

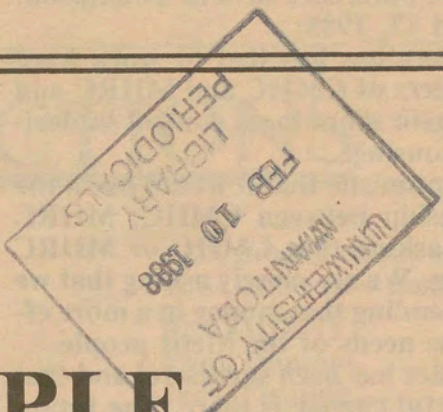
LE MÉTIS

OFFICIAL VOICE OF



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JANUARY 1988



THE RIGHTS OF THE METIS PEOPLE

The paper 'The Rights of the Metis People' was prepared for the Manitoba Metis Self-Government Tripartite Negotiations in order to elaborate on the nature of Metis rights and to indicate clearly to Governments the basis of Metis rights.

This paper is currently under discussion by the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Metis Federation. It is presented in 'LeMetis' in order to facilitate further discussion at the community level.

If you have any views or opinions on the subject of Metis rights, or if you wish to comment on the Metis Rights Paper, please write to the President of the Manitoba Metis Federation, Mr. Yvon Dumont 620-504 Main St., Winnipeg, Man.



'Canada has an outstanding obligation to reach agreement with us regarding our rightful place in the constitution. for our part, we are willing to negotiate arrangements which not only secure our rights as a founding people but which also provide an equitable balance with the rights of all Canadians.'

W.Y.DUMONT
M.M.F. President
October 1987

'The Metis people having entered the Canadian Confederation, on the faith which Canada, as one of the two contracting parties, does not fulfill,

And as the Metis have exhausted. . . all peaceable means of getting satisfaction. . . .

. . . Our honour as a people, however small we are, our honour which has been trampled upon, during so long a time; and so many other facts are there to illustrate how much the Canadian Government have disregarded the Manitoba treaty.

Undoubtedly it is most just that we should, in consequence, resume our former attitude.'

LOUIS RIEL - 1875

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

W. YVON DUMONT
PRESIDENT,
MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION

On the Northern Housing Conference held in Thompson, Manitoba on January 16 and 17, 1988:

'The Manitoba Metis Federation has had to work hard and negotiate with the Ministers of CMHC and MHRC and the President of CMHC to gain more local control in decision making in the area of housing.

I went to this conference optimistic that it would mark the beginning of a new relationship between CMHC, MHRC and the MMF. We are not asking that CMHC or MHRC spend more money in housing. We are merely asking that we be given more of a hand in spending that money in a more effective manner in meeting the needs of the Metis people.

It appears that the conference has been successful and that the political will for meaningful change is there. The future appears to be brighter.'

EDUCATION

The main objectives of the Manitoba Metis Federation are to promote the education development of the Metis people; to promote the history and culture of the Metis; and to propagate the role of Louis Riel and the Metis people in the history and development of western Canada.

To ensure that these objectives are met, the M.M.F. has concentrated work in specific areas. An education co-ordinator was hired in 1984 to co-ordinate all education initiatives and materials accumulated by the M.M.F. to that time, and to further advance the goals and objectives.

The most active area in education is direct **advocacy** for Metis people and communities. This involves daily contact on many issues and necessitates advocacy with the education system, the Minister of Education, schools, school divisions, the public and any others as required. This work has paid off with a greater awareness by Metis people, the education system, and the public at large, on such topics as; streaming (the level of education provided), the true history of Riel and the Metis of Manitoba, The aspirations of the Metis in education, and has increased tremendously the volume of inquiry and participation both by the Metis and Non-Metis on a daily basis.

Work in the area of **oral history and language development** was initiated in 1984 by the President, Yvon Dumont, and was possibly the first venture by the Metis anywhere in Canada into recording and developing oral history through the Michif Languages. The accomplishments from 1984 to 1987 has seen over 100 hours of language materials produced in Michif's French, -Cree, -Saulteaux, and English.

'I think that every person should learn more about the history of their people, including culture and language, so that they can be proud of their heritage. I know myself, that the more I learned about my culture and language, the more I learned about my heritage, the prouder I am of my people. It is by studying ones history, that one really learns and appreciates who he or she is as a person. Not only is it important for the Metis to learn who they are, it is also important for others to learn so they can appreciate the Metis people'.
 Yvon Dumont (1987). sample extract from audiotape no.45.

Work will continue and expand in this area.

In 1985, work was begun on developing the 'Louis Riel Institute'. On the initiative of the President, the institute is gradually becoming a reality. The aspirations for 1988 include formalizing the advocacy aspect of the work and to develop a scholarship and bursary program. As the institute continues to develop, both old and new initiatives can be accommodated.

