

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION

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NEWS

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ALFRED HEAD ELECTED

Alfred Head was elected Vice-President of The Pas Region at its Regional Committee Meeting on June 28th. Mr Head replaces John Morrisseau who previously held the position, but recently resigned to accept the post of Executive Assistant to the Commissioner of Northern Affairs.

Alfred was born in The Pas and has spent a lifetime of travel and work experience in all parts of Canada and Europe.

A particular highlight of his career was a special constable position with the R.C.M.P. Later he worked as a guide at Flin Flon.

He served for five years with the Canadian Army — most of this time in Europe. After the war, he worked for 18 years as a diamond driller with the Midwest Drilling Company in various parts of Canada's northland, especially the Yukon. About four years ago, Alfred decided to settle down as any young man does, so he returned to The Pas and took up grading at Keewatin Community College and was later hired as instructor aid at the College where he is still employed.

Both Alfred and his wife Margaret have always maintained a real interest in Native people and have devoted a great deal of time in various activities to help Indian and Metis people.

Margaret is well known in the North for her radio programs for Native people. She is also a Board Director of the Native Communications Corporation.

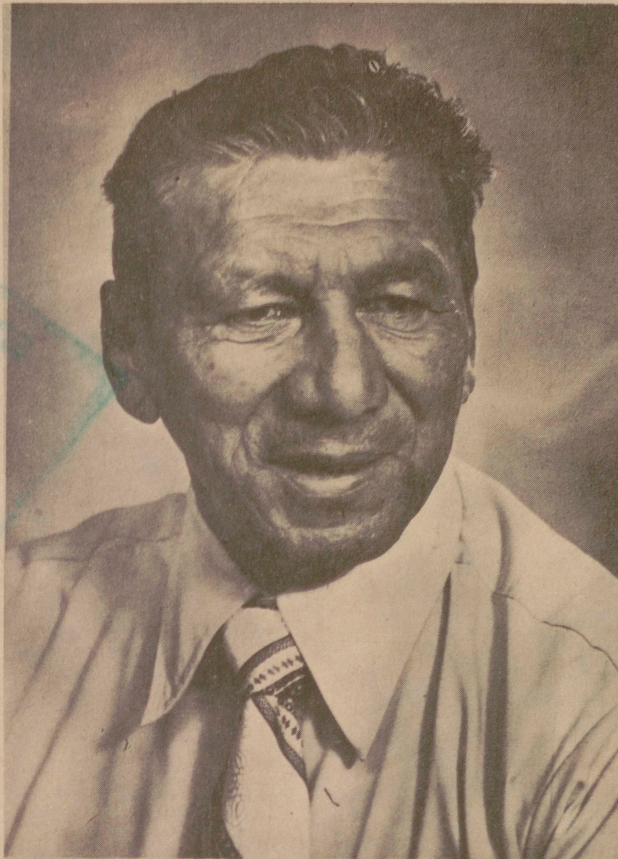
Alfred was elected a Board Director of the Manitoba Metis Federation about 14 months ago. The appreciation that the M.M.F. The Pas Region had for his dedication, sincerity and hard work was expressed in his election to the Vice-Presidency of the Region.

He brings a wealth of experience and understanding of the problems that afflict the Native people of the North. The M.M.F. News extends heartiest congratulations to Mr. Head and welcome him to the Executive-Committee.

Morrisseau Takes Government Post



JOHN MORRISSEAU



ALFRED HEAD

"In Search of A Name"

In our January issue of our newsletter we reported that our newsletter had a new name, "THE NEW NATION."

The Friendship Centre had used this title for their own paper until they ran out of funds. We asked Mr. Munro, the Director of the F. C. if we could use the name "THE NEW NATION." He agreed, but he would now like to have the title back for his own paper. Okay, George, it's all yours!

A number of people have suggested that the Manitoba Metis Federation NEWS is a good title and let's leave it as that. Is it, really???

Well, if you don't think so, how about some ideas. Send your suggestions to:

Larry Amos
Manitoba Metis Federation
388 Donald Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 2J4

John Morrisseau, formerly Vice-President of The Pas Region, resigned that position last week to take up the post of Executive-Assistant to the Commissioner of Northern Affairs.

