

A large flock of birds, likely terns, is shown in flight over a field. The birds are densely packed, filling most of the frame. The background is a pale, overcast sky. The overall scene is dynamic and captures a moment of intense natural activity.

New Breed

MAGAZINE

September - October 2002

New Breed

MAGAZINE

is a Publication of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan

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NEW BREED Magazine is a published bi-monthly.

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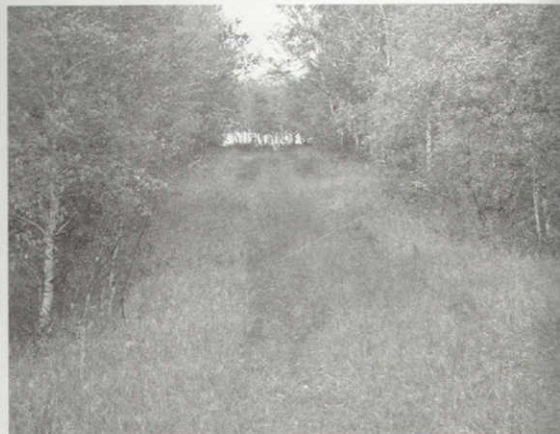
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Layout and Design by Lori Nixon

CANADIAN PUBLICATION
AGREEMENT NUMBER
1848917

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New Breed Magazine - From Traplines to City Lights
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Métis National Council Holds 18th Annual General Assembly

Edmonton, Alberta, September 27-28, 2002

Article and Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

This year's Annual General Assembly was well attended by Métis Leaders, Veterans and citizens from across the Métis Nation homeland. As well, Minister Ralph Goodale brought opening remarks to the delegates, reviewing the opportunities that the Métis Nation have created through their diligence, including the new

exploratory discussion roundtable on Métis Rights. The Assembly began with the Opening Ceremonies attended by our Métis Veterans and Senate Members, along with Elected leaders and dignitaries. The newly re-elected President of the Métis Nation of Alberta Audrey Poiras welcomed the delegates and participants to her home province, greetings which were echoed by Hon. Pearl Callaghan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs for Alberta.

The Métis Nation Cabinet members gave their Ministerial Reports, beginning with President Gerald Morin, followed by presentations by President Clem Chartier, Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, Vice-President of the Métis National Council and Minister Responsible for Métis Nation Agenda, Litigation, Governance and Definition, and Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Treasurer Allan Morin, MNC Minister of the Environment, providing update reports on their



Philip Chartier and Lorna Docken



Senator Nora Ritchie with two Métis members of the R.C.M.P.

national portfolios. Youth President Jennifer Brown was in attendance at the event, participating in Métis National Council Youth Advisory Council meetings on behalf of Saskatchewan, where she holds the position of President and as Co-Chairperson on the National Youth Council. Provincial President of the Métis Women of Saskatchewan, MaryAnn Gagnon participated in the national meeting of Métis Women, along with Saskatchewan's Lisa McCallum, as President of the Métis Women's Secretariate, an Affiliate of the Métis National Council. Provincial Métis Council members Helen Johnson, Dave Ross, Dale McAuley, Myles Pelletier, Vince Folk, Peter Rudyck, Guy Bouvier, Norman Hansen, Al Rivard, Ralph Kennedy, Albert Delaire, Alex Maurice, Allan Morin and Lorna Docken represented the Métis of Saskatchewan at the national table.

This year's Assembly made significant movement on a number of important issues. Lengthy discussions took place on the issues surrounding the National Definition of Métis, as well as the Kyoto Agreement on the Environment, and the implications to the land and resources and the economic development activities related to those resources. President Chartier presented the Definition, accepted in principle by the Métis National Council Board of Governors, the same version which had been ratified by the Métis of Saskatchewan at the Métis Nation Legislative

Assembly in North Battleford in November 2001. The proposed definition had been drawn up after extensive consultations over the last four years with the Métis people across the homeland by the provincial organizations Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia, Métis Nation of Alberta, Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, Manitoba Métis Federation, Métis Nation of Ontario under the mandate of the Métis Nation Agenda portfolio. MNC President Gerald Morin brought forward an amendment to the definition that was supported by the majority of Métis leaders, clarifying that the Métis are a distinct Aboriginal people. Further to the definition, the tabled document included significant discussion on the definitions of the terms used in the National Definition of Métis, including the "Acceptance process" and the term



Manitoba Métis Federation Senator Ed Head

“Historic Métis Nation.” The amendment reduced the document to a new National Definition of Métis and defining the terms within that National Definition. The remainder of the terminology and process will be considered over the next few years. The National Definition would set the framework for the development of a national registry, and will guide the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan in its citizenship and registry activities.

Treasurer Allan Morin presented his report on the environment, recounting his international travels and his recommendations for increased Métis involvement in environmental matters on a global scale. The Kyoto Agreement was discussed at some length, with delegates sharing their understandings and visions for Canada's ecological wellness. It was felt that the Métis Nation had much to offer discussions of this kind and the Nation should continue to work towards enabling agreements with Canada and beyond. As well as the reports, a number of Resolutions were tabled through the Resolutions Committee, the final results of which are provided below.

The gathering of Métis Leaders, Veterans, Senators, Women and Youth, at the Métis Nation General Assembly is an historic and significant



MNA President Audrey Poitras, Métis Interlocutor, Ralph Goodale and Pearl Calahasen, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs for the Government of Alberta



Co-Chairs Michelle Harding and Cliff Gladue

event. Over the course of two days, the elected leaders share the worries and the decisions and the directions determined within their respective jurisdictions, as Provincial Council Members, Board of Governors, and national and regional Presidents. When you look around the table, you see men and women who are not with their families, who care deeply for Métis people, and who volunteer many hours of their time each day to the struggle for quality in life. The purpose of the gathering was clearly respected.

The Métis Nation and its leaders continue to face incredible odds in international, national and regional matters in every sector. The Métis Nation is a small but distinct Nation in Canada and it is a challenge to find a voice in the absence of established legal authority. In their commitment, the leaders often work on a daily basis with systems, organizations, political leaders and individuals who do not want to have to deal with the poverty and the outcomes of poverty that is rampant in our families and communities. Our Métis leaders attend and speak at many forums on behalf of the people and are not always welcomed to the tables where the decisions for the future are laid out. They have to fight for every opportunity and for every seat at the table on behalf of the Métis people and these battles are sometimes hard on the spirit. Our leaders need our support if they are to make a difference. The sixty men and women around that table this weekend need all the support we can provide, to move the issues of the Nation

forward, to contribute to the future of our provinces and this country. We are sometimes quick to criticize and yet we seldom find the time to say thank you for the contribution that they have made. As I move from local to regional to national and to international forums, I listen to our leaders speaking about the people they represent, telling the stories of our lives as a Nation in Canada. I am honoured to be there to listen and work and proud of the courage and vision they show.

As Louis Riel and the Council of 40 fought the challenges of the day in 1869, negotiating Métis recognition in the development of Canada, and Louis Riel and the residents of Batoche fought the challenges of 1885, the elected leaders of the Métis Nation today continue to fight the battles of the 21st century. Sector by sector, issue by issue, they negotiate and fight for the opportunity for Métis people to contribute to and to benefit from the plentiful richness of this land. This year's Annual General Assembly theme was: "A Celebration of Strength." When the Métis Veterans walked by in the opening and closing ceremonies, flying the Métis Nation flag and the Canadian flag, walking in line with our elected leaders, I am reminded that we have big shoes to fill in fighting for a better Canada. While the Métis Veterans continue the battle for the proper recognition and respect from the Government of Canada for the contributions they have made, I am reminded that there is little recognition offered to the Métis leaders who fight the modern day battles. There are no benefit plans, no proper salaries, and an incredible shortage of staff to carry out the work of our leaders who meet with government officials stocked with lawyers, accountants, assistants, and program staff. I would wish that somehow we could see to it that the Métis Nation treated its modern soldiers, the elected leaders, with the respect and support they need to find success. Unity is the strength that will take us forward to a better future. This is what the Métis Veterans stand for, in my mind, having the discipline to serve others in the most difficult of times. Next time you meet a Métis Veteran or an elected Métis Nation official, share a bit of encouragement and offer a hand. It would make such an important contribution.



