



Thursday, July 2nd, 2009

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

RE: Presidential Update for June 2009

Taanshi Kiya'wow / Bonjour
Ta'wow / Bienvenue

Dear MNBC Leadership and Metis Citizens:

Please accept the following Presidential Monthly Update for June 2009 submitted to Metis community leaders, Metis citizens, and various Federal, Provincial, and Industry Government partners.

2010 Winter Games

Hiring Fair July 14th 2009

People interested in being hired to work for: Coca-Cola, SODEXO, PTI Group or NBC during the 2010 Winter Games time period need to submit their resume and covering letter to mchalmers@mnbca.ca prior to July 6th to receive an invitation to attend the July 14th Hiring Fair. Only 100 people will receive an invitation to attend this hiring fair where people will be hired for employment positions. Only those submitting resumes will be considered for attendance.

Employment Opportunities

Latest employment opportunity is with the PTI Group and they are looking to recruit over 200 people to work at one of five work camps, which will be operating during the Olympic time period. Employment may start in some positions as early as November 2009 and continue till March 2010 with possible transfer to another work camp for continued employment. All PTI camps provide accommodations for employees. People hired will be expected to work 21 days in and have one week off for vacation.

Check the 2010 Métis Site for updates in employment opportunities

New Screen Saver on 2010 Métis Site

You may have downloaded the Red River Jig Ring Tone, and now you can have a true Métis Screensaver on your monitor! Go to the 2010 Métis Site and download the screensaver from the marketplace free of charge



Nomination call for Provincial best of the best for Pavilion Performances

Governing Members are asked to forward contact information to Marcel Chalmers of all performing groups in each Province so we can start to coordinate our Performing groups for the pavilion theme day events. Any information pertaining to each governing member's ability to financially support his or her performers would be appreciated.

Ministry of Children and Families

The Métis Nation British Columbia is pleased to announce that Dean Trumbley, Chief of Operations, and Victoria Pruden, Director of Women, Elders and Veterans Affairs, will continue to provide technical support for the Métis Child and Family portfolio for the upcoming year. The Métis Nation British Columbia has been informed that due to the economic downturn, financial support for the Métis Child and Family working group will not be provided by the Ministry of Child and Family Development this fiscal year. This presents a significant challenge to MNBC in capitalizing on the momentum and progress made in the past year with MCFD and other stakeholders. MNBC Leadership and Executive staff have been communicating the importance of maintaining momentum on these negotiations with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, and asking for their assistance in accessing financial resources to continue this important work for our Métis Children and Families.

Ministry of Veterans

MNBC Minister for Veterans, Lissa Smith, MNBC Métis Veterans Chairperson Walter Koenders and his wife Mary, Vice-Chair Art Lefever, Women's Representative Barb Hulme, Métis Nation of Greater Victoria President and MNBC Veteran Bill Bresser, and World War II Métis Veteran Irene Flett represented the Métis Nation at an Aboriginal Day celebration honoring Aboriginal Women in the Canadian Forces at the Officer's Mess at CFB Esquimalt on June 24th. This event, sponsored by the Defense Aboriginal Advisory Group, featured prominent local Aboriginal Women as motivational speakers, and provided an opportunity for Aboriginal Women in active service, as well as community members involved in Veterans and Aboriginal organizations to network and share information and ideas. The MNBC Metis Veterans Standing Committee wishes to inform our members that Ken Fisher is the current Regional Métis Veteran's Representative for the Lower Mainland Region, and his contact information can be found on the Veterans section of the MNBC Website. The MNBC Métis Veterans Standing Committee, Executive and Regional Representatives, are in the process of planning to their next official meeting at the upcoming MNBC Annual General Meeting in Penticton in September 2009.



