

LE MÉTIS

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MAY 1990

DUMONT DEMANDS: Federal Assistance for Manitoba Fishermen

Yvon Dumont, President of the Manitoba Metis Federation, Inc., called for federal assistance to Manitoba fishermen, **the majority of whom are Metis.**

"Metis fishermen make up the majority of fishermen in Manitoba, and on their behalf I am demanding that the Federal Government provide assistance at a proportionate level as that provided to the Atlantic fishermen. Our need is just as great!"



"We have just recently been able to convince the Fresh Water Fish Marketing Corporation to market the available rough fish, a species that exists in great abundance. What we now need is the financial support to expand the market and product availability for rough fish."

"Even one percent of the federal assistance to the Atlantic Fishery would make a dramatic impact on the ability of Manitoba fishermen to increase their income through the use of rough fish."

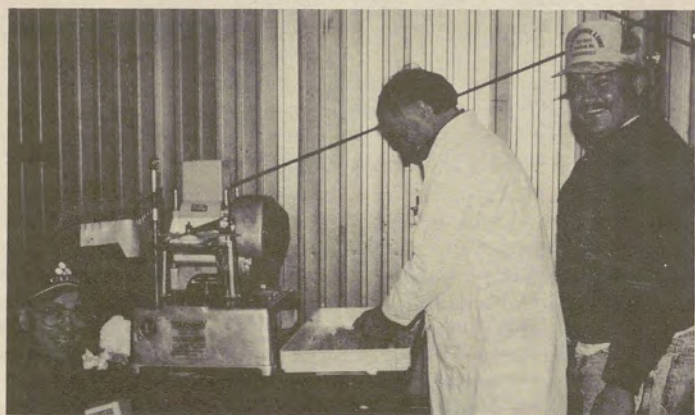
Mr. Dumont called on the Federal Government to act quickly to bolster the incomes of the Manitoba fishermen because, as he stated: "We on the Prairies who are fishermen have been ignored too long. The government seems to think that we do not even exist in this industry. I can assure them that we are still here, that we still exist and that our needs must be dealt with in as fair and as equitable a manner as those of the fishermen on the east coast, and those of the farmers of western Canada."



Left to right: Robert Gaudry, Walter Ferland and Aurele Dumont. Walter is from Duck Bay and is teaching people in Ste. Laurent to fillet fish Duck Bay style.

"The Manitoba Fishery produces five percent of the Canadian production and we deserve similar consideration to that given to the Atlantic fishermen. The Federal Government gave \$584 million over five years to them, and I am demanding that the Manitoba fishermen get their fair share of federal assistance to fishermen."

"Five percent of that amount, or \$29 million would be appropriate. Even one percent would be a significant amount of assistance to the fishermen of Manitoba. Our need is even greater than that of the Atlantic fishermen, and it is time that the Federal Government started to realize that fact."



Left to right: Murray Wilke, Larry Lambert and Guy Lambert. Experimenting with fish recipes and hoping to create a market for rough fish and streamline production.

ELECTIONS '90

Submitted by **Deanna Lajambe**

On April 29, 1990, the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. set the process for the provincial and regional elections for all elected offices of the Federation.

ENUMERATION PROCESS

The Regional offices of the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc., have been conducting an intensive enumeration process over the past few months. The purpose of this process is to determine who is an eligible voter for the purposes of the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. provincial elections. According to the constitution, Article III section 1, "Any Metis person who resides, and who has resided therein, for at least six months, in the Region where Regional election is being held is entitled to vote." Some of the Regional offices may also be using this opportunity to update their membership lists as it is a more efficient use of resources to conduct both tasks at the same time. It must be stressed, however, that a Metis person does not have to be a member of a Manitoba Metis Federation Local in order to vote, but their name must appear on a voter's list not less than sixteen days prior to the elections.

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

On November 19, 1989, the Annual General Assembly of the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. ratified changes to the Constitution as proposed by the Constitution Committee. The changes to the Constitution respecting the elections process include:

- 1) Electors must have attained the age of majority at the time of elections (18 years of age).
- 2) Electors must appear on the voter's list not less than sixteen days prior to the election date in order to be eligible to vote in that election.
- 3) Candidates must be individual members of the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc.
- 4) Candidates must be nominated by twenty (20) persons who are eligible to vote in the election.
- 5) Candidates nominated for the offices of President, or Vice-President must have held a previously elected position within the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. for at least one year.

