

New Breed

MAGAZINE

October 1993

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ELECTION '93 SPECIAL

■ *Gerald Morin looks at the issues*

■ *Tackling Metis Claims for Self-government*

■ *Conversations with Metis Candidates*



NEW BREED MAGAZINE: October

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LAND, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-GOVERNMENT DOMINATE THE METIS ISSUES IN ELECTION CAMPAIGN

By Jeff Campbell

As Canada's political parties lined up for battle in the first days of the 1993 election campaign, MSS and MNC President Gerald Morin said they must not forget issues that are Metis priorities. Political hopefuls have to consider what they will do to further the Metis goals of settling land claims, economic development and self-government arrangements.

Topping the Metis agenda is helping Metis people get their own land base, Morin explained.

"We are the only Aboriginal people in Canada who have not had our land issues addressed appropriately by the federal government. It is their position that our Aboriginal title to land has been extinguished by the scrip system through the Manitoba Act and the Indian Lands Act. It's always been our view that was not a valid extinguishment of our rights. It was a fraud that was perpetrated on our people. We still have outstanding Aboriginal title to land which has to be addressed by the federal government. We are the only Aboriginal people who are landless and land is very important to our people."

Land is important for historical and cultural reasons but also crucial as a stepping stone to economic development.

"We're simply going to be left out of the economic and social life of Canada. That's what is happening in Saskatchewan Metis land entitlement like the Primrose Air Weapons Range, we're being totally left out and forgotten."

Morin has tried but is so far unsuccessful in getting meetings with the three main federal party leaders but will still try to meet with the Prime Minister to have the government address issue.

He said candidates and political leaders must make clear whether they are prepared to address the issue of the inherent right to Metis self-government.

"We don't require constitutional change to do that, we can do that within the current constitutional framework based on our inherent rights which is currently protected under section 35 of the Constitution."

Jobs and economic development, where Metis are included as partners in the development are also crucial in this election, said Morin.

He said with commitment from four western premiers at the recent premier's conference

in Nova Scotia, the adoption of the Metis Nation Accord is still an issue in spite of the defeat of the Charlottetown Accord.

The Accord covers a land claims process, enumeration and registry and self-government arrangements and transfer payments from federal and provincial governments to Metis governments.

Morin emphasized the Metis Nation Accord would not mean changes to Canada's constitution, rather it would just take political will of



the five provinces in the Metis homeland and the federal government to implement the Accord.

"I think the political parties should be addressing that issue especially and see whether they are prepared to move ahead with the Metis Nation Accord."

Morin said he expects to see some of the personality bashing between federal leaders continue throughout the campaign but he worries it could mean Metis concerns are left by the wayside.

"What I'm worried about is that they totally ignore our issues. In the weeks and months

leading up the election campaign, I haven't seen any of the major political parties public policy statements with respect to Metis or Aboriginal peoples. That's been really absent. If any responsible political party wants to be the government, they have a responsibility to address the issues."

Even with tremendous pressure from many different groups to make their concerns election issues, politicians can no longer ignore Aboriginal issues, said Morin.

"Otherwise the message is Aboriginal peoples are not a priority and won't be a priority under their government. As long as they're silent, that's the message to our people."

Morin said he is prepared to offer any information candidates need to brush up on Metis issues.

While Metis people have often supported the NDP, Morin said that party and all the others cannot take Metis support and votes for granted any more.

"Political parties have taken that for granted so much they have rationalized what's the point of addressing their (Metis) concerns because they are going to vote for us anyway and they are going to vote for us next time around."

Taking Metis support for granted will prove a mistake for any would-be Members of Parliament, said Morin.

"I think our people are prepared to sit back and see what the parties are offering. I think they are going to make a very pragmatic decision when it comes to marking their X at the polls. I don't think they are going to go in there feeling they are married to any particular political party. I don't think any political party can take for granted that they have our people's support."

Morin discounted Metis voters opting out from the vote in spite of cynical mood towards politicians.

"There are a lot of Metis people all over Western Canada and in a lot of constituencies if they vote as a block, they can make their difference."

Morin said he predicted the election results for 1993. Once the votes are counted, the next government will be a minority government. A minority may be just what the doctor ordered to get Metis concerns on the federal government agenda, said Morin.

ABORIGINAL ISSUES FRONT AND CENTER AT PRINCE ALBERT FORUM

By Jeff Campbell

When candidates in the riding of Prince Albert - Churchill River went to speak to their electorate in Prince Albert on Sept. 30, they came to tackle head on the issue of Aboriginal self-government.

NDP MP Ray Funk says between 35 and 40 per cent of the people in the riding are Aboriginal so their concerns must be taken seriously.

"It's basically a question of respect and recognition that no one group or race of Canadians can impose their way on any other and recognition that to move into the future there has got to be a partnership of equals," Funk told the audience at Carleton Comprehensive High School. Funk said the riding could be an example of what a partnership among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups could accomplish together.

"I think Prince Albert Churchill River is one of the places in Canada where it's most evident that if we're going to make progress, there is going to have to be a coalition of farm people, business people, professional people and northern people and that the unique nature of this relationship is going to have to be developed through new institutions and new kinds of respect."

Funk noted the NDP is the only federal party to have an Aboriginal election planning committee to give a voice to Aboriginal concerns.

Independent candidate Rick Laliberte, a Metis from Beauval, said non-Aboriginal people must recognize the nations and governments which existed before 1492.

"I believe the most important thing for Aboriginal people is the recognition that the Aboriginal people inhabited Turtle Island way before discovery. Nationhoods were alive and systems of government were in place. Those must be respected and honoured. If people look at a nation to nation relationship as a representative of the Canadian government I would like to provide a conscience at the House of Commons that they respect the inherent right to self-government for all Aboriginal people."

Laliberte said equality for Aboriginal people will happen if they are persistent.

"It's about time Canadians asked Aboriginal people how they should live on this land together," he said.

Liberal candidate and Prince Albert Mayor Gordon Kirkby said his party has a plan for Natives based on the recognition of the inherent right to self-government.

"Our plan gives hope to the First Nations and Aboriginal people, freedom to run their own affairs, freedom to tailor existing government programs to meet specific community needs, freedom and the tools to deal with the social issues in their communities and freedom to succeed and participate in the economy."

That plan will be more effective if both he and his party are elected to government, not just opposition Kirkby said.

