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JULY 1990

Metis National Council Supports Mohawks



*Statement by
W. Yvon Dumont
Spokesman,
Metis National
Council*

The Metis National Council supports the actions of the Mohawk Indian Nation at Kanesatake Reserve near Oka, Quebec. The Metis have long held that a land base and self-determination are fundamen-

tal rights of Aboriginal people. It is the position of the Metis that the actions the Mohawks are taking are simply actions, defending their land base and involve elements of self determination. These actions appear, to us, to be reasonable and proper attempts to maintain their position in the face of unreasonable attempts to usurp their position. Certainly nothing that has been publicly demonstrated to date indicates any justifiable basis for the escalation of tensions that have been created by the Town of Oka and the Government of the Province of Quebec.

Mr. Dumont said "I really can't believe that these people feel so strongly about golf that proper treatment of Indian land claims should be jeopardized. For an officer to die, no matter how accidental, is even more tragic given the relatively nominal nature of the issue involved from the Town's perspective. However, once the trees are cut down and the golf course is in place, the Indian land claims can never be adequately settled, and it appears this is the real purpose of the Gov-

ernment, the Province of Quebec and the Town of Oka." Mr. Dumont is reflecting the views of the entire Metis population in saying that this would appear to justify the apprehension that some had felt with respect to Robert Bourassa's performance in respect to Aboriginal issues. Mr. Dumont had hoped to see a greater flexibility from Mr. Bourassa and indicates that his belief is that the discussion and dialogue would have achieved a greater conciliation than the current escalation.

Mr. Dumont called the actions "An atrocity - the willful infliction of power by the dominant society over the less dominant group. This kind of action has framed the Canadian position respecting Aboriginal people from the beginning of their interrelations and continues, apparently, in the Province of Quebec to be the policy. It is truly a sad day that this should continue."

Mr. Dumont also released letters to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Premier Bourassa where he called upon them to step in and show leadership to ensure a negotiated settlement is possible. In particular, Mr. Dumont wanted assurance that Mohawk claims would be protected.

Some have called for the Mohawk to rely on White Courts in this matter. The Metis note, however, the over representation of Aboriginal people in prisons and the fact that Inquiry after Inquiry has shown that the justice systems in Canada do not treat Aboriginal people fairly. They especially noted the fact that the vast majority of land promised the Metis in 1870 has never been transferred to them and that the Provincial and Federal Governments have taken as many steps as possible to stall and delay litigation aimed at redressing this. In fact, Mr. Dumont went on to remind

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Metis National Council Supports Mohawks

(continued from page 1)

the public that a similar situation had occurred in Manitoba in 1986. In that case an area surrounded by the Metis communities of Camperville, Duck Bay, Briggs Spur, Pelican Rapids and the Indian Reserves of Pine Creek, Birch River and Shoal River was converted, over Aboriginal objections, and without notice or other advice to the Aboriginal communities, to a forest management area. This was done in spite of the then Minister's assurance that such would not occur.

A similar situation also occurred in Green Lake, Saskatchewan regarding Metis lands being taken over, above the strong protest of the Metis residents. The Metis of Saskatchewan have attempted to challenge this action in the courts. We remain hopeful that the situation facing the Metis will not deteriorate to the level facing the Mohawk.

The events are a growing sign that there is militancy developing amongst Aboriginal people. Aboriginal peoples are tired of waiting for slow and drawn out talks to produce nothing. Mr. Dumont used a favorite quote which was used by the Right Honorable John MacDonald in the 1870's in dealing with the Metis.

Mr. MacDonald is quoted as saying, "We shall invite the Metis to Ottawa to talk and to listen until their current effervescence subsides." Mr. Dumont went on to say there is nothing to indicate that the Aboriginal peoples of this country will allow their effervescence to subside and there is nothing to indicate that unless governments starts to deal responsibly and reasonable with the claims of the Aboriginal people of this country that increased militancy will not follow. In fact, in the Metis nation we have seen increased amounts of the people suggest actions similar to those of the Mohawk. We hope that this will not be necessary and that governments will begin to act with us in good faith. ■

For further information, contact:

YVON DUMONT

408 McGregor Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2W 4X5 Telephone: [204] 586-8474

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REGIONAL NOTES

Southwest Region

Submitted by **John Lavallee**
Vice-President, Southwest Region



Hello from all of us at the Southwest Regional office. A reminder for all of our Southwest membership. Our regional meeting will take place on September 8-9 at the Russell Inn in Russell, Manitoba. For more information, please contact our office in Brandon.

