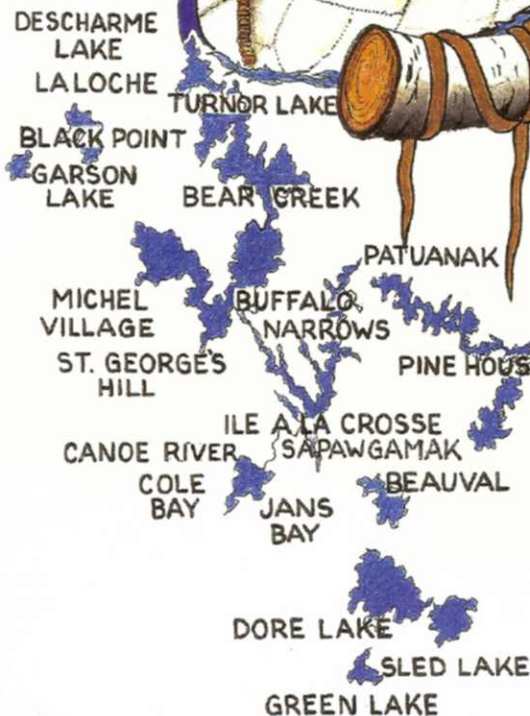


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NORTH WEST SASKATCHEWAN METIS COUNCIL



Magazine

February 1999

Canadian Publication Agreement #1408968

\$2.00 per copy

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NEW BREED MAGAZINE

New Breed Magazine is published by/monthly by *Metis Communications Sask. Inc.*

Offices are located at:
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Saskatchewan S7L 6M8

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

The Prince Albert Winter Festival will probably be in full swing by the time the reader sees this and "Voices of the North" will be showcasing Aboriginal talent. There are a high number of Metis who have made it to the big time in sports and entertainment such as Brian Trotter, Theoren Fleury or Terri Clark and a good way to start is in "Voices of the North" if you are a singer. Actually, considering the high number of Metis or First Nations people in the Festival itself, it should be re-named the Indigenous Festival, eh?

There will also be a symposium for Aboriginal film makers, writers, actors and technical people at the Sands Hotel, in Saskatoon, on Friday and Saturday, February 19th and 20th. Considering how fast the number of Aboriginal people has grown in the film industry, it should be an ideal opportunity for anyone who wishes to break in.

There will also have been a Lands Claim Conference in Buffalo Narrows and stories deal with it elsewhere in this issue. The rights issue is still there too and appears to be an uphill battle, considering how the government seems to drag its feet.

We will win. There's no doubt. But it will take time and determination from everyone.

It's sad though, when our traditional way of life is under attack, as in the case of Brian MacDonald, a trapper from Buffalo Narrows. It seems that the only way the government will listen is for us to beat them at their own game.

Why not? There are very intelligent Metis who come from "the bush." You have to look no further than to the MNS executive and staff or Dwayne Roth, a Metis Lawyer in Saskatoon. Also, just because a person chooses to follow the traditional lifestyle, like trapping or hunting, doesn't mean they're not intelligent or educated. For the most part they have more going for them than most people living in the big, polluted and overcrowded cities.

On the rights issues and Land Claims issues front, there is definitely light at the end of the tunnel. Jeanette Calliou, Treasurer of the Alberta Metis Settlements General Council spoke at the Land Claims Conference in Buffalo Narrows. She told us how the Metis in Alberta had struggled and how they now control over a million acres of land, with fishing, hunting and gathering rights along with the right to participate in all natural resources exploration.

It's a matter of time but it won't be that many years before we will be in the same position as the Alberta Metis.

LAND CLAIMS CONFERENCE HELD IN BUFFALO NARROWS

Northern Project... the result of years of Hard Work!

2

BUFFALO NARROWS

By Wil Smolkowski

To most people the sight of big trucks tearing up the roads and raising dust, normally means prosperity and jobs. But to the Metis in Buffalo Narrows and the surrounding communities, it means something else: The prosperity and jobs created by forestry and mines, always head south with the trucks.

Added to their frustration is the grim statistic of 25-80% of Metis in northern communities being unemployed. With that high a rate of unemployment, the traditional way of life is being lost along with the wisdom that "if you looked after the land, it would look after you."

Statistics also show alcohol abuse has gone up along with a corresponding raise in criminal charges laid. The only area where the amount of charges has not gone up is impaired driving, and the local joke is that "the RCMP must assume that people are only avoiding the potholes when they weave back and forth on the road."

Coupled with the soul destroying aspect of unemployment is the long standing and festering issue of Land Claims settlement along with the Primrose Weapons Range Compensation Range. The original Metis inhabitants have yet to be fully compensated for losing their land in the weapons range, although former First Nations residents have been. The government has dragged its feet with the Metis and the years have slipped by until many people are old and wondering when it will happen.

On January 29, at the Lake View Complex the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan (MNS) held a conference to plot a course of action. Mayor Ray Laliberte was master of ceremonies while present were Dr. Frank Tough, an expert witness and North West Research Team member along with Tanya Schramm, Bev Findlay and Chris Andersen. Also present were Clem Chartier, MNS president, treasurer Allan Morin, and Philip Chartier, Northwest Area Director, along with the North West Council members Donald Favel and Philip Chartier.

"We have talked about rights for a long time and become frustrated over the years," Clem Chartier said. "The government has told us we have no rights (hunting, trapping, logging and fishing)."

This comes after nearly a century of struggle for the "Original Payees" who took scrip for their land in 1906 at Ill A La Crosse.

"They didn't know their rights then but now its up to the young people." The "Original Payees" were paid \$240.00 in scrip to buy land but they weren't aware of what the scrip meant. The only good land was in the south, 200 to 300 miles away and they would have had to pack up and move from the land their ancestors had occupied for milieus. Also the people back then still dealt in a "Beaver Economy" and some gave away their scrip for much less than it was worth.

However, the original scrip did not

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extinguish the right to hunt, fish or trap for food and it is separate from the Land Issue.

In 1994 during a court claim in Saskatoon, the MNS asked the government for the right to run their own affairs in the north west part of the province. But in order to demand their rights, a tradition of having lived off the land and having established a presence for generations must be proved. That takes time and money. The government has finally agreed to make \$300,000 available in order to do the research."

Chartier also stated that the Metis Nation will have to make the conferences as open as possible to allow everyone to bring input. The Metis Nation also needs the input of the government.

"Then we can negotiate for all our rights and benefits.

Allan Morin also spoke and said, "After years of inaction by the government, we are now asserting our rights. Our day in court is long overdue. The Northern Project is the result of years of hard work." He then thanked Gerald Morin (President MNC), Jim Durocher (past President MNS) and Clem Chartier for the work they've done.

"We look forward to our day in court," Morin added.

Philip Chartier then added, "Hopefully we'll come to a better understanding of the process of laying land claims.

"We Metis and First Nations have lived off the land up to the 50's and 60's. It was our traditional way of life and there was no need for Welfare, no need for the RCMP and no need to lock your door. Today, 30 years later, there are more social workers, more RCMP Officers than ever before and people lock their doors at night.

