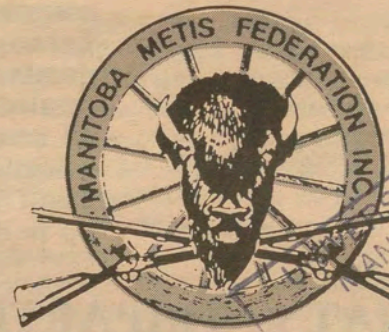


LE MÉTIS

OFFICIAL VOICE OF



JUN 23 1988

LIBRARY
PERIODICALS

1988 ELECTIONS

The 1988 elections of the Manitoba Metis Federation took place on the 19th. of April, 1988. This election had more votes cast than any other election in the Federation's history with approximately 17,700 votes being cast overall. The phones at Head Office were kept busy well into the night and early hours of the morning as the results came in from across the province. After the dust had settled and the results were tallied up, **YVON DUMONT** emerged victorious as the **Provincial President** for his third consecutive term. About 50 people kept a vigil at Head Office for the final results to come in. The announcement of Yvon Dumont's victory came in at about 2:30 in the morning.

Former Northwest Metis Council Vice-President, **Jack Fleming**, came second and in a statement following his defeat, Fleming congratulated Yvon and stated that he would add his support to Yvon on his long term initiatives for the betterment of Manitoba's Metis people. **John Morrisseau** trailed third in the race.

The **Southwest Region** saw an upset with **John Lavallee** taking the Position of Vice-President from incumbent **Ron Erickson**. The **Vice-Presidents** elected were, **RON RICHARD** (Northwest Metis Council), **BUDDY MEADE**, (Thompson Region), and **JACK MCPHERSON** (The Pas Region). The 1988 MMF elections also brought about several changes on the **Board of Director** standings. Board members elected were, **MORLEY SIMARD** and **DENISE THOMAS**, (Southeast Region), **ROBERT GAUDRY** and **BRUCE LAVALLEE** (Interlake Region), **DON ROULETTE** and **DAVID CHARTRAND** (Winnipeg Region), **ELBERT CHARTRAND** and **ROSEMARY MCPHERSON** (Northwest Metis Council).

All in all, the 1988 elections ran reasonably smooth considering the large turnout at the polls. Many thanks must be extended to Chief Electoral Officer **LAURA GUIBOCHE** for handling the election responsibility. Thanks also to the many people who helped out where they could. The Manitoba Metis Federation wishes to thank all the winners and candidates of the election. We look forward to working with all of you in the future. The job and challenge that lie ahead will require co-operation and dedication from all of us if we are to meet our goals. We've come a long way in the last 20 years, and together we will go a lot further.

The complete results of the 1988 MMF elections are as follows;

PRESIDENT

Yvon Dumont.....3031, elected.
Jack Fleming.....2536
John Morrisseau.....1702

VICE-PRESIDENTS

THE PAS

Jack McPherson.....522, elected
Hubert Sinclair.....505

NORTHWEST METIS COUNCIL

Ron Richard.....502, elected
Garry Anderson.....469
Leonard Chartrand.....146
Doreen Wood.....135

SOUTHWEST

John Lavallee.....328, elected
Ron Erickson.....316
Norval Desjarlais.....110
Claudette Andrushuk.....71

THOMPSON

Buddy Meade.....484, elected
Greg McIvor.....246
Gilbert Pranteau.....179

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

INTERLAKE

Bruce Lavallee.....445, elected
Robert Gaudry.....425, elected
James Cumberland.....233
Helgi Einnarson.....198
Edwin Lucier.....86
N. Pinder.....60

SOUTHEAST

Morley Simard.....226, elected
Denise Thomas.....195, elected
Lionel Lepine.....184
R. Lamoureux.....176
Henry Phillips.....159

NORTHWEST METIS COUNCIL

Elbert Chartrand.....560, elected
Rosemarie McPherson.....412, elected
Irvin Moar.....364
Ron Zong.....364
Ted Chartrand.....323

WINNIPEG

David Chartrand.....921, elected
Don Roulette.....594, elected
Stirling Ranville.....547

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION INC.

