

New Breed Magazine

October/November 1999



In This Issue:

Metis Rights

*Vital Morin
Remembers
World War 2*

*Northern
Development*

Covering Metis Nation issues and events

\$2.00

**New Breed Magazine is
a publication of:
Metis Communications
Sask. Inc.**

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About the cover:

The cover photos were supplied from Gabriel Dumont Institute's Curriculum Department. They are a part of the "When Two Worlds Meet" package and may be purchased as educational tools.

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FULL PAGE	\$1000.
THREE QUARTER PAGE	\$750.
HALF PAGE	\$500.
QUARTER PAGE	\$250
EIGHTH PAGE	\$125
LARGE BUSINESS CARD	\$100
SMALL BUSINESS CARD	\$50

Message from President Clem Chartier

The Metis Nation of Saskatchewan has made significant strides toward governance of Metis affairs in this province. We have grown and developed alongside our provincial Metis Nation Affiliates and the more entwined our cause the more powerful the union. Our sash symbolizes this and we are realizing its truth. The Metis Nation of Saskatchewan has established itself as the representative voice of the Metis in this province and has undertaken the delivery of programs and services in the areas of health, education, training & employment, justice, housing and economic development. Through our tripartite and bilateral negotiations, we have signed protocol agreements with federal, provincial and municipal governments, to become an active partner in the development of our communities and the decisions made within them. We have made incredible strides in the delivery of a variety of programs and services as a result of our governance development.

North West Saskatchewan can boast of the Northern Project, a tripartite agreement between governments and a Protocol Agreement with the Mayors of the various Municipalities. The North West Leaders Forum is a meeting of MNS Presidents and Municipal Mayors. Together, we seek to govern our communities, to participate in economic development ventures and to deliver programs and services that meet the needs of our people at the community level.

Central and southern Saskatchewan can boast of the Urban Governance developments, the tripartite and bilateral agreements between governments and a Protocol Agreement between the Urban Metis Local Presidents and the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan. As with the Northern Project, the development of Metis Urban Governance is mandated by the MNS Constitution and is being supported by the Intergovernmental Affairs Unit of

the MNS. Out of this, we have seen the development of the Metis Urban Council of Saskatchewan, the common table for the Metis Local Presidents from Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and North Battleford.

The Metis Nation of Saskatchewan is involved in the bilateral process between the MNS and the Government of Saskatchewan. The bilateral process has two tiers, one for the Provincial Metis Council and one for our Affiliate Chief Executive Officers. The Tier II table is made up of the CEOs of each of our Affiliates responsible for the delivery of programs and services who advise the Executive on the community realities and the issues that are being faced. The Tier II MNS representatives meet with the top officials of the various line departments within the Government of Saskatchewan. The Tier I table is the forum for provincial government Ministers to speak directly with the MNS Ministers and together, work toward increased opportunities for meeting the needs of the Metis in this province. The involvement of the CEOs is new to the bilateral process and our Métis governance initiatives and it has shown results already in increased services and funding. The CEOs have shown a commitment to work collaboratively within the MNS to provide a more holistic approach to community issues. We need to reflect on the mandate of our various Affiliate organizations and address our funding partners without losing the vision for Metis self-governance. We need to be creative and collaborative for the betterment of the Nation.

The Metis Nation Legislative Assembly has identified the need to develop governance within the Nation and has mandated four special sittings of the MNLA. The first sitting took place in March of 1999, in Saskatoon, where we dealt with Constitutional amendments and the Metis Nation Agenda that dealt with issues common to all

provincial Metis Nation organizations across Canada. The second special sitting is scheduled to take place during the regular sitting of the MNLA to be held in North Battleford, November 5-7th, where four new pieces of legislation will be presented to the MNLA members for review, and possibly, ratification. The Metis Wildlife and Conservation Act was ratified and become Metis law at the July 1994 MNLA, held in Batoche. This Assembly will see the proposal of a new Metis Nation Legislative Assembly Act, a Senate Act, a Citizenship Act and an Election Act. As a third order of government in Canada, the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan has undertaken the setting of laws that will govern the actions of our citizens in the future.

We have seen the development of the Provincial Metis Youth Council, a council of youth representing the twelve regions in Saskatchewan. The Executive of the Youth Council have attended a number of our meetings and retreats and the youth are now represented on many of our Affiliate Boards and committees. The MNS Internal Governance Committee held a second retreat this year for the PMC and the Women, Senate and Youth Executive members to meet with the CEOs of the various Affiliates. The youth provided an important voice and perspective that has been absent for some time. It is good to see our youth attending governance activities. The Provincial Metis Youth Council is currently in the process of developing regional youth councils so the web of communication is growing. Emerging from this, it is my hope, a more positive and hopeful view of tomorrow and the experience of having a voice in those issues that affect their lives will emerge. With this involvement comes pride and a sense of belonging. Our youth are suffering and the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan will continue to support and listen to the issues that the youth bring to the table.

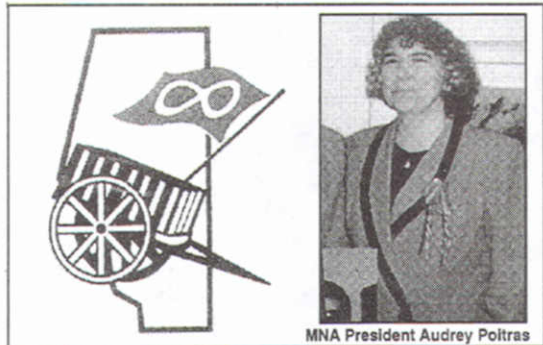
Again, I am glad to be writing this article for our New Breed Magazine. I hope this message finds you and your families well across the Metis homeland. I have been honoured to find myself the provincial President of our Metis government. I look forward to the many discussions and meetings where we bring our governance ideas to fruition. We have embarked on a journey toward self-government and the future will be a challenging one indeed. I look forward to journeying with you into the twenty-first century.



MNS President Clem Chartier
Photo By - Kathy Hodgson-Smith

METIS NATION OF ALBERTA RE-ELECTS AUDREY POITRAS AND BRINGS IN BRENDA BLYAN - by Lorna Docken

Alberta Metis went to the polls September 7, 1999 to elect their Provincial Metis Council. The six zones elected their Presidents and Vice-Presidents as well as the Provincial President and Vice-President. Audrey Poitras will serve her second term as President and Brenda Blyan comes onto the scene for the first time as Vice-President.



MNA President Audrey Poitras

Metis elections are exciting anywhere in the country and this one was no exception. NEW BREED was headquartered out of Bonnyville for Election Day. Bonnyville is the centre of the highly populated MNA Zone 2. Voter turnout was light this time with about 28 per cent of eligible voters coming out. The campaign teams worked hard all day to pull out the voters, and waited until well into the night for the results.

Both Poitras and Blyan bring years of experience, and natural leadership ability onto the scene. Poitras has a background in finance and administration, while Blyan has worked in the areas of justice and family services as well as with the youth and women's movement. All board members were sworn in at a gala event which featured the swearing-in ceremony as well as a banquet and old time fiddle dance.

