

New Breed

MAGAZINE

March 1993

\$2.00 per copy

- **Spotlight** on the International Year of Indigenous People
- **Sentencing Circle:** A bold experiment in justice
- **Metis** adjust to post-Charlottetown era
- **Health team** bridges gaps



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The Contributors

Jeff Campbell, Clem Chartier, Philip Chartier,
Lorna LaPlante, Lisa McCallum, Winston McKay

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the New Breed interim management board, I wish to extend greetings to our readership and thank everyone for their patience and understanding.

New Breed has undergone some very difficult times, but we are proud to announce that once again, it will be on the shelves.

We have had so many people wondering what was happening with this publication so I will give you a brief history.

New Breed began in 1969 as a communications tool for the Metis Society and flourished to a paper with a readership of 30,000 by 1992.

Financially, it was difficult to maintain the paper after the federal government cut all funding in 1990, but New Breed persevered through advertising and subscription sales.

This independence kept the paper afloat over two years without government funding, but there was always a cash flow problem due to the fact that advertising revenues were slow to come in.

By July 1992, New Breed owed \$17,000 in payables but more astoundingly, was owed \$60,000 in unpaid advertisements.

The Metis Society of Saskatchewan, as owner of New Breed, had no alternative.

It was necessary to close the doors until some of the receivables came in. An interim board was appointed consisting of myself, Martin Aubichon, Albert Delaire and Edwin Pelletier. We are now in a position to commence publication again.

New Breed staff and the board are very happy to announce that we will offer a new magazine format similar to that used in the 1980s. This will be easier to keep over time and generally more pleasant to read.

We feel that communications are vital to the Metis Nation both to our own people and to non-Metis persons. Our message must get out!

New Breed still needs advertising dollars, so keep those ads coming in.

However, we now have arrangements with our affiliate organizations whereby we will receive regular advertisements so that we have a sound base from which to start.

The New Breed and editor Jeff Campbell are proud to offer our readership this very vital service.

Sincerely,
Philip Chartier
Chairperson

MORIN CALLS FOR SERIES OF POST-ACCORD CHANGES

In the wake of the defeat of the Charlottetown Accord, Metis Society President Gerald Morin called for a changing role for the Society and the work it does.

Morin met with the MSS local in Batoche January 20 in order to inform members there about changes coming in 1993 and beyond. Morin said the struggle to sell the Charlottetown Accord had kept him and other MSS executives busy and without much chance to meet with local members, hear their concerns and answer their questions.

He said the results from Charlottetown represented a setback but not the final chapter in the quest for Metis self government.

"October 26 was a major disappointment. It took a lot out of us and it took a while to recuperate. We had a lot of our goals and dreams and aspirations wrapped up in the Charlottetown Accord."

Even with the Accord being rejected, the gains contained there for Metis will be a standard for leaders in the future.

"I can't see aboriginal leaders settling for anything less than the Charlottetown Accord. There was everything that Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont struggled for in the Charlottetown Accord."

Throughout the negotiations with the federal government, Morin said Metis leaders and those they represent gained a great deal of respect from their negotiating partners.

"We gained because we were equal participants in negotiations on the constitution. That has never happened before."

The most positive sign of Metis gains in dealing with the provincial and federal



MSS President Gerald Morin addresses members of the society's Batoche local.

governments is the signing of the tripartite agreement, officially making the Metis Society of Saskatchewan an equal partner with those governments.

"This is a very major development," Morin said.

Morin said the tripartite discussions began almost a decade ago when former premier Grant Devine began negotiations in 1985.

Devine called off the talks in 1987 after a First Minister's Conference that year.

Morin told his audience once the agreement is officially signed, it will allow Metis to begin more negotiations regarding fundamental issues like housing, economic development, development of a Metis land base at Batoche, education, training and health care.

The main roadblock in making progress with these issues is a chronic lack of funding, Morin explained, adding there are ways around the problem.

"We've got to look at getting jobs for young people. As Metis people, we've always believed in sustainable development

and a balance between jobs and wealth creation."

Using some of the existing Metis agencies better will hasten development and wealth creation, said Morin.

"SNEDCO is like a Metis bank - it provides loans and that's about all. We want gains and SNEDCO could do more."

Not only MSS affiliates must change, Morin said, but the Society itself must undergo a shift in its role.

"The future of the Metis Society has got to be less as a non-profit society and more like a Metis government to better serve the needs of our people."

Morin said it will probably take 10 to 15 years to achieve self-government but the struggle will ultimately be worth it.

"It's clear from the Charlottetown Accord negotiations that we've got to take the bull by the horns and get things rolling by ourselves," Morin concluded.

Regardless of the outcome of an upcoming sentencing circle, a Saskatoon Metis leader says Ivan Morin's case will make history.

"It's going to be history made for Saskatoon. This has never been tried before in the sentencing area," said Nora Ritchie, a Metis Women of Saskatchewan senator and president of MSS Local #11.

Ivan Morin, 34, was convicted of robbing a gas station in May 1992.

An employee of the gas station was choked during the robbery.

Instead of passing sentence on Morin, Queen's Bench Justice J.D. Milliken decided February 5 to set up a sentencing circle to determine Morin's punishment.

The circle will be made up of a group of between 15 and 40 people made up of Justice Milliken, Morin, plus victims of his robbery, police, lawyers, Metis people and Saskatoon citizens.

After getting input from the parties involved, members of the circle will determine what needs to be done for Morin to pay his debt to society.

Morin's case in the first time the sentencing circle, a traditional method for dispensing justice, will be tried in an urban setting.

Milliken decided to try a sentencing circle as an alternative to locking people away. If people are willing to change, then experiments like the sentencing circle are worth a try, he said.

The sentencing circle has been used in small northern communities like Sandy Bay but Morin's case could become the benchmark for similar cases all over Canada.

Ritchie said while Morin has the most

at stake from the sentencing circle, all Metis will be in the spotlight during the meeting.

"We have to be concerned if this is going to work, if this is going to be successful. We are concerned this is done properly and fairly and that the victim is a part of this," she said.



SENTENCING CIRCLE WILL MAKE METIS HISTORY

Ritchie was one of three Metis leaders who spoke to court in favour of trying the sentencing circle.

She said given Morin's past incarceration record, it's worth it to give him another chance in the sentencing circle.

"It would be worth having a look at because he's been in prison rehabilitation for eight or nine years, and it's hard to see what it's done for him. We have to find the root of his problems and deal with those problems," she said.

Ritchie said with a large audience looking on and being surrounded by his peers at the sentencing circle is bound to be difficult on Morin.

"To look into their eyes and tell them all his feelings on what has happened won't be easy especially with all those people who know him. It's sure to be a whole different feeling from telling a judge your story," she said.

Ritchie is adamant the Metis who sit in the circle are picked by Metis.

"We as Metis should select people. That's very important to us as Metis people. People have to recognize we're Metis because this sentencing circle will reflect on Metis people all across the province."

Ritchie said Morin's lawyer is considering asking for a postponement in the sentencing circle so the judge and lawyers involved, plus potential circle members may want to study the concept further. Morin was originally supposed to meet with his sentencing circle on February 23.

Because the sentencing circle concept is so new, Morin's case is attracting a lot of attention, Ritchie said.

Since the use of the circle was announced, her phone has been ringing off the hook with inquiries from lawyers, teachers and Metis Society members who want to know more or to come and watch the proceedings.

While the amount of interest in the case is seen as positive, Ritchie is determined that the real meaning of the sentencing circle is not lost.

"We're going to listen and be fair when we judge what is done. We have to be fair," she concluded.