The first annual Tripartite Self-Government Assembly was held on March 25, 26, 1988 at the Delta Inn in Winnipeg. Approximately 450 people attended the 2 day assembly. Workshops in the areas of Education, Housing, Economic Development and Child and Family Services dominated the assembly. Details of the workshops will be printed in the next issue of Le Metis. Delegates arrived from all across the province to participate in the assembly and assembly organizers felt that the event ran very smoothly. The Tripartite Negotiations are ongoing and you will be kept up to date in future issues of this paper.

WHAT IS TRIPARTITE ??

The kits that were handed out at the Tripartite annual assembly contained a full explanation of what the Tripartite negotiations are all about. In view of the fact that not all interested people could attend and receive this information, we are reprinting that portion here to assist in answering any questions you may have on this important subject.

Recently, the MMF has been, through its officials, talking to officials of the Province of Manitoba and officials of Canada about 'Metis Self-Government'. The talks have been called 'Tripartite' because they are between the three parties mentioned. This report will explain these talks.

BACKGROUND

When Canada expanded itself westward and Manitoba joined it as a Province in 1870, some arrangements were made in the Constitution of Canada, to look after the interests of the Native peoples who lived here, the Indians and the Metis.

The Constitution of Canada is the basic law of the land that must be followed by governments. The governments of Canada and of Manitoba can only do what the Constitution permits. On one hand, they cannot pass laws that are contrary to the laws of the Constitution. On the other hand, they are obliged to do what the Constitution may require.

In 1870, the Constitution required Canada to enter into treaties with the Indian peoples, and it did that in 1871. For the Metis, the Constitution required that a grant of lands be made to us. The MMF is now involved in a court case to argue that the Metis were cheated out of those lands. Today, both Indian peoples and the Metis are not getting their fair share of the wealth and opportunities of this country. Our peoples are not getting the jobs, the education, the health, the good life that is enjoyed by the general population of this country. Some think that things could be better if the native peoples were able to run things themselves - to govern themselves. But there is nothing in the Constitution now that could let that happen. The Constitution gives power to govern only to the federal and provincial governments. Between 1983 and 1987, there were meetings between Canada, the Provinces, and spokesmen for the Native peoples, to see if there was enough agreement to change the Constitution so that Native peoples could govern themselves within Canada. The agreement that the law of the Constitution requires, to make the change, was never reached. These meetings failed. The Constitution does not require any more such meetings.

THE 'TRI-PARTITE TALKS': WHY?

The talks aim to discuss what can be done to give the Metis of Manitoba a better say in the affairs that matter to us, without doing anything to change the Constitution of Canada. Although the talks are sometimes called 'self-government negotiations', they cannot lead to a separate Metis government by Metis people for Metis people, but they can lead to clarification of what is meant by 'self-government' which might pave the way for constitutional amendment in the future. Perhaps Canada and Manitoba might be convinced to give up some of the power they have to govern (because the power is given to them now in the Constitution) and pass it on to the Metis people. In this way, some think, Metis people can have a better say in how things are done that matter to us. That is what the talks are about . . . to see if the three parties can agree about the Metis running their own affairs more than is happening now.

WHAT WOULD THESE 'METIS INSTITUTIONS' DO ?

If the Metis people are to get more of a share in making decisions about things that matter to us, it will be necessary to get organized. These organizations, or 'Institutions', would need to be set up to give the Metis a way of doing some of the things that the Governments of Manitoba and Canada are now doing. The areas that the MMF is going to talk about are education, housing, economic development, and child and family services. In all these areas, the MMF officials will try to convince the two governments to let us have some say - let us run things.

YOUR VIEWS ARE NEEDED:

The MMF represents the Metis people of Manitoba. It needs to know the views of the Metis people so that it can explain to the government what is needed to make 'Metis Institutions' work better than the government systems that are working now. Are you happy with the education Metis people are getting? Are you happy with the chances for jobs, for investments? With housing . . . child and family services? But most of all, the MMF., through its Tri-Partite office, invites your ideas about how things can be made better.

To share your ideas, or to ask for information, please contact;

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRIPARTITE NEGOTIATIONS
620-504 MAIN ST.
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
R3B 1B8
TELEPHONE: (204) 942-8304

PEMMICAN PUBLICATIONS VISITS ITALY

'We have opened a lot of doors with international publishers.' This was the message that Virginia Maracle of Pemmican Publications brought back with her after participating in the International Children's Book Fair in Bologna, Italy which ran from April 7-10 of this year.

