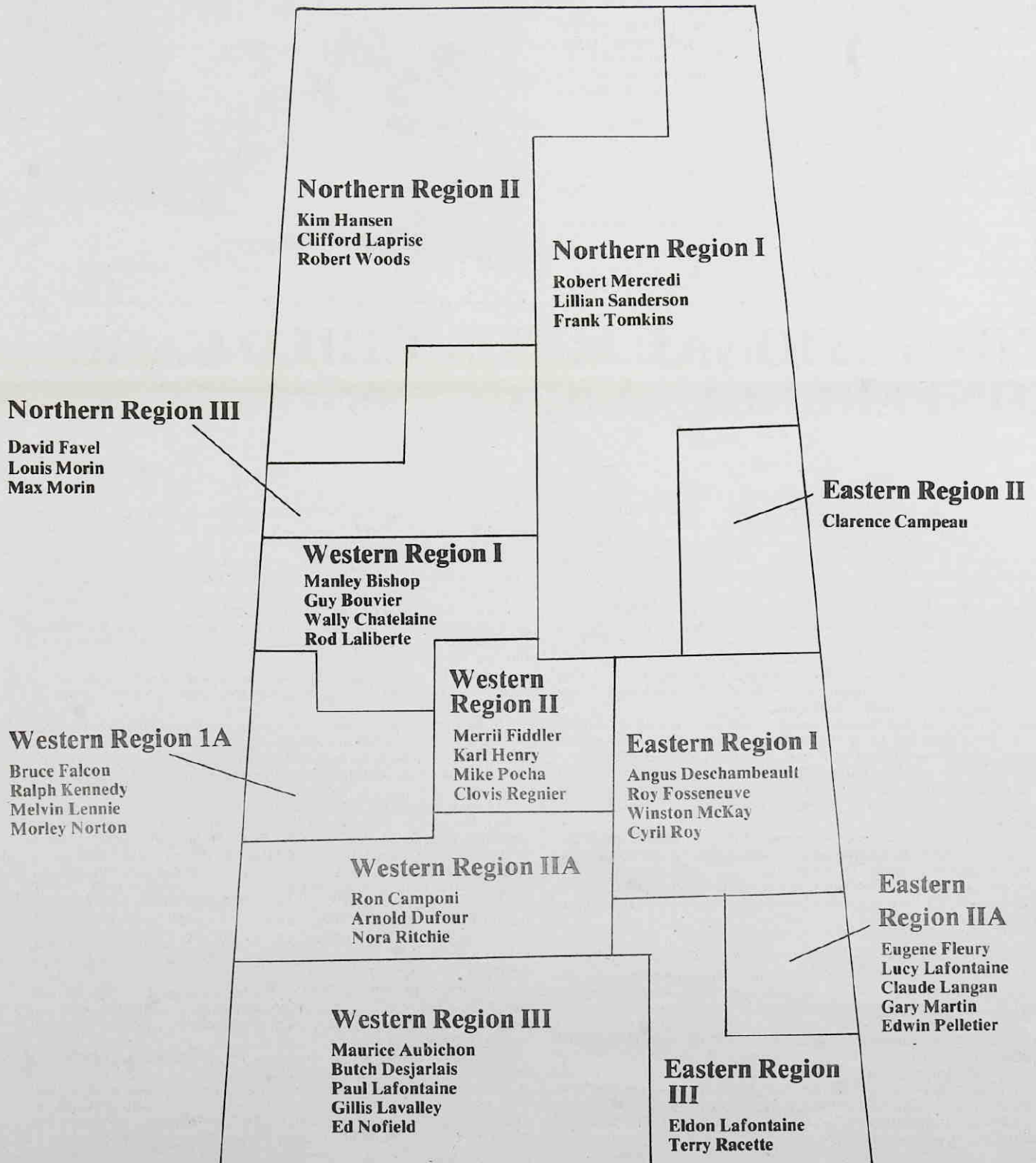
TREASURER:

Philip Chartier
Murray Hamilton
Tim Low
Leon McAuley

SECRETARY:

Omer Delaire
Gary Laplante
Gerald Morin
Renee Gervais-Sinclair

Candidates For Regional Representatives Are :



CHILD WELFARE - OUR RESPONSIBILITY

In our communities across Canada, one of most pressing concerns is our children's welfare. The conditions facing our children are not positive - we have few services available to support and maintain the family unit and often, children are in government care or are encountering other difficulties.

We have the highest suicide rates for our youth. We have high numbers of children in care. We have our children facing education systems that, by in large, fail to meet their needs. Alcohol, substance and drug abuse plague our young people.

We also have many of our youth on the streets. And we have one of the highest rates of child abuse - our children are suffering. Our children also face racism and discrimination of their daily lives and often are not aware of their cultural background or history.

We need to implement widespread changes in child welfare - the government must surely recognize the problems. The current systems fail to meet the needs of our children and our families. As a people, we need to work to restore our families to the strong and vital units they once were. We must seek acknowledgement from the government that we can and will rectify the situation through our own efforts. We know what best meets our children's needs but we have never had the opportunity to put the solutions in place.

Many of the conditions facing our children are a result of the poverty and oppression we face as a people. Welfare dependency, the cycles of poverty and family violence and the deplorable social and economic conditions must be tackled. But our children cannot wait until these are rectified - we must act now to salvage and repair our children and youth. These conditions continue to damage generation after generation of our children.

There have been successful initiatives and these must be duplicated and supported in our communities. We need to support and share with one another - for the sake of our future as a people.

It is necessary for our people to invest now in our children. We must put our energies and efforts into bettering the conditions of our children. Child welfare is an issue that must be addressed by our leaders and by our communities. Too many of our children have been already been damaged and we need to prioritize this issue.

There are solutions and some of these have been successful in strengthening the family unit and improving conditions for children. But community initia-

tives and services developed by our own people must be supported and maintained by all levels of government, including our own.

The challenges are many but we cannot afford to let any more of our children suffer. We must act now and invest our time and resources in our children - without our help, there will be no future for them.

Recently the Metis Society of Saskatchewan formed a Provincial Working Group to deal with Child Welfare concerns. It is hoped the Society can prioritize these issues and work for improvements to better the conditions of our children.

The following series of articles provide readers with an overview of Metis child welfare concerns. Terry Lusty of Edmonton attended and provided coverage of the 2nd Annual Metis Child Welfare Conference held in Winnipeg in November. New Breed thanks Terry for his contributions and his insight into Metis child welfare issues. □



2ND NATIONAL METIS - CHILD CARE CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

By Terry Lusty

Had it not been for the commitment and productive efforts of conference coordinator Joey Hamelin among others, this year's Second National Metis Child Welfare Conference may have never gotten off the ground.

However, with sustaining support from the Metis National Council's executive director, Ron Rivard; Manitoba's Metis president, Yvon Dumont; and Saskatchewan's Clem Chartier, the conference not only went ahead as planned but did so successfully.

Chaired by Dumont the planning committee ran into some difficulty due to the fact that there were still loose ends that had to be tied from the previous year's conference in Calgary.

Despite the absence of working capital, the committee finalized its plans and the '88 conference was given the green light. In consequence and after some personal financial investment by Hamelin, about 180 delegates turned up, an increase of almost 80 over the first year.

With Winnipeg as the host city, the Nov. 16-18 dates proved very timely and provided visitors and locals to also attend the Nov. 16 Louis Riel commemorative services at his gravesite at the St. Boniface Cathedral cemetery.

The connection with Riel was significant in relation to the conference in that he battled for recognition of Metis lands, rights and culture as we as the future well-being of the children, the parents and leaders and families of succeeding generations.

Only the three prairie provinces were represented at the 1987 conference but B.C. was a new addition this year and Hamelin is hopeful that the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Ontario will join in.

The only reason, explains Hamelin, for the gradual inclusion of the others has been monetary. "We operate on a limited budget and are still growing but plan to see them participate too."

PRESIDENTS PARTICIPATE

Hamelin also expressed delight that presidents of all four western provinces attended and made presentations. Besides Manitoba's Dumont and Saskatchewan's Chartier, Larry Desmeules of Alberta and Norman Evans of B.C. were on hand.

Chartier and Desmeules especially alluded to the importance of designating the politics and actual program operations to the appropriate bodies.

In so doing, they encouraged Metis people to use the political Metis organization for political purposes. That, they said, is their function and they'd be pleased to represent community interests at the governmental or agency levels.

A whole battery of issues were discussed during the three days but several in particular were specifically addressed and will be the subject for future devel-

opment.

In general, the conference recognized a distinct need for the development and implementation of policies and structures through the efforts of the Metis organizations and community-based groups.

Almost every presenter agreed that the control and care of Metis children must be placed in the hands of Metis people. Nothing less is acceptable and past history is a glaring example of the inadequate job being done by dominant society, even with their experts and professionals.

Most presentors further concurred that the Metis must take the initiative themselves if they are to secure and meet the needs of Metis children and the future of those children.

A prayer by a Manitoba elder, Elsie Bear, started the conference and was followed by an opening address from Manitoba's Metis president, Yvon Dumont.

Of the many issues discussed and from the recommendations made, two in particular warrant special consideration: "(1) That the Metis National Council (MNC) hire staff at the national level to do the work that was recommended at the 1987 conference; and (2) that MNC find money to fund the national (planning) committee."

Metis lawyer, Lionel Chartrand of The Pas, Manitoba, made a special presentation which focussed on the case of Belinda Bourassa whose twin children were taken from her on the very day that they came into this world.

Bourassa won custody of them through the courts, but a crown appeal overruled the original decision and the matter is scheduled to go before the Supreme Court of Canada early this year.

CONFERENCE UNDERTONES

Both Saskatchewan and Alberta were the subject of admiration by Manitoba and B.C. for their progressiveness in a number of areas including that of child care.

Alberta received additional praise for its Metis newspaper, Native Network News. The monthly, published by the Metis Association of Alberta, was commended by delegates for its size, layout, ads and news coverage including feature and cultural articles.

A Nov. 17 social evening featured singer Winston Wuttunee and managed to attract approximately 150 people.

Wuttunee performed for almost 2½ hours at no cost although donations were requested on behalf of the Dorothy Betz Suicide Prevention Foundation. The entertainer had just completed a tour of the Territories, the Yukon and northeastern B.C. as part of his move to eradicate Native suicide.

Former Manitoba Metis president Edward Head and former Native Council of Canada president Harry Daniels dropped by to visit conference goers. Several elders also were in attendance including 71 year-old Sophie Hiebert who thoroughly enjoyed an evening of dancing after the Friday evening banquet.