I would like to congratulate the St. Eustache Local on the completion of their "Wild Game Cook Book II". If anyone's interested in purchasing a copy, please contact the St. Eustache Local.

Most locals in the Southwest are having a busy summer. Bingo's, summer projects, student employment and meetings keep many of our locals quite active.

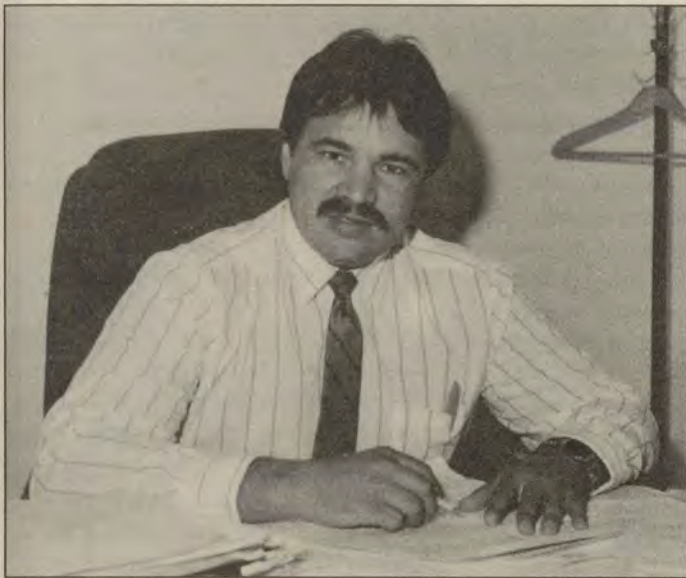
The Southwest Metis Regional Center now has twelve staff, including two students who will be with us for the summer months.

On June 25, 1990, our regional secretary, Beverly Lavallee was transferred to head office to replace Nancy Chartrand as Tripartite secretary. We will miss her and hope her new position and future will be rewarding for her.

Let me close by saying that I will continue to visit as many locals that I am able to over the summer. See you next month. ■



**Presentation by David Chartrand,
M.M.F. Inc. Board Member,
Winnipeg Region to the Executive
Policy Committee,
City of Winnipeg Council
July 18, 1990**



I speak on behalf of the Manitoba Metis Federation, a political organization that speaks on behalf of the Metis people of Manitoba. One of the objectives of the Manitoba Metis Federation is to protect and promote the Metis culture. I am one of two Board members for the Winnipeg Region of the MMF. Many of you will know the Manitoba Metis Federation is organized into seven regions and Winnipeg is one of them.

I am here to speak on the request to provide \$750,000 for the German Cultural Center at the Forks. We also understand there is a further request for one million dollars from the Provincial Government. We oppose these requests. We do so without malice towards the German community. Aboriginal culture must be protected first and foremost.

We understand that the Forks Development area at the Forks was considered by the Folk Arts Council as suitable location for a multicultural center. However, like us, the F.A.C. does not have substantial project funds available. However it is within everyone's best interest that a multicultural center be developed.

The proposal should be delayed for further study to ensure that Aboriginal people will be a key participant in a multicultural project. We therefore call upon this council and you, Mr. Mayor, to declare a moratorium immediately on all developments at the Forks. We also ask you to withhold any future payments from the Core Area Initiative until Aboriginal people are included in the Forks development projects. We have been told by the Core Area Initiative that they will not consider other proposals. To date we have not seen a likelihood

that there will be a further contribution to the Core Area Initiative, and existing resources must be spent carefully.

We first learned of this proposal for use of public funds on Monday of this week. Some years ago Mr. Dumont, President of the Manitoba Metis Federation asked for first consideration. Our request was apparently not heard.

We thank Councillor McKee for moving suspension for the rules so that we may be heard. We thank the city council for listening to us.

As Mr. Dumont said to the Forks Renewal Board on September 14, 1987.

"Now Riel (as he was then negotiating to the leader of the Provisional Government), had said that he wanted to see a Western Canada as a place where people could come and live at peace with themselves and with the land without having to give up their cultural values, their culture and their languages. He wanted to see a multicultural society developed in Western Canada where people from the old countries - like people from the Ukraine and people from France and people from Ireland and people from all places that lived in turmoil and conflict.