ELECTIONS COMMISSION

The Board of Directors of the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. have appointed an election commission comprised of three impartial persons. The election commission is charged with the task of selecting a Chief Electoral Officer for the purposes of conducting a fair and equitable election. The commission will also act as a resource to the Chief Electoral Officer in matters respecting the Constitution and By-laws of the Federation, as well as reviewing any allegations of inappropriate conduct by the Chief Electoral Officer. The election commission consists of the following individuals:

Ralph Arthurson: a member of Winnipeg #1 Local, has been involved in the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. for a number of years as a member of the Federation, he has also been involved with the Metis Education Committee.

Paul Chartrand: Head of department of Native Studies at the University of Manitoba, Paul also holds an L.L.M. (Master of Law) degree.

David N. Gray: General Counsel for the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc., David has been a board member of the Dauphin Friendship Centre for the past two years, and is currently on the executive committee of the Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres.

ELECTIONS

The elections will take place between the dates of September 13 - 19, 1990, on a date to be set by the Chief Electoral Officer. The Chief Electoral Officer shall set the rules governing the elections, qualifications of voters and candidates, and will be responsible to train election officials (Deputy Returning Officers, Poll Clerks). The Chief Electoral Officer will also be responsible to meet with all candidates to review voters lists prior to the elections, and have all candidates register any reasonable objections to names appearing on the lists. The purpose of these reviews is to ensure that there will be no challenges as to the qualifications of voters after the election has taken place.

It is anticipated that a Chief Electoral Officer will be appointed by the commission in the near future. For further information, applications for membership, or to be placed on the voter's list, contact your regional office.

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

The Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. requires a

Chief Electoral Officer

for a term position to operate its upcoming provincial and regional elections.

DUTIES:

The duties of the Chief Electoral Officer shall be:

- 1) To prepare necessary rules for the conduct of the election in accordance with the by-laws, constitution and precedents of the Federation.
- 2) Oversee the training of all poll clerks and deputy returning officers.
- 3) Ensure compliance with the rules, procedures and by-laws of the Federation in the course of the election.
- 4) Determine the qualifications of electors and candidates as required.
- 5) Oversee the counting and recounting of ballots.
- 6) Declare appropriate winners in each election as required.

The Candidate should have the following qualifications:

- 1) Understanding of the nature and role of the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc.
- 2) Background in co-ordinating elections and similar endeavours.
- 3) Experience in training persons in specific tasks.
- 4) Strong communications and organizational skills.
- 5) Ability to speak an Aboriginal language is preferred.
- 6) Preference will be given to Metis candidates otherwise equal in the selection criteria.
- 7) Above all the candidates should have a demonstrated ability and record of showing sound administrative and procedural judgement.

Salary, benefits and other arrangements are to be included in a written contract with the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. wherein the successful candidate will be required to execute an undertaking that he/she will not be a candidate for office in the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. elections.

Applications should be forwarded by May 25th, 1990 to the Election Review Committee of the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc., 408 McGregor Street, Winnipeg, MB. R2W 4X5. Telephone: (204) 586-8474.

ATTENTION: **General Counsel** and should be marked **PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL**.

LE MÉTIS

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION INC.

LE METIS is the official publication of the **Manitoba Metis Federation Inc.** **LE METIS** is published monthly and distributed throughout the Province of Manitoba and Canada.

We welcome articles and letters from our readers. Deadline for submissions is the 12th of each month. Advertising and subscription rates are available through our office.

LE METIS

c/o Manitoba Metis Federation Inc.
408 McGregor Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 4X5
(204) 586-8474

Northern Bachelor of Nursing Program Launched

Beginning this year, a new Northern Bachelor of Nursing program, based in The Pas, will provide Native and northern registered nurses with a clinically enriched and culturally relevant education leading to a degree from the University of Manitoba.

The program was announced September 5th by Member of Parliament Dorothy Dobbie, representing The Honourable Perrin Beatty, Minister of National Health and Welfare; The Honourable Gary Filmon, Premier of Manitoba; The Honourable Len Derkach, Minister of Education and Training; The Honourable James Downey, Minister of Northern Affairs; Janiece Larson, The University of Manitoba; and Chief Oscar Lathlin, Vice-Chairperson, Swampy Cree Tribal Council.

