

**Manitoba Métis Federation
20th Century
Métis Resistance and the Fight for Social
Justice**



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Once Were Warriors

Métis Resistance and the Fight for Social Justice

School discrimination protest, March 1973

Parents in Camperville are charging discrimination against the Métis and have requested a meeting with the Duck Mountain School board. Some of the students may be withheld from returning to school at Winnipegosis Wednesday. School officials have indicated they view the incident as violation of, and suspension for, breaking the rules of the school. The suspension does not relate to a petition presorted by the students, nor is it an act of discrimination, the board states. Contents of the petition have not been made public.

Unofficially, it is reported that about 25 students occupied the collegiate auditorium last Wednesday morning. They left during the lunch hour, and a fight occurred between two girls. They returned in the afternoon to the auditorium. Superintendent Marvim Sveistrup ordered the students in the auditorium to leave the school, sending them home to Camperville on a school bus.

Wednesday night the Duck Mountain board met. It expelled one student, suspended another until April 2 and suspended the remaining 22 students until Wednesday morning. The students involved are all from the village of Camperville and represent about half the Métis students enrolled at Winnipegosis collegiate. They are from more than a dozen families and in several grades. Some of the students from Camperville did not take part in the demonstration and were not suspended.

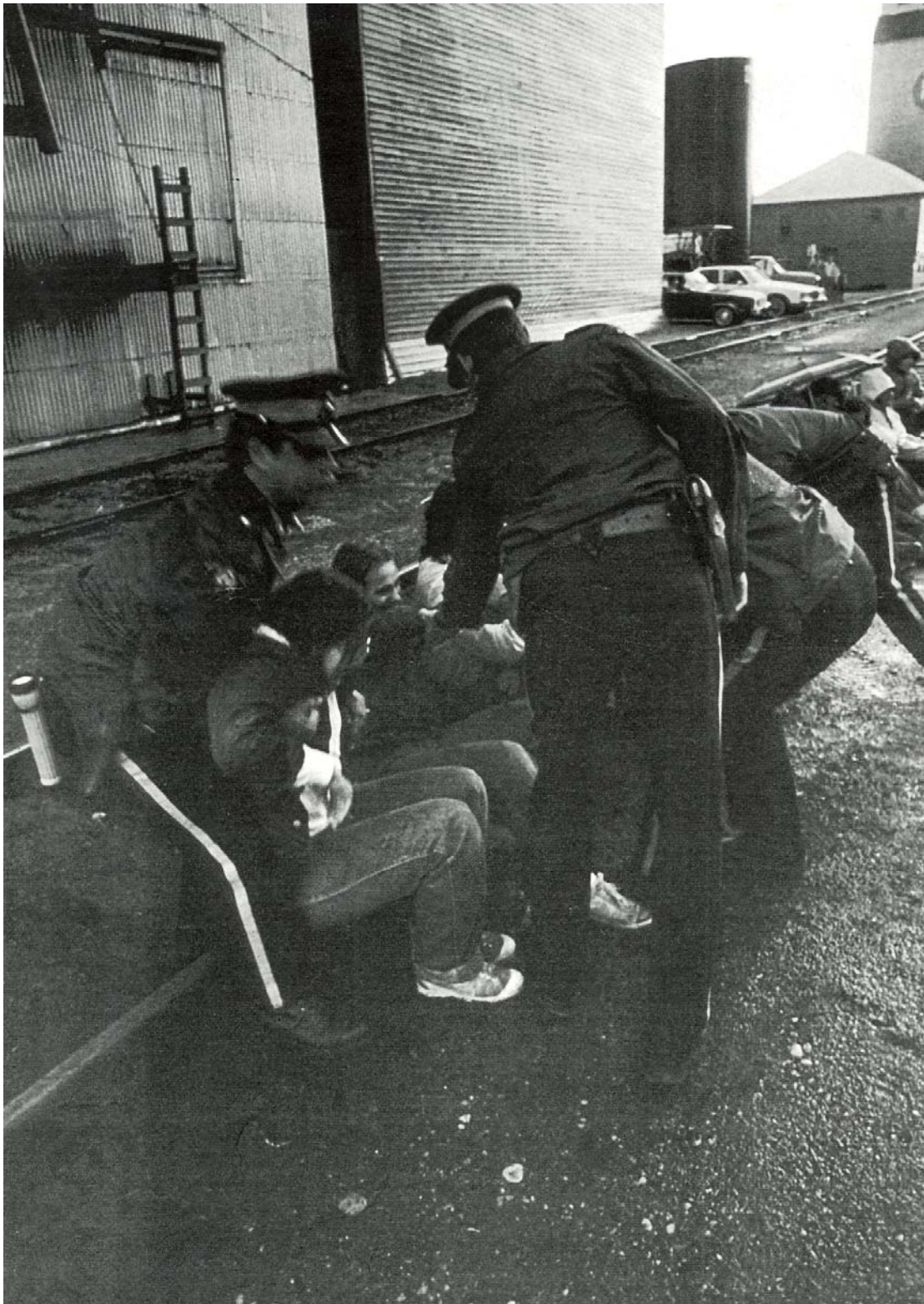
Notified of the board's decision Saturday morning, parents signed a statement which said the decision was completely unacceptable. Spokesman for the parents, Ferdinand Guiboche, said Tuesday he has "absolutely no inclination to send my students back to Winnipegosis. We will announce what we intend to do in regard to further education for our children in a couple of days."