Top to Bottom:

- Norman Hansen and Al Rivard
- Dave Ross, Dale McAuley, and Peter Rudyck
- Myles Pelletier and Vince Folk
- Alex Maurice and Allan Morin
- Albert Delaire and Ralph Kennedy

MNC Assembly Resolutions:

Resolution 2:

National Ballot Box Election

WHEREAS the value of democracy is sacred to the Metis Nation; and

WHEREAS the leadership of the Metis Nation believes that every Metis citizen has the right to vote for their national president through a fair, transparent and independent nation wide ballot box election; and

WHEREAS a nationwide ballot box election for the Metis National Council's President will strengthen the legitimacy and accountability of the Metis Nation's national government;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the goal for the next election for the Metis National Council's President be a nation wide, fair and transparent ballot box election; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the MNC President and MNC Board of Governors be mandated to develop a nation wide ballot box election process to be brought back to the next MNC Annual General Assembly to update and or ratification and approval.

Moved: Audrey Poitras, AB Second: Earl Belcourt, BC

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Gerald Morin

Resolution 2:

National Métis Sport Body

WHEREAS the Métis National Youth Advisory Council (MNYAC) recognizes sports and recreation as a healthy lifestyle alternative and

WHEREAS the MNYAC looks to promote and achieve physical and mental wellness; and

WHEREAS, the MNYAC supports Métis Athletes, THEREFORE, we declare, the MNYAC along with support and guidance of the MNC and its Governing Members looks to pursue the following:

1. To establish a National Sport Body within the Métis Nation

2. To promote the participation and aspirations of the Métis Athletes in the North American Indigenous Games and other related interested or events:

3. And to pursue financial resources that will support the National Sport Body and Métis Athletes in athletic endeavors.

Moved: Ed Ducharme, MB
Second: Jennifer Brown, SK
Carried



Clem Chartier and Tina Ethier

Resolution 3:

MNYAC Guiding Policies

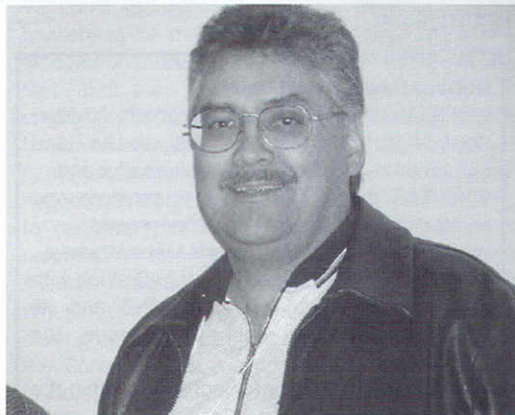
WHEREAS the MNYAC is the national youth voice for the Métis youth of the Métis Nation;

WHEREAS the Guiding Policies

of the MNYAC were adopted by way of resolution at the 1997 MNC AGA; and
 WHEREAS the MNYAC has grown in scope dramatically since 1997;
 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNC Assembly adopt and ratify the amendments made to original Guiding Policies to accommodate the evolution of the MNYAC.
Moved: Ed Ducharme, MB Second: Jennifer Brown, SK
Deferred to MNC Board of Governors



Carrie Lynne Lamouche and Marge Friedl



Tom Ghostkeeper

Resolution 4:

Towards a Long Term Healing Strategy

WHEREAS the Aboriginal Healing Foundation (AHF) was established to fund community based healing initiatives designed to address the legacy of Physical and sexual abuse arising from the Residential Schools System, including its inter-generational impacts; and
 WHEREAS the mandate of the AHF forces it to focuses on spending or committing the \$350 million Healing Fund within a five year period (1998-2003) as opposed to giving more careful consideration to longer-term, more effective healing processes; and
 WHEREAS the Government of Canada committed over 80 years and \$800 million, in today's dollars, to assimilation in the residential schools and only \$350 million and ten years to healing; and
 WHEREAS the resources provided to the AHF are

insufficient to effectively address the primary and inter-generational effects of physical and sexual abuse suffered in residential school within the current investment limitations; and
 WHEREAS projects that are active when the funds are spent will be forced to close down or seek other sources of funding to continue their healing processes; and
 WHEREAS closing down projects will cause greater harm and risk to survivors who are already involved or contemplating healing; and
 WHEREAS ensuring the establishment of a long term healing strategy will enable Canada and the Métis Nation to meet common objectives for the benefit of Métis Residential Survivors;
 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis National Council initiate negotiations with Canada to develop a long term healing strategy that will meet Métis needs and aspirations.

Moved: Harley Desjarlais, BC Second: David Chartrand, MB
Carried



MNA VP Trevor Gladue and MNO President Tony Belcourt



Paul Chartrand and Brenda Geisbreicht

Resolution 5:

Request to Senator Chalifoux

WHEREAS the Honourable Senator Thelma Chalifoux has made determined and admirable efforts in promoting the recognition of the Métis within the Senate of Canada;

WHEREAS the Honourable Senator made reference, at the 2001 Métis National council's Annual General Assembly, regarding her efforts concerning Métis Definition, including the discussion paper "Who We Are";

WHEREAS the Métis Nation has the inherit right of self-determination, including the right of Nations to define our own Métis Nation Citizenship;

WHEREAS the Métis National Council, as the right and proper representative of the Métis Nation, at the 2002 Annual General Assembly has unanimously resolved that "Métis' means a person who self identifies as Métis, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry, is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples, and is accepted by the Métis Nation"

WHEREAS the Métis National Council is unaware of the current status and results of the Honourable Senator's efforts with respect to Métis Definition;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis National Council

President draft and submit a written request, to the Honourable Senator, for an update as to the intent, status, and results of her ongoing efforts regarding Métis Definition.

Moved: John Fleury, MB Second: Karen Collins, AB

Carried

Resolution 6:

National Métis Women's Gathering

WHEREAS the Board of Governors of the Métis National Council assisted the Métis Women's Secretariat in having preliminary discussion on the role of the Métis National Women's Secretariat; and

WHEREAS Métis women have requested a National gathering to bring Métis women together to strengthen the position of supporting the MNC;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNC and Board of Governors assist the Métis Womens Secretariat in finding all the necessary resources to host the National Métis Womens Gathering.

Moved: Rosemarie McPherson, MB Second: Irene Collins, AB

Carried



A Milestone in Our History

Charlottetown and the Métis Nation Accord

Article by Jason Madden, photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

October of this year marked the ten-year anniversary of the Canadian electorate's rejection of the Charlottetown Accord. Understandably, the anniversary went by without much public fanfare. For those who voted against the Accord, the last thing desired was a renewed discussion surrounding constitutional issues. For supporters of the Accord, many of the wounds and bruises over its defeat are still rather fresh; therefore, a replay of the reasons for the loss was not a high priority. However, for the Métis Nation the anniversary marks an extremely important milestone in our ongoing struggle for recognition and reconciliation, as a distinct Aboriginal people, within the Canadian federation.

Since the days of Riel, the Métis Nation has attempted to secure a fair, just and respectful relationship with Canada. Our history of trying to achieve this goal has been a tumultuous one. Our efforts to secure and protect our homeland as part of Canada's western expansion at Red River in 1870 and Batoche in 1885 are well known. The hanging of our leader Louis Riel continues to be a shameful reminder of the injustice perpetuated on our people. As well, the discrimination, poverty and persecution our people faced in the late 1800s and early 1900s continues to carve itself into our nation's psyche.

Irrespective of these challenges, the Métis Nation has persevered. Over these trying years, our families and communities did whatever they could to keep our distinct nationhood, language, culture and way of life alive. Beginning in the early 1900s, as a part of this perseverance, our public pride and resilience began to build again through our communities coming together to politically organize and assert our nationhood at a local, provincial and national level. In the 1950s, these movements joined with other Aboriginal peoples in order to draw attention to the deplorable socio-economic conditions facing Métis, First Nation and Inuit peoples.

As a result of this collective political mobilization, constitutional protection of the existing Aboriginal and Treaty rights of Canada's three Aboriginal peoples was secured in s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. In particular, this was a triumph for the Métis Nation with the explicit recognition of the Métis, as one of Canada's three distinct Aboriginal peoples within s. 35(2).

Within Canada's Parliament, section 35 was described as a "political watershed", a "turning point in the status of native peoples in [Canada]" and a "... reconciliation of old and difficult grievances." In order to breathe life into s. 35, a series of four First Ministers Conferences (FMC) were held. Unfortunately, agreement between the various parties on additional amendments or processes flowing from s. 35 was not achieved within these FMCs. For the Métis Nation, this failure resulted in the federal and provincial governments reverting to their historic positions of refusing to negotiate with the Métis on rights and land issues as well as denying jurisdiction for the Métis.

