



January 9th, 2010

Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC)
Métis Community Governance Chartered Associations
Métis Citizens

RE: Presidential Monthly Update ending December 2009

Taanshi kiya' wow / Bonjour
Ta'wow / Bienvenue

Dear MNBC Leadership and Métis Citizens:

Please accept the following Presidential Monthly Update ending the month of December 2009 submitted to Métis community leaders, Métis citizens, and various Federal, Provincial, and Industry Government partners.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

The MNBC is continually working with CORCAN to link Métis inmates with programs and services that will assist in positive reintegration into the community. MNBC currently holds a contract until March 31st, 2010 to connect inmates with employment opportunities upon release. This contract is currently being negotiated for next year to continue. The Director of Justice had been on leave for medical reasons for the past three months, and MNBC has contracted Mr. Stuart Cadwallader to continue with the contract to the end of the fiscal year. Hazel Burns will return in January 2010.

Minister responsible for Justice, Annette Maurice continues to work within Justice by providing support to communities and to various inmates by attending meetings and hearings upon request. MNBC is looking at further ways to enhance the Ministry of Justice through community partnerships, proposals, and continued work with CORCAN.

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MNBC Harvesting Card applications continue to come in to the MNBC Registry for processing. Citizens are reminded that at this time the Harvesting Card is only authorized for use in replacing the Canadian Migratory Bird license. At present, government requires Métis to have all other licenses to hunt, fish, and trap or cut wood. Government enforcement officers will charge Métis who do not have government licenses.

The Enbridge Métis Traditional Knowledge project commenced in December; the project saw the hiring of five community interviewers in December. The community interviewers will collect



Métis Traditional Knowledge (MTK), provide support for BCMANR to identify MTK related to harvesting, provide support of MNBC Biologists and engage the community in meetings related to the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline proposal. Training of community interviewers will be conducted in January after which they will work in the communities of Terrace, Smithers, Fort St. James, Prince George and Dawson Creek... The next Enbridge MCP Team meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 2010. The next priority is to develop a work plan for Community communications and engagement.

Métis harvesters including participated in an exciting new research project in November. Harvesters were equipped with GPS tracking units and Accelerometers to measure the energy expenditures of harvesting activities.

Data was gathered on age old activities related to hunting such as hiking, camp chores and horseback riding and on more contemporary activities such as riding ATVs.

The data will be used by Dr. Peter Hutchinson as part of the project to assess the effects of Métis harvesting on individual and family wellbeing including affects on fitness, social, and mental health. This project is expected to support the MNBC assertion that government restrictions on Métis harvesting have a negative effect on our health and wellbeing. Dr. Mike Evans, Dr. Peter Hutchinson, Ministry Staff and BCMANR Captains are participants in the project.

The BCMANR policy committee met in late November to review the MNBC *Natural Resource Act*. This review is part of the process to insure the *Act* is working as intended and to assess whether resolutions of amendment are required for submission to the MNGA.

Director Ducommun met twice with representatives of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) to discuss funding for Métis participation in the National Energy Board – Joint Review Panel that will be evaluation the project application for certification (approval). These meetings provided the information necessary for MNBC to prepare a substantial application for funding under the CEAA - Aboriginal Funding envelope. The proposal addresses requirements for meetings at Communities along the proposed pipeline, technical support to evaluate the project, gathering of Métis Traditional knowledge and preparation of a MNBC submission to the Joint Review Panel of the National Energy Board and Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. As recently as March 2009, MNBC was being ignored by federal regulators such as the CEAA. Extensive pressure from MNBC including a letter from the Minister responsible for Natural Resources to regulators in March 2009 that identified the fact that MNBC asserts Right on behalf of our communities and citizens a promising further action should government chose to ignore this assertion.

Less than half a year later CEAA is recognizing Métis. In August 2009 a document titled “Scope of Factors – Northern Gateway Pipeline Project” issued by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Authority This document outlines CEAA guidance for the assessment of the environmental effects of the Northern Gateway Pipeline Project..



The document under section **6.4 Aboriginal Rights and Interests** states the following: *“Further to the general guidance provided in Chapter 3.....the proponent will identify the lands, waters and resources of specific social, economic, archaeological, cultural or heritage value to Aboriginal groups, including Métis, that assert Aboriginal Rights, including title and treaty rights...”*

This marks a huge shift in the way the MNBC assertion of Métis Rights is being viewed by the Federal government. The same cannot be said for the Province of BC who continues to marginalize Métis assertions.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency has recently requested MNBC to engage in consultations related to two additional projects. The Northwest Transmission Line Project is a proposal from BC Transmission Corporation and BC Hydro to build a new power transmission line north of Terrace.

The Pulp and Paper Green Transformation Program is a project to upgrade pulp mill effluent treatment and reduce environmental contaminants. MNBC has indicated we will engage in discussions.

Finally, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has requested MNBC engage in consultations on fish and fish habitat concerns around the proposed Mt Milligan Mine north of Fort St. James. MNBC will meet with DFO in January.