The incident has "gone farther" than a suspension and the next step is in the hands of parents and students, he said. Mr. Guiboche said the Members the board should have consulted the parents before suspending the students. Also, it should have made a thorough investigation, hearing more than the administration's report, before deciding, he said.

The following statement was prepared by the Duck Mountain school board as a press release, made public Monday: Board's report "Jack Turner, chairman of the Duck Mountain school division termed as groundless the recent allegations made by leaders of the Camperville community that racial discrimination was being practiced by the staff of the Winnipegosis Collegiate. This decision was reached following a special meeting of the board with the staff of the collegiate called to investigate the situation. The allegations stemmed from the incident where 22 of the students of the school were suspended temporarily and one was expelled from school, as a result of a disturbance created when students refused to attend classes, and generally disrupted the normal operation of the school.



Métis at The Pas Manitoba protesting discrimination and racism at Churchill Forest Industries (c. 1971-72). Robert Ericson, chair of the Cranberry Portage MMF Local is 5th from right.



Métis protesters on CPR tracks in Dauphin being removed by the police (1975). These were CPR employees protesting racism and discrimination.

"In the 70s and 80s, Métis people wanted out of the marginalized existence they had known for so long and it was a time of sit-ins and protests," Morriveau recalled. "Ed Head put himself out in front at a few of these gatherings. He was always up for a battle."



April 9, 1979: Manitoba Métis picket Canada Manpower offices on Lombard Ave. Donna and Randy Ranville (with hat). Randy was the Chair of the Winnipeg North Local which he has now chaired for over 35 years, at this time he had 48 employees doing Manpower work.
(The local currently has 1,600 members)