Ministry of Women

The Métis Women of British Columbia held an inauguration, training, and strategic planning session in Richmond, British Columbia June 26 – 28 2009. Under the leadership of MWBC Provincial Chair, Rose Bortolon, the four newly elected representatives, Donna Wright, Leanne McFeeters, Sherry Arko and Clara DalCol, had an opportunity to be sworn in and participate in a formal inauguration ceremony with Métis Women of British Columbia and Métis Nation British Columbia leadership. The MWBC leadership confirmed their new Executive: MWBC Vice-Chair is Susie Hooper of the Northwest Region, and MWBC Executive Secretary is Lee Fraser, of the Lower Mainland Region. We wish to extend our thanks to Senator Phillip Gladue and Betty Gladue, President Bruce Dumont and Joanne Dante, and Vice-President Dave Hodgson and Dillis Hodgson for their attendance and contributions to the event. The MWBC Leadership participated in governance review and strategy, and worked on the re-development of MWBC policies and strategic planning documents. The MWBC Leadership spent a significant amount of time in review of their violence prevention project strategy and resources in development, in order to ensure that the cultural context of healthy families and communities is reflected in a way that focuses on traditional Métis values. The Métis Women of British Columbia are hosting a meeting to develop a Woman in Trades strategy in partnership with a number of potential funders in July 2009. Goals include building on the successful trades programming already being delivered at the Métis Skills and Employment Centre in Abbotsford, and the tailoring of programming to address the specific needs of Métis Women training for Trades careers.

Ministry of Education and Culture, Heritage and Language

Margaret MacDiarmid has been appointed as the new provincial Minister of Education. MNBC Minister of Education, Dave Hodgson has requested a meeting with Minister MacDiarmid to begin building a new relationship and share MNBC's vision for education in early learning and kindergarten to grade 12.

Thompson Okanagan Regional Director, Bob Trumbley shared in the recognizing two (2) exceptional Métis students from Grand Forks. Merissa Kelly and Ericka Williamson won silver in E-spirit, a national aboriginal business plan development competition. The students were awarded with a cheque and a gift from MNBC.

Director of Education and Culture, Colleen Hodgson participated in the graduation ceremony at Ashcroft Secondary. Four Métis students celebrated their success and were given sashes and a gift in recognition of their contributions to their community and their school. MNBC's relationship with the Gold Trail school district grows stronger each day thanks to the advocacy of many people including school district staff, students and the Métis community.



Many Métis students joined in graduation and recognition celebrations in June! Métis dance instructor Bev Lambert joined the Gold Trail school district in their celebrations and shared her amazing Métis energy with students and staff. Bev spent the month of June in schools throughout B.C. teaching jigging and Métis culture. Her route took her to Lytton, Williams Lake, Prince George, Fort St. John, Chetwynd and Pouce Coupe.

On June 25th, MNBC Minister of Education, Dave Hodgson participated in the signing of the first Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement with the Vancouver school district. The agreement is between the provincial Ministry of Education, Aboriginal communities and the school district and is a commitment to providing education that is culturally relevant for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. The new provincial Minister of Education, Margaret MacDiarmid participated in the ceremony. Dave Hodgson presented Minister MacDiarmid with a gift from MNBC and a formal meeting has been planned with her.

Minister of Education Dave Hodgson and MNBC CEO Malonie Langthorne joined the Prince George Métis Association in celebrating Aboriginal Day with Regional Director Annette Maurice. Many Métis communities celebrated Aboriginal Day in June. Fraser Valley Métis Association held a community event at Mill Lake Park in Abbotsford and invited North Fraser Métis Association to join in the festivities. Activities included games in the park and a jungle gym for the kids. Everyone enjoyed hotdogs and lots of summer food

Ministry of Employment & Training

MNBC would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest employment & training staff member, Wendy Child. Wendy is the new Bladerunners Program Coordinator in Prince George. Wendy comes to us with a background of assisting people with barriers find employment and should fit in very nicely to the Bladerunners concept at assisting youth at risk gain employment.