However, in September of 1991 the federal government tabled a proposal to renew the Canadian federation. The proposal called for sweeping changes to Canada's Constitution as well as a commitment to address "*the appropriate roles and responsibilities of governments as they relate to the Metis.*"

Beginning in September 1991, as a part of the overall federal constitutional consultations, the MNC and its Governing Members undertook parallel consultations with the Métis Nation. Based on these consultations, the MNC made various submissions to the federal government's constitutional processes throughout the winter and spring of 1992 and prepared a final report responding to the various federal constitutional proposals. In particular, the MNC's submissions focused on the federal government assuming its responsibility for the Métis under s. 91(24). Based on these submissions, the MNC was able to obtain agreement that as a part of the Charlottetown Accord

would have been amended to explicitly include the Métis.

As well, throughout this period the MNC aggressively lobbied to establish a bilateral process in order to address important issues relating to the Métis. Flowing from this successful lobby, the Métis Nation Accord was born as a modern-day Treaty between the federal government, all provinces from Ontario westward and the Métis Nation.

The Métis Nation Accord was a historic political accommodation that would have resolved many of the legal questions and outstanding claims of the Métis within the Canadian federation. It was a legally binding and justifiable agreement that contained the following elements:

- Agreement on a definition of Métis;
- The establishment of tripartite self-government negotiations between the federal government, Métis governments and the respective provincial governments and a commitment of financial resources for the negotiations;
- A commitment on the part of governments to negotiate a land and resource base for Métis;
- A commitment on the part of governments to undertake an enumeration of the Métis and establish a central registry;
- A commitment on the part of government to devolve programs and services to the Métis, provide transfer payments to Métis government to support these programs and services as well as preserve existing funding and services already provided to the Métis;
- Provisions for the protection of the Alberta Métis Settlements;

The result of the ratification of the Charlottetown Accord and concurrent ratification of the Métis Nation Accord would have resolved many of the long outstanding legal issues and claims vis-à-vis Métis. Instead, following the defeat of Charlottetown the federal and provincial governments once again reverted to their historic stonewall positions of not dealing with the Métis.

In response, the Métis Nation was forced to litigate in



Young Métis Lawyer, Jason Madden presenting at the MNA General Assembly

order to seek justice. After almost ten years of expensive litigation, in April of 2003, the first two substantive Métis rights cases (*R. v. Powley* and *R. v. Blais*) will be heard before the Supreme Court of Canada. Within these two cases, the highest court of the land will get its first chance to elaborate on what is within s. 35 for the Métis people and attempt to reconcile some of the long outstanding issues between the Métis Nation and the Canadian federation. Instead of a political accommodation with Canada through the Métis Nation Accord, the fate of our rights and struggle for recognition now lies before nine of the most well respected judges in Canada.

However, even though many of the issues within the Métis Nation Accord will now have to be resolved by the Supreme Court, it is important to remember that Charlottetown was a significant milestone in our contemporary history as an Aboriginal people within Canada. Irrespective of the court's decision, we must continue to push forward on securing our rightful place within the Canadian federation and the Métis Nation Accord provides a solid foundation for how we can get there if there is political will.

Jason Madden is Métis born and raised in Northwestern Ontario. His family has and still resides in the historic Treaty Three Half-breed Adhesion area near Rainy Lake. He is a lawyer and is currently the General Counsel to the Métis National Council (MNC) based in Ottawa.



Hunting and Fishing Rights Update

Article by Clem Chartier, photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

Through the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, under Minister Norman Hansen, the MNS has continued its relationship with Saskatchewan Environment (SE). While the discussions are positive, there is still no significant movement on the part of the province to recognize Métis hunting and fishing rights throughout the whole of Saskatchewan. As reported previously, because of the 1997 Morin and Daigneault fishing case in northwest Saskatchewan, SE is not charging Métis from northern Saskatchewan if they are hunting and fishing for food, and if they do not have a job. This I believe is an incorrect reading of the case. For all Métis south of the Northern Administration District (NAD) line (which runs below Green Lake and Cumberland House) SE states that Métis will be charged if they are caught hunting or fishing without a license

In the Maurice and Gardiner case, dealt with by the Provincial Court sitting at Meadow Lake in a written decision handed down on Friday, October 5, 2001, both Mr. Maurice and Mr. Gardiner (Métis from northwest Saskatchewan) were convicted of the charge of hunting at night with a searchlight. In my personal capacity as a Métis citizen, I decided to take on the case as it was viewed as an opportunity to address SE's interpretation of the Morin and Daigneault case, especially two of its four criteria. It was also viewed as an opportunity to deal with s.91(24) of the Constitution Act 1867 and the federal government's jurisdiction and responsibility for Métis, as well as paragraph 12 of the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (NRTA) 1930 which had been the subject of the Grumbo case out of

Yorkton. Unfortunately, the Trial Judge did not deal with any of those issues, and ruled that regardless of Aboriginal rights or paragraph 12 hunting rights, no one, including Indians, can hunt with a light at night outside of Indian Reserves. The Judge also ruled that the joint SE/MNS consultations on night hunting held in January 1998 were sufficient to meet the Sparrow test. An appeal to the Court of Queen's Bench in



Battleford produced the same result. The case was not appealed to the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal. As it now stands, SE is still applying its four criteria in northern Saskatchewan, that is, you must have Métis ancestry, must be a longtime resident of northern Saskatchewan, must be hunting north of the NAD line and must be living a traditional lifestyle, that is, living off the land.

In terms of the rest of the province, there are several potential test-cases which could address Métis hunting and fishing rights throughout the whole of the province. While the MNS has not formally agreed to defend these cases, in my personal capacity through the Métis Rights Defense Fund, I have agreed to defend the following Métis persons. The first case, as I reported at the last MNLA is a new Métis Aboriginal fishing rights test case involving Mr. Laviolette of Meadow Lake, who was charged at Green Lake with fishing in a closed season. This case has the potential of extending the s.35 Aboriginal harvesting rights to Métis below the Northern Administration District (NAD) line. While Mr. Laviolette's mother was originally from Green Lake, his father was originally from Duck Lake/Fort Carlton. In any event, both Green Lake and Duck

Lake/Fort Carlton were not covered by the Scrip Commission of 1906 which dealt with the Métis people/communities covered by the Morin and Daigneault case. It is truly a new test case. While the trial was originally scheduled for the first two weeks of June 2002, and then the last two weeks of October 2002, we have agreed to set it over to April 2003 in order to set a trial date. The reason for this is that both the Defense and the Crown would like to await the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in the Powley and Blais cases so that we can more properly prepare our evidence for trial.

There is also the case of R. v. Belhumeur from the Lebre/Regina area which is currently scheduled for trial in May 2003 at Fort Qu'Appelle. As this case is similar to the Laviolette case an application will be made to adjourn the trial until after the Laviolette decision is rendered. It is likely that the Laviolette case will be sufficient to establish the fishing and hunting rights throughout the province. A third case involving Mssrs. Martel and Martel from Glaslyn/North Battleford is also scheduled for trial in the spring of 2003. This one will also be sought to be adjourned until after the Laviolette case is dealt with.



George Lariviere and his daughter at PLAWR Meeting in Beauval

It should be mentioned that these cases are being defended through the efforts of the Buffalo Narrows Métis Local and the Clearwater Clear Lake Region, through fund-raising efforts started in 1993 by the Métis Rights Defense Fund. Any financial contributions which our citizens, Locals or Regions can contribute will certainly be appreciated. Payments can be made to the "Métis Rights Defense Fund" and mailed to Box 370, Buffalo Narrows, Sask S0M0J0.

In terms of litigation outside of Saskatchewan, the MNC intervened in the Blais case in Manitoba which was heard in the Manitoba Court of Appeal. Arguments were heard on October 18th and adjourned until December 1st, 2000, at which time the court reserved its decision, which was then delivered in the spring of 2001. In this case, the Court of Appeal ruled that the Métis do not fall under the term "Indian" in the 1930 NRTA, and upheld the conviction of Mr. Blais. This case has been appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada. The case will be heard in April 2003. The MNC has obtained intervener status and has appointed Jean Teillet, Jason Madden and myself as lawyers on the appeal. This case is important, as it will set a precedent for the Métis of Saskatchewan and Alberta, not only for the Métis of Manitoba.

