



Volume 1, Issue 1

## Vancouver Coastal Métis Health & Wellness Forum January 28 & 29, 2012

Métis people of Vancouver, Richmond and Powell River are invited to attend a two day Métis Health & Wellness Forum held at the

Blue Horizon Hotel at  
1225 Robson St. Vancouver BC

Saturday Jan 28th 1-4:30pm with a Banquet Dinner to follow and  
Sunday January 29th 8:30am - 3:00pm.

Join us for a game of Métis Health and Wellness Bingo!

Learn what services are available for you through the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority and Aboriginal Health Initiatives



**REGISTRATION is still open, ensure your seat now!**  
**Contact Gail Parenteau**  
**Email: [gparenteau@mNBC.ca](mailto:gparenteau@mNBC.ca)**  
**or phone: 250 309-3101**

*“combining Aboriginal traditional knowledge with western-based science to benefit all”*



Métis Nation British Columbia is extremely excited with the success of Niché since its conception in October of 2011. Since MNBC's partnership with Silvatech Environmental Consulting in October of 2011 to provide research and training, that facilitates meaningful participation in the decision-making

Processes' that impact lands and resources, through professional relationships based on trust, respect and results. MNBC is very proud to announce that already Niché has already experienced its first major success and is in negotiations on multiple other contract procurement opportunities. The Niché Board of Directors is proud to announce the launch of

the Niché Environmental Ltd. website. Please go to [www.nicheenv.ca](http://www.nicheenv.ca) to view the background and services that Niché offers throughout Canada. Support your Nation's first professional sector business and spread the word that Niché is open for business. Related press release [www.mNBC.bc.ca](http://www.mNBC.bc.ca)  
PO Box 789 (850-D 16th St. NE)  
Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4N9  
Tel: (250) 832-8512 / Email: [info@nicheenv.ca](mailto:info@nicheenv.ca)



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[traceyt@mNBC.ca](mailto:traceyt@mNBC.ca) or



## President's Message

### Tansi and Miyo uts t'suem Kes'kaw (Hello and Happy New Year)

As we say farewell to yet another year and welcome 2012 with a new outlook and new direction, my thoughts turn to our nation's supporters, our partners and friends. The Métis Nation of BC is grateful to you all. We are looking forward to a new and prosperous year for the Métis in BC. The past few months have been very busy for the staff and board as we prepare for the fiscal year end and gear up for the MNGA for March 10 & 11.

I want to thank BC Aboriginal Achievement Foundation's Vice-Chair Scott McIntyre and Board member Wendy John for being such kind hosts at the 2011 BC Aboriginal Business Award for Individual Achievement. MNBC congratulates Chief Clarence Louie once again, as recipient of 2012. The award recipients were announced in early November, the Gala dinner honouring them was held on December 1, 2011, at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver. It was a tremendous evening paying tribute to the trades, construction, retail, lodging and catering sectors among many other growing and very successful Aboriginal business enterprises. Each year, I grow more impressed with the quality and breadth of ongoing work by Aboriginal peoples across British Columbia. To be a part of this tremendous showcase of Aboriginal talent was truly an honour.

It was a personal honour to be part of the celebrations to mark the 50th wedding anniversary of Senator Gerry St. Germain and his wife Margaret on November 25/11. MNBC wishes to congratulate Senator St. Germain and Margaret for reaching this impressive milestone. It was also a pleasure to see among the many distinguished guests, Prime Minister Harper. The Prime Minister and I met very briefly which presented a photo opportunity with the PM, myself and my wife Joanne.

In early December MNBC Board of Directors, Executive Director Drown, staff and I attended the Métis National Council Constitutional workshop in Ottawa and proudly marched from the Delta Hotel to the Supreme Court of Canada wearing our sashes and traditional regalia carrying our Métis flags, for the Manitoba Métis Federation's Supreme Court land-claim case hearing. Constitutional talks have begun on our national level and this workshop was an opportunity for the board of governors to come together to provide valuable input to the process. This was the first part of a two (2) year consultative process that will lead into a Constitutional Convention in the early fall of 2013. The workshop provided delegates a broad overview of what will be required for the compilation of a national constitution and in it a critical component to a restoration of our nation's land-base. I will provide updates in upcoming Issues.

