

NEW BREED

PUBLICATION OF METIS SOCIETY 1935 SCARTH ST. REGINA SASK.

New Breed

July - August 1973

Page 1

Jim Sinclair Re-elected President of the Metis Society

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BATOUCHE

In an attempt to establish better communications with the people, we shall try to have interviews with people on a local level to find out problems they are having.

EDITOR: Brian Dagdick
 ASSISTANT EDITOR: Linda Finlayson
 ARTIST: Cliff Bunnie
 SECRETARY: Brenda Turner

All articles in this paper are written by the Editor or Assistant Editor; those not written by the above will be so stated.

JIM SINCLAIR

The following is the statement made by myself during last year's report:

PLANS FOR 1972 - 1973:

A. PROGRAMS

It, of course, goes without saying that we plan to continue our existing programs and to expand and improve them as resources are available. In addition we hope to have some money to start a number of new programs in the current year. In particular, additional money will be available from the provincial government through the Human Resources Development Agency. This money will be used to finance the Human Resources Development program and to upgrade and improve our communications program. If enough resources are available, we would also use some of this money to help launch our education program.

In addition, we have made representations to the Department of the Secretary of State and other Federal Government Departments for resources to fund a number of new programs which are of interest and of importance to our people. The programs for which we have had most positive indication that financial help will likely be available include: a program to research our aboriginal and native rights, a community development program specifically related to our housing needs, and possibly a Community Development program geared to our economic problems and needs.

We have made a number of other proposals basically of a direct service nature dealing with a number of problem areas including an employment counselling program, a community counselling program which would provide family counselling, probation and parole services, half-way houses, Alcohol treatment institutions and other similar community services and programs of a recreational and cultural nature. We have had no indication as to whether or not we will get any positive response on any of these programs to date. However, we will continue to work for the availability of programs and services which are most needed and related to our communities.

B. ADMINISTRATION

We have made a number of changes in the administration of our organization to improve our staff resources, to improve the management of our overall programs and to improve the financial record keeping and accountability. This has meant hiring additional administrative staff and other staff such as accountants, bookkeepers, etc. It has also meant purchasing considerable consultative services.

We believe these steps are necessary if we are to run a sound, well-organized program which will be sensitive to the needs of our people and which will enable us to account both to our people and to the various levels of Government who are providing us with financial resources, on the programs we are undertaking and on the results which we are obtaining.

C. TRAINING

As I indicated to you previously, we recognize the need for training for our people. We plan to hold an increasing number of training sessions and seminars during the current year and also to explore alternate ways of providing training opportunities for the staff which we need to help to run the various programs we are undertaking. We do not yet have the resources which would allow us to have a staff person who could devote his full time to the training area and to the development of training programs. We, however, will work in this direction in the coming year.

D. SOCIAL ACTION

We will continue to emphasize the need for actions and activities designed to bring our people together to enable them to make known their problems and needs and to bring these to the attention of appropriate government officials, politicians and others who have influence on policy and on the deployment of resources.

We see this as a very important part of the program of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan if the conditions under which our people live are to improve. We must never lose sight of this purpose and we must never become so absorbed with providing services that we forget the need to push for social reform and change.

I would like to base this year's report on the progress of the programs planned last year.

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To my friend Toney Flury, Mrs. Lorrett Quintal Avis Malbouf and Clomb La Flur. I hope this little verse will help to lessen Your Sorrow. In Loving Memory of Maggie Flury.

Your Friend,

Dwayne Moore.

Should you go first and I remain,
 to walk the road alone,
 I'll live in memory's garden, dear,
 with happy days we've known.
 In spring I'll wait for roses red,
 when faded, the lilacs blue.
 In early fall when brown leaves fall,
 I'll catch a glimpse of you.
 Should you go first and I remain,
 for battles to be fought,
 Each thing you've touched along the
 way will be a hallowed spot.
 I'll hear your voice, I'll see your
 smile, tho' blindly I may grope,
 The memory of your helping hand
 will buoy me on with hope.
 Should you go first and I remain,
 one thing I'll have to do,
 Walk slowly down that long, long
 path, for soon I'll follow you,
 I want to know each step you take,
 so I may take the same,
 For some day down that lonely road
 you'll hear me call your name.

...con't **JIM SINCLAIR**

This past year 1972-73 has seen the coming to life of programs such as Human Resource Development (H.R.D.A.) and Communications, Education (N.R.I.M.) Community Development, Employment counselling program, Canada Manpower effective as of August 15, 1973, Recreation, Native Alcohol Council and Aboriginal Rights. The information of progress on these programs, number of people hired by these programs, budget of these programs etc., can be seen under annual reports of the respective Directors.

ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

I have this to say about this program. Since the war of 1885 the Governments have not made any settlements with us or signed any treaties. In dealing with other tribes, the Government said they would deal with us at a later date. Only in the past two years have we been truly re-united and are prepared to negotiate with Governments regarding our Aboriginal claims. We must work from the Indian point of view. We need your endorsement to carry out this program. Aboriginal Rights is a political and moral issue not to be settled through courts but with governments.

I would like to clarify that no worker of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan has ever been asked to push Government programs on our people. The people feel that some present Government programs benefit them i.e. continuing education and Winter Works. The programs are subject to change as expressed by the people at meetings.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Some important steps taken by the Metis Society this year was the withdrawal from the D.R.E.E. program of the province and Federal Government,

D.R.E.E. (Department of Regional Economic Expansion) has a total of \$500 million for Economic Development throughout Canada. D.R.E.E. has millions of dollars for native people in undeveloped areas. The rules and regulations of this program made it impossible to assist the native people at the local level.

The representatives from the Metis Society of Saskatchewan were used only as window dressing with no substantial input into this program. Thus, we withdrew and are presently negotiating with Mr. Jameson, the Minister of Economic Development to change this program so it will help our people in an effective way.

HOUSING

Housing has got off to slow start because of legislation and government funding. The policies involved in accepting housing programs from the government cannot be taken lightly. We must be sure when we accept a program such as this from government that the final cost of the houses are in the financial grasp of the people.

PRESENT

This past year has become more political than any in the past. We still have to fight governments rather than work with them as they still tend to enforce their own policies to further their own political gain and continue the

beaucocratic structure. We feel the Department of Northern Saskatchewan is attempting to divide the people. This spring we met with D.N.S. and made our stand known.

We have held a number of area and provincial meetings. These are effective as our people attend because of the interest they have.

The queen's visit sparked controversy amongst our people and a reaction from our people is good. The queen is a symbol of the oppression of our people. There is no equal justice in courts. The R.C.M.P. is still used as a military force to oppress the "rightful" role of the Metis people in society.

Many community leaders have become very responsible, only using the Metis Society as provincial support. McDowall took \$150,000.00 worth of programs to employ Native people. Ile a la Crosse went through many controversial issues because of the people there taking control of their community, (the school board, the skating rink, town council and several individual projects.)

We have the best Native organization. We are the most political organization in Canada. Our system is more democratic than any other organization. We have always taken a stand, never taking a middle of the road policy. The Metis Society promotes decision making capacity. Petty jealousies at the provincial level must be overcome.

FUTURE PLANS

Emphasis should be placed on Aboriginal Rights Land Claims. This will take a good two to five years.

We are now in the process of getting a court workers program which will assist our people in fairness in the courts.

Economic Development will hold high priority in the future. The communities will have control of the programs in their areas. Our emphasis will be on community control in Economic Development, Housing etc.

The most important move I would like to bring up is that we should not isolate ourselves as a Metis Society but, become involved in other areas of political importance. The Society is now in the process of assisting communities in becoming involved in all levels of government. This must be done democratically. The next step will be to set up nominating conventions in areas where there is a majority of Native people. We must solve our own problems with our own solutions.

The Metis Society should not attempt to set itself up a governing body but to decentralize control through involving local people in community control.

There will also be strong emphasis on acting upon the Churchill River Basin plans for water diversion and power resources. We are demanding and insist upon full consultation with our people.

For the past several years, pressure has been put upon the Society by local people on all matters. It is time that the locals put pressure on the Governments themselves with the support of the Society. We have in- con't ... pg. 4

...con't **JIM SINCLAIR**

ited many government officials to sit in on our meetings but, 90% of the time, they do not show up. This indicates the interest shown, pressure is needed to impress upon governments the need for their interest and action for the people at the local level.

I am going to take a firm stand on the issues that face us. I have always made myself clear on all stands I have taken. They were not always hasty decisions, they were based on the communication with the people. You must decide if they were the right or wrong decisions. I refuse to take a moderate of "middle of the road" stand regarding our organization. Those who have supported our views and ideas, I want to thank at this time. For those who oppose the things I have done and the things I intend to do, must have alternative solutions to get the job done. I do not think the time is right to dine with the Queen or smoke the peace pipe or socialize at Government until we have had the opportunity to take an active part in planning and developing our own future

Yours respectfully,
Jim Sinclair, President,
Metis Society of Saskatchewan



BUTCH McDOUGAL

ELECTED VICE-PRESIDENT

I appreciate the privilege and the opportunity to express my sincere greetings to our president, Jim Sinclair, the executive, delegates, and to all of our people. I will try to express as clearly as possible in the time allowed, my reasons for accepting the honor for standing as a candidate for the vice-presidency.

During my campaign travels, many of you have expressed deep concern for the organization and the direction it is going at this time. We must appreciate the work that has been done in developing our organization to this stage. In the past four years, we have experienced a rapid growth and therefore, have felt the growing pains. Some of the growing pains we have experienced and now recognize where changes and improvements have to be made in order for our people to go forward, must come from you, the people. This is your opportunity to elect candidates, who you feel will carry out your wishes, at the grassroots level. In other words, from the present executive bread and butter issues, I feel it is time we took a look back at our peoples ban-nock and land issues.

During my employment with the Metis Society, I was exposed to the operation of the organization. It became apparent to me that the structure of the Metis Society, as it is today, in no way differs than the way the government or Indian Affairs dictates. We have often said that the Department of Indian Affairs, is allocated between 5-600 million dollars to serve the needs of the treaty people. We have also stated that due to the high cost of administration, that only 6% reaches the reserve level. It is here my people, that we must compare our own organization to the Department of Indian Affairs. In making this comparison, we must observe that the budget allocated to the Metis Society, to serve the needs of the Metis people, is that very little if any reaches the grass-root level. It is also all taken up, in administration, and I feel that this is wrong and that the funding should start reaching the local levels as soon as possible.

If I am elected, this is what I would propose to do. I would propose a method which most of these funds, for administration, housing, recreation, education and all programs get to the local people. This is how we could do it. Let's say we divided all the provincial locals into regions, and as an example, we'll use ten regions. Within each region the people could elect a committee or committees from local members to administrate funds, hire and fire fieldstaff, and they would draw up their own programs. The source of funds to these regions would come, or in a way come, from the monies

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I'm sending the ARMY into the North..... to build bridges.