There is also a lot of new employment coming with the Olympics in 2010 and most of that labour hiring is commencing in July & August and on into the fall. A note for anyone who is thinking of applying to work at the Olympics from outside the Lower Mainland and Whistler areas; they should ensure they have accommodations for the games times as most positions do not have accommodations arranged for out of town applicants. Please consult with your Regional Program Coordinators or go to the 2010 section of the MNBC Web site for opportunities and details

Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures is finalizing a program with VANOC to develop an ongoing intake program to supply the 2010 Winter Games with employees. Key employment will be in the VANOC call centre, all venues and services, sponsoring employers will have placements and there will also be additional placements in other related companies taking advantage of the world coming to BC for the Olympics. If you are interested please contact the ESAF lab or your regional employment and training staff today.



The Métis Skills Employment Centre hosting an intake of the carpentry Level 2 for with a full class that is complete July 17th. The next Carpentry Level 1 class is scheduled for Sept 14th and is starting to fill up now.

MSEC will be running its very successful CORE program again starting July 27th, this class will get you the basic certifications in safety and some hands on and class experience in several trades areas. This class is very supportive and is designed for the young person looking for a start, the person who maybe never thought of trades as a career, women, and workers looking for a change. As always check on our website for the MSEC class calendar for all classes and start dates.

The staff has also been hard at work completing submissions towards the Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund. In Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government is investing \$75 million of new funding over two years for short-term, focused initiatives. These are designed to help Aboriginal people get the specific skills they require to benefit from economic opportunities, including those generated by the federal stimulus package. Proposals for programs for a culinary arts program and an Essential Skills program to assist aboriginals with barriers to employment have been submitted. If successful, MNBC should be marketing these programs to the Nation in the fall.

Ministry of Sport

MNBC is pleased to host the National Métis Youth Conference entitled "Healthy Living, 2010 and beyond". July 9 – 12th at the Richmond Hilton. Youth from across 5 Métis Governing Member Provinces will enjoy workshops, Olympic 2010 venue tours, a Métis Youth Talent Show and the launch of NAHO-MC Métis Youth Identity project.

ATHLETES! Share your story! - 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.

The summer edition of Whispering Winds features Matthew Klein, recipient of the Tom Longboat award for Aboriginal Sport Excellence, 2006 and 2008.

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



Ministry of Natural Resources

A total of 172 MNBC Harvesting Card applications have been submitted to the MNBC harvesting management system to date. One hundred and nine cards have been approved and processing time is improving. 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 licenses.

MNBC and Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines met on June 1, 2009 for the inaugural meeting of the Gateway Pipeline Métis Consultation Team. The Team will operate under the MNBC Consultation Guidelines. Four chartered community representatives, one BCMANR Captain and Ministry of Natural Resources staff met with four Enbridge staff to begin the workplan for the Team. Priorities will be Métis Traditional Use Surveys and Community communications and engagement. Training, job markets, economic development and contract procurement will be on future agendas.

MNBC also met on June 1st and 2nd with Enbridge Gateway Pipelines and Métis Nation Alberta to see if there is an opportunity to work cooperatively on the Gateway Pipeline Project. MNBC and MNA will also meet on June 3, 2009 to further this discussion and to look at other areas where the two provincial organizations may be able to collaborate. Two Alaska pipeline projects that cross both jurisdictions as well as issues around Parks Canada management of the Rocky Mountain Parks were discussed.

The Director of Natural Resources and the Region 6 BCMANR Captain attended the inaugural meeting of the Enbridge Kitimat Terminal Advisory Board. This group will look at the development of the deep-sea port associated with the Northern Gateway Pipeline project. While at the meeting the Director was approached by environmental assessment regulators for the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, Department of Fisheries and Transport Canada. All three groups asked how Métis should be consulted. One indicated that his Agency had been directed to engage Métis as part of their responsibility to address "Aboriginal rights and traditional land uses" before approving projects.

MNBC has offered to meet with the regulators in Vancouver to provide information on MNBC, the *Natural Resource Act*, and MNBC Consultation guidelines and generally educate these federal agencies. This invitation has been accepted and a meeting will be forthcoming.