Following are the election results:

PRESIDENT
VICE-PRESIDENT
ZONE I PRESIDENT
ZONE I VICE-PRESIDENT
ZONE II PRESIDENT
ZONE II VICE-PRESIDENT
ZONE III PRESIDENT
ZONE III VICE-PRESIDENT
ZONE IV PRESIDENT
ZONE IV VICE-PRESIDENT
ZONE V PRESIDENT
ZONE V VICE-PRESIDENT
ZONE VI PRESIDENT
ZONE VI VICE-PRESIDENT

Audrey Poitras
Brenda Blyan-Calliou
George A. Quintal
Rick P. Boucher
Henry J. Desjarlais
Gabe Cardinal
Ephram Bouvier
Marlene O. Lanz
Jerry A. Letendre
Cecil T. Bellrose
Bev New
Trevor Gladue
Sylvia V. Johnson
Louis Bellrose

CANADIAN ABORIGINAL FESTIVAL AT TORONTO SKYDOME DECEMBER 2-5 TO FEATURE THE METIS NATION!

by Lorna Docken (information provided from the Metis National Council)

The 1999 Aboriginal Festival is expected to draw a crowd of 50,000 people and all major television networks, radio and print media from various centres will be in attendance. Some highlights of the Metis pavilion include:

Select performances on the main stage in the SkyDome that showcase top Metis fiddlers and dancers.

Special one hour Metis Music Showcase, on both Saturday and Sunday. The shows will take place in the Performance Tent, an enclosed music area in the festival grounds that will garner new audiences and contacts for featured artists.

The Voyageur Games demonstration in front of the main stage and projected on SkyDome's Jumbotron! (world's largest TV screen)

Do you want to exhibit in the Metis Pavilion?

Would any locals or affiliates like to exhibit? This includes Metis entrepreneurs, businesses, artists, or craftspeople. There is an unlimited supply of space allocated on an equitable basis for each province and there is no cost for the space itself. Participating traders would be required to supply their own exhibit and staff. For more information please contact:

George Lepine
Metis Nation of Ontario
Arts and Culture Representative
201-3272 Bloor Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M8X 1E2
telephone (416) 233-9913
facsimile (416) 233-4924

WHISPERS

by Florence Maurice

Oh hear the wind
He is whispering of long ago Metis
Of how they voyage the rivers
Listen to the wind tell his stories
Of how the Metis fought in 1885
Yes hear it in the wind
Of how the wounded moaned
the wind moaning with them
Listen you can hear a baby's cry
The lonesome song of a maiden
for her lost love.
Yes the wind can whisper about sorrow
He can also sing about happiness
For someday the maiden will sing again
Yes listen to the whispers in the wind
For it has whispered
That the Metis will rise again
Not of weapons
But of education, pen and paper.
Yes someday soon
The Metis will have their rights
And everything Riel fought for
His dreams will come true
For it is whispered in the wind
He's still whispering in the wind

Author Clive Doucet talks about Looking For Henry

by Lorna Docken

Clive Doucet who is a city council member in Ottawa, provided me with a riveting insight into the production of his latest book, Looking For Henry. Doucet's roots are Acadian and Micmac. Somewhat of a unique individual, he is the man behind poetry on the walls of buses in Ottawa.

Doucet first came out to Saskatchewan 7 years ago to read poetry. He went out to Batoche knowing nothing of the Metis other than what he had been taught in school about Louis Riel being a deranged lunatic. He was surprised to find Batoche to be similar to his Grandfather's Acadian village of Grand Etange, with the Church and long lots. Batoche overlooks the prairie as the villages back home overlook the ocean and you can feel the same breeze. He immediately felt a connection and began to look into the history of the Metis. He found striking similarities between the two dispossessed and dispersed peoples.

The Acadians like the Metis Doucet states are in the process of recapturing and retaining their past, which is difficult because after the first generation they became illiterate, therefore documentation is scarce. No teaching orders set up schools in Acadia. In North America, only two cultures developed out of the blending of European and Indigenous peoples, the Acadians and the Metis. Both became a political threat as they ran their own affairs and became independent. They wanted to negotiate their place in Canada on their own terms.

Doucet calls the way the French were treated in comparison to the French speaking Acadians "conquistador mentality". The relationship between the French and the English was and is one of

reciprocity of elites. The fishing and farming Acadians were simply gotten rid of. Between 1755 and 1763, the Acadians were simply loaded onto boats and shipped all over the world. Families were even separated. Doucet calls it "a policy of cultural extinction".

Looking For Henry got its title because Doucet became fascinated with the work of Metis artist Henry Letendre which is featured on the cover of the book. He has never met Letendre, but finally obtained one of his works. Doucet states that the book is written in the style of the Plains Cree in that each summer, they looked for common ancestors through relatives they hunted with. The book is one long poem divided into 4 sections. For me it is a delight to read because it is not what I think of as poetry. I usually have a difficult time concentrating on poetry because it takes time to think about the real meaning. Looking For Henry reads like a story broken into lines. I was fortunate to have Doucet read a poem to me. He explained to me that when reading poetry you must hear the voices.

Beyond the streets of Saskatoon,
the country rolls towards
the north.
It does not resemble my image of the prairie.
It is too rounded with small hills,
and dotted by ponds.
It feels familiar.

We pass the Indian circle of the sun
at Wanuskewin.
All the while the land continues to rise
towards Batoche,
and we start to see
the old Metis fields outlined

along old fencelines by sumach and trees. The fields are narrow as at Grand Etang, running like fingers up from the river past the shadows of houses and barns, up back to the pastures.

I like them. They feel right. the old Metis fields are a sociable way to farm, giving each family their own road to the river, giving each family a fair slice of highlands and bottomlands.

Doucet cited a visit to the Gabriel Dumont Institute Lifeskills/Employment Readiness class as his best audience in Saskatoon. The students were attentive and interested, while asking meaningful questions. In particular, one young lady asked if he was Metis because he is part Micmac and part European. He explained to her that he may be metis (mixed blood) but not Metis, which is the nation that developed in Western Canada. His advice to aspiring writers is to write what you know about although he admits that it can be difficult to know what that is because it sometimes takes a lifetime to know who we are as individuals. Doucet feels that more help and encouragement should be given to writers. He closed off the interview with the quote from Louis Riel "My people will sleep for a hundred years. When they awake, it will be the artists who help them find their spirit again." I heartily recommend this book which is published by Thistledown Press and his other work Notes From Exile.

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PRIMROSE LAKE AIR WEAPONS RANGE SETTLEMENT MAY BE IN SIGHT FOR METIS

by Lorna Docken

Primrose Lake has always held great significance for me. As a child, my Metis mother told me of how she grew up between the little settlement of Northern Pine and the trapline at nearby Primrose Lake. They got everything they needed off the land and were self-sufficient. A number of Metis families in the area lived the same lifestyle. She also told me that in about 1953, her family was asked to give up all of their property (traps, guns, cabins and furnishings) and move out. She recalled very a small settlement which was used to get them out to British Columbia by train. The family would then suffer the social problems faced by urban Metis across Canada. My non-Aboriginal father had also used the lake for fishing. He continued to fish each Christmas as I was growing up. My brother still fishes there today.

At a meeting co-chaired by Alex Maurice and Jim Durocher in Beauval, September 21/99, the PLAWR negotiating committee discussed plans for an economic development package in connection to the compensation claim. It must be noted that it was stressed by many of the committee members that this is not to be "in lieu of" a compensation for individual losses.

Primrose Lake Air Weapons Range was created in the early 1950s. Between 1951 and 1953 the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan formalized an agreement whereby the Department of National Defence would lease an area of 4,490 square miles from Saskatchewan for the purpose of military training. At the time, three groups of traditional resource users were to be compensated for loss of income and livelihood created by their displacement from the area. Indians, Metis and white settlers were all to be dealt with. The federal department of Indian Affairs served the First Nations resource users, while fishing cooperatives were formed for the white settlers. Lists of Metis trappers were drawn up but many were missed. Those who were compensated were only partially paid or underpaid. One must keep in mind that

in terms of lifestyle, Metis and First Nations in the area were the same and that up until that time the governments had encouraged both groups to use the land as they had historically done so. There is no reason that the Metis should have been treated differently than their First Nations counterparts.

