

New Breed

since 1970



winter 2019

New Breed

since 1970

A publication of the Métis Nation Government—Saskatchewan and the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research Inc.

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WELCOME from the PRESIDENT

It is my great pleasure to bring greetings from the President's office on the occasion of the revival of our *New Breed Magazine*. A Métis Nation–Saskatchewan affiliate, the Gabriel Dumont Institute has been tasked to produce this relaunch issue of *New Breed* as a magazine of the Métis Nation. Since 1970, *New Breed* has recorded the Métis voice, preserving our significant history, struggles and successes. I am proud to see this magazine rise back into circulation at this particularly exciting time for Métis in Saskatchewan.

Receiving official governance recognition in June, the MN–S has made significant strides to help advance the Métis Nation in the province.

Partnership agreements have been signed to address issues and individuals in a number of areas including education, policing, Île-à-la-Crosse boarding school survivors, and Métis cancer patients.

The MN–S has announced two new housing programs that will help Métis families afford a new home for the first time or make emergency repairs or renovate their existing homes.

This September saw hundreds of Métis youth begin a path to post-secondary education with the announcement of a 10-year, \$89 million-dollar post-secondary fund. It will help students pay tuition, purchase books, and find suitable living quarters while they study.

All my years being a Métis, I wanted to help move the Métis community to a point where residents would be able to stand proud and bring something to the table. We have made, and will continue to make, great progress toward that end.

The MN–S is committed to working with all levels of government to move the Canada–Métis Nation Accord forward.

Please enjoy this 'restart' issue of *New Breed* magazine. I look forward to reading this, and many more issues in the years to come.



***Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S)
President Glen McCallum and wife Verna***

AN OPINION PIECE ABOUT TERMINOLOGY

Karon Shmon

This issue of New Breed marks the revival of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan magazine. New Breed began in 1970 and has an impressive print run of over 260 issues with many of them available online at www.metismuseum.ca. In relaunching this magazine, there has been lively discussion about whether or not it is appropriate to continue using the phrase “New Breed.” This is a complex issue. As part of this discussion, we include this opinion piece on this topic.

The preferred language for terms relating to Métis, First Nations, and Inuit peoples is fluid and has changed several times over the last several decades. For this reason, some readers may wonder why the name of this magazine remains *New Breed*.

The Métis Nation includes Métis who are of First Nations and French-Canadian origins and Métis who are of First Nations and British origins (Irish, Scottish and Orcadian, and English). The people comprising the Métis Nation have origins much like Canadians, Americans, and Australians in that these settler populations were comprised of other ethnicities prior to the formation of the country to which they relocated. Canadians, like the Métis, are no longer the parts, but the sum of the parts; a new entity with a new identity.

Some people call themselves “Michif,” “Halfbreed,” or “Métis.” “Halfbreed” was the term the Métis of First Nations and British origins chose for themselves early on, a term which meant they were not the Métis of French Canadian and First Nations origins. Over time, and particularly after the 1885 Resistance at Batoche, the term “Halfbreed” and its abbreviated form, “Breed,” were used in such a derogatory fashion that it became offensive. We didn’t do this to ourselves, but in much the same way that some of the names forced on various First Nations were anything but complimentary, “Halfbreed” and “Breed” were also used to denigrate our people. For cultural safety, many Métis hid their identities so they could obtain employment and be free of harassment. Métis soldiers who tried to identify as Métis when they enlisted were told “there is

no such thing. Your surname sounds (French, Scottish, etc.), so that’s what you are.” We truly were the nickname we once had, “Canada’s forgotten people.” We went unacknowledged for nearly a century, finally obtaining legal recognition in the Constitution in 1982, thanks largely to the efforts of Harry Daniels, a Métis leader from Saskatchewan.

At one time, a pan-Indigenous term, “Aboriginal,” became popular. At present, “Indigenous” is the term of the day, but is not preferred by all of us. Indigenous peoples want distinctions-based terminology. We want to choose it and we want others to use it. Choosing to continue to call this publication *New Breed* is an empowering step that sends the message that “we didn’t abuse it, it’s our right to use it, we proudly reclaim it.” We are still the “otipemisiwak,” which translates from Cree as “the people who own themselves.”



OVERDUE RECOGNITION

Métis Veterans finally compensated

\$30 million dollars has been set aside for Métis Veterans in Canada. Speaking at the official announcement in September, Federal Minister of Veterans Affairs Lawrence MacAulay acknowledged it has taken three-quarters of a century to recognize that Métis people were unfairly treated upon their return from war. “We apologize,” he stated succinctly. Two words that many Métis Veterans of the Second World War would never get to hear.

Under the compensation package, each living World War II Métis veteran will receive \$20,000. Additionally, descendants of veterans who passed away within the past three years will also be eligible for compensation.

“They deserve our respect and we say thank you,” MacAulay said.

Officials began the retribution process in the months leading up to the public federal announcement. The first Métis veteran to receive proper compensation and recognition was former Saskatchewan resident Paul Delorme. The Dieppe survivor was honoured in June, following the 75th anniversary of D-Day, at his home just outside of London, England. By July, special recognition ceremonies were being held closer to home to show respect to Saskatchewan Métis veterans, including former Saskatchewan resident Clifford Swain, who was honoured in British Columbia, and current Saskatchewan residents Louis Roy of Beauval and George McKay of Tisdale. Last month, two more veterans were recognized for their service: Marie “Alice” Victoria Samuel of Duck Lake and Lucien “Jim” Boucher of Saskatoon.

When asked about the special ceremonies, Métis Nation–Saskatchewan Veterans Affairs Minister, Ryan Carriere said, “2019 marks a historic year for Métis Veterans of WWII with the Métis Veterans compensation announcement and apology from (Federal) Minister of

Veterans Affairs, Lawrence MacAulay, for the treatment of Métis Veterans after WWII.” He added, “We have had the great honour to present compensation to the remaining four Veterans that are living in Saskatchewan.”

Through Lucien “Jim” Boucher’s daughter Anita, Jim has shared some of his personal memoirs with us. The following is a condensed excerpt:



Veteran Lucien (Jim) Boucher

“Better known as Jim to many, I was born on November 24, 1922 on my Dad’s homestead, west of St. Louis, SK. I went to a country school a mile from home but had to quit in grade nine to help my dad on the farm. The fall of 1942, I received a call from the army to report to Regina

on January 5, 1943... having just turned 20 years old... returned home on January 9, 1944. Away from home for the first time and had been away for a year and five days.

“I had to report back to Vernon after 30 days and after being there for a while, some of us decided to go active, signed up and volunteered to go overseas... did more training in NS, then onto the boat for overseas. It took eight days to get to Scotland. There must have been enemy submarines near because one night, we were told not to take off our boots.

“Then, on to England for more training. There were places bombed pretty bad. From Aldershot to Liverpool... buses to get to the boat.... eight days to Naples. Being a port, it had been bombed quite heavily, a lot of it flattened right out. I had gone overseas with reinforcements and on the boat, there were quite a few guys from BC. They were a good bunch, so I decided to stay with them, the Seaforth Islanders. I was not sorry, they saw a lot of action, but were a good gang to be with.

"The first time on the front line, we had no idea what it was all about. We had taken over for the Edmonton Regiment, a 1st division, same as we were. They had lost a lot of men there, so they called that place 'Hell's Corner'. The Germans knew the country real good. It was quiet when we got there, so the sections leader told us where to dig. Bill Biyck was my no. 2 on the Bren-gun. He had a rifle but if I got bumped off, he would take the Bren, seeing it was a better weapon than the rifle. I said to Bill 'take the shovel,' he said, 'you go to hell and dig yourself.' Just at that time, the Germans opened fire with the machine gun. When the bullets started hitting trees around us, we grabbed the shovels and we dug 'er good and deep. That was the last time we ever argued about digging a trench.

"We made an attack on Jan. 4, 1945. It was quite cold, and we had to cross a narrow creek with ice on it. The lighter men could pussyfoot across without breaking through, but the heavier guys would bust through the ice and had to walk in the water, waist deep ... we lost a lot of men that morning. We went on to Senio Dyke where, I'd say, we were a little too close to the enemy. We had our trenches on one side of the bank and they had theirs on the other side. So, we had to use hand grenades. Two of us would throw half a gunny sack full in two hours...we didn't want to let them go before counting to two for fear that they might throw them back at us...one of our men held the grenade too long and it exploded in his hand....the poor man didn't have a chance. We held the line there at the Senio Dyke for the rest of the winter.

"Back to the attack on Jan. 4, 1945... In the spring, after six months in Italy and being in the line for three months, we got on barges at Leghorn.

"Then came the day we had all been waiting for—'The war was over.' Just couldn't believe it. Had seen a lot of action, but it is surprising how many shells and how much bombing a man can go through without getting his, if his number isn't up!

"(In Saskatchewan) I walked out of the Barracks gate with \$150, which was a lot of money for a soldier who had fought on the front line for \$1.50 per day. I must not forget to mention, I had my discharge paper in my pocket. Bet I was one of the happiest guys in Canada, January 30, 1946.

"Married January 3, 1950 to Lorette Boyer. (After moving around a bit) we moved back to our own house in St. Louis, SK. I inherited some farmland. My wife of 59 years was diagnosed with Dementia in 2004 and died in 2009. I have a son, a daughter, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. I am healthy, except for weakened legs and bad hearing (from all the loud gunshots and bombing at war). In long-term care now since 2018 in Saskatoon, turning 97, November 24, 2019."

During the recognition ceremony held in Saskatoon on October 30th, 2019, Lucien 'Jim' Boucher became emotional. With tear-filled eyes, he expressed his appreciation and accepted the \$20,000 compensation cheque, along with a beaded red poppy and a sash.

Boucher noted the money would have come in handy when he returned from the war back in the 1940s when he went back to work on the family farm.



Joseph Victor Laliberte
WWI

Edith Hilda Merrifield, WWII

Daniel Pelletier, WWI

Unknown Métis Soldiers, WWII

IN MEMORIAM

Influential Métis Community Leader Laid to Rest

~ Gone, but not forgotten ~

It was a dark time in Leonard McCallum's life the day he filled a small backpack with a few necessities, grabbed his tent and set off into the bush near his home community of Pinehouse, Saskatchewan. Addicted to alcohol, Leonard knew he needed help and that mainstream recovery programs weren't going to do the trick. His solution was to leave temptation behind and go back to nature, to Mother Earth, and sober up. He invited other addicts from his village to join him and his brother Glen arranged for transportation. That's how and when the Recovery Lake rehabilitation program was born. The year was 1987.

Recovery Lake takes individuals out of their community and away from temptation for an entire month.

20 miles north of Pinehouse, tents were pitched along the edge of Muskwa Lake, a scenic vista surrounded by trees and tranquility. As peaceful as their surroundings may have been, this path to recovery didn't come easily for many; in fact, the solitude reminded them of what led them down the addictions path to begin with.

Still, an impressive number of individuals have been healed by the Recovery Lake program, averaging 20 participants per year since its inception.

In the beginning, the rehabilitation camp only ran in the spring and summer months; still, it didn't take long for the community to become aware of the camp's positive results. The treatment's success is largely due to a holistic approach toward healing—one based on culture, identity, values, and language. Through the Pinehouse Village office and the school, the community built three more cabins on site, with hopes for further expansion. The community of Pinehouse is currently discussing the possibility of providing power to the site, which would further enable year-round operations.



*Photo of Leonard McCallum,
Photo Credit: Pinehouse Photography Club*

Sadly, Recovery Lake's founder will not see these goals come to fruition.

32 years after first walking into the bush, Leonard McCallum passed away at the age of 62. For the community he held so close to his heart, his wake and burial provided the opportunity to celebrate a life of purpose and compassion.

He leaves behind a powerful legacy not only for the people he helped lead to recovery, but for those who will follow the same journey to Recovery Lake in the future.

Pinehouse Social Development Coordinator, Frank Natomagan and his sister have taken over operations at the camp. Natomagan says the community is in the process of finalizing the details but by the time the camp re-opens in May of next year, the sign welcoming new participants will read "Leonard McCallum Recovery Lake Program".

Mr. McCallum will not be forgotten.