1993 DECLARED "INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE" BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Having just left 1992 - the year which marks the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the colonization of the Americas and the year that Metis rights were denied in a Canada-wide referendum on the Canadian Constitution - the struggle of Indigenous peoples continues unabated into 1993, a year declared by the U.N. General Assembly as the Year of Indigenous Peoples.

On December 10, 1992, leaders from various Indigenous peoples and nations participated in the United Nations General Assembly's official ceremonies launching the 1993 year. For the first time, several of the Indigenous leaders gave speeches within the General Assembly.

While it is not expected that any substantial results or progress will take place, 1993 offers Indigenous peoples potential forums to continue pressing for the recognition of our rights in all parts of the world where we have been displaced.

This displacement has taken many different forms, including genocide, ethnocide, assimilation, loss of land, loss of traditional resource use such as hunting and various forms of racism.

In many countries, this oppression continues unabated, with the United Nations not being able to enforce any corrective measures.

An example of this is the situation of the Indian peoples in Guatemala. Severe repression, including hundreds of deaths and thousands of displaced peoples (refugees) have been well documented. While improvements have taken place over the past five to six years, conditions remain deplorable.

The bright side is that Indian peoples there are beginning to once again openly

By Clem Chartier

organize and struggle to get their rights recognized.

This is no easy task, which leaves a necessity for many to organize from outside Guatemala. However, their perseverance is paying off. Long needed world attention was focused on Guatemala when Rigoberta Menchu was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Hopefully, this world attention will not pass too quickly.

This is only one example, numerous more can be found in other parts of the world. These issues and many more will surely be discussed at the various conferences and activities scheduled to be held in different locations.

Current initiatives of the United Nations and the Organization of American States will also reflect these issues in one way or another.

In this connection, the United Nations, through its Working Group on Indigenous Populations is close to adopting a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Populations. The Working Group has been working on the draft declaration since 1982.

A draft is now ready for final consideration by the Working Group which will then forward it through the United Nations network (Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council) before it can receive consideration and adoption by the General Assembly.

For this year we can only hope that it progresses through the Working Group and Sub-Commission.

The United Nations is also holding a World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, Austria in June of this year. The last conference was held twenty-five years ago.

To date it is not certain what role or prominence Indigenous peoples will have at that Conference. So far the only agenda item dealing specifically with Indigenous peoples is a commemoration of 1993 being declared International Year of the World's Indigenous People. However, Indigenous leaders are seeking more meaningful participation within the Conference.

Closer to home, the Organization of American States (OAS) is working on a legal instrument dealing with the rights of the Indians of the Americas. The original intent was to have something adopted for 1992, but that deadline was not possible.

The OAS has finalized its consultations on a questionnaire and will now draft a document which will be presented to governments and Indigenous peoples for further consultation. It is possible that some form of document will be adopted over the next few years.

In the meantime, during this Year of Indigenous Peoples, efforts can be made with the government of Canada to correct the injustices perpetrated upon Indigenous peoples within Canada. Issues such as land and resource rights, self-government, education assistance and so forth can be addressed without either constitutional change or international developments.

Chartier served as President of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples from 1984 to 1987.

SITUATION AND DEMANDS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN GUATEMALA

Indigenous peoples make up the majority (approximately 60 per cent) of Guatemala's population of nine million people.

Although they participate in many economic activities situated throughout the country, in urban as well as rural areas, they also continue to maintain cohesive

communities based on ancestral modes of life and thought on lands they have occupied for millennia.

Indigenous peoples in Guatemala are subject to many forms economic, social and cultural discrimination, and have borne the brunt of the terrible repression and the scorched earth policy exercised by successive governments until the present day.

Many of their lands have been expropriated or taken over through devious means, particularly since the beginning of this century.

The economic deprivation, militarization and severe under-investment in social infrastructure by the state have created a situation where indigenous peoples are extremely handicapped in being aware of and defending their constitutional and human rights.

In spite of these adverse conditions, the indigenous peoples of Guatemala have resisted domination through jealously guarding their traditions and collective forms of organization for 500 years.

In recent decades, they have also formed the backbone of the principal popular organizations daring to stand up for



Children at Guatemalan refugee camp.

human rights in the face of military repression.

Over the past three years, an indigenous movement has begun to emerge.

Hosting the 1991 continental gathering of the "500 Years of Resistance" movement gave the organizations a public profile, and since then they have been more and more present in public life.

Different approaches and priorities continue to exist, and the movement is still in its organizational stages, but its voices are increasingly heard.

Recently, some 10 indigenous organizations have come together to create the "Maya sector" coordination with a view to gaining direct representation in the peace negotiations going on between the Guatemalan government and the armed opposition, the URNG.

They have established an exhaustive list of indigenous rights which they intend to defend in the negotiations.

Those rights include territorial, political, judicial, linguistic, educational, cultural, civil and military, economic and social rights.

Many of these are centred upon the concepts of autonomy, recognition of indigenous economic, social and cultural practices and identity, and equal access to public resources and power.

The three priority issues they presented for discussion on May 2, 1992 to the government and the URNG are the following:

- demilitarization of Guatemalan society including the elimination of forced discriminatory recruitment, reduction and purging of the current army as well as its subordination to civilian authority, elimination of the civilian defence patrols, eradication of military mechanisms of control of the Mayan peoples and giving priority to civilian security.

- freedom of organization, association and peaceful demonstration

- creation of international mechanisms to monitor implementation of the agreements

Provided by the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, Montreal.



Protestors (GAM) with list of disappeared people.

New Breed MAGAZINE

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WCIP Delegation with five camp leaders at a Guatemalan Indian refugee camp.

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS & CONFERENCES 1993

ACTIVITY	DATE	LOCATION
U.N. Commission on Human Rights 49th Session	Feb 1-March 12	Geneva
KYABA Aboriginal Cultural Festival	Feb 5-6	Perth, Australia
1993 International Indigenous Spiritual Elders and Peoples Conference	Feb 12-18	Manu Arika Marae/Aotearoa Taumarunui, New Zealand
Indigenous Peoples Encounter ABYA YALA	Feb 21-26	Kuna Yala, Panama
Martin Ennals Memorial Symposium on Self-determination: Satellite Conference for the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights	March 3-6	Saskatoon Bessborough
Indigenous Peoples and Health	April 13-17	Winnipeg
Second International Conference of Indigenous Peoples and Nations "The Great Dialogue"	May 12-15	Mexico
Second International Conference on Diabetes and Native People	May 19-21	Honolulu Hawaii
U.N. World Conference on Human Rights	June 14-28	Vienna
1993 North American Indigenous Games	July 18-25	Prince Albert
U.N. Working Group on Indigenous Populations	July 19-30	Geneva
International Indigenous Women's Conference	Dec 1-3	Guatemala
WCIP 7th General Assembly (World Council of Indigenous Peoples)	Dec 6-10	Guatemala

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1993 THE YEAR OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Statement of Indigenous Nations, Peoples and Organizations

"Gucumatz, Condor, Father Sun, Eagle, Anahuac, Mother Earth"

Invoking the spirits of our ancestors and acting in our tradition of resistance in the defense of Mother Earth, asserting our fundamental and historical rights,

Asserting all the millions of brothers and sisters who have sacrificed their lives in defense of our millennial culture, In the name of the more than 300 million Indigenous people who inhabit the Earth, and the efforts over years of work by Indigenous peoples and NGO's, we, the members of the Indigenous Nations and Organizations, gathered in New York City, for the 8th to the 10th of December of 1992.

We Consider:

I. That all Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination as expounded in the principles of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Accordingly, Indigenous peoples have the right to determine all matters relating to our political, economic, social, spiritual and cultural affairs. We call for the immediate adoption of the above declaration.

II. The struggle for our territorial rights is common to all Indigenous nations and peoples, and this right is persistently denied by governments and dominant societies.

