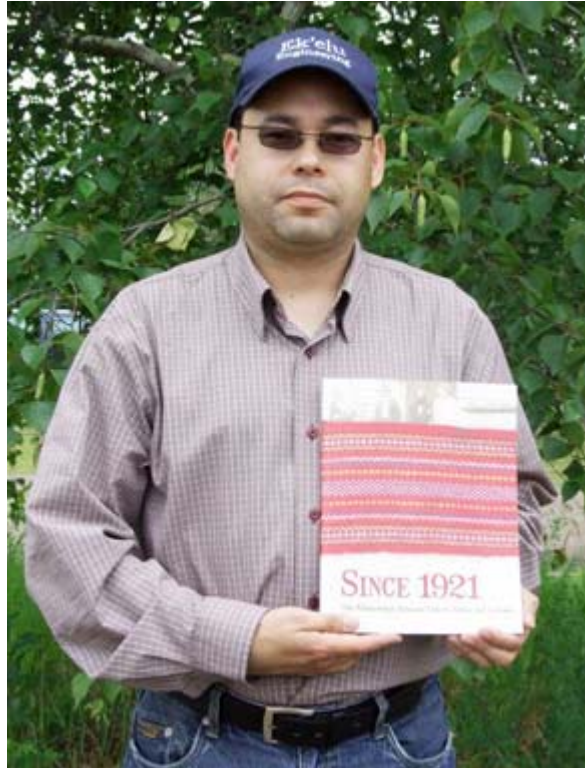


Albert Jason James Lafferty. (b. 1964)

Metis Leader and advocate Albert J. Lafferty is president of the Fort Providence Métis Nation¹ and has been an active voice for the preservation of Metis heritage, history and culture in the Mackenzie River District. A descendant of the Beaulieu, Bouvier, St. Germain, and Laferté (Lafferty) families, Albert is fluent in the Mackenzie District Michif French Dialect. Albert was born on August 4th, 1964 and he was raised in Fort Providence as were his parents Jim and Margaret A. Lafferty.

He attended Elizabeth Ward Elementary School in Fort Providence and went on to residential school in both Fort Smith and Yellowknife where he completed secondary school. In 1986 Albert received a diploma in Public and Business Administration. He was also certified in Municipal Administration by St. Lawrence College in 1987. He served as municipal administrator for the Incorporated Hamlet of Fort Providence for a number of years and received the NWT Norm Macleod Award in 1990 for outstanding proficiency in municipal administration.



In 1988 Albert became involved in the Metis movement in the Northwest Territories and has served on the Executive of the Fort Providence Métis Council – Local No. 57 since then. Albert’s home community (settlement) of Fort Providence on the north shore of the Mackenzie River was founded in 1861 by the family of Métis matriarch Catherine Beaulieu-Bouvier. The Bouvier family guided Brother Karney and Bishop Grandin in the selection of the present day site on higher ground from its previous location up river at Big Island near Great Slave Lake. The first Roman Catholic buildings for the Notre Dame de la Providence Mission at the community’s present day site were built by Bouvier and Forcier. In 1867 the first Grey Nun’s arrived from Montreal to establish the Mackenzie District’s first school at Fort Providence.

Under the guidance and traditional knowledge of numerous Metis Elders Albert continues to work towards the advancement of Métis equality issues, Métis

¹ The Fort Providence Metis Nation and the Fort Simpson Metis Nation are both members of the Dehcho First Nations council.

justice and rights reaffirmation in the Deh Cho region of the Northwest Territories. Albert's ongoing research and political work contributes to the region's Deh Cho land claims and self government process with Canada.

Albert remains active at both the community level and region by striving to build partnerships on economic development initiatives between local indigenous Métis, First Nations and industry in the Northwest Territories. He is currently involved in the Deh Cho Bridge Project, a local First Nations and Metis initiative to build a bridge across the Mackenzie River at Fort Providence. The bridge is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2011.

Over the years Albert Lafferty has provided the Louis Riel Institute with many biographies describing the Metis of the Dehcho area.

Reference:

Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox and the Fort Providence Metis Council. *Since 1921: The Relationship Between the Dehcho Metis and Canada*. Yellowknife: Artisan Press., 2007.

This book gives an overview of Dehcho Metis history. During 1921, Canada sent its "Treaty 11 Halfbreed Scrip Commission" to the Dehcho and other regions of the NWT, which sought the release and surrender of Métis Aboriginal rights on an individual basis in exchange for the issuance of scrip. That year marked the beginning of a Canadian Aboriginal policy approach to Métis which simultaneously stripped Métis of Aboriginal rights, while instituting more oppressive elements of Aboriginal policy upon Métis peoples, such as residential schools and social marginalization. The book documents these experiences and their implications for the development of Métis identity and cultural practice as well as present day relations between Dehcho Métis and Canada.



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
Coordinator of Metis Heritage and History Research
Louis Riel Institute