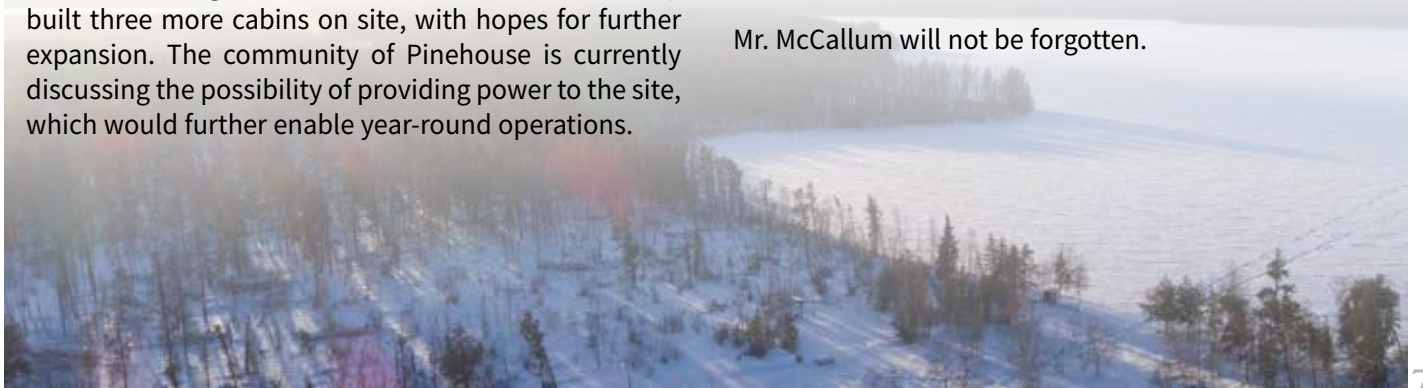


Photo of Muskwa Lake/Recovery Lake, Photo Credit: Pinehouse Photography Club

MN-S Provincial Citizenship Registry

Registry issued citizenship cards to 9,100 Métis

In October of 2017, Métis Nation–Saskatchewan's (MN–S) provincial citizenship registry office restructured itself with one key goal in mind: to streamline its complex citizenship application process into something smaller and more manageable, thereby allowing more people to obtain a card at a much faster pace.

The 15-page, legal-sized application packet is now reformatted as five concise pages, waiting lines are being reduced as new registry offices emerge in communities across the province, and plans to offer an online application process and host mobile intake sessions in remote communities have been set in place.

Although the citizenship application was simplified in the interest of accessibility, each application is thoroughly and painstakingly researched and vetted by Registry staff, including administrative support, intake officers, researchers, and the office's resident genealogists. This multi-step verification process ensures that every citizenship application meets the four-part criteria of what constitutes "Métis," as outlined by the Métis National Council in 2002 and adopted by the MN–S in 2004. That is, "Métis means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry and who is accepted by the Métis Nation."

To ensure its adherence to that definition, the Registry maintains a genealogical department that assists with the research and correct documentation of all files.

It may take up to six months before the Registry can satisfactorily either assign or deny a citizenship number. Given the recent signing of the Métis Government Recognition and Self-Governance Agreement as well as new and ground-breaking funding announcements for Saskatchewan's Métis citizens, the Registry highly encourages Métis people to sign up for citizenship with the MN–S. Some of the benefits of provincial citizenship registration include being eligible to:

- apply for the MN–S First-Time Home Buyers Program
- apply for the Emergency Home Renovations and Repair Program
- apply for post-secondary funding, bursaries, and scholarships through MN–S affiliates
- apply for educational programs (ex. SUNTEP, GDC, DTI)
- join Métis-specific and Indigenous sports teams
- obtain harvesting rights in court-recognized areas
- apply for Métis funding, loans, and advice for small businesses and entrepreneurs
- identify as Métis when applying to work for employers who hire affirmatively
- identify as Métis for programs where spots are reserved for people of Indigenous ancestry

Over the course of the past two years, the Registry has issued citizenship cards to 9,100 Métis individuals, with no sign of slowdown in sight.

Registry Staff, October 2019:

Elena B, Amanda M, Chelsea S, Lise T, Stephanie H, Rhiannon W, Janelle L, Mabel I, Andrew S, Sydney N, Vanessa G, Erin G, Tammy V, Cara R, Christine C, Logan B, Gabriel B, Cathy M, Sheila K, Michelle K, Elyse O, Peggy R, Larissa A, Vicki C, Marilyn D, Courtney B, Theresa C, Theresa G, Ruby J, Tina P

Métis Pitcher Scored on the Field and at the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan Provincial Registry

opening the door to a world of opportunities

When Meagen Reed was selected at the last minute to pitch for the Muscowpetung Aces at the Canadian Native Fastball Championships in Winnipeg, she worried that she wouldn't obtain her Métis card in time to play.

When she phoned the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) Provincial Registry she was told that it could take up to six months to receive approval.

That was not the case. As Reed recalls, “I came in Friday....and was approved Tuesday!”

Although not every applicant will share Reed's experience, her quick and successful approval for citizenship can largely be attributed to her and her family's efforts to gather the necessary documentation.

“I'm so lucky that my mom and aunt had records,” Reed said. Had it not been for their record-keeping, things might not have gone so smoothly. For example, the Yorkton Diocese could not locate her kohkum's baptismal certificate. Thankfully, her aunt had the original copy. Reed's family is originally from the Crescent Lake area near Yorkton and fastball is a family sport. For Reed, fastball has created a community in which generation after generation becomes involved. “We love fastball,” said Reed, who, when she's not on the field herself, enjoys coaching.

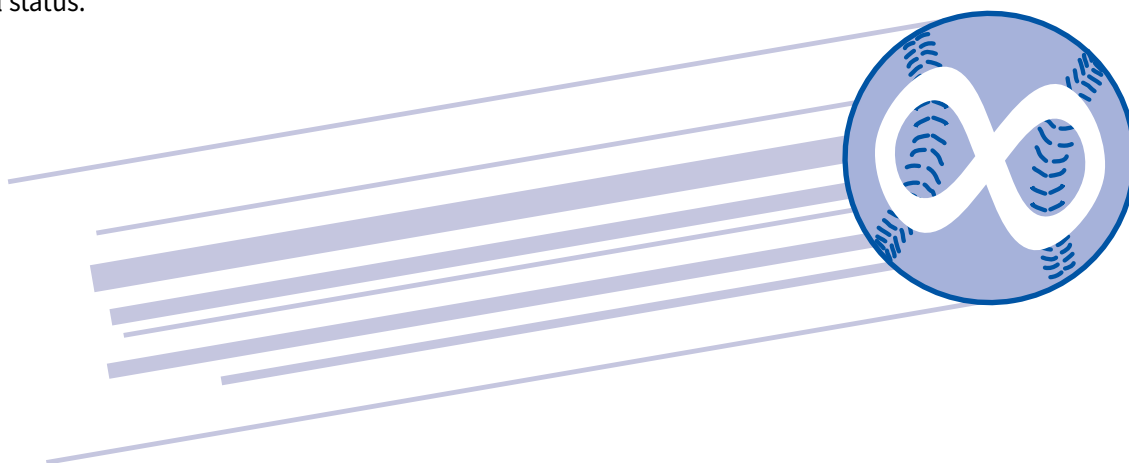
With her MN–S citizenship card, Reed could confidently head to Manitoba for the championships, knowing she had proof of identity should another team challenge her Aboriginal status.

While Reed's team was defeated on the Saturday of the Winnipeg tournament, she turned the loss into a win by being able to take in the rest of the weekend's events, including the Sunday men's and ladies' finals.

While at the tournament, Reed made new friends, reconnected with family, and formed a lasting bond with a teammate. The pair already plan on attending next year's championships in Prince George, British Columbia.

Being asked to play for the Muscowpetung Aces ended up opening the door to a world of opportunities for Reed. Now that she has her citizenship card, she plans to attend the University of Saskatchewan to work toward her graduate degree in soil science. Reed's mother, who is Cree/Métis, will also be completing her graduate degree in social work. The MN–S post-secondary funding announcement over the summer will help them achieve their goals.

Reed is just one of many who have taken advantage of the MN–S Provincial Registry. But her experience is a tribute to the dedicated, hardworking people behind the organization that verified and approved Reed's application a mere day before her fastball championship began. Their efforts did not go unnoticed by Reed: “Registry staff were incredibly helpful. It was a hands down great experience.”



FOUND

From nakamowin' sa for the seasons by Rita Bouvier. Published by Thistledown Press in 2015, nakamowin' sa for the seasons was shortlisted for three 2016 Saskatchewan Book Awards and won the award for Aboriginal Peoples' Writing. Bouvier's poetry has been translated into Spanish and German, and her work has appeared in literary anthologies, musicals, and television productions. Bouvier lives in Saskatoon.

national anthem

(upon reading A Fair Country by John Raulston Saul)

by Rita Bouvier

oh, oh Canada
our home and native land. . .

the last time I heard owl's song
I was ten. it was late one evening
along the path—the long way home
over the hill through red willows.

ôhô was on the limb of a tree
mocking me over and over again.
ooh who, ooh who are you?
no time to respond to a silly old owl.

ohh who, ooh who, indeed! I sing
stealing owl's song tonight
buoyed by the premise *we are all Métis*.
but not so fast John Raulston Saul!

ooh who, ooh who are you, I sing.
say something, something exotic
oh dark, wild mysterious woman.
answer! answer quickly before you forget.

we are the bastard children left behind
by white men and *mixed blood women*,
uncommonly pretty and provocative.
so the his- story books say.

that was not what you wanted to hear!
oh you post-structural, post-colonial sensitive one.
then, I am the obedient subservient.
come ooon! be a *nice, good brown girl!*

the truth? I am a mass of matter
that matters;
matters to her family.
marrî lapatte—pliable like dough-girl,

falls all over the kitchen counter
can't quite bring it all together;
Julie—a little on the raggedy edge,
sometimes-forgets-to-finish-her-tasks girl.

I am *oui-la* loved,
a name to remember my French heritage;
wāstīyāp is my name from the old ones—
wolf-like eyes shining and all-seeing.

there you have it all now in my
ooh who, ooh who are you song.
I am neither European or Indian—nor
Christopher Columbus' lost song for that matter.

I am *ayisiyino*—a human being;
ewāhkōtoyak—we are all related.
this place knows me—remembers me,
the soft sounds of my grandmothers' tongues.

sing her song, oh, oh Canada!
our home and native land!





"to the oldest tree in the world"
from *This Accident of Being*
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to the oldest tree in the world

Leanne Betasamosake Simpson

i'm worrying about
what you're drinking
you're worrying about
what i'm breathing

i like you
because you
never
talk
too loud

i breathe it out
you breath it in

i like you
because you all hold
this all together
with the parts i can't see

i breath it in
you breath it out

you: eleven times my age
me: draped in clouds of youth
i think i know what you've seen
i think we're the same
but it's not true
i don't know
i don't

i don't know how to say this
without embarrassing you
but i do know
i believe in saying things
i do know
i believe
in the telling

your wrinkled grey skin is gorgeous
&
i hope you don't know what's happening.

from Métis Cookbook and Guide to Healthy Living, 2nd edition, published by the National Aboriginal Health Organization, an organization founded in 2000 and that received annual core funding from the federal government through Health Canada. After twelve years, funding was cut and the organization closed in 2012.

Tourtiere Torchiyer

Courtesy of Rita Flammand, Manitoba

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 lb. minced deer or moose meat
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- ½ tsp. savory
- ½ tsp. sage
- ¼ tsp. cloves
- ½ cup water
- ½ cup cooked mashed potatoes
- Pastry [a pie crust can be made or purchased at the store]

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Place all ingredients except pastry in saucepan.
- Put on simmer and stir frequently, uncovered, for about 20 minutes.
- Allow to cool.
- Pour mixture into pastry lined pie pan.
- Cover with pastry.
- Bake at 425°F for 30 to 45 minutes until top is well browned.



Michif Revitalization

David Morin

The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Métis Culture and Heritage Department / GDI Press works with Michif speakers to preserve and promote the three Michif languages spoken in Saskatchewan: Heritage Michif, Michif-French, and Northern Michif. GDI employs sociological conventions when classifying a Michif language: if a Michif person living in Saskatchewan calls their language “Michif,” then the Institute respects their wishes and calls that language “Michif.” As part of our cultural mandate, most of GDI’s publications include Michif components.