Measured against the volume of work and the work yet to be done, the major accomplishment would be the developing of the 'Louis Riel Institute'.

DUMONT 'SHARES THE FLAME'



Yvon Dumont and Paul Chartrand, dressed in their Olympic track suits following their run.

MMF President Yvon Dumont was selected to be a torch runner for the Olympic Games in Calgary. His run took place early in the morning on the 14th of January. He carried the flame one kilometer down Fermor Ave. He stated that he was very honored to be able to participate in this very historical event.



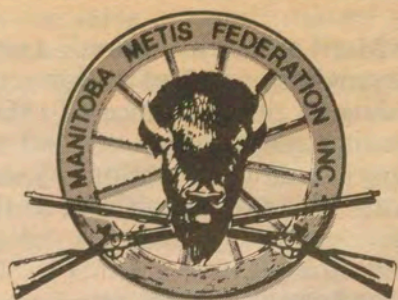
JOHN MCKENZIE with his father PHILIAS

15 year old John McKenzie from Crane River, Manitoba, is on his way to Calgary to compete in the Winter Olympics with the Manitoba Biathlon Team.

John has been competing in the Biathlon (a combination of skiing and shooting) for about 8 years. At the junior Olympic trials in Kenmore, Alberta, John placed 11th overall in Canada.

John is presently residing in Winnipeg and his training consists of many many hours of skiing in the various parks throughout the city. Although his training is exhausting work, he constantly receives valuable encouragement and support from his father, Philius McKenzie, who has been working with John from the very start of his athletic career. As a competitor in the Olympics, John is also going to be a torch runner and he will carry out this honor in Portage La Prairie on the 15th of January.

The Manitoba Metis Federation is very proud of John and Philius and the entire Manitoba Biathlon Team for their efforts and determination and congratulate them in realizing their goal of entering Olympic competition. We also wish them every success at the Calgary games and all future competitions.



THE PAS REGION



**VICE-PRESIDENT
JACK McPHERSON**



**LAURIE FENNER
REGIONAL SECRETARY**

**WALLACE FLEURY
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
OFFICER**

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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BIG EDDY
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PORTAGE
EASTERVILLE
FLIN FLON
GRAND RAPIDS
MAFEKING
MOOSELAKE
NATIONAL MILLS
POWELL
PELICAN RAPIDS
RED DEER LAKE
RED DEER RIVER
SHERRIDON
SNOW LAKE
THE PAS
WANLESS
WESTGATE
YOUNGS' POINT
UMPERVILLE**

On behalf of the regional staff and Board of Directors, I would like to welcome the opportunity of an update on our regional activities since my last report to our paper 'Le Metis'.

Our regional meeting for December came through simply because of the management of our Regional Board of Directors, and of course the co-operation of the locals in which I stated that our region will meet only if we have created a surplus to hold such a meeting. I am very much appreciative to the locals that I have been in contact with and it is with your continued support and co-operation that I feel confident that the Pas Region will run even more effectively than ever before.

Resolutions have been passed at our regional meeting and I have to see that I, as your elected representative of your region, address these resolutions with our President, Yvon Dumont, who has been very supportive of our region. Since I have worked with Yvon, along with Sandra & Stan, we have come a long way. Again, this is only possible with the overwhelming support that we have been receiving from the locals like yourselves.

I have written to Harry Harapiak with the concerns that were raised to myself at the local meetings that I have attended in regards to the Northern Development Agreement. Specifically, reference of the programs under N.D.A. which state that in the case of L.G.D. communities, we are not eligible for assistance under the programs of those agreements and I asked why not. The government has not yet responded, but whatever the outcome, it will be answered to our satisfaction. So as far as the L.G.D. communities and myself are concerned, we will raise this issue further.

I was ecstatic to see our regional delegates turn out to the regional meeting on Dec 5th and 6th of 1987. They bring many important concerns with them and always offer valuable direction to their elected representatives to ensure the continued success of the Pas Region.

At that specific meeting, our President, Yvon Dumont, gave a report on negotiating process of self-government after the First Ministers Conference of March 1987. He stated that we, as Metis people of Manitoba must not lose the momentum or interest generated in the last four years. Further to that, Yvon stated he would like to see a continuation of the tripartite negotiating process developed, for the betterment of Metis people. To let the process die would be a disservice to our people and to the constitutional process as well.

It is encouraging to see that this process is carried through within the leadership of the Manitoba Metis Federation as we are the first Native organization in Canada to enter negotiations of self-government.

I realize that the Provincial Government has been supportive of our movement toward local control but we must do

our part and stand behind our local initiatives. These include economic development, education, our language and culture and especially housing for the Metis people of this province which has constantly been one of my prime concerns.