The MNBC Ministry of Natural Resources has advertised a part time position for a Natural Resource Consultation Coordinator. This position is expected to be filled by early January 2010 and will work under the supervision of the Director to address consultation activities. This position is being funded in part by a contribution from Denali Pipelines. The new Consultation Coordinator will be responsible for undertaking of activities around the proposed Denali pipeline project in northeastern BC.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE, HISTORY and LANGUAGES

The Culture, Heritage and Language Ministry continue to support the Métis Youth of BC to implement their plan to bring the LearnMichef.com project under their control and management.

The Minister and Director discussed the development of proposals for submission to Canadian Heritage funding programs for 2009. Local festivals, anniversaries (for 1810/11, 1835/36, 1860/61, 1885/86, 1910/11) and a Legacy project to commemorate a significant Métis person are all potential opportunities. The next application deadline is April 2010 and the Director is looking for community input so that we can be sure to have winning proposals prepared on time. Proposals will be for activities that are planned for September 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011.

Send your ideas to: gducommun@mNBC.ca



As indicated in the November update, the Ministry is looking to develop a Métis Culture resource kit(s) for loan to schools who are undertaking Métis Cultural and History projects or programs. We are looking for articles to build the kits. If anyone has HBC blankets, old traps, furs, stretcher boards, beadwork, buckskin or other items of Métis memorabilia and would consider sharing it with children and youth around the province please contact the Director. Few items have been promised but more are needed.

The Significant Métis Sites map on the BC Métis Mapping Project will soon be under the direction of the Ministry of CH&L. The site will be updated to include: Métis Heritage Sites, Métis homestead sites, sites of significant events and areas of cultural importance. The sites of all North West Company, Hudson Bay Company, Pacific Fur Company and independent Fur trading Forts, Houses and Posts will be one of the first new additions

The Ministry continues to actively searching for funding sources to support cultural events, language initiatives and Métis heritage site development.

MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

The Beyond the Barriers – Return to Employment Program intake that started November 23rd with 25 students has been going now for several weeks and has been a fantastic success so far. Students have been training in essential skills techniques and have already certified in World host and First Aid. The students sometimes work in difficult sessions that can be slow at times but they remain positive and are working very hard as they are determined to get as much as we can give them. The Beyond the Barriers program's ultimate goal of employment for the participants seems to be in sight if the extraordinary efforts of the students remain where they are now and after the Christmas break they will be entering into more certifications and practical job training in preparation of their employment practicum in March.

The next Beyond the Barriers program will be the spring and Regional Program Coordinators and the MSEC staff will be working on the intake in January/ February, if you are interested or know someone who needs to find a different way to get into employment, call today.

The MNBC Employment & Training will be publishing a 10 years of client accomplishments magazine in the new year and is requesting former clients that would like to share their story to contact our staff and help us mentor the next group of clients by showing them your success. We have had so many great successes and really need your help to share the Métis Nation's fantastic achievement.

The Métis Human Resource Development Agreement results for the first two quarters of 2009 – 2010 shows 642 interventions with 274 completed and 142 employed up to September. This puts the program on target to duplicate our continuing excellent results from previous years. The new Aboriginal Skills Employment Training Strategy set for 2010 – 2015 will be signed in the new year so our current programming should be seamless.



The new ASETS has as its main components; accountability, partnering and direct labour market programming. The MNBC Employment and Training program has seen this direction in the HRSDC programming for the past few years and has been adjusting our department methods and annual plans to assure our continued successful programming for the Métis people of BC.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH

The Ministry of Youth would first and foremost like to congratulate and welcome Savannah McKenzie as the new Interim Regional Youth Representative for the Vancouver Island. Savannah demonstrated her dedication to the Métis community by serving as the youth representative for MIKI'SIW Métis Association.

Savannah brings a great deal of enthusiasm and energy to her new position and MYBC is very proud to have her on board.

The Ministry of Youth and Métis Youth British Columbia (MYBC) are excited to announce that they are searching for a new logo to represent their name change. The objective is to create a logo that accurately represents the Métis Youth of British Columbia as part of Métis Nation British Columbia. The logo will include the MNBC and MYBC name. Please submit your logo idea to the Director of Youth, Colette Trudeau at: ctrudeau@mNBC.ca. All entries must be submitted by January 31, 2010. The entry you submit must be original and not a copy that may be subject to copyright laws. Top entries will be recognized on the MNBC Youth Website and the winning logo will be found on all documents, websites, etc. involved with MYBC.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DESARAE LAFLEUR! The Ministry of Youth would like to congratulate Desarae LaFleur on winning the Métis Youth Writing Contest with her poem entitled "Dad". Desarae won a Roots Backpack and has her poem featured on the Youth website and in the Whispering Winds magazine.

The Ministry of Youth is looking for talented, up and coming Youth that are doing something great in your communities. The goal is to feature these Youth under the "Youth Celebration" portion on the Youth MNBC website. This will be continuous throughout the year, so please keep your eyes and ears open for any up and coming Métis Youth.