For the past year John has held the position of Vice-President and was instrumental in introducing many new programs to that area. He was recently a candidate for the Presidency and is well known throughout the Federation.

His new post will keep him in close touch with the Native people of northern Manitoba with whom he has been associated for many years.

John brings a great deal of experience with the social and economic problems in the north and will provide a real contribution to Northern Affairs.

Apologies

The M.M.F. Newsletter has an apology to John and Eleanor Anderson of Dauphin.

Our readers will remember the very fine article called "The Story of the Metis" which we published in our last newsletter.

This excellent article was written by John and Eleanor and we regret that they were not given credit as it should have been done.

WINTER WORKSHOP NEARING COMPLETION

Mr. Joe Venne, our housing co-ordinator advises that the time has been extended until June 16th to have the work completed on the homes being repaired.

There has been a total of 79 homes completed so far, and Mr. Venne is presently visiting areas that may have been missed to finish ordering materials.

Recreational Projects

A number of communities have asked for grants to build recreational facilities such as skating rinks and community halls. There has been a lot of discussion of just how much money will be given to a community hall or sports arena. One of the things to be considered is that these projects would only create one or two jobs and yet some of the communities were asking for \$100,000 and \$200,000. The government was saying "Well, that's too much money to spend just for one or two jobs, after all the idea of Special ARDA is to create as many jobs as possible."

No policy has been set down in writing yet but an official of DREE has told this writer that the Federal Government (through DREE) is ready to put up \$30,000 for each job created up to a maximum of three jobs or \$90,000. The Manitoba Government could put up an equal amount or more. If the Provincial Government did up \$90,000, this would make a total of \$180,000 for the project. And here again the 'magic line' of the 53 parallel comes in, because grants for recreation, communications and transportation are only available to projects north of the 53 parallel. That line runs half-way across Manitoba, just south of Grand Rapids across to the east shore of Lake Winnipeg, south to Manigotogan and eastward to the Ontario border.

One thing we wish to make clear with our readers is that the above changes to special ARDA rules have been recommended. The Federal Government has agreed and it is certain the Manitoba Government will OK the changes real soon. After all Manitoba recommended the changes.

So far about twenty projects have been recommended to the Governments for approval and four have been accepted by the Government. The total cost of all recommended projects is over one million dollars.

* * * * *

Marriage Counsellor asking his first question of male therapy class, "Did you wake up grouchy this morning".

Suffering male, "No, I let her sleep".

* * * * *

What's New With Special ARDA?

People still ask questions about Special ARDA - what is it, is it operating now, who does it help??

Because of these questions, some of you who know all about Special ARDA will forgive the M.M.F. News if we repeat the information about that program.

Special ARDA is a program sponsored by the Federal and Provincial Governments. It is a four year agreement which was signed last year by Angus Spence, President of the M.M.F. and Dave Courchene, President of the MIB and it will end in 1975. It may be carried on after that.

What does it do? It provides grants, not loans, for business co-operatives, and almost any type of operation providing that it meets the following conditions:

- a) Grants under Special ARDA are intended to provide assistance economic development and social adjustment, mainly for Indian and Metis people. At least two-thirds of the people employed with Special ARDA grants must be Native people. The intention of this two-thirds rule is good because the idea behind it is to make jobs for Indian and Metis people. At the same time it also is a big drawback, because in most cases three people are not needed to run the farm or the grocery store or the fishing boat or the gravelling business and so on. For example many Metis farmers were refused grants because they could not employ three heads of families to run their farms. Everybody knows that with today's machinery there is no need to have three men running a farm - everybody except the people in Ottawa. The only people who could be helped under these rules are the big farmers who probably don't need the help anyway. Last week the Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) in Ottawa which runs Special ARDA agreed to change this rule a little. "Three heads of families" has now been changed to read "of the three jobs, one (that of the owner or the sponsor of the project) must be an adult person of legal age that is eighteen years of age; and the other two jobs must be filled by persons who are at least sixteen years old. But a husband and wife working together would be considered as one job only."

This is a very important change because now a person applying for a project grant could have his sons and daughters (but not his wife) as partners or as employees.