Spoken mainly in southern and central Saskatchewan and Manitoba and ranging into North Dakota (the area in and around the Turtle Mountain Reservation) and some parts of Montana, Heritage Michif is considered by linguists to be the true mixed Métis language. It mixes Plains Cree verbs and verb phrases and French nouns and noun phrases along with some Nahkawē (Saulteaux) and English, depending on the locale and family. Michif-French, spoken in various places in all three Prairie Provinces, is a dialect of Canadian French that sometimes employs an Algonquian syntax. Northern Michif, spoken in northwest Saskatchewan, is a dialect of Plains Cree with a tiny number of French loan words.

The Institute is a leader in Michif’s preservation, promotion, and revitalization.

GDI’s early resources containing varying degrees of Michif include:

The Alfred Reading Series (1992): a five-part children’s series written for primary school-aged children.

Métis Songs: Visiting was the Métis Way (1993): a songbook including over 80 Métis songs, many of which are in Heritage Michif and Michif-French.

Come Read With Us (1998): the narration component for The Alfred Reading Series.

The Métis: Our People, Our Story (1999): CD-ROM – information about all forms of Michif.

Resources for Métis Researchers (1999): Information on all forms of Michif, including a bibliography.

The Turtle’s Teachings (2000): a narration for Penny Condon’s children’s book *Changes*.

Li Michif: Kakee-Payshee-Peekishkwaywuk-Oma

(2000): a video documentary, which includes an overview of Heritage Michif and interviews with Michif speakers.

Métis Legacy (2002): Information on all forms of Michif, including an annotated bibliography.

The Story of the Crescent Lake Métis: Our Life on The Road Allowance (2002): a video documentary featuring the Heritage Michif-speaking community of Crescent Lake in southern Saskatchewan.

Kitaskinaw i pi Kishkisnamakoya: The Land Gives Us Our Knowledge (2002): a video documentary featuring the Métis community of Île-à-la-Crosse in northern Saskatchewan.

Expressing Our Heritage: Métis Artistic Designs Resource Manual (2003): an accompanying manual and exhibition book for a set of fifty prints highlighting traditional Métis material culture. Includes Heritage Michif and Northern Michif terms and activities for teachers.

Métis Women’s Traditional Arts Series DVD: Features the four videos Aen Kroshay aen tapee avec mi gineey: Métis Hooked Rugs (2003); *Mashnikwawchikun avec la sway di fil: Métis Silk Embroidery* (2003); and *En saencheur flechey: Métis Fingerweaving* (2003); *Our Shared Inheritance: Traditional Métis Beadwork* (2003).

GDI Press has included Michif translations and narrations for many of our publications. They have worked with many speakers including Norman Fleury, Rita Flamand, Margaret Hodgson, Laura Burnouf, Vince Ahenakew, Father Guy Lavallée, and Harriet St. Pierre.

These publications include:

The Beavers’ Big House (2004), *Fiddle Dancer* (2006), *The Story of the Rabbit Dance* (2007), *Better That Way* (2008), *Medicines to Help Us* (2008), *Dancing in My Bones* (2009), *The Flower Beadwork People* (2009), *The Giving Tree: A Retelling of a Traditional Métis Story* (2009), *The Métis Alphabet Book* (2009), *Call of the Fiddle* (2011), *Relatives with Roots* (2011), *The Diamond Willow Walking Stick* (2012), *Remembering My Métis Past: Reminisces of Edwin St. Pierre* (2012), *Roogaroo Mickey* (2013), *Manny’s Memories* (2014),

My First Métis Lobstick (2014), *Road Allowance Kitten* (2015), *Taanishi Books (Michif/English Editions)* (2015), *Métis Christmas Mittens* (2017), *The Voyageurs: Forefathers of the Métis Nation* (2019), *The Big Tease: A Story of Eliza Delorme and her Cousin, Édouard Beupré*, *The Willow Bunch Giant* (2019), and *Métis Camp Circle: A Bison Culture Way of Life* (2019). Other publications that have Michif in some capacity include: *Métis Legacy II: Michif Culture, Heritage and Folkways* (2006), *New Breed Magazine*, *The New Nation: La Noovell Naasyoon*, *Stories of Our People/Lii zistway di la naasyoon di Michif: A Métis Graphic Anthology*, and *Pierriche Falcon: The Michif Rhymester* (2009).



GDI has created resources that have a primary Michif focus including:

The Michif Resource Guide (2007): containing biographies and photographs of Michif speakers as well as a comprehensive list of words and phrases in Heritage Michif, Northern Michif, and Michif-French; *Nehiyawewin Masinahikan* (2009): a comprehensive dictionary featuring thousands of words in Northern Michif; *Nehiyawewin Mitataht* (2009): a useful introduction to the grammar of Northern Michif; and *Michif Dictionary 2013* (2013): Using Vince Ahenakew's dictionary, *Nêhiyawêwin Masinahikan* as a starting point, Norman Fleury undertook the enormous task of translating nearly 11,500 words into Heritage Michif.

GDI has also used technology in many ways to preserve, promote, and revitalize Michif:

The Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture (www.metismuseum.ca) (2003) has extensive Michif content in its "Michif Collection" section. Included in the collection are the digitization of a Michif workshop from 2006; digitization of Michif Storytellers workshop from 2008; digitization of Ile-a-la Crosse Michif interviews; Michif learning games by Heather Souter; digitization of approximately 100 Michif-French interviews conducted by Father Guy Lavallée; and *The Alfred Reading Series* was recorded in Michif by Bruce Flamont and uploaded as interactive flash books with Michif narration.

The Back to Batoche Interactive Website (www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Batoche/index.html) (2006) contains a classroom where Norman Fleury provides users with a great deal of Heritage Michif narration.

Michif to Go was GDI's first Android app. Norman Fleury narrated each word from the Michif Dictionary 2013 so each word's pronunciation could be heard on a mobile device and on www.metismuseum.ca/michif_dictionary.php. It includes a phrases section to demonstrate how the language is used and how its syntax is

structured. *Northern Michif to Go* was released for Android and Apple devices in 2018 and contains over 18,000 translations and audio pronunciations by Vince Ahenakew.

GDI's second mobile app was *Michif Lessons*. It features over 1000 words and phrases to learn over 60 exercises, with audio pronunciations by Norman Fleury. This app is available for both Android and Apple devices and at www.metismuseum.ca/michif_tools.php.

continued next page

GDI has preserved, promoted, and revitalized Michif in many other ways:

Community visits took place by Norman Fleury in 2015 to record interviews in Michif by 22 Elders in Winnipeg, Binscarth, Brandon, Gerald, Russell, and Yorkton. Michif presentations have occurred at all GDI partnership events at the Batoche National Historic site, GDI Culture Conferences, and many other conferences.

GDI held a language banking gathering in 2017 as part of a SaskCulture Canada 150 project. We invited Michif speakers from Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Alberta to spend two days in an outdoor setting to talk about various topics in Michif. The conversations were captured using video and audio recordings and will serve as the basis of Michif resource development and as a valuable cultural archive in their own right.

Students in GDI's SUNTEP (Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program) have been able to take a Michif- language course for the past several years. Language classes have also been taught to the public by Norman Fleury and Harriet St. Pierre.

In the spring of 2019, SUNTEP Regina offered its inaugural EMCH 150 course. The course is a six-credit, three-week language immersion experience held at the Lebrez Métis Farm, about an hour east of Regina. Students worked with an instructor and seven Michif speakers and cultural carriers to learn basic Michif conversational phrases while performing everyday tasks such as cooking, visiting, and building. Using the MAP model (Mentor-Apprenticeship Program), students engaged with Michif speakers to create dialogues, ask questions, and learn traditional practices, such as Métis dance, how to build a Red River cart, and the ethical harvesting of medicines. All instruction was given in Michif and students were encouraged to use English as little as possible. The culmination of the camp was a celebration of learning where parents, grandparents, and various community members were treated to a meal, dance, and Michif songs all prepared by the students to demonstrate what they had learned.

Michif-language resources, including dictionaries and children's books, can be obtained through the Gabriel Dumont Institute at shopmetis.ca.



Call for Members of the MN-S Housing Strategy Independent Adjudication Panel

The Provincial Métis Housing Corporation (PMHC) is in the process of developing an MN-S Independent Adjudication Panel (MN-S IAP) for the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan Housing Strategy.

PMHC is looking for five (5) qualified Métis citizens to be members of the MN-S Independent Adjudication Panel (MN-S IAP). Members of the MN-S IAP must be of good character, bondable and of the highest integrity and at least eighteen (18) years of age with an ability to travel.

The MN-S IAP will review and recommend housing applications and proposals submitted through the MN-S Housing Strategy process. We would like the MN-S IAP to be composed of Métis citizens with a strong interest in housing, and/or social issues and Métis citizens with a financial or administrative background.

PMHC is looking for Métis representation from the North, South and Central Saskatchewan and as well two representatives from Urban centers. We will be taking applications to December 31, 2019 or until all positions on the MN-S IAP are filled.

TO APPLY

please feel free to mail your resume to:
Provincial Métis Housing Corporation
#15-901 1st Ave. North,
Saskatoon, SK. S7K 1Y4

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

please feel free to contact us at 306- 343- 8241 or
by e-mail: mnshousingstrategy@sasktel.net

#15, 901-1st Avenue North,
Saskatoon, SK. S7K 1Y4
Tel: (306) 343-8240
Fax: (306) 343-1700
E-mail:
metishousing@sasktel.net

Métis Nation–Saskatchewan’s Journey to Self-Government

the stuff that powerful stories are made of

The journey to self-government by the Métis in Saskatchewan has been a long one. To understand how far the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) has come, it’s important to recognize where we have been. When you trace the history of Métis in Canada, it reads like a novel. It is the stuff that powerful stories are made of: survival, struggle for power, conflicting ideals, and the search for one’s place in the world. No wonder so many movies, documentaries, and books have explored the life of Métis leader Louis Riel.

In 1870, the Métis in Red River, Manitoba, were under the guidance of Louis Riel putting together a provisional government with its own laws and court system. Riel was engaged in a constant battle to keep Métis rights and culture intact even as he fended off the ever-growing Canadian influence on his homeland. As an increasing number of settlers displaced the Métis from the Red River, they were driven further west into Saskatchewan.

Three years later, Gabriel Dumont became the first president of the new government for the Métis settlement of St. Laurent, located on the South Saskatchewan River. Together with his elected council, President Dumont drafted and formalized a constitution based on the laws of the Buffalo Hunt, which was written down for posterity.

In 1885, under the leadership of Riel, a second provisional government was declared—this time at Batoche, Saskatchewan. There, the Métis stood and defended the vision of a strong and principled Métis government as well as the right to pass our own laws and regulate our own affairs. Although ultimately defeated, the dream to establish a Métis government lived on.

Following the defeat of Métis forces at Batoche, Métis political activism was driven underground as Métis were labelled as “traitors” by settler populations. Beginning in the 1930s and carrying on through successive generations of Métis leaders, Métis people continue to organize and advocate for our rights, including the inherent right to self-government.

While the Métis made significant progress, government continued to resist and deny the recognition of our right to self-government, even as we were recognized as one of Canada’s rights-holding Indigenous peoples under s. 35 of the Constitution, ratified in 1982. In 1993, Métis leaders in Saskatchewan took the historic and unprecedented step of declaring independence and right to self-government when the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan adopted our own constitution.



Historic Signing of Core Governance Agreement between the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada on June 27, 2019



Signing of the Framework Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, July 20th, 2018

In 2016, the federal government finally acknowledged and formally recognized the assertions Métis people have been making in Saskatchewan and across the Métis Homeland for more than 200 years. In July of 2018, the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan signed a framework agreement with the federal government. This agreement outlined a negotiation process between Canada and the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan to develop a nation-to-nation relationship with Canada that advances reconciliation and establishes a process for the recognition of the section 35 rights of Métis Citizens.

These negotiations were productive and resulted in the signing of a Core Governance Agreement with Canada on June 27, 2019, under which Canada immediately recognized that the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan is mandated to represent the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan through its inherent right to self-government.