"What has happened? Alcohol has definitely taken its toll."

Added to the misery of unemployment is the fact that the government shut down

Uranium City along with Key Lake, Rabbit Lake which Cojema has closed.

"There was no warning. People were at the plane, ready to go to work when suddenly they were told their job was over. All we have left is a big hole in the ground. Most of the workers were Aboriginal," Chartier added.

Jeannette Calliou, treasurer of the Alberta Metis Settlement General Council provided a note of optimism to the gathering saying, "You (MNS) are we were 10 years ago." She also explained how the Alberta Metis have control over one million acres and how through persistence the Saskatchewan Metis will win.



North West Council Member (from left) Allan Morin, Treasurer MNS, Philip Chartier Area Director, Northern Region 2 and Donald Favel, President Northern Region 3.



Louis Riel Memorial Dancers entertain during banquet at Lake View Complex, Buffalo Narrows.

COMPENSATION FOR PRIMROSE BOMBING RANGE LANDS LONG OVERDUE!

4

By Wil Smolkowski

Over 30 years ago, during the Cold War, the United States and Canada faced the Soviet Union over the North Pole in a constant state of readiness. The United States Air Force along with the Royal Canadian Air Force practised dropping practice bombs so they could be ready. And the main area in which they did this was the Primrose Weapons Range, which sits close to the Alberta border.

To the Americans and Canadians to the south, the area was a vast uninhabited hinterland, perfect for dropping bombs. What they didn't know, or rather didn't want to know, was that the land was not uninhabited. Instead, a people whose history goes back much longer than either of the above nations, lived off the land in the manner they had for countless generations. The federal government did however tell the people to pack up and leave the only land they knew. And when they didn't comply immediately, the bombers came from Cold Lake Alberta, dropping bombs near Canoe River.

Ambrose Maurice (president/representative - Sapawgamik Metis Local #176) and his family lived there, along with their stock. Suddenly, without warning the bombers swooped down, dropping their practice bombs right in front of their home. They could have very easily killed livestock or even humans and Ambrose still has pieces of a bomb and wire which fell from the sky without warning. Ambrose was also one of the original "Payees" who received a small amount of money and who still awaits the rest of the compensation he is owed.

Following is his letter, read to the Land Claims Conference held in Buffalo Narrows on January 29, 1999.

This letter is a reminder, regarding my longstanding situation with the Primrose Weapons Range. Once again I will remind you of the reasons for my request and my impatience to deal with this situation of compensation. I am 72 years old. I have begun this battle for adequate compensation more than 15 years ago. Still I have no positive results to speak of. This certain land has sustained a life for myself and my children, as it did for my parents and grandparents before me. Today, however my children lack this same benefit and I see that as a great grievance to them and my grandchildren. They have lost their rights to hunt, fish, trap and gather in this land base; rights that remain in my family as part of our culture and livelihood.

I personally have received a meagre sum of money as an original "payee," yet my children and grand-children have not seen a penny paid to them for their loss. My brother Mathias died

almost two years ago, seeking the same request without results. I hope that I will be fortunate enough to see a day when my children and grandchildren see more than a penny for the loss of this land base. I would also like to strongly remind you to consider my request of seeking compensation for the original "payees" and their children and grandchildren, before taking on the challenge of supporting and helping outside interest. This process only makes it more difficult for the original "Payees" to get their claims recognized.

I define Original Payees as:

- (1) having once received payments (in a small sum.)
- (2) having lived off this land base personally.
- (3) having the inherent right to enter this land base (should they choose.)

I do not consider this as a property of the

Cont/d next page

federal government. I consider this as my land base, with the right to practice my inherent rights.

Should this issue continue to remain ignored by our leadership, then I personally would like my leadership to explain why, so that I can express these words of defeat to my children and grandchildren, and seek the advice of leadership as to what my next step should be, considering that in my opinion, they (the leadership) were the ultimate step to a solution. This letter is not intended as an insult on anyone personally, its merely to remind those who drag their feet that time is not something to be wasted, but to be used. On behalf of the 33 Metis voters in al #176, Sapawgamik, consider our request without anymore delayed hesitation.



*Ambrose Maurice,
president/representative of Sapawgamik, Metis
Local #176.*

NORTHERNERS SHAFTED OVER HOUSING!

By Wil Smolkowski

To Eric Hartley and his wife who live in Buffalo Narrows, renting a house from the government in 1978 seemed like a good thing. The original payments were \$100 per month and the agreement was supposed to last 25 years. But according to Hartley, you never trust the government, especially Sask Housing.

The first sign that all was not well was when the government wanted the Hartley's to pay 25% of their gross family income. The payments jumped to \$685.00 per month. Then in 1990 it went to \$860 per month for both work, Eric for the Highways Department and his wife for the Friendship Centre.

"A field worker from Sask Housing would come to our house and get my wife to sign papers and the next thing we knew, the payments would go up."

The Hartley's offered the government \$35,000 to buy the house outright, even though they had already paid \$128,000 in payments. They had also built a garage in front with a deck, paying for the improvements themselves even though they had to dig into a hillside to do it. Then they finished the basement.

The government said no to their offer so they Hartley's signed a quit claim and moved into a 1997 trailer. They were in arrears \$3,000 at the time. After they had moved out, the government tore out all the improvements the Hartley's had made to house and then billed them for it. The government also claimed that their house cost \$125,000 to build but according to Eric it had been built as a make work project.

"They didn't even have to dig the basement and they used green lumber."

Ironically, at one time Eric worked for Sask Housing as a Field Worker, helping people in deciding what payments they could afford, and in getting the renovations they were due.

"A lot of them couldn't afford the payments so I guess I was too lenient."

Now, the Hartley's can't get a loan for another house due to their being in arrears \$25,000, including the charges for tearing out the renovations they had done to the house they had lived in.

"We have a good credit rating. The Credit Union lent us \$15,000 for the trailer but CMHC won't lend us any money. If you're on welfare you get everything free. If you're rich you don't pay taxes. But if you make \$30,000 you pay the most."

They took a quarter of our gross income (for the house the Hartley's lived in) and a quarter went to food and other expenses. How do you live?"

So, although both the Hartley's work full time, they are stuck in an old trailer and they can't afford to buy a house of their own.

SMOL TALK

By Wil Smolkowski

Opinions expressed in this column are those of the author only, and not of the Metis Nation Of Saskatchewan.

Ron (not his real name) pointed towards the other side of the river, over the white expanse of frozen ice and snow and to the low lying hills beyond. From where we stood not far from the Shrine at Batoche, we could see the grey poplar trees, stark and frozen in winter, interspersed with the darker green of the white spruce.

"Beautiful, ain't it?" he asked, a bright moisture in his eyes. The moisture came from more than just the chill wind that blew across the Saskatchewan river, for he had pointed to the "homestead" where he had grown up.

"You see that there... that's where me and my Dad used to cross the river with the sleigh and horses, hauling wood," he added. The wood had been green poplar, felled with an axe and carried or dragged by hand through the deep snow to the bobsled. It had been serious work for it was to be next year's supply of firewood.