MYBC is currently working on growing the Provincial Youth Database. This is a key tool for Métis Youth across B.C. to stay connected to Youth contests, events, the Annual Youth Meeting, scholarship opportunities and more! The Provincial Youth Database is currently under construction on the MNBC Youth page. Please contact Director of Youth, Colette Trudeau for the application form at this time: ctrudeau@mNBC.ca



MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In May of last year the Board of Governors and the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Northern Affairs and Federal Interlocutor for Metis and Non-Status Indians held a meeting. The outcome was a proposed Métis Economic Development Symposium. The Minister held true to his commitment in making this Symposium come to fruition in December of 2009.

On December 15th, 2009 in Calgary, Alberta MNBC representatives Dan Pope, MNBC Minister responsible for Economic Development, President Bruce Dumont, Malonie Langthorne, Chief Executive Officer, Marlin Ratch, Director of Employment & Training, Marcel Chalmers, 2010 Winter Games Coordinator and other representatives attended the Métis Economic Development Symposium. Malonie Langthorne, Chief Executive Office co presented on Métis Nation British Columbia's priorities and best practices with ADM Arlene Paton, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss challenges and priorities with each of the governing provinces specific to economic development initiatives and programs as well as highlight various opportunities that are available to support Métis Economic Development. The meeting addressed the Metis Nation Protocol Agreement signed by our National President and Minister Strahl.

The Métis National Protocol Agreement commits the Government of Canada to work with MNC and its Governing Members on issues important to the Métis Nation. This agreement is the cornerstone of our relationship with the Government of Canada and clearly is in alignment with the new federal framework.

As a result the Metis Leadership and Aboriginal Affairs Ministers agreed to meet next year and report on the substantial results achieved.

MINISTRY OF SPORT

ASRPAPC- Aboriginal Sports and Recreation, Physical Activity Partners Council the following is an excerpt from ASRA's press release December 7, 2009.

Aboriginal Sports and Recreation Association of BC Begins New Journey

Board of Directors Vote to Dissolve Association

Saanichton, BC - Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Association of BC (ASRA) Board of Directors voted unanimously to file for bankruptcy.

"After seeking legal counsel, we decided it was our only option," said acting President and CEO Alex Nelson who has been at the helm of the organization for two decades. "The global economic situation has impacted us in such a way that it was difficult to continue."



“This was a hard decision to make,” concurred Ken Edzerza, Chair of ASRA. “But we were in a financial situation that could only put board members in a position of liability.”

The board then took a positive approach and moved to support the new Aboriginal Sports, Recreation and Physical Activity Partners Council (Partner’s Council).

“We have been an integral part of the Partner’s Council from its planning stages to now,” continued Edzerza. “ASRA’s mandate will be transferred to the new organization with the assurance that Aboriginal youth sport participation will continue to grow in this province.”

Members of the Partners Council include the First Nations Health Council, the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centers and the Métis Nation BC. The Partners Council was formed as a legacy of the Cowichan 2008 North American Indigenous Games. It has a five pillar approach to increasing physical activity in BC: Active Communities, Leaders & Capacity, Excellence, System Development and Sustainability.

“We started the journey and now it’s time to pass the torch,” added Nelson. “The new council will take the groundwork ASRA has begun and shape it into a strategy we can all be proud of.”

ASRPAPC will meet in the New Year to “discuss the transition of responsibility and consider how we could honor Alex and his Board of Directors, in a traditional way, for their selfless contribution to Aboriginal sport and recreation and the human and social legacy they have left in the province.” Rick Brant, Director of Secretariat ASRPAPC.

MNBC has been a part of ASRPAPC since its inception and believes that together the Partner’s Council will make great progress in the New Year!

KidSport 2009 \$200 Grants available to help kids get involved!

The cost of organized sports can be a barrier to participation and limit the choices for some families. With the help of dedicated supporters, KidSport™ works to fulfill its mission of eliminating the financial barriers to sport participation, “So All Kids Can Play!” Kids have the opportunity to reach their highest potential when they have access to physical activity, which can positively impact physical health, development of social skills, self-esteem, and friendships.

Established by Sport BC in 1993, KidSport™ is a community-based sport funding program that provides grants for children aged 6 to 18 to participate in a sport season of their choice. For more information and to apply please follow the email link:

http://www.kidsportcanada.ca/index.php?page=british_columbia_welcome

ATHLETES! Please share your story, and motivate others! - MNBC’s Ministry of Sport will be sharing the accomplishments of Métis Athletes on our website and in quarterly editions of Kiwetin’s Whispering Winds. MNBC’s Sport and Health Ministry recognizes that organized sport has a positive influence on our Youth. Mental wellness, has been linked to regular physical activity and organized (or team) sports; Youth that are physically active are more likely to succeed in



School, and have greater self confidence, thus more likely to resist drugs, alcohol and harmful tobacco use.

To share your story, please include a brief write-up and two or three good quality digital pictures. Please contact tdavoren@mmbc.ca if you have any questions.

Encourage your kids to be more active this winter, block off some time in your family's schedule each week for family fitness.

Here are some fun ways to get and stay active as a family this winter!