III. Economic development practices of Nation States are destroying the natural resources which have been protected within Indigenous territories. As a consequence, the survival of all species is threatened.

IV. The Indigenous peoples' contribution to the social, intellectual and cultural diversity of the world, particularly to the ecology and harmony of Mother Earth must be valued and supported by Nation States and international agencies.

V. The human rights of Indigenous peo-

ples to our culture, identity, religions and languages are inalienable. These rights continue to be sacrificed in the programs, policies and budgets of the Nation States and international agencies.

VI. While democracy is heralded by dominant societies, what this means to Indigenous peoples is repression, genocide, and misery in the Americas and in the rest of the world. As an example, the process by which the dialogue for peace is taking place in Central and South America, there is no direct participation by Indigenous organizations and nations in spite of the fact that Indigenous peoples are directly affected by the conditions of the wars.

VII. The survival of Indigenous sovereign governments continues in spite of the oppressive actions and programs of the Nation States and the dominant society.

VIII. Governments continue to desecrate and appropriate religious and sacred places and objects, depriving Indigenous nations around the world of their basic spiritual ways of life.

Therefore: The international Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples, 1993, must not be merely celebrations or paternalistic declarations, but rather, the resolution of the above requires that the United Nations and its member states take the following actions:

1. Recognize Indigenous rights to Indigenous territories, including the recovery and demarcation of such territories.
2. Recognize, honour, and document under international law all treaties, compacts, accords and other formal agreements concluded with Indigenous peoples of the world. Additionally the Study on Indigenous Treaties delegated to the Human Rights Commission must be given priority attention by the United Nations and its Member States.

3. Recognize and honour Indigenous forms of government when such governments are practised according to traditional laws and customs.

4. Promote and strengthen Indigenous intellectual and cultural property rights under International Law and principles.

Additionally, the study on intellectual and cultural property rights undertaken by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights should be given priority.

5. Consult with Indigenous organizations and nations regarding the ratification of Covenant 169 of the International Labour Organization.

6. Provide legal assistance and technical training to the Indigenous organizations and nations.

7. Promote at the national and international levels the reform of laws and policies such that they recognize the sovereign rights of the Indigenous peoples.

8. Promote and strengthen Indigenous education, culture, art, religion, philosophies, literature and sciences of Indigenous nations.

9. Return historic places and sacred sites and objects to the Indigenous nations to whom they belong.

10. Demonstrate sincere commitment to the new partnership with Indigenous peoples by making adequate financial resources available to implement actions presented herein. Furthermore, make significant donations to the Voluntary Fund so that future projects be realized, and assure that the Indigenous peoples have direct input into the management of said fund.

11. That the United Nations Secretary General and its specialized agencies, commissions and programs convene special consultations with Indigenous peoples of the world at the most local level practical.

12. That the Secretary of the United Nations create immediately a specific Indigenous program to be administered and executed with direct participation of Indigenous organizations.

*Written in the City of New York,
9 December, 1992*

TRIPARTITE RESEARCH TEAM WORK BEGINS

The Metis Society of Saskatchewan has begun 1993 with a series of special research projects looking for information on who makes us the MSS membership and what is needed to serve members better.

A three-person team began work in January on gathering the information needed for long term MSS planning on projects like enumerating membership, finding out what members need in the way of housing and health services, and finding out what it will take for the Metis nation to achieve self government.

This three person team is hoping to find out more about MSS members and is made up of Enumeration Project Coordinator Marland Buckner and researchers Ray D. Jones, Jr. and Bruce Karlenzig.

His previous work will give the society executive a better idea on what services members require and thus help them plan for developing future programs and services.

The work Buckner carries out will be very much like a census for the MSS in order to find out where the Metis of Saskatchewan live, what their occupations are, their levels of education and a host of other statistics and bits of information to help planners and administrators.

Buckner brings honors degrees in Political Science and History (1989) to his new position along with his master's degree (1992) in history all from the University of Saskatchewan.

A former research associate with the Rupert's Land Research Centre in Winnipeg, Buckner has also worked as a teaching assistant at the University of Saskatchewan and as a lecturer at Brandon University.

Besides his academic work, Buckner



Tripartite Research Team members (left to right): Bruce Karlenzig, Marland Buckner, Jenny Guenther and Ray Jones, Jr.

has spent a good deal of time coaching high school boys basketball in his hometown, Saskatoon.

Ray Jones was born and raised in Uranium City and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Saskatchewan. He convocated in 1991.

Jones' past work experience includes work with the Government of the North West Territories Department of Economic Development and Tourism business loan fund division.

His previous research work includes a joint study sponsored by the Northwest Territories government and Carleton University in Ottawa which looked at renewable development and what makes it work.

Part of this study also included a look at marketing strategies employed by Aboriginal businesses which did some of their business out of territory and internationally.

Most of Jones' work will focus on issues related to Metis self government to be used by the restructuring subcommittee and other subcommittee.

Jones says self-government represents a giant step forward for Metis people.

When he's not at work, Jones can be found honing his skills as a world certified black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

He has represented Saskatchewan in several tournaments and took part in the

Olympic team trials in Toronto to select the athletes who went on to represent Canada at the Barcelona Olympics.

Jones was defeated by a man from Montreal who went on to win the heavy-weight class.

Sports of all sorts are big interests for Jones as is music. He plays several instruments including guitar.

Bruce Karlenzig, the third new researcher at the MSS is also a University of Saskatchewan grad with his training and much of his work experience rooted in sociology.

Karlenzig convocated with his honors degree in Sociology in 1978, followed by his M.A. in Sociology in 1983.

He then finished his second master's degree, this time in Communications, Continuing and Vocational Education in 1989.

Karlenzig's prior work experience includes time spent as a lecturer in the Department of Sociology at the U of S and over a decade spent on various research projects.

He has studied and worked with groups ranging from university applicants, students and graduates to divorced people to victims of domestic violence.

Karlenzig also coordinated a national conference for second language instructors held in Saskatoon in 1991.

METIS PEOPLE TO GET DIRECT INPUT TO MNC CONSTITUTION

Delegates to the Metis National Congress conference decided to go directly to Metis people for ideas on self-government.

MNC delegates decided to set up a commission to seek consultation of communities and members to determine what they would have self-government look like.

The commission is to design a constitution for the Metis nation without changing the Canadian constitution.

Other commission mandates include review of and research on relevant documents to developing the Metis constitution, to receive submissions from Metis people on the constitution and deliver progress reports to the MNC executive and the Metis National Council of Women.

The constitutional commission represents a major restructuring for the MNC, marking a break from fine tuning the Non-Profit Corporations Act and sowing the seeds of Metis self-government.

The commission will have three members; two elders or senators one female, one male plus one appointee from the Metis National Council of Women (MNCW).

They will deliver an interim report on June 30 this year with a final report to be delivered November 16 in Winnipeg.

Delegates to the Vancouver conference received a constitutional session briefing book to study as a framework for future changes.

For the time being, there will no elections for a full time leader of the Metis

National Congress. Yvon Dumont will remain in the president's seat until he takes office as lieutenant-governor of Manitoba later this year. An interim leader will be chosen by the existing executive.

Depending on the progress made by the constitutional committee, there could be

Vancouver conference boasts a series of firsts for the Metis National Congress

MNC elections held at the Winnipeg Conference in November.

The Vancouver meeting saw a number of firsts for the MNC, plus a renewal of old alliances.

The Metis National Council of Women had six official delegates in attendance.

The Metis Nation of the Northwest Territories and the Ontario Metis Aboriginal Association extended the rela-

tionship for another year on the Metis Constitutional Accord and had full representation and seats on the executive of the MNC.

Joe Clark, Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs and newly appointed federal government Metis interlocutor, addressed the delegates on February 5.