On the final day of the conference, a sumptuous banquet and dance featuring the Donna Henry Band rounded out the week's activities.

A Chinese auction for an oil painting of two snow geese by Metis artist Earl McKay from Thompson, Manitoba, was conducted to generate funds for the

newly-created Louis Riel Institute.

Joan De LaLonde of Poplar River made the successful bid at \$649 but she generously donated the painting back under condition that it be re-auctioned to presidents representing Metis organizations.

Alberta's Larry Desmeules opened with a \$100 bid accompanied by a challenge for other presidents to match his bid.

John J. Lavalee of St. Ambrose in Manitoba's southwest region eventually won the bid at \$606 and said the picture will hang at the Metis regional offices in Brandon. □



M.N.C. Executive Director Ron Rivard and Conference Co-ordinator Joey Hamelin.

Abuse Of Metis Children A Tragic Fact

By Terry Lusty

Manitoba's provincial coordinator for Metis Child and Family Services claims that many Metis children in non-Native foster homes experience undue abuse and are generally uninformed about their culture or who their relatives are.

Addressing the 2nd National Metis Child Care Conference in Winnipeg, Mervin Moar told delegates that what would normally be considered shocking situations are often real-life horror stories lived by Metis youth undergoing frightful experiences of abuse.

GIRL ABUSED

One example given was that of Linda (not her real name) who was adopted by a rich non-Native family from Montreal when she was two years old. While very young, Linda's foster father sexually abused her ... not once, but on numerous occasions, according to Moar.

Eventually, the father's abuse was discovered. However, the man's family found a way to cleverly disguise the incident and were successful in disposing of incriminating records. Using their financial wealth, relatives managed to avoid legal action. Such situations are not unusual and symbolize what Native people are up against says Moar.

The truly sad fact, he adds, is that the abuse experienced by Linda

instilled in her a sense of absolute worthlessness. Alcohol, drugs and prostitution became a way of life she was never to forget even though she found her way back to Manitoba, friends, relatives and respectability. She was already scarred for life.

TWINS APPREHENDED

Metis lawyer Lionel Chartrand brought to life the case of 26 year-old Belinda Bourassa, a Metis mother from the northern Manitoba community of Easterville which lies due east of The Pas.

Bourassa's twin newborns, a boy and a girl, were apprehended on the same day that they were born (Sept. 12/86). Chartrand says the apprehensions were explained by social service staff who claim, "she wasn't in a proper position to care for the children ... she lives in a crowded house and had entered into a sort of agreement before the births (to give up the newborns)."

However adds Chartrand, the fact that she changed her mind and decided to keep the children was "her prerogative." The earlier agreement to give them up, he says, is one thing, but to reverse that decision was also a perfectly legitimate and legal move on her part.

Chartrand took Bourassa's case to court and won. The presiding

judge ordered the children returned to their mother, Belinda, but the Department of Child and Family Services appealed the decision and had it overturned, and all this before Bourassa ever took actual custody of the children.

In late January or early February, Bourassa will have to go through the trauma of yet another court hearing while agonizing about

whether she will ever have the custody of her twins at all.

The foregoing are but two examples of what Metis children and adults are forced to live with. It is the reality of such injustices that spur people like Moar, Chartrand, and others to work towards changes that address and correct these ills of the child welfare system. □



Metis Lawyer Lionel Chartrand unleashes bitterness over child custody case.

DOMINANT SOCIETY TRIED TO KILL METIS CULTURE

By Terry Lusty

During the depression years of the 1930's, "traditions" were the policies of the Metis people was the message extended by an Alberta Metis association board member in the person of Thelma Chalifoux from Edmonton.

Raised in the culture of her people, Chalifoux describes what life was like back in the 1930's when she was a young girl.

No matter who you were, she states, you had your place in the overall scheme of things; "boys chopped wood, girls hauled water, Auntie Sophie looked after Granny Kipling, and so on ... the jigs, extended family situations, eating pemmican and bannock, etcetera."

In recounting the impact of the church, Chalifoux accused the mission school system which "effectively began the breakdown of the Metis

family traditions and cultural values."

She added that, "churches and government tried to annihilate a whole nation of (Metis) people without firing a shot." Metis culture was lost to the new ways and replaced with "alcoholism, wife abuse, child abuse, general family breakdown, and child abandonment," she explained.

Together, government and the church practiced their own form of genocide "in an attempt to stamp out Native culture and traditions but were only partly successful," said Chalifoux.

With regard to family breakdowns she concluded, "we must take control of our services and develop policies and structures that will start the healing process that will renew the extended family circle." □

LAWYERS SUGGEST ROLE MODELLING

By Terry Lusty

Another element important to Metis child care according to Saskatchewan lawyer and Metis politician Clem Chartier is the necessity for Metis people to assume a holistic approach if they are to move forward as a nation of people.

Chartier claims that it matters not where one lives; "a Metis child should have the same rights, regardless."

The issues, he adds, are "political" and should be approached by the Metis, "as a people, as a nation." It is the right of the children to grow up as Metis and to enjoy the culture as Metis and to be proud of their heritage; to rebuild the future as Metis."

Chartier further contends that change can be effected through organizations such as the Metis National Council. The council, he adds, is a medium that can be used

to effect change.

Norman Evans, president of British Columbia's Metis and also a lawyer, agrees. However, he states, there are the additional problems of alcohol and drug abuse, racism and discrimination that affect Metis people.

He says, "our children will look at our efforts and it is that that is going to drive them to continue this fight."

Evans further allude to the benefits of continuity. "It's what we do when we leave here until the next conference that is going to reflect the standard of living that our children are going to experience in school, in their upbringing, in their homelife."

The advances made by the Metis in the prairie provinces, "rejuvenate me in my spirit," he adds. □

Alberta President Tells Metis To Take Control



By Terry Lusty

Larry Desmeules, president of the Metis Association of Alberta cited many problems faced by Metis youth, especially by adopted and foster children who are farmed from home to home to home. One child he exclaimed, was moved around 40 times!

Feelings of helplessness drive such children to suicide, he adds. But one example, he explains, was the tragic ending for Richard Cardinal who, at 17 years of age and after being shifted on 28 separate occasions, finally threw in the towel of life and hanged himself.

When such stories jump out of

the front pages of newspapers, he says, they act as, "an effective reminder for what our efforts as leaders and as the associations we lead are all about."

A claim by one Manitoban that 44 percent of child custody cases in one region of Manitoba are Metis, he says, is "astounding" and demonstrates the severity of the problem.

"Clearly there is not one magical solution, but a need for a number of related solutions by various people at various times," he charges.

A vehicle to prevent such unsavory conditions from occurring and

one means of contributing to solutions "are framework agreements like the one we have with Alberta," he says.

The agreement, he claims, "recognizes our desire to develop Metis self-sufficiency and self-determination." He went on to explain that meeting these goals requires three key components:

- (1) That we be kept informed at all times of the government's development of policies and programs affecting Metis;
- (2) That we have meaningful consultation on the development and implementation of all policies and pro-

grams affecting Metis people; and, (3) That we have significant participation in all government activities affecting the Metis."

Metis people can take over jobs and roles that are presently in the control of non-Native government staff or service organizations, he adds, but we have to take the initiative and strive to achieve those ends. Then we will be able to influence their development to better meet our needs before they are cast in stone.

Otherwise, he argues, Metis people will remain stagnated and never become the Nation it has so often dreamed of becoming.

Economic Woes Need Addressing

By Terry Lusty

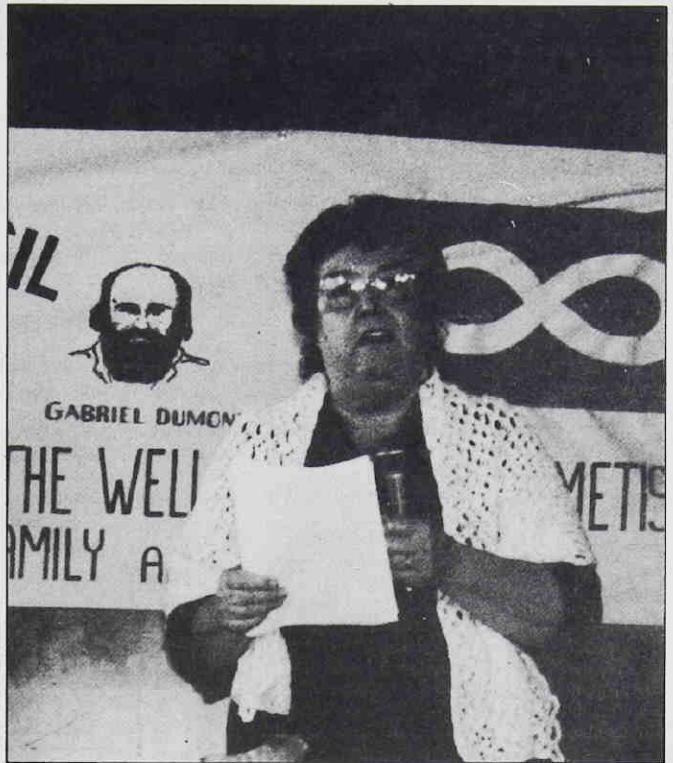
The 2nd National Metis Child Care Conference in Winnipeg produced a number of interesting and significant particulars that are worth repeating for the sake of awareness if nothing else.

Of particular importance are the following statements which were made by a few to several of the speakers:

- Many problems are similar regardless of which province we reside in
- We do not have a lot of the resources we require
- Metis children go out-of-province, even out-of-country
- Apprehension generally occurs before we even know there's a problem
- In almost all cases, the children go to non-Native homes
- The children do not get the opportunity to learn their culture
- Many never know they are Metis; often they learn this through self-discovery or when discriminated against
- When they discover they're adopted or fostered out, they want to know who they are, where they come from, who their parents are

- It's time we stepped in to prevent outside adoptions
- We must identify extended families members for parenting
- We need to train our own people to assume child care responsibilities
- In the past, we've been unable to participate in decision-making re policies and programs affecting Metis children
- Need for communication, networking, information links with legal, social and government agencies and foster parents
- Need to identify and list existing/potential resources
- We need to participate on school/community committees
- Outside agencies and individuals, normally, do not understand Metis life/culture
- We must press our politicians to assist us in achieving our obligations, wants, needs
- We need to learn our rights under the Child Welfare Act
- There is no singular solution; we must look at others
- We can't just talk about corrective measures, we must act and effect them. □

Thelma Chalifoux addresses the conference.