Metis who were forced out of the bombing range had to either give up the traditional life and move away as my grandpa did or move to another trapping block. The Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources knew full well that the existing fur blocks were already used to capacity and could not support the extra trappers. Elders at the September 21 meeting told compelling stories of their displacement and the consequent effects on their families.

Edward Gardiner stated that he lost much out of the deal. Because of the drastic change in his income, his lifestyle changed. He suffered poverty along with others in the community of Cole Bay who had lost their way of life. His understanding at the time was that the agreement was to last for 10 years. He later heard that it was extended to 20 years. It has now been over 45 years. Emile Aubichon expressed sadness over the fact that his children are scattered all over Canada to make a living and that he rarely sees the grandchildren. This would not be so if the family could have stayed in the bombing range. Daniel Daigneault was physically threatened to stay out of the range. Although his mother advised him to go to Canoe Lake to ask for a settlement, he chose not to. You cannot blame him. Mrs. Philip Aubichon stated that her husband lost out on a lot of hard assets and was under compensated.

The negotiating committee has presented these claims to the federal government. The provincial government maintains that it supports the Metis claim and that they have their own claim as they were never paid enough for what they gave up. The Metis group is proposing two types of compensation:

1. Individuals and families who lost hard assets as a result of the creation of the bombing range
2. Economic development for the communities affected because of the loss of income to individuals (who formerly spent their money in those communities)

Dignitaries in attendance spoke from the heart on the issue as well. Metis Nation of Saskatchewan President Clem Chartier stated that the MNS will continue to support the committee and provided information that backed up the Metis position. Chartier told the meeting that Vic Valentine, anthropologist, had given an affidavit which showed that the Metis had been more reliant on the land than any other group as they did not have other government departments to fall back on. He urged the group not to abandon the elder compensation. Ile a la Crosse Mayor Max Morin spoke on the inequity of the compensation and the urgency to receive compensation due to the age of the claimants, he also pointed out that many of them are veterans who were treated unjustly after the war. Member of the Saskatchewan Legislature, Buckley Belanger, urged the committee not to quit, and advised on economic development opportunities. Member of Parliament, Rick Laliberte spoke of pragmatic ways for the committee to become real players in the bombing range, such as setting up an office to make decisions on the Saskatchewan side, by Saskatchewan people. According to Laliberte, currently, all decisions for the entire bombing range are made in Alberta.

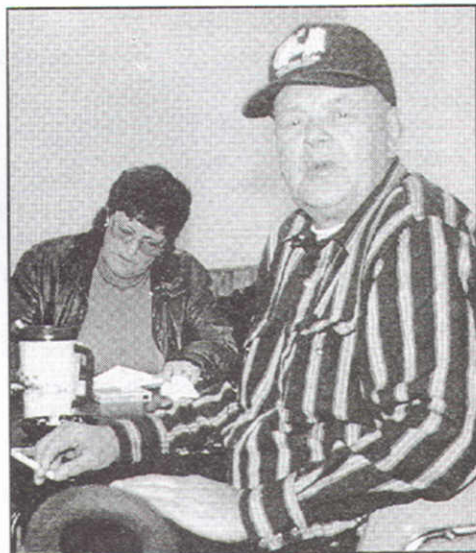
Elder Harry Laliberte summed up the situation as one where people are passing away waiting for settlements and they have no money to pursue the issue. He said that people signed papers they did not understand with Xs. He said that it affected not only the elders but their families too. "If the land was still open, maybe the young people could go over there". He was not sure of the cause, but maybe it had something to do with Louis Riel standing up for Metis rights.

Federal Government representative Doug Mailey stated that he was there to hear economic development requests and that although he understood the inequity

of the situation, he had no mandate to make any promises. He further pointed out that the Department of National Defence provides money each year for fire suppression as well as lease money. He was given direction by Minister Ralph Goodale to find economic development projects that "make sense"

Provincial Government representative Donovan Young reiterated the support of the Government of Saskatchewan and stated that the compensation issue for individuals is between the federal government and the Metis.

Beauval Mayor Sandy Rediron closed the public meeting with his comments, wishing the committee the best.

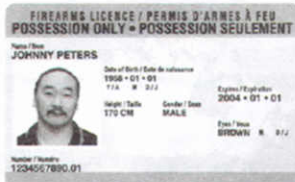


Edward Gardiner, Local Pres., Cole Bay; Lorraine Aubichon, Meadow Lake.
Photo by: Lorna Docken

3 Things

ALL Firearm Owners Need to Know about the Firearms Act

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2 A registration certificate for your firearm



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Canada

RULES OF THE 1840 BUFFALO HUNT

The Metis buffalo hunt was a complex, democratically run business. The first act of business for the hundreds of people involved in a buffalo hunt was the election of officers for the hunt. Ten captains were elected by the men of the camp. One of these was named as the leader of the hunt. Each captain commanded at least 10 "soldiers" who assisted with the maintenance of discipline and order.

Metis discipline on the hunt could be severe. The rules were few in number, but they had to be obeyed. These rules became known as "the law of the prairie," and they were the basis of 19th century Metis law. These regulations, established in 1840, were recorded:

1. No buffalo to be run on the Sabbath Day.
2. No party to fork off or lag, or go before, without permission.
3. No person or party to run buffalo before the general order.
4. Every captain, with his men, in turn to patrol camp and keep guard.
5. For the first trespass against these laws, offender is to have his saddle and bridle cut up.
6. For the second offence, his coat is to be taken off his back and be cut up.
7. For the third offence, the offender is to be flogged.
8. Any person convicted of theft, even to the value of a sinew, to be brought to the middle of the camp, and the crier to call out his or her name three times, adding the word "Thief" each time.

(MCLEAN 1988)

NORTHERNERS THINK SOCIAL ISSUES AS IMPORTANT AS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

by Lorna Docken

There was consensus at a meeting in Prince Albert September 27, 1999 that northern initiatives must include a healing component. It was also decided that any policy developed and adopted through the northern dialogue process must be flexible so that it could evolve with the northern communities. The policy which is to be developed out of a study that was commissioned by the northern board consisting of representatives from Metis, First Nations, Municipal Federal and Provincial governments.

The study was part of phase one. Areas addressed by the study include:

- Strategic Opportunities Assessment Overview
- Context and Background
- Strategic Opportunities
 1. Economic and resource based sectors,
 2. business and professional sectors,
 3. capacity building sectors,
 4. infrastructure
- Bibliography

It was stressed that water rights and worldwide Indigenous issues be added. Phase two will include implementation of concrete economic development projects. While \$150,000 has been earmarked for the development of these projects, the board requested one billion dollars be allocated to be used over five years. Provincial and Federal Government representatives were reminded of the cost of doing nothing. (social as well as economic) One idea is a tourism network with worldwide connections. Government reps explained that

existing programs would be beefed up and that capacity building would be a priority.

Philip Chartier expressed concern that the fund be administered by northerners and that a northern style of government be used while Dale McAuley insisted that new dollars be found for the projects. McAuley stated, "We can identify all kinds of packages, ... but are they sincere about looking at the North?"

The board went on the express the urgency of the situation. Max Morin said that "The people back home want answers." That about sums it up. Northerners are tired of living in third world conditions and have been studied to death. What is required is an immediate cash infusion to implement the recommendations of the study.