Just recently, Myself, along with my Board of Directors, Stan and Sandra attended the Northern Housing Conference. We are still reviewing our stand on the provincial discussion paper that was distributed to the delegates at the conference. As far as I am concerned, I will see to it that every local receives a copy of that paper and then we will hold discussion meetings to address the pros' and cons' of that proposal. While I want to be comfortable that we had a successful meeting in housing I want to express caution for the simple fact that I want proper housing for Metis people. On that note I would like to commend the Provincial Government for taking a step toward positive changes in the housing issue. It has been a long time coming. It is about time that the Metis people participate in government decisions regarding matters directly affecting them and making sure that their particular needs are met. I tend to believe that the Conference added pride to what we have been saying since we have told them that these houses are not up to par with the conditions and environment surrounding us. In my opinion, our work has just begun with that discussion paper, so let's get this show on the road. To be successful we must stand behind our leadership, both at the provincial and regional levels and of course the grass roots level.

It is time that we showed both the provincial and federal governments that we are not fence sitters and can play a lead role in getting what we justly deserve. This being, decent affordable housing for the Metis people that they can proudly call home. Achieving this, we may also take pride in being Metis and help to correct the unjust and distorted picture given of us throughout Canadian history.

On a more local note, I would like to welcome aboard at our regional office, Mr. Don Prateau as our regional planning officer of tripartite. Wallace Fleury as housing development officer and Thresa Taylor as housing councillor. I am confident that they will serve our regional office to the best of their abilities. On a sadder note, we will be seeing our present H.D.O. Deanna LaJambe leave our region to take a position at Head Office. I am sure that she will represent us well at the Provincial level. All the best of luck, lady, you will be missed but we wish you well in all your future endeavours.

This will conclude my report for this issue and I look forward to seeing you all at the local meetings and talking part in your organization. That linkage called communication should always continue for the betterment of our Metis people. On behalf of the regional office I would like to close by saying 'Au Revoir till next time'.

continued from pg. 1

WE ARE METIS!!

Our cultural distinctiveness and our common political consciousness developed long before the establishment of the Canadian federation. For contemporary Canadians who are descendants of immigrants to Canada, it is easy to forge an identity and a national consciousness which focuses on the Canadian state. For the Metis people, there are good reasons why identification with Canada is not as readily acceptable. The Metis people ante-dates the State, and the union of Canada which came later was based on a bargain that Canada and Manitoba reneged on after 1870. The Metis are one of the 'founding' peoples of confederation, but have been denied their rightful place in the constitutional scheme of things.

In this regard the Metis struggle for last place with the other Aboriginal peoples has not gone unnoticed. A recent commentator was moved to write:

Any discussion of just where the native peoples of Canada fit within the various schemes of things confronts one immediate and overriding problem: the native peoples simply do not fit. Attempts to make them fit have failed constantly but still they continue. An indisputable fact of Canadian life is that about one citizen in twenty has no place in that life. What is even more tragic is that the native peoples are the direct descendants of those who settled the land ages before the 'ethnic' groups and even the two 'charter' groups arrived. They are at the same time Canadas' original people and her national shame, one that has not gone unnoticed in the court of world opinion'.

The constitutional and political plight of the Metis should be well appreciated by our Francophones Compatriotes, 'les negres blancs de l'amerique.' (The White Niggers of America)

Our identity as a distinct people has been, at times, forged upon the battlefield. 'Falcons Song' (La chanson de Pier-rich' Falcon) is part of our cultural testimony to one of the early victories against 'les Anglais' who came 'pour piller not' pays.' (The English who came to steal our land.)

We would hope today to improve the relations between our peoples, compared to those expressed by our ancestors on the occasion of that battle; 'Mr. Robinson said that we were blacks, and he shall see that our hearts will not belie the color of our bodies!'

Although our ancestors were children of the unions between North American Aboriginal (Indian) mother and European fathers, They developed into a separate people with the necessary group consciousness to promote their cause collectively. A Metis was not a French-Canadian, or Canadien, nor a Scotsman. Neither was he an Indian. Accordingly, we sometimes waged war against our maternal relatives, as we did against our paternal kin. Canadian historians have recorded the last great battle between the buffalo hunters of Saint-Francois Xavier and the Sioux on the Grand Coteau of the Missouri River south-east of Minot in present day Dakota. That battle, fought in July, 1851 was only one event in a series of battles and peace treaties that marked the forging of our destiny as a people.

We did not choose to assimilate either as European-Canadians nor as Indians but decided to fight to maintain the dual heritage born, as we were, of the European-Canadian commitment to the aboriginal peoples of this land.

Who will now come to denounce us as illegitimate aspirants to our identity as a distinct people?