The Northern Bachelor of Nursing Program (NBNP) for nurses was initiated by the Swampy Cree Tribal Council as a long-term strategy to improve the delivery of health care on Indian reserves in northern communities. The tribal council, together with other northern and Native organizations, collaborated with the University of Manitoba school of nursing to develop the new pilot program.

Health and Welfare Canada has committed to contribute \$300,000 annually for five years for a total contribution of \$1.5 million. During this same period, Manitoba Education and Training will contribute a total of \$1.1 million, for a total program operating and capital budget of \$2.6 million over the five year period.

Manitoba Education and Training will provide facilities and support services at Keewatin Community College in the The Pas where the program will be offered. Medical Services Branch of Health and Welfare Canada will pay for Native student transportation and accommodation for the clinical nursing station component of the program.

This university degree program will provide advanced clinical skills to enable nurses in isolated communities to meet critical health care needs. Their special responsibilities often exceed the education obtained through degree or diploma programs currently available in Manitoba.

"There is a proven need for nurses with special, enhanced training relevant to the needs of both northerners and Natives. Quite often, these nurses in remote areas are the only medically trained caregivers available and it is imperative that they are well equipped to deal with whatever medical emergency arises," said Mr. Derkach.

"This program is expected to significantly increase the number of Native and northern nurses, as well as reduce the high turnover of non-Native nurses working in Native communities. The Swampy Cree Tribal Council is to be congratulated for their initiative to improve health services in northern communities," said Mr. Beatty.

The 2½ year program will be offered in its entirety in three distinct cycles with a maximum of 20 students from northern and Native communities registered per intake. The objective of this program is to have at least 50 per cent of the students of Native ancestry. Funding for the third intake is dependent on early evaluation of the program.

The NBNP is based on the baccalaureate program for registered nurses currently offered by the school of nursing at the University of Manitoba. It will combine courses in nursing, science, arts, medicine and Native Studies.

The emphasis will be on preventive and maintenance roles of nurses with a focus on culturally relevant nursing care in Native communities.

A prerequisite component ensures that nurses can acquire necessary credits to meet standard university admission requirements to the school of nursing.

Two new courses will be developed by The University of Manitoba faculty of medicine to meet the special needs of northern health care. Primary health care skills, including emergency care, obstetrics, gynecology and pediatrics, as well as applied therapeutics for diseases and conditions commonly found in the North will be delivered through a nine-week clinical experience taught in Winnipeg by the J.A. Hildes Northern Medical Unit, Community Health Science Department, University of Manitoba.

The council of the school of nursing and The University of Manitoba Senate will be responsible for all academic policy. A program advisory board comprised of northern community representatives and health professionals will provide input regarding curriculum, students and staffing issues.

For further information contact: **Sandra DeLaronde**
Keewatin Community College, P.O. Box 3000, The Pas, MB, R9A 1M7

COME AND JOIN THE FUN AT THE **GREAT NORTHERN PIKE FESTIVAL**

**JUNE 16 - JULY 1, 1990
LYNN LAKE, MANITOBA**

CATCH THE TAGGED PIKE WORTH
\$1,000.00

Largest Pike — Pickerel — Trout
will be mounted as a trophy

2nd Prize - in each event: **\$100.00**
3rd Prize - in each event: **\$ 50.00**

ENTRIES:
\$10.00 EACH

Supreme Court Victory for MMF Inc. in Metis Land Claims Court Case



Tom Berger, MMF Lawyer on Land Claims, with Yvon Dumont, MMF President.

The decision of the Supreme Court of Canada handed down on March 2nd, 1990, means that the M.M.F. will be able to proceed to trial in the Court of Queen's Bench in Manitoba.

At the trial we will argue that the Government of Canada and the Province of Manitoba passed a series of measures in the 1870's and 1880's designed to undermine the rights of the Metis to land under section 31 and Section 32 of the Manitoba Act of 1870.

The M.M.F.'s lawsuit is brought in the names of the members of the M.M.F. Board. But it is not only for the benefit of the members of the board. It is what is known as a representative lawsuit, that is, it is brought on behalf of all persons who are descendants of the Metis who were entitled to receive land under Section 31 and Section 32 of the Manitoba Act. The persons named as plaintiffs in the lawsuit are simply named as representatives of all of the Metis who claim to be descendants of the Metis who had river lots at the Red River Settlement in 1870 and their children.