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LIST OF RIGHTS

(Drafted by the Metis Provisional Government, December 1869)

1. That the people have the right to elect their own legislature.
2. That the Legislature have the power to pass all laws local to the Territory over the veto of the Executive by a two-thirds vote.
3. That no action of the Dominion Parliament (local to the Territory) be binding on the people until sanctioned by the Legislature or the Territory.
4. That all sheriffs, magistrates, constables, school commissioners, etc., be elected by the people.
5. A free homestead and pre-emption land law.
6. That a portion of the public lands be appropriated to the benefit of schools, the building of bridges, roads, and public buildings.
7. That it be guaranteed to connect Winnipeg by rail, with the nearest line of railroad, within a term of five years; the land grant to be subject to the Local Legislature.
8. That for the term of four years all military, civil, and municipal expenses be paid out of the Dominion funds.
9. That the military be composed of the inhabitants now existing in the Territory.
10. That the English and French languages be common in the Legislature and Courts, and that all public documents and acts of the legislature be published in both languages.
11. That the Judge of the Supreme Court speak the English and French languages.
12. That Treaties be concluded and ratified between the Dominion Government and the several tribes of Indians in the Territory to ensure peace on the frontier.
13. That we have fair and full representation in the Canadian Parliament.

THE WAR FOR RECOGNITION

by Ed White (reprinted by permission from *Western People* November 5, 1998)

Vital Morin has twice emerged from the deep northern woods to set forth on great journeys. Once he set out with the excitement of a young man seeking adventure. The second time he set out with the wounded pride of an aging man seeking redress.

These journeys have left Morin, now 75, full of thrilling memories. He has the wisdom of a man who has seen the glories of the civilized world and the horrors of its destruction, and the pessimism of one who has experienced the cold aloofness of peacetime authority. For Morin, making a peaceful Canada as fair and righteous as the warring nation is a journey that must still be completed. Morin grew up in Ile a la Crosse, a village on the Churchill River in Northern Saskatchewan. He was born Metis, speaking only Cree until after his mother died when he was five. The Catholic bishop sent him off to a residential school so that poverty wouldn't engulf him. There he learned English, then French at another school.

He lived a life common to many Metis in those days. "We ate moose. Shot ducks," said Morin, who still lives in Ile a la Crosse in a comfortable home beside the Churchill. As a teenager he cleared boulders and hacked down bushes and trees for 50 cents a day, clearing paths that northerners considered roads. When he was 17, Morin made the three-day trek to Meadow Lake, his first taste of urban civilization. He didn't come back for four years. On the main street he ran into two cousins, who were both wearing well-creased, snappy army uniforms. He asked them why they were dressed like that and they informed him that they had joined the army because of the war.

Though it was 1942, this was the first time Morin had heard of the conflict. "We didn't get much news," he said. Seeing an army uniform and a trip across the world was enticing. Vital Morin signed up that day. He was packed off to Regina, then on to Ontario and finally to England. "There were a lot of chimneys there," he said, recalling London's effect on him. "I thought it

was a pretty damned big city." During the night it was lost in the darkness, as lights were banned so that German bombers couldn't locate the city.

Morin was based in southern England, where he was retrained as a foot soldier, and awaited action, which came in 1944. Two days after the D-Day landings, Morin and the Regina Rifles (the Johns) waded ashore in Normandy, passing by the bodies of slain comrades and ducking the incoming "moaning Minnies," German rockets that came in "crying like children," Morin recalled. At 19, Morin experienced his first taste of continental European culture as he and his regiment advanced into the beautiful port city of Caen, and in a furious battle saw its wonders demolished. After driving the Germans out of Caen, the Johns advanced on Calais, then helped force the enemy out of Belgium and Holland. In the Netherlands, Morin saw another of the wonders of European civilization: the great dikes that keep Holland above the ocean's waves. He had to climb onto a roof to be rescued after the dikes were blasted open by the Germans and the ocean flooded in. After ceasing their advance temporarily, his regiment forced its way into Germany and seized the town of Kleve. They were then sent south to help a British advance through the German forests. His unit was told to advance across an open field into the forest. When they reached the edge of the forest, the German machine guns opened up, cutting down the men in the field and slashing through Morin's unit. The two comrades with him were shot through the head. Morin kept his head down, and rather than a bullet felt the impact of a boot as a German kicked him and ordered him to get up and surrender.

Out of 33 men in Morin's unit only seven survived the ambush to be imprisoned about 140 kilometres east of Berlin in Stalag 11-B. They were treated well by their captors, but Morin began wasting away because of the lack of food. When they were liberated by Canadian tanks two months later, Morin had dropped from 170 pounds down to 130. He was flown back to England

and immediately hospitalized for malnutrition.

A few weeks after getting back, victory in Europe was declared, and for the first time since he had arrived in 1942, Morin saw lights glowing across the metropolis. Morin was among the first allied soldiers allowed to return home. But before leaving England, he and about 200 other former POWs were invited to Buckingham Palace, where they met and had a picnic lunch with King George VI. Morin was shipped home and on Oct. 11, 1945 was discharged from the army and went home to live in Ile a la Crosse. That was the end of his first journey, but the seeds that sprouted into his second journey were already planted.

Morin had many jobs in the North after the war. He was a guide and interpreter for the RCMP. He raised minks. He found the few jobs and followed the sparse life of the northerner, and made his way into the 1970s. But by 1975, Morin had discovered that most returning Second World War Veterans had been offered a government land grant to help set them up in farming. Morin had never been informed of this program, and from talking to other Metis and Indian veterans, he learned they hadn't either.

It created a deep emotional wound for Morin, who had always felt the war years were a time of true comradeship, where race and ethnicity didn't matter. He had never felt discriminated against by fellow soldiers, by army officers, or by anyone in England. Even the Germans had treated him like just another soldier. But now he began to feel that his racial equality had ended with the war. "Nobody told us about [the program]," said Morin. "We were the forgotten soldiers."

It isn't an easy subject for Morin to talk about. When he's asked what he thinks about being discriminated against, he looks away and grows quiet. "I don't feel very good about that," he said. But Morin is determined to right the wrongs he feels were done to the Metis veterans. He helped form the Saskatchewan Metis Veterans Association and started demanding answers

from the federal government in 1975, and has been asking questions ever since.

But this journey has been less successful than the first. "The government completely denies it," said Morin. Both the federal Veterans Affairs Department and the Indian and Northern Affairs Department have told his group that they have no record of anyone ever ordering officials not to offer the veteran land program to aboriginal people. And that is where the dispute now lies. A lawyer in Regina is now working on the case.

Morin was head of the Metis Veterans Association, but he has cut back on his involvement as age has taken its toll on him. Two years ago, he and one of his sons were in the deep woods hunting moose when he suddenly collapsed from a stroke. Morin is now quite weak and has trouble rising from his chair. He holds onto a pole while he stands for a photograph. Wearing his beret and jacket of the Johns brings a glow of pride to Morin's face and he squares his shoulders as he learned to when he was 17.

After the photo, he lowers himself back into his chair and relaxes, while a handful of his more than two dozen grandchildren swarms around him. He seems a hero to the children, though they probably don't know much about his wartime service. And while Morin feels hurt by how Metis veterans were treated after the war, his war memories are still a source of joy. "I'm pretty damned proud of myself," he declares.

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REMEMBERING ROD BISHOP

by Lorna Docken

I remember Rod Bishop from the days he stopped in for coffee at my mom's house on his way back to Green Lake. I was always interested in hearing where he had been and what he had done that week. The stories were always exciting because he went to places like South Dakota and China and was at protests and important meetings with government where he was defending our Metis rights. He was inspirational to me and always respected my opinion as a young person. I have been asked by his brother Peter to write an article on Rod for this issue of *New Breed*. I am honoured to do so.

Rod is most well known for his dedication to the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan. He served as Area Director and on the Provincial Executive. He is cited as one of the early organizers of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan in Murray Dobbins' The One and a Half Men.