Progressive Conservative candidate Joyce Middlebrook said she favours an ongoing dialogue with Aboriginal people to find out just what they want and need from self-government.

"The Progressive Conservative party has

done much to help Aboriginal people and we recognize there is still much more to do. I believe we must continue to negotiate in good faith with them and to reach agreements on how Aboriginal citizens can best govern their affairs and contribute to the richness of our nation."

Middlebrook said Aboriginal people have already made great strides towards self-government and it is important for governments to help them in their goals.

Reform candidate Paul Meagher said Canada was in danger of becoming a prisoner of its history when dealing with Aboriginal self-government.

"The simple reality is that the First Nations may have exercised a little better control on immigration then they may have not got the problems they have now," joked Meagher.

Meagher gave qualified support for Aboriginal self-government but equality must take precedence.

"Everyone in the world has the right to self-government but without a clear definition of what precisely you mean by self-government, it's an empty phrase. It's like freedom, you have freedom, but you don't have freedom to yell 'Fire!' in a crowded room. So all of these things must be defined in a new constitution that recognizes the right to self-government but the fundamental equality of Canadians first," said Meagher.

MSS President Gerald Morin was on hand with about two hundred others to hear what the candidates and ask them questions. Morin said he was sceptical about notions of equality that candidates discussed.

"This whole issue of equality is an important one. I've been listening with a great deal of interest. It kind of reminds me of the following story. 'We're all equal around here, aren't we?', said the elephant as he was dancing with the chickens. That's precisely the place we find ourselves as Aboriginal peoples," Morin said.

Representatives of four of the front running federal parties tackled the issue of Metis land claims during a forum in Saskatoon on Sept. 28.

Candidates from the Conservatives, New Democrats, Reform and Liberal parties covering all three Saskatoon-area riding met to debate their party stances on everything from free trade to job strategies to tax and health care policy.

Axworthy said federal governments have dodged their responsibilities to Aboriginal people.

"We did see some progress on inherent rights to self-government but in terms of dealing with the economic, social and land entitlement the federal government has simply altered that. That's not we think a federal government should do in this regard."

Axworthy said while there are a large variety of Aboriginal peoples across the country, they are not treated with the respect they deserve.

"It cannot be the case that we ask for Aboriginal peoples to wait until we deal with the deficit. The responsibilities that Canada has must be responded to and must be met."

Peter McCann, the Progressive Conservative contender for Axworthy's Clark's Crossing

riding said his time as a city councillor has showed him the anger and frustration among Metis is growing.

"There are many Metis in Western Canada who feel they have been unjustly treated by not having their land claims recognized. I feel that's wrong. I think the process must go ahead."

Saskatoon Humboldt Liberal candidate

By Jeff Campbell

SASKATOON CANDIDATES TACKLE METIS LAND CLAIMS

As with the other issues, how to deal Metis land claims without bankrupting the country had candidates sharply divided.

Eric Schenstead, Reform candidate for Saskatoon Dundurn said his party believes in equality for all Canadians. The Reformers are determined to honor treaties with Indian Nations, said Schenstead but was unclear whether or not treaty rights apply to Metis.

"I realize the Metis fall into a different category that have not been included with Natives and that's not something we have taken a definite position on as to where the Metis fit with regards to treaties and financial obligations."

Schenstead said his party does support the closure of the Department of Indian Affairs and giving Native Canadians more control of their lives and full participation in Canada's economic life.

Schenstead said claims will have to be made, then negotiated but in the mean time, Metis and other Natives could lose any hope of receiving compensation if the deficit is not brought under control.

"If Canada cannot get its deficit under control, they will not have the money for Metis and they will not have the money for Aboriginal claims and they will not have the money for social programs for non-Natives," he said.

Saskatoon Clark's Crossing NDP MP Chris



MP Chris Axworthy

ROOKIE POLITICIAN SAYS SHE'S UNLIKE THE REST

By Jeff Campbell

Not only is Regina-Qu'Appelle Liberal candidate Reina Sinclair a newcomer to the federal political scene, the Regina Metis woman is the very first Aboriginal woman to stand for election anywhere in Saskatchewan.

Sinclair said she is not a token candidate, her sex or ethnic background isn't the main issue in the campaign.

"I don't want people to pick Reina Sinclair because she's a woman or because she's an Aboriginal but because she is a very capable



Regina-Qu'Appelle Liberal candidate Reina Sinclair

person to be in the House of Commons representing Regina-Qu'Appelle because I can do the work and I will deliver."

Other parties have excellent Aboriginal people on their teams, but these people don't stand for election, Sinclair said, they just round up votes for their party.

"Why should we as Aboriginal people be going out there and saying fine, we'll keep doing the grunge work for the party but we don't deserve or haven't earned the right to

represent the people as members of the Legislature or as Members of Parliament. That, I feel is where they've wronged us."

Despite facing a tough and seasoned opponent in NDP incumbent Simon de Jong, Sinclair said she is no doubt the voters will choose her over the other candidates.

Sinclair said she has a lot of respect for her opposition but she can offer voters more than a representative in Parliament, but also a member of the ruling government.

"I have nothing against Mr. De Jong. This is not a battle of personalities, this is a battle of representation on the government side." The constituency Sinclair wants to represent is hugely diverse; covering much of downtown Regina, small towns like Lestock, Ituna, Odessa and White City, Indian reserves; Piapot, Carry the Kettle, Black Bear and all the farms in between.

"It's very diverse because you have the downtown area of Regina, the skid row, I have those people and then I have people from Emerald Park. So you see where I go from the lowest level of our scale as far as poverty to some of the richer people. So I have to very diverse."

Sinclair said while there are many different types of people in her riding, she knows they have one unifying concern; putting Canadians back to work.

"It's not tough to balance because Aboriginal people, small business people, farmers, medium business owners, people that are on welfare, single parents all have the same problems. First off, it's jobs."

Sinclair said her experience and working with many different types of people make her able to relate well to the people she meets touring her area and knocking on doors.

"I am the average Canadian. I am the mirror image of every average Canadian out there. There is nobody that cannot relate with me because everything that they have went through, I have struggled through."

Sinclair grew up in Regina and has carved out a name for herself in the late 80s and early 90s for her work with a number of advocacy groups. She has worked with unemployment and employment programs, welfare, justice and housing advocacy and consulting work with the Canadian panel on Violence Against Women as a consultant.