"Funny, eh? I mean, the other day I was mad because my heater wasn't working right in my truck. The darned thing's seven years old and the four wheel drive isn't that good either," he paused for dramatic effect.

"Heck, my Dad used to dream about having a truck. And four wheel drive... it was unheard of."

The above may seem a bit strange to the reader, talking about a man, used to rough work and rough ways, pointing to where he grew up and not being able to control the moisture in his eyes. But memories can do that to a fella.

We all have them. We all remember when we were little and growing up amidst a world of tough times and tough people. But over the years the tough memories can take on a tinge of fondness.

Ron had hit upon a good point though, even if he had a hard time controlling the memories and

moisture. What we complain about today we, or especially our parents, would have killed for, years ago. Central heating, air conditioned cars and remote starts in the winter, to name a few, have blessed our lives. We have come a long way, and if we drive an old truck it's by choice, and not because "it's two weeks to payday and no job in sight," as we used to joke in the old days, when a sense of humour was an acquired skill and at times the only one.

Life has indeed changed. But hard times! Everything is relative for how can you tell a young urban Metis, who is living in poverty in a city that he has it made, compared to the old folks in the olden days? Poverty is poverty, no matter where you are and this writer would far sooner be poor, out in the bush, than in a city any day.

Still, if times are good for some of us now, it appears the hardest thing to do is to get used to it. Memories, even if they've warmed over the years, are still there and with it the uneasy thought that no matter how good things are today, they're going to get worse. That appears to be one of the legacies of poverty; for it seems the hardest thing at times is not the fact that you can't break free from it, whether it's surviving on a trap line or living on assistance in a city, but the fact that it stays with you, no matter how good things are today.

Life is full of challenges, especially for Metis. There's the challenge of breaking the cycle of assistance and substance abuse, of finding meaningful employment and living a productive and what we consider a normal life.

Then, if we are successful, there's the challenge of putting the past behind us, and living life on its terms, one day at a time. But then, Metis are accustomed to tough times for what would life be without its hurdles. Now there's another challenge, eh. How do you live an easy life and not lose the identity of being a tough person used to tough ways?

THIS ROAD HAS BEEN TRAVELLED BEFORE!

By Wil Smolkowski

To the Metis gathered in the Lake View Complex in Buffalo Narrows on Jan 29, the long road ahead appeared grim. The government was still dragging its feet on the Land Claims issue and ignoring compensation claims for the Primrose Bombing Range. In addition delegates were face with increasing problems in housing, employment and other areas.

Still, there is optimism for the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan leadership is working hard on all the issues. History is on our side for we are not the only ones who struggle. The Alberta Metis Nation has fought the government for years and have finally won most of their battles.

Jeannette Calliou, treasurer of the Alberta Metis Settlement General Council spoke to the gathering and told how, they in Alberta, had once struggled.

"You are where we were 10 years ago," she said. "We wish you well in your struggle for self-government."

The accomplishments of the Alberta Metis Nation (AMN) did not come easy though. Each gain was a long hard battle against entrenched government bureaucrats and politicians. They (AMN) now have control over one million acres and has the right to hunt, fish and gather on their colonies. They (AMN) need 51% of the people in favour in order to sell even one acre of land. The AMN is totally democratic and the people pass by-laws governing the community and they have achieved a measure of fiscal accountability.

"Our dream is total self-government but so far we have not yet been recognized by the Federal government," Calliou added. "Our purpose is to stay united. Everything we do will be by the people."

The AMN is setting an example for the world in aboriginal self-government and their communities are thriving. They do not own total



rights to gas or oil, but no company can do any exploration without permission from the council. The AMN also has the right to participate in any development of minerals and they have established their own company.

A main goal of the AMN is to preserve their culture and lifestyle and manage their own affairs.

"To us... the grass roots people are everything. We do not pass one law without a majority."

VISION

*And rising up after years of oppression
evoking the greatness of our ancestors
in the memory of our Metis martyrs:
We vow to control again our own destiny
and recover our complete humanity
and pride in being Metis people.*

Opening Prayer at the Meeting of the
Metis Nation Cabinet in Regina
March, 1993



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METIS CUISINE

NEW BREED Magazine

February 1999

Tempt Your Tummy...

*From the Community Kitchen of
Fort Battleford Urban
Development*

This recipe is for what is as popular to Metis as tea is to an Englishmen:

Parsley Dumpling

1 1/3 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 tablespoon parsley
1/2 teaspoon salt

Set aside in measuring cup.
2/3 cup milk
2 tablespoon melted butter
1 egg.

Stir milk mixture into flour mixture just until blended.



Dried Meat

Cut a piece of moose meat - about 2 pounds, into 16 inch. strip.

Place the strips of meat over the out door fire to dry.

When dark brown in colour, it's cooked.

Serve with moose lard or with butter.

It can also be cooked in the oven.

Crushed Meat With Onions

Grease a frying pan with margarine or butter.

In the pan, combine crushed meat, green onions & sugar.

Stir well while cooking - should be done in 5 minutes.

Please Note!

Please submit recipes to:
219 Robin Cres.,
Saskatoon, Sk. S7L 6M8
C/O Cuisine Editor
Telephone #343-8285

*Thank you and may the warm winds of
spring blow soon!*

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equipment should stop working altogether. But timing devices could be a problem on some VCRs, fax machines, security alarms, digital thermostats, answering machines, and video and digital cameras. We can help you to get Year 2000 information supplied by appliance retailers and manufacturers.

Your car

Manufacturers say it is highly unlikely that the Bug will cause car problems. We can show you what several of the major car manufacturers have to say about the Bug and their products.

Don't wait until you have a problem to begin finding out about the Year 2000 Bug. Start now! **Watch for the Millennium Bug Homecheck guide in your mailbox.** For more information call:

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Canada

DREAMS DO COME TRUE!

By May Henderson

January 22, 1999 was the day that a dream came true for Lorie Hessdorfer and six fellow students. It was the official opening of seven businesses, including Success Bookkeeping Services, Oak Tree Bookkeeping Services, Saskatoon Doggy Wash Inc., Trobolt's Home Bakery Inc. and Silent Vending Inc. All this was made possible through a grant from Sask Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Inc. Self-Employment Program in Saskatoon.

Lorie, the owner of Oak Tree Bookkeeping, 125 - 1222 Alberta Avenue, Saskatoon, is a very unique person. She was born deaf and has Cerebral Palsy yet having two disabilities has not been a barrier for her to reach her goal in life. She is also proud of her Metis heritage and is a member of CUMFI Local #165. Before entering London, Ontario Prep School, Lorie attended R.J.D. Williams School for the Deaf at the age of 4 years. She received her grade 12 diploma from the school for the deaf and then enrolled in a regular grade 12 high school, graduating from Holy Cross High School. She then went on to University where she received her B.Sc. Degree from the Gallaudet University of Washington, DC I recall asking her mother how Lorie was doing while at University. She would say that Lorie was lonesome but determined to graduate and that is what she did. I remember her graduation at R.J.D. Williams School for the Deaf. I was invited to attend the special occasion. The principal told a little story about each graduate. When it was Lorie's turn to receive her scroll he told how he had first encountered Lorie. She had been sitting on the bottom stairs trying desperately to put on her boots. He had gone to assist her but she had

pushed him away. He said it had showed her determination to help herself.