The reason for the interest is simple. There is a growing interest among Europeans of all ages to learn about the lifestyles of the Aboriginal people of North America. Unfortunately, the foreign publishers do not have enough material on hand to satisfy this interest.

'On this trip, I met several Scandinavian publishers who wanted to know about buying foreign and translation rights to our books,' stated Virginia.

'At the same time, I was able to receive plenty of effective international marketing approaches based on what readers and publishers look for in children's books at an international level.

'For example, our plans to publish Joseph McLellans, The Birth Of Nanabush as the first in a ten booklet series of native legends drew special attention from publishers in West Germany. These publishers produce very colorful books and this is what we are hoping to do for the first time.'

But while larger budgets permit many foreign publishers to use more expensive processes and papers, none of them have published original material by or about North American natives.

'And that's where we come in' says Maracle.

Along with a small number of other Canadian and U.S. publishers, Pemmican offers fiction and non-fiction material which both educate and entertain. The positive image, heritage and culture of the Native and Metis peoples are also reflected through the works at Pemmican.

Pemmican will be looking forward to the increased popularity of their books as a result of the contacts she made while at the fair. Virginia encourages Native and Metis writers and artists to help meet the growing demand by submitting their stories to publishers.

'We all have a part to play in bringing Native people the rights and the recognition we deserve. And reaching out to readers is an important step in that process.'



Virginia Maracle, Managing Editor - Pemmican Publications

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION INC.

METIS NATIONHOOD

Hello again! The Winnipeg Region is pleased to profile Steven Spence in this month's Metis Nationhood feature.

Steve was elected as the Local chairperson of the Bosco Local of the Winnipeg Region in May, 1985. He is presently employed with the Native Alcoholism Council of Manitoba as supervisor of the counsellors. He has been with the Council since July, 1979. Prior to this, Steve was employed for fourteen years in the candy manufacturing business at Progress Candy Manufacturing Co.

Steve was born in the Metis community of Eddystone, Manitoba. Steve is the son of the late Joseph Arsene Spence and Adeline (Chartrand) Spence. Steve's mother now resides in Winnipeg. During the ages of one to seven, Steve spent a great deal of time with his grandparents Joe and Nancy Spence. He recalls speaking with them in the Ojibway language, and to this day he speaks the language fluently. He also spent some memorable times with Micheal and Nancy Chartrand, also his grandparents, of Crane River, Manitoba. Steve can recall a time in his life (7th birthday) riding a bicycle through a bush road for two miles with a bag of deer meat on his back for grandma Spence. He was also an altar boy at the church on Sundays.

Steve started his schooling (grade 1) in Shergrove, Manitoba. His first teacher was Miss Marjorie (nee Day) Henry. At this time school work and work in general was distilled into Steve's life. To this day, Steve is a dedicated worker. He has not been unemployed one day since the age of eighteen. Grades 2 - 8 he attended elementary school in Eddystone, S.D. 1873, grade 9, St. Johns Seminary, Pine Falls, grade 10 in St. Rose High School and some time was spent in St. Rose Collegiate.

Steve recalls the growing years of his home life as being very memorable. He had to do chores such as feeding livestock, watering, etc. Some trapping was also involved. Steve can still remember sawing wood by hand until the time his younger sister Claire was old enough to take over. This continued on down the line. For example, Steve would saw the log and Claire would sit on it. Each family member would work as a team with each child taking over the saw mill as they got older. Studying and doing homework by oil lamp was quite a struggle, and especially so when the chores also had to be done. However, he is not sorry for the hard work that was bestowed upon him as a young lad.

As he got older, the need for l'argent (money) led him to work odd jobs for the local farmers. He dropped out of school before completing grade 10 to go to work on the railroad (Lynn Lake Line) for a number of months. During the years 1963-67 he spent time entertaining on the local hotel circuit with the 'Rhythm Rockets'. Steve migrated to the city in 1963. Steve and his wife Annie (presently separated) are the parents of 7 beautiful children. They are Steven Jr. 22, Heather 21, Yvette 20, Crystal 18, Vance 16, April 13, and Stephanie 12. The four oldest are now living away from home.