And by 1869, when Canada tried to force a premature delivery of tits offspring in the Red River, the Metis were there to resist 'les Anglais' by force. Our small arms ammunition mattered then, when Anglo gunpowder was distanced from our homeland by nearly impenetrable forests, lakes and swamps, the homeland of the Ojibwa, and the scourge of the new nation nurtured by a culture that required rail lines, steam power and telegraph poles. It was the Metis people, under the leadership of the young Louis Riel, who rallied the diverse elements of Red River to repel the Canadian attempt to sell us part of a real estate deal to a company of adventurers based in London.

President Riel, head of the provisional government, sent delegates to Ottawa to negotiate the terms of entry into confederation. That included our own special delegate, Abbe Ritchot, who was sent to represent the Metis interests in particular and who subsequently did most of the negotiating. It may be thought, perhaps, that our interpretation of the events of 1869-70 is colored by our political ambitions; let then, the words of an 'anglo protestant' historian who depicted the Metis as a band of primitives describe the circumstances leading to the provinces entry into Confederation.

W.L.Morton described the Metis as a new 'nation', a unique ethnic and political reality, whose sense of nationhood underlies a proper understanding of the resistance of 1869.

Morton asserts, 'The Canadian government. . . had no idea it was dealing with a corporate entity, a 'nation' by sentiment and by their own claim. . .' As to the objects of the Metis people, Morton wrote,

Underlying all the Red River Resistance was the question of title to land. Fur had been the source of livelihood and wealth under the old order. But the new order that was coming was agricultural, and the wealth would be land. . .

And further, Morton emphasized that the reason Riels people wished to enter Canada as a Province was to

. . . make such terms with Canada as would enable the people of the north-west to control its local government. . . and as would allow them to possess, as individuals and as a people enough of the lands of the North-West to survive as a people, and to benefit by the enhancement of the wealth of the north-west that settlement would cause.

We claim all the rights of 'peoples' under international law and according to all the high principles which promote the cause of peoples everywhere. The dynamics of self-determination exist as a world wide phenomenon, notwithstanding some apparently irreconcilable pronouncements of the United Nations.

Section 1 of the Manitoba act, 1870 represents special recognition, in the constitution of Canada, of the distinct, corporate character of the Metis people. That section provided for a grant of lands from the public lands, for the purpose of extinguishing the Indian title of the Metis. Indian title is in its nature, a collective interest and represents the legal interests recognized by Canadian law deriving from the use and occupation of public lands prior to the establishment of the settler system. The special grant of lands was agreed to by Canada after elaboration by Abbe Ritchot of the special, national interests of the Metis. The failure of the Governments to perform their obligations derived from s.31 is well documented. Because of that failure, the obligations of government to provide a land base for the continued survival of the Metis people, are outstanding.

But the Manitoba Treaty was more than an agreement that Canada was to recognize the particular right of the Metis to land. It was a confederation pact. It was the basis upon which the Metis agreed, at a time when we held the upper hand in the balance of power, to join the fledgling federal state. The Manitoba Treaty was a bargain between the Metis and the French and English Canadian Confederation. The Manitoba Treaty was essential to the creation of this province. In 1870 Red River was Metis territory held under the acknowledged sovereignty of the British Crown. No transfer of nearly a third of a continent to Canada would have been possible without agreement to the Metis. That is so because the British Parliament would not contemplate permitting a transfer without Canadian officials first coming to terms of agreement with the local Red River population. And the Red River population was, by numbers, by culture, and by power, Metis!

The Manitoba Treaty was a pact between peoples, only a portion of which was reduced to provisions of the Manitoba Act, 1870. The most important element of that pact, for us, was the promise of an amnesty to all, including Riel and Lepine. The promise was well understood to be a condition precedent to the agreement of the Council of the Provisional Government. Once agreement was secured, Canada turned its back on political honesty and integrity, and treated two Metis leaders as criminals! By doing so, Canada failed to abide by the conditions precedent agreed to between itself and Abbe Ritchot. By treating Riel and Lepine as criminals, Canada shattered the prospect of political legitimacy for the Manitoba act. Since then, that Act remains as the bare, legal, but illegitimate offspring that was aborted by Canadas' hidden agenda to grant legal rights in the Manitoba Act but to disdain the Manitoba Treaty and to send rabid troops to terrorize the Metis population and forever condemn the province to the role of an imposter. And the Province has done well in this role, by actions ranging from special legislation to defraud Metis children out of their Manitoba Act lands, to unconstitutional amendments of the language rights secured by the Metis for nearly one hundred years in the face of judicial pronouncements on the invalidity of the provincial measures.

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION INC.

We are well aware of this bitter lesson from our history about the value of constitutional guarantees in the hands of renegade governments. It is for this reason that we shall continue to strive for the entrenchment of justiciable rights that are not subject to unilateral amendment by the province.

The onus is upon the government parties to show us that a new deal can be struck. Sections 23,31 and 32 of the act of 1870 can be injected with new life. The status of s.23 it is to be noted, requires that representatives of the Francophone people of Confederation participate in the elaboration of its contemporary constitutional significance.