Funding to participate in the environmental review for the Mount Milligan Mine project in north central BC is expected in July. The significance of this project is high, since it has opened the door for MNBC to participate in environmental assessments of future projects in BC. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency has indicated that the MNBC Ministry of Natural



Resources will be sent information on all new projects under that agencies jurisdiction and will be eligible for funding to assess projects for impact on Métis.

MNBC met with senior level representatives of Conoco Phillips, the proponents of the Denali Alaska Pipeline project. The Denali project is proposed to cross BC from the Yukon (near Teslin) to Alberta (northeast of Fort St. John). This meeting was very productive and a working agreement is in the process of being drafted. A Métis Consultation Project Team will be formed to address this consultation under the MNBC Consultation Guidelines.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has been fortunate to acquire a summer student who is a UBC Law student. This position is for three months and will assist in consultation, research and policy development.

Ministry of Registry

Application Processing Time:

Current application processing time is approximately eight (8) months. Application processing time does fluctuate from between four (4) to (10) months over the course of a fiscal year. The Registry has not seen a significant increase in processing time recently even though additional documentation requirements have been implemented to the Citizenship process. The Regional Registry Clerks have been updating and archiving files for the past several months. This is an ongoing process that has been instrumental in the closing of many older files and it will continue to hasten the application processing time.

Statistical Reporting Refinement Update:

Please direct statistical reporting inquiries to Rhonda Therrien, Registry Administrative Manager at: Email: regadmin@mNBC.ca Phone: 604-678-6977

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.

Regional Registry Clerks

The Registry has combined the Registry Clerk positions for the North Central with the Northwest and Northeast regions. Audrey Prevost is now providing assistance to applicants from these regions. The Kootenay Region Registry Clerk position has been combined with the Thompson/Okanagan.

Wendy Chernivchan will be assisting applicants from these two regions.

These decisions were made based on statistical and fiscal review and are not expected to have a significant impact on productivity for the Registry.



Harvesting Card Implementation:

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

Statistics Report

Total Applicants to Date	
Approved Issued Cards	4194
Approved Pending Card Order	55
Approved Pending Community Acceptance	8
Active/Incomplete	2514
Pending	0
Deceased Citizen	23
Deceased Applicant	14
Deceased Total	37
Appeal Option Notification	190
Appeal in Progress	10
Appeal Decision in Favor of Applicant	0
Appeal Decision in Favor of Registry	15
Appeals Total	25
On Hold For Renewal	70
Moved Out of Province	31
Archived Files	750
TOTAL	6956

INAC	
Registered	4
Not Registered	3548
Unconfirmed	4164
TOTAL	7716

Regional Breakdown: Being Worked On	
Kootenay	307
Lower Mainland	609
North Central	571
North East	249
North West	180
Thompson Okanagan	622
Vancouver Island	625
TOTAL	3363

Gender	
Male	3625
Female	3891
TOTAL	7716
Adult	
Male	3340
Female	3421
TOTAL	6761
Youth 10-15	
Male	251
Female	219
TOTAL	470
Youth 6-9	
Male	105
Female	106
TOTAL	211
Child 0-5	
Male	126
Female	141
TOTAL	267
No Birth Date Specified	
Male	3
Female	4
TOTAL	7

Regional Breakdown: Approved	
Kootenay	533
Lower Mainland	974
North Central	614
North East	327
North West	342
Thompson Okanagan	775
Vancouver Island	584
TOTAL	4349



Ministry of Economic Development

MNBC will be seeking an individual to assist with the development of an MNBC Economic Development Strategic Plan that will be implemented over the next five years. Current focus is capturing opportunities in relation to the 2010 Winter Games, as well as the expansion of the Métis Skills and Employment Centre in Abbotsford BC. Moving forward we will look at Private Sectors and Industries and their potential opportunities, as well as the development of a Métis Venture Capital Corporation in BC.

Official announcements will be sent out shortly in regards to the possibility of a Métis Pavilion just outside of Squamish near the Britannia Mines during the 2010 Winter Games, as well as on the expansion and investment recently of the Métis Skills and Employment Centre.