On December 6, 2011, the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, MNBC co-hosted the "Strong and Beautiful" project launch with the National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO). Lower Mainland Regional Métis Women Representative, Lee Fraser also attended on behalf of the MNBC Métis Women of British Columbia and brought greetings on behalf of the MWBC Provincial Chair, Donna Wright and regional representatives who were unable to attend. The ceremony honouring Métis women and launching products about Métis women at risk of sexual exploitation is the result of the great work undertaken by the Métis Centre of NAHO and Métis Nation British Columbia with the support of the Native Women's Association of Canada. The event was extremely successful and very profound. For more detail on this event and the project visit [www.naho.ca](http://www.naho.ca). Thank you to Catherine Graham, MC-NAHO Director, Victoria Pruden, MNBC former Director for Women, Tanya Davoren, MNBC Director for Health and all the organizers of this event and their great work on this project. I was very honored and moved by the work that has been achieved in this project.

MNBC would like to congratulate Mr. Bob Adams as the newly elected President of the West Local in Nelson, BC. With the range of experience Mr. Adams has working with the Métis Nation BC and his work with Nelson City Council I have no doubt that this community is in good hands. For more details on these articles, please visit the MNBC website [www.mnbc.ca](http://www.mnbc.ca)

## MNGA 2012 MNBC Announces date for the 2012 Metis Nation Governing Assembly

December 23, 2011, the Métis Nation British Columbia leadership announced the official dates of the Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA). Official Notice have been posted on the MNBC website and was emailed to all MNGA members for their delegation submission.

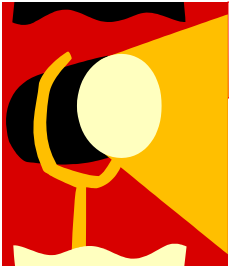
On March 10th and 11th the members of the MNGA, comprised of the MNBC Board of Directors and Presidents or Vice Presidents from the 35 Chartered Communities will gather to deliberate on current and future legislation; moving the nation's governance forward as mandated by the MNBC Constitution and the MNGA Act.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Resolution submission deadline has been extended to January 30, 2012.

Please contact Tracey Thornhill, Executive Assistant, MNGA Travel Coordinator to register if you are an eligible MNGA member. Visit the MNBC website's official 2012 MNGA site at [www.mnbc.ca](http://www.mnbc.ca) for all information and related documentation.



MNGA 2011—Abbotsford, BC



## Community Spotlight

### Louis Riel Day - Across our BC nation

#### In the NORTH

**Fort St John, BC**, Northern Lights College celebrated Louis Riel Day with dinner and entertainment featuring a comedian from Prince George who kept the audience in stitches. MNBC Northeast Regional Director Dan Pope and Employment & Training Program Manager Carol Paynter were invited guests. **Prince George, BC**, Regional Director Annette Maurice joined her community for a flag raising at city hall. Mayor Dan Rogers did the proclamation.

**Williams Lake, BC** the Cariboo Chilcotin Metis Association hosted a dinner in honor of Louis Riel.



Photos courtesy Kim McLeod

#### **Cranbrook, BC** Mayor proclaims "Metis week"



MNBC Regional Director Terry Anonson provided this photo of the Metis flag flying over Cranbrook City Hall.

#### **Castlegar, BC**

Leford Lafayette captured the Louis Riel Day activities in Castlegar. Metis Women of British Columbia Provincial Chairperson, Donna Wright joined with her community and Castlegar's Fire Chief Gerry Remple, Gord McGregor Region 4 Metis Veteran representative and Karren Harrison, Treasurer for Nelson and District Metis and others in this special occasion.



To the organizers of these Communities and others that celebrated one of the most historic and significant times in Metis history, MNBC congratulates each of you on hosting such wonderful events.

Writer's note: We regret that not all events across BC were made available for this issue,

## Métis Citizens Embrace Métis Health Surveillance Program



The Métis Nation British Columbia Métis Health Surveillance Program is well underway.