Sinclair also worked for the Liberal Party

developing the Aboriginal Head Start program.

"It is more than just a program, it's more than just something for Aboriginal people. It is showing the people of Saskatchewan that she is already acting in the capacity as a Member of Parliament."

People she has met during the campaign are fed up with politicians, but not the political process.

"I tell them I am not a politician. I have never been involved with partisan politics. I am in this because I want to see something happen for Saskatchewan. People are upset with the mainstream parties and politicians. They are upset with the way they feel they are getting hijacked, that politicians are doing what they want to do and not listening to people."

While this is Sinclair's first taste of federal politics, or partisan politics, as she calls them, she has sat on a number of municipal, provincial and Aboriginal boards and committees.

Sinclair has been involved with the Metis Society's Provincial Metis Women where she was the elected Southern representative for two years and also worked with Metis Women of Saskatchewan. She has sat on the Regina Economic Development Association and served as president of the Aboriginal Women of Regina. She has run twice for Provincial Treasurer of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan.

Even though she didn't win the MSS election, Sinclair said her candidacy helped to open up the doors for other women who wanted to seek office.

"I was the only woman and the next time, there were four women so I really started something. I piqued an interest for Aboriginal women to say yes, I want to get involved. No I believe I've started something again because I'm the first Aboriginal woman to run for national office in the history of Saskatchewan."

She hopes running in Regina-Qu'Appelle will have the same effect for other Aboriginal women with a leaning toward involvement in federal politics.

"I believe that if I have to start something to move us forward into the political party system, then that's what I will do. It's right and it's the right thing to do. It's 1993. We have got to start getting involved. If we want to make a difference the only place we can make a difference both with the Metis and Aboriginal people, women and people in general. We have to be involved in mainstream politics."

In this year's election a record number of candidates from a wide diversity of parties are pounding the pavement and knocking on doors hoping to win trust, confidence and votes.

Most of the people letting their names appear on a ballot are doing so under a party banner but not so Rick Laliberte.

Laliberte, aged 35, decided to strike out on his own as a candidate in the Prince Albert - Churchill River constituency, one of only two Metis people running for office in Saskatchewan.

He said he could have run under an established party banner but chose the independent candidacy to allow better representation for people in his constituency.

"I think in Northern Saskatchewan we need to speak for ourselves. Sometimes you have to do things for yourself. I chose to be independent and not go with a party structure so I can be representative of all people regardless of which flag they are raising at the time," he said.

Being a Northerner and offering a Northerner perspective is just what Canada needs, a new perspective, he says.

He said an independent MP can have many advantages for his constituents.

"There's nobody dictating to you along the way or trying to filter your view or your voice. They'll be no editing process by party or whatever. It's just Churchill River right to the House."

Discussions with people he deals with show people are growing very cynical with the political process. He said what people really need is leadership, not politics or politicians.

"They are disheartened where the government has taken us now. They are disheartened with the parties because the expectations are always high and the results are always low. I think you have to be truthful and I think the only thing I can promise is I can speak. The rest is visions, I can share visions. If we can have common visions, we'll make it together."

Laliberte said the House of Commons could learn a lot from Northern ways.

"I question the design of the House of Commons. Why should the government sit all in a row and other side sits the opposition and they fight for five years. They should sit in a circle and hammer out the issues because the energies of a circle are unexpected. You can't measure it until you try it. The energy and

RICK LALIBERTE: GOING HIS OWN WAY

By Jeff Campbell



Independent candidate Rick Laliberte

productivity that come out of it would cut costs everywhere."

Flashing the peace sign, "It's all about peace, man," Laliberte laughs.

Laliberte picked 1993 to make his political break inspired partly by it being the Year of Indigenous Peoples but mostly because of a balance he has struck in his life.

"I think the main reason to make me decide to run is because the age I'm entering - I turned 35. Before I lose touch with the youth and the credibility I've gained with the elders, I have leadership with a balance and it's probably a healthy one."

For Laliberte, his cultural background forms an important basis of his outlook. He often uses Cree in his addresses, a sign of his pride in the language and his heritage which he incorporates throughout discussion of politics.

"I use my Aboriginal language to start off because that is what the Great Spirit has given. You have to have pride. If you don't have pride, your heart and mind won't work. That pride can motivate you to grow and your dreams can become a reality," Laliberte told the audience at a candidates' forum in Prince Albert. Responding to questions at the forum, Laliberte emphasized the importance that Canadians recognize and respect the nations and governments which existed in North America before the arrival of Europeans.

Laliberte stresses the future of today's children as a priority for his campaign.

"The vision that I have is that I must invest in the future of our children. Education has been my activity for the last eight years. I am an elected education leader - a trustee for the Northern Lights School division. With that experience, I believe that when high school graduates graduate at 16, 17, 18 years old they are much too young to be on their own financially and to continue. So let's invest and make sure all Canadians have a right to education until they are 21 years old."

Laliberte said northern Saskatchewan needs its own university to preserve the Native languages, educate the young people of the area and to act as a focus for Northerners' pride.

Laliberte cut his political teeth with eight years as trustee with the Northern Lights School Division. He has served as deputy mayor of his northern village of Beauval and seven years as chairman of the NORTEP Norpac program.

"I focused on education because it's our children that we have to think about. I invested my life in that area and I think that I'm ready for other issues."

Vic Althouse believes

we must build on the past, present and future Metis accomplishments. He is working with Metis people to achieve

- A land & economic base for Metis
- Metis controlled programs and services
- Metis rights to education, health, services, employment
- A Metis justice system

**RE-ELECT
VIC ALTHOUSE**
*He'll continue the fight
for you in Ottawa*

New Breed MAGAZINE

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NATIVE UNEMPLOYMENT MORE THAN DOUBLE NATIONAL RATE

Figures released recently by Statistics Canada show Native unemployment is more than double the going Canadian rate.

Natives are also making less money and generally do not have as high an education level as the rest of Canadians either.

The figures, released on September 20, show Native unemployment was 25 per cent in 1991 compared with 10 per cent across Canada. The survey showed unemployment among Metis was 22 per cent, the lowest rate among Native groups with Indians on reserves suffering 31 per cent unemployment.

Survey results were drawn from 625,710

Indians, Metis and Inuit. Two of three people who took part in the survey reported few or no jobs were available and 40 per cent said they didn't have the training or experience to land the jobs that were on the market. About 16 per cent of respondents said they felt work was more difficult to find because they are Natives.