The MNC has also successfully intervened in the Powley case in the Ontario Court of Appeal. This case is also important, as it dealt with the definition of Métis. While the two lower courts set out a definition for Métis, it was successfully argued in the Court of Appeal that it was not necessary for

them to do so. Further, it was also important as it is the first Métis test case under s.35 to reach the Supreme Court of Canada, and the Supreme Court will set out the tests which the Métis must meet in order to prove an Aboriginal right to hunt or fish. Hopefully, the Supreme Court will also not deal with the Métis definition issue, especially in light of the fact that the MNC has now adopted a national definition.

The Ontario Court of Appeal upheld the acquittal of the Powleys. The Ontario government has since successfully applied for and been granted leave to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court of Canada. This appeal will also be heard at the same time as the Blais appeal in April 2003. The MNC has also been granted intervener status in this case and has appointed Jason Madden and myself as their lawyers on the appeal.

Following the SCC's decisions in Powley and Blais we will be in a much better position to carry forward with Métis test cases in Saskatchewan as we will be guided by the tests which will be laid down for us by the Supreme Court.



Clem Chartier, Métis Lawyer

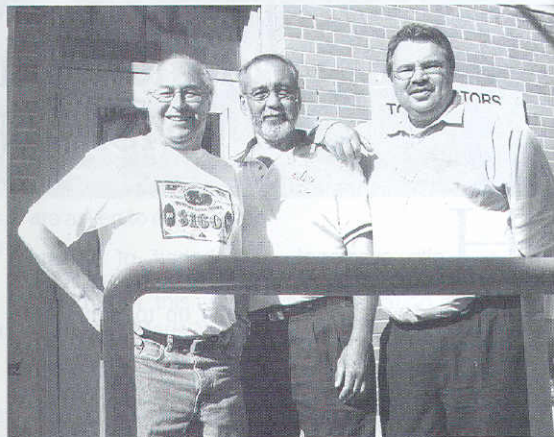
Prairie Métis Leaders Forum

Article and Photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

In January 2002, the elected leaders of the Manitoba Métis Federation, Métis Nation Saskatchewan and the Métis Nation of Alberta met in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan to explore the possibility of pursuing joint action with respect to Métis land rights and the effects of the scrip system imposed on the Métis in the late 1800s and early 1900s. A second meeting was then held during the month of July in Winnipeg, Manitoba where a decision was made to actively pursue joint research on the Dominion Lands Act and the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement 1930, two federal initiatives which had significant impacts on Métis ownership and control of lands.

The Prairie Métis Leaders are scheduled to meet again on January 18th and 19th, 2003 in Edmonton, Alberta to discuss future steps in this regard. In preparation for this meeting, Presidents Chartrand, Chartier and Poitras and their officials have been meeting with University of Alberta and their legal counsel to discuss research partnerships. One partnership initiative to date has been the application by the University of Alberta, supported by the three Presidents, to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). This initiative will seek to document the geography of the Métis Nation within the prairie provinces through an analysis of the Métis scrip commissions under the Dominion Lands Act.

The leaders have also committed to developing a communications strategy to inform Métis citizens and the general public with respect to the two federal legislative schemes and the relationship to the Métis. The January 2003 is open to the Métis public and citizens are encouraged to attend.



Left: MNS President Clem Chartier, MMF President David Chartrand and MNA President Audrey Poitras

Top: Clem Chartier, Ed Ducharme, MNC Cabinet Minister Responsible for Culture and David Chartrand

Bottom: Elected Leaders from prairie provinces and Chairs



Environment and Natural Resources Métis Nation-Saskatchewan

Article by Yvonne Vizina

Hello everyone! On behalf of Minister Norman Hansen, I would like to give you an update of what we have been up to within this portfolio. As you may know, the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan signed a Partnership Agreement with (MNS) Saskatchewan Environment (SE) in 1995 that outlines several objectives that we would like to work toward. These objectives are very important, as each year a work plan is created based on meeting the objectives of the Partnership Agreement.

1. To develop and maintain a good working relationship between the Parties through discussion and resolution of issues of mutual concern and ongoing communication and consultation.

2. To jointly develop a framework for Métis nation involvement in co-management of renewable resources in Saskatchewan which specifies the roles of the Métis Nation and its local and regional organizations. The Parties will base the framework on the following Co-management Principles:

- Public ownership and provincial

responsibility for renewable resources;

- Co-operation as partners in environmental and resource management through an approach based on mutual respect, trust, fairness and openness;
 - Stewardship of renewable resources and the environment as the keystone to sound management. Healthy ecosystems must be maintained; renewable resource use must be sustainable;
 - Integration of environment / renewable resource, economic development and social well-being in all planning and decision making as an approach critical for achieving sustainable development; and
 - Inclusive process - co-management must be open to all stakeholders, and respect existing uses and allocations. Stakeholders are individuals or groups with an interest in the geographic area and renewable resources being co-managed.
3. To work together to address wildlife management and conservation issues of mutual interest.

4. Should Métis rights with respect to fish and wildlife be established or recognized through other political and legal processes, to work together to implement those rights;

5. To discuss a range of specific issues with a view of reaching a common understanding and vision on each. The Issue Agenda may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Community environmental, social and economic sustainability;
- Métis involvement and priorities regarding forestry;
- Participation in SE proposed Multi-Stakeholder Forum and other mechanisms that facilitates Métis Nation consultation on regulatory changes, new legislation and policies;
- Employment and economic opportunities and joint projects with SE related to renewable resources;
- Forest fire management; and
- A formal dispute-resolution mechanism based on a mediation approach.

Our work plan for 2002 - 2003 includes advancing the work begun some time ago on a potential Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for north west Saskatchewan. Although the MOU was eventually discarded, the work has continued in the form of a pilot project for the same area.

The pilot project is known as the SE/MNS Fish and Wildlife Conservation Program. It is still a work-in-

progress, however, we are hoping to implement it very soon. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Program is our effort to begin the process of planning for the future and for future generations.

We are also working on our own policy development for the MNS in this portfolio, and are involved in some policy and planning forums with Saskatchewan Environment such as Enhanced Co-Management and Aboriginal Policy review.

The Bilateral Task Force (BTF) has not been active yet this year. The BTF was established to discuss issues of concern to the Metis regarding the environment / natural resources. However, the group was not able to make significant progress, and work is being done by the MNS at the moment to develop a new strategy before the BTF members are asked to reconvene.

One of the most important tasks we need to accomplish this year is a consultation process within the Metis Nation - Saskatchewan regarding environmental / natural resource issues. The diversity within the geography of the province of Saskatchewan makes it important to hear from as many people as possible within each Region.

If you have comments or questions regarding Environment and Natural Resources, please contact the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan office in Saskatoon at (306) 343-8285 or 1-888-343-6667 or send your comments to 219 Robin Crescent, Saskatoon, Sk, S7L6M8.



The Métis Rights Defense Fund
pays for the defense of Métis Rights Test Cases
Contributions can be made to the Métis Rights Defense Fund
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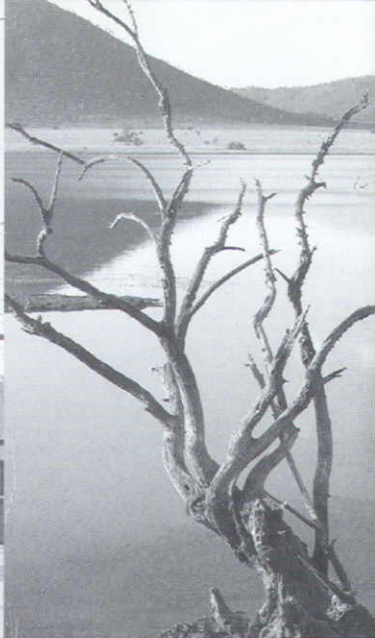
Learning about South Africa

Article and photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

In 1994 Nelson Mandela as leader of the National African Congress (ANC) was elected as President of South Africa. After 27 years of imprisonment and a lifelong commitment to equality for Blacks in South Africa Mandela gained the authority he needed to bring an end to apartheid. In Canada we look at apartheid as a racial issue, segregating Blacks from Whites. The outcome of apartheid is huge divide between rich and poor, authority and lack of authority, oppressor and oppressed, haves and have-nots. Apartheid brought the development of Black townships as part of the segregation regime. The development of South Africa's rich mineral resources dictated the minority Whites' exploitation of the majority Black population. Beginning in 1652, South Africa was colonized by

the Dutch and French; in the 1800's, the British, with their enormous influence arrived; and in 1910, the Republic of South Africa was formed. This is part of South Africa's history now.