- **Hit the Slopes.** With a toboggan, sled, or crazy carpet!
- **Give Frosty and Yourself a Workout.** Spend an afternoon making snowmen!
- **Make Tracks.** There's no easier time to spot animal tracks than when the ground is covered in snow, so bundle up your kids for a winter hike.
- **Play Frisbee or Soccer in the Snow!**

Winter Walking Safety Tips!

- **Wear the proper foot gear.**
- **Take small steps to keep your center of balance under you.**
- **Walk slowly and never run on icy ground.**
- **Keep both hands free for balance, rather than in your pockets.**
- **Keep you eyes on where you are going.**

MINISTRY FOR HEALTH

ActNow Program – ActNow Evaluation is well underway and we will have some great information in our reporting. Thanks to all who participated in the survey process.

A snapshot of our survey results from the Leaders and Participants were shared with our partners: National Collaborative Center for Aboriginal Health (NCCA) and Aboriginal Healthy Living Branch at the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport on December 3rd in Vancouver. Our preliminary results far surpass Provincial Act Now targets!

H1N1 Information

<http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/kbaltindex.asp>

H1N1 vaccination is now readily available for the general public. Call HealthLink BC at 811 to talk to a nurse about when and where you and your family can get your H1N1 shots. A third wave is predicted so to stay healthy, remain diligent in good hygiene preventative measures.

Prevention is the best medicine:

***Wash hands** often if a sink is not available use **hand sanitizer**,



- *Keep common surfaces disinfected,
- *Cough and sneeze into your arm (elbow), instead of your hand,
- *If you are sick, stay home until your symptoms are gone and you feel well enough to participate in all activities,
- *If you get flu-like symptoms and are pregnant, have underlying health problems or if your symptoms get worse, contact your health care provider. www.fightflu.ca

More H1N1 information can be found on the Health page at www.mnbc.ca

Aboriginal Health Transition Fund

Our five part-time Regional Health Coordinators have been working very hard to advance Métis health in your area Health Authorities.

The following are updates from your Regional Health Coordinators in your area:

Vancouver Island Regional Health Coordinator (Vancouver Island Health Authority - VIHA)

Romy Pritchard, Cell: 250-896-2786, Email: rpritchard@mnbc.ca

*Métis Chartered Communities in the Vancouver Island Health Authority and include North Island Métis Association, Miki'siw Métis Association, Mid-Island Métis Nation, Cowichan Valley Métis Nation, Alberni Clayquot Métis Association, Métis Nation Greater Victoria

This month included a bit of travel to several communities. This Health Coordinator traveled to the Nanaimo Community Dinner and Election at the end of November. A health screening clinic was set up and many people came to the screening clinic. This Health Coordinator will also visit with the Port Alberni/Clayoquot Métis Association on December 19th for large event that will include a Christmas gathering where another health screening clinic will also be set up.

Other travel this month included participating in VIHA's Mental Health and Addiction consultation process with Aboriginal communities in Courtenay. The Courtenay meeting went well and there is a potential for expanded Mental Health and Addiction services from VIHA in this region.

VIHA also committed to providing a workshop and depression screening for North Island and Miki'siw Métis Wellness Day on March 6th.

The last meeting or pilot training this Health Coordinator attended was the Cultural Safety Pilot Training for the Vancouver Island Health Authority. The consultation for this training has been underway for almost a year and now has moved into the piloting. This training will help all VIHA staff familiarized themselves with the various Aboriginal cultures on the Island. Staff will also learn how to engage in a "relational practice" that opens up dialogue about health and treatment from the client's cultural perspective. This will hopefully move health practitioners to provide better health services in a culturally sensitive and inclusive manner.

Other activities this month included circulating and working on Aboriginal Health Initiative Proposals and the BC Cancer Agency proposals.

Several Communities on the Island will be applying for funding and this Health Coordinator will be supporting those that would like proposal support. This Coordinator hopes for the best for funding for the Communities in 2010! Work still continues on the Metis Wellness Days with Metis Nation of Greater Victoria – January 23rd, Mid-Island Metis Nation – February 20th, and North Island and Miki'siw – March 6th. This Coordinator hopes to see familiar faces and new faces at these Wellness Gatherings!



All the Best to everyone for this festive season and remember to celebrate this season with some family activity like ice skating or snow shoeing!

Greater Vancouver Regional Health Coordinator (Vancouver Coastal Health Authority - VCH)

Holly Tennant, Cell: 604-454-8163, Email: [htennant@mNBC.ca](mailto:h Tennant@mNBC.ca)

*Métis Chartered Communities in the Vancouver Region include the Vancouver Métis Cultural Society and Holly is also working with the Provincial Health Services Authority

End of November and early December have been busy times for the MNBC Ministry of Health in the Greater Vancouver Region. Here is a brief summary of the activities. For more information on any topic please contact Regional Health Coordinator Holly Tennant at [htennant@mNBC.ca](mailto:h Tennant@mNBC.ca).