It is therefore unnecessary to include any other persons' names as plaintiffs.

In the lawsuit we are seeking to have the courts declare that the measures taken by the Government of Canada and the province of Manitoba in the 1870's and 1880's, designed as they were to undermine the rights of the Metis under the Manitoba Act, were unconstitutional.

If the M.M.F. is successful in the lawsuit, everyone will benefit.

All those who claim to be descendants of the Metis who were entitled to land under the Manitoba Act may of course get in touch with the Metis Association in their locality or province.

Thomas R. Berger

An Interview with David N. Gray General Counsel for Manitoba Metis Federation Inc.



DAVID N. GRAY — General Counsel, MMF.

David Gray is the General Counsel for the Legal Department of the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. For the first time in its history, the Manitoba Metis Federation has its own inhouse legal department. The decision to create this department was done for a number of reasons. Firstly, the Federation will have far better cost control abilities in relationship to their legal requirements. Also, the amount of legal advise and availability of that advise is expanded. The legal department will also be able to maintain greater control of outside legal services when those needs arise. The interests of the MMF will be better protected by having the General Counsel operate under the Federation's direction. Certain test cases will now have the sponsorship that has not existed prior to the formation of this department.

As Manitoba Metis Federation President, W. Yvon Dumont states, "The Metis will be better and more quickly serviced in exercising their legal rights because through the Manitoba Metis Federation, the Metis will have assured legal services."

Our roving reporter, Rod Carleton, caught up with David Gray to get some background and answers regarding the General Counsel of the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc.

Q. Hi Dave, let's begin by telling us where you're from and how old you are.

A. I was born in Vancouver and raised in Swan River, Manitoba. I'm 33 years old.

Q. Where did you study to become a lawyer?

A. I studied at the University of Manitoba and articled in Swan River under Donald Bjornason.

Q. What is your specialty in law?

A. I do not have any specific specialty, however, the cases that I normally take on are cases in criminal law as a defence lawyer. The majority of the rest of my case load is divided between corporate law, commercial and real estate transactions, contracts, and some civil litigation.

Q. Is your work at the MMF varied or are they mostly along the same vein?

A. My work at the MMF has included quite a range of cases. I've had administrative cases and civil suit cases. Real estate transactions have also come to this department, as well as contract and negotiations. This department will investigate any case that needs attention, and should we not be able to pursue the case ourselves, we would certainly refer the case to other competent counsel.

Q. What has been your most exciting or outstanding case to date?

A. While I was a first year lawyer, there was a family law case that gained quite a bit of attention. I also have had several cases that have gone to jury and I have been quite successful. I was also

successful in having an attempted murder charge stayed for a past client.

Q. Could you perhaps, put into perspective, how important the MMF Land Claims case really is?

A. Sure. The MMF Land Claims case is extremely important. For the first time, the Supreme Court of Canada has recognized that the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. is the legitimate legal representative of the Metis people of Manitoba. The Supreme Court has also determined that the Metis people do have a case and deserve their day in court.

There is also some acceptance of the Government's part in that people must now realize that they do have to take a close look at the actions that have been taken, affecting the Metis people of this province.

The Supreme Court victory is really only a preliminary event, however. The course of action now, is that a trial will have to take place based on the historical background of the land claims when they had originally been granted and then the subsequent unconstitutional acts of the government to ensure that the Metis people would never receive that land.

Should that trial be successful, it is not for the return of the land itself or any form of compensation, but it would succeed in striking out unconstitutional acts of the past and having a formal declaration that these acts had wronged the Metis people.

With the success of that trial, negotiations with the government or a subsequent suit would then be necessary to reach a settlement on the land claims case. This process could take years or decades to finally reach a settlement. Notwithstanding these limitations, we should really be proud of the recent Supreme Court decision.

Q. How great is the need for sufficient legal representation on behalf of Aboriginal groups and individuals?

A. As far as I know, there are no other Metis groups or organizations that have their own in-house legal departments. Some groups, such as the Northern Quebec Cree, have legal departments, but they also have millions of dollars with which to work with. As far as individuals, our Justice Inquiry submission has demonstrated that Aboriginal people are overrepresented at the wrong end of the Justice system. Yes, the need is great for legal representation for aboriginal groups and individuals.