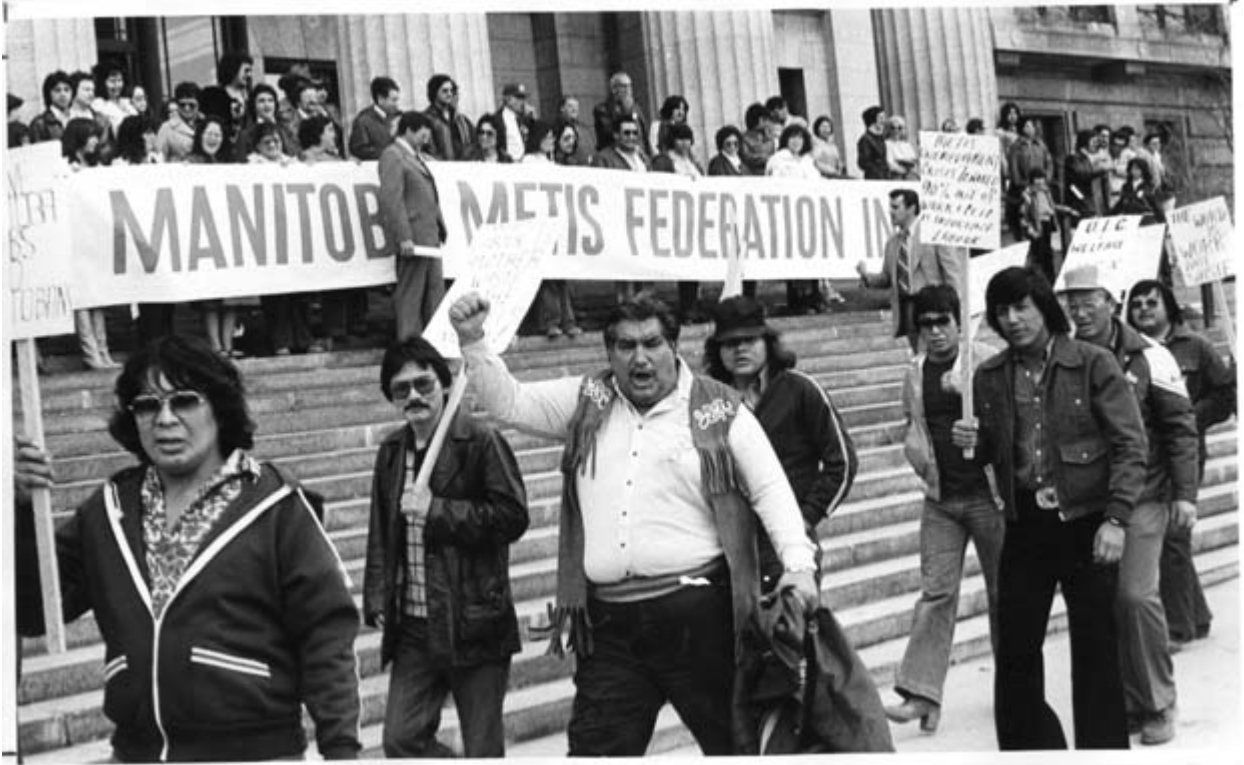


April 9, 1979: Edward Ballantyne, Jack McPherson and Ed Head talking to Ottawa from the Manpower office.

“Another time we were demonstrating for jobs at Manpower. Someone called city police and they were starting to haul us out of the building, but Edward (Head) wasn't about to go easily. For a big man, he could move fast. He ducked under the big table in the board room and tied himself to it. He had his little grandson, Ernie, with him, and he imitated his grandfather by tying himself to the other table leg. Well, we didn't want to laugh at the little guy, but it was so funny. You could have picked up that table with Ernie tied to it and not even known he was there he was so little.”



April 10, 1979: MMF members on picket outside Manpower office in Grain Exchange building. Randy Ranville on left, Audreen Hourie centre talking with Mary Ranville (Randy's mother). They have just brought food for the protesters.



April 17, 1979: Ed Head (centre) leads Métis protesters in a march at the legislative building to demand provincial job-creating initiatives. Rene Ranville 2nd from left, Cecil Asmus 2nd from right, Lawrence Merasty (Brochet) is in foreground in front of Cecil.

At one particular demonstration at the Manitoba Legislature in the early 1980s, the call for Métis rights had continued for more than a month with no response from officials, but Head refused to abandon the issue. Finally, authorities called for an end to the protest, so security staff began clearing people out of the building.

"Edward decided to tie himself to a post in the rotunda so he couldn't be removed. Now, you just don't easily carry a man like him out of a building when he decides he's not going to move."

Proceedings came to a standstill until a stretcher was located and Head was coerced to lay on it.

"He felt sorry for the people who had to struggle with carrying him, but he also had a good time yelling at them not to drop him," Morriveau said.

He founded Native Communications Inc. (NCI) along with Don McIvor.

He joined a group of community members who wanted a broadcaster that could speak directly to Aboriginal people all over Manitoba regardless of geographic or language barriers. Station staffing and programming has evolved steadily since NCI began broadcasting in 1971 in northern Manitoba and Head helped ensure a board of directors of Aboriginal descent guided its growth.



April 14, 1979: Occupation of Manpower. Teddy Boy Houle is on fiddle and Audreen Hourie on guitar as Métis protesters enjoyed an Easter dinner and live music as the occupation ended its first week. Marlene Patrick (Land Claims Dept.) dancing on right.