On our flight to Johannesburg I had the extraordinary fortune to meet Ferida Mohamed, a Member of Parliament for South Africa and member of the African National Congress Party. Ms. Mohamed and her family invited us to see South Africa with them. We were a party of six, Norman Hansen, Peggy Hansen, Doreen Morin, Frank Tough, Clem Chartier and myself, and they accommodated us to drive from Johannesburg to Pretoria and Sun City, passing through the Elizabeth Townships and many small rural communities. As we drove it was like a history



lesson. Ms. Mohammed was a Muslim woman, her ancestors having moved there from India several generations previously as part of the imported labour force to work in the mines and on the railroad. Ms. Mohammed is the Member of Parliament for Pretoria which is the capital of South Africa. She was also very involved in the United Nations Summit as she sits on the Foreign Affairs Committee of Parliament. On another evening we caught a shuttle to Church Square in the heart of Pretoria about an hours drive from Johannesburg where we visited their home and shared in a traditional Indian meal of curried chicken. Did you know that Indian meals typically begin with something sweet; in the same way we end our meal with something sweet? This was the best part of the meal for me! After dinner we drank Indian tea which is made by boiling the tea leaves with milk, served with biscuits and shared the history of the Métis Nation with them. Ms. Mohammed and her daughter attended our presentations at the Umbuntu Village and had many questions for us about our sense of the future as Aboriginal people within the Canadian state.

One of the basic philosophies of Mandela was that South Africa belonged to everyone, including the Indigenous and Tribal peoples of South Africa. The population of South Africa is about 80% Black which includes the Indian population, which was also a victim of apartheid and segregation. The remaining twenty percent is the White population, the majority known as the Afrikaners, many of which have lived in South Africa for many generations. This basic philosophy has meant in many ways that South Africa has been returned to the Black population which remains the majority population in South Africa today. In discussing our own history as Aboriginal people in Canada we expressed a wish of the Métis people to obtain and retain specific land bases and self-government because we are such a numerical minority that such a philosophy as that which has been successful in South Africa will never suit our needs in Canada. We need only refer back to the Red River in 1870 where such a government was contemplated, but which within a few years saw the Métis outnumbered by White immigration, and our people then marginalized from politics and displaced from our lands. In many ways apartheid was a part of Canada with the establishment of



many small Reserves, establishment of residential schools, the removal of children from their homes and the displacement of the people from their traditional lands and lifestyles. In fact a South African delegation in the mid-1900s visited Reserves in Saskatchewan to study the system created by the federal government of Canada, and used this knowledge in establishing the apartheid system in South Africa.

As part of the side events to the World Summit we visited SOWETO which is short for "South West Townships", which is the home of three million people just minutes outside of Johannesburg which itself has a population of nine million. We visited a small neighborhood within SOWETO and were provided a tour by a young man who took us to his home and a home of a neighbor. We then visited the home of Nelson Mandela which has now been converted into a museum in his honor. We also drove past the home of Winnie Mandela. Next we visited the Hector Petersen Museum which was built to hold the story of the non-violent protest of the school children and their families against the imposition of the teaching in the Afrikaans language. Tragically, in 1972, the

police fired upon the crowd killing several children including Hector Petersen whose photo was taken and served as a symbol of the struggle.

We also visited the Apartheid Museum which chronicles the story of the struggle against apartheid, and the oppression suffered under apartheid. Through photos and video recordings the events are told. The museum also details the development of South Africa's politics including the development of the African National Congress. In speaking with Ferida Mohammed I came to see how the museums were built to tell the history of the country no matter how tragic in order to move beyond it to a South Africa free of such human destruction. While you could not ignore the rolling razor wire around the private homes what was most apparent was the incredible beauty of the landscape, the great numbers of people who offered kindness and friendship and the commitment of the government to deal with homelessness and poverty. While I learned about South Africa I more clearly understood Canada, returning home with new ideas and renewed energy for a positive future.



We're Building **BETTER HIGHWAYS**

This summer highway crews are busy fixing the roads across the province. These projects are presently under construction or will be getting underway in August and September. Call the Highway Hotline for details about other projects starting soon.

Major Highway and Twinning Projects

Highway	Description	Location
1	Resurfacing	15.7 km east of Webb
1	Surfacing	23.5 km near Maple Creek
1	Resurfacing	24.3 km west of Moose Jaw
6	Grading & Surfacing	16.5 km near Minton
4 & 16	Grading & Surfacing	8.5 km near Battlefords
6 & 16	Resurfacing	18.6 km near Elfors
11	Resurfacing	24.2 km near Craik
11	Resurfacing	8.4 km northeast of MacDowell
16	Twinning	3.6 km through Lashburn
16	Resurfacing	11.4 km northwest of North Battleford

Rural Highway Improvements

Highway	Description	Location
9	Resurfacing	30.5 km near Stockholm
9	Resurfacing	13 km near Yorkton
12	Surfacing	11.4 km north of Blaine Lake
15	Grading & Surfacing	14 km west of Nokomis
37	Surfacing	15.6 km south of Shaunavon
44	Grading & Surfacing	13.9 km near Gildlean
47	Grading	9.8 km north of Corning Access
102	Grading	12 km south of Brabant
123	Grading	12.6 km south of Cumberland House
135	Grading	15.6 km north of Jan Lake
155	Surfacing	21.4 km near Beauval
903	Grading	11 km north of Meadow Lake



Remember...
when driving in Saskatchewan, slow to 60 km in the Orange Zone and when passing Emergency Vehicles.

Watch for construction signs and heavy equipment during this season of busy road construction.

**Highway
HOTLINE**
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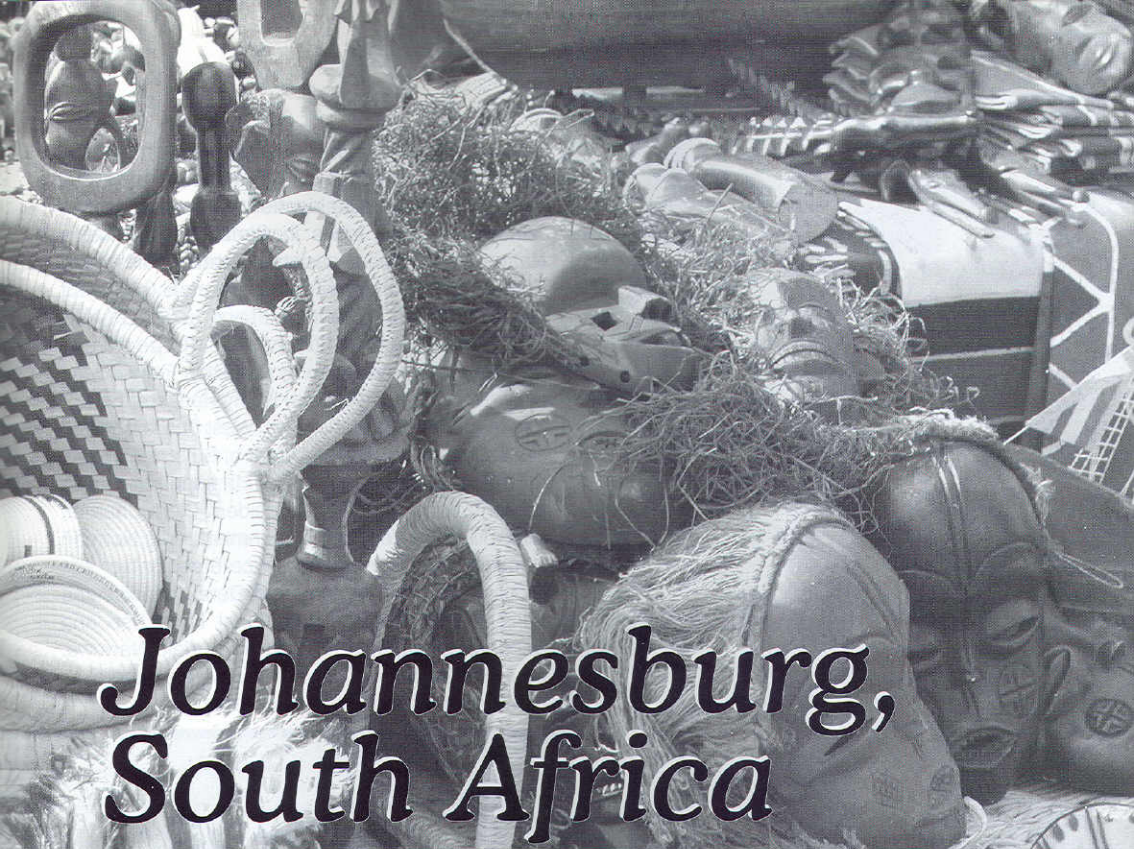
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Hon. Mark Wartman
Minister



Johannesburg, South Africa

Article and photos by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

From August 24 to September 4, 2002 the United Nations held the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. This was the second conference which brought world leaders, environmentalists, Indigenous peoples, private sector companies and non-governmental organizations together to discuss the major issues of the environment. This follows the first meeting held ten years earlier in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This conference is known as the Earth Summit.