Lorie has proven him right by achieving all her goals even though she has two disabilities. I personally feel she is a role model to everyone, and proof that history repeats itself, for again I had the honour of witnessing Lorie's grand opening of her own bookkeeping business, Oak Tree Bookkeeping.

Lorie would like to thank her parents, Cliff and Lorraine Hessdorfer, her sisters Janet and Debbie and their families for all the love and support that they have given her through difficult times.

Special acknowledgement goes to the following: Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Inc. (Self-Employment Program) Central Urban Metis Federation Inc. president, Rose Boyer; Western Region Metis Women president May

Henderson; Metis Employment and Training Inc. Perry Chaboyer CEO and staff; Clarence Campeau Development Fund; Industry Canada; Cerebral Palsy Association of Saskatoon; Congress of Aboriginal Peoples; and Urban Aboriginal Job Fund, Ottawa, Ontario.



Lorie Hessdorfer

*Let his peace be upon us!
Our souls open fields of infinity.
Joys unfold! While we possess God's
greatest peace, Untold marvels are
revealed, see, we behold."*

Louis Riel, from his cell in Regina, 1885.

"WE ARE A BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE!"

NIPAWIN

By Wil Smolkowski

In order to solve the pressing problems of Drug and Alcohol abuse, we must first identify the causes of the problems.

The pressing problems facing Eastern Region 2 and the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan (MNS) were discussed on February 4 & 5th by 250 people at the Evergreen Centre, in the democratic grass roots manner of the Metis. After the opening prayer James Froh, Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator (Tripartite), and also Master of Ceremonies, introduced the main speakers. MNS President, Clem Chartier, Gerald Morin, president of the Metis National Council (MNC), Helen Johnson, Area Director, Eastern Region 2, Glen Day, Mayor of Nipawin and Andy Renaud, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Government of Saskatchewan, along with the Keynote Speaker, Yvonne Howse.

Also speaking were Rose Boyer, Metis Elder and Don Favel, Minister of Health for the MNS along with Colleen Carnegie and Clayton Sequin, Youth Advisory Committee.

The purpose of the conference was to tackle the thorny issues facing our elders and youth. On the first day four workshops dealt with Elder Needs, Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Our Youth and the Law and Victims Services. During the second day, Community Justice, Public Health/Mental Health, Access to Health and Justice Services and Suicide were discussed, and the keynote speaker was Wayne McKenzie.

One of the problems facing our people is also a loss of traditional values. Gerald Morin spoke to the heart of the issue by saying, "In Green Lake we used to gather over coffee or tea and listen to our elders. That's where we gained our values and wisdom and that's something we don't do enough of today."

Clem Chartier also stressed traditional values saying, "We have to make a conscious effort to ask our elders for traditional knowledge," while Helen Johnson added, "It is very important that programs be administered by Metis to Metis."

Yvonne Howse strongly stated the need for traditional values by adding, "How we take care of one another is how we honour those who were before us. When we do not know who we are, is when we are in trouble, for when we have a loss of identity is when we have a loss of self."

The point of feeling good about ourselves is

knowing where we come from. If you feel shame, you can't extend yourself to another person."

Howse also explained how Cultural Genocide is when someone puts something in your mind that isn't true, so you lose who you are and it is very important for educators to educate from the bottom up.

"Justice is saying No! You will not take our children. It is challenging... telling people that abuse is not acceptable. Justice is honesty, talking straight. But unfortunately if we don't know who we are, we let others define justice for us," Howse added.

On the second day, Wayne McKenzie presented the conference with some very disturbing statistics concerning work and aboriginals. Within the next four years 25% of the people entering the workforce will be aboriginal. At the present one out of every two aboriginals is unemployed and every year that goes up by 1%.

"We had better start making some decisions and find out why the number of Aboriginals who are employed is so low," McKenzie said and then added, "Learning has to lead to earning."

Another statistic is that of the 45,000 people working in Health Care in the province, only 300 are Aboriginal. Also at the University of Regina which employs 1,500 people there are no Aboriginal or Metis. He stressed the need to access the skills needed for our youth to get into the workforce.

The conference was not all doom and gloom however for there was an air of optimism summed up best from the Metis National Anthem; *Proud to be Metis... Watch Our Nation raise again... the true Canadians.*

*I sought my God I could not see,
I sought my soul I could not feel,
I sought my brother and I found all three*

From "Prayers Of A Metis Priest" (Father
Guy LaVallee)

SCENES FROM NIPAWIN YOUTH/ELDER CONFERENCE



Aboriginal Talent to be Showcased!

PRINCE ALBERT

by Wil Smolkowski

"Voices of the North" will once again keep the "Winter Blahs" at bay, at the Prince Albert Exhibition Centre during the city's annual Winter Festival. The theme, during the popular seventh annual showcasing of Aboriginal talent, will be "That's what friends are for", and there will be three days of solid entertainment, Friday through Saturday, February 18 - 20.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the admission will be \$6.00 plus a Festival Button (\$2.00 at the door) Children, 10 years and under will be charged \$3.00 with no need for a button.

Howard Walker will be Master of Ceremonies and the show will feature: Ray Villebrun, Donna Bill, Carl Crane, Sam Murray, Lisa Lambert-Bear, Loretta King, Vern Cheechoo, Connie Mike, Vernon Knight, Deressa Shingoose, Curtis Cardinal, Krystle Pederson and Sherry Sayer.

Guest artists will be Edmund Bull, Charity Greyeyes, Alfred Crain, Darwin Roy, Warren Beatty, George Laliberte and Leonard Adam, while youth singers will be Shayleen McNabb and Lindsay Jarrett.

Special guest will be Doyle Ironstand.

There will be a "Fiddling Through the Ages segment" featuring Brent Peekeekoot, Corny Michel, Dean Bernier and Claude Adams and the back up band will consist of Dean Bernier, Dennis Adams, Jason Ross, Grant Kimbley, Dean Kushneryk, Marc Arnold and Che' McGhee.

The canteen will have Bannock Burgers as its main feature.

Also there will be two special events at the Banquet and Convention Centre (former

casino and PA Place), 153 South Industrial Drive. Guests must be 19 years or older and the entertainment will be from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Friday night will have a Mega Jam Session while Saturday will have five bands on stage. Tickets are \$7.00 for Friday (at the door) and \$10.00 (advance) for Saturday & \$14.00 at the door.

Advance tickets may be purchased at the PA Friendship Centre, PA Music Centre, and the Little Gallery Gift Shop (Gateway Mall).



UPCOMING EVENTS

IN PROCESS:

"Voices of the North" at Exhibition Centre. P.A. Winter Festival.

Motion Picture Symposium - Sands Hotel - Feb. 19 - 20th.

FUTURE:

MNLA "Special" meeting - Sands Hotel - Mar. 2nd.

Economic Development Conference - Sands Hotel - Mar. 3 - 4th.