To date over 290 citizens have completed and returned their consent package and returned them to Métis Nation BC. The 16% that returned the consent package are greatly appreciated.

To facilitate the process of consent mail out it has been divided into two waves of consent mailing. The first wave is completed with 94% of the mailed consent forms reaching their destination. Those that were completed and returned were done within the 1st week of receiving the consent form. If you are a Métis Citizen who has moved recently please provide the MNBC Registrar (1.800.940.1150) with your new address. The second wave will be completed within the following month.

The return rate is on the lower end of an average response rate, an average response rate is between 15 and 30%. And, if this return rate continues the health information produced as a result from the data sharing with the Minis-try of Health will not be as helpful as hoped. With more Métis Citizen participation we are able to produce better health statistics that can demonstrate the needs and strengths of the Métis community.

To improve return rate we encourage each Métis Citizen to ask questions about the program (contact Peter Hutchinson 250-215-0190), to share with other Métis Citizens the importance of completing and returning the consent form and to help elders and those who may have problems with the consent form. We understand the concerns of citizens that have asked us questions after receiving the consent package. The majority of questions have been in regard to privacy. Citizen privacy is MNBC priority; there are several checks and balances that ensure the protection of Citizen privacy.

To help with participation and to provide valuable information to Métis citizen on health related topics the MNBC CDSP have developed a face book page and a twitter account (@mnbcdsp). Please visit these sites regularly for exciting information, calls for proposals for communities and researchers and advancements in Métis health.

Participation below Average response rate.  
1822 received — 291 returned completed  
16% return rate — 6% undeliverable

Questions regarding the CDSP please contact Peter Hutchinson: phutchinson@mnbca.ca or 250-215-0190.

## Interested in Sport & Physical Activity?

Want to learn more about how you can become a leader in your community?

Apply today to become one of 18 youth (age 14-24) across BC to participate in SALL (Sport and Active Living Leadership for Aboriginal Youth)

SALL is taking place as part of Gathering Our Voices 2012 in NANAIMO BC March 20-23/12  
Successful Applicants will receive an all expense paid trip to attend!

Application deadline FEBRUARY 13, 2012

For more info and to apply: CONTACT Joe

Email: [jakerman@bcaafc.com](mailto:jakerman@bcaafc.com) or call 1.800.990.2432



Aboriginal Sport Recreation  
and  
Physical Activity Partners  
Council

## Ministry of Advanced Education (AVED) provides funding to several post secondary institutions in British Columbia through the Aboriginal Service Plan (ASP) initiative.

It is through the ASP process that Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) has formed partnerships with educational institutions including the University of Victoria, Camosun College, Capilano University, Vancouver Community College and Native Education College.

The Ministry of Advanced Education (AVED) has extended the funding for ASPs and MNBC recently renewed existing Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with all institutions.

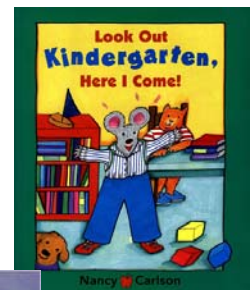
The funding provides increased student supports, programming and bursaries for Métis students.

Métis students can apply for bursaries through the MNBC Director of Education, Colleen Hodgson at [chodgson@mNBC.ca](mailto:chodgson@mNBC.ca)

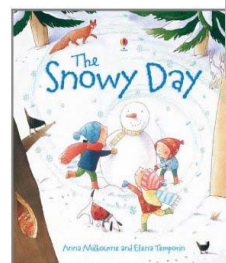
## MNBC Imagination Library project continues to provide books free of cost to all Métis citizens five (5) years of age and under.

There are currently sixty-three (63) children receiving books such as *Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!*, *Snowy Day* and *Lull-a-Bye Lil One*.