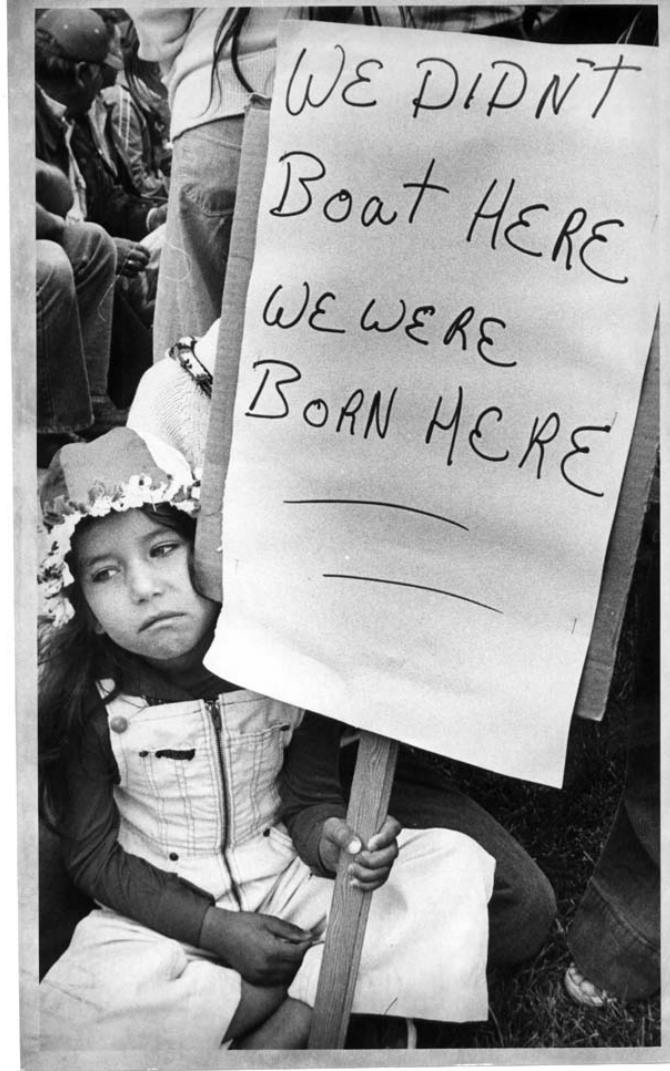
April 16, 1979 sign carrying Métis at Manpower.
Marlene Elder on left, Gord Ranville in centre with sunglasses.



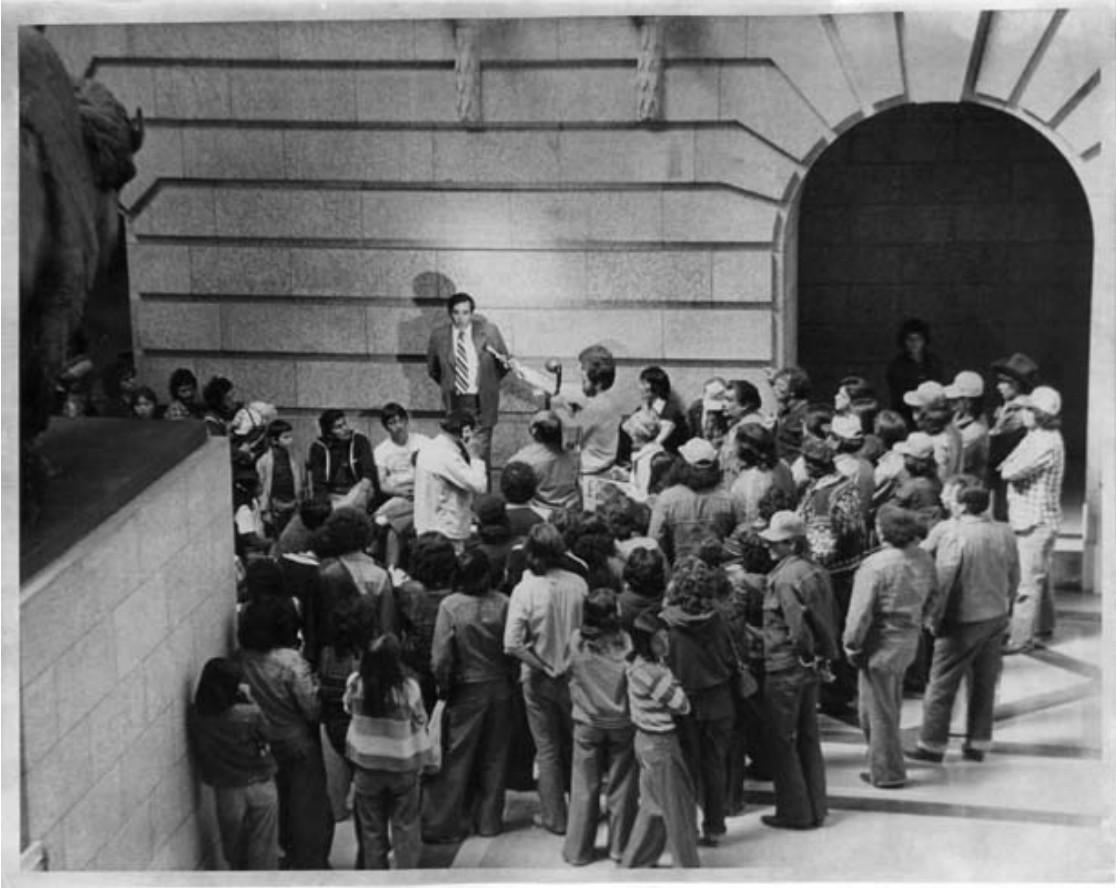
August 8, 1979: Métis protest lack of aid for projects.
Alfred Guimond, standing centre, Glen Head standing on right.