Delegates Express Common Concerns

By Terry Lusty

Manitoba's Metis president, Yvon Dumont provided examples of historic and longstanding economic issues that continue to plague Metis society.

Dumont blames much of the economic ills on the loss of natural resources in the plant and animal kingdom. Accusingly, he points a menacing finger at business and industry which has not included the Metis in the work force.

The capitalistic activities of society, he says, has removed and de-

stroyed resources with no benefit to Native society. In fact, he adds, the opposite holds true. For example, dams have caused floods which have, "completely destroyed entire communities."

"And, when our people do attempt to alleviate bad conditions, especially in large urban centres, they are often faced by poor housing and unemployment," he claims.

Dumont insists that the results of such situations is that the people are forced to return to their rural communities or to live on welfare in the

city. Many of these, he adds, become society's misfits who wind up on skid road in an environment of alcohol and drug abuse.

The development of non-Metis social workers to outlying Metis communities bore sharp criticism from Dumont who contends that their lack of knowledge and understanding of Metis culture remains as a serious problem.

Differences in values and behaviour patterns leads to the apprehension of our children, argues Du-

mont. "We need to develop our own programs and approaches to child and family services."

As well, Dumont encourages Metis professionals to get into the swing and provide leadership and develop approaches so Metis politicians "can take it and sell it to government."

"We need to push the government and insist we are human beings. We love our families and we want to keep them in our homes as much as possible," he concluded. □



(L to R) Ron Rivard, M.N.C. Executive Director, Joey Hamelin, Conference Co-ordinator, Larry Desmeules, Alberta Metis Federation President, Yvon Dumont, Manitoba Metis Federation President and Clem Chartier of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan.

National Inquiry Into First Nations Child Care

January 16, 1989

TO: All Aboriginal People

- Our children are our future and tomorrow's First Nations.
- Who is raising/caring for the children in your territory?
- Are traditional values being passed on to our children or are they forgotten or abandoned?
- Do you know what were the traditional practices of caring for children whose parent(s) were unable to provide full time care?
- Is that traditional care still available?
- Should it be?

This letter is a plea to you as a First Nation person to think carefully about how the future of all First Nations is being shaped by those to whom we leave our children.

There is a national Child Care Act pending. One component of that Act is First Nations child care. But, what exactly is First Nations child care, especially in today's society?

Do we want to copy and institutionalize the non-Indian "day care" facility on First Nation territory?

Can we re-introduce traditional child rearing practices of First Nation societies and what are they? Are there other options?

We do know that today many First Nation parents and grandparents either work, are students or in some way are unable to provide 24 hours of family care to their children. They need and want loving substitute parenting for their children while they are elsewhere.

Because little is known about what First Nation people want in the form of day care for the children of working/student parents, there is to be a **National Inquiry Into First Nations Child Care.**

Only you as a First Nation person, whether you are a parent, grandparent, community leader or professional care giver, or educator, can know what is the best kind of care required for our children.

We are inviting you to think about what some of the problems are for parents who must leave their children in the care of others.

What do you see as some of the solutions? Can there be traditionally oriented day care?

We invite you to be part of the Inquiry which will be conducted completely by First Nation persons.

You are invited to make a presentation, either as an individual or on behalf of your community, organization or group.

Your presentation can be done either verbally at one of the regional hearings or by sending us a written brief.

Please think about this important but little-considered subject. We want to know the needs, priorities and policy preferences of your people.

The Inquiry, when completed, will be documented in a written report on the findings and conclusions for First Nations and for the Department of National Health and Welfare.

Our objective is to show the need for unique and creative policy making in the field of First Nations child care.

There will be three regional hearings, to be held in March 1989:

Montreal, Quebec
(Quebec, Labrador, Maritimes)

March 7-8-9, 1989

Grand Salon
Ramada Inn Downtown
1005 Guy Street
(514) 866-4611

Winnipeg, Manitoba
(Ont., Man., Sask.)

March 14-15-16, 1989

Meeting Room:
Sheraton B (Mezzanine Level)
139 Smith Street

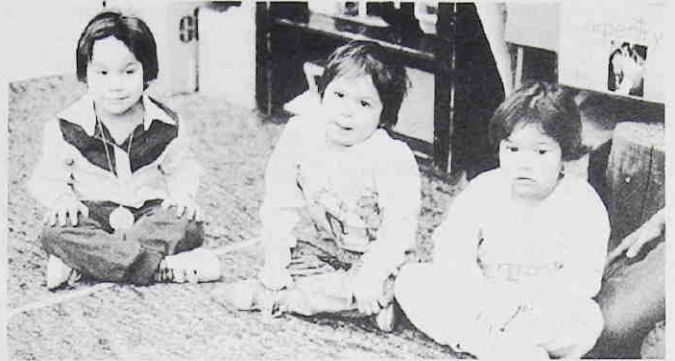
Hotel:

(across from):
Sheraton Winnipeg
161 Donald Street
(204) 942-5300

Vancouver, B.C.
(B.C., Alberta, Yukon, N.W.T.)

March 20-21-22, 1989

Pigalle No. 2
Chateau Granville
1100 Granville Street
(604) 669-7070



Please note that the Montreal Regional Hearing will be conducted in French and English.

We wish to hear from everyone. For your own convenience and for scheduling, all persons interested in appearing at the hearings are asked to call the National Inquiry Into First Nations Child Care at the number below as soon as possible to confirm their attendance. We will accept verbal presentations but would appreciate written briefs. Submissions should be at the maximum 20-25 minutes.

Organizations, councils and other groups will be required to cover participants' transportation costs to the hearings, however we will be able to assist with some travel costs for individuals coming from communities that are at least 200 miles from the hearing site. Those requiring travel assistance must contact us as soon as possible, as we have only a limited amount of money and time for prepaid arrangements. We regret that we cannot cover hotel costs, however, we have blocked off a limited number of rooms at the respective hotels. Those requiring rooms must call us at least two weeks prior to the hearing date to reserve against this block. All persons will be responsible for their own hotel rooms.

We invite all those interested in submitting written briefs to please send them in to us before March 31, 1989, at the following address:

Myrtle Bush, Chairperson,
National Inquiry Into First Nations Child Care
C/O Assembly of First Nations
47 Clarence Street, 3rd Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 9K1
(613) 236-0673

We would also be interested in reviewing any studies, proposals or papers on First Nations child care - both traditional and contemporary. If you are aware of any, please send us a copy or the name of the work.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the Assembly of First Nations Offices.

In Peace and Friendship,

**Myrtle Bush, Chairperson,
National Inquiry Into First Nations Child Care**



Questions And Answers On The National Inquiry Into First Nation's Child Care

The AFN has undertaken a National Inquiry into First Nations' Child Care. This inquiry is mandated to seek First Nations' opinion; undertake research; and make recommendations for action. The following are some frequently asked questions and answers on the inquiry.

Q1. Why do we need this inquiry?

A1. While much has been written and discussed about the child care needs of Canadians, no such similar effort has been made to gather and convey the views, concerns and aspirations of First Nation parents, governments and service agencies about child care.

The time is ripe for their opinion to reach policy makers and legislatures so that it may influence the future of child care for First Nation children right across Canada.

Q2. How will an inquiry reach out to parents, governments and key players in the child care field?

A2. The details of the National Inquiry will be worked out between the Chairperson of the Inquiry, Myrtle Bush of Kahnawake and the AFN Rights Committee on Child, Family and Health Care, chaired by Vice-Chief Phil Fontaine. The broad plan is to make sure the necessary research and analysis is undertaken on the current state of affairs, to identify the major issues and circumstances, to hold three major inquiry sessions where key parties are invited to discuss the future of child care, to meet with parents and associations with interests in this area, and to report the findings and opinions and make recommendations on what is needed to bring about these preferences. This inquiry will take 8-10 months.

Q3. What are some of key issues evident at this time?

A3. The list is long and incomplete. Incomplete because we want to go into the inquiry free to pick up new issues as expressed by First Nations. But we do have some ideas of likely issues. These range from:

- . What is meant by First Nation child care?
- . How does the current federal strategy assist First Nation families, be it tax benefits, federal legislation, the new child care fund, or the special initiatives fund? Does it assist?
- . What traditional approaches and principles are to be at the root of the child care system?
- . What are First Nation employers doing for their staff?
- . How can universal, quality services be assured when First Nations do not share the same level



of capital infrastructure?

- . What level of financial assistance for parents and First Nation governments is required to respond to the needs?
- . What is the preferred role of federal, provincial, territorial governments?
- . How do we unravel legal and jurisdictional issues?
- . Differences and comparisons to Canadian child care values and systems
- . New Training and development initiatives
- . How do we address the special needs of children and parents, like disabled children, trapping families, post secondary parents, and teenage mothers?



. The relationships between child care and education, health, child welfare and language initiatives

. Accreditation - Who will set the standards for the care givers?

These are a few of the issues.

Q4. What are the current federal plans for our children?

A4. Some funds for operating expenses are now available from DIAND. Only about \$3 million per year is spent for the target population of 75,000 children under the age of seven. Another large group of children between the ages of 7-14 also require services. Combined, we are talking about 40% of the total First Nation population. Very little support flows from tax expenditures, mainly because the real benefits are deductions, but one has to have taxable income. Most Indians do not, and if they do it is low income. The \$100 million special initiatives fund carries a high priority to Native peoples. Another initiative is the 6 year - \$60 million fund for Indian communities, to be available April 1, 1989. A policy is being put into place through a collaborative AFN/NHW working group and will be taken to the Confederacy of Nations December 1988 meeting for their approval. The last point is that it remains to be seen just how, if at all, a new government will address First Nation children requirements in a new federal bill on child care.

Q5. Going back to the first response. Just how will this inquiry influence the policy making process at each level?

A5. First Nation leaders at all levels will benefit, as well as parents, who can influence local policy. The broad range of interests and ideas will stimulate informed debates with the knowledge of the diverse views of concerned First Nations people and leaders.

One can also expect that because child care is at such an early formative stage in Canada, we have plenty of opportunity to persuade policy makers about these matters.

The federal cost-sharing bill is expected early in the new mandate of the next federal government. The new policy for the \$60 million fund will only be announced in the spring of next year.

The inquiry will not be complete by April, but the debate on the needs of First Nation parents and their children will not be over either. The inquiry will add to a fresh debate with governments on the whole issue of child care. While we cannot be so bold as to predict changes of federal or provincial attitude towards jurisdictional issues, the inquiry will no doubt examine and comment on this most significant and current political issue. In a nutshell, we see policy impacts right across the country.