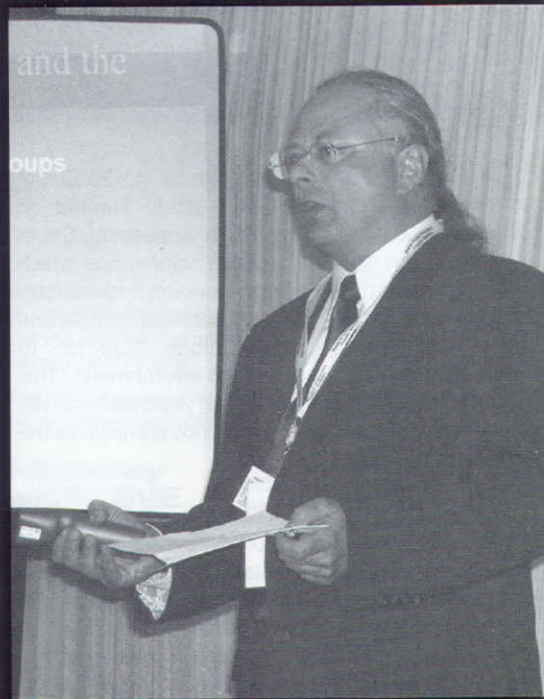
In the May/June 2002 issue of *New Breed Magazine*, I included a story on the Métis Nation's involvement with the United Nations through the establishment of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The Métis Nation's involvement with the United Nations has been in place since the early 1970s, and became formalized in 1997 when

the Métis National Council applied for and received, consultative status with the UN's Economic and Social Council. The Métis Nation was also involved with world Indigenous issues through MNC President Clem Chartier who served as President (1984-87) and Vice-President (1993-97) of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples.

Over the past several years, the MNC has been active in international matters, including work on the environment. MNC Treasurer, Allan Morin in the late 1990s had the environment portfolio, and as of December 2001 has been MNC's Minister of Environment. In this capacity, Minister Morin, in collaboration with Metis Nation of Ontario President Tony Belcourt who is MNC's Minister of International Affairs, was instrumental in preparing the MNC's participation at the Earth Summit.



While Minister Morin attended as part of the Canadian delegation to the Earth Summit the Métis sent an additional delegation to present issues relating to Métis lands in Canada. The Métis Nation presentation consisted of three main areas: Displacement of Métis from their Lands (history of the scrip system), Traditional Land Use and Métis Resource Use Litigation. Respectively, presentations were given by Professor Frank Tough of the University of Alberta, Kathy Hodgson-Smith, Research Director of the North West Saskatchewan Métis Council and Jason Madden, General Counsel for the Métis National Council. In support of these presentations were MNS President Clem Chartier, MNS Minister for the Environment, Mr. Norman Hansen, Mr. Gary Lipinski, Vice-President of the Métis Nation of Ontario, and Doreen Morin and Peggy Hanson of the Traditional Land Use and Occupancy Mapping program in Buffalo Narrows. Paul Heighington of the MNC was also there as technical support to the presentations.



While the Métis Nation delegation members were not participants in the main conference we did find opportunity to network with other Indigenous peoples attending the meetings of the Indigenous caucus which drafted their position paper on environmental matters, hoping to influence the outcomes of the Summit. Nevertheless, Allan Morin who actively participated as part of the Canadian delegation kept the MNC delegation informed of conference decisions. Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Minister of Environment, David Anderson led the Canadian delegation.

The outcomes of the Earth Summit can be found on the government of Canada's Department of Environment's website: www.environment.gc.ca



Top Left: Clem Chartier
 Bottom Left: Delegate of the Haida Nation
 Left: Frank Tough
 Above: Kathy Hodgson-Smith
 Top Right: Métis Delegation (left to right)
 Gary Lipinski, Allan Morin, Clem Chartier,
 Kathy Hodgson-Smith, Jason Madden
 Peggy Hanson, Paul Heighington, and Doreen
 Morin
 Middle Right: Gary Lipinski
 Bottom Right: Jason Madden

Caribbean Commonwealth Youth Exchange Program My Experience in Jamaica

Article by Jennifer Brown, Photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

This past summer youth from Anguilla, Antigua, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Belize, Bahamas, Canada, Cayman Island, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & The Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos, and representatives from the South Pacific nations of the Fiji Islands and Samoa came together to take part in the Commonwealth Caribbean Youth Exchange from July 25th August 2nd, in Mandeville, Jamaica. I was one of six youth from Canada invited to participate by the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrews. Living in Jamaica with a woman who opened her home to four youth from various parts of the Caribbean and myself was something I never dreamed. It wasn't until Air Canada flight 984 from Toronto arrived in Kingston, Jamaica that I realized that for the next two weeks Mandeville would be the place I would call home, and Ms. Jean Campbell would be the woman that my house mates and I would call Auntie.

As a Canadian, getting prepared to go to Jamaica I had no clue as to what to expect, and most of that comes from not having an agenda of activities that would be taking place. All I knew is that I would get to meet Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, the Governor General Sir Howard Cooke and youth from the Caribbean. Three days before my scheduled flight departure, I received my e-ticket, and a note of the other participating Canadians whom I was to meet at Pearson International Airport in Toronto. Excitement overwhelmed me, but nothing could prepare me for the encounters and experiences I was to have.

Jamaica was a true learning experience, like most tourists I got to see Montego Bay, Ocho Rios, Dunn's River and the crystal clear blue marine waters with the white beaches. I also got to see the real Jamaica, the Jamaica not published in the travel guides or shown in the movies, like Top Gun. We were taken to small communities where the tourists rarely go, unless they get lost on the highway. We saw beautiful mountaintops, valleys in an abundance of green, poverty on the streets where the locals would target our



“white” faces as a source of income. I heard car alarms in the middle of the night, heard a gun shot - when walking home, slept upstairs with the lizards away from the cockroaches, and bought ice cream from a van that comes to 16 Clover Way once every week. Eventually the sounds of the car alarms went away, I stopped noticing the cockroaches, and would await - for the ice cream van for the woman promised to come back every second evening so I could sit in the cooler of the van and think about snow, for a fee though. I learnt quickly that there is a fee for most everything in Jamaica.

During my time spent in Jamaica, I attended workshops, presentations, celebrations, lectures at the University of the West Indies Mona Campus, and went on site visits to a high school and a place called Accompong where the people lived as they lived during the 85 years they fought the British. Free time, which was never very often, was spent learning from the other delegates. I met my first Rasta on a bus ride from Mandeville to Apple Valley; hailing from Cayman Islands Gordon Solomon who taught me about the Imperial Majesty and what it means to be Rasta, though I freely admit my understanding is still very little. He was intrigued that I had so many questions and a bit

amazed that I had never met a Rastafarian before. Like all the other Canadians I was confused as to why everyone thought that every other place in Canada was close to Toronto.

Now I could write about Ginger Juice, milk that came from the cupboard, driving 60 mph up the mountain side on the wrong side of the road listening to Bob Marley's Buffalo Soldier with a plate of rice and peas (actually giant kidney beans) on my lap and how sugar cane is an acquired taste but I want to write about Emancipation Day.