But the big drawback still remains, that is the project on the business must employ three people before a grant is given. The M.M.F. and the M.I.B. are not happy with this rule and we have asked the Governments to change it.

- b) Another Rule is that only people who are in communities or areas with at least 30% native people can apply for grants under Special

ARDA. This rule means that people living in Thompson, Dauphin, Brandon, Winnipeg in fact practically all large towns and cities in the Province of Manitoba cannot apply for grants. The letters ARDA stand for Agricultural Rehabilitation Development Act and the Government says the intention of this program is to help people mainly in the rural areas as the name indicates. The truth of the matter is that Native people in the towns and cities need economic help as much as the people in the country and we hope the Governments will come out with a program to help all Native people wherever they may be.

Several weeks ago, the M.M.F. wrote a letter to the Honourable Jean Marchand, the Minister of DREE and asked to meet him to discuss these and other problems, but the answer we got is that they will be talking about this matter with officials of the Provincial Government - which is the usual answer.

- c) Still another Rule says that each person employed with a Special ARDA grant must earn at least \$2,500 a year.

That isn't very much money, but if you got a grant for a tourist lodge and you only operated four months out of the year, then that would mean at least \$600. per month for each employee. How many small tourist lodges can afford to pay that kind of money?

Well that Rule has also been recommended for some change. If accepted, the new guideline will read "that a commercial project in Northern Manitoba would be eligible for assistance if it can generate at least three jobs while providing a minimum of \$10,000 in wages and salaries during a working season of not less than three months."

This new ruling will be of advantage only to some projects where the work season is very short. For example, if a tourist camp operates for four months and hires seven people and an average salary of \$400 per employee per month, the total amount of salaries paid for one year for that project would be 400×4 (months) $\times 7$ (employees) = \$11,200. This would make the project acceptable under the new rule.

Under the old rule each employee would have to earn at least \$2500 for at least three months. If the tourist camp operator paid each of his seven employees \$2500, his total cost would be \$17,500 instead of \$11,200.

Actually, the new ruling would allow more people to be hired over a shorter period of time.

Also this rule applies only to that part of Manitoba which is north of the 53rd parallel.

Special Rehabilitation Services

Pembina House, Ninette, Manitoba

Pembina House is situated on the grounds of the Manitoba Sanatorium, Ninette, Manitoba. Here the Sanatorium Board of Manitoba operates an assessment and social rehabilitation program called Pembina House. All persons are initially referred for a three week assessment period which assesses the clients.

- academic functioning
- intellectual functioning
- social functioning
- motivation and interest
- physical and emotional state

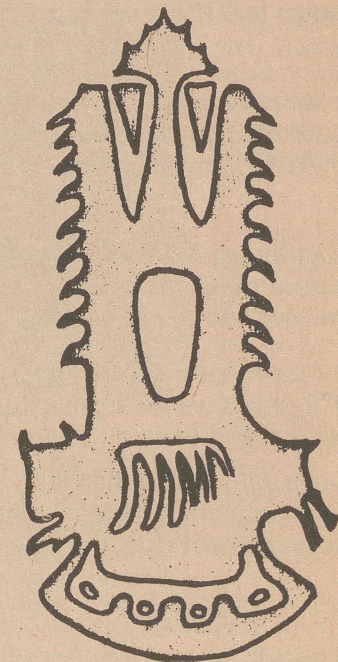
The social rehabilitation program includes work conditioning, social training, and remedial academic up-grading. The program includes such services as training in dress, manners, personal hygiene, care of room, budgeting of money, work habits, social courtesies and confidence building. This is complemented by an academic program that concentrates on communication and language skills. Counselling, guidance and vocational training round out the services to an individual.

In 1971 a total of 214 persons were admitted to the program.

A large percentage of the people making use of Pembina House are Indian and Metis. Al Chartrand of the M.M.F. Headquarters has been invited to go to Ninette to study the situation there. He will then write out a report in greater detail for our readers.

BURSARIES FOR METIS STUDENTS

Are you interested in teaching?
Do you need financial help to take
teacher education?