Q6. One final question. The theme of the inquiry is new options and traditional practices for First Nation child care. What is its significance?

A6. From the outset, the AFN has been mindful of the importance of traditional child rearing practices, values and family lifestyles and the overwhelming desire by First Nations to retain and enhance these fundamental characteristics of our societies is important in the evolution of distinct First Nation child care systems. A real choice amongst the classic day care program or something uniquely First Nation or a modern adaption is at the forefront of the inquiry. New options and traditional practices are not necessarily mutually exclusive, they are the centre of our objective to create true choices for First Nation parents, governments and their institutions. □

PROFILE ON OUR PEOPLE:

Claude Petit, President Saskatchewan Amateur Boxing Association

Claude Petit is a well-known Saskatchewan Metis who was recently elected President of the Saskatchewan Amateur Boxing Association (SABA). Originally from Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, Claude has been involved in the sport of boxing for many years. He served in the Canadian Army for 14 years in various locations including Korea, Europe and Canada.

Claude's accomplishments in the field of boxing include winning the Golden Gloves Boxing Tournament in Edmonton, Alberta for three years. He also won the Canadian Army Boxing Title five times. Claude was the first Canadian to win the British Army Boxing Title while he served with the Canadian Armed Forces in Germany.

Claude has not only been a participant in boxing but he has also devoted many years to coaching young people. His interest in this area has kept him involved in the sport at all levels. He also completed an Advanced Boxing Coach Course in England.

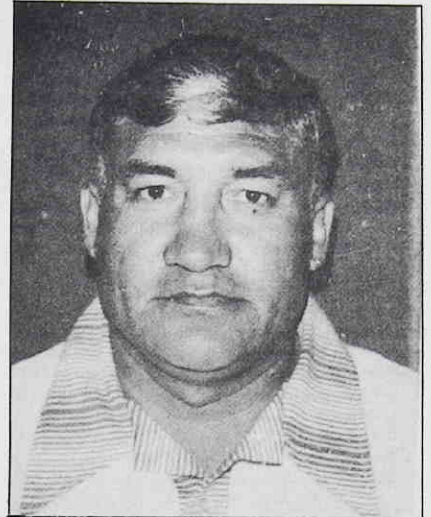
Claude has been involved with his people in

many different capacities throughout the years. In this time, has made many contributions in the promotion of sports and recreation among Metis people. He has been in charge of the Recreation Program of AMNSIS and continues to direct this program for the Metis Society of Saskatchewan.

Claude's recent election to the presidency of SABA marks the first time a Metis person has assumed such a position with the Association. Claude is committed to the promotion of the sport of boxing for all people. He feels young people interested in this sport should be given the support and skills to advance.

Claude's immediate goals for the SABA are to promote the sport within the province and to improve the communication and information exchange within the Association. He looks forward to the challenges in the promotion of amateur boxing in Saskatchewan.

New Breed wishes Claude the best in his new challenge. He is certain to make a valuable contribution to the SABA and to our people. □



GARY LaPLANTE

FOR

SECRETARY X

**METIS SOCIETY OF
SASKATCHEWAN**

ON

FEBRUARY 25, 1989

BACKGROUND:

- Member of M.S.S. Local #27 Cochin, Sask.
- Has a UofS Bachelor of Arts and Science Degree.
- Has a Business Administration Diploma.
- Has proven business and administrative skills.

PERSONAL OBJECTIVES IF ELECTED:

- Ensure open line of communication between M.S.S. Local's and M.S.S. Executive.
- Ensure that M.S.S. Local's are updated on the activities of the M.S.S. Affiliate Organizations.
- Effectively voice the views of Metis people on important issues such as threats to Fur Trapping, . . .
- Advocate further improvement to Economic Development, Housing, Education, . . .

VOTE FOR GARY LAPLANTE, VOTE FOR UNITY

Remembering Will Have To Do

This is the last of a four-part series reprinted from Louise Moine's winning manuscript in the 1979 Native Writer's Contest. New Breed thanks Louise for permission to reprint her book.

Another incident which also had to do with a mare started out pleasantly enough but ended a bit unusual. Country dances were usually held in school houses and this one was to be in the Coriander school, about 15 miles from the ranch. I knew John and Max were going, as they were supplying the music. When they asked me if I would like to go along, naturally I accepted, and was especially pleased when they saddled up Belle, the little chestnut mare. She was a beautiful horse, but a bit high-spirited. I was feeling very proud as I rode alongside of my brothers, who were splendid horsemen. One could make fairly good time on horseback, once one learned to follow the short cuts, and for a change, there was only one gate to open. We arrived at the school in good time and danced till daylight. Of course, since it was summer, daylight came early. However, I was surprised to see my brother-in-law from Ponteix at the dance. He had come in his 'runabout', as we called his little roadster. The boys deserted me right then and there when they decided to go with him to Ponteix. Someone took charge of their horses and I had to go home by myself, in the wee small hours of the morning. The sun rose as I rode home and so did the mosquitos and they were giving me a bad time. The riding skirt I wore didn't quite cover my legs. To avoid them, I would gallop my horse a ways, then I would let her walk a ways, then of course the little pests would swarm, but I'll have to admit that they kept me awake. Finally when I came to the gate, I tried to open it without getting off the horse, but this was a hard gate to open, so it became an impossible task. There was no way. I had to dismount. My attempts to remount Belle were unsuccessful as she wouldn't stand still, and since I was too tired to be nimble and be quick, there was nothing to do but walk the rest of the way, leading the mare. There was still the river to cross, so when I came to the crossing I removed my shoes and stockings and waded across. When I got close to the house, the dogs started barking, waking up my sister Stella; I noticed her when she stuck her head out of the window. In a fitting finish, the horse stepped on

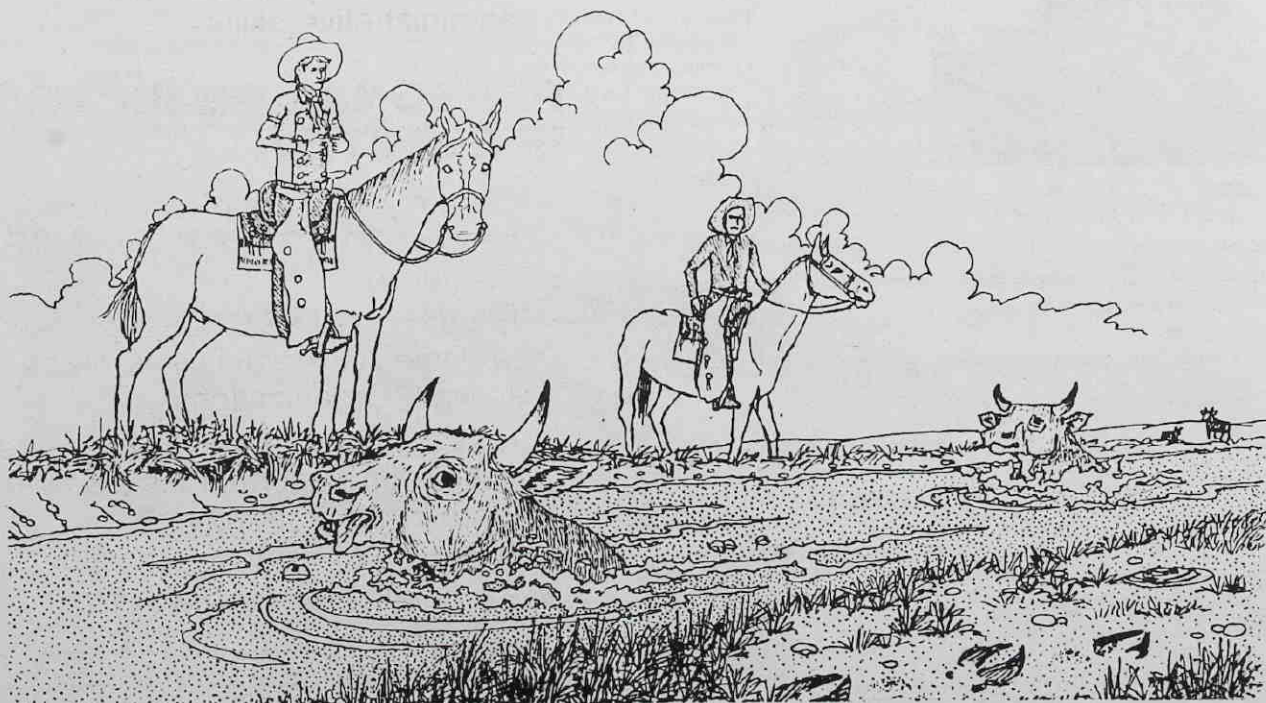
my foot when I went to remove the saddle. Consequently, it was sore and swollen for a few days. That was one excursion I didn't forget for a long time. About the mosquitos, I remember Max saying once, when he became exasperated with them, "I wish the S.O.B. who invented them would get them all down his back". Actually it sounded like blasphemy to me.

Laura, the older sister next to me was the clown and mimic of the family. She could do impersonations that would be quite amusing to the rest of us. In little skits and plays, she excelled in comedy, but, like me, she was a bit impetuous. It was in the fall of 1918, that year of the Spanish Influenza, when we set out to do the impossible. My mother and sister Stella had gone to Ponteix and we had been informed that they were both working at the school house, which had been converted into temporary quarters to accommodate the overflow from the hospital. They were there nursing the victims of the flu. Due to the epidemic, there was no school and we had been purposely left at the ranch, to avoid all possible contacts in view of the seriousness of the disease. On this one calm October day, Laura and I decided to go after soft water, so we hooked the horse up to the buggy, loaded the five gallon churn in the front and took off for the nearest slough. On our way back from the slough, we decided that instead of going home, we'd drive to the post office (which was another four miles) for the mail. On the way there, we started discussing the latest events which had transpired. A new baby, in fact our first little niece, had been born to our sister, Marie Rose. Since there hadn't been a baby in the family since Joe, who was now ten years of age, we were naturally anxious to see this new arrival. We decided right then and there, that we'd head for Ponteix. After all, it was only 45 miles. We could travel all night and be there by morning, we figured. At the post office, after picking up our mail, we informed the post mistress, Mrs. Denniel, in our best French (as she understood very little English) that we were going to Ponteix and to let our father know, just in case he came looking for us. She was horrified and she did her best to talk us out of it, but no way; our minds were made up. So in spite of her protests, we headed north for Ponteix. As we hit the horse and started off, we could hear her voice as she hollered out "la neut il vien". Sure, we

knew the night was coming. But as we went a little ways, we weren't so sure, as we began to doubt our decision to attempt a journey of this distance. As we kept on, all sorts of disturbing thoughts crossed our minds. First and foremost, we weren't dressed warm enough to spend the night in an open rig, then too, there was the horse, being rancher's daughters we knew he couldn't possibly travel all night without food or water. Lucky thing we didn't dump out the soft water. Finally we decided to turn the poor horse around and headed for home. Poor Mrs. Denniel. We had to go back by her place and she must have been relieved to see us heading south, as she seemed so concerned about us.