...con't BUTCH McDOUGAL

already allocated to the provincial organization by government grants. Let us use our present core budget for an example, which is receiving approximately \$266,000 per year. If we had ten regions and allocated \$15,000 to each region, which would mean \$150,000, and the remaining \$116,000 would stay with the provincial body for their own administration and co-ordination. If the funding was distributed this way, the power would be with the people, where it belongs, and not all at the provincial level. The role of the provincial body, would only be to co-ordinate the programs sent in by the local regions. For an example let us use the C.M.H.C. grants for winter warmth. The regions would submit individual budgets to the housing co-ordinator and he would compile all the information, and submit it to the government, on behalf of all the people.

BATOCHÉ '73



Eighty-eight years ago Louis Riel and his loyal 250 men were militarily defeated by 1,000 troops and Mounted Police at Batoche. Riel and his men were defending the homes, property and civil rights of the Metis or Non-Treaty Indians of Saskatchewan. This year, 1973, an expected 20,000 Metis and other Native supporters will remember the Battle of Batoche by gathering for five days, July 24-28th at Batoche. Brothers and sisters from all over North America are coming to share in this, the largest Native gathering in North America.

For the first two days, the business and elections of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan will be held in the third such open - air annual conference. This year elections will be held for President, Vice-President and Board of Directors. Approximately 450 delegates from 102 locals will deal with business concerning housing, education, legal civil, human, and aboriginal rights, community and economic development. The next three days traditional sports, recreation and festivities will be enjoyed by all. Contests will add an element of excitement and entertainment.

Batoche has always been the center of Metis History. Many of our ancestors and heroes lived, fought and died at Batoche. Brave and courageous men such as Louis Riel, Gabriel Dumont, and Almighty Voice fought against armies and police forces that often out-numbered them so greatly it is amazing these Metis leaders could hold out as well as they did.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are celebrating their 100th year of oppression this year. They have glorified their history by degrading our history. In all their publicity, they neglect to mention how they divided the Indian people in order to keep them suppressed. Louis Riel was executed by the Mounted Police

and Indians were urged to watch. They punished Metis and Indians suspected of supporting the "rebellion." They burned and looted the homes and property of the Metis to teach them a lesson. Today the R.C.M.P. uphold this tradition by hassling Natives and brutal "policing" of our people. Incidents are coming to light such as the Fred Quilt case in British Columbia, such as the murder of Michael John Muskego, a fifteen year old Indian boy by an R.C.M.P. officer just outside of Saskatoon. The justice of the R.C.M.P. and courts in regard to Native people will be one of the issues discussed at Batoche

The political, cultural and historical significance of Back to Batoche is one of great importance to the pride and dignity of the Metis Nation.

Linda Finlayson

Dear Editor:

Referring to "Back to Batoche", lots of people that I have talked to were disgusted with the noise and the fighting that went on during the night. We hope that during "Back to Batoche, 1974", liquor will not be allowed in or on the grounds. We understand that in Wood Mountain and North Battleford pow-wows there is no liquor allowed. You are checked at the main gate. If you carry liquor, it is removed 'til you come back out and then it is given back to you.

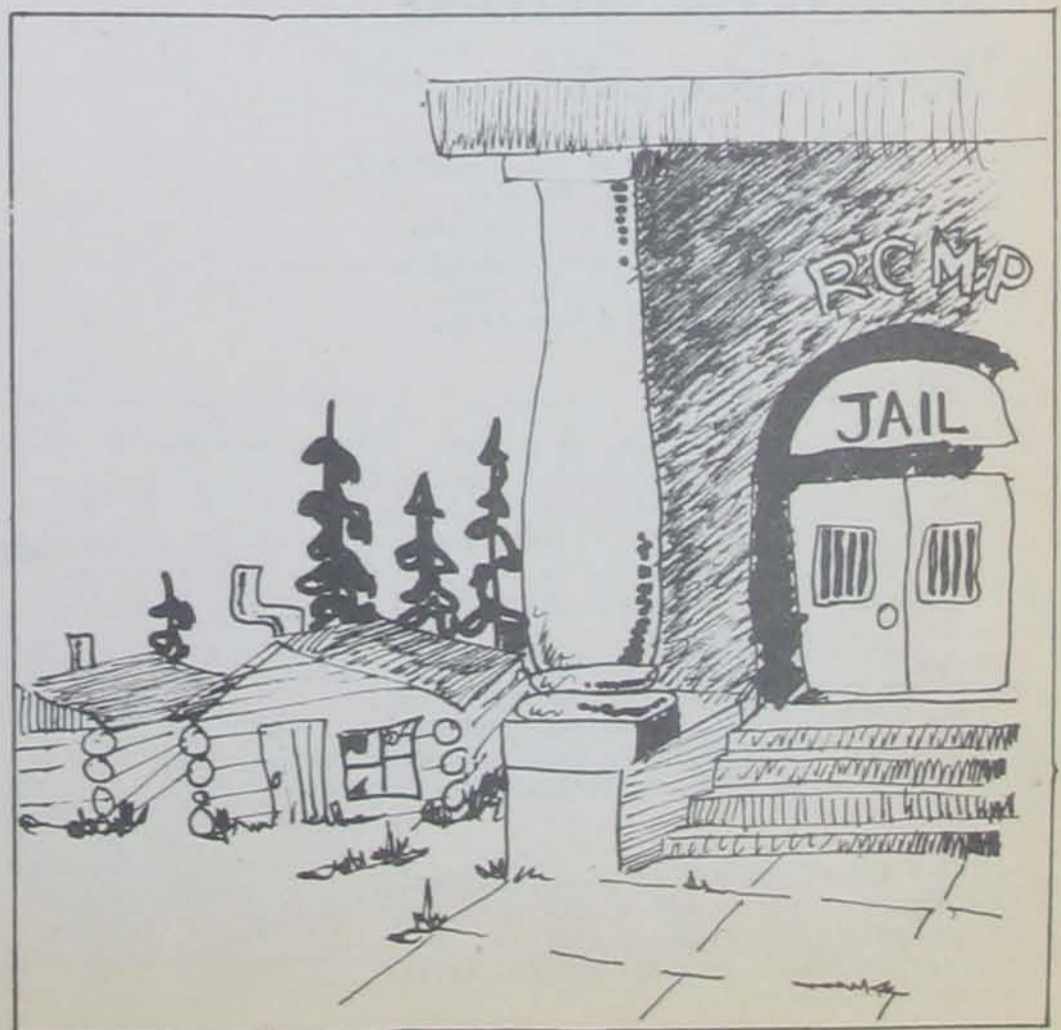
DAILY RATIONS

We feel that the guy that was in charge of Rations did a wonderful job. I don't think anybody could do the job as well as he did, thanks to Dwayne Moore.

Thank you,

Albert LaRocque

LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS



CHANGES IN M.S.S.

H.A. Fisher

The Metis Society of Saskatchewan has supposedly been representing the Metis people of Saskatchewan. The Metis people in the province have and still do feel this way. However, there seems to be a trend developing and the elections at Batoche are an indication of this feeling. The people seem to want more communication with the parent body and more decision-making on the local level.

An organization that can not read the temperament of the people in various shapes and forms must be changed. The Metis people at Batoche felt that there was such a need for change.

The Metis people were largely in favor of Jim Sinclair as President of the Society, but this year Bob Stevenson provided an opposition and an alternative. As a presidential candidate Bob made a noticeable impression on the people. He received his support from what was roughly the numerical equivalent of seventeen locals. This demonstrates the fact that the people are becoming increasingly dissatisfied with the administration and are looking for alternatives.

The new Vice-President expressed a need for change. A change that would take place and put more power and decision making on the local level for a more effective society. This is the direction the Metis Society of Saskatchewan must go in.

There are three new Board Members, which is another indication that the people are in a mood for change. Therefore, any member of this present administration could only hope to maintain his position of power by working with the locals and by helping them to establish programs on that level. This does not mean helping people, but helping people to help themselves. Decentralization or discension seem to be one of the coming trends. I hope the Society chooses decentralization and puts the power back into the hands of the local where it belongs.

NORTHERN WELFARE

"Bare Cupboards"

The following letter was sent to Mr. Bowerman, Minister of the Department of Northern Saskatchewan, Premier Blakeney, Art Towill, Deputy Minister Assistant, Marcel L'Heureux, Director of Social Services in the DNS area, in regard to Northern Welfare rates.

Dear Mr. Bowerman:

This letter will outline to you the need for drastic and immediate change in the welfare rates in the North. As you are no doubt aware, the welfare rates were calculated according to the cost of living in the southern areas.

In 1971, a survey was done by the Department of Welfare on food prices in the North. In it, it showed that there is a great difference in prices, yet the welfare stays the same throughout the province.

I am not attempting to point out that welfare is the answer to all problems encountered by northern natives. In fact, numerous accounts welfare itself is the problem.

A good example of this is when I left Wallaston Lake only a few years ago. At that time people were doing fairly good for themselves fishing, despite the short season and poor prices. If they had to go out on the big lake in an old patched up canoe, then that is how they would go because it meant a living. I can go back there today and be lucky if I see seven or eight fishermen going out. Why? Because they know that if they don't go out fishing the welfare will help feed their families.

Last winter there were only eighty - seven boxes of fish produced on the lake. The welfare has almost completely taken away from the people the initiative to go out and earn a living for themselves.

Eight Metis fishermen applied for nets and motors through social services last spring and were flatly refused. It is quite evident that the welfare does not like to see the people develop themselves economically for fear that it will take a few people off the welfare list resulting in someone having to step down from a high paid position within the Department of Social Services.

On the other hand, within a certain group of people, welfare is a vital necessity. This group being the older people not yet able to qualify for pensions, the single parents, the handicapped etc. This group of people are the ones who find their cupboards bare two weeks before the next welfare cheque is due.

Extreme cases of poverty can be found in the North, the reason being the difficulty in trying to stretch a welfare cheque from month's end to month's end. It is difficult to do this even applying the average cost of living in the South, to present existing rates. (I know, I've tried it and it was hard even when we tried to budget.) A very large percentage of the poverty stems exactly from these problems.

The government can't say that they don't recognize these facts because since civil servants started coming in the North their wages were automatically adjusted so that they would be right in line with the cost of living in the North. They call this northern allowance.

On several occasions at meetings with governments (NDP and Liberal) that I am aware of, resolutions pertaining to this problem were passed. There hasn't been a thing done.

Before 1970, the Manitoba government raised their welfare rates as high as 30% in some areas of the North. There is little or no difference in the food rates in Northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Enclosed is a food cost survey for a family of five (2 adults, 1 child under 4, 1 child 5-9, 1 child 10-14) using:

1. The comparative cost of food in Northern Communities.
2. A Balanced Diet for a family of five as established by Public Health Dietician.
3. Present public health assistance rates, food for a family at this age grouping \$134.00 current rate. Survey conducted during December, 1972 - January, 1973 by Social Services Branch of Department of Northern Saskatchewan.

Taking all of the above mentioned into consideration, I trust Mr. Bowerman that you will come to an early and reasonable decision on this matter of utmost importance. Thank you.