Q. How is your work here at the MMF determined?

A. First and foremost, the MMF has work that is internal to itself. This would include contracts in various areas, real estate matters, etc. Similarly, there are lawsuits that arise and require litigation. The MMF also anticipates test cases to arise that involve constitutional matters, hunting and fishing rights for example. From time to time the President or Vice-Presidents will ask for assistance with specific cases. These cases range from routine follow-ups administrative tribunals, LERA (Law Enforcement Review Agency) hearings, the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry and subsequent follow-ups. As General Counsel, I handle very few private cases.

Q. Well Dave, thanks for giving us an inside look at your department and its operations. You've been very helpful.

A. Your welcome. I invite questions from anybody who has an interest into what I do here.

MIKISIW PRINTERS

593 Notre Dame Ave., Winnipeg, MB. R3B 1S6

MIKISIW PRINTERS are presently looking for a qualified, aboriginal press person who can run a Multi 1250 Offset Press or a Hamada 700 Offset Press. Anyone interested please give Terry or Glenda a call.

TELEPHONE:
(204) 788-4672

FAX:
(204) 774-1468

Metis Self-Government

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 M.M.F. 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 powers to govern only to the federal and the 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. 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 all about... to see if the three parties can agree about the Metis running their own affairs more than is happening now. For more information contact:

For more information, contact:

Ron Mazur, Director

The Department of Tripartite Negotiations
408 McGregor Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 4X5
Telephone: (204) 586-8474

MMF ANNUAL ASSEMBLY CALLED

Nov. 16, 17 & 18, 1990

The Winnipeg Region will be hosting the Annual Assembly once again. Contact your regional office if you would like more information or planning to attend.



MISS METIS CANADA 1990

The organizing committee for Batoche 1990 is presently accepting nominations for **MISS METIS CANADA 1990**

Candidates will be judged on the following:

1. Future plans for helping Metis people.
2. Knowledge of Metis history and culture.
3. Talent
4. Poise and Beauty
5. Ticket Sales

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO:

LORNA LAPLANTE

1249 - 8th Street East Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7H 0S5
Telephone: (306) 343-8285

MMF Delegation Attends National Conference

David Chartrand led an MMF delegation invited to attend a national conference on **Strategies to Reduce the Over-incarceration of Canada's Aboriginal People** held in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, March 29-31. This conference was sponsored by Prairie Justice Research (University of Regina).

David was a keynote presenter and delivered a paper and addressed the delegates on, "Aboriginal Self-Determination and Self-Government: Implications for Criminal Justice Reform".

Lawrie Barkwell and David Gray made presentations of the MMF Inc. research and recommendations prepared for the Manitoba Aboriginal Justice Inquiry, and spoke about the implications such inquiries have for aboriginal groups doing research and program development on justice issues.

Also in attendance were: Rose Charlie of the BC Indian Homemakers Assoc. and Judy Daniels and Jake Pete representing the Metis Association of Alberta. Judy and Jake spoke about the terms of reference for the Alberta Justice Inquiry and the plans that the Metis Association of Alberta are making for their presentations.

Manitoba was also represented at this conference by representatives of the Split Lake Reserve, the Dakota-Ojibway Tribal Police and Dr. Sam Corrigan from the faculty of Native Studies at Brandon University. There was a tentative agreement that the MMF Inc. Prairie Justice Research and Native Studies: Brandon University would work towards co-hosting a similar conference within the next year at Brandon.



Left to right: David Gray, Dave Chartrand, Dr. Jim Harding — Executive Director, Prairie Justice Research and Lawrie Barkwell.

Manitoba Metis Community Investments Inc.

Submitted by **Claire T. Riddle**

Instead of reporting on the status of Manitoba Metis Community Investments Inc. and its subsidiary Manitoba Metis Housing Development Inc., I wish to address some of the misconceptions which have been brought to my attention in recent months, regarding these corporations.



Myth: "The Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. (MMF) receives \$921,200.00 for economic development."

FACT: Manitoba Metis Community Investments Inc., a subsidiary of the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc., received a commitment of \$921,000.00 from NEDP for the construction of a warehouse/office building in the Inkster Park Industrial area. This building is to be totally owned by Manitoba Metis Community Investments Inc. and will produce rent revenues for years to come. This will eventually allow the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. to establish a fund for use in economic development areas. There are fairly rigid conditions attached to the \$921,000.00 allocation. For example, the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. and subsidiaries are not allowed to occupy more than 35% of the space, and 25% must be firmly leased out to the business community (non-Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. companies) before additional monies for construction may be accessed from NEDP. To date, Manitoba Metis Community Investments Inc. has received \$175,000.00 to purchase the land only.