Under this agreement, the Métis of Saskatchewan can finally undertake to build and establish a Métis government that reflects our own unique vision, culture, and needs. This includes eradicating the need to operate under the not-for-profit model, which was

imposed as a requirement to engage with and receive funding from governments in the past, in order to move toward the formation of a government body that will work as it should for the Métis.

Deciding what this government will look like and how it will serve the people of Saskatchewan is part of a constitutional reform engagement process that is currently underway. Tweaking the constitution now will ensure MN-S is prepared and able to assume and exercise jurisdiction over areas such as housing, education, social services, and health—all subjects of negotiation under the Framework Agreement. In short, the Constitution is the mechanism that gives the MN-S the authority not just to pass laws, but to pass laws that are fully recognized and respected by all other levels of government. Following up on the engagement sessions, a draft Interim Report will contain options on potential changes to the MN-S Constitution or Legislation.

While there is much work to be done and some challenges lie ahead, Métis in Saskatchewan are poised, after years of adversity and struggle, to finally realize the dream for which Louis Riel and successive Métis leaders bore the ultimate sacrifice.

A Shared Approach to Negotiations

NexGen Energy seeks project approval

It's an exciting time for Métis residents in the north. NexGen Energy Ltd. is seeking approval for its proposed uranium mine north of La Loche, known as the Rook 1 Project.

The proposed region is on lands claimed for Aboriginal title by the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan (MN-S) in 1994, both at grade level and below.

Negotiations of a benefit agreement are underway with NexGen and involve all parties, including the MN-S and Northern Region II, as well as the northern locals.

The negotiation team will take its lead from the locals to ensure all parties have a positive outcome.

The process so far has allowed for a Study Agreement to be signed. Under the terms of the agreement, traditional

land use research is being initiated in Northern Region 2 and a Joint Working Group has been assembled.

The Joint Working Group held its first meeting on October 29, 2019, in Saskatoon.



MN-S Helping to Educate

10-year, \$89 million fund announced

While working one evening, 19-year-old restaurant hostess Stefanie Johnston noticed a reservation had been made for Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S). Noting the party’s arrival, she felt compelled to do something she wouldn’t normally do.

After introducing herself to President Glen McCallum, Stefanie revealed why she was so eager to meet him: “Just so you know, I’m one of your (post-secondary funding) recipients.”

She recalls the president responding with sincere enthusiasm, even offering her a high-five.

Johnston had just received funding approval under the new MN–S/Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) 10-year, \$89 million-dollar post-secondary education fund. Thanks to the program, she was able to sign up for her second year of a four-year nursing degree program.

Johnston used provincial government student loan money for the first year of the program but was denied further financial aid for her second year of studies.

Had she not learned about the MN–S/GDI funding program through other family members, she would have either been forced to withdraw from school or, as a last resort, place the tuition on her credit cards.

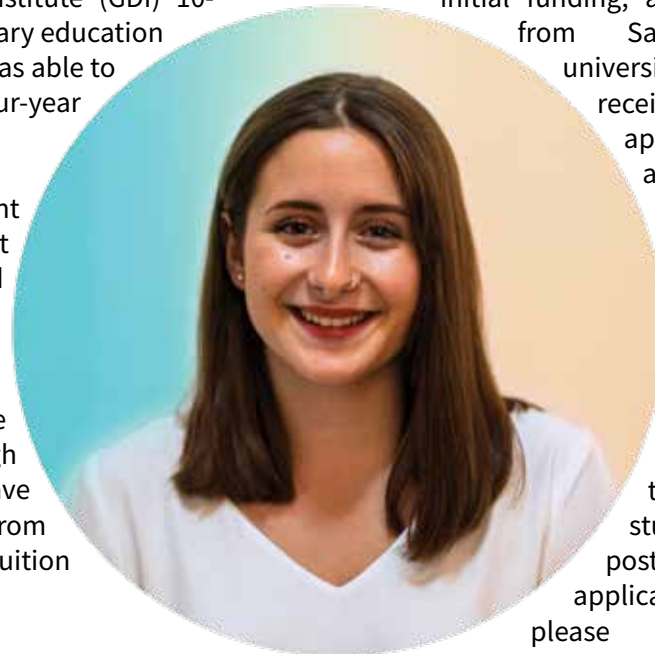
Announced this past July, the \$89 million-dollar post-secondary education fund, implemented specifically for Métis students, provides direct support in the form of tuition, books, and living allowance. It also supports student services and increases education governance capacity at the post-secondary level.

“We know that there is a significant gap in post-secondary education attainment levels between Métis and non-Indigenous populations in Saskatchewan,”

said President McCallum at the announcement. “We have heard...that this is a priority and we raised the issue with our federal government partner that included our solution and we have achieved that.” McCallum added, “This is an important moment for our Nation and its citizens and our collective future.”

Dr. Earl Cook, Education Minister and chair of the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board, added, “There is so much research that correlates post-secondary education as a critical factor in closing the socio-economic gap between Métis and non-Indigenous populations.”

An online application process was developed for the initial funding, and 450 applications from Saskatchewan Métis university students were received. 375 were approved for funding, and the distribution to students for tuition, books, and living costs began in September 2019. The MN–S is the first Métis government in Canada to administer funds to Métis university students under the new post-secondary fund. For application information, please visit: <https://gdins.org/career-and-employment/sponsorship/university>.



Johnston says that without this program, she honestly doesn’t know what she would have been forced to do. Now, with the money from the MN–S/GDI fund, Johnston says she is relieved to leave that worry behind and focus all of her energies on her studies.

TRISTAN FREI: SUNTEP

Regina Student Profile

Janice R. Thompson

The Regina City Hall chambers was filled near capacity early on the evening of September 30, 2019. Parents, spouses, children, friends, community members, and post-secondary institution representatives settled into their seats. Sitting nearby was a group of post-secondary students patiently waiting for the ceremony to commence. The Regina City Mayor and Council arrived and soon the program began. We observed each student waiting for their name to be called and proudly embraced the moment.

The annual City of Regina Community Investments Scholarship Program showcases post-secondary student accomplishments. Students are honored and recognized for their education and community achievements. Over the last few years, the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) in Regina has been a champion recipient of the prestigious Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research-Henry Baker Scholarship Award. The 2019 recipient is Tristan Frei. Born and raised in Regina, Saskatchewan, Tristan is a fourth-year SUNTEP Regina student completing his third year: pre-internship. He is a Métis student who takes pride in learning and sharing his pre-service teacher training, sports and recreation participation, and community leadership experiences. His humility, respect, thoughtfulness, reflective practice, and passion as an up and coming educator continue to build in momentous progression.

Tristan's academic achievements include impressive accolades. Since the beginning of his post-secondary training, Tristan has strived to establish his recent 91.04% undergraduate grade point average. Securing this impressive average has resulted in many awards:

- Cougar Men's Hockey Athletic Award – 2016 Fall
- Cougar Men's Hockey Athletic Award – 2017 Winter
- Academic All Canadian Scholarship – 2017 Fall
- Academic All Canadian Scholarship – 2018 Winter
- Academic Silver Prize – 2018 Spring/Summer
- Academic All Canadian Scholarship – 2018 Fall
- Academic All Canadian Scholarship – 2019 Winter



Additionally, Tristan participates on local sports teams and recreation events. He is currently a fourth-year player with the University of Regina Cougars men's hockey team and a second-year team captain. In March 2019, Tristan was invited and played on the Team Canada men's hockey team in Krasnoyarsk, Russia, competing in the World University Games. Participation in this tournament resulted in Team Canada winning the bronze medal, and a lifetime of memorable experiences. Since the age of four, Tristan has played organized hockey and has experience playing lacrosse, football, basketball, and baseball. As an athlete and sports competitor, he models commendable sportsmanship!

Tristan's modesty continues to build in various capacities. His generosity is displayed in countless activities. Since 2016, he has led presentations and facilitation with the Red Cross RespectEd, anti-bullying programming for minor hockey teams and with elementary school students. He has been an instructor for the Cougar Cubs Hockey School, and the Summer Hockey Camp with the Cougar Elite Camp and Herauf Skills Development. He is a Hockey Regina coach mentor for new minor hockey coaches and is a representative supporting public events and fundraising efforts for Skate with the Cougars, Cougar Alumni, Pat Canadians Alumni, and Melfort Mustangs.

Alumni. Tristan also participates on the local television show, “Locker Talk,” representing the Cougars Hockey team. He is the co-owner and operator of the Next Level Hockey Consulting Company which focuses on hockey skills development for coaches and instructors for minor hockey teams: the future of hockey.

Furthermore, and equally important, Tristan is supported in various school communities. From presenting at the Sport and Reconciliation event with Regina Public Schools students, or at the Ochapowace First Nation Leadership Seminar, to the Reconciliation Youth Symposium, his dedication to youth is immeasurable. In local schools, Tristan is an invited guest reader in numerous classrooms. He is also a Youth Service Provider before and after school at the Albert Community School, and since 2017, he has been a Youth Support Worker with TRiP (The Regina Intersectoral Partnership). For the past six years, from April to June, Tristan has been an Educational Assistant with Regina Public Schools.

For nearly forty years, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) has played a foundational role in the post-secondary training of future educators in this province. Encouraging and supporting post-secondary students is integral to this successful outcome, and most importantly, to the proud reclamation of our “Métis-ness.” SUNTEP Regina and GDI take pride in ensuring our teacher-training program creates a difference in Saskatchewan classrooms. We look forward to celebrating the continued success of Tristan Frei with his plans to be an elementary school teacher, ambitions to teach and instruct at the Martin Academy, and if the opportunity is available, continue to play hockey in Europe and to be a substitute teacher overseas. He will continue to offer his skills, knowledge, and guidance to all youth through sport and education opportunities. You make us proud: all the best on your post-secondary journey and in the future!



Helping Build Brighter Futures



306-242-6070



www.gdins.org



1-877-488-6888



MN-S AFFILIATES

SMEDCO



SASKMETIS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Serving Métis Business Since 1987

In Saskatchewan, Métis are increasingly entering the business world and generating wealth for themselves and their communities. Business is being used to return to our people's tradition of pride and self-sufficiency. New business ventures are being launched in many different areas.

The SaskMétis Economic Development Corporation, or SMEDCO, is a Métis Nation–Saskatchewan owned lending institution created to finance the start-up, purchase, and/or expansion of viable Métis-controlled small businesses based in Saskatchewan.

SMEDCO was capitalized in 1987 with a five-million dollar capital base through the Native Economic Development Program. From 1991 to 2012, SMEDCO received \$4,033,000 in additional loan capital from Aboriginal Business Canada. The Métis Economic Strategy has provided an additional \$1,780,000 in the last two years.

Since its beginnings in the fall of 1987, SMEDCO has had a tremendous impact in the Métis community. It has disbursed **1,493 loans**, totalling **\$42,000,000** for over **760** Métis-owned businesses in Saskatchewan.

SMEDCO has serviced clients from a wide range of areas, including forestry, general service and retail, transportation, professional corporations, tourism, construction, and community-owned development corporations.

In order to be eligible for SMEDCO services, an applicant must be Métis or a corporation or other approved entity, controlled or owned by Métis. Depending on the type of service requested, other criteria may also apply.

SMEDCO PROGRAMS

SMEDCO services are delivered on the basis of prudent and sound business principles. This is necessary to protect the integrity of SMEDCO's capital base and to ensure the continued delivery of its services. Since resources are limited, SMEDCO programs are often used to lever financial assistance from other public and private sources.

SMEDCO has designed programs for the Métis business community:

Small Business Loans Program

The Small Business Loans Program provides a variety of small business loans to finance the start-up, purchase, and/or expansion of Métis-owned small businesses.

Types of loans available include direct capital loans, shared capital (syndicated) loans, working capital loans, and bridge financing. The normal maximum loan amount is \$500,000 per applicant; however, SMEDCO can often find additional loan capital for larger business projects through connections with syndicated loan partners.

Métis Assistance Program (MAP)

The Métis Assistance Program is a needs-based non-repayable contribution program available to eligible Métis entrepreneurs or Métis development corporations. In March 2013, SMEDCO signed a contract with Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Canada (AANDC) to deliver this program. Since April 1, 2015, SMEDCO has contracted with the National Aboriginal Capital Corporation (NACCA) to deliver the program.