It was on my 16th birthday that I decided to treat myself to the afternoon off and go visiting. Seven Mile butte was directly east and across the river from the ranch. These hills were high, with steep embankments and sharp drops. There was a trail through the hills but it was narrow and passable only on horse back. This is the trail I followed to go calling on the Smiths, who lived about six miles over the hill and around the bend. Incidentally there were about three gates to open, which were always a nuisance, especially when they were hard to open and close. Dorothy Smith was about my age, so we had a lot in common and I always enjoyed visiting them. Consequently when I was invited to stay for supper I accepted. When I started back for home, night was descending, but it at least happened to be a bright moonlight night. I naturally returned by the same route, as I had a good horse, so I wasn't the least bit worried till I got to the descent. Repeated efforts on my part to force the horse down the hill, which I took to be the trail, were futile. So in the final run, I decided to let him have his head and take the lead. He went on for a ways then started descending and it proved to be the right trail. You can rest assured that I thanked my lucky stars for the common horse sense that brought us, the horse and I, safely through those treacherous hills.

In an all-out effort to combat the mange, a disease that was quite prevalent and very contagious among the cattle in those years of 1916-17, the 76 outfit had constructed a large dipping vat at the edge of Sand Lake. This lake, located right in the 76 pasture, was fairly large but not deep. Actually it was more like a big slough, as since then it has



gone completely dry. The dip contained a solution of lime, sulphur and, of course, water. That year of 1917, the government had issued an order, requiring all cattle owners to dip their stock to curb the disease. Only the big ranchers had been using the dip up till now. The farmers and small ranchers in the territory made a deal with the 76 to use the dipping vat and repeated dips finally wiped out the mange. Now all that remains of this once lively and tremendous undertaking is a long cut in the ground. Old timers who have visited the area claim that since so much of the sulphur had been worked into the ground, there is still a noticeable odour around the scene.

It became a habit of my mother's when the 76 broke camp (usually one of the boys working there would inform her of the move) to go to the place where they had been camping. Sometimes I went with her and we'd find the odd package of dried beans and dried fruit like peaches or apricots, even salt pork. Since this was a big well-to-do outfit no doubt a little waste could be expected. Then, too, the cowboys preferred their meat fresh, not cured, and consequently, we were the ones who benefited.

In the years to follow, we more or less drifted away from home, some to marry and some to work. The first death in the family occurred in 1928. We were living in Montana, when we received the sad news of Marie Rose's husband's death, leaving her with a family of five to look after. He was only 38 years of age. The realization of this terrible tragedy hit my mother pretty hard, though off and on, through the years, she must have had many disappointments. One I know is when I dropped out of school. Since I was the only one of the girls who attended high school, she naturally held high hopes for me.

That same year my mother developed a sudden illness and had to be rushed to the hospital. With treatment and rest she recovered, but while she was convalescing, the doctor informed us the symptoms of the illness had all the earmarks of an internal cancer, but he stated that she could last another four years. Because she had always been robust and strong, she believed that she would re-

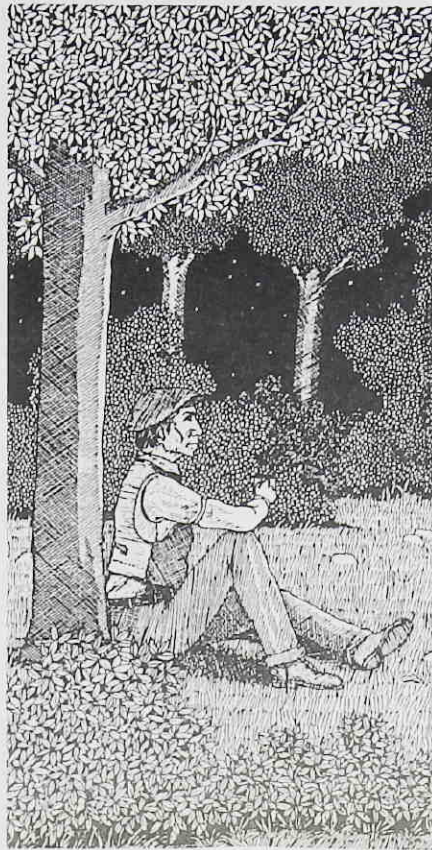
cover, as she wasn't old yet - 65 years - but not young either. But as time went by, she steadily weakened, though she never complained and only took to her bed on occasions when weakness forced her to do so. Even her doctor marvelled at

her will and determination to carry on, considering the extent of the disease. By this time the Depression had hit in full force. She had a Model T car and she travelled about a great deal, with my sister Stella at the wheel. I overheard some woman say to her one time, "Mrs. Trottier, you sure travel a lot", I remember her reply, "I don't think so much when I'm travelling". As the ravages of the disease progressed, she seemed to be shrinking away before our eyes. Towards the last, she returned to Ponteix to be with the sisters she loved. I wasn't with her when the end came, but afterwards the sister informed me that she had died like a saint. These were comforting words and as I walked out of that hospital I felt a deep sense of gratitude, knowing that at last she was at peace, even though I had to face a future without her love and guidance.

After the death of my mother, my father stayed on at the ranch as this is where he kept his stock. Originally this was the oldest boy's, John's, homestead, so of course he remained and raised his family of ten children. The other boys, Jim and Max, moved to Montana. The girls, too, had moved away as they married. Only three of us were left: Marie Rose, Joe and me.

My father passed away in the spring of 1939, eight years after my mother's death. They are both buried in the Ponteix cemetery.

Unquestionably my parents left me a great heritage, something I have to be proud of. What I'd give to live those wonderful years again in the wilderness and security of nature; to wake-up in the morning to the aroma of burning willows as my father started up the fire in the cook stove; to keep a watchful eye towards the coulee for the first appearance of the team and democrat or to run out in the dark and stillness of night and listen for the sound of the rattling wheels and the snort of the horses, proclaiming the long-awaited return of our parents. The excitement of unloading and waiting expectantly for whatever my mother had bought us on this trip. No, I wouldn't trade my life as I lived it then for the life the children have today. Our luxuries were many and beyond the price of gold. □



ON FEBRUARY 25, 1989

VOTE CLEM CHARTIER FOR PRESIDENT

Experienced Leadership



Issues

- * To strengthen our organization.
- * More local involvement.
- * Political and financial accountability of the leadership.
- * Greater emphasis on northern issues:
 - Trapping
 - Fishing
 - Housing
 - Employment
 - Environmental Issues
 - Northern Sub-Office
- * Metis self-government and a land base
- * Metis farms.
- * Economic development.
- * Education, training and employment.
- * Youth leadership development.
- * Involvement of Elders.
- * Child welfare.
- * Batoche.
- * Housing (urban and rural).

Plan of Action

- * Adopt both long term and short term goals.
- * Short term:
 - Develop and enhance existing programs that deal with housing, employment child and family, alcohol and drug addiction, health care, economic development, traditional resources and other related issues.
- * Long term:
 - Re-opening Constitution talks.
 - Re-opening Tri-Partite negotiations with the province and federal government.
 - Secure recognition of the right to Metis self-government, both off and on a land base.
 - Acquire Metis land base.
- * Encourage the active participation of all sectors within Metis society to achieve these goals.



CLEM CHARTIER - A METIS VOICE FOR METIS PEOPLE

SACRED BUNDLE RUN PICKING UP MOMENTUM

As each day passes the Big Bear Spiritual Run to New York generates more confidence in marathon runner, Jim Thunder, his two 'companion' runners - Fred Sinclair and Henry Basil, and his support crew - Don Cardinal, Lewis Cardinal and Alfred Beaver.

The six man group have covered a little better than two-thirds of the 4,400 kilometres to New York where they will lobby the American Museum of Natural History to hand over a grizzly bear paw sacred bundle.

The bundle once served as a protection piece for one of Western Canada's most noted Indian chiefs of the 19th century, Big Bear. Big Bear's bundle has been laying dormant under lock and key in a storage room of the museum since 1934 when it was acquired by anthropologist David Mandelbaum.

Lewis Cardinal, public relations co-ordinator and organizer, says he thinks "it's (the run) going to explode!" The momentum is escalating and more media are beginning to sit up and take note, he says.

Quite often, things have been touch and go for the run, particularly in the area of finances. A lot of the funding that does come through, says Lewis, is from Indian bands, urban Native organizations and Native friendship centres.

"There were times," Lewis continued, "when we really didn't know when, where or how our next meal or gas fill-up would come from." Yet something must be going right for it seems that salvation always manages to arrive somehow or other before things get to a critical stage.

"People open up their homes; they feed us," said Lewis.

Christmas Day

As an example, Lewis suggested that Christmas may have been a pretty dismal occasion were it not

for the caring and sharing of the Riel family in Wawa, Ontario.

On Christmas Day, the crew got up at 9:00 a.m., and cooked up some ham and eggs. Then Santa paid a visit, bringing the group a whole turkey, already cooked.

Santa, in this instance, was Emerson Riel, his wife and their two daughters. They brought the turkey, visited, left, but returned later to join in a game of crib before leaving.

Jim Thunder and the support crew have been busy keeping appointments with media people and the public. Press conferences, public forums and awareness are an endless task.

The group, however, is also favoured with traditional events like feasts, pow-wows, sweats and so forth.

And support is building as well. Letters of support have been forwarded to the museum from credible groups, organizations and, yes, even museums.

City mayors continue to write support letters as do friendship centres, the Royal Ontario Museum and CASNP (Canadian Alliance in Solidarity with Native Peoples).

Museum Non-Committal

Dr. Stanley Freed, curator for North American Indians at the museum in New York, remains tight-lipped as to the possibilities for repatriation of Big Bear's bundle. He certainly holds no promises or commitments.

"When he (Jim Thunder) gets here, we will discuss the matter. We will treat him with the same courtesy we would extend to anybody else."

When queried as to whether the museum had ever returned any artifacts to Natives in the past, Freed claims "it's a rare occurrence." He says he does not recall a single instance in which anything was ever returned.