People could leave those things there and come and live in peace in Western Canada. That was a vision that Riel had and if you look at the forefront of Canadian politics in Western Canada today, you'll see that multiculturalism is there.

It is important to recognize that the Metis nation began at the Forks, and it is important to understand that Metis people at the Forks were a people of commerce and enterprise, and were a self-sufficient people.

We are not however a museum people. The Metis are dynamic, vibrant people - a living people who are involved in many aspects of the economy of the province of Manitoba. Any recognition for the Metis and their contribution to the development of this province and Western Canada must include a recognition of the Metis as they are today - a people engaged in many aspects of commerce and enterprise.

We are proud of our history and past, but equally important we are looking forward toward our future as a people."

I am here to remind you that the Forks is the birth place of the Metis nation, that we ask to be considered first not last. We ask you to consider the current events that are occurring at Oka, Quebec. Those situations are indicative of what can occur when Governments, particularly the Municipal Government, fail to take in account the interest of aboriginal people. We are not saying that those kinds of events would happen here if you failed to take in account our interests, but we are saying that there is growing militancy in the Aboriginal people and rightly so. You as leaders within the city and as municipal politicians have an obligation to us.

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Metis Land Rights in Northern Manitoba

By Prof. D.N. Sprague
University of Manitoba

The Manitoba Metis Federation Inc. has started work with Prof. D.N. Sprague, University of Manitoba, to investigate Metis Land Rights in Northern Manitoba. This research, co-ordinated by the Tripartite Department of the MMF, should result in sufficient evidence proving that Metis were denied their land rights by government actions. It would follow that the issue would have to be resolved in the courts.

The chronology provides an overview of the circumstances that are being researched. The answers to the legal and historical questions enumerated below should prove that Metis people were passed-over in the claims consideration process of 1916 - 1924, that they have undeniable rights today, and should provide evidence that the Metis could use in litigation.

1. **1867 - 1869:** Canada outlines terms and conditions for acceptance of Rupertsland and the North Western Territory. Among other obligations, Canada accepts responsibility for safeguarding the interests and well-being of Indians and old settlers in the region.

2. **23 June 1870:** Order in Council of Great Britain accepts Canada's terms and conditions for the transfer, set for 15 July 1870

3. **1872:** Dominion Lands Act (sc1872, c 23) and its subsequent revisions to the last, 1927, recognizes "titles by occupancy" held by persons in the territories before the transfer or settling on Dominion Lands later but before survey.

4. **1916:** Dominion Lands Surveyor completes township surveys encompassing the northern settlements of Norway House and Cross Lake.

5. **1924 - 1925:** Canada notifies residents of Cross Lake and Norway House that their occupancy entitles them to purchase homesites at \$3 per acre.

6. **1925 - 1930:** Most settlers agree to pay for at least part of their lots and receive crown patents; others become illegal "squatters" but continue in undisturbed occupancy of their land.

7. **1930:** Constitution Act makes transfer of Dominion Lands and resources to the several Prairie provinces shifting crown lands from federal to provincial jurisdiction "subject to any trusts existing in respect thereof and to any interest other than that of the Crown in the same." (paragraph 2) But paragraph 24 provides that "the foregoing provisions may be varied by agreement" and concurrent legislation between the Dominion and

the province.

8. **1931 - 1937:** Manitoba seeks final payments on sales contracts and converts "squatters" tenures to lease-holds.

9. **1948:** Canada and Manitoba enact concurrent legislation modifying the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement to give the province extended scope for taking lands and waterways for hydroelectric projects.

10. **1948 - 1987:** Revisions of the Manitoba Crown Lands and Water Power Acts reflect the broadened power acquired in 1948.

11. **February 1966:** Nelson River Power Reserve consisting of virtually all crown lands in the Nelson River watershed precludes any but Manitoba Hydro approved uses of crown lands for six months.

12. **June 1967:** Nelson River Power Reserve becomes permanent.

13. **June 1973:** Hydro establishes elevation 690 feet as a severance line, below which any past or future development will be subject to flooding.

14. **February 1974:** Province of Manitoba concedes that effects of flooding are becoming evident; announces intention of awarding compensation to Northern communities in the form of accelerated social and economic development projects.