Of the adults in the survey, 13 per cent had no income at all in 1990 and only 5 per cent earned more than \$40,000. This compares with the national Canadian average of 9 per cent of adults who earned no income while 15 per cent of Canadians earned more than \$40,000 in 1990.

Aboriginal people tend to earn less than other Canadians, 17 per cent made less than \$2,000. This compares with the national rate of 8 per cent who made less than \$2,000.

There were many more Aboriginal people dependent on welfare, 29 per cent was average but the numbers soared to 42 per cent on reserves.

Only one third of Aboriginal people in Canada have post-secondary education compared with 50 per cent of Canadians. Among Natives, 17 per cent have less than a Grade 9 education compared to 6 per cent as the Canadian national average.

METIS PATHWAYS SECRETARIAT POSITION OF COORDINATOR

Duties:

Under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer, the Coordinator will carry out the following duties: Administration, assist LAMBS, policy development, preparation for Board meetings, proposal development for national and regional projects, and administer contracts.

Qualifications:

In-depth knowledge of Metis culture and history. Knowledge of the education, training, and employment issues that affect Metis people. Excellent oral and written communication skills. Preference will be given to individuals with Degree in Education or Commerce.

Location: Saskatoon

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SASKATCHEWAN COPS CALLED RACIST

Researchers looking into the relationship between Saskatchewan police officers and the Aboriginal community say a recently-released study shows police in the province are racist towards Natives.

The Saskatchewan Urban Police / Aboriginal Communication Exchange Project was compiled over the summer and studied how the police and Natives in Saskatchewan cities perceive one another. Among the responses from police officers who were asked to name a Native organization in their city were "Gimme, Gimme land, Gimme gambling" and "There are two groups in the city, the ones that care for themselves and the ones who care for Natives" and "Let's get off this charade and evenly deal with all citizens instead of tripping over ourselves to show how sorry we are that our grandfathers kicked some Native 100 years ago."

Responses from Aboriginal youth pointed to a lack of trust and communication with police such as "I'd never call a cop if I needed one" and "When they're in uniform they act tough".

Ann Margaret Ketchemonia-Obey is one of the two researchers who wrote the report. With her Saskatoon counterpart Kathy Manley, Ketchemonia-Obey completed the Regina portion of the work. Along with the Regina portion of the study, police and Natives in Saskatoon and Prince Albert were part of the study. Ketchemonia-Obey said many of the same problems emerged in all three cities and she was surprised by the depths of racism in some of the responses.

"It was disappointing to me. I found it hard to believe that these people serve us but the good responses we had made up for it," she said.

Ketchemonia-Obey said the problems created by racism will prove difficult to deal with, but the first step is building a level of trust between police and Natives.

"Nobody wants to deal with racism. Even some of the police officers didn't trust me because they worried that I was out to label them as racist," she explained.

Regina Police Chief Ernie Reimer was on hand at the report's release on September 16. He said the report may have not been flattering for police but it did provide them with specifics on problems with Native-police relations.

"We see many reports that are not very flattering in some ways but it still shows us what we have to do," said Reimer.

Alphonse Janvier, Executive Director of the Metis Community and Family Justice Services of Saskatchewan said the report did not go far enough in improving communications and breaking down barriers between police and Natives.

The recommendations should include putting Native community representatives on police boards, said Janvier, because the police boards have the power to deal with racist officers. He added the launch of the study could have driven a deeper wedge between police and Natives.

"Trust has deteriorated between police and Native people. Now Native populations of Saskatchewan have mistrust of people in uniform. Police are thinking that Native people are creating a mistrust by studying them, by studying them they will put the blame on them. I think those type of attitudes and approaches have to stop," said Janvier.

Eugene Arcand, Vice Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) said he was not surprised at the problems the project uncovered.

"This is not anything that we didn't really know but this survey has more credibility than any done by the police services. The bottom line is not to get more brown faces on the police force or in the courts. The focus should be to have more brown faces out of the courts and out of the corrections system," said Arcand.

Saskatoon Police Chief Owen Maguire was out of town the day the report came out but he suggested the researchers were hoodwinked. He said between five to seven per cent of police officers under his command are resistant to any

form of change and combat change with a negative attitude. He added many officers were afraid to fill out their survey forms for fear anything they wrote down could be turned against them. Response rates were the survey were low in every city. They ranged from 14 out of 30 officers or 46.67 per cent in Prince Albert to 34 out of 162 or 20.98 per cent in Saskatoon to a low of 44 out of 275 or 15.99 per cent in Regina.

Maguire concurred with Chief Reimer and said the report told them what police knew they had to do already.

Among the 48 recommendations from the report are closer liaisons between police and the Metis Nation and Indian Nations, continue close liaisons with schools and keeping up bike patrols and foot patrols to make Natives feel less threatened by police officers. Police forces should also send members and make themselves visible at Aboriginal cultural and social events, hire more Native officers and work on development of community-based policing in Saskatchewan cities.



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LET NATIVES RUN THEIR GOVERNMENT SAYS CHRETIEN

By Jeff Campbell

Liberal leader Jean Chrétien says it is high time Natives run their own government affairs, provided aboriginal governments remain within Canada.

"I think they will be able to resolve their difficulties if we give them the opportunity to have the input that we need to find the proper solution."

Chrétien stopped in Saskatoon on September 13 during a western campaign swing. He met with research and development workers and fielded questions from students during a bear pit session at Holy Cross High School.

He said as a former Minister of Indian Affairs, he had seen the question of Native self-government arise before. His solution for sorting out self-government is to let Natives take charge, make their own mistakes but make their own decisions as well.

"I know that we have to let the Natives make their own decisions. This I believe very strongly. But with making more decisions comes the responsibilities too. It's the only way they will find their proper place in our society. I am in favour of self-government by nations as long as they want to remain part of Canadian country."

Chrétien said he took a major step as the minister when he gave Indians control of their own affairs at the band level.

"When I was Minister of Indian Affairs, on every reserve there was a white superintendent deciding everything. I moved them out and I started the process of the band councils and transferring responsibilities to them. We've come a long way but we still have a long way to go."

One of Chrétien's major campaign platforms is stimulating the economy through a rebuilding of the infrastructure of Canadian towns and cities. He says the infrastructure plan would give Canadians back their confidence in the economy and rejuvenate pride in themselves.