August 1, 1838 was the day the Jamaicans were granted Emancipation from slavery. One Hundred and Sixty Four years later a group of Rastafarians, beating drums, roved Kingston celebrating. For many in Jamaica it was another welcomed public holiday and for others it was a special occasion to reminisce about the historic end to slavery in Jamaica. For me it was a chance to see a nation of people unite to celebrate their historic roots and all that they endured, it was like Batoche for Jamaica where our proud fiddle would play there was reggae and where we would jig they danced to the beat of the drum.

I was one of thousands who sat as Prime Minister P.J. Patterson opened the newly constructed \$100 million Emancipation Park in New Kingston, which is home to three fountains, a large bandstand, monuments to history and a 500-metre jogging and fitness trail (which of course I like many others walked along). It was a day where the music never ended, where families had picnics, where young men played a game of cricket, and the children were delighted to a history lesson in a play called "Ring Ding". The Prime Minister said: " I firmly believe that our ancestors would approve of much that has been accomplished. As soon as they achieved their freedom, they rapidly left the estates, where they had suffered all the indignities and desperation that slavery engenders and fled into the hinterlands, into the hills and began building a new life for them selves. In the words of a former slave at a function to commemorate emancipation held in upper Clarendon in 1842; 'now we can buy our own land, build our own house and go to our own church.'" The Prime Minister explained to the crowd how Jamaica's



history recorded that during slavery, the ancestors used hillside lots to grow ground provisions that fed the entire population, including the planters. Even though these lands belonged to them at the end of emancipation, these lands were soon taken back.

My days living in Mandeville were educational; I made friends from all parts of the Caribbean and even a few from Canada. I spent most of my time with Caribbean translators because I couldn't understand the English they spoke and although that frustrated me I think it frustrated Kester from Grenada more. Individuals like Jermaine and Kerri Ann from Jamaica, Janerio from the Bahamas, Kareem from BVI and Sheldon from Belize took the time to make sure I understood what was going on, even though sometimes I had an even harder time understanding them. I came to depend on this people who were more than just translators, they helped me to understand the realities they faced and acted as teachers. Jermaine is an intelligent young man living in a poor town in Jamaica and although he has gone through University he can't find work. Kerri Ann is just starting University and like many had to move to the big city to obtain an education. Janerio, I am sure will be successful in the area of politics in the Bahamas for he has achieved so much already but has considered moving to the States to thrive. Kareem never shared much more than his laughter and that was fine by me, because he helped me to laugh when others would laugh at my proper English. And Sheldon, I don't think will ever leave Punta Gorda, for that is his home and his heart, and if you heard him speak of the beauty and poverty of his reality you might wonder why he won't leave. I came to learn that regardless of the politics surrounding Punta Gorda in Belize the people there continue to hold strong to their way of life.

PRESS RELEASE

Métis Nation and Government of Canada Enter Into Unprecedented Discussions on Métis Rights and Land Issues

B a t o c h e , Saskatchewan (July 25, 2002) --- The Métis National Council (MNC) and Government of Canada will immediately begin exploratory discussions on an array of identified issues, including Métis rights and land issues, in order to assess whether there is a basis for future negotiations and to determine next steps.

Gerald Morin, President of the MNC and Ralph Goodale, Minister for Public Works and Government Services and the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians met today in Saskatoon to initiate the process. As well, President Morin and Minister



Goodale will make a formal announcement today at the opening ceremonies of the annual 'Back to Batoche' celebrations.



The exploratory discussions will be led by designated representatives of the Government of Canada and the MNC. The discussions will be strictly exploratory in nature, conducted without prejudice to any legal or policy positions or other proceeding, including those currently before the courts. A period of six months has been set aside for the process.

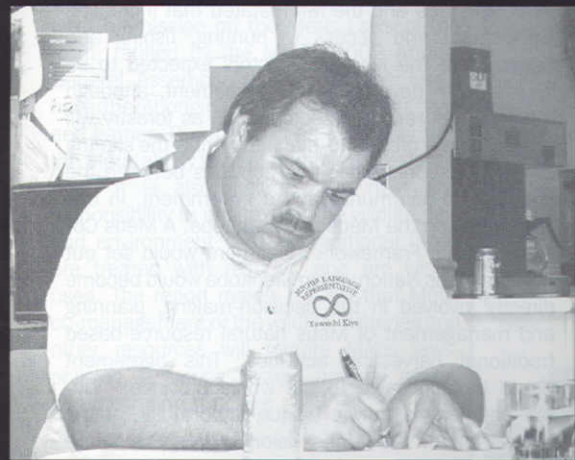
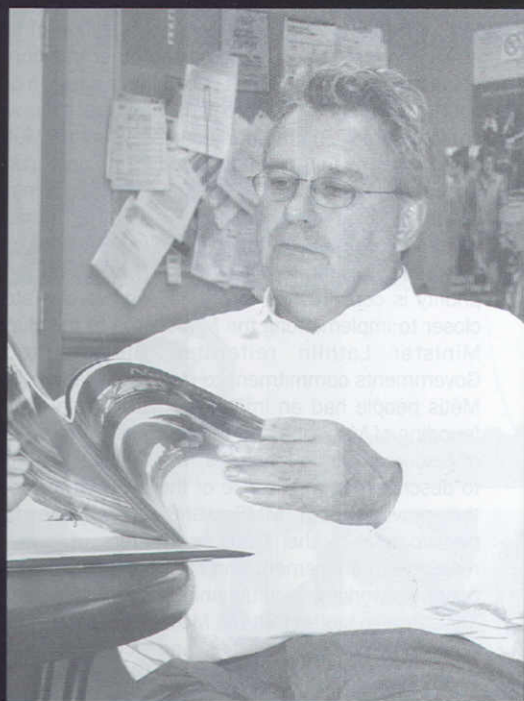
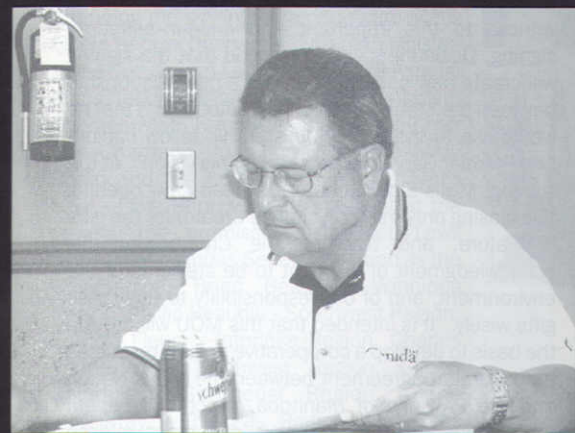
"I view the exploratory discussion process as a very significant and sincere endeavour on the part of the Government of Canada to

begin addressing the long outstanding issues the Métis Nation," said President Morin. "I am hopeful that through the efforts of pro-active leadership, these exploratory discussions will allow us to develop a framework for future negotiations, rather than the courts having to define the Metis Nation's relationship with Canada."

The exploratory discussion process is a part of the Government of Canada's on-going commitment to realizing a Métis Nation Agenda flowing from Gathering Strength: Canada's Aboriginal Action Plan with the MNC.

The MNC represents the Métis Nation within Canada at a national and international level. It is formed by its Governing Members of the Métis Nation of Ontario, the Manitoba Métis Federation, the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia coming together to mandate a national governance structure.

Press Release courtesy the Métis National Council.