Big Bear's Bundle (a protection piece not a medicine bundle) has been in the New York Museum of Natural History since 1934.

When asked whether there was the possibility for a turn-about if this particular mission has the support of Indian elders and chiefs in Western Canada, Freed replied, "I won't speculate about the future."

Key stopping points along the run are: February 13 - Ottawa; February 21 - Montreal; March 8 - Albany, New York; March 20 - New York City, N.Y.; and March 21 - the Museum in New York at 79 St. and Central Park West.

Additional support in the way of encouragement and finances are important to the success of the Big Bear Spiritual Run.

Financial contributions may be sent directly to the run's bank at Bank of Montreal, Big Bear Cultural Committee, Account No. 035806, 10405 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3N4. The Committee's federal tax number for donation purposes is 5035527.

Any letters of support or requests for information can be directed to Terry Lusty, official spokesperson for the Alberta Region at: No. 120 - 12520 St. Albert Trail, Edmonton, Alberta T5L 4H4. Telephone (403) 454-7076. □

By Terry Lusty

ON FEBRUARY 25, 1989

VOTE

BUTCH DESJARLAIS

FOR AREA DIRECTOR WESTERN REGION III

METIS SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN



AS YOUR AREA DIRECTOR, I WILL WORK FOR:

1. Finding solutions to the hunger problem facing our children.
2. Creating more suitable housing for those in need.
3. Creating jobs for our youth.
4. Providing more training and education opportunities for our youth.
5. Developing economic and business development opportunities.
6. Supporting women in becoming equal decision-makers in Metis opportunities.
7. Re-activating all the locals within the Area.
8. Promoting provincial issues here and in Ottawa such as health care, self-government and the constitution.
9. Re-instating lost government programs such as the Courtworker and communication programs.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

2. HOW MANY WORDS CAN YOU MAKE FROM:

TEMPERATURE

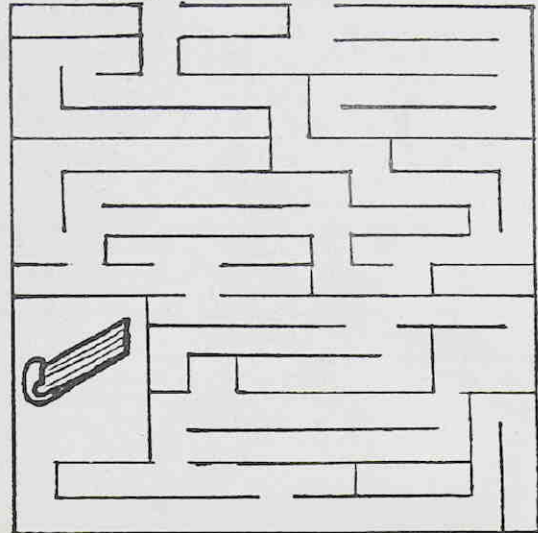
3. HELP THE CHILDREN FIND THEIR TOBOGGAN.

C O L D T H E R M O S T A T
S H I V E R S T I L K S F O
S N O W M A N E C L I N R B
T A R E P G A R I X I X I O
O F I R E P L A C E N R G G
R R B E R C H I L L G N I G
M O V R A X H P E C B A D A
K S K A T I N G T H E B A N
A T X O U T D O O R S L E C
E S R F R E E Z I N G A C W
L A I C E F L U R R Y S W A
B L I Z Z A R D W I N T E R

1. FINDAWORD

Blast
Bleak
Blizzard
Blowing
Chill
Cold
Fireplace
Flurry
Freezing
Frigid
Frost

Ice
Outdoors
Raw
Shiver
Skating
Skiing
Snowman
Storm
Temperature
Thermostat
Toboggan
Winter



ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S CHILDREN'S PAGE

1. FINDAWORD

J E S U S T O C K I N G S
O X L B C A N D Y P W W T
S S E R C N M A E I O R N
E E I A F G A S X T R E E
P N G S M E R B M X R A S
H A H O L L Y S E P E T E
P C H R I S T M A S E H R
C T K E M S K T H A D P P
X S A B A K I N G N N G H
A T G I F T S C J T I K E
H A P P E R K T H A E S L
T R A D I T I O N A R S V
R U D O L P H P T I E N E
I X D E C O R A T I O N S
B O R N A M E N T S A L T
B C E L E B R A T I O N S

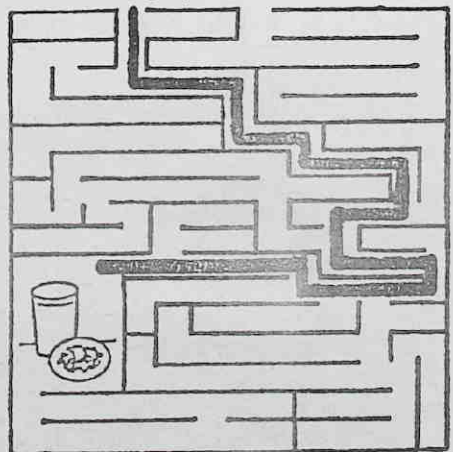
2. CELEBRATION

Brain
Train
Cane
Lane
Lean
Bean
Teen
Tin
Bin
Beat
Eat
Bet
Ate
Eaten
Bat
Beaten
Cab
Care
Cat
Car
Can
Brat
Beet
Nice
Ice
Neice
Ace
Brace

Bit
Bite
Beer
Bin
Rat
Cart
Rate
Bait
Tear
Tier
Ton
Not
Bran
Lab
Note
Neat
Real
Reel
Brine
Table
Cable
Able
Retire
Belt
Cone
React

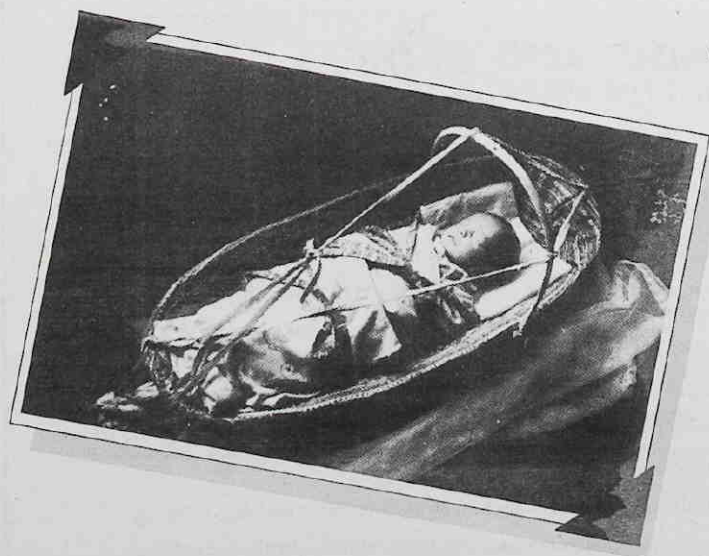
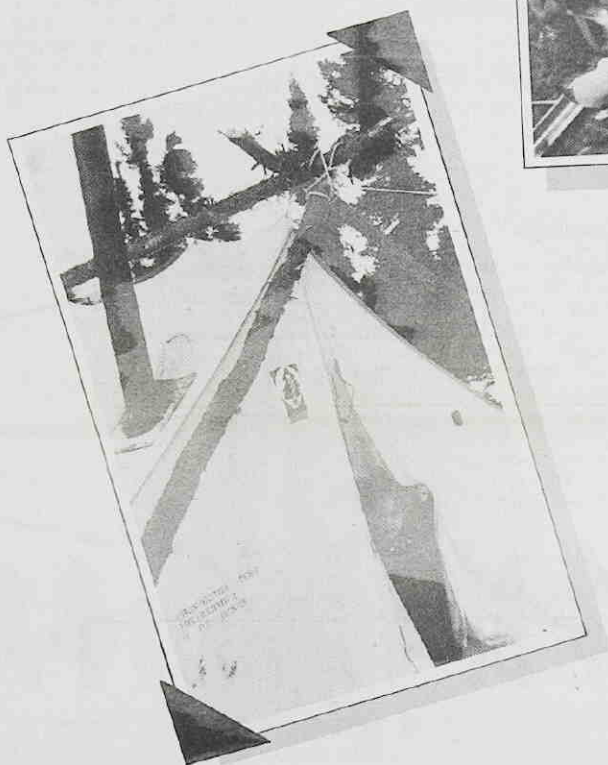
3. HELP SANTA FIND THE MILK AND COOKIES

START



A TIME FOR CARING

CARING. THERE ARE COUNTLESS GOOD REASONS TO CARE FOR YOURSELF. HERE ARE A FEW SMALL EXAMPLES...



THINK ABOUT IT. GIVE LIFE A CHANCE. A MESSAGE FOR YOU FROM THE COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN THE NATIONAL NATIVE ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE PROGRAM AND THIS NEWSPAPER.



Health
and Welfare
Canada

Santé et
Bien-être social
Canada

Canada

Letters

The following is a letter by I. Foster of Saskatoon which was sent to various newspapers in the province.

Dear New Breed:

On January 6th and 7th of 1989 I went to the first annual general assembly meeting of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan. There was great enthusiasm and excitement, people meeting friends and family, they haven't seen in a long time. Being a brand New Year and the first annual general assembly of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan I had nothing but positive thoughts when I walked into the meeting. Unfortunately this was just for a very short period. I was shocked how some of these people were thoughtlessly behaving, without any consideration for our Society, creating animosities against each other, instead of working together for the common interests for the Metis people.

I thought the purpose of this general assembly meeting was to build a stronger foundation for the Metis people and go forward.

We have had some great leaders who have progressed with effort and difficulties to help pave the way for our future children. Thank-you Jim Sinclair for believing in the Metis people.

I pray to our great Almighty Creator to guide each and everyone of us for spiritual love and understanding for our Metis brothers and sisters.

Yours truly,
I. Foster
Saskatoon, Sask.

The following is the response by Nora Ritchie to Foster's criticisms of the recent Metis Society of Saskatchewan's Annual Assembly.

Re: Letter of Ian Foster (Irene Foster), January 25, 1989.

Dear Editor:

There are a number of facts that your readers should be aware of. First of all, Irene Foster is the sister of Jim Durocher of Ile a la Crosse who is running for the position of President of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan. Mr. Durocher was Treasurer of our Organization from 1971 to February 1988. Mr. Jim Sinclair also served as President during that time. Both Mr. Durocher and Mr. Sinclair fought against the Metis having our own Organization. Both of them took us to court and cost us \$51,000.00 in legal costs.