"When there is construction in a city it is a kick start. If you go in a city and see stores



Liberal leader Jean Chrétien works the crowd during a Saskatoon appearance September 13.

closed down and bankruptcies and everything for sale, if you get a few dollars, you run to the bank to put your money into the bank. But if you see some workers moving around and building. You gain back confidence and you go to spend your own money. That's the way that you create the proper mood."

Chrétien's visit wasn't all wine and roses, he faced flak from a dedicated band of members from Citizens Concerned About Free Trade who waved placards and handed out leaflets to passersby at both his appearances.

Chrétien also drew fire at Holy Cross for his decision to place candidate Georgette Sheridan as the Liberal candidate for Saskatoon-Humboldt constituency. With his commitment to involve more women in his party at the same time as building a strong election team, Chrétien said he exercised the options delivered to him by his party membership when they elected him leader.

Chrétien stressed his job creation programs during the Saskatoon visit and during his morning speech at Innovation Place. If elected a Liberal federal government will contribute funds towards the environmental industry.

"We will be targeting that in the future 25 per cent of all new government research and

development money will go the environmental industry."

Chrétien said going green with federal dollars would mean government and industry alike would be winners in future industrial developments.

"When we look at the future of the environmental sector, it's growing. By today, in 1993, this industry is \$275 billion. By 2000, it will be \$580 billion. It has more than doubled in just seven years. We have to have our share and make sure we are competitive."

Industries like mining and paper are beginning to recognize the value of keeping pace with research and development in the environmental industries, Chrétien said as he promised a Liberal government commitment to fostering growth in Canada's green industries.

The industry needs help because banks don't necessarily go out of their way to lend to such a fledgling part of the economy.

"We have to help them with venture capital and we are the government and we have big purchasing power, not only as the federal government but also the provincial government. We have to make sure that we will be supporting the environmental industry."

Chrétien said he and the Liberal party are banking on their infrastructure program to help kickstart the Canadian economy by stimulating construction projects and the municipal level creating spinoffs in many other sectors.

The infrastructure program will allow the economy to grow by between .5 per cent and .7 per cent Chrétien said.

"That's a lot of economic activity if you can move from 2.5 economic growth to three or from three to 3.5."

With the other plans on the agenda, Chrétien said he is sure not to be re-opening any constitutional discussions if he is elected to the top job in Canadian government.

"I don't want to rebuild the constitution. Much more than me, the people don't want to hear about it. I was in Gaspé not long ago and one person told me, 'If you promise to us that when you are Prime Minister you will never talk constitution, you will be Prime Minister until you die.'"

He said he didn't believe Canada will be without some sort of constitutional difficulties in the future even though changes would not form a government priority.

P

Premier Roy Romanow said the numbers of Natives in the province are too large not to work on self-government arrangements.

"The demographics dictate our obligations and they are substantial. They must be defined and dealt with," said Romanow on the opening night of "Getting It Together", a Saskatoon conference.

He said a number of pilot projects are underway on a case-by-case basis along with the revival of the native court worker program, all of which show the need to get Aboriginal justice recognized and confirmed.

"Our government is committed to achieve and accommodate Aboriginal governments," said Romanow.

The conference, which ran from September 15 to 18 examined the administration of justice, and the relationships between federal, provincial, and Aboriginal governments.

Among the provincial and national leaders on hand for the conference was Gerald Morin, Metis National Council and Metis Society of Saskatchewan president.

"Our people are the most severely discriminated against because we are stuck in a jurisdictional limbo. We have to use the courts to get self-government arrangements and access to the process," he said.

Morin said the Metis Nation has already been asserting self-government for over a century but the self-government of Metis has been suppressed at other levels of government.

"We're prepared to assert our inherent rights to self-government by negotiating with other governments but they must respond in a timely and reasonable fashion," said Morin.

The main roadblock to putting the arrangements in place is the federal government's refusal to recognize its obligations to Metis.

Speaking on the Saskatchewan Treaty Indian perspective, Saskatoon lawyer Don Worme said Canada's current justice system has not only failed Natives, it has failed everyone. When it comes to governing themselves, Worme offered a simple solution.

"In Saskatchewan, treaty nations didn't ask for self-government, we've got it. I'm advocating the Nike school of thought ... just do it," said Worme.

Metis Community and Family Justice

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HAS TO DEAL WITH SELF-GOVERNMENT SAYS PREMIER

By Jeff Campbell



Premier Roy Romanow

Service Executive Director Alphonse Janvier illustrated the confusion and frustration many Native people feel in dealing with the justice

system. During the first part of his talk, Janvier spoke only in Dene, a language most conference delegates did not understand. After a few minutes of talking to them in his mother tongue, Janvier explained to the non-Natives in the crowd they had just been convicted in Dene court and were on their way to jail.

"For 500 years we have been putting Native people in jail as a result of a system that is totally foreign to us," Janvier said to the enlightened group.

Janvier said since the present court system is so foreign to Natives, they must be given control of their own courts and governments that will adapt traditional values. Only by reflecting their traditional beliefs and placing control in Native hands will the justice system become truly just, said Janvier.

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Authorized by Denis Quon, official agent for Roy Norris

METIS DRIVER FIGHTS FOR REINSTATEMENT

By Jeff Campbell

For over 15 years, George Sinclair of Green Lake got up early in the morning, fired up his school bus and made sure the kids on his route got to St. Pascal School on time and safely. The soft-spoken Sinclair got along with the kids on his bus and they with him, he made a good living wage and thought he was all set.

Until this past summer when Sinclair's bus contract came up for renewal with the Northern Lights School Division (NLSD). The division's board of directors decided to trim costs and

services was renewed.

"You took the livelihood of a Green Lake Metis person who has given many years of trouble free service with no complaints. All of a sudden we're talking about saving a small amount of money. Is it merely a money or do you consider the level of service he has given?" Laliberte asked.

"We have a concern in our community that an outsider was awarded the contract," said Laliberte, adding that since Green Lake resi-

Bus Lines and considers them both local contractors as they are based within the division's territory.

"As a Northern board, we have to look at our whole territory."

According to board policy, bus drivers from outside the district are hired only if no candidates can be recruited inside the district. Policy also says the lowest tender, nor any tenders are always chosen for contracts.

Seright said the board should look at its local hiring policy. He said picking a contractor can be a tricky and painful exercise.

"There is no joy in this. I have a brother who lost a contract too."