15. **16 December 1977:** Northern Flood Agreement concluded between Manitoba Hydro, the Province of Manitoba, and Indian bands within the Nelson River Power Reserve. Representatives of persons on "general permit" or "squatters" are excluded from the negotiations and terms of the agreement.

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Presentation by David Chartrand M.M.F. Inc. Board Member

(continued from page 3)

You cannot continue to fail to recognize our interests. If you make a decision to allow for the funds to flow to the German Cultural Center, or if you make the decision to allow further development without firstly allowing for our interests, you will be making a grave error. An error that cannot be corrected. I urge you as Councillors and I urge you particularly your worship, that you take a different approach to Aboriginal people. We should come first, we are the first citizens and we deserve some recognition and respect. We look forward to utilizing the Forks both to remember our historic past and also as a spring board for what we hope to be our historic future.

I thank members for giving me the opportunity to speak and urge you to consider my words. I urge you further to consider and hope you will properly allow for as moratorium to ensure that interests are not ignored again. Thank you. ■

Report from:

Manitoba Metis Housing Development Development Inc.

Submitted by:

Don Roulette, General Manager MMHDI



At the present time, MMHDI is very busy with our first project. This project involves the construction of 13 houses in the Southeast Region for CMHC.

The first unit under construction is in Beausejour and will be followed by Grand Marais. There is also going to be two units constructed in Cormorant and that project will begin shortly. MMHDI is employing native forces for the construction projects. ■

Pemmican Publications



*Pemmican Publications is celebrating it's
10th year of publishing.
A warm thank you to all who have supported
us through our first decade.*

Pemmican Publications was incorporated in October, 1980 as a Metis publishing house. The purpose of the press is to provide opportunities for the Aboriginal people to tell their stories from their own perspectives. Pemmican also published books by non-Native writers whose works are related to Aboriginal issues.

Pemmican is committed to publishing books which depict Aboriginal cultures and lifestyles in a positive light, and which address historical, social, and contemporary issues. In addition to works of fiction and non-fiction aimed at the general audience, Pemmican has established itself as a leading publisher of children's books. It has also produced a translated work; **Murdo's Story** in Cree and

Ojibwa.

Pemmican works with various educational organizations, such as the Native Education Branch of Manitoba, to produce entertaining, informative and culturally accurate learning books for school children of all ages. Many of these books combine the most modern teaching methods with the traditional Native storytelling skills.

Pemmican Publications is a young press but already one of its books has earned an award of distinction. Terry Gallagher won the **1985 Canada Council Award** for her illustrated work in **Murdo's Story: A Legend from Northern Manitoba**. Her illustrations also appeared in **The Big Tree and the Little Tree**. Pemmican is also proud to be associated in a small way to John Tootoosis, the subject of one of its books by authors Jean Goodwill and Norma Sluman, who was awarded the **Order of Canada** in 1986.

Louise Erdrich (author of **Love Medicine** and **The Beet Queen**) says,

*"The books available from Pemmican Publications are varied, fascinating, and illuminating. Many of them are **must reads** for anyone who seeks to understand the historical and contemporary situations of those who settled the Plains and those who were here first."*

Virginia Maracle is the Managing Editor, Sue MacLean is the Business Administrator, and Stan Manoakeesick is Marketing and Promotions Manager. Pemmican also employs two sales representatives; David Judge, who covers North West Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and Marshall Hryciuk, who covers the rest of Canada.

We thank you, the purchaser and reader of our books and we look forward to your continued support.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Pemmican Publications acknowledges the assistance of The Canada Council, The Manitoba Arts Council, The Department of Communications, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation and the Manitoba Metis Federation. ■

LE METIS

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 reader. Deadline for submissions is the 12th of each month. Advertising and subscriptions rates are available through our office.

LE METIS

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

Yvon Dumont Pursues Constitutional Process For Metis June 27, 1990

Dear Prime Minister:

Further to my letter of June 24, 1990, I would like to express our sincere regret that the Meech Lake Accord was not approved. The Metis National Council shares your sense of loss, particularly because we believe that the approval of the Meech Lake Accord was a necessary step leading to further re-form the Canadian constitution, including specific recognition of Aboriginal rights. As you know, the Metis National Council supported the Meech Lake Accord throughout the last three years, even in the face of extensive and vociferous opposition from other Aboriginal leaders.