Yours truly,

Wm T. Daniels
M.S.S. Field Worker

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NORTHERN WELFARE

Comparative Food Costs in Northern Communities for Family of five (2 adults, 1 child under 4, 1 child 5-9, 1 child 10-14)
Current Food Rate for Above Family - \$134.00

Food Group & Monthly Amount Required for Balanced Diet	Pinehouse	South End	Wollaston	Stony Rapids	Cumberland House	Sandy Bay	Pelican Narrows	Prince Albert
MILK								
Milk 38 qts.	22.40	22.40	22.40	36.10	14.44	19.30	20.52	13.30
Cheese 4.5 Block	5.18	6.92	6.92	4.95	5.37	6.08	5.26	5.63
Eggs 6.5 dozen	6.48	6.02	6.02	6.83	4.18	6.50	5.20	4.22
FRUIT								
Citrus 20 lbs.	8.00	11.55	11.55	10.00	7.30	7.60	7.00	6.00
Juice 5x48 oz.	5.00	3.48	3.54	3.25	3.70	5.60	3.96	3.00
Fresh 10 lbs.	6.00	6.00	7.20	6.00	3.80	3.00	3.60	3.00
Dried 10 lbs.	7.90	8.00	8.40	11.12	7.35	8.20	7.35	6.00
Canned 12x14 oz.	5.34	5.30	5.40	5.16	4.34	4.80	4.73	3.60
Flour 56 lbs.	6.80	9.04	11.32	9.04	6.37	6.80	5.71	5.60
Cereals Rolled Oats 10 lbs	2.85	2.85	3.50	2.40	2.24	2.96	2.90	2.00
Corn Flakes 16 oz	.65	.65	.65	.33	.55	.60	.65	.53
VEGETABLES								
Potatoes 56 lbs.	10.00	12.88	17.00	16.80	5.08	8.96	6.70	5.60
Canned Peas 10x19 oz.	3.85	3.63	3.85	3.40	2.64	3.70	3.00	2.50
Canned Tomatoes 10x19 oz.	4.50	4.50	6.65	8.10	3.40	3.70	3.50	3.00
Onions 20 lbs.	6.00	7.80	7.92	9.00	5.20	6.00	6.00	5.80
Cabbage 20 lbs.	5.00	5.00	5.00	9.00	3.40	5.00	3.80	5.00
Turnips/Carrots 14 lbs.	6.00	6.00	6.00	7.70	3.64	6.00	6.00	2.10
Rice 2 lbs.	.75	.68	.72	.64	.57	.72	.60	.50
Macaroni 3 lbs.	.98	1.05	1.05	1.77	.97	.94	.90	.87
Dried Beans 5 lbs.	1.75	2.15	2.20	2.00	1.95	1.65	1.54	1.00
MEAT								
Hamburger 15 lbs.	16.75	19.25	20.00	21.00	15.00	16.50	16.50	12.00
Stew Beef 10 lbs.	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	12.90	14.00	13.20	7.50
Liver 5 lbs.	3.50	5.45	5.45	5.45	3.45	3.50	3.50	3.50
Margarine 12 lbs.	4.00	4.62	7.70	6.24	3.56	4.80	4.00	3.00
Fat lard 12 lbs.	3.60	3.96	5.88	3.12	3.72	3.60	4.48	3.48
SWEETS								
Sugar, White 15 lbs.	4.00	4.00	4.90	3.60	2.90	4.00	3.13	2.55
Sugar, Brown 15 lbs.	2.60	2.75	3.25	3.60	1.94	2.60	2.25	2.55
Jam 4 lbs.	2.40	1.79	2.60	1.51	1.88	2.40	2.60	1.50
MISCELLANEOUS								
Baking Powder 5 lbs.	3.50	3.00	3.75	3.25	3.05	2.25	2.95	3.00
Tea 3 lbs.	4.20	4.17	4.35	4.20	4.80	3.30	3.90	4.20
Coffee 3 lbs.	3.30	3.27	4.05	3.67	3.72	4.05	3.90	3.30
Pepper 4 oz.	.68	1.20	.80	1.32	.65	.50	.52	.50
Salt 3 lbs.	.60	.70	.70	.46	.56	.96	.54	.30
Ketchup 4 bottles	2.20	1.52	1.60	1.40	1.80	1.80	1.80	1.40
H.P.Sauce 4 bottles	2.45	1.60	2.20	1.68	1.84	2.44	2.00	1.60
TOTAL	185.21	199.18	220.52	230.09	148.26	174.81	164.19	129.63
BUDGET DEFICIENCY	51.21	65.18	86.52	96.09	14.26	40.81	30.19	-4.37
Per Cent Deficiency	38.21	48.64	64.36	71.71	10.64	30.45	22.52	0

"OLD KI-PUTCH" by Billy BRASS



NORTHERN WELFARE

Comparative Food Costs in Northern Communities for Family of five (2 adults, 1 child under 4, 1 child 5-9, 1 child 10-14
Current Food Rate for Above Family - \$134.00

Food Group & Monthly Amount Required for Balanced Diet	Green Lake	Dore Lake	Ile a la Crosse	Buffalo Narrows	La Loche	Dillon	Patuanak	La Ronge
MILK								
Homo 38 qts.	15.58	17.10	15.96	15.96	16.34	17.10	20.90	13.68
Cheese 4.5 lb Block	4.95	4.28	5.81	5.85	5.47	5.80	4.64	4.40
Eggs 6.5 Doen	4.23	4.55	4.32	4.48	5.52	5.52	5.52	4.48
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Juice 5x48 oz.	2.15	2.65	3.18	3.65	4.42	6.75	2.95	3.85
Fresh 10 lbs.	2.50	3.00	3.20	3.20	4.00	4.00	4.50	2.30
Dried 10 lbs.	4.10	3.75	7.98	8.10	8.00	10.00	12.23	4.60
Canned 12x14 oz.	4.36	4.92	5.40	4.44	4.74	5.40	4.92	4.20
Flour 56 lbs.	5.90	5.68	5.71	5.50	5.92	6.60	8.18	6.10
Cereals								
Rolled Oats 10 lbs.	1.98	2.00	2.25	2.27	2.27	3.45	2.63	2.20
Corn Flakes 16 oz.	.43	.45	.60	.59	.60	.60	.63	.49
VEGETABLES								
Potatoes 56 lbs.	6.35	6.35	6.70	6.87	7.00	7.78	8.96	5.88
Canned Peas 10x19 oz.	2.70	3.00	2.64	3.10	2.64	3.00	2.30	2.50
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Onions 20 lbs.	5.40	3.00	5.80	5.80	5.80	5.80	5.00	6.00
Cabbage 20 lbs.	3.60	3.00	4.00	3.60	3.80	5.80	5.80	5.40
Turnips/Carrots 14 lbs.	2.66	2.80	4.90	3.22	5.20	3.36	7.42	3.56
Rice 2 lbs.	.60	.60	.59	.64	.61	.61	.58	.63
Macaroni 3 lbs.	.48	.54	.85	.85	.90	.99	1.23	.81
Dried Beans 5 lbs.	1.60	1.50	1.48	1.95	1.60	2.15	2.00	1.64
MEAT								
Hamburger 15 lbs.	12.75	12.75	15.00	16.00	16.50	16.50	17.25	15.75
Stew Beef 10 lbs.	8.90	5.00	12.90	12.90	12.90	12.90	12.50	10.90
Liver 5 lbs.	3.95	3.95	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	2.95
Margarine 12 lbs.	3.96	5.00	3.36	3.36	3.40	3.96	11.40	3.80
Lard 12 lbs.	3.00	3.12	3.47	3.10	3.50	3.78	3.36	4.04
SWEETS								
White Sugar 15 lbs.	2.83	3.30	3.13	3.13	3.12	3.45	3.44	2.87
Brown Sugar 10 lbs.	2.15	2.50	2.25	2.15	2.25	2.64	2.25	2.20
Jam 4 lbs.	1.88	2.20	2.60	2.24	2.40	2.50	2.48	1.67
MISCELLANEOUS								
Baking Powder 5 lbs	2.90	3.25	2.69	2.75	2.95	2.90	3.25	3.40
Tea 3 lbs.	4.05	4.50	3.90	4.05	3.57	4.32	4.05	3.16
Coffee 3 lbs.	3.09	3.75	3.45	3.57	3.87	4.20	3.51	3.48
Pepper 4 oz.	.89	1.00	.72	.60	.77	.70	.97	.65
Salt 3 lbs.	.33	.36	.52	.52	.56	.42	.81	.31
Ketchup 4 bottles	1.40	2.00	1.40	1.32	1.56	2.46	2.96	1.56
H.P.Sauce 4 bottles	1.88	2.75	1.84	1.88	2.80	2.12	1.96	1.88
TOTAL	133.03	134.80	153.20	151.08	159.68	177.35	182.88	139.04
BUDGET DEFICIENCY	-.97	.80	19.20	17.08	25.68	43.35	48.88	5.04
PERCENT DEFICIENCY	0	0	14.33	12.75	19.16	32.35	36.48	3.78

Some of the government officials in DNS are taking advantage of the fine weather to go fishing. Usually they ask that one of the Native men go with them as guides. One day Art Towill decided he would like a time out on the lake so, he got himself a good half-breed as a guide. While getting into the boat, Towill cut his finger on a piece of steel projecting from the boat. His finger bled abundantly (contrary to the opinion that political personnel do not bleed.) In a humorous state he said to his native guide, "Here's my chance to become a blood-brother. Would you consider cutting yourself so, we can touch base and become as one on the landscape?" The Indian guide calmly took his hunting knife from its sheath and calmly cut his finger. The blood was mixed and the two danced a ridiculous step in circular formation for a few seconds. Mr. Towill then stopped suddenly and looking at his arm exclaimed, "It's working, I'm turning brown!" The native stopped short, shook his head and stated, "You're right, I'm beginning to feel stupid!"



NORTHERN WELFARE

When the DNS was formed after the NDP won the provincial elections, they had an investigation into the food costs in the north. Some of the findings were printed previously in the New Breed. Generally they found that food costs were 45% higher in fly-in communities and 15% higher in communities serviced by roads. These increases occur in the north as it is in the south. The government recognizes this not only by the surveys they conduct, but by giving northern allowances to the government employees. We recognize that welfare is not the answer and meaningful jobs with reasonable pay for the people who are employable are preferred and wanted. But by the government's own survey on welfare they only make up 12.64% of the people who receive welfare. The people who receive welfare, breaks down this way:

- 58.58% are unemployable
- 7.09% are undergoing retraining or are partially employable
- 20.86% are the employed and are receiving help because of insufficient earnings (low wages).
- 12.64% are employables looking for work

Because of the increase in food costs a proper diet cannot be obtained, resulting in nutrition related diseases such as insufficient vitamin content (avitaminoses), which is doubled in the north of that in the province as a whole. The death rate of children is 75 per 1,000, while the provincial rate is 20 per 1,000, but diet is only one of the reasons for this. Inadequate housing and other things have to be taken into account. Upgrading the diet would be one of the ways of putting a stop to this type of genocide. Also an indirect affect of this is the high drop-out rate in our northern schools. It is a known fact that poor nutrition affects the attention span in school.