August 8, 1979: Norway House Métis plan to continue the sit-in at the Legislature until they receive more government aid.



August 13, 1979: six-year-old Lisa Head, granddaughter of Angeline and Ed Head from Sherridon, in Winnipeg for the Métis demonstration.



August 30, 1979: MMF President John Morrisseau talking to a crowd of about 70 Métis at the Legislature.



August 30, 1979: Demonstrators break down in tears after Métis leader John Morrisseau conceded defeat. Jack McPherson back left, Joe Breland beside him wearing white hat, (?) Sanderson centre standing.

Winnipeg Indian Council, Four Nations Confederacy, and MMF Occupation of Indian Affairs office, March 3, 1981

DIA SIT-IN BY WINNIPEG INDIANS: March 3, 1981

By Greg Bannister

<http://newspaperarchive.com/ca/manitoba/winnipeg/winnipeg-free-press/1981/03-03/page-7> .

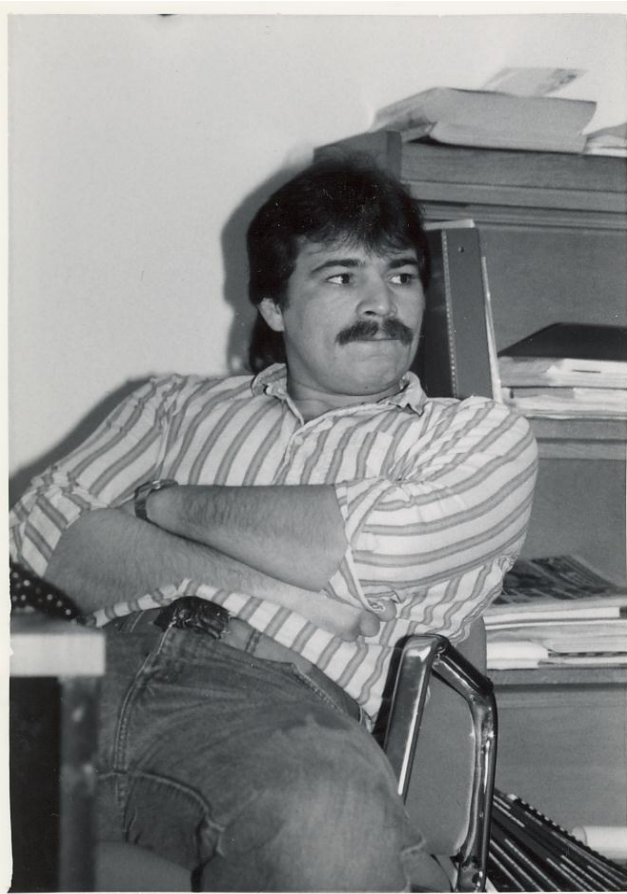
The Winnipeg Indian Council (WIC), with the support, of the Four Nations Confederacy, staged a four day sit-in at the DIA Regional office in Winnipeg.

The sit-in, which started March 2nd, was initiated by WIC president John James.