NLSD board chairman Rick Laliberte said NLSD has to stress fairness and consistency in its decision-making process.

"With all our policies, we have to be fair. We can't change our policy on a contract as we award it, but we want your ideas on whether to change the policy," Laliberte told the Green Lake delegation.

He said there are several options for awarding bussing contracts in the future including consideration of a local rather than a northern hiring policy, redefining who is and who isn't a northerner, or even having the school division buy all the buses and take the drivers on as employees.

"This effects lots of contracts, not just bus drivers," Laliberte concluded.

One of Sinclair's most stalwart defenders at the board meeting was Green Lake board representative Rose Bishop. She argued in support of hiring Sinclair as a way of affirming a commitment to help Natives.

"We knock down Native people when we knock down George. I don't understand why this job loss is based on economics and I don't feel people from other areas can displace our people."

Laliberte said affirmative action is a consideration when hiring teachers but guidelines do not apply to contractors.

In spite of the pleas on his behalf, the NLSD board notified Sinclair by letter the contract would remain in place with La Ronge Bus Lines and he would not be rehired.



Backed by a Green Lake delegation including school board chair Jim Laliberte (L) & Mayor Rod Bishop (R), George Sinclair (centre) took his case to the board.

voted to go for a contract with La Ronge-based La Ronge Bus Lines to take care of services on Sinclair's old route.

Sinclair was out of a job, he had lost his only source of income, but his fight was just beginning. He took his concerns to the board meeting on September 22 in La Ronge with a delegation from Green Lake and MSS headquarters in Saskatoon.

Jim Laliberte, chairman of the local school board in Green Lake said he was outraged with the treatment Sinclair had received at the hands of NLSD.

"I'm in disbelief as to how he (Sinclair) has been treated. This is just a swift kick in the ass," Laliberte told the NLSD board.

He said the board has a policy to employ Northerners wherever possible and in the light of Sinclair's record of service, there was no need to replace him when the contract for bus

dents paid taxes to the NLSD, they should be given more consideration for hiring by the division.

Rod Bishop, Mayor of Green Lake said even though money is tight, the board members know well the impact losing a job has on Northern entrepreneurs like Sinclair.

"The Northern Lights school board know the economic conditions of our people. Knowing that, you should support the economic development of our people," Bishop said. He added Sinclair not only lost his job, but that job loss represents a loss to the community of Green Lake and to Northern economic development.

"Any job is an economic benefit and every job you take away will contribute to welfare and our people want to work," Bishop said.

Board member David Seright said the board collects taxes from both Sinclair and La Ronge

PRINCE ALBERT OUTREACH OFFICE OPENS

By Jeff Campbell

Job seekers in Prince Albert have a new ally in their search for meaningful work after the official opening of the Metis Employment and Training Centre.

The official ribbon cutting for the centre which has been operating since April was held on September 24.

The centre offers employment and education counselling, resume services, rural services and liaison services with other agencies and the community at large.

"We have a high percentage of our people that are unemployed this why we have this program to train our people and get them in the workforce," said centre co-ordinator Francis Lafontaine.

The centre employs two councillors and a secretary along with Lafontaine. The Prince Albert office is twinned with its counterpart in Saskatoon which has two councillors. Between the two offices, both MSS Western Region II and Western Region II A are covered.

Centre coordinator Frances Lafontaine said her clients to date are not only looking for work, but for a place to help them plan careers and upgrade their education.

"There is a lot of demand for services. Employers will call but it seems like we don't



Outreach Centre co-ordinator Frances Lafontaine cuts the cake at the centre's opening September 24.

have the people that are trained. There is a high turnover in labourers and fast food services but it seems people want better jobs, so now they're coming in for training."

Lafontaine said about half of her clients are building their skills through Adult Basic Education and the centre has been busy trying to service the demand in Prince Albert.

"Since I came here three weeks ago, we've had about 179 people registered so there is a need out there. We've had no advertisements so it's just on word of mouth."

Just after the official opening of the Saskatoon office last May, Lafontaine said they were overwhelmed with business so she hopes to duplicate that success in Prince Albert.

"We heard, 'We didn't know there was anything out there for us,' they didn't know they could go anywhere for help and now they do."

The staff at the centre are very resourceful in not only directing people to finding the education program they need, Lafontaine said they also try to help with tapping potential sources of funding.

"We're digging high and low for any type of funding. There's some people who are working but they want to upgrade and there are other measures for them to get upgrading. We help them with their resumes, we have information workshops and we do a lot of one-on-ones."

While the unemployment statistics show the job market is tough, especially for Natives, Lafontaine said she is confident once more clients get to know about and use the Employment Training Centre, job hunters might find their search a little easier.

"It is tough, but it is getting better. It seems like we're contacting employers and then we will say if you need anyone, call us, so we're getting out and letting people know that we are here and we have people who are trained," she concluded.



The political panel squares off in Prince Albert on September 30

METIS UNDER REPRESENTED IN HIRING SAYS MORIN

By Jeff Campbell

Saskatchewan Metis are being left by the wayside by current employment equity programs says MSS President Gerald Morin.

Morin presented the case for hiring more Metis during Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission hearings in Saskatoon on September 28.

"Under employment equity programs, the proportion of Aboriginal people in the work force has increase from about 2.6 per cent to 2.9 per cent. At that rate of change, it would take 150 years to achieve the employment equity targets," he told the commission.

Saskatchewan Natives make up about 15 per cent of the total provincial population.

Morin said the employment equity problem could become even more severe with the large and growing percentage of young Aboriginal people who will be entering the work force in the next few years.

"Our population is very young and we are setting ourselves up to fail unless something is done," said Morin.

With five new uranium mines opening soon in Northern Saskatchewan, and expansion in the forestry industry, Morin said it is imperative to include Metis people more in the economic growth of the province

"In mining we are concerned our people be represented in jobs at all levels up to management levels, not just pick and shovel jobs. In forestry, our people have been totally shut out by the leasing agreements."

Metis in the North aren't the only ones going without work in spite of employment equity programs Morin said. Metis teachers trained through Gabriel Dumont Institute's SUNTEP program have called him personally to

tell him they can't find work in the province in spite of their specialized training. They are forced to leave Saskatchewan and find work elsewhere, he told the commission.

Besides Morin's submission, the commission also heard from other groups working to achieve employment equity for Saskatchewan Natives.