Some of Steve's favourite pastimes are bowling, fiddling, jigging, singing and maintaining his van in good running order. He considers himself to be a 'Jack of all Trades, Master of None'. Steve also takes referrals from any native organization from across Canada and parts of the United States for treatment of alcohol and drug abuse.

Some of the certificates that Steve credits himself with are:

- FAMILY THERAPY (2 years, Red River Community College)
- ALCOHOL ADDICTION COURSE (1 year, University of Winnipeg)
- MILITARY QUALIFICATIONS (1962)
- NATIVE NORTH AMERICAN SUPPORT SYSTEM
- PARENT AWARENESS CERTIFICATE
- AMERICAN TRAINING INSTITUTE CERTIFICATE
- CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION (N.A.D.A.P.)
- ST. JOHNS AMBULANCE (Safety Oriented First Aid)

His personal goal is to help all Native people to become financially independent. 'What I truly believe is that every human being has and always will have their own personal resources or potential to succeed. They just have to tap into it'.

In closing, Steve claims that no human being is hopeless. We all have a goal in life. The resources are limitless. 'Reach for the sky, the sky is the limit !!'.

Hi! I am a new Metis fiddler just learning to play, (one year now). Before my father died, he gave me his most honored and prized possession, his fiddle. If he were a financially successful man he probably would have left me financial independence. However, he was a poor man, but rich in pride and respectability. He never had an enemy during his 70 hardworking years of life.

On August 23rd, 1987, at the North End Fair following an evening of entertainment, I was distressed to notice that the fiddle my father had left me was missing.

I am not certain of the worth of my fathers fiddle at the present time, but please allow me to share a poem with you which may give you some idea of what that fiddle means to me.

'THE TOUCH OF THE MASTERS HAND'

Myra Brooks Welch

T'was battered and torn, and the auctioneer
Thought it scarcely worth his while
To waste much time, on the old violin
But he held it up with a smile
'What am I bidden, good of folks' he cried
'Who will start bidding for me?
A dollar, and a dollar, 'then, two, only two'?
Two dollars, and who'll make it three?
Three dollars once, three dollars twice;
Going for three - , but no,
From the room, far back, a gray haired man
Came forward and picked up the bow,
Then, wiping the dust from the old violin,
And tightening the loosened strings,
He played a melody pure and sweet,
As sweet as a caroling angel sings.

The music ceased and the auctioneer,
With a voice that was quiet and lon
Said 'What am I bidden for the old violin?'
And he held it up with the bow,
'A thousand dollars! and who'll make it two?
Two thousand, and who'll make it three?
Three thousand once and three thousand twice;
and going, going, gone!' said he,
The people cheered and some of them cried;
'We do not quite understand,
What changed its worth?' And swift came the reply,
'The touch of the masters hand'

And many a man with life out of tune,
And battered and scattered with sin,
Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd,
Much like the old violin.
A 'mess of pottage', a glass of wine,
A game - and he travels on,
He's going once, and going twice,
He's going and almost gone,
But the Master comes and the foolish crowd,
Never can quite understand,
The worth of a soul, and the change that's wrought
By the touch of the Masters Hand.

I am not asking that my fiddle be replaced. That is impossible unless the person responsible for taking it has some feelings and decides to return it. All that I am saying is that I took three days off of my own special free time to be with the people of the North End and I lost my most prized possession. . . .

Love Ya! Megwetch!
STEVEN SPENCE



STEVE SPENCE, Chairperson - Bosco Local

**METIS IS — BEING MORE
THAN JUST A
DOT ON THE LINE . . .**

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION INC.

HOUSING

On September 13th, 1987, the CAHRO 19th. Annual Symposium was held. The theme of the symposium was 'THE CONSULTATION PROCESS TWO YEARS LATER'. CAHRO (Canadian Association Of Housing And Renewal Officials) is a national lobby group made up of housing agencies from across Canada. The MMF was fortunate in that two representatives were able to attend and participate. The following excerpts are from CAHRO'S publication, Canadian Housing.

YVON DUMONT

In the beginning, the intent of the Rural and Native Housing Program was to provide affordable housing to people unable to afford the type of housing that is required in order to raise a healthy family. The program was to address the needs of the most needy. And at the start of the program the advice of native organizations was being sought and participation by native organizations into the delivery of the program was quite high.