He said his government is committed to progress through the tripartite process.

"We are prepared to invest new vigour in the tripartite self-government process. That has been under way for some time in Manitoba, and has recently been initiated in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Indeed a tripartite agreement will be signed in Saskatchewan on February 18th. By its very nature, further progress here depends on provincial cooperation. But we are willing to work together with you and the provinces to push this process forward," said Clark.

On the international scene, the MNC will have a Saskatchewan man for its representative in international matters.

Clem Chartier was appointed MNC Ambassador on international issues. The MNC will continue its membership in the Organization of American States (OAS).

MNC will also be involved in a host of conferences related to 1993 as the Year of Indigenous People and will have consultative status with the United Nations as a Non-Governmental Organization, one of only 13 NGOs in the world.

METIS WOMEN OF SASKATCHEWAN ORGANIZE IN PRINCE ALBERT

By Lisa McCallum

About 100 Metis women gathered in Prince Albert Nov. 21, 1992 to form the Metis Women of Saskatchewan Inc.

A board of directors with 12 area directors and four executive members was elected at the meeting.

Members were elected for representation on each Metis Society of Saskatchewan affiliate organization.

Two senators and two youth members were elected also.

The elected individuals are as follows:

President - Isabelle Impey, Vice-President - Karen Trotchie, Secretary - Lisa McCallum, Treasurer - Bev Laliberte.

Area directors are: NR I - Wendy Smith, NR II - Martha Waite, NR II A - Nancy Morin, ER I - Anna Carriere, ER II - representative pending, ER IIA - Freda LeDoux, WR I - Lorna Laplante, ER III - Patricia Dejarlais, WR IA - Shirley Sanders, WR IIA - Victoria Polsfut, WR II - Mary Fiddler,



MSS affiliate members.

WR III - Marj Oblemen.

The two senators are Barb Morin (North) and Nora Ritchie (South).

The two youth members are Mona Pederson (North) and Heather Morin (South).

Metis Society of Saskatchewan Affiliate

Representatives are:

Gabriel Dumont Institute - Dorothy Durocher (North) and Jackie Jendruck (South).

Lands and Resources - Annie Chartier (North) and Alma Roy (South).

Metis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan - Leah Link.

Provincial Metis Housing Corporation - Marlene Laliberte.

Saskatchewan Native Communications - Anna Dorion.

Saskatchewan Native Recreation / Back To Batoche - May Henderson.

Saskatchewan Native Economic Development Corporation - Leona Sarchuk.

Metis Family and Community Justice - Elmira Bekkattla.

Saskatchewan Indian and Metis Affairs Secretariat - Pat Letendre.

Discussions at the meeting centred around such organizational issues such as the drafting of a constitution and bylaws for the Metis Women of Saskatchewan.

It was decided that the constitution of the Metis Society would be adopted and



Metis Women of Saskatchewan Inc. executive, area directors along with MSS executive, Gerald Morin and Philip Chartier.

that a committee would work on drafting the bylaws.

Guest speaker Gerald Morin, President of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan, spoke on strengthening the Metis Nation within Saskatchewan and the importance of full participation from Metis women in all areas of the Metis Society infrastructure.

Morin gave his full support to the new organization because "the women have demonstrated that they are prepared to work together with the MSS, the youth, the senate and the elected leadership."

He went on to elaborate on the tripartite process and gave an update on the Metis National Council.

All of the women were joined at supper by President Gerald Morin and Metis Society of Saskatchewan Treasurer Philip Chartier. It was a nice ending to a very productive day.

In closing, we wish to thank the following sponsors; Metis Society of Saskatchewan, West Central Native Women, Provincial Metis Youth Committee, Cornet (pens), Prince Albert Chamber of Commerce, Weyerhaeuser and Local #7, Metis Society of Saskatchewan.

For more information on the Metis Women of Saskatchewan, Inc. call or write 219 Robin Cres., Saskatoon, Sask., S7L 6M8. Telephone (306) 668-7671 or (306) 343-8285 or fax (306) 343-8285.



The Metis Pathways to Success program began in 1991 with five goals in mind; to give Metis people better access to post-secondary education, to give Metis people decision making power over some federal education funding, to en-

resume writing and job interviews and information on Pathways funding.

Pathways also runs the Summer Employment/Experience Development Program (SEED). Under the program, students returning to school find career relat-

METIS PATHWAYS OPENS UP ROUTES TO SUCCESS

courage Metis youth to stay in school, to meet the labor market needs and to encourage education and employment equity.

Under the six Local Aboriginal (Metis) Management Boards (LAMB) in Saskatchewan, priorities and education programming are set for their Pathways area.

One LAMB member sits on the Regional Aboriginal Management Board (RAMB), the group which looks after provincial programming and issues effecting all Saskatchewan residents.

In turn, the RAMB board selects one of its members to represent Saskatchewan on the National Aboriginal Management Board (NAMB). The NAMB has representatives from all 10 provinces, national Aboriginal groups along with representatives from Employment and Immigration Canada (EIC).

The Metis Pathways to Success Program offers several programs.

Coming later this year are Outreach offices. The first Outreach offices open April 1 in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Meadow Lake, Archerwill and Yorkton.

More offices are scheduled to open May 1 in La Ronge, Isle-a-La Crosse, Cumberland House, La Loche and Beauval.

Outreach offices offer services like employment counselling, career interest and aptitude testing, referrals to other institutions such as Employment and Immigration and education institutions, job workshops and listings, workshops on

resume writing and job interviews and wage subsidies, overhead and mandatory employer related costs (MERC).

The Start program is the stay-in-school program which targets students in danger of dropping out of school. Start programs can include services like counselling, student advocate service, tutoring, job experience, education and career counselling and speaker's bureau.

Through Pathways, LAMBs are able to purchase seats in post-secondary and adult and basic education programs. Through purchase of training, students receive funding to cover their living expenses while they are in school.

Under the project-based training program, students take part in classroom work and on-the-job training.

Metis people receiving Unemployment Insurance are generally able to enter Pathways programs and receive their UI benefits at the same time with the approval of the Canada Employment Centre. Pathways boards have funds budgeted to help UI eligible clients.

Pathways boards also have budgeted funds to provide training for individuals receiving benefits through the provincial Social Assistance Program. If approved by a New Careers counsellor, individuals can stay on SAP and receive Pathways funding.

The Consolidated Revenue Fund may be used to fund individual not receiving UI or SAP benefits.

Contact your LAMB to apply for funding or to submit a proposal.



Earl Pelletier.

Metis people are at last having some input into Saskatchewan's health care system, says a member of the team looking into health reform.

"This is the first time this has happened and I think we're about to witness a lot of change in health care," said Earl Pelletier.

Pelletier is the provincial coordinator for the Metis group working to promote district health boards, promoting the development of qualified Metis representatives for the health boards, identifying health problems and the development of a

TRANSITION TEAM GETS METIS INPUT FOR HEALTH CARE PLANNING



Metis Health strategy responsive to health needs of the Metis in Saskatchewan.

Pelletier said the team has three roles; advocacy, education and planning.

The group, named the Metis Society of Saskatchewan Health Care Transition Team, began meeting in December 1992 in order to give Metis input to future health care plans.

Health Minister Louise Simard launched a comprehensive review process after the NDP election win in October 1991.

By August 1992, Simard was ready to

table a paper plotting the future of her department called "A Saskatchewan Vision For Health". The paper represents a big shift in how the government deals with health, Pelletier said.

"The bottom line is that we've got to cut costs but at the same time we've got to look at a more effective and efficient delivery of the services," Pelletier said.

He explained the new initiative represents a major break with three decades of traditional Saskatchewan health care planning.

Under the old system, health care was founded on five basic principals; accessibility, universality, portability, public funding and government administration.