- November 23rd and 24th the Regional Health Coordinator attended the Public Health Association of British Columbia (PHABC) Conference: Action towards Reducing Health Inequities. Contacts were made with the following individuals and agencies: Aboriginal Act Now, Langara College Dept of Nursing, Healthy Heart Society of BC, National Collaborative Centre for Aboriginal Health, VCH Tobacco Reduction, VCH Community Engagement, VCH Healthy Living and Community Development.
- Planning continued toward holding the Métis Women's Wellness through the Lifespan conference on March 5th to 7th, 2010. BC Hydro Aboriginal Sector was approached as a potential sponsor.
- The Regional Health Coordinator attended an Open House at BC Centre of Excellence for Women's Health.
- Contacts were made with representatives of the following individuals and agencies: BC Association of Pregnancy Outreach Program, Women's Health Research Institute, Dr. Sue Mills, the Centre itself, and others.
- Received an invitation to sit on BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre Aboriginal Wellness Advisory Committee.
- Made presentations to VCH Aboriginal Community Health Advisory Committee (ACHAC) and BC Women's about Métis people and their health.
- Advocated for at-risk individuals.
- Have received an invitation to sit on advisory committee for Centers of Excellence for Children's Well-being - Children and Adolescents with Special Needs. The Regional Health Coordinator will need to look into the roles of committee members and the agency to decide if this would be an appropriate engagement at this time.
- Applied and qualified to lead a Sun-Run group with Colette Trudeau, Director of Youth. We will be signing up participants and advertising our practices soon.
- Continued physical activity promotion work (MAP Grant).



Lower Mainland Regional Health Coordinator (Fraser Health Authority - FHA)

Tim St. Denis, Cell: 604-341-9216, Email: tstdenis@mnb.ca

*Métis Chartered Communities in the Lower Mainland Region include North Fraser Métis Association, Nova Métis Heritage Association, Waceyá Métis Society, Fraser Valley Métis Association, and Chilliwack Métis Association.

My month started with trips down the Fraser Valley to the Chilliwack Metis Association and The Fraser Valley Metis Association in Abbotsford where I gave a H1N1 update. H1N1 vaccination is now readily available. Any clinic can be located by logging on to www.health.gov.bc.ca/flu/ I spoke about the "Pathways to Health and Healing, the 2nd Report on the Health and Well-Being of Aboriginal People in British Columbia". This is the first time the Metis have been acknowledged in a publication by the Office of the Provincial Health Officer.

I have set up a series of workshops on Chronic Pain Management. The workshops will run for each Wednesday starting on Wednesday January 20, 2010. Each session runs from 10am-12:30 pm at the Surrey Metis Employment and Training Centre at Suite 201, 10114 King George Highway. Call Toll-Free at 1-866-902-3767 or visit the website at: www.coag.uvic.ca/cdsmp. Our 2006

Survey showed the Metis in BC suffer from lower back pain (40%), arthritis (45%) and stomach and intestinal pain (35) so these **FREE** workshops will hopefully be helpful to many of our people.

I was asked to make a presentation on behalf of the MNC at the launch of Aboriginal Aids Awareness Week on December 1st. There were 50-60 representatives from across Canada including representation from the First Nations and the Inuit. The Metis were given an equal representation. I spoke, lit a candle on behalf of the Metis Nation and signed the proclamation presented by the Mayor of Vancouver.

Yvonne Chartrand and her dance group put on a spectacular performance of 5 dances to the appreciative crowd. HIV/AIDS should be a concern for the Metis. Although our research shows that 1% of Metis have HIV this number is too small to use as solid scientific data. If 1% is correct, we are 6 times greater than the national average. Our socio-economic situation places us in a position for concern, basically because only 73% of us consult a health professional meaning that many of us could go undiagnosed until symptoms appear which could take up to 8 years. If anyone is has any questions on this topic please contact me at tstdenis@mnb.ca.

The Women' Health Conference preparations are now swinging into high gear. We are currently seeking out speakers for the topics suggested at the AGM. I traveled to an Aboriginal Health Improvement Committee meeting on a First Nations reservation near Mission. We were presented with material necessary for an evaluation of the Fraser Health Authority in the New Year. The format consists of a written evaluation followed by a focus group. I have volunteered for both attempting to make the process in Fraser Health Authority as Metis specific as possible.

I continue to promote our culture and educate the workers about Metis people. We have to be diligent in educating the general public that Metis people do not always look like our First Nation's cousins in appearance. There tended to be some of this confusion around Metis appearance



evidenced at the FHA - H1N1 injections sites. I plan to stay busy over the Holiday season getting ready for the activities planned for 2010.

Thompson / Okanagan and Kootenay Regional Health Coordinator (Interior Health Authority - IHA)

Gail Parenteau, Cell: 250-309-3101, Email: gparenteau@mnbca.ca

*Métis Chartered Communities in the Interior Region include Merritt District Métis Association, Métis Heritage and Cultural Council, Kelowna Métis Association, Salmon Arm Métis Association, Two Rivers Métis Society, Vernon District Métis Association, West Local, East Local, South Local, Central Local, Métis Nation Columbia River Society and Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association.