The program can support Métis businesses to a maximum of \$99,999 or Métis community businesses to a maximum of \$250,000. The maximum percentage for general business start-up costs is 40% of eligible project costs.

MAP can support up to 75% of the cost of a qualified independent business plan consultant.

Through the years, SMEDCO has provided non-repayable contributions for over 900 business plans and financial projections for Métis clients and provided thousands of hours of business advice.

MN-S AFFILIATES

Continuing the Healing Journey Together MACSI Celebrating its 50th Anniversary

Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (MACSI) delivers community-based addiction services through our treatment centres in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert. MACSI services are holistic in nature and are based on our client-centered care and client-first philosophy, which acknowledge and respect diversity, family, and community. MACSI has unique programs and services, informed by a broad spectrum of influences, including Métis heritage, traditional Indigenous teachings, 12-Step Recovery Model, and the Clinical Principles for Alcohol and Drug Misuse Services in Saskatchewan. MACSI also utilizes current research and emerging trends occurring in the broader field of addictions.

Our three MACSI centres offer a variety of Inpatient and Outpatient Services, as well as a Stabilization Unit (Prince Albert), and drop-in Day Programming. If you, or someone you know, are seeking help for substance addictions, call toll-free for more information at 1-800-236-5204. Our services are supported by the Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Health; all services are private and offer a safe place to begin the journey to recovery. MACSI welcomes Métis, First



Nations, and non-Indigenous peoples seeking support to live safer and healthier lives free from the harmful effects of addictions.

This year, MACSI is extremely proud to celebrate a very significant anniversary: 50 years of continuous service excellence and achievements as an organization, key stakeholder, and contributor to healing and wellness in Saskatchewan. Throughout this important milestone year, MACSI has hosted a variety of public events to

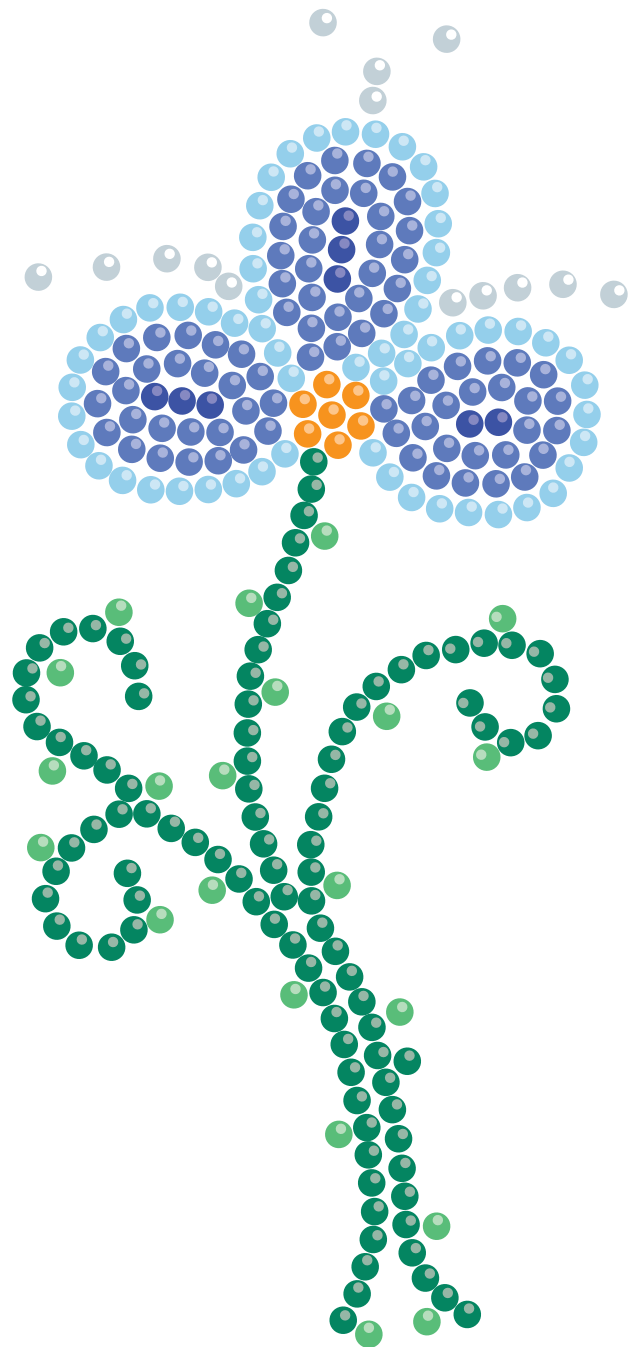


acknowledge and showcase some of our important accomplishments, and illustrate how we value the relationships developed with our clients, their families and the general public, through community awareness, outreach, and partnerships.

Our events across the province have included a fabulous and very well-attended Métis kitchen party in Prince Albert, with artistic guests such as the Dean Smith Band and the Qu'Appelle Valley Squaredancers. Another similar gathering was held in the summer at the māmawēyatitān centre in Regina, with even more jigging, wonderful food, and a great community meeting in a healthy, family-friendly, and substance-free environment. On June 21, MACSI staff participated in National Indigenous Peoples Day events across the province, and also organized an evening event in Saskatoon called “Culture, Community, and Reconciliation.” In November, we were proud to host the first annual Louis Riel Cultural Festival in Saskatoon, with a diverse lineup of performers, such as Donny Parenteau, Freddie & Sheila Pelletier, and the Andino Suns. Our Board of Directors held its annual general meeting on June 8, 2019. The AGM’s formal business was followed by a meal and MACSI proudly thanking and honouring many of our dedicated, long-serving staff.

On behalf of MACSI Board of Directors and staff, we would also like to extend our congratulations on the revitalization of *New Breed* magazine. We look forward to this opportunity to focus on and share Métis successes and accomplishments. This is sure to be a useful tool to inform citizens of new programs, services, and events. Our current MACSI Board of Directors is made up of Marg Friesen (Chair), Jackie Kennedy, Patti Tait, David Nelson, and Anita Hopfauf.

More information on services, news, and upcoming events is available at www.macsi.ca. In addition, MACSI activities can be followed on your preferred social media: Facebook; Twitter; Instagram or LinkedIn (@macsisask). In addition to our three treatment centres, the MACSI Core administration office is located at #1-2220 Northridge Drive, Saskatoon, SK, S7L 6X8.

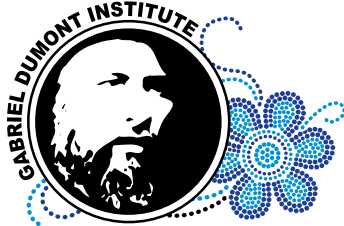


MN-S AFFILIATES

Gabriel Dumont Institute

Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research Inc. (GDI) is a Métis-owned post-secondary and cultural institution based in Saskatoon, with program delivery centres in 13 communities across Saskatchewan.

The Institute is an affiliate of the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S), and its board of directors represents the MN–S’s twelve regions. GDI offers a variety of accredited educational, vocational, and skills-training opportunities to the province’s Métis people. The Institute has 213 full time employees. 53% of the employees are self-declared Métis, and 71% are women. GDI has various divisions that offer a number of core programs.



Dumont Technical Institute

Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) offers Adult Basic Education and skills training programs to Métis students across the province. In 2018-2019, DTI had a total enrolment of 940 students. A partnership with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice enabled DTI to deliver training to 124 inmates. DTI is the second largest practical nursing training provider in Saskatchewan.



Gabriel Dumont College delivers several accredited postsecondary education programs through affiliation agreements between the Institute and the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina. These include both university level and non-degree programs.



Teacher Education

Over the past 40 years, GDI has been delivering a 4-year Bachelor of Education program in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert via the Saskatchewan Urban Native



Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP). The program is a partnership with the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan, and has graduated over 1,300 Indigenous teachers to date.

The Institute also offers the Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP) in La Ronge in partnership with the University of Regina and the Lac La Ronge Indian Band.



Métis Culture and Heritage Department

GDI prioritizes the renewal and development of Métis culture. The Métis Culture and Heritage Department plays a central role in achieving this goal. The award-winning Department is the world’s only Métis-specific publisher, curriculum developer, and cultural resource producer. It produces visual, audiovisual, print, and multimedia resources, which range from preschool to post-secondary levels, and is committed to the publication and development of Métis-specific cultural, literary, and educational resources for both Métis and non-Indigenous peoples of all ages. The Department has produced Michif-language resources for the K-12 system and the Métis community.



Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation

Gabriel Dumont Institute has been administering scholarships for Saskatchewan’s Métis since the



early 1980s through the Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation II. The scholarship is based on a \$2.5 million capital investment. In 2018-2019, the Institute awarded 400 scholarships worth over \$448,000 to Métis students.

Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment

GDI Training and Employment was established in 2006 to assist Saskatchewan's Métis looking to improve their education and employment outcomes. GDI Training and Employment aims to create a strong link between the training and sustained employment of Métis people. It has service delivery sites in 13 communities



across the province and supports staff travel to outlying area communities to ensure that all Saskatchewan Métis people have reasonable access to services.

Over the years, GDI Training and Employment programming and services have been delivered through a variety of federal funding agreements, including the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy, Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund, Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy, Skills and Partnership Fund, and a Western Economic Diversification Canada grant.

GDI Training and Employment offers a broad spectrum of services to students, workers, and employers. By linking education and training needs to labour market demand, GDI Training and Employment programs ensure that Métis clients are well equipped to contribute fully to Saskatchewan's economy. Each year, dozens of employer partnerships are established with GDI Training and Employment to foster mutually beneficial stakeholder relationships that enhance both employer and client needs.

Indigenous Apprenticeship Program

GDI Indigenous Apprenticeship is one of the most successful apprenticeship programs in the country. Through a strong partnership with the industry, the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trades Certification Commission, and the federal government, the GDI Indigenous Apprenticeship program has created 1,136 trades-related jobs for Indigenous participants since 2011.

GDI is a unique, community-owned organization that incorporates Métis culture and ways of knowing into its programs. The programs are linked to the labour market and the Institute, in consultation with communities across the province, conducts community needs assessment to help determine training programs that are in demand.

GDI has several learning Institutions in one, including student supports, adult basic education, skills training, university programs, scholarships, an award-winning publishing department, all under one roof.



LET'S TALK

Métis Nation–Saskatchewan engages community

The Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) is creating and implementing policies and procedures that will ensure its citizens fully benefit from Métis programs and services.

Work behind the scenes has been fast and furious, with a particular focus on identifying and matching the needs and goals of the Métis community to appropriate departments and ministries.

Following the official signing of the Self-Government Agreement in June, the MN–S's main priority is forging connections and engaging in candid dialogue with all twelve Saskatchewan Métis regions.

For example, the Ministry of Health kicked off its community engagement sessions late last year with a specific priority in mind: how can the community best care for and meet the various needs of Métis cancer patients? As of right now, those questions are being probed and answered in community engagement sessions that will carry on until May of next year.

The same levels of passion, commitment, and curiosity are being applied to initiatives underway in other established ministries, including Environment, Language, Child and Family, and Constitutional reform.

Now that the essential “getting to know each other” meetings have taken place, a more vigorous agenda of engagement sessions has been established and scheduled for the remainder of 2019 and the majority of 2020.

Through these dialogues, Métis citizens will lead the way in setting goals and objectives for the ministries of Métis Nation–Saskatchewan. For more information on these engagement sessions please email info@mns.work, check our website at <https://metisnationsk.com/>, or reach out to our offices by calling (306) 343-8285.

Out of Abuse

Métis residential school survivors find success despite the odds

Leonard Montgrand has come a long way from his young days as a student at Île-à-la-Crosse Boarding School. Today, he serves as Executive Director of the La Loche Friendship Centre and as a northern representative for the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S).

Things weren't always so positive in Montgrand's life. As a boy, he was forced to attend school away from his parents. He and his classmates experienced profound homesickness, were subjected to indignities such as de-lousing, and were dismissively referred to as savages during their formative years at Île-à-la-Crosse Boarding School.

Everyone at the boarding school was from another community and because of that, they were treated as outsiders. Although they were bullied every day, they knew that if they resisted, they would suffer severe consequences at school. Punishment for what would be considered normal, adolescent behavior was cruel and abusive.

Upon leaving the boarding school, many former students suffered depression or dependencies or both. A former pupil of the same boarding school points to the school as the cause of immense heartache. As he simply puts it, "there was no joy."