He also served the Town of Green Lake as Mayor and is remembered for his vision and courage in embarking on a court challenge against the Government of Saskatchewan. He was appalled with the fact that they reneged on their obligations to protect land set aside by Order-In-Council for the Metis. Some people have told me that Rod was also involved with mainstream politics, running for seats in the Saskatchewan Legislature and the City of Regina.

Rod spent most of his life in and around Green Lake fighting to better the lives of Metis people. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Alex Bishop Child Care Centre and improvements to the infrastructure of the community.

Rod's children Angela, Manley, Alex, Gwen and

Suiki remember him fondly as does his wife Rose (Richardson). He is remembered as a teacher and motivator as well as family man.



Rod Bishop February, 1982 *New Breed*



Rod Bishop Aug./Sept., 1986 *New Breed*

METIS WOMEN OF SASKATCHEWAN TO HOLD TRIPARTITE WORKSHOPS AT NORTH BATTLEFORD

by Lorna Docken

The Metis Women of Saskatchewan will hold a tripartite workshop at the Tropical Inn in North Battleford November 13, 1999. The organizing committee is looking forward to a well attended productive meeting which combines informational reports from the present board and workshops to receive input from the women which will direct policy development. The organizing committee would like to see the outcome to be Metis women's perspectives which will be taken to the MNS tripartite table.

Following is the proposed agenda for the meeting:

November 12

7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Registration and Social

November 13

8:00 a.m. Working Breakfast
Opening Prayer
Selection of Chair
MWS presentation on tripartite activities

10:00 a.m. Workshop One

11:30 a.m. LUNCH and presentation on MNS Tripartite process and Northern Project - Yvonne Vizina

1:00 p.m. Workshop Two

2:30 p.m. Workshop Three

4:00 p.m. Adjournment

- All three Workshops will be taking place simultaneously and will run three times.
 - 1 Metis women's perspectives in the MNS tripartite process (economic development, education and training)
 - 2 Youth, Social and Justice issues
 - 3 Visioning towards networking and communications
- Participants will be divided into three groups which will rotate between the workshops so that all women will offer input on each issue.

PRINCE ALBERT METIS FALLFEST 1999



New Breed expresses its sincere sympathy to the family of Joey Gladue.

Joey was killed in a car accident on the way to the Prince Albert Metis Fallfest.

We also wish to thank John Lagimodiere of Eagle Feather News who took up a collection for the Gladue family.

A moment of silence was observed for Joey.



PRINCE ALBERT METIS FALLFEST 1999



Photo credit: Yvonne Vizina

A Chronology of the Gabriel Dumont Institute by Darren Prefontaine

- 1976 A Métis cultural conference was held after extensive lobbying by the Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan (AMNSIS). Once the delegates were assembled, active planning for a Métis and Non-Status Indian Educational Institute began in earnest.
- 1976/801 All levels of government were lobbied for funding for the creation of the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI).
- 1980 Jan. 21 The Gabriel Dumont Institute came into formal existence in a formal signing ceremony with the Saskatchewan Department of Continuing Education.
- 1980 June 1 The Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) began operations.
- 1980 July 30 SUNTEP was formally launched.
- 1980 Oct. 27 GDI was granted official status by the provincial government during opening ceremony.
- 1980 GDI's first cultural conference was held.
- 1981 Sept. 14 SUNTEP classes began in Prince Albert.
- 1982 Jan. 28 The SUNTEP Centre in Prince Albert was opened.
- 1982 Nov. A cultural conference was held in Saskatoon.
- 1983 Dec. 13 GDI relocated its main office to 121 Broadway Avenue East in Regina.
- 1984 April 27 The first SUNTEP graduation was held at the Saskatoon centre.
- 1984 June 16 The first Regina SUNTEP graduation was held.
- 1985 The Napoleon Lafontaine Economic Development Scholarship was initiated.
- 1986 Sept. 15 The Gabriel Dumont Institute Scholarship was established.
- 1987 The Institute arranged for a co-management of the Native Studies Division within the SIAST system.
- 1988 May 27 GDI purchased a building in Prince Albert for its operations there.
- 1992 Feb. 1 The GDI report Towards Self-Government: A Mandate For the Nineties.
- 1994 The Dumont Technical Institute began operations.
- 1994 January The GDI report Vision and Direction for the Education and Training of the Métis People of Saskatchewan was released.



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United Way



National Aboriginal Head Start Training Workshop Held in Saskatoon



The National Aboriginal Head Start Training Workshop was held in Saskatoon, September 19 - 21, 1999. The event, organized by the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), drew over three hundred delegates from across Canada, including parents, board members, program directors, Head Start staff and others associated with the program. Over 90 Aboriginal Head Start project sites exist across the country.

Catherine Beaudin of the Madeleine Dumont Pre-School sat on the Training Workshop Steering Committee to guide the Institute in its planning of the event. The focus is on preschool children and includes the following components: Culture and language, Education, Health promotion, Parental involvement, Nutrition, Social support programs

The Training Workshop included sessions and activities which represented Métis, First Nations and Inuit cultures. Elders invited to the Workshop were Freda Ahenakew, Dorothy Aubichon, Dr. Martin Brokenleg, Dr Cecil King, Mary Cook, Fred Nulamaloak, John Lafond, Lily Daniels, Maria Campbell, Mary Lee, Danny Musqua, Rose Umperville, and Danny Umperville.

A strong Métis presence was evident through the Elders present, the cultural event, and the workshop sessions. The cultural event was hosted by comedian Don Bumstick. Métis fiddler Russ Boyer and his band, Maple Sugar, entertained with the Free Spirit Dancers who performed some Métis square dance reels and jig steps. Six year old Chantel Bouvier

demonstrated her fancy Métis jiggling steps to the crowds delight. Rounding out the evening was the Paykasktamuk Aboriginal Head Start Program

Powwow dancers from Regina, the Muskeg Lake Powwow dancers and drummers, and an Inuit dance troupe.

The training workshop facilitators included Saskatchewan's own Maria Campbell and Sherry Farrell-Racette. Maria Campbell's session, *Our Stories, Our People, Our Culture*, highlighted the storytelling as a traditional means of transmitting culture and values. She also provided ideas on how to collect and produce stories within a community.

Sherry Farrell-Racette's sessions focussed on traditional teaching and Learning, resources and strategies for positive cultural imprinting, and how to use community resources to affirm cultural identity.

Feedback on the conference was very positive, with many crediting the hard work and dedication of the GDI staff.

- E - Each one special.
- L - Love children, culture, life.
- D - Do good things for the community.
- E - Expect very little in return.
- R - Respect others.
- S - Share their knowledge, skills, and time.

The mandate of Aboriginal Head Start is to:

Foster the spiritual, emotional, intellectual and physical growth of the child.

Foster a desire in the child for life long learning.

Support parents and guardians as the prime teachers and caregivers of their children, making sure parents/caregivers play a key role in the planning, development, operation and evaluation of the program.

Recognize and support extended families in teaching and caring for children.

Make sure the local Aboriginal community is involved in the planning, development, operation and evaluation of the program.

Make sure that the initiative works with and is supported by other community programs and services.

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METIS ATHLETE MAKES IT TO THE TOP

by Lorna Docken as told by Paul Lavallee



Photo by: Paul R. Lavallee

Jacqueline Lavallee as seen "ON THE TOP" in this National Team photo is a fourth year SUNTEP student. Jacquie made the University Women's National Team and had an exciting summer playing basketball. She travelled to Spain for the Federation Internationale du Sport Universities (FISU) World University Games July 2nd to 19th and then travelled to Taiwan for the Jones Cup July 24th to August 2nd. It was a dream come true for Lavallee. She has a history of setting high goals and expectations for herself and making the National Team was just that. The highlight of her entire sports career!