This past month has been spent attending various meetings, planning and implementing, networking with new contacts and potential partners in Health information and service delivery as described below:

- Interior Health Aboriginal Health Plan 2010-2014, two day meeting focusing on Chronic Disease one day and Injury Prevention the other.
- Attended Interior Health H1N1 teleconference with Interior Health Public Health Doctor Andrew Larder. It is still being recommended to consider being immunized for H1N1 and the Seasonal Flu, another increase in H1N1 incidents is expected to peak between January and March of 2010.
- Attended an Interior Health sponsored "Brown Bag Lunch and Learn" teleconference. This presentation, sponsored by Interior Health, focused on recent research conducted in BC with youth who are frequent users of marijuana. Health concerns and problems prompted some adolescents to use marijuana for therapeutic reasons. Youth beliefs about the benefits and risks of the therapeutic use of marijuana were presented along with the implications for health care professionals.
- Participated in planning Tele-conference meetings for the Metis Women's Health Conference in 2010.
- Completed the Provincial Health Services Authority pilot project, Indigenous Cultural Competency Training Program. Training will be available to everyone starting January 2010.
- Completed the planning of two Flu Immunization Clinics' and the implementation of one of the immunization clinics. These Flu immunizations Clinics were jointly organized and hosted by Metis Nation British Columbia Thompson Okanagan / Kootenay Health Coordinator and Metis Community Services Society, Live Well Coordinator. Both clinics will be held at the MCSBC Kelowna office, the first December 7th, 2009 and the next is scheduled for January 11th, 2010.



- Commenced networking with the Ktunaxa First Nations, Ktunaxa Nations' Health Strategy Initiative, representative, in hopes of developing a healthy working relationship that will benefit both the Métis people and Ktunaxa people of the region.
- Networking with Métis Communities of the Kootenay Boundary Health Service Area and researching for an upcoming Interior Health Kootenay Boundary Health Service Area, Aboriginal Health Improvement Committee meeting. The meeting is being chaired by the Aboriginal Health Program Advisor and Aboriginal Patient Navigator for the Kootenay Boundary Health Service area, cover Métis Chartered Communities of: Boundary Local, West Local Nelson and South Local Terrace.

I continue to keep in contact with Métis Chartered Communities of the Thompson Okanagan Kootenay and pass along funding and educational information and reply to inquiries. As well as networking with other persons and agencies to build a broad spectrum of contacts that are potential partners in bringing health care services and knowledge to the Métis Nation.

North Central, Northwest and Northeast Regional Health Coordinator (Northern Health Authority)

Sandra Conlon, Cell: 250-631-2003, Email: sconlon@mnb.ca

*Métis Chartered Communities in the Northern Region include Prince George Métis Association, New Caledonia Métis Association, North Cariboo Métis Association, North West BC Métis Association, Northwest Métis Association, Tri-River Métis Association, Fort St John Métis Society, Red River Métis Society, Northern Rockies Métis Society, Moccasin Flats Métis Society and the North East Métis Association.

During this reporting period, the Regional Health Coordinator collaborated with communities regarding ongoing community grants including the BC Parks and Recreation *Marketing Action Plan*, as well as supporting *Aboriginal Health Improvement Project* applications offered through the Northern Health Authority.

The Health Coordinator participated in new planning for health involvement in youth workshops including Tobacco 101 and Stress Reduction.

Information was communicated to Métis Chartered Communities including location and time of local H1N1 inoculation clinics, and temporary changes in service provision (February 12 to March 1, 2010) of the Prince George to Vancouver run of the Northern Health Connections Program, which provides transportation for clients traveling to non-emergency health services outside of their home communities.

The Northern Regional Coordinator was invited to attend and present at the Tri-River Métis Association General Meeting November 12, and also presented at the Northwest Regional Governance Council held via teleconference November 8.

As the holiday season approaches, I would like to send my very best wishes for a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year to Métis and their families and friends across the Northern Regions and throughout the province.



Chronic Disease Surveillance Program (CDSP) – Program Manager Dr Peter Hutchinson,
phutchinson@mNBC.ca. Cell: 250-215-0190

The Chronic Disease Surveillance Program continues to progress slowly. Métis Nation British Columbia is currently waiting the completion of the privacy impact assessment by the Ministry of Health Services. The privacy impact assessment (PIA) is a British Columbia government internal process that assesses and provides details on how data will be handled and kept secure amongst other privacy protection related issues. Once the PIA is completed the data linkage agreement can proceed to the relevant Ministries for their review, approval and signatures. It is anticipated that the PIA and agreement will be completed by the end of January.

The Ministry of Health Services released the consent form from any further required reviews on their behalf, meaning that the consent form is currently being revised after receiving feedback from MNBC's legal counsel. The consent form will be mailed out as soon as it has received final approval. It will be accompanied by the informational brochures on the CDSP and on how MNBC Citizen's privacy rights are protected throughout the program.

The CDS Program Manager has also been working with the McCreary Centre Society to advance health and well-being knowledge on Métis Youth in the province of British Columbia. Currently the McCreary Centre Society is reviewing all surveys for the inclusion of Métis youth. Once they have identified all possible survey data that is inclusive of Métis youth the CDSP manager and McCreary Centre Society staff will collaborate on writing a report that will provide a snapshot a BC Métis youth health and well-being.