Pelletier said health care costs over the past 20 years have risen so high they now verge on being unsustainable. Bills for physicians' fees, along with rising medical and drug therapy costs mean the government cannot afford to pay for the present health system.

Besides cutting costs, "The Saskatchewan Vision For Health" plan has called for a restructuring of how the health care system functions and who makes all the decisions.

The health care hierarchy was based on the medical model, topped by physicians and where doctors called the shots.

Pelletier said that recently health care administrators and the governments they work for have been incorporating a broader, more holistic model.

The new model they came up with, the social model, depends on teamwork instead of one player making all the decisions.

It is a community and team approach which differs dramatically from the old style model.

Pelletier notes it is interesting how the Aboriginal holistic world view is now being incorporated by the Saskatchewan

Health Department.

"The Aboriginal lifestyle is based on the family and a holistic view where mental, spiritual and physical factors are involved in health."

Another new approach for health care is instead of concentrating their efforts on curing sick people, Saskatchewan Health is busy promoting wellness, that is, developing healthy habits and a healthy lifestyle.

That concept has real meaning for Metis people, especially those in the North, said Pelletier.

"Many Aboriginal people live in a state

The transition team will bridge the gap between health boards and Metis Society locals.

of abject poverty and that brings with it a series of symptoms of social illness like alcohol and drug abuse, family violence and child welfare and housing problems," Pelletier said.

Tackling these perennial problems is what the nine Transition Team members and Pelletier face in developing a strategy for the health department.

The team's chairman is Ray Laliberte and members are Winston McKay, Joyce Racette, Lorna Laplante, Ingrid Gallagher, Max Morin, Gerald Morin, Yvonne Beauregard and Mike Pocha.

Part of the strategy aimed at saving money will see 400 or so rural health boards in Saskatchewan reduced to 30 or 40 boards.

"Rural Saskatchewan has the most rural hospitals of any place in Canada but they often have limited services," said Pelletier.

He said the problem of taxpayers paying for facilities that have enormous operating costs was made worse by increasing numbers of rural residents moving to cities, making the pool of those being served smaller all the time.

In Northern Saskatchewan, three or four health boards will have a direct impact on Metis Society locals.

"In order to get the health care professionals and community representatives communicating, we are going to need our transition team to bridge the gaps between the two groups and then to help make sound decisions based on solid information," Pelletier said.

The team is already looking into expanding the existing role of the Metis Addictions Council and getting into new areas like health home care, care for the elderly and the prevention of disease.

Pelletier said many of the problems Metis face in Northern communities are directly related to the poor economic conditions they live in.

Those poor conditions where even safe sewage systems and water systems cannot be taken for granted make residents susceptible to diseases caused by airborne and water-borne diseases.

These problems might seem like Third World concerns to many Canadians in more southerly communities but Pelletier his team know both the problems and the communities well.

"We can be very effective with our planning because we know these communities and we know the people. We can prevent people from falling through the cracks in the system," said Pelletier.

BUSINESS SERVICE FORECASTS BEING BUSIER THAN EVER

An arm of the Metis-owned economic development corporation is looking forward to being busier than ever in 1993.

The Business Advisory Service (BAS) of SNEDCO, the Sasknative Economic Development Corporation, expects a higher demand than ever before for the services it offers and even success stories to report this year.

The Saskatoon office of the BAS forecasts using more outside consultants to supplement the five office staff members' work.

Plans are in the works for replacing information seminars with functional workshops tackling effective methods of business planning and management.

SNEDCO reports a highly successful 1992 for the BAS with many clients receiving financing as the first step on the road to business success.

Last year saw a higher public profile for SNEDCO and an increasing demand for its services.

The BAS, a division of SNEDCO, was established in 1991 to provide information for aspiring Metis and Non-Status Indian entrepreneurs.

Since the BAS office opened in January, 1992, staff have received on average 40 inquiries per month, a figure indicating a need for services to aid business development among Saskatchewan Metis and Non-Status Indians.

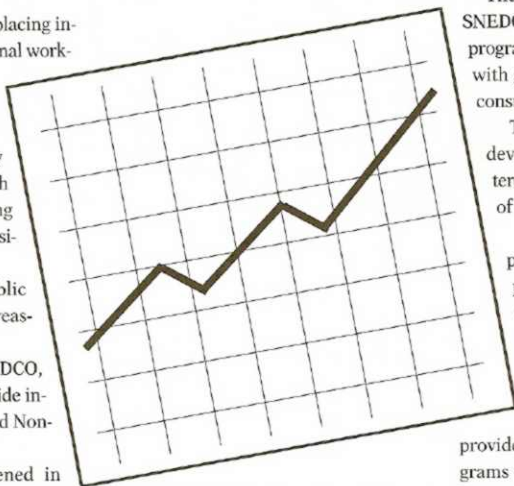
Two of the biggest challenges the BAS has met so far include sorting out the large number of applications to see if projects are feasible.

This involves much travel and hours of consulting time before a decision is made.

In order to make this facet of their work faster and more efficient, the BAS staff have set up a Client Assessment System.

BAS staff have also established targets for consulting revenues.

Meeting these revenue goals demands not only good sales skills but also a lot of creativity since many clients have limited resources to invest and some clients have received similar services from government agencies in the past at no charge.



SNEDCO offers three different programs to assist Metis thinking about getting their feet wet in the business world or advice and help for those who have already taken the entrepreneurial plunge.

The supplementary equity loans program makes it possible for Metis business people to increase viability of brand new or established ventures.

The loans can be used to improve access to the Aboriginal Business Development Program plus both private and public financing programs and institutions.

Through this supplementary equity program, SNEDCO takes part in linking the loan payment to business performance and providing after care.

Applicants may borrow up to \$40,000 under the program, with flexible payment schedules allowing borrowers up to five years to repay their loan.

The second program operated by SNEDCO is the business advisory services program which provides business people with general business information and consulting services.

The program also provides business development programs for Metis interested in starting their own business or buying an existing business.

Consulting services ranging from preparing business and financial plans, advise on business plans and assistance with the completion of grant and loan applications is all available through the resource centre in the Saskatoon office.

The third program SNEDCO provides is the small business loans programs which makes small business loans available for start up, expansion or purchase of existing businesses.

These loans are often used to obtain financial assistance from other public and private sources.

SNEDCO services are available to applicants of Metis ancestry or businesses controlled or owned by Metis.

UNITED METIS CAN LEAD THE WAY SAYS CABINET MINISTER



Associate education minister, Keith Goulet addresses GDI delegates January 29.

Associate Minister of Education Keith Goulet said Jan. 29 the Metis people can be in the forefront of changes coming in Saskatchewan education.

"Metis and aboriginal people were kept down for a long time but they understand how to deal with the pressure of change," said Goulet.

"With the Metis pulling together we can be an example to the rest of Saskatchewan and to the rest of the world and together we can create some positive change," Goulet said in his opening remarks to the annual Gabriel Dumont Institute conference.

Goulet stressed cooperation between educators, students and governments and how it will be crucial during days of funding shortages.

"We have to be able to work together in small groups and work together better because times are going to be tough."

Goulet said there is no doubt funding shortages will put more pressure on groups like the Metis Society of Saskatchewan and the federal and provincial government and this may create a good deal of criticism of elected officials like himself.

If there is more criticism of how things are run in education, Goulet said that isn't necessarily a bad thing.

"I don't mind criticism, especially constructive criticism. We can't forget the positive gains we have made in the past and build on those positive gains. Unless we work together, there won't be constructive criticism, only destructive criticism," Goulet said.

One of the gains from the past which can only get better is the Gabriel Dumont Institute itself, Goulet said.