Because of Canadas' refusal to grant an amnesty to Riel and Lepine, the Manitoba Act, 1870 and the Constitution of Canada generally, have no legitimacy. Nevertheless, we continue to strive to find in Confederation what Louis Riel sought even after Canadas' breach of faith, namely, 'that personal security and that public liberty which we require and is our undoubted right'.

Even if the Manitoba Act were supposed to be valid, the Canadian and Manitoba governments have been guilty of actions and omissions which amount to a fundamental breach of their obligations contained in that Confederation pact. Consequently, the Metis as a people can not in justice be bound by its terms.

The breaches of faith by the governments were such as to shock the conscience of reasonable men. It was William Leggo, an officer of the Manitoba courts, who said in giving testimony at an 1881 provincial commission to inquire into the frauds and abuses which attended land alienations from Metis infants to land speculators: 'I never suspected for a moment that a system which turned out to be so vicious could possibly exist in any civilized country!')

The powerlessness of the Metis, and the audacity of the new rulers of Manitoba, are revealed by the facts that the system Leggo referred to was the court system, and that the response of the legislature was to retrospectively validate all the 'irregular' transactions it had uncovered!

All the rights of the Metis are not limited by the terms of the Constitutional provisions of Canada. Some are supraconstitutional in nature. We are human beings, and as such we claim all the human rights recognized by domestic and international law. It is not trite to make these statements, in light of the vigorous opposition we have encountered in seeking these basic rights which are not dependent upon any action of the state. Some individual human rights can not be enjoyed unless the group with which the individual chooses to associate has the collective right to establish institutions necessary for the exercise of those rights.

The existence of our collective human rights posits a corresponding duty of the government parties to act so as to permit the exercise of those rights. It is not a political concession but a sense of duty, then, that must motivate the government parties in the negotiations for the establishment of Metis institutions of self-government. It has been observed that the individual at the core of human rights concerns is, '... man in his national, cultural, and spiritual environment,' and 'stripped of his environmental, national and cultural characteristics, spiritually adrift from his past and loosed from his traditional moorings, man loses his essential humanity.' For the Metis person, his culture can define his whole being, as a source of standards of conduct and self-esteem.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights declares that 'All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. . .' and, further, that, 'Everyone is entitled to a social order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this declaration can be fully realized.'

Article 27 of the United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides for the recognition of collective rights to, inter alia, enjoyment of culture and use of language. The languages of the Metis have been eroded by the educational systems of the province, and practices of cultural genocide are still felt by the uprooted Metis children who were sold to foreigners by the provinces child welfare system. Such practices, as well as the continued refusal of Canada and Manitoba to remedy their effects, are incompatible with the norms declared in the Canadian Bill of Rights, that acknowledge the dignity and worth of the human person.

We are determined to work towards the attainment of conditions in which our individual and collective human rights can be exercised. Some of these collective rights are entrenched now in the Constitution of Canada, including the Aboriginal rights of the Metis recognized in s.35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 and s.31 of the Manitoba Act, 1870. That

title has not been extinguished, and there remains an outstanding constitutional obligation to provide a land base in the province.

One of the rights referred to in s.35 of the Act of 1982 that has been recognized by both government parties is the right of self-government. If the right of self-government is to be defined by agreement in such a way as to accommodate the existing constitutional framework, it will be necessary to reach agreement respecting institutional and other arrangements to rectify the historical inequalities which have placed the Metis in a disadvantaged position in the distribution of goods and services. Canada and the province have, by their actions and omissions, irretrievably damaged the shape of Confederation as envisaged by the 'founding peoples' in 1870. Nevertheless, we are encouraged by the commitment of the Prime Minister to do 'constructive damage' to the status quo. That constructive damage must occur in the context of national endeavours respecting the entrenchment of all Aboriginal peoples' rights, and must, accordingly, damage the myth of two or three founding peoples.

Section 25 and 35 of the Constitution act, 1982 require the Prime minister to acquiesce to constructive damage to the status quo. The Constitution recognized the existence of rights of Aboriginal peoples and must consequently recognize at least the right of Aboriginal peoples to have their rights as peoples accommodated within Canada. Although the particular rights are not expressly identified, the rights of peoples must be recognized in the penumbral emanations from those constitutional provisions.

History evidences the fact of our non-participation in the life of Canada, in the sharing of its wealth. As a colonized people, we have a particular right recognized at international law:

The struggle of peoples under colonial, alien domination and racist regimes for the implementation of their right to self-determination and independence is legitimate and in full accordance with the principles of international law.

Circumstances, and our concern still to search for a balance between our rights as a people and the rights of other Canadians in 1987, have brought us to the negotiating table to consider what accommodations the new State now offers us. We are a small people and can not contemplate a resort to the military confrontations of long ago. We seek a better deal for our people, we seek a legacy of pride to pass onto our children. We do not yet accept that the process of constitutional discussions has failed because failure connotes a genuine attempt at success by all participants.