Saskatchewan Federation of Labour President Barb Byers said while there are a number of employment equity arrangements in place especially with Crown corporations, the programs are only done on a volunteer basis.

"Voluntary agreements don't work," said Byers.

Along with the hiring of visible minority groups or what Byers called "racialized" employees, she said it was important for employers to work at developing these people's professional qualifications until discrimination in promotion has ended.

Saskatchewan Government Employees Union (SGEU) representative Fiona Bishop said token hirings of one minority person per office would not do, as that person might feel isolated in their new work environment.

"Whenever possible more than one person from the equity group should be hired to act as a support group," said Bishop. She added that in the current tough economic climate, the human rights commission should also be looking at strong measures to control white supremacist groups.

The Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission held public meetings held in Saskatoon and other Saskatchewan centres in September. It will be using some of the ideas presented to them to incorporate into a new, stronger human rights code for the province.

ALBERTA METIS RETURN THOM



Gerald Thom

Gerald Thom, acting president of the Metis Nation of Alberta (MNA) has been returned by a general election held in September. Thom captured 907 votes in the unofficial results released after the September 8 ballot. Thom assumed the post last February after the death of former MNA President Larry Desmeules. Desmeules' daughter, Cindy Desmeules-Bertolin finished second in the presidential election with 668 votes followed closely followed by Ron Brady who captured 666 votes.

In the vice-presidential elections; Zone 1 went to George Quintal, Cliff Gladue won Zone 2 and Jim Penton topped the field in Zone 3. Lyle Donald won 351 votes and Zone 4, Peter Campion captured Zone 5 and Leslie Noosky will be Zone 6 vice-president.

Board of directors members for Zones 1 to respectively will be Emil Mamoose Cardinal, Francis Dumais, Ralph Goetz, Sid Karakonti, Elmer Guillon, and Louis Bellrose.

REQUIEM FOR ...

The Rhino Campaign '93 has stopped in its tracks.

When the list of candidates appeared for the October 25 election, the venerable Rhinoceros Party of Canada candidates were not on the roll. For the first time since 1964, no Rhinos will be running, due to a jump in election costs. Under Bill C-114, anyone who wants to run in a federal election has to deposit \$1000 instead of the old fee of \$200. Unless candidates get 15 per cent of votes cast, they lose their deposit.

Rhino Charlie McKenzie was outraged by the stiff election deposits. He said he entered former Montreal Expos pitcher "Spaceman" Bill Lee as the Rhino candidate in the 1988 presidential election for the price of a stamp—27 cents U.S.

McKenzie said last June the draconian deposit law will make his party an endangered species.

Given voters' cynical mood, McKenzie is confident the Rhinos would sweep the election, creating a majority government.

The Rhinos latest round of troubles is a far cry from its peak in the 1980 election campaign when the party captured 165,000 votes in 163 ridings.

To protest the high cost of campaigning, another long time Rhino Francois Mahatma Ganja-Gourd, encouraged voters to mark their own name with an X beside it on their ballot on October 25.

"A vote for you is a vote for us," said Ganja-Gourd during a Montreal press conference on September 9

... THE RHINOS

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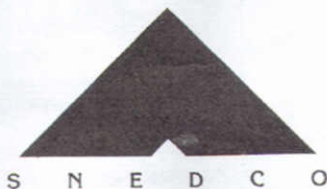
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Phone: 477-4350

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Regina, Sask. S4P 2K5
Phone: 791-7150

RON CAMPONI

1926-1993

One of Saskatchewan's best known Metis leaders, Ron Camponi, died September 17 at his home in Saskatoon.

Camponi was 66 years old. He is survived by former wife Grace Camponi, daughters Lois and Linda and his grandsons Staey, Dominic,

Joel and Michael also former wife Carole Gorgchuk and step-daughters Vikki and Kelly and granddaughters Leigha and Kierstan and grandsons Robert and Aaron. Also mourning are Camponi's brother William and sisters Loretta and Bernice.

Ronald James Camponi was born in Saskatoon on September 25, 1926.

He began his career in public service during the Second World War when he enlisted in the Canadian Army. That service was to continue for the better part of 30 years including duty during the Korean War where Camponi fought with the Lord Strathcona's Horse Regiment. Following his enlistment, Ron returned to Saskatoon and spent the rest of his life fighting to better the conditions of Metis people all over the province.

Camponi was a builder and leaves an impressive legacy of organizations he helped found. Among the agencies he helped off the ground were the Native Alcohol Centre (N.A.C. House), the SaskNative Housing Corporation where he was serving as Manager and Chairman when he died. Along with his pioneering social work, Camponi had a distinguished political career. He served as a Metis Society Area Director, and worked closely with MSS Local 11 and was a founder of MSS Local 165. He served as Chairman of the Board of the SaskNative Economic Development Corporation (SNEDECO). He was active with many of his old comrades as a member of Metis Veterans of Saskatchewan.

He left his mark in the areas of recreation and culture as the founder of a camp for Native families at Chitek Lake and founder of the Gabriel Dancers who performed at Expo '86

in Vancouver and Saskatoon's Folkfest.

"He was closer to me than some of my own brothers," said Martin Aubichon, MSS Area director and close friend of Camponi over 20 years.

"He was a wonderful person to work with. He was always wide open guy and he was a wonderful man. I could always go to Ron for advice because he knew a lot of people and lot of organizations," Aubichon said.

Aubichon added Camponi's advice was crucial to his decision to run as Area Director in the next MSS elections.

"We talked it over a week before Ron died. He told me one term wasn't enough, that there was too much to learn, so I'm running again."

Aubichon said he is going to make sure Camponi's legacy remains alive through SaskNative Housing as many Aboriginal people depend on the program to find a place to live.

Metis Society Past President Jim Durocher was on hand with many of Camponi's friends and family to lower the Metis flag at the MSS building in Saskatoon. Just after the solemn ceremony on September 20, Durocher remembered Camponi's outstanding contribution in fostering a sense of pride in the Metis Nation.

"His biggest accomplishment was in politicizing people. He reminded the Metis that we are not second class citizens, we have equal rights and we have a heritage we can be proud of. He was very concerned the Metis might lose their culture and their identity and he shared his own pride."

Durocher said Camponi was a stalwart ally during his term as President offering his help when needed and by never letting the Metis forget what an important role their ancestors had in building Canada.

