

## **McIvor, Donald.**

Donald McIvor, was a mayor of Wabowden, Manitoba and a northern region representative of the Northern Association of Community Councils (NACC). Don was a President of the Manitoba Métis Federation from 1981-1984. For generations the McIvor's hunted and trapped in an area 52 kilometres south of Waskwatim Lake on what was known as Trapline 18, close to Thompson, Manitoba.

The first meeting for the NACC was held in Winnipeg on June 2, 1970 and was open to community council members only. There were a total of 48 delegates in attendance at this conference, representing the 11 elected community councils as well as 29 other remote communities. The initial community councils to join the NACC at the time of its formation included: Barrows, Cormorant, Moose Lake, Pikwitonei, Ilford, Pelican Rapids, Duck Bay, Camperville, Crane River, Matheson Island, and Wabowden. The first members of the Executive Committee were elected at this meeting and included:

- President: Kip Thompson of Ilford.
- Northern region Chairman: Don McIvor of Wabowden.
- Eastern Region Chairman: Bill Bennet of Matheson Island.
- Western Region Chairman: Delphis Flamond of Camperville.

Don McIvor was a founding member of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF). In 1967 he became involved at the grass roots level of the MMF. Don was born and raised at God's Lake, Manitoba. He spent his childhood trapping and hunting with his father. Later he worked on the railroad and on construction crews. He and his wife Rebecca moved to Wabowden, Manitoba in 1958. There they had twelve children. He became the mayor of Wabowden in 1970 and introduced better housing, running water, a sewage system, a recreational complex, a new school and a trailer court for the community. At the same time he became involved with Native Communications Incorporated in developing radio services in the Cree language. In 1971, don formed a body of directors to pilot the program. NCI developed daily broadcasts in Cree heard on CHTM Thompson, CJAR The Pas, CFAR Flin Flon and NCI community radio stations at Cross Lake CFNC and Norway House CJNC. NCI also assisted Brochet, Shamatawa and Pukatawagan to develop their own stations. For a number of years NCI published *The New Nation* —the only Native newspaper in Manitoba.

Don McIvor served as the President of MMF from 1981 to 1984. In 2004, he and his son Greg made presentations to the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission Hearing on the Wuskwatim Generation and Transmission Project and its potential effects on their trapping area—Trap Line 18.



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