"GDI is one of the major institutions in the world in the way it fought for change in education and administration. Many people benefitted from that work and we have to remember that."

The key to education, especially changing the system curriculum or adjusting to cutbacks in funding is to remember what education is all about, said Goulet.

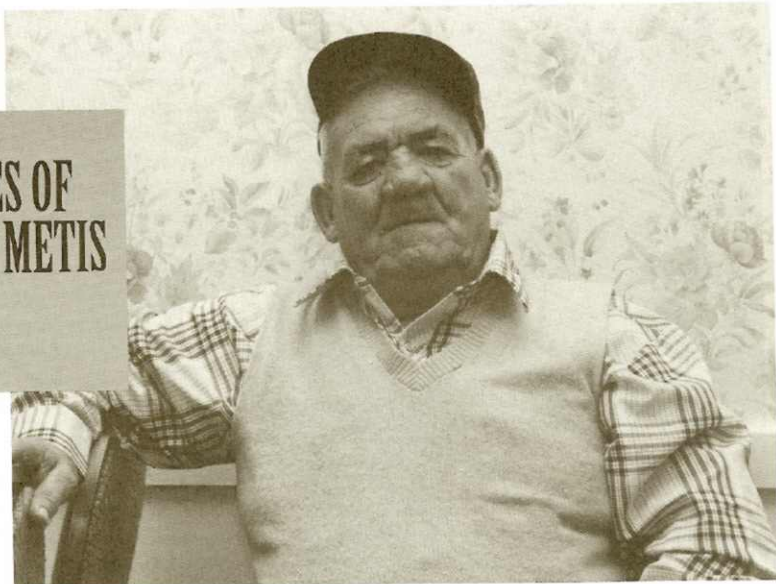
"We must examine the facts but we have to remember that people are the most important part of the whole chain."

Chairperson of the GDI board Philip Chartier said the achievements made by Goulet, a Metis and MLA from Cumberland House, and advances made by other Metis politicians signal a new era for Metis people.

"With Keith Goulet as a cabinet minister, everyone better be careful or we'll take over all the government institutions. With Yvon Dumont as the government leader in Manitoba, we're making a lot of progress," Chartier said following Goulet's address.

LOUIS MORIN:

FIVE DECADES OF SERVICE WITH METIS PEOPLE



Louis Morin.

As he passed through the crowds at this year's Gabriel Dumont Institute, Turnor Lake trapper Louis Morin had to stop an every few steps.

Not that Morin, 71, needed a rest. He had to stop and shake hands, to talk with someone he knew and after decades of working for and with Metis people, he knows a lot of people.

"I've never missed a GDI conference. Today I was at three meetings and tomorrow we have a senator's meeting," said Morin during a brief lull before a supper-time meeting.

He doesn't stand still for long even with the host of people he greets by name and it's not long before Morin, under the

cover of his camouflage cap, is hurrying down a hallway to another meeting.

In addition to being a conference delegate, Morin is a Metis Society senator, elder and serves as president of the Northern Fur Conservation Association, an industry group for his fellow trappers. Morin is also the mayor of Turnor Lake, a community 86 kilometres north of Buffalo Narrows.

While he admits travelling up and down the length of the province as a representative of his people and his professional colleagues is tough work, Morin says he wouldn't miss it for the world.

"I have to travel to lots of meetings but that's a lot better than sitting inside and doing nothing. If you do nothing for too

long, you just don't feel too good," he said.

Morin's public service and involvement in Metis politics goes way back to the 1940s when he and his brother Vital were involved with the society Malcolm Morris founded at that time.

What Morin loved then, and what still drives him today is a love of learning.

"I'm the local president and I like it very much because I can get out and meet a lot of people. Plus I learn a lot. They say you never quit learning."

Morin has learned a lot in his day and not just about politics. He remembers well when 75 cents would buy a trapper a 100 pound sack of flour.

Considering fur buyers in Prince Albert gave trappers a nickel for every squirrel pelt, trappers could do quite well for themselves, Morin said.

Morin remembers the winter of 1938 when a Norwegian company hired him to fish for a dollar per day, a day which began before first light and often lasted until after 9 p.m. He was glad not only to have the work, he remembers.

"I was scared to get fired because we were well fed and they gave us some clothes too," he said.

Much of what he knows he taught himself as much of his formal education at a missionary school in Beauval consisted of him and four other boys looking after the school's livestock.

"We usually went to school only about two days a week. I think the government said they didn't want to educate us half breeds too much," he said.

"We got educated and we're too smart for all that now," Morin said with a big grin on his face.

Even though he was short-changed at school, Morin is proud of the fact he trapped and fished all his life without ever asking for help from the government.

"Until I was 65 I always made a living. Even today, if a guy tries to help himself, he's not suffering for long."

These days Morin loves the company of his large family; his wife Marie Louise, his 11 kids, 100 grandchildren, 38 great-grandchildren and even a couple or three great-

great grandchildren.

He jokes that his family only placed second in terms of size according to a survey undertaken by a Meadow Lake newspaper.

"I started young," Morin said, breaking into a hearty laugh.

In commemoration of his lifetime of work, Morin was named a senator a year ago, a honor he is very proud of.

He says since he became involved in the 1940s, he sees Metis people making great strides.

"Metis people understand each other a lot better than ever before when we were all isolated up in the North," Morin concluded.



IS PROUD TO HOST THE
**WESTERN CANADIAN
ABORIGINAL CURLING
CHAMPIONSHIPS**
April 9, 10, 11, 1993

Hub City Curling Club, 320 - 21st Street West, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

ENTRY FEE: \$250.00 *Must be received no later than March 22, 1993 *

32 TEAM LIMIT

8 QUALIFIERS

GUARANTEED 3 GAMES

1st Prize - \$4000.00 + Championship Jackets + Trophies (Subject to full entry)

WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

ENTRY FEE: \$160.00

16 Team Limit

Mail Certified Cheque or Money Order to:
Western Region 2A Curling Club
2906 Cumberland Ave.
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BANQUET & DANCE

Saturday, April 10, 1993

Airliner Dance Hall - #1, 810 - 45th Street West

MUSIC BY: "DIAMOND COUNTRY"

\$7.00 Advance

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Martin Aubichon
Home: (306) 382-1905
Work: (306) 343-8385

Larry Ahenakew
Home: (306) 242-8091
Work: (306) 975-6131

LARGEST HOCKEY TOURNEY IN NORTH AMERICA COMING TO SASKATOON

The fourth edition of the Western Canada Native Minor Hockey Championship is set for April 15 to 18 in Saskatoon.

The tournament will see up to 128 teams from Novice right up to Juvenile/Junior hockey players battle it out on the ice at the Jemini 4 Arenas with the finals played at Saskatchewan Place.

Tournament organizers are looking for 32 Novice, 32 Atom, 32 Pee Wee, 16 Bantam, eight midget and eight Juvenile/Junior Teams.

Every team is guaranteed at least three games.

The deadline for entries is April 1 and teams with the earliest entry forms being accepted.

Information packages are available to teams and coaches interested in taking part.

For those who are happy just to watch the action, daily admission to the tournament is \$4 for adults and \$3 for students. Tournament passes are \$10 and are good for the whole weekend.

Tournament organizer Claude Petit said he expects to see teams from as far away as Ontario and British Columbia to take part.

There are about 50 teams from Manitoba alone ready for an appearance at the tournament, he added.

The 1992 tournament attracted 85 teams and 113 teams did battle in the 1991 tournament.

For more information on the tournament contact Claude Petit by calling (306) 975-0840, by fax (306) 242-8007 or by mail at #225, 510 Cynthia Street, Saskatoon, Sask. S7L 7K7.