Myth: "The Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. purchased a building for \$240,000.00."

FACT: While this is true, the monies did not come out of the \$921,000.00 committed to Manitoba Metis Community Investments Inc., rather from prudent management on the part of the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. The building is located at 408 - 412 McGregor Street, and houses the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. - Head Office, Housing Branch, Winnipeg Region, and Pemmican Publications. The building is managed by Winnipeg Region, who employ one full time and one casual worker (both are Metis).

Myth: "Manitoba Metis Community Investments Inc. has money to give to small business people."

FACT: Unfortunately this is not true at this time. As mentioned above, Manitoba Metis Community Investments Inc. is involved in the construction of a revenue producing building which will eventually generate enough dollars to establish such a fund.

Myth: "The Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. Board gave Manitoba Metis Community Investments Inc. the mandate to pursue an Aboriginal Capital Corporation through the CAEDS program."

FACT: This is true, and the Manitoba Metis Community Investments Inc. Board is actively involved in negotiations with CAEDS officials. Manitoba Metis Community Investments Inc. is striving to gain funds for direct loans, loan guarantees, and advisory services to Metis business persons in Manitoba. Manitoba Metis Community Investments Inc. will report back to the membership through the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. Board and "Le Metis" on all progress in this area.

Myth: "Manitoba Metis Housing Development Inc. is not employing a Metis Construction crew."

FACT: Manitoba Metis Housing Development Inc. is a general contracting company which bids on construction projects throughout the province. The General Manager, Donald Roulette, has been contacting Metis sub-trades to submit bids and participate in the construction of these projects, where they would not have been able to participate before because of Bonding requirements. Typical projects being bid on include CMHC housing, commercial projects, and smaller repair jobs. Small contractors and sub-trades may contact Donald Roulette at 582-0123.

The Blues

This article is intended to introduce and promote the Blues Native Women's Volleyball Club. The Club has been in existence for over five years and consists of Native women living throughout the city of Winnipeg. Team members represent various reserves and Metis communities within the province of Manitoba and one member from Ontario. The Blues Volleyball Club promotes and encourages participation from Native women living in Winnipeg and membership is extended to those who have successfully made the team tryouts. The intention of the Club is to ensure unity and the continued interest of its members as outlined in the Club's own Constitution.

The Blues became Winnipeg's first solely Native volleyball team to enter the Winnipeg Senior Women's Volleyball League in 1987 and have had a fair share of successes within the league since. The Blues have been fortunate to have had sponsorship from organizations such as the Indian and Metis Friendship Centre, the MMF Inc., the Manitoba Indian Cultural Education Centre and also the Westbrook Inn Hotel, as well as receiving support from numerous Native and non-Native organizations and individuals throughout the past years.

1989/90 has been a very good season for the Blues. In October 1989, the Blues won first place at a local tournament hosted by another Winnipeg Senior Women's volleyball club. The Club placed in all the major tournaments entered. The Blues placed fourth in Brandon's 7th Annual Tournament, fourth in the 3rd Annual Intertribal Tournament in Winnipeg, third in the NIAA Annual Tournament in Regina, and second in the 10th Annual 1990 Canada West Championships in Hobbema, Alberta. These successes could not have been possible without the generous support of our donors and sponsors. Thank you.

Currently, the Blues are training in preparation to participate in the first ever North American Indigenous Games, June 30 to July 8, 1990 in Edmonton, Alberta. This exciting event has become a priority to the team as we have set our sights high on becoming medalists in this vast arena of competition. We are going to be the best that we can and our hopes are that those who have supported us in the past will continue to do so in this endeavour.

The Blues Volleyball Club would like to thank the Manitoba Metis Federation for the donation of space in the "Le Metis" for our article.



"THE BLUES" — Rising to the Top!

Any interested parties wanting to make a donation, or any of our readers (individuals or organizations) wish to become sponsors of
The Blues Volleyball Team, please contact:

Connie Baker — 774-7491 or
 Nancy Chartrand — 783-9354

**HELP ENSURE SUCCESS FOR THE BLUES!
 BECOME A SPONSOR!**

Bill C-31 Conference

Submitted by **Deanna Lajambe**

The Indigenous Women's Collective and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs sponsored a conference in Winnipeg on April 24 and 25. The purpose of the conference was to address some of the issues surrounding the reinstatement of persons who had lost their treaty status because of certain sections in the former Indian Act (Bill C-31). The conference was very well attended with a reported four hundred registered.