While an increase in northern welfare is needed and desired, controls on the food stores in the north is also needed. In many small communities there is only one store, and thereby having a monopoly. It must insure that the store owners don't jack up the prices and be the only people who benefit by the increase. Perhaps stores should be answerable to the intended municipal council and any raise in prices must be justified and proven valid to them.

If the government ignores their own findings and does nothing to increase the food rates, it would be the same as murder. They would be letting children die, knowing that by increasing the rates they would at least be making an attempt to stop this needless waste of human life.

Brian Dagdick

BLACK LAKE & STONY RAPIDS LOCAL

I have been on the welfare committee from not too long ago and I will speak on behalf of our people.

Food costs are expensive up North, as an example, one loaf of bread is 65¢, one pound of hamburger is \$1.65, one dozen eggs, \$1.20, and one pound of onions, 60¢.

We have one old widow with two small grandchildren and she gets \$126.00 per month. Out of this she has to buy food, clothing, pay for light bills, and pay for fuel. Last winter she was out of wood most of the winter so she had to go out in the bush and cut her own wood and drag the wood home on the sled. Can't the welfare do something for not

only her but other people like her. They go there and say we will try and help but no action is taken. We don't want words we want action.

Also, on the hospitalization for people like the old woman. 70% of her drugs are paid. Where do you suppose she will pay the other 30% of the drugs when she only gets \$126.00 per month?

And also on my behalf. I had them pay for my hospitalization and in April I got a letter saying my hospitalization was cancelled because I was making too much money when I was getting paid \$325.00 per month. I told them I will not return the hospitalization card because it was paid until the end of 73. But I haven't used these cards since I was notified. And the only transportation out of there is by plane. Sure, maybe they think I make a lot of money, but what if one of my boys get sick and it is an emergency. The lowest charter out to the nearest doctor is \$120.00. And we have to pay for that out of what we make.

You as the board can do something about this. Do it for the isolated people.

As given at the general meeting at Batoche by Mrs. Mary Jane Kasyon
Stony Rapids, Saskatchewan

JUST A LITTLE HUMOUR

It has recently been noticed by those who know them best that Mr. Bowerman, Minister of the Department of Northern Saskatchewan and his Deputy Minister, Mr. Churchman, have reached an ultimate goal, not yet attained by others in that Department, POLITICAL INSANITY.

S.C.A.P.O.

From October 8 to 13, organizers Alvin Skagen and Charles Kowalski from the Saskatchewan Council of Anti-Poverty Organization (SCAPO), will be visiting communities in Northern Saskatchewan to organize welfare rights groups with the assistance of native field workers from the Metis Society of Saskatchewan.

As many of the people in the north may not be familiar with SCAPO, we hope briefly to outline what SCAPO is and what it is attempting to do.

Firstly, SCAPO is the provincial umbrella organization under which local poverty or welfare rights groups operate. It provides the machinery to approach Governments, boards, etc., for social change.

SCAPO is entirely composed of grassroots people (welfare and low income) democratically elected by the members or representatives from its groups.

SCAPO believes that it is time the consumers of these services, that is welfare and low income persons of all races, color, and creed, had some say or input into the system we live under, and that by unity and co-operation of all persons through groups and organizations, a better quality and standard of living could be achieved for all.

SCAPO wants to work with, co-operate and add its voice along with other provincial organizations such as The Metis Society of Saskatchewan for the achievement of common goals and interests in the fight against poverty that affects all persons termed to be poor or of lower class by the so called rich or upper class social economic crust.

New

J.C.A.P.O.

SCAPO'S main purpose is to fight poverty by various means such as:

- (1) Organizing and servicing self-help groups.
- (2) Providing initial and continuing funds based on membership through an agreement reached between SCAPO and the Provincial Government.
- (3) Providing its members with an effective voice and lobby to promote social change and justice.
- (4) Education for its members as to their welfare rights and entitlements.
- (5) Assistance in welfare appeals and group activities.
- (5) Promotion and development of programs to solve problems of welfare clients through group action.



COME TOGETHER PROJECT

This a "Coffee House" that recently went into a self-help type of operation around June 73.

Its location is at Fort Qu'Appelle. Just before you reach the bridge going out to the Sanitarium.

Five young people are "spear-heading" this Coffee House and their work consists of having discussions, inviting musicians, and conducting recreation programs for the younger people of any nationality.

The majority of their attendance consists of Native kids.

The Fort Qu'Appelle Coffee House gladly welcomes guest speakers, musicians (etc) Their operation hours are: Mondays thru to Thursdays.

The five who are running this operation are: Karen Smith, Brian Carrier, Vincent Lavallee, Robert Obey, and Wendy Paquin.

For futher information or inquiries phone Karen Smith at Fort Qu'Appelle. Phone no. is 332-4766 Drop in on your way through the Fort. You'll be gladly welcomed.

ODE TO THE QUEEN

YOU CAME TO THE TOWN WITH POMP AND GRACE
WITH ONE FOOT ON THE METIS RACE
WE GREET YOU WITH OUR UP TURNED THUMBS
ANOTHER OF THE WELFARE BUMS.

ANNONYMOUS.

Deepest sympathy to my aunt, Mrs. Harrett Johnston in the loss of her husband Irvin Johnston.

Living Memory never die Uncle
Broken Hearts slowly heal
But your memory to me will last forever.

Your nephew,
Dwayne Moore - Green Lake.

NEW BREED

Subscription Rates:

\$3.00 yearly or \$1.50 for 6 months

THE METIS SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN

200 - 1935 SCARITH STREET
REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN

S4P - 2H1

Money enclosed:

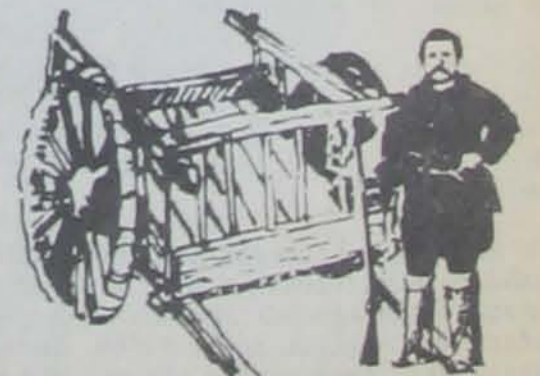
Cheque cash money order

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

Comments on the paper:



MS. BATOCHÉ



WINNER : Ruth Dorian



1st runner-up : Kim Sinclair



2nd runner-up : KAREN BOYER

CONTESTANTS



CULTURAL CLUB

REGINA CULTURAL CLUB

The Regina Cultural Club is situated at 1821 Scarth Street. It is on the second floor, room no. - 213.

The Cultural Club means exactly what its titled. The Native Women who operate this office deal strictly with hand-made Indian Works, such as: leather vests, chokers, moccasins, and various bead-work etc.

Dorothy Francis is the "head" of the whole thing, and her helpers who are there on a volunteer basis are Mrs. Violet Fourhorns, Mrs. Maria Shepherd and Richard Ironchild, Volunteer Clerk.

All the hand made Indian crafts are for sale to the general public and beading classes are held every Thursday and Saturday afternoons.

Memberships for the club cost 50¢. As you walk into this two-room office the atmosphere of Genuine Native Friendship hits you along with the eye-catching beauty of real native cultural materials and items.

I am sure if you went there yourself, you would come out with a happy feeling even if you never purchased anything.

I mean to see some of our own Native Sisters promoting our Native Culture gives one a feeling of true proudness to be a native!

DON'T BE A FOOL

People looking down on you
And you think that you can't win
Don't be a fool
Don't hide the color of your skin

I've been many places
And my bad times never fail
But I don't try to hide
That I've been in jail

You are what God made you
And time just can't erase
The darkness of your skin
Or the scars upon your face

Your people may be black
Or Indians about to fall
But let no man ever push you
While your back's against a wall

I'm not Indian nor a white man
I'm not black but I'm still free
A Half-Breeds in between
And nobodys going to fool me

Let the blackman have his soul
And the hippie have his cool
Let the Indian have his pride
But none of us be a fool

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Written by: Lyle Lee

Hi There ?



Suzanne Whelan

ASSEMBLY



ENTERTAINERS





DNS & THE NORTH

DNS - DESTROY NATIVE SOVEREIGNTY

Never before, the formation of the Department of Northern Saskatchewan, by the NDP government, had a government, in the name of Democracy and Freedom, concentrated so deliberately and systematically in a conscious, deliberate attempt to divide, exploit and destroy a single race of people. The Native Indian of Saskatchewan.

It is common knowledge that Northern Saskatchewan holds in its belly, an abundance of riches - mineral, wildlife, timber, water resources and hydro-electric potential. Among all this wealth lives the Saskatchewan Indian; desolate, poverty-stricken, illiterate, a complete contrast to the rich resource material surrounding him. The NDP government generously offered to place a special department in Northern Saskatchewan to develop these resources to help primarily, the Indian people, along with other Northerners. Instead they turned the Indian people into another resource, a rich one at that for the Department of the North, to live off the poverty of the Native people as a parasite on a struggling animal.

Mr. Ted Bowerman was bestowed the Ministry of this department. Mr. Bowerman, one would think, would have to be an intellectual master-mind to operate solely administrative government such as the DNS but, the credit or blame lies heavily on the wizened head of Wilf Churchman, the Deputy Minister. Mr. Churchman is well-known in areas of government procedure which deals strictly with taking away from the Indian people, rights given to them through treaties and aboriginal land claims. Mr. Churchman was instrumental in the design and implementation of the 1969 White paper. The plot of this legislation, which was supposedly tabled in Parliament, is to destroy reservations and treaty rights so that by an approximate date of 1980, obligations of the Canadian governments to Native people of Canada will no longer have to be fulfilled. The Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington D.C., United States, is eagerly watching the progress of this plot in Canada and plans to use the same tactics in avoiding obligations and responsibilities toward our brothers and sisters across the Border. Under this 1969 White paper, reservations would no longer exist but would take on the characteristics of municipalities with none of the rights the governments of Canada owe to the administration of the Department of Northern Saskatchewan. He has been dubbed the "Governor of the North".

As soon as the Department of the North came into existence, legislation was rushed through the legislation giving the White beurocracy supreme power in the North and generously allowed the Indian people the role of advisory counsellors. There is not one Indian person in a decision-making position within the Department. A meeting was held in May, 1973, during which the Indian delegates demanded drastic changes in the legislation and administration of the Department. These resolutions, giving political and economic power to the Indian people were promised by the DNS officials, to be carried out and upheld. So far, every one of the resolutions has been broken, ignored or other legislation enforced to over-rule what the democratically elected representatives resolved and changed to benefit the Indian people, instead of the beurocracy. All attempts made by Indian people have been crushed. It seems impossible at this time that the Indian can even work with the Department for

their own betterment of any attempt of the Indian to govern his own destiny has been subdued by some method. The DNS is not bothered by conscience, morals or sense of justice when it comes to controlling the North, keeping the beurocracy of whites who know what is best for the Indian, alive. The best thing for the Indian, they believe, is to be welfare recipients, unaware of their own rights, uneducated, poverty-stricken and dependent on a dictatorship ruled by Bowerman and Churchman.

