



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Maple Ridge, BC  
March 9, 2010

## The Métis Nation British Columbia celebrates Métis Elder Lottie Kozak, 2010 Paralympic Torchbearer.

Maple Ridge, BC – Elsie (Lottie) Kozak, Torchbearer for the 2010 Paralympic Games.

The Paralympic Torch Relay is well underway, the 10 day relay will give Canadians a chance to witness both young and elderly Paralympic athletes and pillars of our communities who have defied the odds and have reached their life's goals despite the challenge. A total of 600 Canadians will carry the 2010 Paralympic Torch leading into the 2010 Paralympics and Elsie (Lottie) Kozak is one of the many that will inspire us all.

Lottie as her friends call her is a Metis Woman born 1936 in a homestead on Swakamountain BC, between, Merritt and Kamloops. Lottie's Great Grandfather was John Baptiste who came over from Manitoba; a packer for the Hudson's Bay Co. Lottie is a trapper, hunter & fisher by trade. Lottie was born with damaged lungs, and has to always depend on her oxygen tank. When removing a tumor under her brain all of Lottie's internal organs enlarged after the surgery. Injured in a logging accident in 1970 where a log hit and broke her collar bone and back in 3 places Lottie had to have surgery in 1971 where she was able to go back to work as a hunting & fishing guide in 1988. One day when Lottie was chasing a bear from camp she stepped in a hole and significantly damaged both of her knees. Able to walk for a few years, Lottie worked in a camp north of Williams Lake and caught a barrel from falling on a camp cook and tore all the tendons in her hands, arms, neck and back and suffered horribly for years. Lottie had two surgeries on her hands as a result from that accident and today is very artistic in carving wood, bones, and stone, oil painting, beading, moccasins, and making ladies ponchos. Lottie has had both knees replaced with titanium in both knees and had a tumor removed from underneath her brain. After surgery the damage from where it was cut out took ten years of recover. Today Lottie spends most of her spare time beading, oil painting and making beautiful Metis art pieces admired by many. She still hunts by quad or boat.

The MNBC is very proud to promote and celebrate Lottie's life achievements and will be celebrating her relay on **March 10, 2010 at the Spirit Square in 11900 224 Street, Maple Ridge, British Columbia at 6:30pm**. Celebrations will follow the Paralympic Torch Relay.  
[http://www.mapleridge.ca/EN/topnav/events/months/events/paralympic\\_relay.html](http://www.mapleridge.ca/EN/topnav/events/months/events/paralympic_relay.html)

Come join Lottie and be a part of her special memories for the 2010 Paralympic Games.

For directions on how to get to the relay site, link to the following site;  
[http://maps.google.ca/maps?f=q&source=s\\_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=11900++224+Street,+Maple+Ridge,+BC,+Canada&sll=49.253577,123.104382&sspn=0.051989,0.1543](http://maps.google.ca/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=11900++224+Street,+Maple+Ridge,+BC,+Canada&sll=49.253577,123.104382&sspn=0.051989,0.1543)



[24&ie=UTF8&hq=&hnear=11900+224+St.+Maple+Ridge,+Greater+Vancouver+Regional+Distri  
ct,+British+Columbia&ll=49.218634,-122.600255&spn=0.006854,0.01929&z=16&iwloc=A](http://www.ctvbc.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20100306/bc_paralympic_torch_100306/20100306?hub=BritishColumbia)

For CTV news coverage on the Paralympic relay log onto:

[http://www.ctvbc.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20100306/bc\\_paralympic\\_torch\\_100306/20100306?hub=BritishColumbia](http://www.ctvbc.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20100306/bc_paralympic_torch_100306/20100306?hub=BritishColumbia)

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