The WIC is a recognized urban tribal council representing Winnipeg's 10,000 status and treaty Indians.

James stated that "the WIC has been in existence since the early 1970's. We had been, up until about a year ago, a volunteer organization. But the need of Winnipeg's Indian community surpassed the services we could provide as a volunteer group. Last December we had a commitment from the Minister of Indian Affairs for funding which the regional office in Winnipeg later reneged on."

What started as a one man protest in Regional Director Brian Veinot's office became a peaceful sit-in by members of the Indian community, when DIA officials threatened to forcibly remove John James from the premises.



MMF members David Chartrand, Audreen Hourie, Ed Head, and Randy Ranville took part in this sit-in in solidarity with the Indians. President John Morrisseau organized the logistics of bringing in food etc., during the sit-in.

On March 6th the police were called in to remove the protesters on the request of Deputy Minister Paul Tellier. Since the incident there have been several meetings with DIA officers and John James said that "the original commitment for funds has come through. We feel we have opened a lot of doors for off-Reserve status and treaty Indians."

Lyle Longclaws left and John James at Indian affairs, where James says he plans to stay until his demands are met. Indians plan appeal to cabinet Four Nations Confederacy to bypass bureaucrats in quest for more funds.

The Four Nations Confederacy has decided to take its complaint of inadequate funding for Manitoba Indians to an Ottawa committee of Liberal cabinet bypassing civil

servants in the Indian affairs In a related development John James of the Greater Winnipeg Indian Council began occupying the office of Brian regional director general of the Manitoba Indian affairs in an effort to draw attention to his organizations funding James told reporters the off reserve Indians in Winnipeg have been denied funding and he will not leave Veinot's office or eat food until federal officials agree to fund off reserve Indians.

James is also demanding the removal of deputy Indian affairs minister, his assistant deputy minister and the five directors at the Manitoba office of Indian affairs and the information officer at the regional office.

Brian Vienot, director of local government at the regional level, said because it was not a federal building he could not evict. He said he had notified the buildings owner Leo Cholakis (couldn't be reached for comment)

Eardley said staff members would _____ Bill Norrie opposed to change in funding for job program. The city shouldn't have to raid Core Area Initiative Program Funds to finance an existing program as suggested by the provincial.

Mayor Bill Norrie said, "The city will be pressuring the province to provide half the Community Service Workers Program budget to match its own financial input Norrie said in an interview. The civic recreation and social services committee yesterday endorsed Nome's opposition to the provinces decision to discontinue funding for the program. In a letter to Labor and Manpower Minister, Ken Norrie said the provinces decision to end funding for the program causes some great concern and asked him to reconsider funding for the program. The concept of the Core Area Initiative Program was that this was to be new money directed at new programs. "It was certainly not my doing nor do I believe that of your colleague Minister of Urban Affairs Gerry Mercier that we would get into a series of shuffles redirecting funds on a variety of different [programs]." "It is most important the city be on guard to ensure that million core initiative shared funding is used for its intended purpose to rehabilitate Winnipeg's inner city" said the mayor. When asked what would happen if the province to refuse funds for the Norrie said, the city would have to make that decision when we get word from the province. "The city will have information on shared program funding from the province by the end of the [...] The Community Service Workers Program employs welfare recipients in community service said Russ deputy director of the civic social assistance. The workers provide important services working in community In return they receive preemployment training and a work he said. Of those who have been enrolled in the 65 per cent have found work while 18 per cent have returned to social assistance. The average education for those in the program is Grade 7.

Manitoba Hydro settles longstanding claim with Métis trappers.

Shortly after David Chartrand was elected as MMF President in 1997, he and Senator Ed Head began working to get compensation for the Summerberry Marsh trappers who were flooded out by the creation of the Grand Rapids Dam fore bay. They began with meetings with Bob Brennan the President and CEO of Manitoba Hydro. They also hired John Morrisseau a former MMF president to research this issue.