The annual budget of the DNS is \$18 million. Just think what \$18 million could do for the Native people if applied properly. It could start industry to employ many native people, making the resources that surround us work for our benefit, instead this \$18 million is utilized to support a whole town of white people as they do their share in keeping the Indian suppressed. A few thousand dollars actually reaches the Indian through welfare and small grants.

LEGISLATION

1. Mr. Al Jakeman, a lawyer, was hired by DNS to consult with the Native people of the north in writing the legislation that would govern the lives of the Native people in the north. Mr. Jakeman was dismissed when his legislation favored and benefitted the Indian people.
2. The revised legislation gave the Indian people advisory positions only.
3. The advisory council was done away with by the resolutions of the Indian people at the meeting of May, 1973. This advisory council is being restored at this time.
4. The Watchdog committee elected by the people was to be given the power of seeing that the DNS kept its word in regard to resolutions passed at the May meeting. It was also elected to see that no foul play would be used by the DNS in the election of the Northern Municipal Board. The Northern Municipal Board is to have control over Bowerman and Churchman in the government of the north, not just an advisory role as DNS proposed with the Advisory Council. The Watchdog committee was elected to explain all this to the Native people of Northern Saskatchewan. The Department of Northern Saskatchewan ignored the Watchdog committee in every way possible. The only way it was recognized was by paying for transportation and sub-standard wages of the Watchdog committee.

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... con't DNS & THE NORTH

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. At the meeting of May, 1973, Bowerman told the delegates there was a substantial sum of \$2.8 million for economic development in Northern Saskatchewan. This month it was learned that \$600,000 only, was left in this program. No funds were used between May and July so what happened to \$2.2 million that is missing? Archie Leslie, a retired Indian Affairs officer from Ottawa, a long-time buddy of Churchman, Deputy Minister, was hired by DNS to administer this program. Mr. Leslie took the attitude that only small sums of money be allowed a Native person applying for a grant, as Native people wouldn't be capable of running a business or managing money. This is a typical Indian Affairs attitude. I guess we Non-Recognized Indians are finally being recognized, as Churchman is creating a regular Indian Affairs department out of DNS.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. The Community Development program had a great beginning. Jerry Hammersmith designed and set up a C.D. program which would hire all Native people to work and train in their areas under this program. He recruited and trained eight Indian C.D. workers, working toward community involvement of C.D. Dennis Poudrier and Ron Bougeault were both instrumental in assisting Mr. Hammersmith in this capacity. Art Towill, assistant Deputy Minister to Mr. Churchman was a great help in encouraging and assisting Jerry in this first attempt of any program under DNS to train Native people in working toward control and independence in their communities.

OUT COME:

Mr. Art Towill - demoted, Mr. Sweitzer - a perfect technocrat and bureaucrat replaced him.
 Jerry Hammersmith - dismissed, no reason given.
 Ron Bougeault - dismissed, no reason given.
 Jonas Favel - dismissed, no reason given.

Miss Joan Halero, a Half-breed herself and special assistant to Bowerman, when questioned on these dismissals, backed up the actions of the DNS Government. She stated that this C.D. program could be compared to an architect building a bridge. When the bridge was completed, the architect's job was finished. Jerry Hammersmith, being the architect, had completed his bridge, however, the Native people present realized that just when the C.D. program or bridge was on its way to being completed, all the materials and architect were disposed of. Miss Halero had no reply.

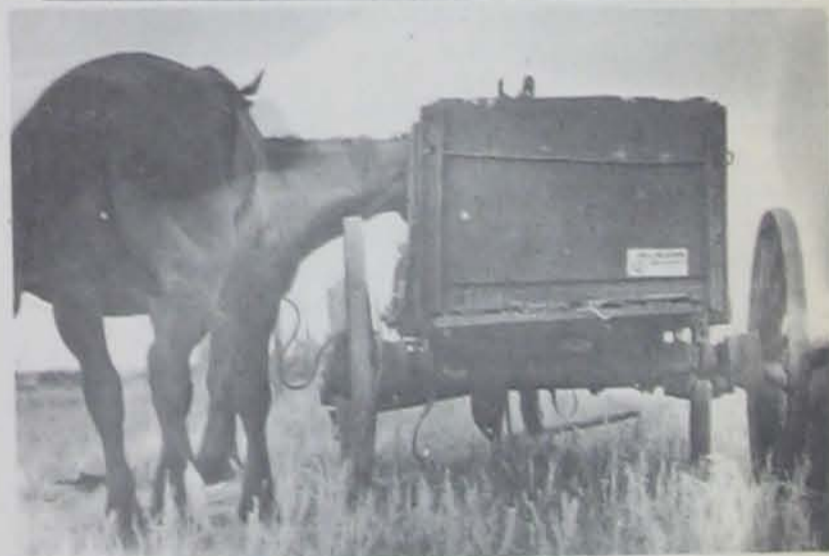
EDUCATION

Early in 1973, in the northern village of Ile a la Crosse, the Native people there decided they were going to take control of their education system there. The previous school, under the direction of the Northern School Board, suffered a 97% drop-out rate. Many things were lacking in the school, the drop-out rate speaks for itself. The local people elected their own School Board, recognized by the Northern School Board as only a school committee, nevertheless, this "committee" has all the power and control in Ile a la Crosse of the Northern School Board. The meddling of the Northern School Board is not tolerated by the Ile a la Crosse School Board and attempts at this has resulted in the hand-slapping of the meddlers. Again Jerry Hammersmith, Dennis Poudrier, Ron Bougeault and Jonas Favel were instrumental in seeing the take over of this school by the local people. These same people were

the ones dismissed by DNS for attempting the same thing under the Community Development program, which Jerry Hammersmith designed.

The Metis Society of Saskatchewan has taken over the NRTM (Non-registered Indian and Metis) Education program which was such a dismal failure under the Indian and Metis Department of the Provincial Government. The Department of Northern Saskatchewan had great plans of taking over this program but the Education Department of the MSS was quicker on the draw. The Metis people administering this program under the MSS have a much greater knowledge for their own people, the problems of the students are well understood by Education Field-workers who often went through the same experience of leaving their communities to enter a strange dog-eat-dog white society and system that is often present in continuing education in schools outside their own community. Revising this education program to better suit the Native people will be looked into by the MSS.

The Department of Northern Saskatchewan, is playing a childish game in attempting to put a high fence on its boundary line to stop all programs and monies coming into the north from the Southern headquarters of these programs; sources like the MSS and provincial programs such as: HURDA, and Human Resource Development Agency. DNS states that all programs in the North, are to be funded from the Department of Northern Saskatchewan. They have created a province within a province type situation in the name of a department. If the Government program HRDA, wants to do anything in the north, it must first get the permission and approval of DNS. The funniest part of this arrangement, is that the Minister of the DNS and the Minister of HRDA, are the same man - Mr. Ted Bowerman. Divide and rule is the name of this game. If Mr. Bowerman and his gang knew what they were doing, they would realize that this game is well known to the Native people by now. This strategy may have worked under the DNR, but our people are politically aware to a greater extent than they were in Mr. Churchman's hay-day of the Happy DNR Gang.



Batoche Photos





INTERVIEW:

DENNIS POUDRIER ON THE DNS

My name's Dennis Poudrier. I had been hired by the Dept. of Northern Sask. last September to work with the Dept. of Social Services in the area of child welfare. Last January I quit my job and was asked to stay with the Dept. of Social Services in the name of Community Development. The geographic area was the North West side of the province from Green Lake to La Loche. Then after I again resigned that job and I was asked to head up the new Community Development Program with a fellow by the name of Jerry Hammersmith. I was to be responsible for the training and Community Development Program still on the Northwest side of the province.

NB: You were let go recently. Could you give us some of the circumstances that surround this?

Dennis: I was fired as of July 31 for involving myself in something called... I think it better to give an indication of what that area of the province is like before saying why I was or wasn't fired. The North generally is quite unlike the South in that every single agency and institution that the people have to deal with are controlled by government. Every single time that a person has a problem of a personal nature or a growth nature in terms of education or his own economic well-being, he has to deal with the Govt. He also has to deal with a person who doesn't come from that area. He has to deal with a Southern white person who may or may not be interested in his problem and who doesn't speak the language that he speaks. So then you have a kind of a Govt. that is responsible for the whole mobile opportunity structure of all the people in the North. Take that and the job of community development together and you have a person who is supposed to be able to peddle govt. programs to help Native people or to help Northern people. In this case Northern people are Native people for about 95% of the time. So I felt and my training and my background tell me that community development is helping people approach whichever agency or institution they think that they can get help or opportunities out of. So that there's a conflict of interest there in the sense that the govt. has preconceived

plans and programs that are planned and developed outside that context of the living situation of the people. That's on the one hand. On the other hand there are people getting together and talking about the kinds of things they need to improve themselves without the consultation of govt. or govt. people. So that I was fired for siding with the Native people in helping them organize around the question of what they thought was important rather than what govt. thought was important. Minister Ted Bowerman has a special assistant who had a special assistant til last month who's a mink rancher. He's a white man and he's a guy who really is afraid that the people will start to take a look at what's going on around them in terms of their own interests rather than the interests of a small elite white group who control the Northwest side. So I helped these people organize around the question of a school board and a welfare appeals board and a vocational training program that would really be realistic. A vocational training center that would do more than just train people for jobs that don't exist. As a consequence of that the people started to realize that they were just as bright and just as smart as anybody else and they started questioning the legitimacy of everything that was going on around them, and posing alternatives to that.

NB: There was a meeting in Buffalo where some of the people asked that you resign. Could you relate the circumstances around which this happened?

Dennis: I had organized a group of ten guys to take a look at the question of recreation in that community. We got some funds under an OFV project and these guys then were looking at recreation. In looking at recreation, they were looking at the school really because the school drop out rate is about 97% after the age of 12. So that the group of OFV people that I was relating to were really taking a look at an inadequate school system as well as the recreation program. We took a look at the school board in Buffalo Narrows because it's one of those vehicles through which schools can be changed or controlled or redirected. In looking at the school board we found that it had 3 members on it - a school board that didn't have any power in terms of hiring or firing teachers or changing curriculums. Those 3 members on it, two of whom are white, one of which sent his kids south to go to school, one of which had no kids in school, and one native person who was fairly easily influenced by the other two. So that they had a bank-rupt school board. We called a meeting in Buffalo Narrows to take a look at that school board to see if it couldn't be changed and have more public participation on it. The meeting was to come about and about two hours before the people got to the meeting there was this scurry around town of people saying that me and these 10 guys I was working with were gonna run the teachers out of town. So we got to the meeting hall - it was packed with people who were there really to protect their school teachers rather than relate to the questions we were raising. The school teachers were all at the meeting coached and directed by a fellow named Freddy Thompson. So they just came in and shouted us out. For an hour and a half they shouted and screamed and swore at us. They had a guy at the back of the hall who was drunk. They were telling him to ask questions too, and he was just calling us a bunch of fucking bastards and really just not allowing people there to develop any kind of meaningful dialogue at the meeting. As a consequence of that meeting, I was removed

... con't DENNIS POUDRIER

from the Northwest side of the province. Then during my removal, some friends of mine went around and petitioned the area and got something like 600 names on a piece of paper and submitted it to Art Towill who had removed me from the west side of the province. He again put me back on the job. Only the thing was I wasn't allowed to go back to Buffalo Narrows. According to him I was supposed to go back to Ile a la Crosse. I went back to Ile a la Crosse and resumed my activities on that side of the province and still related to the question of oppression which it really is anyway. I then got word from Art Towill that in a meeting at La Ronge that myself and Jerry Hammersmith and Jonas Favel had all been fired. There was no reasons given for our firings at that time and still hasn't been. I think that Wilf Churchman told us previously at a meeting of the Dept. of Northern Sask., that he didn't even like the terms Community Development. I can certainly understand why because he's an unimaginative social control agent who has a senior civil servant's position with very little to say about the life style of the North and he has no more indication of what the people there want, let alone what they need than the Man in the Moon. When he sees some people questioning the legitimacy of his dept., then he gets up tight and he'll have us fired. He's used a political process to do it. Political hackery process, anyway.