WESTERN CANADA ABORIGINAL CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Aboriginal curlers from across the Western provinces are invited to take part in the 1993 edition of the Western Canadian Aboriginal Curling Championships in Saskatoon.

The tournament is sponsored by the Metis Society of Saskatchewan. The Hub City Curling Club will be the scene of the tournament which runs the Easter weekend from April 9 through 11.

There is a 32 team limit with eight qualifiers and a guarantee of a minimum of three games per rink. Entries must be received no later than March 22.

The top rink will win \$4000 plus trophies and championship jackets, subject to a full entry.

Entry fees are \$250 per rink.

The Women's Championship has a 16 team limit and has an entry fee of \$160.

Entry information, along with certified

cheques or money orders, can be sent to Western Region 2A Curling Club, 2906 Cumberland Avenue, Saskatoon, Sask.

Skips are reminded to send a calling card from their team sponsor and a full list of team personnel for inclusion of their names in the official tournament program. Proof of native ancestry must be provided on request.

A banquet and dance is planned in conjunction with the tournament on Saturday night at the Airliner Dance Hall #1 in Saskatoon.

Music is by Diamond Country and tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door.

For more information on the tournament, contact Martin Aubichon at work (306) 343-8285 or at home (306) 382-1905 or Larry Ahenakew at work (306) 975-6131 or at home (306) 242-8091.



HOUSING AGENCY IN FUNDING CRUNCH

The Provincial Metis Housing Corporation is facing huge cuts in revenues and a large number of emergency repair projects says the corporation director.

"Last year we had a 25 per cent cutback in our funding for housing and repairs with a 40 per cent further cutback this year. That means a 65 per cent drop in generated in revenue over the last couple of years," Leon McAuley explained to a meeting of the MSS Batoche local on Jan. 20.

McAuley said the big drop in revenue could be accounted for by the provincial government deciding to administer some of the projects that used to be handled by the Provincial Metis Housing Corporation (PMHC).

"We lost about \$200,000 last year since

the transfer of the Rural Housing Corporation to the province and we used to make really good revenue for handling the interviews."

McAuley said PMHC only handles a small number of applicants mainly in small northern communities as many larger towns further south have their own housing authorities.

To make matters worse, several Metis Society members needed emergency repairs during a recent bout of low temperatures.

"We had 15 furnaces quit on us before Christmas and some people had to go without and we had to interim finance other people."

He said even though the corporation

has experienced big revenue cuts and unexpected expenditures recently, there are several services to develop which will help generate more revenue.

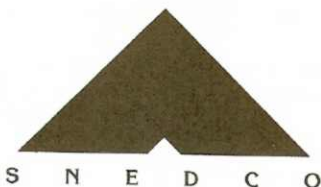
Offering home inspections and tenant counselling might help improve the PMHC financial picture, McAuley said.

Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation had a \$12,000 surplus last year which was submitted to PMHC to help ease their operating deficit, McAuley said.

He said if things get really tough he will lean on the MSS for financing.

PMHC is developing a program to train housing managers and tenant councillors.

The first 10 trainees begin the course in Saskatoon on Feb. 15.



The Saskatchewan Economic Development Corporation is a Saskatchewan Metis-owned lending institution created to finance the start up, acquisition and/or expansion of viable Metis and non-status Indian controlled small business based in Saskatchewan.

- We provide:
- Capital Loans
 - Working Capital Loans
 - Equity Loans
 - Loan Guarantees
 - Business Advisory & Consulting Services

We have offices in both Saskatoon and Regina. Our business advisory and consulting services are offered from our resource centre in Saskatoon.

For more information contact:
Sasknative Economic Development Corporation

3026 Taylor Street East
Saskatoon, Sask. S7H 4J2
Phone: 477-4350

#102-2050 Cornwall Street
Regina, Sask. S4P 2K5
Phone: 791-7150

PLANNING FOR BACK TO BATOCHÉ 1993 UNDERWAY

- Mark your calendars for what may be one of the biggest and most exciting events for 1993, Back to Batoché.
- The annual celebration of Metis culture, recreation and history is set to roll July 23, 24 and 25.
- The dates were approved at a December meeting of the Batoché Planning and Development Committee meeting held in Saskatoon.
- The weekend gets underway with a children's wiener roast at 5:30 on Friday, July 23.
- Opening ceremonies follow at 6 p.m. with the slow pitch tournament and bingo beginning at 7 p.m.
- A dance, starting at 9 p.m., rounds out the evening's fun.
- Slow pitch players will hit the diamonds bright and early on July 24 with action beginning on the second day of the tournament beginning at 9 a.m.
- Softballs won't be the only flying objects on the grounds, the horse shoe tournament begins on July 24 at 10 a.m.
- Kids won't be left out of the fun either, children's activities begin at 10 a.m.
- At noon on Saturday, the cultural competitions open with lots of fiddling, jigging and square dancing.
- Bingo also begins at noon.
- Saturday afternoon activities include more children's outdoor events plus chuckwagon and chariot races which get underway at 1 p.m.
- If an afternoon of sports is not what you're after, ban-nock baking begins at 2 p.m.
- At 5 p.m. the first round of eliminations begin for the tug-o-war competition.
- Following the tug-o-war is the Buckskin Parade, a display of traditional Metis dress.
- An amateur Native Talent Show is tentatively planned for 7 p.m.
- The final Saturday activity scheduled is a dance beginning at 9 p.m.
- Slow pitch action opens up the final day of activities on Sunday, July 25 at 9 a.m.
- A memorial service mass in the main tent is scheduled for 10 a.m. honoring the Metis killed in 1885.
- Following the service, there will be a procession to the mass grave site in Batoché Cemetery beginning at 11 a.m.
- Kids activities begin again at 10 a.m. on Sunday morning.
- Serious sports action will highlight the afternoon's activities.
- Finals in the Horse Shoe Tournament begin at 1:00 p.m.
- Chuckwagon and chariot races roll on for their final day at 1:30 p.m.
- The toughest tug-o-war competitors will face off in the finals at 4 p.m. to bring Back To Batoché '93 to a close.
- While the celebrations will offer many of the same attractions and features as in years past, there are a few new initiatives for Back to Batoché under discussion.
- The possibility of holding Back To Batoché in conjunction with the North American Indigenous Games is being considered as a way to boost attendance.
- Among other business discussed at the December meeting, the question was raised on whether or not to set up a beer garden this year.
- A decision on the beer gardens will have to come from the Metis Society Provincial Council.
- As in years past, five basic rules apply to visitors to the Back To Batoché grounds.
- No alcohol is allowed on the grounds.
- No unauthorized vehicles are allowed in the tenting area.
- Speed limit on the grounds is eight kilometres per hour.
- No vehicles are allowed in the activity area except service vehicles.
- No firearms are allowed on the grounds.

Racism is not only an old phenomenon but also one which continues to thrive.

Experts on the field of racism gathered Jan. 29 during the Gabriel Dumont Institute conference to examine the many facets of this perennial problem.

One of the main problems among many people is that they don't realize just what racism is and what it can do says Ken Dumont, a GDI panel member and former Saskatchewan human rights commissioner.

"We're all responsible for racism because to take no action against it is to condone it. You're either part of the solution or you are part of the problem," said Dumont.

"Racism is really a dangerous problem and compared to the other isms, it's not understood or recognized as a big problem in the larger community," Dumont explained.

In spite of Canadians' reputation for tolerance and understanding, Canada is still a racist society even though we may not all realize it, he added.

"Society doesn't always realize what they say or do may be racist in content without being racist in intent."

Dumont said the best tool to destroy racism is education.

"We need to understand the impact racism has on the individual. We've all got to understand how helpless or hopeless it feels to be a victim of racism. We have to educate people how tough it is to be the victim of racism," said Dumont.

The education on racism cannot just be confined to students but must extend to business and professional institutions, he said.