MNBC is part of the Aboriginal Post Secondary Education and Training Partners table and has recently released the Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Policy Framework: Vision 2020. All Métis people in B.C. can contribute and provide feedback at <http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/aboriginal/policy-framework.htm>



**It is important that your voice is heard!**



Article provided by: Colleen Hodgson, MNBC Director for Education



## Métis in the News



### Jeff Hutton named to the 2011 All-Canadian First Team

The Canadian Baseball Network has named Jeff Hutton, a young Métis baseball player from Ladner, BC whose incredible record for the Ladner Tabor College Blue Jays to the First Team All-Canadian. Out of the 702 Canadians, playing college baseball in 2011 young Jeff Hutton was in the top 10. His mother, Lee Fraser, Regional Métis Women's Representative stated that "Jeff is very excited about this honor, and is back in the States to play in a Winter Baseball League in Yuma Arizona, and hoping that league will draft him".

Jeff has been supported by the Aboriginal Youth Sports Legacy Fund (he has received three high performance athlete bursaries).

You can read more about Jeff's incredible story in the Delta Optimist

<http://www.deltaoptimist.com/entertainment/Ladner+Hutton+named+Canadian+First+Team/6025188/story.html#ixzz1kFZ265rK>

MNBC congratulates Mr. Hutton on this outstanding achievement.

We will keep our readers posted as to this Jeff's progress.



Jeff Hutton with very proud Mother, Lee Fraser. (Photo credit: Martha Campbell, family friend)

### Métis Recipients for 2012 Aboriginal Achievement Awards

The Métis Nation is especially proud to congratulate this year's recipients of the Aboriginal Achievement Awards.

**Senator Gerry St. Germain**, as the first self-identified Metis person to serve in Canada's Federal Cabinet. The Aboriginal Achievement Awards, for his lifetime achievements, will soon recognize Senator St. Germain. Senator St. Germain is a Manitoba Métis who appointed to the Senate in 1993 has introduced legislation on self-government and has dedicated his life's work to the advancement of Indigenous Peoples across Canada.

Senator St. Germain was instrumental in achieving a formal residential school apology from the Government of Canada and is a Proud Métis citizen of the Métis Nation British Columbia.

**Doctor Janet Smylie**, one of the first Métis doctors in Canada, Dr. Smylie is recognized by the Aboriginal Achievement Awards, for her work as an expert in Indigenous health. A Métis woman from Ontario began her career at the Ottawa General Hospital as a Family Medicine Resident and went on to be a physician with Anishnawbe Health in Toronto in 1966.

**Candace Sutherland**, will be honored with the Youth Award. Ms. Sutherland is a Métis youth who exemplifies young leaders for tomorrow. Candace is from Manitoba and her achievements are recognized through her contributions to charities such as Ma-Mawi-Wi-Itata and Shamattwa Reserve. Experiencing poverty first hand, Candace gives back to those who need it most. Recently, Candace completed her run across Canada "Vision4Hope" in support of the Salvation Army, the Heart and Stroke Foundations, and the Canadian Diabetes Association and Canadian Cancer Society.

The Métis Nation salutes and congratulates these three outstanding people for their contributions not only to our country but for the inspiration they provide to each and everyone one of us. It is through the achievements of these Aboriginal recipients that we all inspire to be more than what limits us.

Congratulations to all the recipients of the 2012 Aboriginal Achievement Awards! Read more on recipients

<http://www.naaf.ca/program/92>

## BCMANR Harvester Registry

The harvester card drive is still ongoing, currently we have over 300 harvesters in our database with Region 3 having the highest number of harvester card holders. It is the time of year when we get the 2011-12 annual harvest surveys completed and sent in so we can receive our next years' validation sticker. If your harvester card is not up to date the harvester registry clerk is available to help you complete your harvest surveys and receive your validation stickers. For those of you that have applications in progress please send in the rest of your required documentation so that you can receive your Harvester card as quickly as possible. The harvester registry currently has approximately 70 incomplete applications on file and has recently sent out another 70 new applications to MNBC Citizens. Please contact the Harvester Registry at MNBC if you need assistance in completing your application or if you would like an application sent to you.