NB: What do you think the direction of the DNS is going now and what do you think their plans are?

Dennis: Well I think in terms of where they're going, let's take a look at where they've been. When they first had the public mandate to move into the North, they wanted to - their terms of reference were that they would help broaden the responsibility structure for the people in the North and help people take care of their own style of living. Help them build an economic base in the North and so on and so forth. They've been in operation now for 18 months. They have yet to take the advice of one single Native group or one single Native person's opinion with regard to their direction and they've continually moved more to the right in terms of being an agent of control rather than an agent or a support structure for helping the people that they're supposed to. They had at a meeting been persuaded to have an elected group of people - 4 people - make recommendations with regard to local government and a Northern Advisory Council. The recommendation that came after two and a half months of sitting with that board - that board consisted of a representative from each of four quarters of the North - their final recommendation was for the replacement of Churchman and the discontinuation of one of two of Ted Bowerman's portfolios. That recommendation was forwarded to Churchman, Bowerman, and Premier Blakney. They just haven't related to what they're doing - every single one of their objectives have turned out to be nothing more than window dressing for a very, very bankrupt and unimaginative economic development program. The direction that they're now taking is not even one where you can say they're becoming right or left wing. They have already demonstrated themselves over the last months to be a right wing govt. and they're now a reactionary govt. They're reacting to the protestations of the people in a non-productive way and they're not demonstrating that they have the imagination or the background to support the people. I'll give you an example of that. The planning and policy

division of the Dept. of Northern Sask. has just spent \$250,000.00 on a computer to help the people in the North - some 20,000 people - somehow do something better for their lives. It's kinda a funny thing except that it's not funny because these people are living in conditions that just would never be tolerated anywhere else. It's a colonial apparatus. It's nothing more than the British foreign policy in the 1800's. It's just a colonizer and it's colonizing at a rate where all people in the North are becoming very dependent on a very bankrupt system. They're not producing anything for themselves or for govt. I think if you drew a picture of Govt. as it is in Sask. as it's seen from Northern people, I think that you'd see that the govt. is like a big cow moose, in the sense that it's eating out of the legislative buildings, and it's being milked by the farmers and it's shitting all over the people in the North.

I want to give you an example of how they're not relating in the North. Every single head of every dept. there is a Southern middle-class white bureaucrat male. In this program to reach out to the people and get to know the people in the communities - they've had an influx of at least about 100 families move into La Ronge. They're living in a white middle-class ghetto. I'll be willing to bet anyone in DNS in La Ronge at this time, that there's not one bureaucrat in La Ronge who's taken the time to get to know one single Native person on the reserve in La Ronge or otherwise and this was their attempt to reach out and get to know the people. All they've done is move suburbia to La Ronge. They haven't done anything else. The thing too is that the branch heads that go out don't go out into the communities to meet the people unless they're pressured into doing it. They don't do it as a matter of somebody's invitation - they do it on a matter of crisis. Something has happened and they go out after the fact and try to patch up, which is something that is impossible to do given that their attitudes towards Native people are primarily racist and they are afraid to talk to Native people. The director of one of the branches for DNS came out to Buffalo to settle a problem in an office there. He was there one night, went to a party, got drunk, ran the govt. car into a snow bank so bad that we had to get a tow truck to pull it out, went back on the plane the next morning without even meeting any of the people in the office with the exception of the supervisor there. He insulted a couple of people in the community and it's fortunate for him that he did go. That's the kind of dialogue and relationship that every single branch head in the DNS has with the people there.

You really wonder where their priorities are. Brian Hill's got a \$250,000. computer that he negotiated from DREE and his wife has got a DREE grant to take a look at the possibilities of setting up a women's liberation program in the North. She can go around and meet Native people who would like to be liberated when they're living in economic poverty and where there's no job opportunities, there's no training for realistic jobs, and the families are on their knees on welfare.

La Loche is a community of 1800 people. There's no jobs there. There's a post cutting operation there that's gone bankrupt 6 times in the last 2 years. There's no highschool, there's no doctor, the people are living in log houses for the most part, and the govt. has seen fit to provide them with a larger jail. If that isn't an example of colonial social control and racist ideology, then I don't know what is.

... con't DENNIS POUDRIER

NE: The idea of the DNS is to bring all the depts. together. Could you tell us what relationship all these depts. are having with each other, welfare, DNR, and all these?

Dennis: It's a kind of a strange kind of parasitical relationship. When the DNS was formed it was supposed to be under an umbrella approach where each dept. and branch of that organization was to relate to each other in such a way that the people wouldn't have to play one bureaucratic structure against another. On paper that looked really pretty good. Then when the thing has now been interpreted in real terms, it amounts to a number of mobile civil servants playing territoriality games with their jobs, not talking to people from other branches. That is to say that the heads of branches have meetings and talk to each other in La Ronge, but they intellectualize the problems of the North, what they know about them, usually exchanging varying degrees of ignorance about them because they're all white and from the south anyway. Secondly, that their workers in the field and in the action in the communities don't get along with each other because they have different terms of reference, different operational basis, different salaries, and there's no vehicle through which these people can relate to each other. So it happens that in La Ronge the branch heads are exchanging ignorant opinions about something they know nothing, and the people in the communities who are govt. employees, don't like each other for various reasons. They just don't get along - they don't talk to each other - they don't have meetings - and they really don't give a shit about the people. All they do is care about their own salaries and their own well-being.

PRESS RELEASE

Three of the four Community Development workers recently released by the Department of Northern Saskatchewan (D.N.S.), Jerry Hammersmith, Jonas Favel and Dennis Poudrier, has released information which they say illustrates the hypocrisy of that department's program.

The three stated that "even on the basis of the objectives which the department has set for itself, it has been a total failure."

"The responsibility for the department's lack of credibility and acceptance among native people in the north must be placed squarely on the shoulders of Mr. G. R. (Ted) Bowerman, Minister in charge of the new department and his Deputy Minister, J.W. (Wilf) Churchman," the three claimed.

To illustrate their claims, the three former employees of the department produced copies of the D.N.S. objectives as laid out by the department along with what Mr. Hammersmith claimed are "obvious self-contradictions in the entire D.N.S. approach."

Also included in the information released was a copy of a statement read on behalf of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan to a D.N.S. Branch Heads meeting in La Ronge on Monday, July 30th.

The statement, calling for D.N.S. staff members to join with the native people of the north in seeking the replacement of Mr. Bowerman and Mr. Churchman, was read to Mr. Churchman and the assembled Branch Heads of D.N.S. by Rod Durocher, a member

of the Board of Directors of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan.

A group of fifteen people led by Mr. Durocher walked in un-announced into the D.N.S. meeting in the department's La Ronge headquarters and presented the statement while other members of the group distributed copies of the statement to all D.N.S. employees who were in the building at the time. Everyone involved in the presentation of the statement left the D.N.S. headquarters building immediately after the statement was presented.

Mr. Favel also disclosed that the northern "Watchdog Committee," a group of four native people elected by northern delegates to a D.N.S. meeting held in La Ronge in May, had sent a letter to the Premier of Saskatchewan calling for the immediate replacement of Mr. Bowerman and Mr. Churchman.

He further stated that these two documents presented by the representatives of "all the organized Metis people in the north," were a clear indication that the stand taken by the four workers dismissed was correct and that Mr. Bowerman and Mr. Churchman do not have the support or confidence of the native people of the north.

Mr. Hammersmith stated that a number of D.N.S. employees had committed themselves, as a group, to donate one-thousand dollars per month to be used to "tell the truth about D.N.S.," right across the province. He said the money would be used to produce a tabloid newspaper to be circulated throughout the north and across the province. Mr. Hammersmith further stated that, "it is clear that Churchman and Bowerman have the support of only a small, racist minority in the north and they should resign immediately."

He stated that none of the four were interested in returning to work for D.N.S. so that was not an issue.

"Our main objective right now," said Mr. Hammersmith, "is to work with the Native people of the north to see to it that the government lives up to its promises."



Batoche Photos: The transportation varied.



PHILIP CHARTIER INTERVIEW



OFY

An Interview with Philip Chartier of BUFFALO NARROWS, Sask. concerning the OFY Project in BUFFALO

New Breed: You're the Vice-President of the Metis Society there and also you were saying that you had something to do with an OFY project. Could you tell me something about the OFY project?

Philip: I was at OFY since May 14th and I've been working at OFY until July 20th and I started working with the Metis Society. We've been having a lot of political trouble with the people in town. Especially the power structure as we call them. That's people that - just let me think - well, it involves about 15 people all together - not including the teachers - and it's followers of this Fred Thompson. They don't like this deal of OFY because they weren't informed of it. That their feeling is they weren't informed of it and they want to have more say in it. When we started on OFY it was strictly our own thing. We could do what we wanted with the money.

NB: Could you tell me what the project was originally designed for - whether it was recreation or whatever it was?

Philip: Well, we wrote up our brief and we put down there for recreation. Just mostly involving the kids and that's what it's been all about so far.

NB: You're having trouble with the secretary of state and what are they telling you about the OFY project? What are they saying?

Philip: We have this kind of a policeman for our area - for the North West side. His name is Simon Paul and he lives in Saskatoon. He comes up to Buffalo maybe once a month and last time he was up there about three weeks ago, he told us - no, well, we asked him, is this project going to go on? And he said - yah. Definatly it will. And then we asked him, well, when will you be putting money in the bank - at the Credit Union in Meadow Lake. And he said, sure, it'll be there by this Friday and that was three weeks ago. So I quit about a week after and the rest of the boys kept working and then they wrote out a whole bunch of checks for our wages, and they all bounced and came back. We don't know what the hell's going on.

NB: What do you think the problem is? Why do you think the secretary of state is cutting you off. I heard

mention that it was because of some of the social action you've been taking in Buffalo Narrows - the youth group?

Philip: Well, that's another thing too. If you're working with OFY, they say as long as you're on the program you got no social activities at all.* Strictly out. If you're gonna start into politics or stuff like that they're gonna cut that program off right now.