Some were unable to overcome their personal demons, while others survived theirs and came to find success in their adult years.

Montgrand falls in the latter group. He says "things happened" at the school that "caused unhealthy lifestyles that in turn caused a lot of problems down the line" but he's pulled through.

A schoolmate concurs, but he has pulled through. He's a business owner with a successful wife, and two grown equally successful children.

Montgrand too, has come out on the other side, even though he has vivid memories of the generations of cyclical effects of the Federal Government/Catholic Church residential school structure.

The Île-à-la-Crosse Boarding School was established in the 1880s and operated by the Federal Government and Catholic Diocese until the mid-1970s. In 2006, when the government announced the \$1.9 billion Indian Residential School settlement agreement, the Île-à-la-Crosse Boarding School was left off the table—until recently.

In 2018, the MN-S put together a steering committee to work with legal counsel at Cassels Brock Law Group to negotiate a settlement between Canada, Saskatchewan, and Saskatchewan's Métis school survivors.

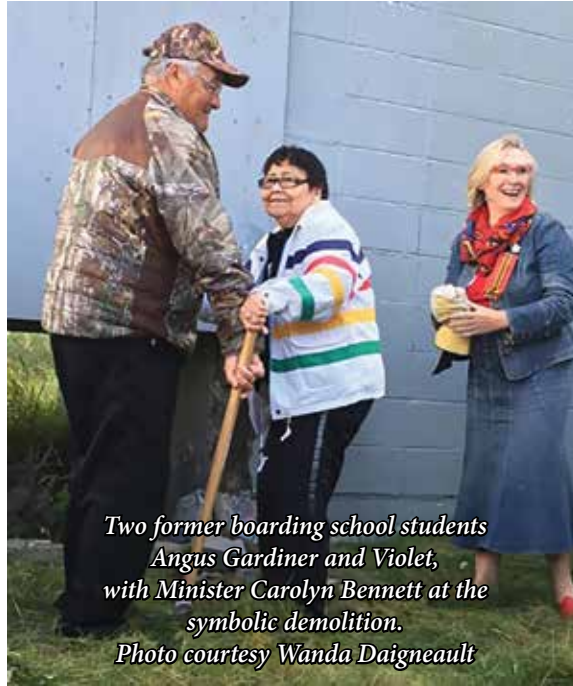
This past May, the MN-S signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Canada, formally initiating a resolution.

It was a historic day for the MN-S.

At the time, Montgrand was quoted as saying, "We have had promise after promise by federal governments to address (these) issues. We can finally say the issues have been discussed in an open and honest manner and that our people will be properly recognized."

Montgrand has said negotiations were recently stalled due to the the federal election campaign, but the discussion will continue this month. He said he remains confident Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett, who brought the file forward, will do what's morally right.

Montgrand adds, "The MN-S wants to mediate a settlement, not litigate."



*Two former boarding school students
Angus Gardiner and Violet,
with Minister Carolyn Bennett at the
symbolic demolition.
Photo courtesy Wanda Daigneault*

Métis Culture Conference and GDI 40th Anniversary

Lisa Bird-Wilson



A gala evening complete with banquet and entertainment will pay homage to those who have made outstanding contributions to the Métis.

You won't want to miss the opportunity to attend a once-in-a-decade Métis cultural experience and 40th Anniversary Celebration—the Gabriel Dumont Institute Culture Conference.

For two-days in February, we will be bringing some of the best, brightest, and most-talented Métis in Canada to host workshops, discussions, and keynote addresses. You will be able to take part in small interactive workshops on Métis embroidery, jigging, Métis beadwork, sash finger-weaving, Métis ribbon skirts, genealogy, square dance, song writing, fiddling, memoir writing, and Indigenous plants. You can also sign up to hear the latest from pre-eminent Métis researchers and scholars, learn about homelessness from a Métis perspective, access new Michif resources, or make a model Red River cart. There are so many cultural sessions to choose from you'll wish you could participate in all of them.

Keynote speakers include renowned Métis author, playwright, and Elder, Maria Campbell who will share her inspiring message with attendees, as well as Jesse Thistle, author of the national bestselling book *From the Ashes: My Story of Being Métis, Homeless, and Finding My Way* (published by Simon & Schuster Canada, 2019), who will share his incredible story of overcoming homelessness and finding his way back to his Métis culture through education.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute Culture Conference will take place on February 7 & 8, 2020 in Saskatoon, at the Saskatoon Inn, and will include a celebration of the Institute's 40th Anniversary (1980-2020). A gala evening complete with banquet and entertainment will pay homage to those who have made outstanding contributions to the Métis with the Order of Gabriel Dumont silver and gold medal awards. A special student banquet will be held on February 6th to



honour Gabriel Dumont Institute students—who have distinguished themselves through their perseverance, centre and community involvement, leadership, cultural pride, and overall student performance—with the Order of Gabriel Dumont bronze medals.

Over the course of the conference, off-site tours will be offered of the new Gabriel Dumont Institute central office building. The new building brings all GDI central services together in one location and includes new office space, a grand entrance and reception, a Métis museum, and a dedicated Métis art gallery on the third floor. Designed by Edwards, Edwards & McEwen in consultation with Métis architect David Fortin of

Laurentian University, the building incorporates unique features informed by Métis material culture, such as heavy timber in the atrium, wood planking inspired by Métis building techniques, an infinity light fixture, and the exterior wrapped in chevron-designed, sustainably-sourced timber echoing the pattern of the Métis sash.

Full schedule, conference information, and registration details will be available soon on the GDI website at www.gdins.org. Sign up early to ensure your spot in what will be a sold-out event. Conference capacity is capped at 320. Blocks of rooms have been set aside at the Saskatoon Inn and at the Travelodge.



New Métis Initiatives Help with Housing

MN-S unveils homeowner and repair programs

It's becoming more attainable for Métis residents to purchase their very own home or renovate the one they already have. Two new programs have been unveiled by Métis Nation-Saskatchewan to help.

First, teaming with the Government of Canada's National Housing strategy, MN-S has introduced the First-Time Home Buyers' Program.

It offers qualified first-time Métis homebuyers, who are going to own their home for at least 10 years, access to up to \$15,000 toward a down payment and up to \$2,500 for closing costs.

The funds are available through the Saskatchewan Métis Economic Development Corporation (SMEDCO), which will provide all the services necessary to seal a new home deal, including realtors, lawyers, and mortgage brokers.

The second exciting program the MN-S has announced is directed at home repairs.

Anyone who already owns a home knows that things can break down when you least expect it.

This Emergency Home Repairs and Renovation Program (EHRRP), announced in July, provides a one-time, forgivable loan of up to \$15,000 to qualified individuals. That money can be used for anything from emergency repairs to correcting accessibility issues or helping adapt your home for changing family dynamics.

"Many of the homes that Métis families live in require upgrades and repairs," said MN-S Housing Minister Derek Langan. "Together with the federal government we have determined a pool of money that will allow homeowners access to make the repairs they need." Langan also highlighted the long-term financial benefits homeowners will enjoy, "similar to MN-S/SMEDCO First Time Home Buyers' Program, this will allow Métis homeowners to see strong equity in their homes."

The Provincial Métis Housing Corporation is leading the charge on the EHRRP and has already received about 60 applications. Coordinator Shane Cook-Laliberte says while there's still some tweaking required for the program, he hopes to connect people with final adjudicators and begin handing out cheques by the end of the month.

Cook-Laliberte says there's a lot to do to ensure the program is effective, but he looks forward to the important and exciting road ahead.



First, First-Time Home Buyer

expecting keys before the end of November

For 31 year old Kayla Horbay, the last four years have been a bit of a frightening whirl-wind.

Having just gone through a divorce, the bank employee found herself moving back in with her parents, her Border Collie Leonard by her side.

Knowing she couldn't afford a home of her own in the position she was in, Kayla made a decision to switch gears and pursue the career she had always dreamed of—nursing. She enrolled in the Dumont Technical Institute's Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) course. She graduated from the program this past June.

It didn't take long before Kayla landed her first job at St. Paul's Hospital. That's when she set her sights on getting back out on her own.

Knowing the price of rent would probably be the same as a mortgage, Kayla reviewed her options; her research led her to the newly announced SaskMétis Economic Development Corporation/ Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) First-Time Home Buyers Program. (SMEDCO/MN-S FTHBP).

First announced at 2019's Back to Batoche, the program has been accepting applications since July. FTHB is now actively educating the public and encouraging people to fill out the paper work.

In order to qualify for the program, the applicant must be at least 18 years

old, live in Saskatchewan, be a Métis citizen and be eligible for a mortgage.

According to Roger Ethier of SMEDCO, twenty-two FTHB applications have been received and ten of those individuals are already looking for a home.

As of this month, Kayla Horbay is officially the first of what will be many individuals to receive the FTHBP's stamp of approval and will take possession of her new home November 22, 2019.

Had she bought a home on her own, Kayla would have had to empty her account; but thanks to the SMEDCO/MN-S FTHBP program, she has a rainy day fund to fall back on.

Her work, house, and, of course, her dog Leonard mean the world to her. Although she worked "her tail off" to get to where she is today, Horbay says she's grateful for everything that has come her way and takes nothing for granted.

Roger Ethier points to Horbay as a perfect example of what the SMEDCO/MN-S FTHBP is about: helping young Métis residents obtain something they may have never thought possible by offering them a fresh start and new beginnings.

We wish the best of luck to Kayla Horbay and Leonard as they start this new chapter of their lives in their very own home.



Kayla Horbay and Leonard the dog



Métis Nation-Saskatchewan

First-Time Home Buyers Program



Make Yourself at Home

Métis Nation-Saskatchewan First-Time Home Buyers Program

is designed to help Métis citizens
fund the down payment for their first home.*

It includes:

- A grant of up to \$15,000 towards a down payment, and
- Up to \$2,500 towards closing costs.

* Visit either website below for more information

DO YOU QUALIFY FOR THE FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS PROGRAM?



18 YEARS
OR OLDER



LIVE IN
SASK



MN-S
CITIZENSHIP



MORTGAGE
QUALIFIED

metisnationsk.com  smedco.ca



Métis Nation-Saskatchewan

First-Time Home Buyers Program



SaskMetis Economic Development Corporation (SMEDCO) is proud to offer the **Métis Nation-Saskatchewan First-Time Home Buyers Program (FTHBP)** to eligible Métis citizens in Saskatchewan. The program is designed to help Métis citizens overcome the challenge of trying to save sufficient funds that financial institutions require for a down payment to purchase their first home.

Funding Amount:

The FTHBP will contribute funds as follows:

- Up to maximum of \$15,000 towards the down payment
- Up to a maximum of \$2,500 towards closing costs (legal, land transfer, home inspection etc.)

Eligibility Requirements:

- 18 years of age or older
- Resident of Saskatchewan for a minimum of six months
- Have Metis citizenship (or letter confirming your citizenship card is in process of being issued)
- Home being purchased must be for the applicant's primary residence for at least 10 years
- Be able to qualify for and obtain a mortgage from a mainstream or known financial institution
family gross income (pre-tax) must be below \$92,000
- Priority will be given for those currently residing in social housing or escaping abuse or violence

Eligible Homes Include:

- Newly constructed homes with new home warranty (deposits not funded)
- Resale market homes (single family, side by side, townhouses, condominiums, multi-unit)
ready to move homes (RTMs) on permanent foundations
- Mobile homes on owned lot on a permanent foundation anchored to property
- Homes are not to exceed the maximum house price for their geographic area
- Homes on titled land in Saskatchewan

Ineligible Homes Include:

- Homes located in life-lease communities
- Homes on leased or rented land or reserve land
- Mobile homes in trailer parks

Conditions:

- All funds advanced to be sent "in trust" to lawyer's office to be applied towards home and costs
- A 10-year 2nd mortgage will be registered against the property to ensure long-term residency
- Applicants must remain in home as personal residence for 10 years after which time the FTHBP mortgage will be forgiven and discharged

Any home purchased before approval through the FTHBP will be deemed ineligible for support.
Provincial Metis Council Members of the MN-S Government are not eligible for participate in this program.