Jacquie had been playing soccer in Edmonton for a major soccer league when she got an invitation for the National Basketball tryouts. She was pleasantly surprised to have been selected to play on a team of this calibre. Upon returning to Saskatoon, Jacquie packed her bags again and returned to Edmonton to finish her commitment to Ital Assuri, coach of the Alberta Women's Major soccer league.

Some of Jacqueline's sports achievements and awards are:

- 1995 Saskatchewan Soccer Association youth player of the year
- 1996 Graduated Holy Cross High Honour Roll
Received the Al Ehman leadership award
- Laurie Leir award for outstanding contribution to high school athletics
Memorial Award for high school girls most valuable soccer player
Memorial Award for high school girls most valuable basketball player
- 1997 University of Saskatchewan most outstanding rookie soccer player
University of Saskatchewan most outstanding rookie basketball player
Named to the Canada West all rookie basketball team
- 1998 Most valuable player for the women's indoor provincial soccer tournament

Jacquie is working hard towards her Bachelor of Education and Kinesiology degrees. Her majors are Native Studies and Kinesiology while her minor is Special Needs Education. Jacquie does not have much time on her hands but she finds time to visit friends and family as well as volunteering. She coaches athletics, soccer and basketball as well working with mentally challenged children and adults at their special athletic events. She has spoken to young aboriginal girls on the importance of getting involved with athletics and staying in school. Jacquie worked one summer for Saskatoon Youth Resource Centre providing summer recreation for "At Risk" youth ages 12 to 18 and teaching them social skills and peer relations.

Jacqueline Lavallee proudly wears the number ten. She would love to see you at the next home game.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor of New Breed

Tansi! Bonjour! Greetings!

On behalf of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan Youth council we are very pleased to announce the following accomplishments of the MNSYC.

Council Member Naomi Atkinson of Northern Region 1 has been very busy with the National HIV/AIDS Steering Committee, and will be holding a talking circle on Nov. 6th at the MNLA in North Battleford. We wish her all the best in a successful meeting.

Trevor Kennedy, chair of the MNSYC has been busy with his portfolio and attended the Aboriginal Sports Council meeting in Winnipeg, and is working very hard at lobbying for youth representation on the Aboriginal Sports Council. He will also be aiding the North American Indigenous Games Committee in the selection of Saskatchewan Athletes.

Clayton Seguin, representative of Eastern Region 2 is currently attending school in Lethbridge Alberta to pursue a career in law enforcement. We hope Clayton is working hard and wish him the best of luck.

We are proud to say that co-chair April MacPherson gave birth to her second son Colin Philip MacPherson and wish her the best with her little bundle of joy.

Secretary Jennifer Brown has been busy this summer with various projects. In August she attended the World Indigenous People's Conference on Education in Hawaii. She is also working with the UMACC Communications Committee as a Metis National Council

representative. We are proud to say that she has been accepted to work with the Youth Round Table on the Environment, previous board members include chair of the Metis National Youth Advisory Council Jason Madden.

The MNSYC is looking forward to the upcoming MNLA in North Battleford and will be attending and hope that youth from across the province will attend. If any youth wish to get in contact with us, we can be reached by email at: mnsyc@email.com

From Metis Nation of Saskatchewan Youth Council.

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GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE OF NATIVE STUDIES AND APPLIED RESEARCH

Salary Compensation Issue Reaches Critical Point

While regular programming and activities at the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) comprise the focus of day to day activities, the issue of salary compensation for the GDI staff has come to a critical point for the Board of Governors, management and staff of the Institute. An independent Salary Compensation Review conducted by Ernst and Young last January confirmed that many positions within the Institute are at salary levels below that found in similar positions at other educational institutions. Salary levels have not changed since 1991.

Once the salary inequity was substantiated by the review, the Board and staff expected a response from government within months. Unfortunately the issue has lingered and a response has yet to be forthcoming. As a result, the Board initiated the preparation of a legal position which will take the issue to the level of institutional discrimination. GDI's unionized staff has added their support for this position.

The provincial election and cabinet shuffle added further delays. However, the findings of the review are conclusive proof of the compensation issue, taking it beyond further debate by government. The *Update Report* conducted by GDI in 1996 found that investment in Métis education not only pays off, it pays back. Education and employment go hand in hand. So do employment, self-sufficiency and contributions to the provincial and federal tax bases. The Métis contribute significantly through taxation.

After generations of oppression which have denied the Métis access to, and benefit from education and employment, GDI has successfully assisted thousands of Métis in achieving education and employment since its foundation in 1980. The erosion of adequate funding for salaries, staffing and core programming has adversely affected the Institute's ability to achieve its mission. In spite of this funding shortfall, the Institute has still been able to attain impressive results.

While government drags its heels, the Institute is at risk of an impending strike by the unionized staff. This will adversely affect the 600 students currently enrolled in our programs and further demoralize staff, management and the Board.

Patience was requested. Patience was given. With no adequate reasons to delay further, the situation is becoming one of grave concern for the Métis. A fair response from government will enable the Institute to continue with its valued work, enable more Métis to pursue education and employment, and avoid hurting staff and students.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute is appealing to Métis citizens for their support on this issue.

∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ *Institute Mission Statement* ∞ *To promote the renewal and development of Métis culture through research, materials development, collection and distribution of those materials and the design, development and delivery of Métis-specific educational programs and services.* ∞ ∞



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SASKATOON LOCAL #11 HOMECARE ASSISTANT PROGRAM

by Lorna Docken



Seven staff operate Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to offer care and compassion to Metis who are elderly and in need of help. The

program is a training on the job initiative for Metis youth funded by Metis Employment and Training of Saskatchewan. The youth are learning culture, respect and employment skills while the elders are being helped with daily tasks such as cooking, cleaning, shopping and yard work.

The program serves about 50 Metis ranging in age from 55 to 92 years old. Program coordinator Louise Oelke and assistant coordinator state that the program picks up where Saskatoon Home Care leaves off and that their clients have come to really enjoy the service. Elders who were once lonely look forward to the visits and the youth have really come a long ways in terms of their employability skills.

Local #11 President Henry Cummings was approached by elders to start the program because they were in need. The old age security cheques they receive are simply not adequate to cover the costs of hiring taxis, housekeepers and handypersons. The program allows seniors to remain in their own homes and independent. According to the Cummings, "In the past, Metis people cared for their own seniors, but now everyone is too busy working, so we need an alternative. This program provides substitute family members for both the elders and the youth."

The local is also working on establishing a resource centre for Metis seniors. This would be a drop in centre for visiting and cultural activities. Visiting is a tradition rapidly losing popularity for contemporary Metis. They are approaching various agencies to fund the project as well as to extend the current program. Another project underway is publication of an information booklet for Metis seniors on health and other issues of relevance.

The staff were proud to relay success stories to me. One of their youth has decided to further her education in Home Care and will be attending the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology for training. The program has received rave reviews from the community. City of Saskatoon officials have told staff they wish that such programs existed for all seniors. Sadly, related to this is the problem staff have with turning away non-Metis. 1999 was year of the older person. New Breed salutes local #11 for its efforts!

For further information:



*Saskatoon Gabriel Dumont
Metis Local #11*

Home Care Assistant Program

Louise Oelke

Program Coordinator

145 - 1st Avenue North

Tel. 665-0657

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

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Elaine Lafleur
Industrial Mechanic
(Millwright)
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SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

C A N A D A

MNS Intergovernmental Affairs

by: Lorna Docken

New Breed Magazine has published several updates on initiatives under the Tripartite Process and the Bilateral Process. In this issue we would like to share some additional thoughts on governance issues within these processes.