WRITE
THE DEAN - FACULTY OF EDUCATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R3T 2N2

Indian and Metis Tenants' Association

73 Princess Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Indian and Metis Tenants Association was first put into operation December 1/71 at 73 Princess Street. Financial funding was sponsored from two different grants, one from L.I.P. (Local Initiative Program) and the other from P.E.P. (Provincial Employment Program).

Our main program functions are as follows:

- a) To educate and counsel Indian and Metis Tenants in terms of their rights and responsibilities.
- b) To co-ordinate services, studies and actions having to do with welfare of Indian and Metis tenants.
- c) To increase communication between Indian and Metis and the rest of society. To provide certain direct services to Indian and Metis people under the supervision of duly qualified staff, for example: —
 - information, interpreting, referral and counsel
 - group work consultation
 - friendly visiting
- d) To help provide and maintain good housing for Indian and Metis by preventing landlords from taking advantages of tenants for example: —
 - evaluating homes prior to being occupied
 - preventing illegal entry and evictions
 - dealing with unfair rent increases
 - taking action to increase fines against slum landlords
- e) To deal with grievances of the Indian and Metis tenants in the areas of discrimination, welfare and unsanitary and unsafe housing.
- f) To initiate change in legislation at municipal, provincial and federal levels which will promote our aims and objectives.

The membership of this organization is made up of Indian and Metis living in Greater Winnipeg.

So far we have assisted over 500 members in finding proper accommodations in housing and also to obtain Welfare assistance for their families.

We as an Indian & Metis controlled organization have progressed a long way, with what little funds we have had to work with.

We will be in operation up until September 30, 1972 unless we get further funding from the Provincial and Federal Governments.

If anyone who is of Indian and/or Metis decent and has a problem in obtaining housing in the city, please contact us at the following numbers:

943-1501 943-5823 947-1751

We, the staff, will only be too glad to assist you.

I hope this information will be valuable to someone who is in need.

NORVAL DESJARLAIS
Program Director
Indian & Metis Tenants Association

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION SOUTHEAST REGION NEWS

At our Regional Meeting in April, we had discussed the possibilities of holding a walk-a-thon to raise funds to enable 36 Metis children to take an educational tour of Eastern Canada.

We had applied for this tour through the Secretary of State Department but had been turned down. That is when the Regional Staff along with Constance Eyolfson, the Vice-President decided to have this walk-a-thon. It was originally set for Mother's Day but was postponed until May 28 to allow more time to get sponsors for the participants. By the 28th, we had added Mrs. Diane Prasol, her son David and Lou Harper to our walkers. This gave us a total of seven people walking. We set out at 6:30 a.m. in the rain from Lower Fort Garry to walk twenty miles. Ralph McDougall was the only person to drop out before completing the twenty miles. He walked a distance of 16 miles. To date we have not collected from all who sponsored us but we should raise between \$1,200 and \$1,500.

One of our locals reported a sad and unfortunate incident that happened to one of their members. In the early part of June, this particular family lost a young member of the family. As if this was not bad enough in itself, when they applied for Financial Assistance from Social Services, they were refused because the father was receiving unemployment insurance benefits. The money received from unemployment benefits is barely enough to meet living expenses so there was no way they could pay funeral costs. It seems a terrible shame that when a family is grieving the death of a loved one, that they should have to worry about financial matters.

When the vice-chairman of the local phoned the Eastern Region Social Services office to inquire about help for this family, she was asked if "the kid" had been buried yet. This was not "the kid"; this was a beautiful little child to the bereaved family.

Hopefully this is not a situation that will happen again.

Some time ago our regional started a Development Fund which we hope will grow large enough, to eventually help some Metis people start a small business or expand their present one. So far we have sold raffle tickets, candies and cookies to raise money for this fund. On Friday, June 16, we held a social evening at the Native Club in Winnipeg which was well attended by people from all parts of the Region except our four northern locals: Seymourville, Manigotogan, Berens River and Big Black River. These four communities are comprised mostly of fishermen so it is very difficult for them to leave during the fishing season. Everyone enjoyed themselves and we managed to make a profit, not as large as we had hoped, but we can always try again.