Memorial donations in Ron Camponi's name may be made at the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Saskatchewan or the Canadian Diabetes Association.

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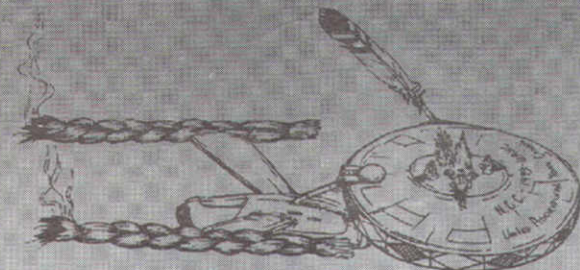


PETER McMANN
Saskatoon - Clarke's Crossing

KIM CAMPBELL DELIVERS CLEAR DIRECTION, NOT VAGUE PROMISES

- Government has been streamlined, from 32 departments to 23 departments
- Cabinet has been cut from 39 Ministers to 34 Ministers
- Retired MP's can no longer draw a government pension and earn a salary for another job-double dipping is over
- Businesses who hire new employees this year will not pay additional unemployment insurance premiums
- Unemployment insurance funds will be directed towards retraining and skills upgrading to provide people with high-tech skills needed in our global economy
- Development of the Canadian Aboriginal economic development strategy which provides aboriginal business people with start-up equity capital

Authorized by John Lavoie, official agent for Donna Birkmaier, Fred Klassen, official agent for Tom Gossen and Robert Thorton, official for Peter McMann.



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SASKATCHEWAN CANDIDATES IN THE 1993 FEDERAL ELECTION

(BY CONSTITUENCY)

REGINA-LUMSDEN

Frederick King (Canada)
Anita Bergman (Lib)
John Solomon (NDP)
Beattie Martin (PC)
Jerry Boychuk (Reform)

REGINA-QU'APPELLE

Joseph Thauberger (Canada)
Reina Sinclair (Lib)
Simon de Jong (NDP) - Incumbent
Tom Hull (PC)
Kerry Gray (Reform)

REGINA-WASCANA

Walter Sidga (Canada)
Hugh Owens (Christian Heritage Party)
Barry Farr (Independent)
Ralph Goddard (Lib)

C. Angus Hunt (NL)
Donna Shire (NDP)
Larry Schneider (PC) - Incumbent
Andrew Jackson (Reform)

SASKATOON-CLARK'S CROSSING

Roy Norris (Lib)

Patrick Coulterman (NL)
Chris Axworthy (NDP) - Incumbent
Peter McCann (PC)
Fred Weselowski (Reform)

SASKATOON-DUNDURN

Morris Bodnar (Lib)
Kateri Hellman-Pino (National Party)
Ron Fisher (NDP) - Incumbent
Donna Birkmaier (PC)
Eric Schenstead (Reform)

SASKATOON-HUMBOLDT

Georgette Sheridan (Lib)
Barrett Halderman (NDP)
Tom Gossen (PC)
Robert Head (Reform)

KINDERSLEY-LLOYDMINSTER

Emanuel Fahman (Canada)
Judy Setrakov (Lib)
Rick Barsky (National)
Elizabeth Thomas (NDP)
Jack Sandberg (PC)
Elwin Hermanson (Reform)

MACKENZIE

Tony Panas (Canada)

Ken Goudy (Christian Heritage Party)
Garfield Lutz (Lib)
Vic Althouse (NDP) - Incumbent
Sherwin Peterson (PC)
Brian Fitzpatrick (Reform)

MOOSE JAW-LAKE CENTRE

Walton Eddy (Canada)
John Morris (Lib)
Jack Heilman (NL)
Rod Laporte (NDP) - Incumbent
Bill Gotselig (PC)
Al Karpan (Reform)

PRINCE ALBERT-CHURCHILL

Donald Kavanagh (Canada)
Rick Laliberte (Independent)
Gordon Kirby (Lib)

Brian Baker (National)
Ray Funk (NDP) - Incumbent
Joyce Middlebrook (PC)
Paul Meagher (Reform)
Richard Potratz (Social Credit)

SOURIS-MOOSE MOUNTAIN

David Bouchard (Canada)
Art Mainil (Independent)

Bernie Collins (Lib)
David Davis (National)
Caroline Saxon (NDP)
Earl Silcox (PC)
Doug Heimlick (Reform)

SWIFT CURRENT-MAPLE CREEK-ASSINIBOIA

Rob Henriks (Lib)
Shirley Wilson (NL)
Lois Ross (NDP)
Geoff Wilson (PC) - Incumbent
Lee Morrison (Reform)

THE BATTLEFORDS-MEADOW LAKE

Peter Franklin (Canada)
Neil Currie (Lib)
Len Taylor (NDP) - Incumbent
Ken Cheveldayoff (PC)
Delon Bleakney (Reform)
Leon Chretien (Social Credit)

YORKTON-MELVILLE

Jim Walters (Lib)
Lorne Nystron (NDP) - Incumbent
Bob Reitenbach (PC)
Garry Breittkreuz (Reform)

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SG IIII

BACK TO BATOCHÉ IN PICTURES



Sunday morning's procession to the cemetery was one of the more solemn and moving moments during the weekend



Before anyone could chow down, a lot of work had to be done inside a very hot cook car. Regina's Lottie Noname begins a new batch of bannock



Louise Fraser of Saskatoon starts the elk burgers for Saturday supper at Batoche



← *One of the most popular events at Back to Batoche '93 proved to be the jigging competitions. Crowds packed the bleachers and walkways of the main tent anxious to check out the fiddling and novice and veteran jiggers*



Pacific Metis Federation Senate member Dave Barron of British Columbia played a fiddle version of "Amazing Grace" during Sunday's memorial service at Batoche cemetery

↓ *Even with the high temperatures in the main tent, some Back to Batoche visitors could still enjoy kicking back during jigging competitions*



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Metis Friendship Centre

To register or for more information Contact:

Karen Trotchie at 668-7671

or Terri Parent at 477-4350

Registration Fee \$12.00

Lunch provided November 5th

On Site Counselling Will be Available

METIS WOMEN 2ND ANNUAL ASSEMBLY TO FOLLOW ON NOVEMBER 7, 1993

Name: _____

Agency Business _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Type of Payment:

Money Order

Cheque

Please send registration form and payment to:

Metis Women of Saskatchewan Inc.

219 Robin Crescent Saskatoon, SK S7L 6M8