The IA unit is part of the Core Operations of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan, and not an affiliate although it has its own Minister, Allan Morin. According to Coordinator Yvonne Vizina, the role of the unit is to develop good relations between the governments of Canada, Saskatchewan and the Metis Nation, so that the wishes of the Metis people may be brought to those political levels. While those processes are going on, there is also an opportunity for development of governance initiatives and sectoral initiatives.

The MNS is moving away from relying on developments in specific sectors and more into governance initiatives because they are umbrellas under which the sectors would occur. Vizina states: "What we have found in doing this is a resistance from within Canada and Saskatchewan because the jurisdictional issue is not resolved. There is no guarantee in the longevity of any program or service occurring under the sectors. There would be a guarantee of longevity of governance development. These factors create fear within Canada, Saskatchewan and even our own Metis organization because it is new and untried." People within our governance initiatives have been working hard to alleviate fear within the Metis citizenry. This can only be accomplished through full Metis participation and support. We require their ideas and the desire to build the nation. The same holds true for further development with Canada and Saskatchewan.

There is a need for a willingness to proceed with the development of the Metis Nation. Right now the willingness is limited due to uncertainty.

The work that MNS IA is doing now exists because of the work of past Metis leaders. There is a criticism within the Metis Nation that we have become too reliant in this decade on programs and services and that the heart and spirit of past Metis leaders has been pushed aside.

A personal observation of mine is that while the leaders fought for rights, self-determination and self-government, they also were concerned with bread and butter issues which lead to programs and services to better the lives of Metis people. Vizina feels that there are still many leaders who honour the vision of the past.

There was a time when our most celebrated leader, Louis Riel could not participate in federal meetings without risking his life. On September 16/99, a delegation from the MNS traveled to Ottawa and delivered a presentation to the Federal Interdepartmental Committee on Tripartite Self-Government Negotiations. Together with representatives from the Government of Saskatchewan. This was the first time in Canadian History that an Aboriginal organization, a provincial government and the Privy Council Office of the Government of Canada have addressed this committee.

The MNS IA unit is certainly making headway. The battles of today in the boardroom are no less important than the ones of the past where people have been shot.

The Metis Nation of Saskatchewan

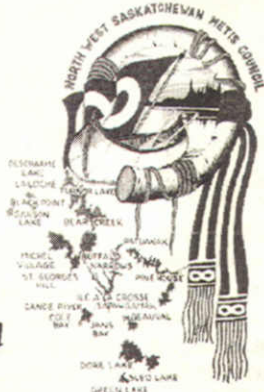
wishes to recognize the valiant contributions
of the Metis Warrior who fought so bravely for the
rights of the oppressed

Within the Metis Nation, Canada and Around the
World

The Northwest Saskatchewan Metis Council

Congratulates

**the Honourable Buckley Belanger
and
the Honourable Keith Goulet
on their portfolio appointments
for the Government of Saskatchewan**



THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE METIS NATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

by Lorna Docken (from information provided by MNS Provincial Secretary Robert Doucette)

The following is a chronicle of the past 60 years which culminated in the present day Metis Nation of Saskatchewan, our Metis governance infrastructure. In 1932 the Metis were in the aftermath of the 1885 Metis Resistance at Batoche and subsequent dispersal. This resulted in a need for organization, so that the socio-economic problems resulting from this dispossession could be addressed.

In the southern part of the province the Metis Society of Saskatchewan was formed to address issues relating to land rights. They were yet to convince federal and provincial governments of their existing Aboriginal title. Then there was the problem of jurisdiction. Neither level of government would accept responsibility for jurisdiction over Metis. However, in 1941 the MSS received their first provincial grant of \$10,000. This was used to retain the firm of Noonan & Hodges of Regina to prepare a brief asserting that Metis had outstanding Indian land title.

The Noonan & Hodges report was discussed at a November 1943 meeting along with fishing rights, medical care and Metis Society membership. In 1946 the CCF government of Tommy Douglas worked towards alleviating the "Metis Problem" through holding a reorganization conference. The CCF described the Metis as being in a "fractious state". During the CCF

era (1944-1964) there was a continuous battle over who was going to represent Saskatchewan Metis. In the north the "Metis Association of Saskatchewan" was formed and the MSS represented the south. Both remained active until an amalgamation in 1968 resulted in the Metis Society of Saskatchewan being the representative of Saskatchewan Metis.

In the 1970s The Association of Metis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan was formed. This alliance would exist until 1988 when a province wide referendum vote of AMNSIS members resulted in a Metis only organization to become known as the Metis Society of Saskatchewan.

The MSS would be the political voice of Saskatchewan Metis until December 1993 when a New Constitution was adopted and the name changed to the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan. The new constitution was seen as a basis for governance as opposed to a vehicle for incorporation. Various Acts have been passed under this constitution. In 1996, the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan Secretariat was formed to perform administrative functions connected to incorporation.

Although the name of our organization has changed over the years, our issues have remained the same. We are still struggling for recognition of our rights as Aboriginal people and still dealing with the social problems created by dispossession from our land and birthright.



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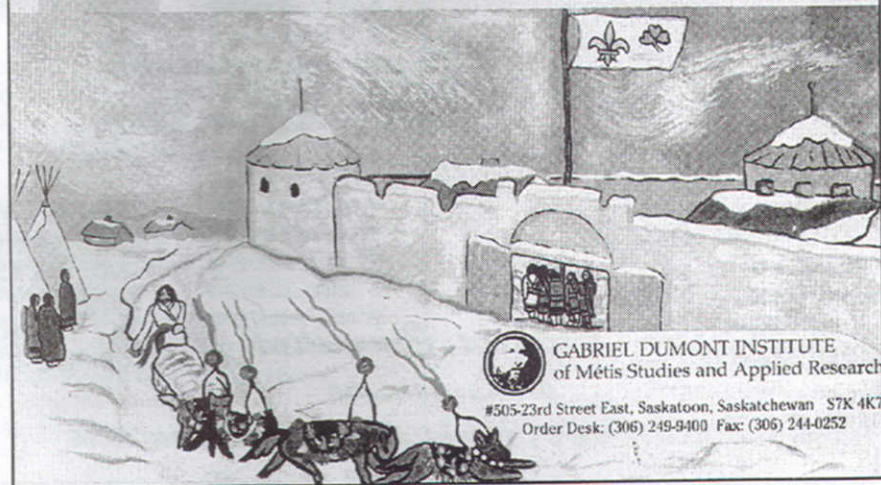
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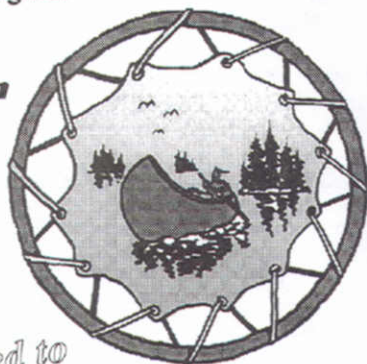
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GREEN LAKE METIS MUST DECIDE ON USING TIMBER HARVESTING RIGHTS AS COLLATERAL TO CREATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS

by Lorna Docken

At a public meeting October 17, 1999, Green Lake residents were asked to decide on using their timber harvesting rights as collateral. A partnership between Green Lake Metis Wood Products and Stillwater out of Kalispell Montana could result in a Saskatchewan based finger jointing operation which would employ 38 individuals in Green Lake and Saskatoon as well as shared profits for the two groups.