Metis Nation-Saskatchewan

First-Time Home Buyers Program



APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The following information must be attached to your MN-S First-Time Home Buyers Program (FTHBP) Application:



MN-S Citizenship Card

(Or letter from MN-S Registry confirming card to be issued)



Photo Identification

(2 pieces of federal or provincial government identification, 1 must have picture)



Income verification

(For all over 18 - 2 years' T-4s or tax returns)



Notice of Assessment

(2 most recent from CRA- if unavailable contact www.cra.gc.ca for info)



Mortgage Pre-qualification

(Attach verification from a financial institution that you qualify)

Application must be signed by all applicants and must also include a witness signature. Witness can be any person over 18 who is not party to this application process.

Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant.

Questions? We have answers, contact us: FTHBP@smedco.ca

www.metisnationsk.com

Métis Nation–Saskatchewan Departments

It is an exciting time for the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan. If you would like to see full progress and activity reports from all our departments and Ministries, please visit: <https://metisnationssk.com/library-mnla/>

If you are looking for information on any of our activities, please contact info@mns.work

Contact information for all of our governance, regional directors, and ministers are available at: <https://metisnationssk.com/governance/#executive>

Please follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/MNSask/> and <https://www.facebook.com/Glen-McCallum-205898679924665/>





MN-S Provincial Métis Youth

Jaycee Bell

The Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) Ministry of Youth’s mandate is to improve the socio-economic barriers that Métis youth (age 15-29) encounter in today’s society, by enabling and assisting them to further their education in order to obtain jobs, so they may live healthy and prosperous lifestyles.

Some of the MN–S Ministry of Youth’s immediate goals/current initiatives are to educate the Métis youth on leadership skills, Métis governance, and the MN–S structure. We strive to engage Métis youth to practice our Michif language and Métis culture, and traditions in our everyday lives.

Important issues for the Métis youth:

- ∞ Local/Regional/Provincial-wide Métis youth involvement
- ∞ MN–S governance and legislation (constitution, policies, and procedures)
- ∞ Awareness of programs and services available to the youth through the use of our MN–S affiliates and ministry departments
- ∞ Education
- ∞ Housing
- ∞ Language, heritage, and culture
- ∞ Environment—climate change
- ∞ Health and addictions
- ∞ Economic development

Minister Biography:

MN–S Youth Minister, Jaycee Bell, was born in Meadow Lake and raised east of the city on an acreage in the Métis community of Rushlake. Growing up on acreage allowed Jaycee to practice her Métis traditions and culture, because she tagged along with her father and grandparents when they went hunting, fishing, and harvesting. At a young age, Jaycee was introduced to Métis politics, both locally and regionally. She has been an active member of Rushlake Local #91 since she was born and became actively involved in Western Region 1 when she became its regional youth representative in 2016. Provincially, Jaycee became involved in the MN–S when she was accepted as the Provincial Métis Youth Rep and later became the Minister of Youth after the 2017 election.



Outside Métis politics, Jaycee graduated high school and obtained a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Regina. She enjoys spending time with family, friends, and colleagues. She has a great passion for helping others and our Métis Nation; therefore, she loves her career choice.

Contact Information, Métis Youth:

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MN–S Minister for Youth
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jaycee-raeann-bell@hotmail.com

New Northern Indigenous Teacher Education Program for Saskatchewan

rooted in Indigenous culture, language, and land-based pedagogy

A partnership between the University of Regina's Faculty of Education, the Gabriel Dumont Institute, and the Lac La Ronge Indian Band has created a new Indigenous teacher education program rooted in Indigenous culture and language, and land-based pedagogy. The four-year Bachelor of Education–Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP) is aimed at addressing the need for more teachers, especially Indigenous teachers in Northern Saskatchewan and across the province.

"NSITEP is another important step in continuing our mandate of training Indigenous teachers."

–Dr. Earl Cook

In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report Calls to Action, NSITEP will focus on Indigenous worldviews and will prepare a new generation of Indigenous teachers who are well equipped to build on the strengths of Métis, First Nations, and Inuit students, families, and communities, while also addressing their unique needs. The program will be delivered by Gabriel Dumont Institute in collaboration with the Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB) in La Ronge.

"The new Northern Saskatchewan Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NSITEP) developed and offered in partnership with the Gabriel Dumont Institute and the Lac La Ronge Indian Band and located on the territory of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band demonstrates how the Faculty of Education and the University of Regina are committed to more fully realizing their relational obligation to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples. The NSITEP recognizes the sovereignty of Indigenous peoples, places a premium on learning within the community, and is an

attempt to better balance the typically asymmetrical relationships that have historically existed," said Dr. Jerome Cranston, Dean of the Faculty of Education, University of Regina.

"The Gabriel Dumont Institute is very pleased to be a part of this important initiative to expand educational opportunities in the North. The Institute has been offering teacher education programs over the past four decades through the Saskatchewan

Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) in partnership with the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan. NSITEP is another important step in continuing our mandate of

training Indigenous teachers," said Dr. Earl Cook, Métis Nation–Saskatchewan Education Minister and Chair of the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Governors.

"Effective teachers have a huge positive impact on the lives of our young people. Indigenous students are more empowered when they see themselves reflected in the curriculum, study resources, and in their teachers and school administrators; and all students are better off when diversity is embraced in schools," said LLRIB Chief Tammy Cook-Searson.

The first cohort of 26 Métis and First Nations students started their studies in September, 2019. Métis individuals who have any questions regarding enrolment may contact Morris Cook at morris.cook@gdi.gdins.org; while questions on First Nations and Inuit student enrolment should be directed to Simon Bird at Simon.Bird@llribedu.ca.



Growing Branches of Success: SUNTEP Saskatoon Anti-Oppressive Teacher Candidate Conference

Dr. Carmen Gillies

Under the leadership of Saskatoon Program Head, Sheila Pocha, anti-oppressive and social justice education is integral to the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP). Through Métis perspectives and worldviews, faculty and staff work to ensure teacher candidates develop the knowledge and skills required to advocate for all students and families within the K-12 system. This pedagogy is grounded in a commitment to give back to and serve Métis people and to continue our tradition of advocating for Indigenous rights and justice.

As an Educational Foundations faculty member with SUNTEP Saskatoon, who teaches the required anti-oppressive education course, I developed an online survey for our 2019-2020 third- and fourth- year teacher candidates. The purpose of the survey was to identify the Métis-specific and anti-oppressive content our teacher candidates taught during their 2018-2019 school placements. Twenty-five teacher candidates completed the survey, which indicated:

- 100% identified as Métis and/or with their First Nation while teaching
- 88% shared stories about their experiences as Indigenous peoples
- 88% taught Métis-specific content
- 79% taught a lesson regarding Indigenous knowledge, rights, or experiences with injustices
- 33% taught a lesson about privilege or a system of oppression (racism, classism, sexism, ableism or homophobia)
- 25% had taught a lesson about climate change or ecological justice

The results speaks to the pride of SUNTEP teacher candidates and the quality of content they teach as few full lessons are taught over the course of the second-year and third-year placements. While fewer teacher candidates taught anti-oppressive or eco-justice lessons, at least one quarter of the students who completed the survey used their limited time in schools to teach this essential content in grade appropriate ways. According to the survey, however, it is clear that not all students use their student teaching experiences as opportunities to practice teaching lessons regarding Métis-specific content, Indigenous rights, anti-oppressive education,

or ecological-justice. This pattern has been replicated in various contexts as a disconnect often exists between what teacher candidates are taught regarding anti-oppressive education and the content they teach as practicing teachers.

As social and ecological justice are foundational to SUNTEP and Métis Nation mandates, our program works to build opportunities to ensure the development of teachers who feel confident and supported in teaching anti-oppressive education. As such, because the survey highlighted the anti-oppressive content many of our teacher candidates do teach, I decided to create a one-day anti-oppressive mentorship conference for my second-year Educational Foundations 301 students. The purpose of the conference was to serve four primary objectives:

- 1) Create opportunities for SUNTEP Saskatoon students to learn from and mentor each other;
- 2) Create opportunities for students to learn from SUNTEP graduates who practice K-12 anti-oppressive education;
- 3) Create an opportunity for students to present at and experience attending an informal conference; and
- 4) Instill confidence in teacher candidates to teach anti-oppressive content from Métis perspectives through sharing practical ideas, generating critical thought processes, and engaging in thoughtful dialogue.

I invited SUNTEP Saskatoon faculty Angie Caron to participate with her Educational Curriculum 382 (Elementary Social Studies) third-year students and collaborated with Angie while planning to ensure the conference converged with her course outcomes. All current Saskatoon SUNTEP students were invited. We purposely reached out to speakers who we know identify as Métis within their school divisions, who excel at teaching anti-oppressive content from Métis perspectives, and who have been trained in anti-oppressive education. The title of the conference, "Growing Branches of Success," comes from a bulletin board that my EFDT 301 students created last year under the theme of "qualities and characteristics of effective teachers."



The presentations covered a broad area of topics and began with Keynote Speaker Jennifer Hingley, Principal of Brownell school, whose inspirational and personal talk was entitled: “Honouring my SUNTEP Roots: Reflections and Insights of a Métis Teacher and Leader.” Jennifer’s talk was a highlight of the conference as she shared her personal stories and impressed upon teacher candidates their responsibility to identify and know who they are as Métis teachers. She also stressed accountability to give back to our communities as SUNTEP graduates. The afternoon’s keynote speaker, doctoral candidate Zoey Roy, was also a highlight of the day. Zoey shared examples of her powerful activist work, including one of her latest collaborative videos, “Kokum Rap.” She also reviewed numerous practical anti-oppressive and anti-colonial methods which can be used in the classroom. As always, Zoey engaged the audience with her passion, humour, and inclusive presentation.

Another highpoint of the day included The Indigenous Young Women’s Utopia presentation with Indigenous female youth presenters and facilitator Jennifer Altenberg, a SUNTEP graduate and practicing teacher. The youth group shared examples of their powerful and emotional anti-oppressive work, including videos, a book about their stories of resiliency and resistance to violence, and an anti-racist poster that honours Indigenous youth. These incredible young women are creating change in our society and internationally, and it was an honour to host them at our conference. The stories they shared helped us to remember why we hold the privileged responsibility to teach toward justice.

To conclude the day, three anti-oppressive Métis teachers sat on a panel and shared their experiences and expertise. The panel was a perfect way to end the day as each speaker shared poignant testimony

concerning the ongoing need for anti-racist and anti-oppressive Métis specific education in our schools and communities. The speakers included: Janice Reigert – “Bringing Anti-Racist Work into the Provincial School System”; Kate Clements (SUNTEP grad) – “Teaching Towards Infiltrating the System and Making Change”; and Vanessa Johnson (SUNTEP grad) – “Breaking Down Privilege Through a Métis Lens.” The panel members generated dynamic dialogue and many of the teacher candidates stayed after the conference ended to participate in discussions about what it means to be a Métis anti-oppressive educator.

In addition to the stand alone speakers and panel, two breakout session periods offered creative, practical, and inspiring anti-oppressive teaching ideas and practices. The breakout session presenters included:

Current SUNTEP teacher candidates:

- Dakota Adams Beavereye – “Environmental Justice and Kindergarten Education”
- Bree Tyndall – “Anti-Oppressive Lessons Learned from My Student Teaching”
- Logan Poitras – “Storytelling as an Indigenous Teaching Tool”
- Jen Pritchard – “Métis Traditional Medicine/ Anti-Oppressive Classroom Management”
- Tate McDougall – “Métis Involvement with Treaties Middle Years Lesson”
- Aaron Gosslin – “Teaching Whiteness as Status and Reputation Rights”
- Ashtyn Newell-Olson – “Secondary Science and Anti-Oppressive Perspectives”
- Angela Silva – “Ecological Justice Land-Based Instillation High School Art Project”

SUNTEP Saskatoon Graduate Practicing K-12 Teachers

- Tatum Albert – “Trauma Informed Education, Social Justice and Art”
- Madison Noble – “Teaching Grade 1/2 Students About Racism with Dr. Seuss’s *The Sneetches*”
- Lyla Phillips – “How Michif Language fits in Anti-Oppressive Education”
- Raelyn Fee – “Incorporating Anti-oppressive Métis Specific Education into a Kindergarten Classroom”
- Victoria Beaudin and Lexi Brunet – “Anti-Oppressive Lens on Life & After SUNTEP”
- Curtis Vinish – “Anti-Racism and Land-Based Education”
- Deirdre (Dee) Aubichon – “Anti-Oppressive Literature in Grade Two Social Studies”

The day of mentorship was successful because of the volunteer presenters, the collaborate work of staff, and current student volunteers. Angela Silva (third-year teacher candidate) volunteered to set up the nutrition break tables and brought beverages and trays. Second-year teacher candidates Tyler Beaudry, Derek Bedard, Connor Johnston, Andria Honoroski, and Bree Tyndall also volunteered. Vanessa Johnson, a SUNTEP graduate, volunteered to moderate break-out sessions. Approximately 45 current students attended and two interns, Dakota Bevereye and Aaron Gosslin, returned to attend and present.