But 13 years later, CMHC has gotten bigger. In contrast, the involvement of native organizations has diminished. Today, I know of only two Metis organizations in this country that are involved in the delivery of housing.

One of the most important changes in housing policy that needs to occur is in the area of flexibility. The programs have to be flexible enough to meet the needs of the people they are intended to serve. Too often, the programs are developed in offices in Ottawa, far removed from the local situation.

Let me site an example. The Manitoba Metis Federation used to have direct responsibility for the implementation and development of the Emergency Repair Program. At the end of one year we had a surplus of monies. So we took that extra \$65,000 and built five units in two Metis communities, and thus met the housing needs for five families. But the Federal government, having deemed that the Federation acted irresponsibly, took responsibility for the delivery of that program out of our hands. Those five families are completely satisfied with their housing to this day. They have never complained about condensation or premature deterioration problems. I ask you, was that irresponsibility? Were we not meeting the original objectives of the Rural and Native Housing Program, that is, to provide people in need with warm, affordable housing.

We are not asking the federal government to spend more money on native housing. But we are asking the federal government to allow us more of a say on how that money should be spent so it can effectively meet the housing needs of the people it is supposed to meet.

The resourcefulness of our native peoples is being stifled by the bureaucracy. It always seems that someone in Ottawa knows better what is best for the native people in our own community.

CLAIRE RIDDLE

The policy of the Government of Canada is to house the poorest of the poor in Canada. And I believe it has a moral responsibility to continue to do so. But there are problems in how the programs are implemented.

In Winnipeg, my organization, the Kinew Housing Corporation, is being told it must buy houses that need little or no repair under Section 56.1. But what is happening is that we are being turned down by CMHC and the provincial housing department when we want to buy in the older areas of the city, where the poor wish to live because this is where their friends. We are being forced to buy property in the newer areas. Consequently, the problems of the poor are being compounded: they don't have any friends and they are not accepted into the community because of fears of property devaluation.

Kinew Housing is often faced with two choices - either to move the family or to fight the community. Our organization isn't interested in reselling the properties in the older, inner city areas to achieve temporary profits. All we are interested in is providing long-term rental housing for those who need it. So why is Kinew Housing being forced to buy property in areas where the poor don't wish to live?

METIS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

The Manitoba Metis Federation is continuing with their efforts to assist in child and family service matters. Workers have been hired in four MMF regions in an attempt to help Metis people regarding these matters.

If a Metis family or child requires assistance and information with matters pertaining to child and family services please call your regional worker or Mervin Moar, Provincial Co-ordinator - Metis Child and Family Services at the MMF Head Office. (204) 942-8304.

The Provincial Co-ordinator will be responding to matters in the Brandon, Winnipeg and Southeast Regions. All matters are dealt with in the strictest of confidence. Listed below are all of regional workers and where they can be reached.

MERVIN MOAR
Provincial Co-ordinator,
Metis Child and Family Services,
620 - 504 Main St.
Winnipeg, MB.
R3B 1B8
(204) 942-8304

VIOLET TAYLOR
Metis Child and Family Services
Interlake Region
General Delivery
ST. LAURENT, MB.
R0C 2S0
(204) 372-6821

MARLENE DICK
Metis Child and Family Services
Northwest Metis Council
18 - 2nd Avenue N.W.
DAUPHIN, MB.
R0L 0R0
(204) 638-9485

ANNETTE DEITO
Metis Child and Family Services
Thompson Region
207-83 Churchill Dr.
THOMPSON, MB.
R8N 0L6
(204) 778-7301

ALLAN FOURRE
Metis Child and Family Services
The Pas Region
Box 2467
THE PAS, MB.
R9A 1M2
(204) 623-5701

DENNIS SPENCE
Summer Student
Metis Child and Family Services
620 - 504 Main St.
WINNIPEG, MB.
R3B 1B8
(204) 942-8304

A METIS PRINCESS



It has been brought to our attention that one of our younger readers, who is shy and wishes to remain anonymous, would be thrilled to have her picture printed in the paper. So, considering that she has such a pretty picture, we just couldn't refuse the request. And here's your picture for the whole world to see. May you always be happy.

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION INC.