The operation would entail GLMWP obtaining blemished lumber and trimming off the unusable portions which would be made into chips and sold to the pulp companies. The unblemished lumber would then be shipped to Saskatoon for production of finger jointed materials which are essentially glued together blocks of good wood. There is a huge market in the United States for this product which is stronger and more durable as well as virtually warp proof.

The venture is to be cost shared, with GLMWP retaining 51% ownership. Capital has been raised in the form of grants and loans however it is necessary for the community of Green Lake to use their timber harvesting rights as collateral for a bank loan. Stillwater is putting up investment capital as well as their markets.

Most discussion took place over which sections of the timber blocks would be allocated for collateral. There were concerns over using sections of the 12 townships included in the current Metis claim. It was suggested that there was land "owing" outside the townships and that the government should be approached on using these blocks instead.

MNS President Clem Chartier was in attendance

and indicated that there was a possibility for training initiatives under Dumont Technical Institute and Metis Employment and Training of Saskatchewan, as well as economic development opportunities.

Due to low attendance, participants were not comfortable with making a decision that would affect the future of the community. It was requested that a plebiscite be held so that all residents would have a chance to vote on the issue.

The Village Council, however will make a final decision at their next meeting, November 1, 1999.



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How Far Has Northern Development Come?

Reprinted from Nov. 1981 *New Breed*

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT: A Blessing or a Curse?

an opinion by
Jim Favel



There is an old saying "the rich get richer and the poor get poorer". This certainly is true in northern Saskatchewan. The multi-national mining companies are getting richer, the Native people are getting poorer!

Development of resources in the North means very little to Native people. There are lots of mines being opened. But Native people are not getting any benefits. They are kept untrained and unskilled while resource development goes ahead at a very rapid pace. This is leaving Native people farther and farther behind in their own lands! All the high paying skilled jobs are being taken by white people from the south. They come into our land like thieves in the night. They take our resources, take our jobs, then leave for their homes in the south when the mining projects are finished. They go without a thought of the damage they have done to our trapping and fishing areas. So much for the promise of a better life for Native people.

A few farsighted whitemen saw what could happen in the north. The Bayda report, the Richardson report and the Mitchell report all had one major recommendation. That was for the government of Saskatchewan to establish a full-fledged technical school in northern Saskatchewan. They knew Native people had to have training to get anything out of the resource development of northern Saskatchewan. We all know where the new technical school is to be built. It is being built in Prince Albert. We all know that the Honorable Jerry Hammersmith, Minister of Northern Sask-

atchewan, represents the Prince Albert-Duck Lake constituency. Then we are told this is not a political move. Do they take us for complete fools? All Native people get is the repair depot in Buffalo Narrows which will not train Native people for highly skilled mining jobs. This is another stop gap project of DNS!

It is high time all Native people start working together to demand our rights. Metis people are without land in a country that is supposed to be one of the richest in the world. One thing about law that has always bothered me is how could an English king in 1670 give away half of Canada to the Hudson Bay Company? This king never even saw what he was giving away! Our ancestors were living in these lands but it seems that the law was meant only for white kings, not Indian chiefs.

The Minister of DNS talks about all the jobs coming because of the mining projects. Yet more and more of the Native people are being forced to live on welfare. The vast part of the resource wealth is going to the south. We are just given some housing and other minor projects to shut us up. Even the taking of fish and moose is strictly regulated by the provincial government. Metis people are fined or jailed for trying to feed their families like their ancestors used to.

Tourist camps, which are owned by Americans to serve Americans, seem able to take as much fish and moose as they want. But those are tourist dollars talking. We all know how much Canada depends on the tourist industry. To HELL with Native people!

Our Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) does not use his office

to speak out in support of projects like the technical school. In fact he makes very little noise about any pro-government project that will keep Native people down and will keep the resource dollars flowing into the south. It is about time our MLA does something for the people who elected him. It is his job to listen to the concerns of the Native people and to fight in the legislature on behalf of Native people of this area. Surely he can get more than a repair depot and bridge for the westside of Saskatchewan. He can not even take credit for the high-way improvements as this came because of the Cluff Lake mining project. An MLA can do a lot for his riding if he has the interest of constituents as his main concern. Perhaps our MLA has to be reminded what his objectives should be!

Once again I must strongly suggest to all Native groups, it does not matter if you have differing viewpoints. The main thing is that you are Metis and your children and your children's children will be living in this area of northern Saskatchewan for countless generations. We must unite in order to have a strong solid front to give these future generations something to live for, something much better than the welfare our generation and past generations have been forced to accept. This is OUR land. It is OUR resources that are being plundered by the multi-nationals, federal and provincial governments. We must take a strong stand in order to get what we deserve. We don't demand it all. We just want our fair share, something we do not have now! □

(Jim Favel, from *Ile-a-la-Crosse*, is the AMNSIS Area Director for Northwest Region III.)

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Greetings! It is my pleasure to present our readers with another issue of *New Breed*. This month we focussed on developments, past and present, which pave(d) the path to Metis self-determination.

Metis have existed as a people since the early days of the fur trade. Our goals for a land base and self-government have remained unchanged. The leadership of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan and its forerunners have kept these goals at the forefront through the years, while managing to address corollary socio-economic concerns.



The Battle of Seven Oaks in 1816 solidified our identity as the Metis Nation and events such as the Sayer Trial of 1849 added to this sense of nationhood. The Buffalo Hunt (see page 13) served our ancestors in many ways. It was a way to organize politically, a justice system and an economic activity.

The issue of the 1869 Metis Resistance at Red River was one of governance. Why would a people who were independent and self-governing accept authority from outsiders? As is evident from the 1869 List of Rights, (see page 15) the Metis wished to negotiate into confederation on their own terms. Those terms were largely incorporated into the 1870 Manitoba Act. It is also a known fact that the Metis were receiving a better deal from the Americans than the Hudson Bay Company in terms of trading and that there was a movement for the Metis to bring Manitoba into the United States. The choice to negotiate Manitoba into confederation was made by the Provisional Government of Louis Riel. One must keep in mind that the Manitoba Act recognized Metis Aboriginal title to the land and granted 1.4 million acres for extinguishment.

In the 1885 Metis Resistance at Batoche the issue was land. Ironically, the Metis who had brought about the Manitoba Act were forced to flee the tyranny of soldiers

sent to Red River to squash the Metis movement. These Metis had re-settled peacefully along the Saskatchewan and were reacting to the threat of losing their land to outsiders. They were also still operating under the laws established by the Buffalo Hunt and evolving towards other systems of governance.

After the defeat of Metis forces at Batoche and subsequent hanging of our leader, Louis Riel, our people continued to practice our culture and maintained our political organization in less formal terms. We existed harmoniously within Canadian Society as we had done at Red River.

Early organizers of the current Metis governance system, such as Rod Bishop and Vital Morin, need to be recognized as do the leaders of today for their contributions. Louis Riel cannot hear our words of encouragement but our leaders who are out there in the trenches working towards the vision of the Metis Nation can. I heard a comment today about "the lonely lives of leaders". Do not be afraid to offer praise and encouragement where it is due.

It is up to each and every one of us to keep the movement strong and not to let the vision go away. Whether we work within the MNS and its Affiliates or in the mainstream, we should not forget to honour our leaders, particularly on November 16. Louis Riel died in 1885 on that day believing that he had done the right thing in defending Metis rights. Hopefully there will be commemorative services in most of our MNS locals on November 16.

We are looking forward to the upcoming MNS Metis Nation Legislative Assembly November 5, 6 and 7th in north Battleford and the Metis Women's workshop the following weekend. These will be productive meetings inching us a little farther down the road to reaching our goals. Hope to see you there! *Lonna*

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