We saw your letter of June 18th, 1990, to Aboriginal leaders as a clear commitment to constitutional movement on Aboriginal issues, and together with the Meech Lake Accord and the companion document, it would have provided a vehicle by which the Metis as a people could pursue their rightful recognition in the Canadian constitution, and the just settlement of their Aboriginal rights.

The Supreme Court decision of March 2, 1990, confirmed the recognition of the Metis as a nation of people and the unextinguished settlement of Metis land rights. This legal recourse must not be the only interaction between your government and the Metis.

We invite you to establish a direct, bi-lateral relationship with the Metis so as to enable progress to be made on Metis issues. The Metis National Council requests an opportunity to meet with you and appropriate members of your Cabinet at your earliest convenience to establish a Federal/Metis process on Metis issues. The establishment of a Federal/Metis process would be a clear signal of your continued commitment to Aboriginal rights, and would be an acknowledgement that, in the absence of a constitutional process, progress can be made on Aboriginal issues.

The Metis National Council remains committed to the struggle for constitutional change for Aboriginal rights, and we pray that this country will heal its wounds and find a way to come together so that Aboriginal rights may be properly addressed.

In anticipation of your positive response to our request for a meeting to establish a Federal/Metis process, we will deliver our suggestions on the form that such a process could take.

Sincerely,

W. Yvon Dumont

Spokesman - Metis National Council

THE PAS METIS CULTURAL CENTRE PLAYER'S SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT August 18th & 19th, 1990

R.H.J. Arena

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3rd Prize: \$500.00 plus trophies

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CONTACT:

JESSIE GRENIER

Box 3401, The Pas, Manitoba R9A 1R9

Ph: (204) 623-5387 (evenings)

or

ALLAN FOURRE - METIS CULTURAL CENTRE

Box 2467, The Pas, Manitoba R9A 1R9

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New Staff

The Tripartite Department of MMF Head Office has a new secretary. Beverly Lavallee has been transferred to head office from the Southwest office. Bev was the regional secretary in Brandon for three years.

The Tripartite Department welcomes Beverly as part of their team. ■



Metis Land Rights

(continued from page 4)

Questions for Legal-Historical Investigation

1. Did "squatters" at Norway House and Cross Lake have an enforceable claim to their ancestral lands after the completion of the townships surveys of 1916?
2. Was Canada's administration of "squatters" claims in the Norway House - Cross Lake district in the 1920s appropriate to the obligation incurred with Great Britain in 1870?
3. Did Manitoba inherit outstanding "squatters" claims as a "subsisting trust" in 1930?
4. Was the scope of paragraph 24 of the Constitution Act (1930) broad enough for Canada and Manitoba to extinguish an obligation under the Rupertsland Order (23 June 1870) by joint agreement and concurrent legislation?
5. Is there a cloud over the legal adequacy of the compensation provided by the community development programs launched after 1975 and the Northern Flood Agreement concluded in 1977?

Questions for Interviews with Long-time Residents

1. Are the settlers listed in the appendix (with locations indicated on maps 3, 4, and 5) a complete enumeration of everyone living off the reserves in the district in 1924? Who are omitted? Where did they live?
2. In the 1920s, did settlers object to paying Canada for land they already owned?
3. What happened to "half breed" scrip?
4. Did P.W. Durante deal fairly with "squatters" in the 1930s?
5. Did the range of local government services increase when Manitoba started collecting property taxes in the 1940s?
6. Why did available building sites diminish in the 1960s?
7. How has the government handled the effects of the Nelson River Power Project?
8. Why were representatives of Metis people excluded from the negotiations that resulted in the Northern Flood Agreement in 1977?