Above Left: Canada Minister Ralph Goodale
Above: President David Chartrand
Left: Saskatchewan Minister Chris Axworthy participated in the Bilateral Process Talks at Batoche 2002

Manitoba Métis Federation Signs Historic Accord

Article and Photos by the Manitoba Métis Federation

On September 20, 2002, Manitoba Conservation and the Manitoba Métis Federation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to develop a Métis Co-Management Framework Agreement. Conservation Minister Oscar Lathlin and MMF President David Chartrand signed this significant and far-reaching accord in a well-attended ceremony at the MMF Home Office in Winnipeg. We are embarking on a historic path, President Chartrand explained while describing the MOU as an important step in the recognition of the Métis hunting, fishing, trapping and other traditional harvesting rights: The Métis people have rights in our country and now we are ensuring that we will continue practicing the traditional ways of the Métis Nation. This MOU is precedent-setting in Canada and shows the commitment by the provincial government to work with the Métis people as we together manage the resources that have been gifted to us. Our people throughout Manitoba have stated their number one priority is conservation and today we are one step closer to implementing the Métis Laws of the Hunt. Minister Lathlin reiterated the Manitoba Governments commitment to the Métis Nation: The Métis people had an important historic role in the founding of Manitoba and will continue to make use of resources within Manitoba. The Minister went on to describe the importance of the MOU saying that the province and MMF want to enhance the participation of the Métis in matters of natural resources management and create a proactive and positive working relationship. The Honourable Minister also stated that the MOU would clarify each others roles, responsibilities and activities in this relationship. I want to thank Minister Lathlin for his partnership as we strive to work together in a co-operative manner, said President Chartrand. I also want to thank the Métis people of Manitoba who made this historic day a reality. President Chartrand has been delighted with the response that he received from Citizens of the Métis Nation leading up to and following the signing: Métis across Manitoba have been calling me, to tell me that this is a very

emotional day. People are filled with pride in themselves and in their ancestors. There will come another day very soon, when we will no longer be treated as criminals when we hunt and fish to feed our children and our Elders. As an Aboriginal People we will be treated fairly, equally and with respect. As the Master of Ceremonies for the signing ceremony, MMF Natural Resources Chair Darrel Deslauriers welcomed everyone in attendance to Red River as the heart of the Métis Nation's Homeland. As a witness to this important and once-in-a-lifetime signing, Deslauriers was convinced that the signing will create new opportunities and a new relationship between the Métis Nation and Manitoba, and that he would like to thank the Minister, his fellow cabinet and Premier Gary Doer for sharing this vision. At the signing, Métis Elder Senator Ed Head gave opening and closing prayers, thanking the Creator for the gifts of nature, and thanking the Creator for this acknowledgment of our right to be stewards of the environment, and of our responsibility to use these gifts wisely. It is intended that this MOU will provide the basis to develop a co-operative natural resources management agreement between the Métis Nation and the Province of Manitoba, which will benefit future generations of Métis. A joint press release from Manitoba and the MMF stated that increased involvement and access to hunting, fishing and trapping are the key initial factors expected to be discussed in developing this agreement, although other natural resource sectors such as forestry will also be on the table. Co-management is the sharing of roles, responsibilities and activities between the people of a community and a government, in this case between the Métis and Manitoba. A Métis Co-Management Framework Agreement would set out how the Métis Nation within Manitoba would become directly involved in the decision-making, planning and management of Métis natural resource-based traditional harvesting activities. This agreement would be applicable to the whole province. Co-management is truly a unique opportunity for the Métis Nation. The Métis vision is that the future

agreement will be a great leap forward in our struggle for justice and the recognition of our Aboriginal and treaty rights. The MOU makes clear the Métis position that they have existing Aboriginal title, harvesting rights and treaty rights that were never extinguished. The Manitoba Act and the Dominion Lands Act acknowledged these rights. The Métis never gave consent to stop practicing their subsistence and commercial rights to Manitoba's natural resources. Nothing in the MOU will negatively affect any Métis rights or any Métis claims to lands and resources or other legal entitlements. Attending the signing ceremony were Métis Elders George Ducharme, Elizabeth Isbister, Joyce Gus, Evelyn Ledoux, and Cecil Asmus. Metis Nation-Saskatchewan President Clem Chartier, MMF Natural Resources Co-Chair Carl Chartrand, members from the MMF Board and the Commission on the Métis Laws of the Hunt were also present at the signing. The Commission on the Métis Laws of the Hunt includes Senator Ed Head as the Chairperson, Brian Beach - Winnipeg Region, Phillip Beaudin - Southwest Region, Eugene Fleury - Interlake Region, Charles Vermeylen - Northwest Region, Gilbert Saindon - Southeast Region, Diane McGillvray - The Pas Region, and Cecil Thorne - Thompson Region. The Report of the Commission on the Métis Laws of the Hunt, ratified by the MMFs 2002 Annual General Assembly, stated that the Métis have the Aboriginal right to hunt, fish, trap and gather. The report goes on to say that the Métis ability to hunt or fish is more than a right. It is also includes the right and responsibility to ensure that the wildlife, fish and environment of their traditional lands are treated with respect, and are wisely used. The report makes it clear that Métis co-management of the wildlife, fisheries and other resources will require Métis laws, policing, a justice system and an overall administration structure.





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Métis National Council



After years of on-going consultations and discussions, the Métis National Council (MNC) is pleased to announce that at its national annual assembly held in Edmonton, Alberta (September 27th and 28th, 2002) the following definition for citizenship within the Métis Nation was adopted by the governments of the Métis Nation.

Métis National Council's National Definition for Citizenship within the Métis Nation

"Métis" means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of Historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation.

Defined Terms within National Definition

"Historic Métis Nation" means the Aboriginal people then known as Métis or Half-breeds who resided in the Historic Métis Nation Homeland

"Historic Métis Nation Homeland" means the area of land in west central North America used and occupied as the traditional territory of the Métis or Half-breeds as they were then known.

"Métis Nation" means the Aboriginal people descended from the Historic Métis Nation which is now comprised of all Métis Nation citizens and is one of the "Aboriginal peoples of Canada" within the meaning of s.35 of the Constitution Act 1982.

"Distinct from other Aboriginal peoples" means distinct for cultural and nationhood purposes.



The MNC represents the Historic Métis Nation within Canada at a national and international level based on the elected mandates of Métis Nation governments from Ontario westward. These Métis Nation governments include the Métis Nation of Ontario, the Manitoba Métis Federation, the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia.

For additional information about the MNC or its national definition for citizenship within the Métis Nation please contact (613) 232-3216 or visit the MNC's website at www.metisnation.ca.



Jesse Gardiner

Article by Kyle Vermette, based on an interview by Clem Chartier, photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

Jesse Gardiner, a 17 year-old Métis athlete hailing from Barrie Ford, has been hard at work this summer participating in football camps across Saskatchewan. But Jesse is not just participating. Judging from his performances, it seems more like the camps are both a showcase for his talent and opportunities to learn more about the game, in the hopes of lifting his game to the next level. He may be closer than he thinks.

Jesse was one of 90 players selected to participate in Football Saskatchewan's elite camp this July. As a running back, Jesse was selected as the "most valuable offensive player" at the camp, and the prestige that accompanies this award is not lost on Jesse. This honour carried him right into the University of Saskatchewan Huskie football camp, in which he took home the running back award. But the most significant point of the Huskie camp was his invitation to participate in the Huskie Spring Camp, where the coaches from the University scout for potential additions to their team. Going into his Grade 12 year at Bjorkdale School, things look good for his football career for both the upcoming season and the near future. He credits his coach, Rocky Chysyk, for his success, as someone who always encouraged him through his football career.

Jesse's parents, Gary and Colleen Hamilton, are also his biggest supporters. "I'm proud of his dedication to football", says Colleen, but she believes that receiving an education is equally important. Jesse knows that football comes secondary to school, and is interested in obtaining an education degree and becoming a phys-ed or math teacher. A natural leader, Jesse spends his summers as a counselor at local youth camps, and is an avid competitor in the Métis Voyageur Games held at Batoche. His advice for young athletes is to "not be tentative, prove yourself", "don't be afraid to go against the bigger guys" and "if you get knocked down, get back up and don't give up". It is said that you don't need a big name to do big things, and big things are certainly on the horizon for Jesse Gardiner.

Jesse Gardiner was nominated for the Sasktel Youth of Excellence Award under the Sports Category, along with sixteen other Aboriginal youth. Although Jesse was not successful this round, it was most certainly an honour to the Métis Nation that he be considered. Looking to the future and wishing Jesse Gardiner the very best!

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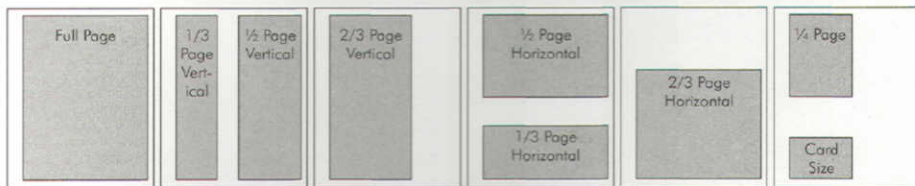
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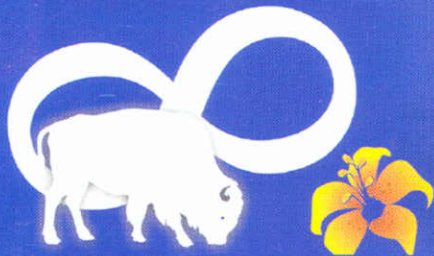
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