Check the website soon for job postings at www.mnbc.ca

Ministry of Justice

Annette Maurice, Minister for Justice has met with Prince George Adult Probation and has ongoing work assisting clients with the three month residential program; Court visits and meetings with court personnel.

Meetings are being arranged with the John Howard Society to discuss possible partnership in the opening of a Community Residential Facility (CRF) in the Fraser Valley area. John Howard Society has had great success in this field as they own and operate 9 (CRF) facilities throughout the province; our meeting has been scheduled for July 2nd.

Opportunities may be available for inmates to come to the Métis Skills & Employment Centre under a “work release” project. These projects assist with community re-integration and become part of an inmates correctional release plan. Meetings are being scheduled to start this process.

A former student of the Métis Skills & Employment Centre who is on a day parole has gained employment at the Vancouver Airport earning significantly more than minimum wage, he is extremely grateful for all of our assistance.

Two offenders have earned their day parole this month and are actively looking for employment. Each offender will be supported through weekly phone conversations and bi-weekly coffee meetings as they re-integrate back into the community.



Ministry of Health

ActNow- The ActNow Initiative is now complete and MNBC's Ministry of Health would like to remind all Chartered Communities, Women's and Youth project leaders / coordinators to please complete your reporting as soon as possible, as prompt reporting increases our chances of being funded for Community projects again in the future.

The ActNow Leader / Coordinator online survey invitation will be emailed in the next week to project leaders / coordinators as we begin our ActNow evaluation process. If you do not have access to internet, a mailed survey or a phone interview can also be arranged. Please contact Tresley at ttourond@mNBC.ca if you have any questions

Aboriginal Health Transition Fund - Our five part-time Regional Health Coordinators have been working very hard to advance Métis health since starting in their positions May 15th. The new Regional Health Coordinators have spent time training in their new role, working with health screening devices (blood pressure, blood glucose and total cholesterol meters) and participating in an overall orientation to Métis Nation British Columbia.

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

Vancouver Island Regional Health Coordinator (Vancouver Island Health Authority)

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

The first month on the job has been spent researching health data on Aboriginal people and specifically Metis people. Time has also been spent reviewing health surveys and health strategic plans for MNBC, the Province, and the Vancouver Island Health Authority as well as Aboriginal Friendship Centre's health strategies. This research has helped lay the foundation for what work has been done around identifying specific health needs for the Metis people and more specifically on the Vancouver Island Region. This foundation will help direct relationships with communities, Aboriginal health service providers, and VIHA. It will also help unveil areas that need more attention towards increasing the health and wellness of Metis on the Island. By the end of June this Health Coordinator will have personally visited all six Chartered Communities.

Greater Vancouver Regional Health Coordinator (Vancouver Coastal Health Authority)

Holly Tennant, Cell: 604-454-8163, Email: htennant@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



I have met with Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) Aboriginal Leads and some of their APN's (Aboriginal Patient Navigators). I was invited to attend the ACHAC (Aboriginal Community Health Advisory Committee) meeting, and made a presentation about our MNBC health program. I made a request VCH to be given a permanent seat for MNBC on Vancouver Coastal Health's ACHAC.

Upcoming shared projects include the NAHO-MC (National Aboriginal Health Organization – Métis Centre) maternal/child DVD, and a Women's Health Conference with Lerinda Swain from PHSA. I also attended First Nations Health Council's Aboriginal Maternal Child Health Committee meeting as the Métis representative appointed by MNBC. On June 2nd I attended Vancouver Métis Cultural Society's meeting and received information on local health issues and concerns and was able to also do some health screenings.

Lower Mainland Regional Health Coordinator (Fraser Health Authority)

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

The majority of my first month has been spent acquainting myself with the process of Fraser Health Authority and the Chartered Metis Communities of my assigned area. I have met with 4 out of 5 Chartered Métis Communities and attended 2 of the 3 Aboriginal Health Improvement Committees (AHIC) of Fraser Health Authority. My meetings with Fraser Health AHIC have been very positive. I was welcomed immediately and asked to do presentations on Metis culture at both meetings. The questions were all of a positive nature. The feeling I have is that they are happy to have representation from MNBC, which they state compiles 1/3 of the Aboriginal population in the Fraser Health Authority. I will continue to meet with Fraser Health Authority and the Metis Chartered Communities to promote the importance of Metis health.