Preparing an Elk hide for tanning

## Natural Resources

MNBC Ministry of Natural Resources experienced a very busy 2011 and start to the new year with advancements on many key projects and consultations. MNBC is a registered Intervener in the National Energy Board - Joint Review Panel assessment process for the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline Project. We requested 15 minutes in several Hearing locations along the proposed corridor to present Oral Evidence, opposed to a larger allotment of time in one location. MNBC intends to demonstrate the unique nature of Métis interests and concerns along the length of the BC portion of the pipeline and in the marine area where Tanker traffic is proposed. Métis are the only Aboriginal group with potential to have our Rights and Traditional Land Used impacted over the entire length of the project. Gary Ducommun, Director of Natural Resources, is highlighting the concerns Métis Citizens have identified about the environmental risks and the potential for a disruption to food security and the importance of harvesting and country foods to Métis Cultural survival and overall health and wellbeing. This is a great opportunity to educate the Joint Review Panel and the general population about the extensive Métis past and present occupation and uses of the land in question (Northern British Columbia) and potential impacts the project could have on Métis Citizens.

Other projects the Ministry of Natural Resources has recently engaged in or are seriously tracking are the BC Hydro Site C Clean Energy Project, the New Prosperity Project, Burnco Aggregate Project, Ajax Mine Project, Harper Creek Mine Project, Kutcho Mine Project, Alaska Gas Pipeline Project, Line Creek Expansion Project, Kingsvale – Oliver Reinforcement Project, Spanish Mountain Mine Project. Additionally, some of the projects we are still working on are the Schaft Creek Mine Project, Kitsault Mine Project, Raven Underground Coal Mine Project, Central South Mine Project,

## Captains Corner



L-R

Captain Mark Carlson, Captain Rob Humpherville, Cindy Carlson and John Carlson at the Flathead Camp

Photo (s) Courtesy of Gary Ducommun

BC Metis Assembly of Natural Resources (BCMANR) is issuing a call for persons interested in applying for the following regional Captains positions in the BCMANR Captains Assembly.

**Vancouver Island Region (1)**

**Thompson/Okanagan Region (3)**

**North Central Region (5)**

**North East Region (7)**

These positions are up for renewal and terms will commence in March 2012 and end in January 2015 (three years).

**Applications must be received by February 21, 2012.**

For more information contact the Director of Natural Resources at [gducommun@mNBC.ca](mailto:gducommun@mNBC.ca) or view announcement in the Feature section on the MNBC website [www.mNBC.ca](http://www.mNBC.ca)

Articles provided by: Gary Ducommun, Director for Natural Resources

## What's in your wallet???

### MNBC Citizenship & Registry

The Métis Nation BC Central Registry is pleased to announce there are approximately seven thousand (7000) Citizenship cards issued to date.

The current application trend is family members of existing Citizens submitting applications for the provincially issued Métis Identification card as well as first time applicants.

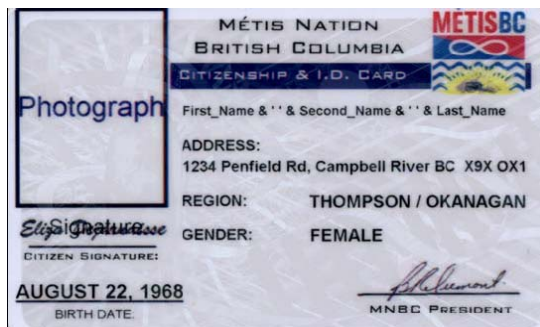
The upcoming September 2012 Provincial Election is a great opportunity for Métis in the province to participate in the electoral/governance process.

Individuals wishing to run and or vote in the fall election are required to hold a valid Citizenship card.

To ensure your eligibility to run and or vote in the election please contact the Central Registry to confirm your card is valid, to renew or request an application package to fill out and submit for processing for a Citizenship card.

The Central Registry can be reached at 1-800-940-1150.

### MNBC Citizenship Card



### Commonly Issued Community Membership Card



**Do you know the difference between the MNBC Citizenship Card and the commonly issued Membership Card?**

Contact the MNBC Central Registry at 1-800-940-1150 to confirm.