So we will try again. We will try to establish a system under which our children can become better educated and better able to forge their own destiny in the homeland where we have become outcasts. But in making accommodations to damage the status quo we owe it to our children to maintain our honor as a people - and to accept our place in Canada only on the basis of the rights that we have as a people and as an equal partner in Confederation. The Canadian response to this 'unfinished business' and the final solutions it offers will reveal the values the present governments wish to assert!

NOTE: If you wish to receive a list of reference notes that the above was created from please write to 'Le Metis', 620-504 Main St, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Message from the Editor:

Hi! I just want to pass the message on that the response to our paper has been very positive. Interest from readers is increasing all the time and becoming more widespread with each issue. I would also like to thank all the regions that have been submitting articles to me for publication. A special thanks will have to go out to Jack McPherson for the effort he made in designing the masthead for the Pas Region. It's very good. If anybody wishes to submit information for the paper, keep in mind that the deadline date for submissions falls on the 15th of every month. So let your locals and the rest of us know what is happening in your region, send the articles to:

**LE METIS
620-504 Main St.
Winnipeg, Manitoba.
R3B 1B8**

METIS NATIONHOOD A METIS STORY

As we began to do in the previous issue, the Winnipeg Region report will again focus on Metis Nationhood. This month features Stirling A. Ranville, Board of Director, Winnipeg Region.

Stirling Ranville is a Board of Director with the Winnipeg Region. He was elected in May of '86. At present he is the executive Director of the Indian and Metis Freindship Center of Winnipeg and has been for the last four years. He is now the president of the Aiyawin Corporation(a non-profit Native housing group) and a Board of Director of Native Employment Services. He also sits on the advisory board of the Family Resource Center(a sattelite of Mary Mound House for Girls). He is presently an ex-officio board member of the Me-dian Credit Union, Wpg.

Stirling was born and raised in the Metis community of Eddystone. He is the son of Emile and Mary(nee Spence)Ranville. He was born into a family of eight brothers and three sisters. He attended elementary school in Eddystone, then went on to Ste. Rose Collegiate. He migrated to the city, like so many others, seeking employment. He experienced the hardships and frustrations of adjusting to urban life as a Native person. Except for a couple of years following employment in Calgary, Stirling has been a citizen of Winnipeg for the last 26 years.

Stirling and his wife Pauline are the parents of seven children plus their home is home to many foster children. Their children are Anita 24, Wayne 23, Sioux 17, Jonas 15, Rocky 7, Pete 5, and Benjamin 3, and of these, five are still living at home. Stirling places a lot of emphasis on the family structure and it is constantly a source of great happiness in his life.

Stirlings' pastime is his four prized racehorses, (Fair & Faithful, Katzies Flyte, Spookum Skookum, and Dancing Horizon).

He is also very musically inclined. At one time he was the manager and Producer of the 'Stirling Silver Band' which employed five people on a part-time basis in the feild of Country Music Entertainment'. Prior to this, he was self-employed in managing and directing two country and rock bands. He looked after the complete administration that included hiring, payroll, public relations and allied duties.

Stirlings involvement with Native organizations started at quite an early time in his life. Some of these past experiences are:

- The Manitoba association of Native Youth, Winnipeg.
- Executive Director and public relations man for the Winnipeg North Local of the Manitoba Metis Federation.
- Manitoba Metis Federation as manager director of putting on a play in Manitoba communities, which was publicly funded by a Canada Works Program and the M.M.F.
- Chairperson of the Red River Local of the M.M.F.
- Board of Director of Aiyawin Corporation which is a non-profit housing group.
- Founding Board of Director of Native Employment Services
- Board of Director of the Indian and Metis Freindship Centre.
- Met with Native Policy Committee to the Manitoba Government and spoke in favor of resolutions concerning Native people in Manitoba.
- Sat on Property committee to the Board of Directors at the Indian and Metis Freidship Center.
- Conducted bible studies at the Indian and Metis Friendship center.
- Was active in halfway house work with Pritchard House Alcohol Rehabilitation Center for four years.
- House parent for Manitoba Indian Association for two years.
- President of the Winnipeg Mets Hockey Club
- Secretary-treasurer for inter-south intermediate hockey association
- Active member of the Mizpah Prayer and Christian Community
- Conducted weekly bible studies and counselling at Stony Mountain Penetentiary in Manitoba.

- The Canadian Forces(ARMY)(obtained a radio and telegraph operations course through the Canadian Armed Forces).
- Worked in construction as an apprentice and after completing four years of a Journeyman Bricklayers course assumed the position of Journeyman Bricklayer.