Student feedback indicates the day was successful. My EFDT 301 students found the conference very useful and inspiring. In particular, they gathered valuable ideas regarding how to teach anti-oppressive content across grade levels and subject areas and walked away with a more in-depth understanding as to why K-12 anti-oppressive education is necessary. Those who provided feedback also stressed that the conference

was “heavy” regarding the seriousness of the topics but also empowering. Students also appreciated learning from their peers and Métis teacher role models.

One unexpected outcome from the conference is that, due to a specific presentation, SUNTEP Saskatoon has started a Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA). This exciting new student group contributes to other social justice SUNTEP Saskatoon student led programming, such as the Eco-Justice Club and the SUNTEP Anti-Racism Education Forum. With her faculty and staff, Sheila Pocha has facilitated a learning environment that honours Métis culture and the tradition of advocating for social justice through collaborative and relational paths. We are excited to continue the work that arose from the conference with our brilliant teacher candidates and practicing Métis teachers, and hope to build on the learning experience in the future.

We thank Gabriel Dumont Institute for supporting this special day.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Government of Canada has invested \$2.2 billion dollars to reduce chronic homelessness in Canada by 50% in the next ten (10) years. Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy is part of the federal government's \$40 billion-dollar National Housing Strategy.

The Provincial Métis Housing Corporation is (PMHC) is the Community Entity for The Reaching Home Non- Designated Indigenous Homelessness funding stream. PMHC will provide funding for projects that focus on reducing and mitigating the impacts of Indigenous homelessness throughout the Province.

The projects must be off-reserve and outside the designated communities of Regina and Saskatoon. We are looking for applications that provide social and housing first supports and applications that provide for capital projects that are specific to meet the needs of Indigenous people who are homeless or Indigenous people who are at risk of homelessness.

The total amount of funding available for New Projects for 2020-2021 is approximately \$1,975,029 under the Reaching Home Non-Designated Indigenous Homelessness funding stream to fund projects between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021.

The closing date for applications is Friday, December 6, 2019 by 4:00 PM.

For an application package or for more information please contact:



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REACHING HOME PROGRAM

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APPEL DE PROPOSITIONS

Le gouvernement du Canada a investi 2,2 milliards de dollars pour réduire l'itinérance chronique au Canada de 50 % au cours des dix (10) prochaines années. Atteindre le foyer : La Stratégie canadienne pour l'itinérance fait partie de la Stratégie nationale du logement de 40 milliards de dollars du gouvernement fédéral.

La Société provinciale d'habitation des Métis est l'entité communautaire du volet de financement non désigné de la Saskatchewan. Le PMHC financera des projets axés sur la réduction et l'atténuation des répercussions de l'itinérance autochtone dans l'ensemble de la province. Les projets doivent être à l'extérieur des réserves et à l'extérieur des collectivités désignées de Regina et de Saskatoon. Nous sommes à la recherche de demandes qui offrent d'abord des soutiens et des applications sociaux et de logement qui prévoient des projets d'immobilisations spécifiques pour répondre aux besoins des autochtones sans abri ou des Autochtones qui risquent d'être sans abri.

Le montant total de financement disponible pour les nouveaux projets pour 2020-2021 est d'environ 1 975 029 \$ dans le cadre du volet de financement du financement des sans-abri autochtones non désignés pour atteindre la maison non désignée pour financer des projets entre le 1er avril 2020 et le 31 mars 2021.

La date de clôture des demandes est le vendredi 6 décembre 2019 à 16 h.

Pour obtenir un dossier d'application ou pour plus d'informations, veuillez contacter:

Indigenous Doula Training - a First for Saskatchewan

Marilyn Black

"My great-great-grandma Poundmaker was a midwife, and my great-grandma Chapan Neva Mirasty worked at the "Indian Hospital" in North Battleford, where she got recruited by the nurses to deliver and help with the babies on the tipi side of the hospital. Because of the DTI Indigenous Birth Support Worker Program, I am able to carry on the legacy of caring for our mothers and our children." —Dalanie Wahobin.

The Dumont Technical Institute (DTI), Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) and Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC) have partnered to start a new Indigenous Birth Support Worker Program. This exciting and innovative program answers the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action through increased support for Indigenous expectant mothers, families and communities. It is delivered by DTI in Saskatoon.

The rationale for naming this program "Indigenous Birth Support Worker" reflects both the certification process and specific criteria which provides consistency throughout the SHA regions. The term, birth support worker, is also more culturally responsive based on the feedback during conversations with Indigenous women.

The impetus behind the program includes media reports on forced/coerced tubal ligation cases involving Indigenous women (see for example, a CBC feature, "Indigenous women coerced into sterilizations across Canada: Senator.") Several brave Indigenous women came forward with common birth experiences that included feeling powerless, silenced, isolated, and discriminated against. The SHA conducted an

external review and in response, began the process of developing ways to include traditional Indigenous birth teachings, ceremonies, and Indigenous representation within the maternal healthcare team.

The six-week Indigenous Birth Support Worker Program admitted its first cohort of nine students in September 2019. These include three Métis and six First Nations students. The SHA has committed to hiring up to eight Indigenous Birth Support Workers upon approval and the successful completion of the program.



Birth support workers are also known as birthing coaches, postpartum supporters, or doulas. They are non-medical personnel who assist women before, during, and after childbirth. The goal is to help the pregnant mother to feel safe and comfortable, and to be informed and confident to voice opinions, ask questions, make requests, or participate in cultural traditions and ceremonies. Birth support workers also

provide much needed emotional and physical support and advocacy to not only the mother but also to the father and surrounding family.

Historically, Indigenous birth support workers were integral to the labour, delivery, and postpartum care for women and their babies. With the incorporation of European child birthing practices, Indigenous birth support and midwifery practices diminished significantly and, in some cases, were lost, mostly in urban populations. Today, there is an increasing acknowledgement, within the SHA, of inadequate support for Indigenous women and parenting. The SHA recognizes this and is supportive of what DTI has

to offer for training and support in this field. Below are some of the voices of the IBSW students about their experiences:

Angela Tomkins

"I am a mother of two daughters, and one day I will hopefully be blessed as a grandmother, but until then I will live my life assisting all my sisters. A strong support system is a major benefit for our Indigenous women. These teaching will spread to our men and children. We are paving the way for the next generation, and connecting the bridge between the clinical and traditional worlds for our women, our sisters."

Delores Dumais

"I am really happy. It is fulfilling for myself to see how far we have come within this short time! I am happy that there is such an amazing and awesome program because a lot of women out there need this type of support."

Keara Laverty

"I have a learning disability and I got teased in school because I learn differently than others. Not having kids myself, my only experience with kids was through my nieces and nephews, as well as babysitting. With no actual experience in the birthing process, I thought long and hard about taking this course. This program has inspired me to learn more and teach others about how you can help someone just by being there and sitting with them, listening to what they are saying, and helping them heal from things that happened to them. A big part of this course that impacted me was the healing ceremony. Just being able to sit and tell my story, about what happened to me, made it feel like I was being heard and listened to. This course is very memorable, not because of how many new friends you make, but on the amount of knowledge you will learn. You will further your knowledge even more with each day. Also, the support system you develop on this incredible journey with all the instructors and coordinators have made it possible for ladies to be a part of this incredible experience."

Kiona Sanderson

"As a Nehiyaw eskiwew, who is a new mother, I am super excited to be a part of this program that will spark change in healthcare for our Indigenous mothers and families. I'm excited to be that support network for mothers."

Jennifer Gardiner

"If I have learned anything on this journey, it is that "to be a helper you must have a hollow bone," which means that we need to be healed to help others and that is why this opportunity is so amazing. We are not only learning an incredible amount of skills and knowledge to equip us to be amazing advocates and supports for women during birth, but we are doing all the work to help us to be free of our own trauma and pains so that we can fully be there for our clients. This program is the missing piece for Indigenous women in our province who require health services. We are bridge between our people and health care."



Katelyn Gamble



Indigenous Birth Support Workers-in-training participate in a ceremony for new life

MÉTIS MAP



Métis Government of Saskatchewan

NORTHERN REGION 3

Mervin "Tex" Bouvier

- 82 Patuanak
- 67 Dore/Sled Lake
- 5 Green Lake
- 41 Cole Bay
- 38 Jans Bay
- 37 Beauval
- 21 Île-à-la-Croise
- 174 Canoe River
- 176 Sapawgamik
- 9 Pinehouse

NORTHERN REGION 2

Leonard Montgrand

- 39 La Loche
- 40 Turner Lake
- 62 Buffalo Narrows
- 65 Michel Village
- 70 St. Georges Hill
- 156 Bear Creek
- 162 Black Point

NORTHERN REGION 1

Earl Cook

- 16 Weyakwin
- 19 La Ronge
- 20 Timber Bay
- 50 Uranium City
- 80 Stony Rapids
- 79 Camsell Portage

MÉTIS WOMEN

MÉTIS YOUTH

WESTERN REGION 1

Loretta King

- 27 Cochin
- 31 Meadow Lake
- 64 Leoville
- 71 Pierceland
- 72 Livelong
- 75 Glaslyn
- 91 Rush Lake
- 97 Chitek Lake
- 118 Brightsand
- 136 Spiritwood
- 161 Midnight Lake

WESTERN REGION 2

Sherry McLennan

- 7 Prince Albert
- 10 Duck Lake
- 28 St. Louis
- 43 Kinistino
- 51 Batoche
- 59 Big River
- 61 Debden
- 77 Leask
- 81 Shell Lake
- 83 MacDowall
- 108 Fish Lake
- 109 Nordale
- 121 Timberland
- 168 Lily Plain
- 223 Kelsey Trail
- 269 Sask Rivers
- 113 Marcelin

EASTERN REGION 1

Ryan Carriere

- 42 Cumberland House
- 90 Sandy Bay
- 89 Creighton / Denare Beach

EASTERN REGION 2

Sherry Soll

- 58 Archerwill
- 114 Hudson Bay
- 22 Melfort
- 137 Carrot River
- 134 Nipawin
- 222 Tisdale
- 116 Wynyard
- 138 Sturgis
- 99 Bjorkdale

WESTERN REGION 1A

Billy Kennedy

- 76/18 Lloydminster
- 92 Frenchman Butte
- 94 Marshall
- 98 Denholm
- 106 Battleford
- 142 Paynton
- 30 Battlefords

WESTERN REGION 3

Wendy Gervais

- 12 Maple Creek
- 17 Willow Bunch
- 33 Riel Métis Council
- 34 Queen's City
- 35 Swift Current
- 86 Assiniboia
- 123 Prairie Dog
- 160 Moose Jaw
- 29 Regina Beach

EASTERN REGION 2A

Derek Langan

- 13 Yorkton
- 15 Melville
- 45 Langenburg
- 47 Crescent Lake
- 139 Springside
- 163 Togo

WESTERN REGION 2A

Penny Hurton

- 11 Saskatoon
- 11a Saskatoon
- 53 Biggar
- 47 Hafford
- 112 Scott
- 155 Outlook
- 159 Langham
- 165 Saskatoon
- 105 Ruthilda
- 170 Bickleigh/Plato
- 85 Fiske/D'Arcy
- 55 Cando/Willowfield
- 126 Saskatoon

EASTERN REGION 3

Marg Friesen

- 6 Fort Qu'Appelle
- 8 Lestock
- 25 Estevan
- 48 Lebreton
- 103 Sintaluta
- 135 Rocanville
- 252 Ituna
- 87 Weyburn
- 182 Moose Mountain