During a question and answer session on the opening day, a representative of Indian Affairs reported that 130,294 persons had applied for reinstatement nationally, and 71,975 applications have been approved. In Manitoba, there have been 15,608 applicants with 8,519 approved as of March 31, 1990. With so many potential new Band members to contend with, the issues were many. However the conference dealt specifically with the issues in Education, Housing, Band Membership, Land, Health/Social benefits and Funding.

EDUCATION

Since the Federal Government placed a "cap" on post-secondary funding, the reserves have received limited funds to sponsor their students in post-secondary endeavors. One chief reported that they had instituted an application process open to reinstated or regular Band members. Under the new rules, those who demonstrate they are truly committed to an education will be sponsored, rather than the former process of sponsoring everyone who requested funding.

HOUSING

Extra housing allocations have been received to help offset the effects of reinstatements returning to reserves. The Bands have been given the authority to disburse the units as they see fit. Many Bands used some of the extra allocations to house new members, and some to house those who were on their severely backlogged housing lists. The chiefs explained that their housing allocations are in the form of subsidies, which range from \$27,000 to build a house in southern Manitoba, to \$40,000 in the far northern areas of Manitoba. Despite this there continues to be a lack of adequate housing. One chief related the problem of balancing adequate housing on reserve, and economic development as he asked, "do we spend all summer employing locals to build two houses, or do we buy cheaper from a builder?"



BAND MEMBERSHIP

The Bands are currently struggling with the issue of Band Membership. Out of sixty reserves in Manitoba, only twenty have defined membership codes as required by Bill C-31. Of the twenty, some are unable to implement the codes because they cannot afford the staff to undertake the workload. The benefits of being a Band member include, in some cases, the right to participate in elections of Chief and Council, and obtaining housing on the reserve. Most other services are available to treaty persons living on or off reserve, whether they are Band members or not.

HEALTH/SOCIAL BENEFITS

Treaty Indians are entitled to have their dental, medicine and eye-care expenses paid for them. However, as one chief commented, "we get the minimum of health care, whether you are C-31 or regular". Treaty Indian people are under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government, and the Federal agency responsible is the Medical Services Branch of the Department of Health and Welfare Canada. The entitlement involves limits on the amount of subsidy for certain services. For example the allocation for a pair of glasses is less than one hundred dollars. Some participants reported difficulty in accessing medical, optical and dental services as some offices "don't handle Indian Affairs".

LAND

The general consensus of conference participants was that more land should be available for the influx of Bill C-31 people to the reserves. Some participants suggested that the Bands purchase land in urban areas, and then attempt to have that land designated as reserve land. However, whether this is feasible or even possible, has yet to be determined.

FUNDING

All conference participants agreed that funding should be increased for all sectors. It was felt there was already a strain on resources before the changes to the Indian Act, and the problems had only increased with reinstatements.

Closing remarks were made by Phil Fontaine of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, and Joyce Courchene of the Indigenous Women's Collective. It became apparent that many of the issues are not going to be resolved in the near future, and the likelihood of a similar conference in the near future is very good.



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"Metis Awareness Night" Binscarth Local

Submitted by **Annette Dreilich**

An Metis Awareness Night was held at the Binscarth Hall on May 3, 1990. Binscarth Local MMF hosted the afternoon and evening event. Other Locals from the surrounding areas came to hear the presentation from the Head Office Staff. The other Locals were: Pelly Trail Local (Russell); Birdtail Local (Birtle); Snake Creek Local (Foxwarren); Fort Ellice Local (St. Lazare) and Valleyview Local (Binscarth).

The afternoon presentation began with Mervin Moar — Provincial Child Care Co-ordinator. Mervin gave a very down-to-earth presentation which detailed some of the work that the Metis Child & Family Services Department does, as he shared some personal experiences of the level of compassion that is needed on a day-to-day basis. Questions from the floor were asked on Metis Emergency Services and Child Apprehension.

