



Parks Canada Parcs Canada



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research

April 5, 2008

For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

Métis Women's History of Resistance and Survival:

Stories of Tourond's Coulee/Fish Creek and Batoche Storytelling Circle & Symposium

April 24, 2008

Location: The Battle of Tourond's Coulee/Fish Creek Historic Site of Canada

Please join us. Everyone is welcome.

Part 1:

Storytelling Event: **April 24, 2008**

Time: 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Venue: Tourond's Coulee/Fish Creek

We invite you to come and celebrate, and honour Métis women and children by sharing stories of their experiences and community life before, during and after the 1885 Resistance.

You're welcome to come and share your family's stories or participate by listening!

Part 2:

Symposium Event: **May 9, 2008**

Time:

Venue: Batoche National Historic Site of Canada Visitor Centre

Join us for the **Symposium's panel discussion, and participate in the community breakout session.**

The Symposium's focus is to gain a better understanding of the perspectives of Métis women and children relating to community life, particularly the events leading up to, during, and after the 1885 Resistance. In addition, the Symposium will also focus on the different ways to share these important stories.



Additional Information:

The *“Métis Women’s History of Resistance and Survival: Stories of Tourond’s Coulee/Fish Creek and Batoche”* is a two-part project that will begin on April 24, 2008 at Tourond’s Coulee/Fish Creek. The first part will encompass a community storytelling sharing circle for 1885 descendents and other participants who will tell stories about these historic events from their perspective. The objective is to provide the opportunity to honour Métis women and children while encouraging stories to be told in their own languages and dialects. The event will be video-recorded, and will be shared with all of its participants. As part of their ongoing partnership, the Batoche National Historic Site (BNHS) and the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) will also produce educational materials that will reflect the sharing circle’s spirit and intent.

The second part of the program is a one-day national public symposium on May 9, 2008 at BNHS. The Symposium’s focus will preserve and disseminate the authentic and primarily untold survival and resistance stories of Métis women that have a meaningful connection to Tourond’s Coulee/Fish Creek and BNHS. The symposium will start with panel members providing short presentations followed by moderated panel discussions, and will conclude with thematic community breakout sessions. There will also be an opportunity to view works of art.

The objective of the two-part project is to build a relationship between Parks Canada, GDI, and Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal historians, Elders, curators, artists and community members, and descendents of those Métis who lived through the 1885 Resistance. Together, these partners will construct a respectful dialogue that will honour the little-known or untold perspectives of Métis women and children who lived through and participated in the 1885 Resistance, particularly the Battle of Tourond’s Coulee/Fish Creek (April 24, 1885) and the Battle of Batoche (May 9-12). GDI and BNHS will also develop educational and cultural projects based on the discussions. Perhaps most importantly, this project will create an ongoing and necessary dialogue by reclaiming lost, hidden and marginalized voices, and it will bring together individuals and institutions that will collectively identify key elements necessary to develop this storyline from an Aboriginal perspective.

Media Contacts:

Susan McKenzie, Batoche National Historic Site; 306 423-6227; cell: 306 212-7110;
susan.mckenzie@pc.gc.ca

Karon Shmon, Gabriel Dumont Institute; 306 657 5710; karon.shmon@gdi.gdins.org