The CDS Program Manager continues to work with BC Cancer Agency Registry staff to formalize a data linkage project that will provide insight into Métis Citizen's experience with cancer. This data linkage project is anticipated to be the first of many with the BC Cancer Agency Registry.

The agreement that sets out the methods, purpose and objectives of the project is currently being drafted by the CDS Program Manager.

There is also now an opportunity for Métis across BC to provide their input into health and well-being information. For instance what information about your health and well-being would benefit policy, program developers and those who represent Métis in BC? To date the MNBC Senate has provided their input into the importance of health and well-being information and the barriers of Métis Communities to use this information. Watch for your opportunity to advance Métis health and well-being information or contact the CDS Program Manager at phutchinson@mNBC.ca with your input.



Angel Fisher – Part time Health Registry Clerk.

The month of December was short but very productive. This was my very first month working on travel for the health coordinators. I spent most days I had in the health department learning the process, the steps, the policy, and all other details regarding travel. As well as learning and working on travel I was able to complete another letter in the Métis Nation British Columbia citizenship database for entering maiden names in the database. Confirmed amount of maiden names entered into the MNBC database is close to 800.

Message from the Director of Health

Thank you for reading through all the many exciting things happening with Métis Health. If you have any questions regarding the Métis Public Health Surveillance Program (MPHSP) please do not hesitate to contact: Program Manager Dr Peter Hutchinson, phutchinson@mNBC.ca 250-215-0190 or the Director of Health, Tanya Davoren, tdavoren@mNBC.ca at 250-308-7920. Peter and Tanya anticipate that information and consent forms will be mailed out in the first few weeks of the New Year!

Take care out there, and stay well. Please use extra caution while out walking as walkways and driveways become slippery from winter weather conditions. Enjoy the fresh, crisp air and bundle up!

MNBC CENTRALIZED REGISTRY

Application Processing Time:

Current application processing time is approximately six (6) months.

Application processing time does fluctuate from between four (4) to (10) months over the course of a fiscal year.

Statistical Reporting Refinement Update:

Please see attached statistical report

Registry Clerk Contact Information:

West Coast Registry Clerk
Linnette Brockenborough
#156 D Government Street
Duncan B.C. V9L 1A2
Phone: 250-310-7400
Email: lbrockenborough@mNBCregistry.ca

Lower Mainland Registry Clerk
Angel Fisher



#905-1130 West Pender St
Vancouver, BC V6E 4A4
Phone: 604.678.6977
Fax: 778-328-9966
afisher@mnbcregistry.ca

Southern BC Registry Clerk - Thompson Okanagan & Kootenays
Dianna Williams
#208-444 Victoria Street
Kamloops, BC
V2C 2A7
Phone: 250-320-7055
Email: dwilliams@mnbcregistry.ca

Northern BC Registry Clerk - North Central, North West & North East
Audrey Prevost
#201 - 513 Ahbau St.
Prince George, BC, V2M 3R8
Phone: 250.961.1181
Fax: 250.561.2790
Email: aprevost@mnbcregistry.ca

Citizenship Application File Archiving Reminder:

Due to the large volume of incomplete files, the Registry has implemented an archival process. Applicants with an inactive file for one (1) year or longer; will be contacted by the Registry Clerk with a final notification of the list of items that are required to complete their application. If the items are not received by the Clerk within thirty (30) days, the file is archived and forwarded to the Vancouver head office. If an applicant would like to re-start their application process in the future, they will need to supply a new application package. This has been very successful in prompting applicants to complete their files, as well; it has significantly reduced the number of inactive files housed with each Clerk. To date, the Central Registry has archived 1635 files.

Provincial Residency Policy Reminder:

Effective April 1, 2009, all new and existing applicants 18 years and older applying for a Métis Nation British Columbia citizenship card are required to provide proof of British Columbia residency. This residency must be established for a minimum of ninety (90) consecutive days immediately prior to the date of application. Any of the following documents will be accepted as proof of residency and must include the applicant's name and address:

- Current income support (social assistance) pay stub
- Current bills for BC residence (for 3 consecutive months) i.e.: Utility/telephone/cable/gas
- Current BC residential property tax bill
- Residential insurance; tenant insurance
- Residential rental or lease agreement
- School Registration or Report Card



The following documents are not accepted as proof of British Columbia Residency:

- Canadian immigration documentation
- Canadian citizenship certificate or permanent residency card
- Federal identification cards i.e.: RCMP, or Department of National Defense
- British Columbia driver's license
- Canadian passport
- Government employee identification cards
- Student identification cards
- Cheque cashing cards
- British Columbia care card
- Social Insurance Card

Intent of policy

This policy will be applicable to adult applicants over the age of 18 years and its purpose is to prevent individuals living outside of the province of British Columbia from being accepted by the MNBC Citizenship Registry.

PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE REGARDING THE PROOF OF RESIDENCY POLICY:

Children under the age of 18 years will not be required to provide proof of residency. The report card or school attendance record will only apply to individuals over 18 (i.e. college students that may have no other proof of residency).

The Regional Registry Clerks have reported that the response to this change has been favorable over all. Applicants understand that this policy was implemented to protect the integrity of the Registry and this additional documentation requirement assists the staff in verifying that MNBC citizenship cards are issued only to individuals that are able to prove they are residents of the province of British Columbia.

Please contact your Regional Registry Clerk if you have questions regarding the Provincial Residency Policy.

Central Registry Policies and Procedures:

The Central Registry is currently in the process of developing a Central Registry Policies and Procedures manual this will be completed for Board of Directors review and approval Jan 2010.

Citizenship Registry Guidebook:

The Central Registry recently updated the Citizenship Registry guidebook; this will be available in hard copy and electronic on the Citizenship page of the MNBC website in January 2010. The guidebook is meant to provide individuals with a Central Registry background, basic family tree research information, FAQ's and Central Registry contact information.

Harvesting Card Implementation:

The Central Registry continues to work with BCMANR to provide assistance with the processing of harvester card applications and card issuing.



Total Applicants to Date	
Approved Issued Cards	4620
Approved Pending Card Order	5
Approved Pending Community Acceptance	116
Active/Incomplete	1687
Pending	0
Deceased Citizen	28
Deceased Applicant	15
Deceased Total	43
Appeal Option Notification	170
Appeal in Progress	22
Appeal Decision in Favor of Applicant	0
Appeal Decision in Favor of Registry	27
Appeals Total	49
On Hold For Renewal	131
Moved Out of Province	39
Archived Files	1635
TOTAL	6595

INAC	
Registered	5
Not Registered	3933
Unconfirmed	4292
TOTAL	8230

Regional Breakdown: Being Worked On	
Kootenay	284
Lower Mainland	833
North Central	573
North East	260
North West	196
Thompson Okanagan	591
Vancouver Island	568
TOTAL	3305

Gender	
Male	4073
Female	4157
TOTAL	8230

Adult	
Male	3567
Female	3662
TOTAL	7229

Youth 10-15	
Male	263
Female	236
TOTAL	499

Youth 6-9	
Male	121
Female	117
TOTAL	238

Child 0-5	
Male	120
Female	139
TOTAL	259

No Birth Date Specified	
Male	2
Female	3
TOTAL	5

Regional Breakdown: Approved	
Kootenay	558
Lower Mainland	1058
North Central	874
North East	240
North West	354
Thompson Okanagan	863
Vancouver Island	678
TOTAL	4625



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

On December 7th, Minister of Education Henry Hall participated in signing the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement for the Conseil Scolaire Francophone (French School District # 93). The Conseil Scolaire Francophone (School District # 93) operates 40 schools within all geographical regions of BC with the exception of the North East. The CSF serves approximately 300 students of Aboriginal ancestry.

Métis citizens five years of age and under are receiving their books from the Imagination Library. The books are sent out each month at no cost and MNBC has received thank you notes from parents that are participating in the project. In January the Imagination Library will begin sending “soft cover” books to all children except the youngest. The younger children will continue to receive “board books”. The move to soft cover books will reduce the total cost of the program and help to sustain delivery of the books.

MINISTRY OF WOMEN & ELDERS

The Metro Vancouver Urban Aboriginal Strategy (Office of the Federal Interlocutor) invites all Métis Elders in the Lower Mainland Region to attend an Elders information session and lunch at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre on January 6th, 2010. There will be door prizes, a presentation on opportunities to join the MVUAS steering committee, and a complimentary lunch for all participants.

All Métis elders are welcome to attend: 9-1pm at 1607 East Hastings St. Vancouver, BC V5L 1S7 in the gymnasium.

On behalf of the Métis Women of British Columbia, and Chairperson, Rose Bortolon, we wish all Métis families an enjoyable holiday season, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year! We look forward to a productive New Year and meeting with many of you in 2010.

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES

The MNBC Adhoc Adoptions Committee met for a very successful retreat in Kelowna on December 13-16 2009. The Committee consulted with several experts on Métis history, Métis law, and Adoption legislation and front line practices in British Columbia, including Métis lawyer Jean Teillet (SSC Powley) and Dr. Mike Evans of UBC Okanagan

The Committee will be presenting its recommendations in the New Year to Métis Citizens and the Métis Nation Governing Assembly.



VETERANS

On behalf of Minister responsible for Veterans, Lissa Smith, and MNBC Métis Veterans Standing Committee Chair, Walter Koenders, please accept our sincere wishes for a safe, and prosperous New Year.

It has been an exciting year for the Métis Nation British Columbia with a tremendous amount of growth and change. On behalf of the MNBC Board of Directors/Ministers, and Staff, we wish to thank you for your continuous support and hope you and yours had a very safe holiday season and a Happy New Year to one and all.

Thank you

Bruce R. Dumont
President Kishchee tey mo'yawn aen li Michif wi'yawn
(Proud to be Métis)