NB: In the south there's a lot of white groups on OFY projects that do take social action. Their project is designed that way. Do you think it's because you're effective in the area - that's why they're cutting you off? Because a lot of the white OFY projects in the south are not very effective and so that the government just leaves it. Do you think you had some effect on the community?

Philip: Well, now I'm probably just talking for myself but the reason I figure that they're cutting us off - that - well, we're hitting too many tender spots in the community. Like, you know, we start questioning them on the school board - we start questioning about the LCA - and all the - we want to set up a welfare committee - and have a vocational center in Buffalo Narrows. You know, they just seemed to not be able to get along with that idea. They don't like it. It just seems to me they're trying to keep the people at the same level all the time. Keep them dependent on the government more or less.

NB: You had a meeting with Nesduley, the MP in your area and what happened at this meeting?

Philip: We had our meeting at the advancement club and the people there asked him to call an investigation. Then after the meeting he approached us and asked us to meet him again. Then we went to our office there and he was all four the OFY project. He stated that he'd push this OFY project. He'd really try and help it out as much as he could and then the only thing that he accomplished after he got back was the investigation on the OFY project.**

Editor's Note:

* In a previous interview, this was explained to us to mean that the people working on the OFY project were told by the OFY area supervisor that they could not get involved in any social actions during or after working hours or else their grant would be cut off.

** Nesduley was one of those involved in the investigation that resulted in the grant being cut off.



Batoche Photos

Wait 'til I fix my hair you guys.

FISHING IN THE NORTH INTERVIEW

An interview with Ray Jones from Uranium City, Sask., and Frank Tomkins from La Ronge, Sask.

New Breed: Ray, you've been involved with the fishermen in the Athabasca region. Could you tell me how much fish they're taking out of the Athabasca Lake - what basis - how many pounds - do you know?

Ray: No. I can't tell you exactly how many pounds but they have the million pound limit on the lake there.

NB: Well, I think they're taking out about 150,000 pounds every two weeks during the fishing season. But I wanted to ask you Ray, you were involved with the unionization or problems with the fishermen in Athabasca. Could you tell me something about that?

Ray: On one of my fieldtrips when I went into Gunnar Fish Plant, all the people there - especially fishermen and plant workers, were dissatisfied with the present fish prices and the rate where they're still paying \$1.75 per hour. And this is the minimum wage. They're just scraping by and a lot of people are going into the hole. But on the fishermen - the fishermen have never had an increase for 17 years but all this time the cost of living and everything has been going up. Last year some of the fishermen went in the hole. So the fishermen were tired - so some of the fishermen from Winnipeg and the Metis of the Lakehead decided to go on strike because they couldn't come to terms with the Fresh Water Fish Marketing Board. They wanted 20¢ per pound across the board and the marketing representative there said that they could only go as high as 8¢. (The people lowered their demand to 12¢, ending up with 10¢) So the fishermen decided to go on strike. The Metis Society and the DNS were on that scene and they said they would help the fishermen in sending down a delegation to Winnipeg to try and deal with the FWFMB. So the DNS paid the shot for transportation and what not to Winnipeg. When they got to Winnipeg, they got a 3½¢ increase on white fish.

NB: Were they previously paying for ice?

Ray: Yes. They were paying ½¢ for ice previously, and so they got free ice.

NB: Do those fishermen have any other alternatives in terms of making a living?

Ray: There's no alternatives. The only thing they're planning on doing is if they can't make a go of it, they'll have to go back on welfare.

NB: Are the fishermen represented on the marketing board in any way?

Ray: No. In no way are the fishermen represented on the marketing board.

NB: Do you think it would be possible to have the fishermen from the total north get together and discuss the degree to which they're being exploited?

Ray: Oh yes. The fishermen should get together. But I don't think they should get on that marketing board because they're gonna be outnumbered. What the fishermen really want up there is to start up a union so they can... a union of all the northern Saskatchewan people.

NB: Did that 3½¢ increase mean that the man would increase his income by 15 or 20 or 25% or how much more of a percentage increase would he have in his income?

Ray: I don't know exactly how much the increase would be on that. No, I have no idea.

NB: Well, if he was making 6¼¢ before and he got a 3½¢ raise, that would mean at least 33% of a raise in his income. Right?

Ray: Right.

Frank: Rather than running in the hole, he may be able to pay for some of the equipment that he buys. The way it stands right now, it's just impossible for fishermen to make a decent living with expense of motors and boats and what have you. They're lucky if they break even. Usually they run in the hole. They make a living. It puts them off welfare while they're working but that's about the extent of it. With this increase that they're getting, they might be able to pay for the equipment that they're using. That's about how much difference it makes. It certainly isn't money in the pocket.

NB: Does the Dept. of Natural Resources have any consultation with fishermen when they set tolerance levels on lakes?

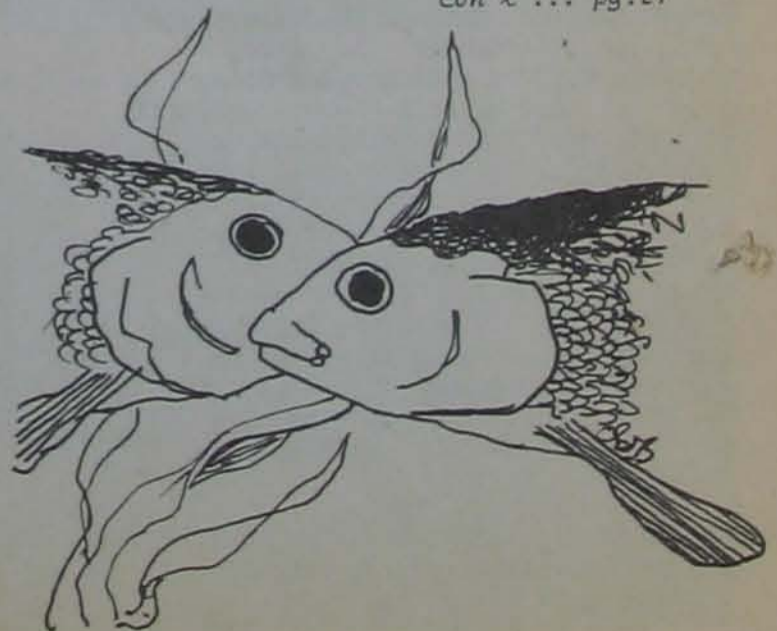
Frank: Absolutely not. This is something that we are trying to get the people organized and getting the letter written to the Federal Authorities asking them not to put any more tolerances on any of the existing lakes. What has happened in the past is that Tourist Outfitters Association has written to the Federal Govt. and Provincial Govt. requesting tolerances on some of these lakes. What happens then, anybody that is making kind of a half-assed living immediately is put in the position that he can't make a living anymore because as soon as he catches 10% of game fish, the DNS officials come along and make him pull his nets out. And where the hell can he go then? He's gotta go someplace where he can't get any of the monied fish. We all know that prices of the white fish right now is so damn little that he can't make a living on it. The only money he can make a living on is the game fish and if these tolerances are put on, away goes his profit.

NB: Why did the govt. put the tolerance rate on in the first place. Is that to leave fish in there for the tourists or what?

Frank: The tolerances that are put on are at the request of the Tourist Outfitters Assoc. Their only interest is in personal gain - the Tourist Outfitters. They want the fish for the tourists and to hell with the commercial fishermen.

NB: So you would say that the government's priorities are with the guy that's enjoying his holiday and not the man that's trying to make a living to support himself.

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FISHING IN THE NORTH INTERVIEW

Frank: As always, this appears so. They seem to have little regard for the fishermen. They'll do any thing the Tourist Outfitters Assoc. requests.

Ray says that there was a 3¢ increase in the price of fish. This has happened just once in the last 17 years. When you consider the increase in prices in the last year of 8¢ - that 3¢ on fish is damn little. So the fisherman is the guy that's getting beat in every case. Two years ago I was living in Saskatoon and Jackfish for example were selling for \$1.05 a pound in the Safeway stores while the fishermen at Montreal Lake were getting 2½¢ a pound for their fish. So this big spread is - I don't really know where it is - whether it's in the FWFMB or not but certainly there's too big a spread there and something has to be done. The fishermen either have to form a union so they can get a just rate for their product or they've gotta be subsidized or something. It just can't carry on like this.

Ray: Most of the fishermen up in the North are questioning about the way the govt. has put the law down. On the Alberta side the export fish is around 23¢ a pound. On the Sask. side, it's continental fish. They're just fishing 2 miles away from the Alberta fishermen and here they were getting 6½¢ per pound. The fishermen are wondering why they're getting the same fish out of pretty well the same area and there is quite a difference in prices just because one is continental and one is export fish.

NB: How does the govt. describe the difference between continental and export fish?

Ray: Export fish have no cysts and continental has cysts. That is, they say there are no worms in export fish.

Frank: But how can fish 2 miles apart be different...?

Ray: Right. This is what the fishermen are questioning. There is no difference. It's the same fish.

NB: Are they sold to essentially the same people? Like it still goes to the Safeway stores whether it's a continental or export fish?

Ray: Right. And continental fish - they say they have cysts.

NB: But that can't be based on any facts obviously if the fish are from the same lake?

Ray: No. Well, they're fishing just 2 miles away from the other fishermen.

NB: Is there a different board handles the fish for Alberta?

Ray: Oh yes. There is. I don't know the board - it's the same thing but you know it's a different province.

Frank: They're making a better rip off in Sask. than they are in Alberta.

Ray: That's right. See, that's the prov. Govt. that lays down the rules and regulations on the tolerances and stuff like this. You know - there's a difference between Sask. and Alberta.

Frank: As it is right now, if it was up to the fishermen they'd kick the FWFMB out. But these are being kept on there by the prov. govt.

NB: So it would be better then, if the fishermen dealt directly with the stores?

Ray: That's right.

Frank: Absolutely.

Ray: The fishermen didn't want this FWFMB at all because even the representative up there - the fishermen questioned how much a month he was getting. He was saying approximately \$850.00, you know. And they asked him how much it cost him by plane to get to Gunnar. Apparently all this is coming out of fishermen's pockets. So the fishermen decided they don't really need the FWFMB. They can deal on their own or through the Co-op fisheries.

NB: How is the transportation situation and what are the costs?

Frank: Well, usually the cost of transportation will depend of course on distance and everything but in most cases the transportation costs are over and above what the fishermen is actually getting for his product.

NB: So the fishermen have to pay this cost?

Frank: Well, this comes out of the Co-op. But it is actually coming out of the fishermen. It's the same as everything else. The FWFMB - they've got a \$6 million plant in Winnipeg and a lot of high paid staff and this is coming out of the fishermen. He's getting bugger-all for his product while somebody else up on top is getting all the rip-off.

Ray: Although there's an increase on the price for fish, the fishermen are still dissatisfied. Plant workers are dissatisfied because of the small wage they're getting on an increase to \$2.00 per hour. What the Metis people up there would like to do is start a union. The idea is to get all the Northern fishermen together.