"There's no changing institutional

racism without making the individuals who make up those institutions understand racism because institutions don't make decisions, the individuals within them do that."

Without relief, the cumulative effect of racism over a period of time will make people snap, he explained. The victims of racism must also intervene on their own behalf, Dumont said.

"Victims need to complain more effectively not just to complain to other victims or their friends or their family. They've got

RACISM IS UP TO EVERYONE TO STOP

to report to the supervisor or the owner of the company. They have to file a complaint and let their concerns be known."

There is power in numbers in combating racism, Dumont concluded.

"If you go as a group, you may not get a lot of satisfaction but at least you will be heard."

Presenter Anne Dorion discussed the history of the development of racism saying documented racism goes back to 1000 B.C. when Hittites invaded and conquered India, dividing her people by race and assigning privileges accordingly.

"What is behind racism is the class separation of people where one person has got power over the other," said Dorion.

Of the three kinds of racism; societal, institutional, and personal, Dorion said most people only encounter the last type.

She said there is little any victim of racism can do to put an end to it. Ending racism depends on people in power deciding they have had enough of it, argued Dorion.

"People of color can argue all they want but the solution to racism won't come until white people decide to end it."

Grad student Ron Bourgeault said while neo-fascist racist groups like the Aryan Nations are losing members, those organizations are making inroads into many Canadian institutions.

"Aryan Nations numbers are growing smaller but members are going into political organizations like the Heritage Front. Ku Klux Klan members are going into both the Republican and Democratic parties in the U.S. and to the Reform and Conservative parties in Canada," said Bourgeault.

He added white supremacist organizations are beginning to recruit membership among poor white youths just like the Nazis did.

"The movement is going toward unemployed poor white youth who really have no future. They are saying to them the capitalist system didn't give you anything so you have to go to fascism."

Gerry Morin, a Prince Albert lawyer said racism is not a dirty word, it's something all members of a community must join together to fight.

"I hear it everyday. It's something that's very much out there and if we have a concerted effort, we can make it bigger in the community's view," said Morin.

FIGHT CONTINUES FOR ABORIGINAL VETS

Aboriginal veterans must continue battling for compensation packages says the president of Saskatchewan Aboriginal Veterans' Association.

"We've got the right to fight back because don't think we were treated right," said Vital Morin, President of the Saskatchewan Metis Veterans Association.

Morin and a number of his fellow veterans met Jan. 30 to discuss joining the national counterpart of their association, the National Aboriginal Veterans Association (NAVA).

NAVA president Sam Sinclair of Edmonton was on hand for the meeting. He said he was pleased aboriginal veterans are now being recognized in Remembrance Day services in Ottawa but there is still much unfinished business for vets.

"We want you to bring your concerns to our attention because we usually bump

into other concerns like housing or education or anything that pertains to veterans," Sinclair said.

Sinclair's group is seeking to link Status and Non-Status Indian vets with Metis and Inuit veterans across Canada.

Randi Easter-Gage, NAVA vice-president said one project the group is looking at to raise the awareness of contributions of aboriginal soldiers to Canada is a book to document their service.

"It goes all the way back to the Plains of Abraham," she said.

Grand Chief Gordon Ahenakew said in spite of their voluntary service to their country, many Aboriginal vets have gotten shameful treatment after they left the services.

"We've all got our medals, so we paid our dues to Canada. I also know how Metis veterans went back to their mud shacks on

the road allowances. What a thing for one human being to send another back there," said Ahenakew.

"Those guys never got a thing," he added.

Ahenakew called for his old comrades to unite for a struggle on behalf of all aboriginal soldiers.

"I brought this all up because we all need help at one time or another. We've got to fight and fight harder."

Jim Robson, chief of client services with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Saskatoon said he was glad to see aboriginal vets unite across Canada.

He said organizations like NAVA are excellent ways for government agencies to communicate with vets.

"Communication is the key to understand our programs and services," Robson said.



Vice President Randi Easter-Gage met with other NAVA executives and Metis veterans in Saskatoon.

THIS IS MORE THAN JUST A JOB



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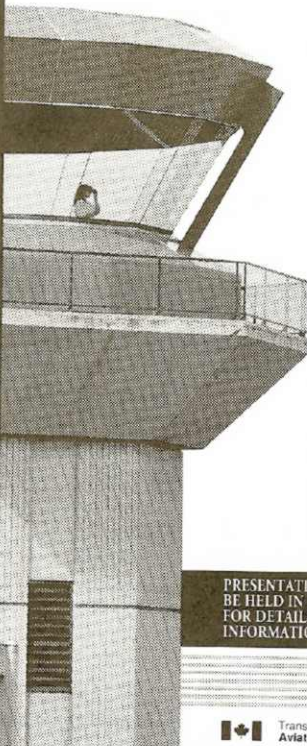
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LIFE GOES ON AFTER REFERENDUM

By Winston McKay

The sun did rise this morning after all, the morning after the referendum.

Our Metis people had the most to gain, when you begin with next to nothing, any change is for the better.

So we were the ones with the most to lose and we lost it.

But we are not the ones going public with the blame and the whine, that has never been our style.

When Tommy Douglas lost his first bid to lead his party federally, he quoted from The Ballad of Johnny Armstrong:

Fight on, fight on, my merry men all,
I am hurt, but I am not slain,
I will lay me down here and bleed a while
And rise up and fight again

That is just what we will do. We know how to fight and know how to wait. We know how to hang tough and we know how to survive. We are not giving up and we are not going away.

I am confident that our President, Gerald Morin, is not wasting five minutes of his time looking back but is already planning the next forward step.

And that is what I am doing in my area of responsibility as Chairman of the Metis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan.

Just last September, we opened our new facility in Prince Albert.

I should say, I suppose, that we opened our newly refurbished old facility.

As Chairman, I was confident I could get the support from provincial and local government for the new and adequate building I was dreaming of. But I didn't get

all the support I needed from our own Board. Too cautious? Too accustomed to settling for second best?

Never mind. Our new old building is a big step up from what we had.

Now we finally have a detoxification centre in conjunction with our counselling centre. We can begin to serve our clients better.

I don't give up a dream easily. The counselling centre in Saskatoon is operating out of a rundown old building quite inappropriate for our needs.

Instead of shopping around for another derelict building, I have transferred my dream from Prince Albert to Saskatoon.

I want a space designed with the needs of our clients in mind.

I want to consult with the needs of our hard-working, concerned staff to get their best insights.

I know, because I have been there too, that people recovering from addictions need to learn to live all over again.

Our building needs a small theatre space where our people can see the increasing number of good films available to teach pride in our identity as Metis people. And yes, we need a space where they can recreate their own experience and share it dramatically with others.

Our building needs a space where our Metis joy in music and dance and hospitality can be expressed without booze.

We need a green space where our people can re-connect with the earth and "all my relations".

But at MACS we are more than build-

ings. We are fighting a battle on two fronts.

In a society which too often shoots the wounded, we are in the business of healing the wounded.

But we are also in the business of preventing casualties through education, through the kind of preventative action that teaches a sense of self-worth to our people so that they do not need addictions of any kind to deaden their pain.

Finally, we need to change the conditions of our society that are hurting our people, especially our young people and children.

These are the ones that are most at risk of losing direction and hope. And these are the ones to whom we have our first responsibility to nurture and protect.

On this morning after the referendum, I remind myself of what I have always known: We have only ourselves to depend on.

I am pleased to have the strong and dedicated leadership of Gerald Morin and many other members of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan.

I appreciate those Board members who share my concerns and dreams for the Metis Addictions Council, and especially our hard-working staff who are at the front of the battle.

I am looking forward to my next term of office with a lot of confidence, optimism and hope.

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