Secondly, this Annual Meeting, one of many since we re-organized in 1964 as the Metis Society of Sask., was a very successful working session. Yes, there were debates, but these debates were healthy ones. What has made Mr. Durocher and his sisters uncomfortable were questions about the free-wheeling spending of the past Executive, including the Treasurer. In the past these kinds of questions were not tolerated. Questions such as: why was \$10,000.00 spent on a trip to Los Angeles? Did part of the bad debts to be written off include the advances and loans received by some of the Executive last year? Why were sporting goods (rifle and sleeping bag) included as expenses on a trip to Ottawa? and many others.

There was also an interim report

on a review of the Organization and its Affiliates tabled at the meeting. Between April 1, 1985 and March 31, 1988 Mr. Sinclair had received \$233,252.99 and Mr. Durocher \$257,997.34. This was for salary and expenses, along with holiday pay for Mr. Durocher. Our membership has a right to know how their money is being spent and has a right to question this spending.

On the positive side, we have established an independent Metis Elections Commission, a Metis Constitution Commission and a Working Group on Metis Child Welfare. With the proper people elected on February 25th, our Organization will be able to embark in a direction which will see the Organization return to the grass-roots, along with having financial and political accountability to the communities. □

Yours Sincerely,

Nora Ritchie, M.S.S. Local No. 11
1002-20th Street W.
Saskatoon, Sask.

Dear New Breed:

Following a successful 1988 conference in Ottawa, Canada's largest conference on Youth and Drugs will return to Western Canada. Our Fifth Annual National Conference on Youth and Drugs is scheduled for May 4-6, 1989 at the Centennial Auditorium in Saskatoon. 1300 youth, parents, and professionals will participate in plenary, panel and workshop sessions presented by over 65 international, national and

local experts.

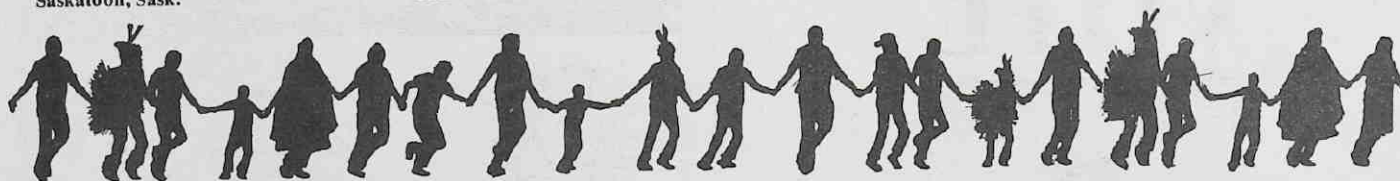
We at **Pride** are amazed each year at the parents and youth across the nation who raise funds through car washes, bake sales and rummage sales, then rent buses and vans to head for **Pride Canada's Spring Conference**. Their enthusiasm, commitment and dedication to the battle against the drug culture is contagious. Since our conference in 1985, over 45 parent and 30 youth groups have organized across Canada.

Once again, we are requesting your support in promoting our conference through a notice in the earliest possible edition of your publication and under the calendar of events in subsequent editions until May. A possible notice for your use is enclosed. Kindly Advise.

Our Conference posters will be ready for distribution across Canada in mid February. Would it be possible for you to distribute them in some way? If so, please advise of the number required. □

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Glenda Klombies
Conference Co-ordinator
Suite 111, College of Pharmacy,
University of Saskatchewan,
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7N 0W0
Phone (306) 975-3755
Toll Free 1-800-667-3747



ON FEBRUARY 25TH VOTE GERALD MORIN



for Secretary of the Metis
Society of Saskatchewan

COMMITMENT TO THE FOLLOWING ISSUES...

- Greater involvement by all sectors within the Metis Society of Saskatchewan (MSS), particularly Youth, Women and Elders.
- Restructuring of the MSS to meet the concerns and aspirations of our people at the local level.
- Greater political and financial accountability of our leadership.
- Committed to Metis self-government and a land base, where necessary, to be entrenched in the Canadian Constitution.
- Greater emphasis on northern issues such as trapping, hunting and fishing rights, forestry, resource use, housing, training and employment opportunities, and northern sub-office.
- Development and enhancement of MSS programs and services in the areas of economic development, employment, education, alcohol and drug abuse, housing, communications, and recreation.
- Greater control and involvement by Metis people in the Metis Farms.
- Development and enhancement of Metis cultural activities and programs.
- Committed to Metis Child Welfare and the needs of Metis children.

Recipes

RABBIT WITH RICE

3 lbs rabbit, cut up in serving pieces,
¼ cup olive oil
½ cup instant minced onion
2 small green peppers, minced
4 cups canned tomatoes
2 tbs. salt
½ tsp. ground black pepper
½ tsp. garlic powder
2 tsp. paprika
1 bay leaf
5 cups boiling water
2 cups uncooked rice, washed and drained
3 pimentos, chopped

Brown rabbit on all sides in olive oil. Add next 8 ingredients and saute until limp. Add boiling water. Gradually add rice and pimento. Turn into a large baking pan. Cover. Bake in a preheated moderate oven for 1½ hours or until done. Yield 6-8 servings.

BAKED RABBIT Jack or Bush Rabbit

Skin and clean. Wash thoroughly and let stand in salted water for at least 2 hours. To bake this, cut apart, cut the back into at least 2 pieces. Make a dressing. Spread all the pieces, one side only, and place corresponding pieces together and tie securely. Place on open roasting pan with a little water, salt and pepper and bake for 1 to 1½ hours at 350 deg. This is delicious served with black currant jam.

STEWED RABBIT

Divide into pieces at the joints, wash, rub with salt and pepper. Brown well. Add 1 cup tomato juice, 2 tbs. lemon juice. Simmer for 1 hour.

BAKED BUFFALO AND BEER PIE

Take 4 pounds collops of Buffalo meat (preferable from the leg) and cut in one inch cubes. Season well with salt, pepper and sage. Roll in flour and brown in a heavy pan in very hot oil. Transfer to a braising pot. Cut up 3 medium sized onions, 3 carrots, 3 stalks celery, and 3 potatoes in half-inch cubes. Toss these also in the same hot oil a few minutes, until they begin to cook. Throw this in with the meat along with the savoury bits in the pan.

Take up the oil with 3 tablespoons flour. Let brown in oven.

Heat up 2 pints beef stock or a broth made with any available Buffalo bones or scraps. Add 2 tablespoons tomato puree to it and 1 pint of beer, preferably stout. Blend this into the meat slowly and smoothly. Add an herb bag consisting of a garlic clove, a bay leaf, parsley stems, 3 cloves, a pinch of thyme.

Let simmer until meat is tender.

Remove the herb bag. Turn the ragout into a colander to separate the sauce. Divide meat and vegetables into pot pie dishes (fireproof individual size china). Correct sauce for seasoning and consistency. Fill each casserole and cover with a pie-paste top. Brush with milk and bake until golden brown.

TROUT SANDWICH FILLING

1 cup flaked, cooked trout
¼ cup mayonnaise
½ green pepper
Salt and pepper to taste

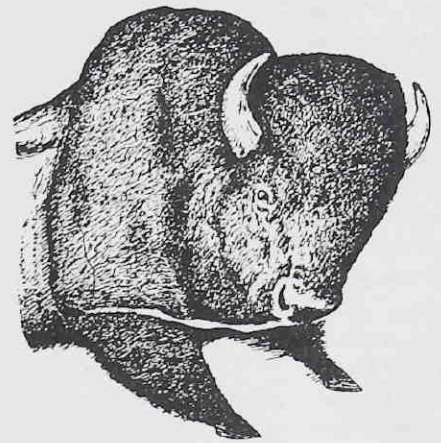
Cut green pepper very thin. Combine all ingredients. Mix well. Spread is ready for sandwiches.

PLANKED CHARCOAL BROILED BUFFALO STEAK

Choose for charcoal broiling a tender Buffalo sirloin, porterhouse, rib or tenderloin steak. Let the steak stand at room temperature for one hour, rub with salt and pepper and melted butter. Broil three inches above hot coals for 3 minutes and turn and continue broiling for 3-4 minutes or the desired time.

Place steak on plank which has been bordered with peeled potatoes. Place bouquets of freshly cooked vegetables which have been sauteed in butter around the steak.

Top steak with cooked mushroom heads. Squeeze the juice from ¼ lemons over steak and mushrooms and cover with butter which has been cooked to a golden brown over brisk flame.



ON FEBRUARY 25TH VOTE



**GILLIS
LAVALLEY
FOR AREA DIRECTOR
WESTERN REGION III
METIS SOCIETY OF
SASKATCHEWAN**

New Breed/January/1989



Have you considered a career in **JOURNALISM?**

The Program in Journalism for Native People at The University of Western Ontario is now accepting applications for the next academic year beginning: **SEPTEMBER 5, 1989.**

PJNP is an intensive one-year, three-semester program for candidates of Native ancestry (Status, Non-Status, Metis and Inuit) leading to a:

CERTIFICATE IN JOURNALISM FOR NATIVE PEOPLE

The deadline for complete applications, including transcripts and other required documentation is **MAY 1, 1989.**

Direct inquiries to:



Director
Program in Journalism for Native People
The University of Western Ontario
Middlesex College
London, Canada N6A 5B7
(519) 661-3380

Poetry

THUNDERCHILD

Clockwise they dance.

A kaleidoscope of beaded color.

*The air pungent with the aroma
of leather, sweat and dust.*

*Dust from the dancers
swift stamping feet.*

Old men in world weary costume.

*Their faces bronzed with sun,
lined with passion and tales of hardship.*

The young adorned with bead and leather.

Flaunting turquoise, emerald, saffron and gold.

Their faces mahogany.

Legacy of their tribal forefathers.

Clockwise they dance.

The songs ascend.

Wolves baying at the moon.

Louder and louder,

higher and higher - it rises.

Their feet touch lightly at first.

*Then as the calls reach an apex
the dancers stamp heavily
with moccasined feet.*

*The earth around them rising
in clouds of translucent dust.*

Faces thrust up towards the heavens.

Eyes tightly closed,

to view the apparition above.

Then heads down,

*sentinels over their dancing,
dancing limbs.*

*Drums throbbing
heartbeats on tanned leather.*

*Proud Indian voices calling
to the gods above.*

*Drums pulsing an opening
to the heavens.*

Beats quickening - reaching a climax.