Coming this Fall from Pemmican Publications

A Crow Named Joe

Peter Eyvindson

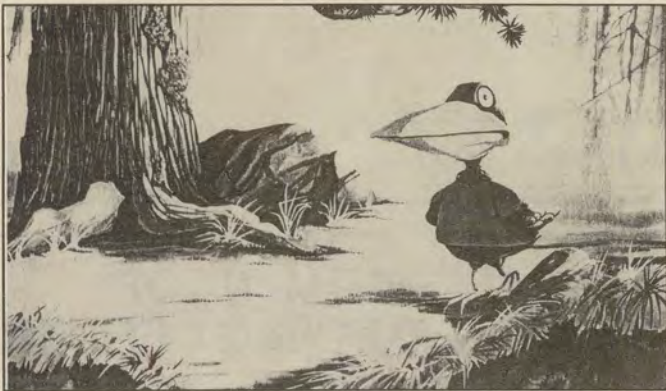
Illustrations by Doug Keith



Jen and the Great One

Peter Eyvindson

Illustrations by Rhian Brynjolson



A Crow Named Joe is an unusual story about what happens when some children find a crow in their back yard and decide to keep it as a pet. They find themselves unable to keep up with the antics of this crazy crow who has a talent for getting into mischief. From stealing buttons and bobbins to attacking the neighbour's cat, Joe is a born troublemaker.

Peter Eyvindson is a writer and storyteller who continues to give numerous readings yearly to children across Canada. He began writing while serving as a teacher-librarian in northern Manitoba.

Peter and his family - wife and three sons - presently live in Clavet, Saskatchewan.

"Peter Eyvindson may be one of the most charming spinners of fable in the country."

- Tim Wynne-Jones, **Globe and Mail**



This new book by Pemmican's most prolific storyteller addresses a pressing concern that is growing world-wide; mainly, the threat to the environment. In this moving story, Peter Eyvindson clearly recounts the unthinking and disastrous assault on the environment and shows its dire consequences. The future he presents is ominous but is often overlooked in the mad scramble for immediate answers.

"The future can be changes for the better," he says, "if only man will listen." But it is the children, whose future it truly is, who hear the voices crying out for help and who begin to answer in joyous shouts, "We can help!"

This book is written for today's children who face the prospect of living on a planet besmeared by arrogance and greed. It is a must-read for those concerned.

GENERAL ELECTION

This notice is intended for all Metis persons resident in the Province of Manitoba. There will be a General Election for Members of the Board of the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc., as well as for all Vice-Presidents of the Federation and for the President of the Federation as well.

The Election shall take place on Wednesday, October 10, 1990 from 8:00 a.m. till 8:00 p.m. Nominations for the above positions shall be received by the Chief Returning Officer until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, September 10, 1990 at the office at 408 McGregor Street in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Voter's Lists shall be completed on Wednesday, September 26, 1990, fourteen (14) days prior to the election date for public examination and will be posted for that purpose by all locals. All Metis persons, resident in any region of the MMF must be registered on the Voter's List in order to vote. A final revision date has been set for Wednesday, October 3, 1990, seven (7) days prior to the Election date. Errors or omissions may be corrected or added to the list at that time. After that date, no changes may be made to the Voter's List.

The revision date shall be Wednesday, October 3, 1990. An advance poll shall be held on Friday, October 5, 1990 for those persons who will not be able to be present in their own polls on Voting Day.

The List of Locals registered as of today is the final list for the purposes of this election and for the establishment of Polling places. Polls shall be public buildings or homes normally accessible to the general public.

Nominations papers are available in all Regional Offices of the Manitoba Metis Federation Inc.

Brian N. Orvis C.M.

Chief Returning Officer

Manitoba Metis Federation Inc.

Dated this 10 day of August 1990

Election Day – Wednesday, October 10, 1990 - 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

ADVANCE POLL – Friday, October 5, 1990 - 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Final Revision Date – Wednesday, October 3, 1990

Completion and Posting of Voter's List – Wednesday, September 26, 1990

NOMINATIONS CLOSE – Monday, September 10, 1990 - 4:30 p.m.

This is to inform that the Southeast Region will be hosting their **Regional Meeting** on September 15th and 16th, 1990 in Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba.

Agenda, along with invitations to follow shortly.

Joyce Gus,
Vice-President Southeast Region, MMF

MMF ANNUAL ASSEMBLY CALLED November 16th, 17th & 18th, 1990

The Winnipeg Region will be hosting the **Annual Assembly** for 1990.

Contact your regional office if you would like more information or planning to attend.

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER

Ed Swain, General Manager of the M.M.F. announces the appointment of Brian N. Orvis C.M. as Chief Returning Officer for the forthcoming elections in our organization. All members by the way of their locals and regional offices will be informed of all the necessary preparations for the election.

Ed Swain added that Brian has undertaken numerous roles over the years for the M.M.F. and is extremely well known throughout the province. Brian looks forward to working with all of you and is confident of your co-operation at this time.