THOMPSON REGION

In a recent visit to God's Lake Narrows, we established a local there, and held elections. The following officers were elected:

Chairman: Mr. Leslie Whiteway
Vice Chairman: Mr. Don Burton
Sec. Treasurer: Mrs. Amy Whiteway

We feel this local will be very active as they are deeply concerned with problems of housing and employment that confront them at the present time.

Last week we were in Wabowden to hold elections. Unfortunately, due to a recent accident which has partially disabled our past chairman, Mr. Lloyd Curl, he felt it necessary to step down as presiding chairman since he was unable to carry out the duties of the office the way he would have liked to. We had a very good turnout for the elections and the following officers were elected:

Chairman: Mr. Albert Sandberg
Vice Chairman: Cathy McLeod
Sec. Treasurer: Mrs. Freda Lundmark

Nickel days are being held this year on July 14, 15, 16 and 17. The four days are being down as follows: Miners' day, Kids' day, International day and Indian day. Several of our councillors are very actively involved in setting up and running some of the following events for Indian Day:

Fish eating contest, jigging, flour-packing, moose and goose calling, fiddling, bannock and tea sale, greased pole, Indian princess pageant and canoe races. There will be an entry fee for adults and children are admitted free. We feel this year that the slate of events that are outlined here, that Indian day will be a great success.

All interested parties are invited to attend the festivities.

— SOUTHWEST REGION

Number of Locals Continues to Grow

Since our last report, four more locals have become affiliated with the Southwest Region. The Southwest Region now consisted of 13 locals.

TURTLE MOUNTAIN LOCAL — This local was originally made up of people from the Boissevain-Delorraine area. They held their elections and became affiliated on April 20th, 1972. Chairman was Manfred Racine, Vice Chairman, Mildred Racine and Secretary Treasurer was Mary Conway. This local has now divided into two locals. Turtle Mountain Local is now covering the Delorraine area and on June 19th elections were held. Mrs. Celia Klassen was elected Chairman, Mr. Cecil Canada, Vice Chairman and Mary Conway remained as Secretary Treasurer.

BOISSEVAIN LOCAL — This local was originally part of the Turtle Mountain local but at a meeting of June 19 when the local decided to divide, because of the travelling distance involved, this local was formed. Chairman will remain Manfred Racine and Vice Chairman, Mildred Racine. The local is presently making plans for the election of a new secretary treasurer as former secretary treasurer, Mrs. Mary Conway is now holding that position in the Turtle Mountain Local.

OAKVILLE LOCAL — This local held their election meeting on May 1st, and became affiliated on May 23rd. Chairman is Ann Rawlings, Vice Chairman, Mrs. Kiskoek, and Secretary Treasurer Mrs. L. M. Novak.

LANGRUTH LOCAL — This local held their election meeting on June 6th. Chairman is Delphis West, Vice Chairman, Jack Mulvena, Secretary Treasurer, Ritchie McKay. This local became affiliated on June 12th when they attended their first regional meeting.

Binscarth Local Starts Community Garden

The Binscarth Local of the Southwest Region has a summer job! They will be weeding rows and rows of potatoes. The local saw the need for a community garden. They held a meeting and decided that they would have a potato garden. Following the meeting, the local contacted the regional office, and our regional manager (Carol King) and Director (Lorne Atkinson) made a trip to Russell immediately to see Lloyd Cavers of the Department of Agriculture to arrange for the materials needed. Mr. Cavers was able to secure land, seed potatoes and fertilizer, etc. for the project. Mr. Cavers and the people of the local have worked side by side on the project, and the Binscarth Local now has a community potato garden of approximately 1½ acres all planted. There are still some things to be planned yet, such as storage place for fall ... but by the time this is needed the local will probably have this problem solved too.

Election Held in Local

Two resignations in the executive of the Valley Local in Minnedosa saw Olive Albert replace Kay Pringle as Secretary Treasurer. Richard Venne resigned as Chairman because of the pressures of schoolwork, and was replaced by Alex Venne.

* * * * *

One bright afternoon a drunk started across the street, only to be knocked down by a runaway St. Bernard dog. The lush picked himself up, only to be felled by a Volkswagon. A passerby rushed over to help him up and asked, "Are you all right?" "I dunno" the drunk mumbled. The dog was okay, it was that damn tin can he had tied to his tail what did the damage".