- Métis trappers who harvested furs in the Summerberry marsh will soon be compensated for the flooding caused by Manitoba Hydro and the Grand Rapids hydroelectric dam. Through the 1940s and the 1950s, trappers from throughout the area, including **Grand Rapids, Moose Lake, Cormorant, Duck Bay, Camperville** and other locations, trapped fur bearing animals in the Summerberry. Construction for the generating station in Grand Rapids started in 1960 and was completed in 1968.
- In December 2012, the payout for the Summerberry Trapper's Settlement of Duck Bay/Camperville Trapper's began. The settlement consists of one hundred and sixty-seven (167) Trappers and is now ninety percent (90%) complete leaving only a handful set to finalize with the assistance of the Advisory Committee. To date, the Manitoba Métis Federation with the assistance of Métis Community Liaison and Finance Department has disbursed more than one point seven (1.7) million dollars in Settlement/Inheritance payments to either living trapper's or the living beneficiaries of the Trapper.



Lawrence Barkwell and Senator Head at the MMF Mortgage burning ceremony 2006.

Receivership 1966

Competing sides:

DAVID CHARTRAND, MAURICE SAINT-CYR, CECIL ASMUS, MARCIE JOHNSON, MURIEL PARKER, ELBERT CHARTRAND, ROSEMARIE McPHERSON, RON ERICKSON, RITA CULLEN, NORMAN FLEURY, BERNICE POTOSKI and OLIVER MONKMAN

VS.

BILLYJO DE LA RONDE, ROBERT GAUDRY, DENISE THOMAS, MARIELEE NAULT, ROBERTA CARRIERE, LIONEL ALLARD, SANDRA DE LA RONDE, FORTUNAT GUIBOCHE, WALTER MENDARD and IVONNE GUDMUNDSON,

MMF was incorporated in 1967 as a non-share corporation and its purpose is to carry out programs for the benefit of the Métis people of Manitoba. Its main programs are child and family services and a sports and recreation program. There are several affiliated corporations, including Manitoba Métis Housing Development Inc., which provides a housing program as well as seven associated regional organizations throughout Manitoba. To a great extent, MMF is dependent on funding from the government and revenue generated within its housing program. Funding is provided by MMF to the regional organizations. **At the time of the appointment of Deloitte as receiver and manager, MMF had 66 employees in Winnipeg and the seven regional offices.**

Since 1993 MMF has been involved in extensive litigation between two opposing groups claiming the right to direct and manage the affairs of MMF. In 1996 the dispute made its way to a hearing before my colleague, Smith, J. (Court of Queens Bench).

The dispute involved two organizations: MMF and another unincorporated entity of the same name. The application before Smith, J. sought numerous remedies pursuant to *The Corporations Act*, R.S.M. 1987, c. C225, but did not specifically seek the appointment of a receiver or receiver and manager.

Deloitte was appointed receiver and manager of all the undertaking, property, and assets of MMF by order of Smith, J. pronounced May 6, 1996 and signed May 14, 1996 for the purpose of the orderly liquidation and dissolution of MMF.

Because there was an issue as to a pending meeting of members that had been called by one of the parties, by further order pronounced May 16, 1996 and signed May 24, 1996, Smith J. ordered that no annual or extraordinary general assembly of MMF be held until further order of the court. There were also questions as to the applicability of the receivership to the regional offices. Smith, J. also ordered that the directors and other responsible persons of the regional offices deliver to Deloitte information, documents, and records requested by Deloitte so that Deloitte could report back to the court on this aspect of the organizational structure.

The orders of Smith, J. were appealed to the Court of Appeal. Pending the hearing of the appeal the portions of the order dealing with the dissolution of MMF were stayed on May 17, 1996 by the Court of Appeal.

On June 18, 1996 the Court of Appeal set aside the orders of Smith, J. and on June 27, 1996 Nurgitz, J. signed a consent order appointing Deloitte to act as manager of MMF until further order of the court “to take control of and manage the assets and affairs of Manitoba Métis Federation Inc. (‘M.M.F. Inc.’) in the same

role, and consistent with the same manner and fashion as Deloitte & Touche Inc. has managed the affairs and assets of M.M.F. Inc. since its original appointment ...” as receiver and manager.

This order was by consent of the applicants and the respondent De La Ronde, the leader of the respondent group.

Finally, by order of Nurgitz, J. on July 9, 1996, the assets of MMF were turned over to a representative of MMF.

By supplemental reasons issued September 25, 1996 the Court of Appeal ordered that Deloitte should proceed to present its account for services rendered for taxation and payment by MMF. This was upheld by the Court of Appeal on February 13, 1997 after allowing MMF’s application to be heard on the issue of payment of the account by MMF.