National Aboriginal Curling Championships - April 1 - 5th 1999 - Granite Curling Club - 480 1st Ave. North, Saskatoon

Spring Fest 1999 - May 21th.
Saskatoon, Metis Cultural Society.

Palmere Days - July, 1999

Back to Batoche - July, 1999

LAWYER WILL ALWAYS BE METIS AT HEART

15

By Wil Smolkowski

Hard Work and Determination Brings Reward!

There's an old saying about the Metis... We are like the Willow... Not as imposing as the Spruce nor as Beautiful as the Birch... But when it comes to wind, flood or drought... None can match our dogged determination to adapt and survive!

Dwayne (Trudeau) G. Roth LL.B. (Barrister, Solicitor & Notary Public) embodies all the above for if he didn't experience it in the physical sense, he did in the spirit, the emotional part of us that can be more important than the physical.

Dwayne was born in Ile-a-La Crosse and raised in Buffalo Narrows in a plywood, clapboard bungalow. When he was little, the only time he came to Saskatoon was on a medical trip. But when he was nine, his parents separated and his mother, exhibiting the dogged determination of the Metis, moved them to Saskatoon in search of a better life. To Dwayne, it was a major cultural shock, moving to the middle of a big city full of strange things and stranger people, for he and his mother lived in Pleasant Hill, which was in the inner city.

"I was a typical boy from the bush...I didn't know anything about telephones, plumbing and electricity. Back in Buffalo Narrows, we didn't even have a boat," Dwayne said.

"I missed the bush and I resented Mom for taking me away from home. It wasn't until years later that I realized it had been the best thing for me."

The move was not without hardship though for Dwayne and his mother were forced to live on Assistance.

"She moved here in pure determination... in an effort to make life better for me."

It was then that Dwayne ran into the hardship that is not physical, but leaves scars that rarely heal. It took at least a year for Dwayne to get accepted by

other children and he grew up alone, on his own.

"It wasn't until we moved that I realized I was native," Dwayne added, for in Buffalo Narrows everyone was the same and the concept of racism was unknown. It wasn't the same in Saskatoon.

When Dwayne was in grade four, he ran into the insidious part of racism that is the hardest to fight for there is no defence against attitude. His teacher, the wife of a Ukrainian Catholic Minister, decided to teach the class about tolerance and how they were to treat minorities.



She had given a ride to two Indians, she had told the class sincerely, and had done her best to be a Good Samaritan. But she also had said that she had to disinfect the car so her husband wouldn't be offended by the smell.

The story told by a teacher, who normally should serve as a role model, stayed with Dwayne, along with the hurt.

Ironically however, there was a plus side, if one can call the effect of racism a plus. Dwayne not only grew up alone, he learned how to take care of himself emotionally. Still, the loneliness remained and the only time he felt happy was when relatives visited and their house was full, or they went back to Buffalo Narrows.

Going to school was also a major shock for
Cont'd following page

From Page 15

in Buffalo Narrows Dwayne didn't attend regularly. In Saskatoon, it was a requirement to go every day. It was also hard to adjust at first for in Buffalo Narrows, the only people with jobs were teachers and police officers and they were white. The teachers in Buffalo Narrows had taught the Euro/Canadian curriculum and rarely mentioned First Nations or Metis cultures. In Saskatoon Aboriginal culture was rarely mentioned either but, Dwayne adapted readily to the new social and academic parameters. After a year or two, he got along well and by the time he was in grade six, he was at the top of his class.

From there he attended Mount Royal High School and continued to do well with his lessons; his favourite subject was science. His mother was very supportive, and she let him learn life's lessons for himself, for in Dwayne's words, "she gave me the freedom to make my own mistakes." Besides doing well in school, Dwayne also worked delivering papers, driving a Dickie Dee ice cream cart and he even worked at dog shows, cleaning up.

"I learned early on that there were ways to earn money. It helped me develop a good work ethic," Dwayne explained. By the time he was 16 and had a driver's licence he delivered pizzas. He even worked as a fire fighter in the summer and enjoyed the camping out, even if the work was at times very hard.

After high school Dwayne strayed for a bit from academics, but he still exhibited the ability to adapt and rise to the top, no matter the environment. Not long after school, he worked his way up from cook to manager of a pizza restaurant. It was then though, that he started drinking. During that time however, he met Jim Scarfe who told him about the Native Law Program, which was "the spark that started me on the road to becoming a lawyer."

He went with Scarfe to meeting at the Gabriel Dumont Institute and spoke with James McNinteh who laid out the process Dwayne would have to take.

"He recommended I take the SUNTEP teaching program and I did for three years. Donna Heimbecker was in the same class."

In all it took about nine years from the time Dwayne had spoken to Scarfe to when he became a

lawyer in 1996.

"Murray Hamilton and Butch Durocher really helped me along. When I wanted to give up, they always gave me encouragement."

University was easy for Dwayne who excelled in academics. It was alcohol that had to be conquered and he quit drinking over a period of two years, doing so in his own way without any help from any program.

At the moment Dwayne is one of the only Metis lawyers in Saskatchewan in private practise whose majority of clients are Metis. He has no trouble finding clients for there is a definite need for such a lawyer who can emphasize with Metis people and their problems.

"Generally I've received an overwhelming amount of support from the Metis community," Dwayne said. Unfortunately though, there always seems to be a downside.

"I was very surprised when some people wanted me to work for free... and when I refused, they paid a White lawyer. I guess some of our own people value a White Lawyer above a Metis," Dwayne said, for it seems that low self-esteem can be very limiting to more people than just the person who feels it."

The preconceived notion that Metis or Aboriginals are not as good, is buried so deep within us that we automatically believe that whites are better," Dwayne added.

"I'm here to break that notion and prove that Metis are just as competent as any other person in Canadian society."

Dwayne is also determined to help the Metis cause when it comes to having our rights recognized. Unfortunately, it is also a struggle against attitudes, but he feels we do have some advantages over First Nations people.

"We haven't given up any of our rights by signing treaties. Our ancestors took scrip instead because they wanted to be free. I can see our land claims being settled in the future."

Another advantage is, commercial transactions have always been a part of Metis culture since the fur trade.

"We have an aboriginal right to commerce, which the courts have refused to recognize for the Treaty Indians."

POETRY PAGE

We have been running for Centuries.
Running where? We do not know.
We ran to the south, to the east,
to the West, and to the North
we still search for that
Sacred Place, that Place of Peace

There is no where to run
Why must we run? Why must we?
I'm so tired, tired of running
So I will lay my tired remains upon
Our Mother, the Earth
And it is there we will plant, our pain, our fears,

Please submit poetry to:

Our Jealousy, Our Rage, Our Shame, and Our
Doubt

Tears of Healing will fall like Rain
And give New Life to these Seeds of Change.
It shall grow like the Beauty of a Flower in
Spring.

With the Strength of a Tree rooted deep
Within our Earth Mother as it reaches for the
Sky

And it is there We will find that Sacred Place.
That Place of Peace Beyond....