The next presentation was given by Audreen Hourie, Education Co-ordinator. She talked on education programs and literacy. It was particularly interesting to hear her presentation on literacy, since there are three Adult Literacy Programs in the area. After Audreen's presentation, two primary teachers from the Binscarth School gave comments on the Metis paraprofessional position. Linda Baker, Grade One teacher, commented on the cultural barriers that a teacher must gain understanding of in order to be able to foster positive self-esteem in the educational process. Marion Boucher was the town council representative as well as the Librarian Services Representative. She assured the Local and Adult Literacy Groups that the Library Services Department would be interested in assisting the Adult Literacy Programs.

The education presentation was very informative and encouraged the Metis Locals to continue in their quest for better education opportunities for Metis children.

An enjoyable supper was provided by the Binscarth Local for the 100 - 150 people. Agnes Boucher, respected Elder, gave grace before the meal. After supper, John Lavallee, Southwest Region President, gave a brief on the meetings and conferences that he recently attended. He announced that the S.R.M.C. had entered into negotiations with the Emergency Measures Organization to recoup losses that occurred when the centre housed fire evacuees last summer.

Four presentations were then given:

Annette Dreilich, Chairperson of the Binscarth Local, presented a donation to Mervin Moar for Metis Emergency Services.

Kate Venne, Secretary-Treasurer, presented donations to Binscarth Park and Pool and Binscarth School.

Robert Fleury, Literacy Assistant, presented a cheque to the Binscarth Nursery School.

Angela Allarie presented John Lavallee with a cheque for the Brandon Sun Fund, which sends disadvantaged children to camp.

Annette Dreilich informed the crowd of the Ste. Madeleine Commemoration Days, July 20 -22. A plaque and cairn will be erected to commemorate the Ste. Madeleine Metis Settlement.

The highlight of the evening was the speech by our President, Yvon Dumont. Yvon commended and encouraged the locals for the work that has been done for the youth and the Elders. He informed the crowd on the Metis Land Claims Court Case. So often, the information that is presented in the media is not clear on the **why's** or the necessity of the court case. After listening to Yvon, it was clear that the truth must be brought out. The Metis people were paramount in the making of Canada. Yvon created a feeling of hope and pride for the people in the hall.

The evening resumed with presentations from MMF Housing. Ed Swain chaired the table, with Lloyd Pelletier giving the presentation. Many questions were asked and Lloyd clarified them.

Betty-Anne Lavallee, Executive Director of Southwest Day Care, informed us on the centre, which is the only Metis owned and controlled Day Care in the province. She also informed us that Metis Child Care Workers are needed in the centre.

The Tripartite & Land Claims and Self-Government issues were presented by Gordon Ranville and Ron Mazur.

All of the information provided was clear and the Binscarth Local would like to thank all the presenters from Head Office and the guests for coming out.

Thanks once more

In Friendship.

The Binscarth Local

New Staff

The head office of the MMF Inc. welcomes the recent additions to the Secretarial Staff. Norma Kehler has joined as Legal Secretary/Assistant for the General Council and Gwen Duguid has filled the Secretary/Receptionist vacancy for the Child & Family Service Department, and the Education Department. Both Norma and Gwen have many years experience in their fields and their prospective departments will be enhanced with their expertise.



NORMA KEHLER



GWEN DUGUID

ABORIGINAL WRITERS WORKSHOP

July 20, 21, & 22, 1990

Payak Inter-tribal Co-op, Winnipeg

This writers workshop is sponsored by **Pemmican Publications** and is organized by several Manitoba aboriginal writers who see a need for the establishment of a support network for other aboriginal writers. The main purpose of this workshop will be to bring together writers who want information regarding issues in aboriginal writing and writing in general and the central focus will be to establish an association of aboriginal writers in Manitoba.

Some of the topics to be presented are:

- writing and traditional storytelling;
- historical perspectives on aboriginal writers and writing;
- writing for children; script writing;
- resources available to writers; getting published

There will also be a forum for discussion of issues concerning aboriginal people in various writing.

The following resource people have been invited:

Maria Campbell, author of *Halfbreed*

Jeanette Armstrong, Director of Enowkin Writing College

Lee Maracle, author of *I Am Woman*

Beatrice Culleton, author of *In Search of April Raintree*

In addition to the workshop presentations, an evening of entertainment is also planned.

Participants from outside Winnipeg are required to find their own means of travel to and from Winnipeg. Lodgings and food will be provided for the participants in the workshop.