*Voices high, a shriek
of unfettered agony and joy.*

*Clouds of dust spiralling
around and around.*

*Forming a band with the hundred feet
of unchallenged heritage.*

Around and around,

louder and louder,

higher and higher.

The dust and dancers,

the voices, the drums.

Colors meld and blend.

A solid band of rainbow.

*Above the throng
a feather rises.*

*Slowly above the dust
and stamping feet.*

Above the swinging, swaying rainbow.

Above the heads of the dancers.

Grey it rises.

*All eyes lock on its simplicity
as it begins to fall back to the ground.*

Down, down past the dancing heads.

Down past the spectrum of color.

Down and through the veil of dust.

Softly it alights on ancient soil.

In unison the drums fade.

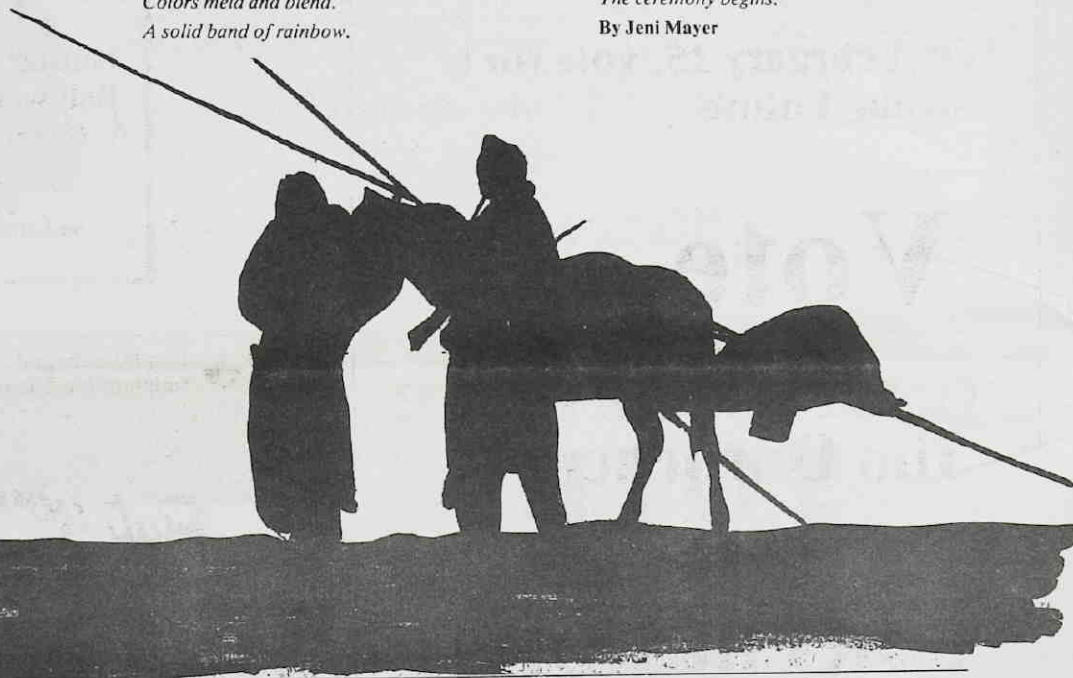
The proud chant drifts skyward.

The dancers cease their impassioned ritual.

Crystalline clouds settle back to earth.

The ceremony begins.

By Jeni Mayer



On February 25, 1989

VOTE FOR Renee Gervais-Sinclair For Secretary Of The Metis Society Of Saskatchewan

I am asking for your support in the upcoming election.

**Give the membership a voice not just on election day
but every day.**

**If you would like to discuss any issues or concerns you
may have, please feel free to call me.**

Sincerely,

**Renee Gervais-Sinclair
924 Lindsay Street
Regina, Saskatchewan S4N 3A6
Telephone: 757-1820 or 543-9749**



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Prince Albert Indian Student Education Centre is holding a Winter Musical entitled "The Runaway Snowman" on February 15, 1989 at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$2.00 and the event will be held at the Centre at 851-23rd Street West in Prince Albert. For more information, contact Derrol Leblanc or Victoria Bird at 922-4390.

The Awasis Indian and Native Educational Council is holding its Saskatchewan Indian and Metis Educator's Convention at the Coronet Motor Inn, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan on March 8, 9 and 10, 1989. Scheduled events include educational workshops, publishers displays, Native exhibitors, Banquet and Dance and much more! Some of the workshop topics include Native Content in Curriculum, Curriculum Development, Language Development, Elders' Workshops, Administration, Traditional Teaching and Learning, Urban Education Processes, Social Issues in the Classroom, Core Curriculum and C.E.L.S., Indian Language Instruction and Teacher Education Programs. For registration information, please contact: Ruth Ahenakew, 118-12th St. East, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan S6V 1B6

The Northern Justice Society - Preventing and Responding to Northern Crime is scheduled for March 28 to April 1, 1989 in Thompson, Manitoba. This will feature intensive short courses and program/issue-based workshops as well as a major presentation by Greenlanders, a special ceremony by Elders and showings of the most recent films of justice-related issues, several by Native producers. For registration details, please contact: The Northern Justice Society Office, c/o Continuing Studies, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia V5A 1S6, Telephone: (604) 291-3792 or FAX (604) 291-3851.

The Saskatchewan Coalition Against Racism will be holding its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, February 16, 1989 at Holy Rosary Cathedral (downstairs) at 7:30 p.m. All members and others interested in working towards eradicating racism are invited to attend. For further information please contact: Dale Pelletier, President, at 757-8591.

On February 25, vote for a Strong Future

Vote

Jim Durocher

FOR PRESIDENT

...for Metis families

...for Metis communities

...for the Metis Nation.

For strong united Metis communities...

and a better future for Metis people.

For more information, contact:

Jim Favel
Campaign Manager
Box 8
He a la Crosse
Phone: 833-2467

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to work*

Native Internship Program

Employment and Immigration Canada has summer employment opportunities for Native students. The program operates from April to September 15.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Candidates must be:

- Indigenous (Status or Non-Status Indians, Metis or Inuit)
- Students registered full-time at a secondary, post-secondary or vocational school during the preceding academic year and who will be returning to school full-time in the following year.

WHERE WILL POSITIONS BE LOCATED?

Positions will be available in Saskatoon, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Moose Jaw, Melfort, Yorkton, Swift Current, La Ronge, and Regina.

WHERE TO APPLY

You must be registered with a Canada Employment Centre (CEC) or with the Public Service Commission.

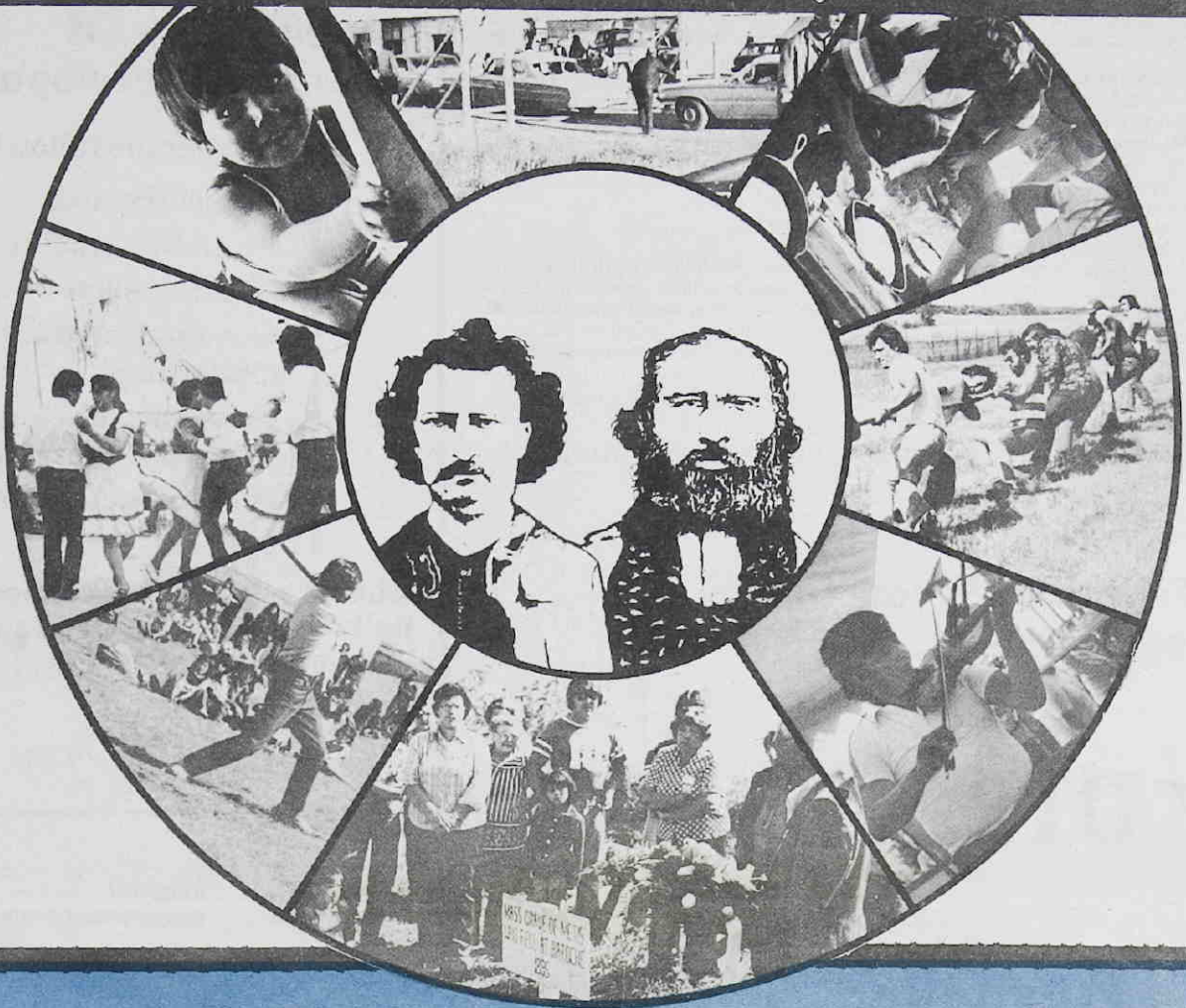
Program applications must be submitted by February 28.

For further information on the Native Internship Program, contact:

Your local Canada Employment Centre or Clarence Kapay:
Assistant Native Internship Program Co-ordinator
Employment Services
Employment and Immigration Canada
2101 Scarth Street
Regina, Saskatchewan. S4P 2H9
Phone: 780-5691

Canada

NEW BREED



A Publication of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan

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