*Written by Lorne Maxwell Horse Duquette -
Snake Plains Cree*

NEW BREED Magazine 219 Robin
Crescent, Saskatoon, Sk. S7L 6M8

Aboriginal News

Yorkton Saskatchewan

*Join us for a New Beginning! Greetings, we bring wonderful news about a Special
Introductory Offer!*

The **Aboriginal News** is an aboriginal magazine with the focus on Aboriginal Minor Sports, Education and the promotion of Positive Living. Our focus is on Aboriginal Youth. We are published monthly and we will be providing coverage throughout the province. We will cover major Aboriginal Sporting and Cultural events upon invitation and dependent on scheduling. **We will also publish, stories, articles, poetry that is submitted dependent on relevance and subject to editing requirements. So feel free to submit your stories.**

What we also have is an advertising and sponsorship vehicle for companies, First Nations bands, governments to demonstrate their commitment to First Nations people and their commitment to promoting a Positive Lifestyle for today's youth.

We are asking you to join the **Aboriginal News** team. We are asking you to show your commitment to the **Aboriginal Youth** by supporting this magazine through sponsorship, advertising or subscriptions. Subscription rates are \$24 for each subscription. We will be providing 12 issues per subscription. Please phone (306) 782-7557 for advertising and sponsorship rates.

Sincerely,
Robert LaFontaine, Publisher/Editor

If you are interested in advertising or sponsorship, **PLEASE** phone or fax immediately.
We have people who can design your ads according to specifications.

"The heart of a child is innocence that through work and play develops goodness of the soul."

BUFFALO NARROWS TRAPPER ADAPTS TO THE TIMES

18

By Wil Smolkowski

Trapping used to be fairly simple, if you ignored the hardships of the trail and the rigours of winter. A man could depend on only himself and his strength and wits to survive. What went on in large cities was none of his concern. At least that's how it used to be when living off the land was a hard life but a good one.

Within the past few decades though, the political winds have blown, all the way from Europe to our north, chilling the souls of the people who have lived there for millennia. The political winds came from the people whose ancestors once benefited immensely from the fur trade but who now have decided, with good intentions, that trapping is cruel and inhumane and therefore must stop.

The fact that the cost in human and animal suffering is considerable, hasn't come under scrutiny from the animal rights people whose experience in the natural world appears to be limited to nature shows and the odd trip to a zoo.

"The government didn't help much," Brian MacDonald who has trapped around Buffalo Narrows since he was a boy said. "They should have shown what happens when animals get the mange and die from freezing."

The federal government indeed did little against the onslaught of animal rights groups from around the world who depicted trappers and sealers as blood thirsty killers, revelling in an animal's torment. On the contrary though, it is trappers such as MacDonald who truly understand wild animals and the suffering they go through when they become overpopulated and die from disease.

"Even the coyotes don't have fur coats anymore," MacDonald said only partly in jest for he has found many coyotes dead from freezing. "It's really pitiful to see."

It appears that one of the beliefs in the big

cities where fur protestors live is that they are supposed to be morally superior to anything or anyone that kills. When living in a city, it is easy to believe that man is superior, especially when we have evolved to the point where we only eat pre-packaged meat and wear synthetic clothes.

MacDonald takes a much more humble attitude. "We're part of the same landscape as animals. We're part of the same food chain. I'm an animal but I respect other animals. We all have our boundaries and bears, for an example, teach me a lot of respect."



Unfortunately, the wisdom that we are only intelligent mammals and we can learn from other animals appears restricted to those who live off the land and are in constant contact with their prey. Due to the protests, and well intentioned but misinformed public, the market for fur from animals caught in leg hold traps has all but collapsed. When an animal is caught by a leg hold trap, the inside of

Cont'd following page

Brian Macdonald Continued...

the pelt on the leg is red. That lets the fur buyer know how it was caught and the trapper gets little for it. The only animal whose pelt is still high is the wolf. The reason is unclear, although one speculation is the provincial government is paying a subsidy on wolf pelts.

The lack of understanding from not only the government for the trapper's plight but from the public in the south has prompted men like MacDonald to form their own trappers association in the north to express their concerns. Also, in order to combat the animal rights protests the government is now promoting Conibear traps. They are to be the trappers tool of the future but according to MacDonald they cause more suffering than they prevent.

"They're not humane. They can break an arm or finger. A lot of animals are not killed outright by it. If they're caught at the waist they freeze from there down and die from constipation. People who say Conibear traps are the thing of the future have never set traps."

In order to make the taking of fur bearing animals more humane, MacDonald has designed his own trap. It kills the animal by the head or throat and last year he presented it to the provincial government.

"They ignored it. Keith Goulet (Minister of Northern Affairs) was asked about it three times during an interview on Missinipi radio. It wasn't until the third time that he replied."

Macdonald believes the new trap he designed could bring trapping back, if it was used. He didn't patent it however for in his own words, "Money isn't everything. Our land is. If it was patented, the government could put a hold on it for seven years and there would be no way to promote it."

Last fall he did receive a letter from the government but they wanted to rebuild it although it had never been tested.

"They should have asked for more tests from the fur institute of Canada."

MacDonald, like many others, has experienced hardship at the hands of the government for decades. When he was little, he

was relocated against his and his families will.

"My parents thought they might go to jail if they didn't move me out of the bush. They (the government) promised jobs and houses but then they passed a law that you couldn't move into the bush, without being at least five miles from the nearest road. We didn't have the equipment to go so the government kept us from going back to the land."

The government continues to treat Aboriginals with less than respect; for even though they sell houses to newcomers, MacDonald and his family cannot buy the one they live in.

"It's a section 40 house in Buffalo Narrows. I've had to pay 25% of what I make for rent. In 25 years I'll have paid over \$250,000 for a \$30,000 house but we'll never get title to it," MacDonald, who is taking the government to court over the housing issue, said. Then he added, "I've always been a working man. I pay taxes and I end up resenting people on welfare. I refuse to live under the welfare system."

Due to the controversy surrounding trapping, MacDonald has been forced to diversify in order to make a living. He has leased some of the land from the government to start Lone Wolf Camps but has received little help. Since he invested in tourism, the government has switched from helping those who run hunting camps to those who operate eco-tourist ones. He could hunt bison but he would have to have his own land.

"I tried for 11 years to get a piece of land but they wouldn't give it to me. Then I heard a lady from the government was in Meadow Lake and I went to see her."

The lady who worked for the provincial government gave MacDonald land with the comment, "I can't see why you can't get a lease. You're no different than anyone else."

MacDonald had to colour the truth however in order to get the lease, saying he owned eight buffalo. He did get them later and it was only a difference in time. But a month later, after he had picked out a meadow, the lady who had helped him was fired from her portfolio and given a desk job in Regina.

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BRINGING TOGETHER ABORIGINAL "TALENT"

By Wil Smolkowski

The Saskatchewan Film Industry has grown from \$5 million revenue in 1990 to \$48 million in 1998. Along with the continuous growth in the industry, aboriginal participation has also grown, with the production of *Big Bear*, one of our successes.

And now all the aboriginal filmmakers, producers, writers, actors and technical crew who are in or who are interested in working in film, video, television and cable, can showcase their talent on February 19th & 20th at the Sands Hotel, 806 Idylwyld Drive, Saskatoon.