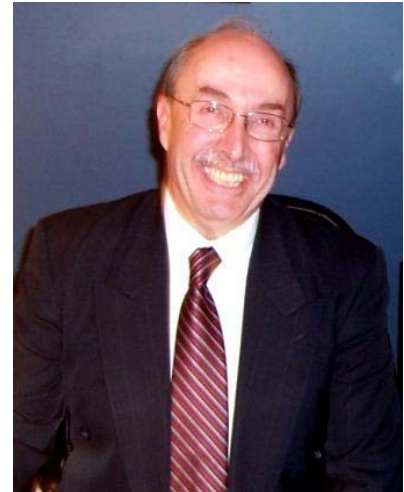


## From the desk of the Executive Director..

**A**ccepting the position of Executive Director of Métis Nation British Columbia as I did in October 2011 has presented me with both challenges and opportunities as we move this organization forward to address the goals and purpose of the Métis Nation.

The Executive Director is accountable for operational leadership and management of MNBC in accordance with the strategic goals and directions set by the Board of Directors. In addition to reporting responsibilities to the Board, the Executive Director sets targets, prepares annual business plans and budgets, and oversees all operations, and delegates and monitors performance. The role also requires that I represent the organization in reporting to federal and provincial governments.

My professional background includes 10 years is with public governments at the federal, provincial and territorial levels. And 12 years as the chief staff officer of an industry association in British Columbia. These years of experience will serve me well in this new position, but our future success as an organization will be dependant on the work of all of our employees. This will not be a one-man show. While in my role, I do have the overall responsibility for operational leadership and management of our organization, also I also have the privilege of working with the Board of Directors and our staff, all of whom are very committed to ensuring MNBC operates better than it has been, and I will be very dependent on our staff to help me accomplish our goals and objectives.



One of the top priorities since I started has been moving this organization onto a more solid financial base, and I am very grateful for the excellent work being done by our new Chief Financial Officer Karen Nagra. The particular task that Karen and I have taken on pertaining to finances has been enormously challenging but I can report that we are making progress. Through refreshing our relationships with our financial institution and our funding partners at the federal and provincial levels, these organizations now know there is a new senior management team in place with MNBC that is determined to improve our overall financial situation, and as a result, they are very prepared to work with us.

In December, in our first key moves to return MNBC to financial stability the Board of Directors accepted recommendations from the Chief Financial Officer and myself to put our property on Simpson Road in Abbotsford up for sale and also to take real steps in eliminating operational expenditures that were not funded. The property is for sale and now listed and we have made significant progress in cutting non-funded expenditures but we have much more work to do.

We are also taking steps on strengthening our communications with our citizens, and with our government and private sector business partners. To achieve that we have moved the responsibility for communications to an in-house position and I feel very confident that you will see a stepped up level of communications within the months ahead.

My thanks to the Board of Directors for their solid support as we make some difficult decisions, and my appreciation to all of our staff for their willingness to rise to the challenge of making MNBC the best that we can be.

Dale Drown, CAE  
Executive Director  
Métis Nation British Columbia

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Fax: 604-557-2024



[www.mnbc.ca](http://www.mnbc.ca)



2011: Paying Tribute to Our Métis Veterans

## Our Vision

To build a proud, self-governing, sustainable Nation in recognition of inherent Rights for our Métis Citizens.

Commenced  
his career in  
Abbotsford  
and was the  
first to  
bring the  
Métis Nation  
to the  
public eye.  
He was the  
first to  
bring the  
Métis Nation  
to the  
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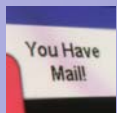


## Our Mandate:

To develop and enhance opportunities for our Métis communities by implementing culturally relevant social and economic programs and services through Teamwork, Respect, Dedication, Accountability, Integrity and Professionalism.



Do you have a community story, personal achievement or maybe a traditional Métis recipe for our **“Community Spotlight”** that you would like to see in our next issue? Contact me at [traceyt@mnbc.ca](mailto:traceyt@mnbc.ca) or call 1.800.940.1150 ext. 231. I would love to hear from you!



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