The turning point in Stirlings' life was in 1982 when he made an application for the position of Executive Director of the Calgary Friendship Center and narrowly lost the competition after being screened down to the last three applicants. From then on his interests changed from construction to Native issues and concerns.

A personal goal is to see a completion of construction to the new Indian and Metis Friendship Center in Winnipeg. Further, he would like to see himself as the Executive Director over-seeing the new center, and its programs during the initial stages of development and implementation.

His aim is at getting Native people to organize themselves in solidarity. 'Different Native organizations should enhance each other, rather than feel that they're in competition. The system of government funding in the past was designed to divide and conquer Native people. This accomplished by instilling in us the notion that we had to fight over what was available. Native people should recognize and understand what happened and not again fall prey in the same trap. By political solidarity we can then demand our needs and rights'.

-'Although the governments define us as aboriginal people, I feel that I am Metis. I feel the background, culture and the historical significance of Metis as an individual nation'.

At the time of writing Stirling looks forward to a very challenging but prosperous new year and wishes everyone the same.

Next month the Winnipeg region will feature Don Roulette, Board member.



STIRLING RANVILLE



NEW STAFF

NANCY CHARTRAND

Due to increased expansion, the Manitoba Metis Federation announces the addition of Nancy Chartrand as secretary to the tripartite negotiating team. Nancy has had experience with us in the past and we are pleased to have her back with us.

SOUTHEAST REGION

Greetings from the South-east region Vice-President Joyce Gus and staff: Rhonda Houston (secretary), Lionel Lepin (housing development officer), Denise Thomas (liason officer), Ruby Kocis (housing councillor) and Anne Clarke (janitor).

This month we hired two new staff members; Denise Thomas, on a short term position as a tripartite self-government liason worker, and Ruby Kocis on a long term position as a housing counsellor. You will meet these new staff members at our regional meeting which will be held in the Pine Falls Legion Hall on february 6th and 7th 1988. We hope to see you there.

THOMPSON REPORT

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Manitoba Metis Federation., Thompson Region is now operating under the new name of the Northern Metis Council Inc.

The Manitoba Metis Federation., Thompson Region now operating under the new name of the Northern Metis Council Inc., is in the process of issuing new membership cards and updating their membership list within their region.

A representative of the Northern Metis Council Inc., will be travelling out to each and every local community to assist the local chairperson in this matter.

Check the local newspaper or with your local chairperson in this matter.

Membership cards will be available from 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. every wednesday and friday at 207-83 Churchill Drive in Thompson Northern Metis Council Inc., Regional office.

Any members wishing to register may do so at that time.

THANK-YOU

The Manitoba Metis Federation Inc., Northern Metis Council Inc., Vice-President, Buddy Meade would like to thank all those kind people who bought tickets at the December 18, 1987 Monster Bingo in support of Sam and Cynthia Brightnose of Pikwitonei.

\$284.00 was donated on your behalf for Christmas gifts to the Brightnose children, who unfortunately lost both their parents just before Christmas in a fatal accident.

NORTHERN METIS COUNCIL INC., HOST 14th ANNUAL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

The Northern Metis Council Inc., is hosting its 14th Annual Hockey Tournament in Thompson, Manitoba on March 5th and 6th, 1988 at the C.A. Nesbitt Arena.

Vice-President, Buddy Meade stated, that this years tournament is not only a wide-open tournament which will see competition from 12 to 16 hockey teams from all across Manitoba, but there is also going to be many other events.

The \$10,000 monster bingo at the legion hall and square dancing competitions prior to the dance and social at the St. Josephs Hall beginning at 1:00 P.M. on March 5th, 1988.

Don't forget the highlight of this years tournament, the Miss Tournament Queen Pageant, which is to be the first one, ever in conjunction with our tournament.

As Mr. Meade put it, this is going to be one of the best yet. Something for everyone young and old, so don't miss it, for only you'll be disappointed.

For more tournament information call 778-7301 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



DARLENE DREOLENE

I really feel at home with the Manitoba Metis Federation as I have had ten years experience with the Northern Metis Council in the past..

Some of my other past employment activities include working with the New Careers Program in 1975 as an Education Councillor. From there I transferred to the relocative program where I worked as a family counsellor co-ordinator. The program provided assistance to families relocating in Thompson.

While employed in this program I also assisted in program budget preparations, financial reports, organizing seminars and training sessions to help ensure that the program was effective and smooth running.

I also worked at the Northern Inn and Steakhouse as manageress from 1985-1987.

I am now employed with the Northern Metis Council as a Tripartite Self-Government Liason Worker. My duties will include:

- 1) To carry out research activities and conduct need assesments.
- 2) Ensure a flow of communication and dispersal of information between Head Office and the membership.
- 3) Organize and co-ordinate Tripartite workshops at the community level.

BEING METIS IS, STEPPING TO THE RED RIVER JIG.

