

Harvey Bostrom, M.L.A. (b. 1946)

By Lawrence Barkwell and Shane Bostrom.

Harvey Bostrom, a Metis from Manigotogan, the son of Joseph “Joe” R. Bostrom (1900-1991) and Norma Eleanor Meade (1917-1994). His father was born in Sweden and worked in Manitoba as a trader and fur trapper until purchasing and running the store in Manigotogan. Harvey’s Metis grandparents are William Richard Meade and Mary “Minnie” E. Perry, the daughter of Mary Fox¹ and Frank Perry.

Harvey is a past president of the Northern Association of Community Councils, and was a New Democratic member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba from 1973 to 1981. He is an Economics graduate of the University of Manitoba, and worked as a teacher and economist. Bostrom is currently Deputy Minister of Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs.

Bostrom was appointed to the cabinet of Edward Schreyer on December 23, 1974, being named as Minister of Cooperative Development with responsibility for Lands and Renewable Resources. He was named Minister of Renewable Resources and Transportation Services on October 15, 1975, and held this position until the Schreyer government was defeated in the election of 1977. Bostrom himself was re-elected in the 1977 election, with a reduced majority. In 1979, he supported Howard Pawley’s successful bid to succeed Schreyer as party leader. He did not seek re-election in the 1981 election.



Harvey entered the civil service after leaving politics, and became the executive director of Manitoba’s Native Affairs Secretariat (later renamed the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat) in 1990. He was appointed acting deputy minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs by NDP Premier Doer in 2001, and was given full deputy minister status shortly thereafter.

¹ Mary Fox was the daughter of Charles Fox and Therese Stevens. Charles Fox was born around 1820 somewhere in the Northwest Territories; however nobody seems to know his exact origins. It seems most likely that he was either an Indian or a half-breed; the name Fox perhaps suggests the former. The first and last place we find recorded evidence of him was in the St Peters Indian Settlement. Around 1841 Charles married Theresa (Thirza) Stevens, the daughter of an Indian woman named Mary Meenish and Richard Stevens (1796-1872), an Englishman. In the summer of 1861 Charles Fox erected a water-powered mill in St. Peter’s parish (Indian Settlement). The *Nor’Wester* commented that “It is to be placed on a stream or rivulet which runs all winter—a very important advantage and will have a circular saw attached for planks, boards, shingles etc.” Charles Fox died in 1868. After her husband died Widow Thirza and her children moved to River Lot 107, which is located just north of her father’s home (where the Lockport Bridge and Stevens Avenue are located today). In 1899, granddaughter Mary Elizabeth “Minnie” Perry married in Winnipeg to William Richard Meade (1876-1962). They took up residence in St Paul Parish (Middlechurch). In the census of 1901 Widow Thirza FOX (now 77 years old) was recorded living with them there. (Source: <http://www.redriverancestry.ca/FOX-CHARLES-1820.php>)

DOMINION OF CANADA,

I,

Mary Perry (Fox) [unclear]

PROVINCE OF MANITOBA.

County of *Selkirk*
Parish of *St. John*

of the Parish of *St. Andrew* in
the County of *Singer* in the
Province of Manitoba, *in presence of Mary Perry*
doath and say as follows :

with my hand
make

1. I claim to be entitled to participate in the allotment and distribution of the 1,400,000 acres of land set apart for Half-breed children, pursuant to the Statutes in that behalf.

2. I was born on or about the *10th* day of *January* A.D. 18 *57* at the Parish of *St. Andrew* in said Province; and am now of the full age of *25* years

3. *Charles Fox a half-breed* was my father
Theresa (Stevens) is my mother;
my said *Charles* was the half-breed head of a family resident in the Parish of *St. Andrew* in the said Province, on the fifteenth day of July, A.D. 1870.

4. I was not the head of any family at the last named date and I have not made any claim other than the above in this or any other Parish, nor have I claimed or received as an Indian any annuity moneys from the Government of said Dominion.

Mary Perry

Sworn before me at the Parish and County aforesaid on the *16th* day of *September* A.D. 1875, having been first read and explained in the *English* language to the said deponent, who seemed perfectly to understand the same, and *signed* in my presence.

J.M. Macdonald

Commissioner

DOMINION OF CANADA.
PROVINCE OF MANITOBA.
County of Lisgar.

I, *Narcis Jay (born Steens)*
of the Parish of *Andrews* in the County
of Lisgar, *widow of Chas Jay* in said
Province, make oath and say as follows:

1. I am a Half-breed head of a family resident in the Parish of *Andrews* in the said Province, on the 15th day of July, A.D. 1870, and consisting of myself and *Children* and I claim to be entitled as such head of family to receive a grant of one hundred and sixty acres of land, or to receive Scrip for one hundred and sixty dollars pursuant to the Statute in that behalf.
2. I was born on or about the *first* day of *May* A.D. 18 *28* in the ~~District of~~ *North West Territory* in said Province.
3. *Richard Steens, English was* my father;
and *Mary Steens, half breed was* my mother.
4. I have not made or caused to be made any claim of land or Scrip other than the above in this or any other Parish in said Province, nor have I claimed or received as an Indian any annuity moneys from the Government of said Dominion.

Theresa Jay

Sworn before me at the Parish of *Andrews*
in the County of Lisgar, on the
28th day of *July* A.D. 1875, having
been first read over and explained in the *English*
language to said deponent who seemed perfectly to
understand the same, and *signed*
in my presence.

J. M. Mackay
Commissioner.

Claim No. 99 Scrip issued 1st May 1876
16/3/88
J. M. Mackay



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
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