Doug Cuthand (Blue Hill Productions) will provide producer insights on Friday, 7 to 9 p.m. along with a *Screening Social*; a half hour documentary on the making of *Big Bear*.

On Saturday, 9 a.m., there will be an opening prayer followed by an introduction by Doug Cuthand on the State of the Industry. Darren Olson, Saskatchewan Motion Picture Industry Association (SMPIA) will also give a presentation on career possibilities and also speaking will be Rhonda Baker, production manager. The luncheon keynote speaker has yet to be announced. This will be followed by a "Break - out - Session" and introduction of Session Leaders. Representatives from ACTRA (Alliance of Canadian Cinema Television & Radio Actors), IATSE (International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees) and DGC (Director's Guild of Canada) will be there along with the Saskatchewan Producer's Association.

During the next "Break-out" session

report there will be a discussion on accessing career opportunities.

Registration is free and lunch is included. For further information please contact Neil Pasqua, Aboriginal Training Coordinator, SMPIA (Regina) 525-9899 or toll-free 1-877-247-6742; fax (306) 569-1818.



MacDonald continued

"I asked (a government official) why she had been fired. The guy said she had screwed up. I asked him how and he said, 'she just screwed up...' To this day I feel bad about it."

MacDonald's trials were not over with the acquisition of land for when he got his buffalo, the land flooded. He then called Keith Mayberry in St. Louis. They sent the herd there and are now trying to bring them north.

Hardship and set backs can be a way of life, especially to those in the north who have no recourse when their livelihood has been taken away.

"I never could understand why the old people complained about hunger and how they suffered from malnutrition when they had to eat flour and beef instead of moose.

Now I know."

THE METIS LAND CLAIM AND PRIMROSE LAKE AIR WEAPONS RANGE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEES

By Kathy Hodgson-Smith

A meeting was held in Buffalo Narrows on January 29, 1999, to introduce the Metis Land Claim in Northern Saskatchewan. Although this claim is a separate initiative by the North West Metis Council, the efforts of the Primrose Lake Air Weapons Range (PLAWR) Negotiating Committee and the work of the land claimants is part of a greater whole. Where the PLAWR committee is seeking compensation for displacement from air weapons range lands, the land claimants are seeking legal recognition of Metis land and resources rights based on Aboriginal rights under the Canadian Constitution.

The land claim research will be much broader in scope, will deal with the entire North West corner of the province and will seek to track the long history of relationships between the Metis and the provincial and federal governments. The records of the Hudsons Bay Company and the transactions that took place as early as 1870 during the fur trade era will become the foundation for the land claim. The scrip negotiations of 1906 and 1907 will need to be closely examined and the

research team will undertake methodical reviews of archival records in preparation for litigation. Dr. Frank Tough, of the University of Alberta, will be conducting the research for the land claim.

The research that has been undertaken by the PLAWR Negotiating Committee will eventually provide some support to the land claim research, however, these efforts are significantly less complicated. The archival material that has been uncovered by the committee to date has not dealt with the question of Metis rights, except by virtue of long usage and traditional lifestyle, to air weapons range lands. The Metis Nation Agenda and the pursuit of recognition of existing Aboriginal rights has not been pursued by the PLAWR committee. Our focus has been to seek documentation in an effort to prove outstanding compensation for displacement from air weapons range lands specifically. Although there are many points on which our work intersects, the two issues - Compensation for Displacement and a Land Claim based on Existing Aboriginal Rights - remain succinctly unique.



Research team members, (from left) Dr. Frank Tough, Tanya Schramm, Bev Findlay and Chris Andersen.

SCEP CENTRE TEACHES RESPECT & NURTURING TO THE WHOLE CHILD

By Loretta Spencer, Aboriginal Resources Worker, SCEP Centre

The SCEP Centre was created in 1968 as a therapeutic professional service for young children with socialisation, communication and educational problems. SCEP also works with the caregivers to offer guidance and help them gain insight in regard to their child's development. The program was designed by Elisabeth Brandt, PhD, a specialist in the communication problems of young children. Children at SCEP are valued. The professional staff provide an intensive therapeutic and educational approach which emphasizes respect and nurturance for the whole child as being a unique individual.

The centre conducts daily sessions for children in the age range of two to eight years. At SCEP the children participate in remedial educational play activities. A very low child to adult ratio enables SCEP to provide an intensive program for children who, may be for example; violent, autistic, hyperactive, hypersensitive, or who do not have communications skills, are a danger to self and others or are suffering from serious trauma or abuse.

SCEP Centre also offers training to others. Since 1968, up to 1,000 students from the University of Regina and from CEASED have participated as practicians/volunteers, learning SCEP's methods of communicating and interacting with Young children. In 1994 SCEP developed Day Care Friends, a program to teach SCEP methods to day care staff and work with certain special needs children in day care.

Historically, approximately 25% of SCEP clientele were of Aboriginal ancestral

lineage. SCEP felt the necessity to hire an Aboriginal Resources Worker who would teach and guide the staff in areas of cultural sensitivity and perception.

Once I was hired, the Executive Director, Patricia Clark and I discussed strategies of how to apply SCEP methodology and offer SCEP's services to the Aboriginal Community. It was thought that the social problems that permeate our existing clientele and the methods used in addressing these issues would greatly benefit the Aboriginal Community. It was thought that workshops and/or seminars, work placement or practicians are some of the ways in which SCEP methods could be accessed. The fruition of such a liaison is still in its infancy but has real potential. For further information please contact:

SCEP Centre
3104 4th Avenue North
Regina, Sk. S4R 0V2
Tel. #306 543-6944
Fax 545-0199

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METIS HEALTH & ADDICTIONS COUNCIL OF SASKATCHEWAN INC. IS ANNOUNCED

January 27, 1999

Metis Nation of Saskatchewan (MNS) Minister of Health Don Favel and the Associate Minister of Health Helen Johnson announced today the incorporation of the Metis Health & Addictions Council of Saskatchewan Inc.

"This is a new beginning for Metis people. Now we can join together in one voice to address our own health needs," said Mr. Favel.

The Metis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan Inc. has been in operation for over 30 years providing Drug and Alcohol services and treatment programs through out this province. With the new mandate to include Health, the Council will serve as a forum for identifying all health needs and concerns and to ensure Metis people receive the Health services they require.

For more information, contact: Judy Panko, Executive Director/CEO - Metis Health & Addictions Council of Saskatchewan Inc., Saskatoon. Phone: (306) 651-3021

The Metis Health & Addictions Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (MACSI) is pleased to welcome their new Core management staff.