Frank: I was listening to a radio broadcast on CBK yesterday where somebody was interviewing one of the fishermen on the Nemeiben Lake. This is just about 17 miles from La Ronge. This Yankee was saying he fishes about 6 months out of the year. He fishes down south in the winter time and he says that he comes up to Sask. here to get out of the heat. He said that he caught 1700 Pickeral. To me this is a way out of line for one fishermen - sports fishermen - to come up into our country here and catch 1700 Pickeral - he didn't say pounds - he said Pickeral. Now, what the hell is one tourist gonna do with that amount of fish. He's just catching them and throwing them back and I imagine if he does this, a lot of these fish are gonna die. They let one tourist - not one but probably thousands - come up here and do the same thing when a commercial fishermen can't make a decent living, because they're not allowed to catch these so-called game fish that are being wasted by these tourists. This is a broadcast I heard on CBK and I'm sure thousands of people heard it as well.

This fishermen said that he's out there fishing every day and every day he catches his limit. He was saying that that particular day it took him til 3 o'clock to catch his limit and the previous day it took him til noon. So anybody, like he says, that comes up here and fishes 2 or 3 months out of the year, and catches his limit every day - what the hell is he doing with these fish. There's obviously a waste. And what does he throw back? He keeps the limit presumably but what the hell has he caught and thrown back?



What happened to the typewriters?

NORTHERN HOUSING

Department of Municipal Affairs
Avond Towers
Regina, Saskatchewan

Dear Sirs:

A letter dated June 13, was sent to the office of Department of Municipal Affairs directed to Mr. Bill Sturby, Director for housing.

The letter was in relationship to questions asked re: Metis Housing Project in La Ronge.

Some of the questions were as follows:
When will the village be hauling in the additional 200 loads of black dirt as promised?
Will there be any additional payments on the house because of the project getting these additional services?
When is the person Mr. Sturby said would be appointed coming to La Ronge to review the housing conditions and to recommend certain repairs?
Will Laura Beatty, Jean Flatland and Betty Hoffit be receiving black dirt and fill as requested?

A request that was made, at a meeting with the Department of Municipal Affairs and other Government Departments on December 18, 1972, was that something be done about the drainage ditch behind the houses on Nunn Street. Nothing has been done. We would like to recommend that it be also filled with dirt.

To sum up, I would like to say in closing that the Metis people in La Ronge are not getting anything done for them. The Department of Northern Saskatchewan is building a little empire for themselves in La Ronge. There are large numbers of people coming into La Ronge who, when they come up here, move into brand new houses or trailers with water, sewer, and every other modern convenience you can think of. The Metis people who have been living in the North all their lives have to be satisfied with living in very sub-standard housing and paying exorbitant rents and payments. The Department of Northern Saskatchewan are only looking after themselves and their employees. This can easily be seen when Mr. Bowerman passed a 1.5 million dollar housing project for the people employed by the Department of Northern Saskatchewan. These type of things going on in the North are disturbing a lot of the people. If something isn't done to improve the housing for the Metis people in La Ronge, we are going to make every effort to inform the general public as to what is happening to us in terms of housing. I don't think it is necessary to go on so I think I'll close in saying that we trust that you will look into these problems which are of utmost importance to us.

Yours Truly,

Mrs. Janet Fietz
Chairwoman
Metis Housing Committee
for La Ronge



PRESS RELEASE

NORTH BATTLEFORD - LEGAL AID

PRESS - RADIO - T.V.
INFORMATION RELEASE.

Some forty interested and concerned citizens from the Battlefords and Area Communities held a founding meeting at 7:30 P.M. on Tuesday, August 7, 1973 in North Battleford at 1191 - 107 Street.

This meeting saw the formation of "The Battlefords and Area Legal Services Society".

A twelve member Board of Directors along with a Chairman were duly nominated and elected as the provisional governing body until the first Annual General Assembly hoped to be held before September 30, 1973.

The Name of the Society, the basic aims and objectives as well as the provisional by-laws were duly presented and voted upon and accepted.

A letter of information was sent to Honourable Mr. Roy Romanow, Attorney-General of the Province of Saskatchewan.

CONSUMER'S PROBLEM OF THE MONTH



"I bought a washing machine and paid \$150.00 down. I signed a conditional sales contract covering the balance of \$172.00 plus the interest charges of \$68.00. My monthly payments were to be \$10.00 per month for 24 months. Had I known the rate of interest was 37.95% I would not have signed the contract."

"Is there anything I can do?"

ANSWER

Yes... If the interest has not been expressed as an annual percentage rate, you are not obligated to pay any carrying charges.

**A WISE CONSUMER
WILL**

CHECK!



All conditional sales contracts for full disclosure of the interest charges expressed both as one sum in dollars and cents and as an annual percentage rate.

REMEMBER!

Under the Cost of Credit Disclosure Act, if **either** the dollars and cents amount **or** the percentage rate of interest is omitted, the consumer is not obligated to pay interest charges.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

1739 Cornwall Street,
Regina, Saskatchewan.
Telephone: 525-8791

1549-8th Street East,
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.
Telephone: 373-3202

CO-OP POINT

As with many other Northern Communities, Co-op point or Kinisao as it is also known, has been the victim of negligence at the hand of all levels of governments. One resident there bluntly put it this way,

"It's almost as if the government has deliberately forgotten us. The only time they come here is to tell us all the good things they've done in other places, but we never get any part of it."

The slights against humanity by the government in Co-op Point are many and appalling. It is most disgusting yet typical to see in reality how government funding never reaches the people of the north until they are pressured almost to the point of beating them over the head before they'll do something at the community level.

Many houses are promised by the Department of Northern Saskatchewan throughout the north, but the only buildings presently being built are bigger jails and DNS employee apartment houses. In Co-op Point there is a Non-status Native man who has been working for the DNR for 20 years. He has a large family and is presently living in a single-roomed aluminum shack in which during the winter a frost coating on the walls, mattresses iced to the floor and freezing temperatures in the dwelling are common knowledge. Meanwhile there is a single DNR employee who just happens to be white, living in the four bedroom DNR house which is the best house in Co-op Point. Only after pressure from DNS has a house being promised for this man. The other dwellings in the area are just as bad, if not worse than the above named. The housing conditions in Co-op Point can be described as deplorable and unfit for human living. It seems to take pressure unlimited before governments react to the needs of human beings, especially Native people, and then they react with the attitude that if they do something, this may mean a vote.

The medical attention Co-op Point receives is negligible. At the time I was in Co-op Point, a health nurse, which is the extent of medical services, hadn't visited the area for over eight weeks. The last time the nurse was in the area, she stayed for one and a half hours in the DNR building.

There were a couple patients who were too sick to go to the DNR building, but this did not mean anything to this nurse. She could have walked from one end of the settlement to the other in one half hour, visiting the homes and the sick if she was in that much of a hurry to leave, fulfilling her job satisfactorily, but in opposition to her duty and responsibility as a nurse, she couldn't even be bothered to do that. In between a visit by the nurse, a baby only a few weeks old became ill with a stomach disorder. The people radioed to La Ronge for a non-milk based drink for this baby. They received back a radio message that this was impossible as a Dr.'s prescription was needed in order to get this type of milk. Besides the fact that

this was a downright lie as this product can be purchased in a drugstore, how did these so called medical experts expect a community isolated from La Ronge to get a Dr.'s prescription. The least they could've done is get the prescription from a Dr. if they felt it was essential, but no attempt was made to assist in any way. They believed the situation wasn't urgent, what is one sick Indian kid to them anyway? There is a trunk-sized first aid and emergency kit in Co-op Point to provide temporary medical assistance to the residents until medical help arrives. It is the responsibility of the nurse to see that this kit is maintained. Upon looking into this kit all it contained was an abundant supply of lice shampoo, a few bottles of vitamins, and a bottle or two of Kaopectate for bowel disorders. There were no bandages, no aspirins, in fact nothing that would be of any use in any kind of emergency.

A couple days before I visited Co-op, a young girl became very sick. The Co-op store manager and a parent took the girl to Lynn Lake, Manitoba just a couple hours drive from Co-op. The Welfare Department out of La Ronge advised against this as it causes too much paper work to receive bills from another province although Manitoba agrees to seeing patients from Co-op.

The public service departments in the north actually exist in this manner throughout the north even in this age of moon walks and modern technology.

The residents in Co-op are predominately Metis people. They make their living from trapping and fishing so, require welfare for most part of the year. The prices of the food in Co-op are very high as food prices are in the north, yet they receive very little financial assistance through welfare. The Department gives them the barest essentials that are difficult enough to live on in the south and are highly insufficient in the north yet, they are expected to make do. The welfare worker for this area did not bother to tell the people their welfare rights i.e. they can produce itemized food bills monthly to show they need a greater food allowance, that they are eligible for a \$500 furniture grant and a \$500 renovations grant. There are welfare rights booklets distributed throughout the south to welfare clients but, this is unheard of in the north, why? It is time we got some action and answers to these questionable circumstances that are present in government services in Northern Saskatchewan. The answers reveal more and more the fact that the governments involved in the north are comprised of inhuman bureaucrats that are working with governments totally to line their own pockets, not to give the northern people the services they require. A drastic change is needed in the administration in programs supposedly there to help and serve the local people. If it takes beating government people over the head to bring this essential change, this is what will be done.

Linda Finlayson

"Old Ki-PUTCH" by Billy BRASS

A Rich CAT FROM TEXAS met Ki-PUTCH IN A WASH-ROOM, ... AFTER obvious RELIEF, Ki-PUTCH WALKED OUT WITHOUT washing his HANDS.....



HEY! how come you didn't wash your hands? ... US people down FROM TEXAS ALWAYS do, AFTER WE USE THE TOILET!!!!



WELL, !!? US INDIANS UP HERE WE DON'T URINATE ON OUR damn hands!



" I looked into the future far as human eye could see,
And thought what things would happen if you readers let it be."

IN THE NAME OF HUMANITY

This poem isn't pretty, the kind to please your pride,
It merely tells the story of a poor man crucified.

His name was Ne-mieh-teen, a decent, common man,
With all the ordinary faults that were since time began.

He loved his wife and children and made his humble home
Along the Churchill Basin where the things of nature roam.

He guided tourists, fished and trapped, around his small portage,
And wondered, when the outside world called his content, mirage.

They came to say his river would be dammed for extra power,
His home and wild domain would be a rather watery bower.

They'd gild this golden river with iron and cement,
Improve upon God's handiwork, or so the story went.

They gave him work from 9 till 5 with shovel, pick and hoe,
A school his children must attend, and mortgaged bungalow.

He worked until his prime was past, the dam was built by then,
And even when they let him go, he tried to work again.

But skills he knew so well were not the one's that 'qualified.'
And soon the joy of life was lost, the soul within had died.

He pined for forest glade and peace that never could come back,
He wished again for rivers roar and rustic two room shack.

I wonder whether Father Time could play a meaner trick,
If it had nailed him live, ungalled, upon a white spruce stick.

I won't offend your tender ears with other sordid tales,
Of daughters in the brothels or sons that live in jails.

But don't forget when watching shows, or turning on the light,
A price was paid for all those frills that really wasn't right.

And when you see his children, in moody darkness hid,
Kneel down and ask forgiveness, for you knew not what you did.