NORTHERN HOUSING CONFERENCE Jan 16-17, 1988 THOMPSON, MANITOBA

Recognizing the housing problems faced by northern residents, the Manitoba government wants to give residents of remote northern communities the opportunity to become directly involved in the delivery of housing in those communities.

The community involvement approach is to include design, construction, and maintenance of homes by northerners.

The province felt that some housing issues have been longstanding and need to be changed.

A community based approach has been suggested which would create local employment, improve the skills and employment opportunities of northern residents, increase local control, improve affordability and make better use of available resources.

Although preliminary at this point, the details of the proposal will have to be worked out over the next few months with all parties concerned. It is hoped that these negotiations will result in a more effective and locally sensitive northern housing strategy.

These proposed changes of control and responsibility for housing will involve NACC and the Manitoba Metis Federation. Much of the work will involve planning, identification of need, client selection, property management, maintenance and organization of local labor. The current program finances housing projects in communities with a population of less than 2,500 and has been criticized for red tape and poor construction.

If an improved strategy can be developed around the proposed changes, it would be placed in accordance with communities willingness to operate within this framework and the development of necessary skills provided through training supports by government agencies and the Manitoba Metis Federation.

This is to ensure there is equality between owners and renters of existing units. The Manitoba Metis Federation and NACC supported the proposal but were concerned on how it would be monitored. Thompson region vice-president Buddy Meade, requested a task force be set up to review the progress of the proposal regularly.

M.M.F. President Yvon Dumont stated that given the resources available at the present time, more quality houses can be built. He stated, 'We're not asking for more money, just give it to us and we will deliver a lot more homes for a lot less money'.

TRIPARTITE SELF-GOVERNMENT ORIENTATION WORKSHOP

On January 20, 1988 an orientation workshop took place at the St. Regis Hotel. The President, the regional vice-presidents, head office staff and newly hired tripartite liason workers were all in attendance for the day long workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to brief the new workers of the tripartite process to date and outline the future plan of action for the tripartite negotiating team.

The new workers were also familiarized with the various departmental operations of head office. The general consensus following the workshop indicated that it was successful and very helpful for the new workers and everyone else concerned.

We extend a warm welcome to our workers and wish them every success in their endeavours.



The new workers are, from L to R;

- GILBERT PRANTEAU - Tripartite Liason Supervisor
ANNA SLEWCHUCK - Southwest Region
LORNA PAUL - Winnipeg Region
GAIL SEREDA - Northwest Metis Council
DARLENE DREOLINE - Thompson Region
DENISE THOMAS - Southeast Region
DON PRANTEAU - The Pas Region

The M.M.F. Christmas party was held at the Brittany Inn on December 18, 1987. The highlight of the evening was a special tribute paid to our President, Mr. Yvon Dumont. Some of the guest speakers that paid tribute were: Mrs. Theresa Dumont (Yvons' mother), Mr. Paul Chartrand, Mrs. Maureen McMillan, Claire Riddle (vice-president of the Winnipeg region), Billyjo DeLaRonde (M.M.F. executive director). Everyone had a few kind and sometimes humorous words for the President as well as a special gift. As a special surprise and unknown to Yvon, all the immediate members of his family including his grandmother were in attendance.

The food was excellent, the entertainment was very good and the activities ran smoothly.

Santa Claus, disguised as the Vice-President for the Interlake Region, made his appearance, bringing joy to all the women and distributing gifts to all.

Special thanks to:

Reg and Beryl Bouvette who graciously donated their time and talent as part of the entertainment.

-to MMF members -**Mervin Moar**
-**Audreen Hourie**
-**Cheryl Dumont**
-**Stirling Ranville**

-to those MMF members from out of town:
-**Deanna LeJamb (the Pas)**
-**Lorie Penner (the Pas)**
-**Mr. & Mrs. Peter Klassen (Deloraine)**

-to the christmas party committee:
-**Mervin Moar**
-**Debbie DeLaRonde**
-**Gord Smith**

-to those who helped decorate:
-**Cheryl Dumont**
-**Donna Ranville**
-**Mervin Moar**
-**Gord Smith**

-to the official photographer:
-**Rod Carleton**

-to the Master of Ceremonies
-**Ed Swain**

From the many positive comments we received, the party was a great success.

We wish to thank everyone again who participated and we hope to see you all again next Christmas.



Have our eyes deceived us? No! That really is **AUDREEN HOURIE** in the dress.



THERESA DUMONT
(Yvons' mom)



SANTA



from L to R, **Beryl and Reg Bouvette**,
Stirling Ranville and **Trevor Smith**.



YVON DUMONT accepting a surprise gift from **Billyjo DeLaRonde**

The M.M.F. Annual Assembly will be held March 25, 26, 27, 1988 in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The M.M.F. election will be held on April 20, 1988. 8:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.