Judy Panko, Executive Director and CEO for MACSI, brings to our organization a background in management and addiction. *Judy* has over 14 years of experience in the private sector, extensive experience in management with the public sectors and Government departments and over five years as a business consultant. *Judy* has a bachelor of Science degree, also is a certified Human Resources Practitioner and is presently working on her Masters degree in Business Administration. *Bob Shaw* is the new Human Resources Manager. *Bob* has 25 years experience in the health care field in Manitoba, from staff Respirator Therapist to director of personnel, to hospital executive director. *He* has been in Saskatoon for four years in private business prior to coming to MACSI. On summer weekends, *Bob* can be found at S.I.R, drag racing his 1980 Camaro with his daughter, Crystal. *Kim Shynkaruk* is the new Executive Assistant for MACSI. *She* has achieved an Accounting Diploma 121 from Kelsey and a Computerized Accounting Technician diploma from a recognized firm, Deloitte & Touche. *Kim* enjoys her travels every year to the United States and also ski-dooing in the winter. *LouAnn Roach* is excited to join MACSI as the Financial Manager. *LouAnn's* training focuses on accounting and computer applications with experience as Accounts Receivable Manager and Collections Officer. *LouAnn's* career goal is to receive her designation as a Certified Management Accountant (CMA).



Judy Panko



Bob Shaw



Kim Shynkaruk



LouAnn Roach

PROVINCIAL METIS YOUTH

By *Kathy Hodgson-Smith*

In the late fall of 1998, Metis Employment and Training of Sask. Inc., received a project proposal from Gabriel Lafond requesting funding for the development of a provincial Metis youth council. The project was approved, and Gabriel Lafond and Deanna Obleman began working on setting up a youth conference.

The Provincial Metis Youth Conference was held on January 20, 1999 in conjunction with the Blueprint for the future Career Fair, held on January 21, 1999, in Regina. At the Provincial Youth Conference, several Metis Nation representatives were in attendance, including: Clem Chartier, President of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan (MNS) Gerald Morin, President of the Metis National Council (MNC); Ralph Kennedy, MNS Minister of Youth; and Dan Welsh, Minister of Metis Family and Community Justice Services. These Metis Nations representatives spoke to youth representatives about the historical development of the Metis Nation, past Metis youth movements, and gave

encouragement and support to future possibilities.

Twenty-one youth attended the conference from seven of the 12 MNS regions. Youth delegates reported on programs running in their home communities and discussed issues they face within their regions. The regions represented were: Regina, Archerwill; Prince Albert, North Battleford, LaRonge, Fort Qu'Appelle and LaLoche/Buffalo Narrows. Unfortunately, the remaining five regions were unable to send youth delegates, due largely to conflicts with final exam schedules

Out of this conference, the beginnings of a youth movement were formed. More formal plans to develop a permanent MNS Youth Council were undertaken. Another conference has been scheduled for February, 1999, to continue the work that was already begun. The youth involved in this process are to be recognized for the respect, the commitment, and the courage they have shown already. Their involvement is crucial to the quality of existing programs and services and will serve to move the nation forward in a good way.



Aboriginal Healing Foundation

*Healing
begins with
the
individual,
moving out
to embrace
families and
restore
balance to
whole
communities
and nations.*

Proposal Development Assistance

The Aboriginal Healing Foundation has recently completed a series of information workshops across the country. A significant concern expressed by participants in these workshops was the need for proposal development assistance. In response to this concern, and in recognition of the fact that not all Eligible Recipients presently have equivalent skills and capacity to successfully apply for project funding, Eligible Recipients may now apply for assistance with preparation of a proposal.

Eligible Recipients who need additional support are encouraged to:

- Submit a request for **proposal development funding**. Proposal development funding provides grants for the preparation of applications for project funding, and has the following features:
 - > It is unrelated to program funding deadlines. It can be used for any of the Foundation's four program themes. Requests must be received by March 31, 1999.
 - > It is limited to a maximum of \$5,000 per proposal by a qualified Eligible Recipient.
 - > A "Request for Proposal Development Funding" form must be used.
 - > The recipient of proposal development funding will be required to sign a letter of agreement with the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

Request forms and The Program Handbook 1999 are available through the Foundation office, and on our website.

Phone: (613)237-4441 Fax: (613)237-4442

Toll Free Phone: (888)725-8886

Website: www.ahf.ca

E-mail: programs@ahf.ca

Suite 801, 75 Albert Street,
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5E7

SPECIAL MNLA ASSEMBLIES TO BEGIN IN MARCH

BESSBOROUGH HOTEL, SASKATOON

By Wil Smolkowski

A Metis Nation of Saskatchewan (MNS) Strategic Planning Session was held in the Bessborough Hotel, February 2, to discuss the upcoming Special MNLA assemblies to be held beginning March 2nd at the Sands Hotel in Saskatoon. Present were Clem Chartier, President, Allan Morin, Treasurer, Murray Hamilton, Vice-President, Robert Doucette, Treasurer, along with James Froh, Tripartite, Mike Durocher, Dwayne (Trudeau) Roth and Kathy Hodgson-Smith, Executive Assistant to Mr. Chartier.

The Special Assemblies are to be one day events which coincide with other scheduled MNS gatherings. They will also provide ongoing forums to provide information to Metis of MNS

governance issues and process, along with ongoing forums to introduce and debate specific governance issues. The Assemblies will also look for community input into the MNS.

Another issue discussed at the February 2 meeting was the MNLA Act and rules of procedure, the role of the speaker, rules of debate, credentials of the representatives, length of debate and rebuttal, and a procedure on how to bring resolutions from the floor. Future objectives are a national definition of Metis, Louis Riel's exoneration, Land Claims, Hunting and Fishing Rights along with a national Metis card for all citizens similar to First Nations cards.



Dan Frel (left) and Philip Chartier at Land Claims in Buffalo Narrows, Jan 29, 1999



GUARANTEED INCOME
SUPPLEMENT AND
SPOUSE'S ALLOWANCE



Clem Chartier (President MNS) accepts gift from Helen Johnson, Area Director, Eastern Region 2, at the Nipawin conference for Elders & Youth, Feb. 4 & 5th.



Rose Boyer, Metis Elder, speaks at the Nipawin Conference for Elders and Youth.



Ryan Calder, Executive Director Eastern Region 2, speaks to Elders and Youth Conference.

Good News for Seniors.

Now it's easy to renew your benefits.

The Government of Canada is simplifying the renewal process for seniors who receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement or Spouse's Allowance. Many pensioners will have their benefits automatically renewed by filling out their income tax return.

Watch your mail for information on how to renew.



If you didn't receive your letter by February 15, contact Human Resources Development Canada free of charge at **1 800 277-9914.**

If you use a TDD/TTY device, please call **1 800 255-4786.**



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IT'S YOUR CALL!

Since this is the third issue of **NEW BREED** Magazine, it is not only time to thank you the reader, but also time to ask for your opinion. Please fill out the questionnaire below and mail it to **NEW BREED** Magazine: 219 Robin Cres., Sk.S7L 6M8 or call 888-343-6667.

READABILITY:

Do you like reading human interest stories (features etc.) about successful Metis?

Would you like to see more stories dealing with the governing of the Metis Nation?

Would you like to see more stories about your local/area?

Would you be willing to submit stories to **NEW BREED**, regarding your local or area?

What do you think **NEW BREED** should mean to you?

Would you like to see **NEW BREED** on the INTERNET?

Would you like to see **NEW BREED** become a permanent voice for the Metis Nation?



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