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

Cori Ducommun, Cell: 250-305-6138, Email: cducommun@mNBC.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.

I attended the Regional Governance Council for the Kootenay Region and introduced myself to all of the Métis Chartered Communities there, and am hoping to attend the Regional Governance Council meeting for the Thompson/Okanagan. I plan to arrange health seminars and screening sessions in as many Chartered Communities as soon as possible. I am currently in talks prepare a collaborative Women's health conference with the Provincial Health Services Authority, as well as some cultural education pieces, working with Interior Health Authority (IHA). I am the



MNBC representative on the Aboriginal Health and Wellness Advisory Council with IHA, and look forward to working towards better health status for all Métis people in BC.

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

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

An important accomplishment in this initial period of involvement as Regional Health Coordinator is an encouraging, and increasingly strong connection with the Chartered Métis Communities of the North. Attending 2 Regional Governance Meetings (where I was fortunate to connect with representatives from many Chartered Communities), and attending local meetings as well as a traditional Stone Soup Gathering, has continued to build upon relationship among the Chartered Communities, the Northern Health Authority and Métis Nation BC in general, as well as yielding excellent results. This is evident in that several volunteers have now stepped forward to represent their respective Chartered Communities on Aboriginal Health Improvement Committees at the Northern Health Authority, as well as showing interest in applying for Health related grants to help build capacity within their Communities.

Chronic Disease Surveillance – Program Manager Dr Peter Hutchinson phutchinson@mNBC.ca. The highlight of the past month was meeting with the Public Health Agency of Canada. This meeting presented an opportunity to discuss the concerns, and priorities for the Métis population in regards to public health. I highlighted to them that the current developments with chronic disease surveillance are necessary but only part of a picture that must also include collecting data for several years including social determinants of health. This information is crucial for the Métis Nation BC to inform and evaluate policies and programs. Another highlight for me was to meet with Dr. Morris Barer Director of Population Data BC, is a partnership between several universities and is BC's first pan-provincial population health data service. As reported on the Population Data BC website they provide:

- A research resource in the form of data linkage, development, and access to what is expected to be the world's most comprehensive data source for population research, bringing in datasets from education, early childhood development, workplace, and the environment. Population Data BC will also support the integration and use of geomatics in health research.
- A space and place, which brings together researchers across disciplines and geographies to expand our understanding of what, contributes to the health of a population.
- A comprehensive education and training service on how to best use population health data.



Dr. Barer informed me that they would be interested in discussing linking their data with MNBC's Citizenship registry, anonymously of course. This linkage would provide another valuable resource for the Métis Nation British Columbia and those working with MNBC to improve the health status of Métis across BC.

A meeting has been scheduled with the MNBC Senate to introduce the data linkage agreement and to demonstrate how the rights and privacy of Métis Community members will be protected. Works continues on developing a consent form for Métis Citizens a brochure and other communication material for the CDSP and several research and program delivery opportunities are being explored with Health Canada and the University of British Columbia Okanagan.

MNBC Annual General Meeting 2009

The Annual General Meeting is just around the corner in September 25th-27th 2009 in Penticton, BC. On behalf of the MNBC Board of Directors we look forward to seeing you soon. This year's theme is "Coming Home, Going Green. Please remember to share you community stories for the fall "Whispering Winds" edition on how a community, family or individual has committed to conserving energy, recycling, etc. We look forward to communities getting together and registering for this years "Métis Idol" as we have so much talent to showcase. Please see our website www.mnbc.ca for registration and updates.

Thank you

Bruce R. Dumont
President

Kishchee tey mo' yawn aen li Michif wi' yawn
(Proud to be Métis)