

Chairman's Message

Greetings to All,

During the past two and a half months, the MNBC Veterans Standing Committee has been very busy.

I am very pleased with the way all the Executive and Regional Rep's (Directors) have pulled together to make the MNBC Veterans Standing Committee a smooth running machine, which makes my job a pleasure. MNBC Executive and Staff have been very supportive and helpful, both Keith Henry and Brittaney Katernick have worked diligently to secure funding from the OFI. All things look positive but nothing definite at this time. Since the inception of our Métis Veterans Committee, I have had the honour of representing our committee at a number of functions and gatherings. I have been in attendance at the

Battle of the Atlantic Service at Branch 49 Parksville, BC and placed a wreath on behalf of Métis Veterans of B.C. Mary & I have also attended the 50th Anniversary Dinner as well as D-Day Service at RCL Branch 256, Nanaimo, B.C..

At the request of Stella Johnson, we did a presentation in recognition of Métis Awareness Days and visited with the students of Duncan's, Alexander School. I gave a brief overview to the students gathered on what early Métis life was like; we used a table display of military items, Hudson Bay Blankets and copies of historic art work showing early Métis lifestyle.

MNBC requested the presence of Dumont Scouts at the Children & Family Services Forum to observe

and provide security if required. Myself and Art Lefever were honoured, and we proudly filled the roll of the Dumont Scouts. The meeting was well conducted and all participants acted in a respectful and courteous manner. On short notice we designed and fabricated a shoulder sash that Métis Veterans will wear for easy recognition while undertaking Dumont Scout duties. Mary and I will be attending the Back to Batoche Days in Saskatchewan this month. With great pride I will be carrying our BC Flag in the Batoche Days Parade.

I look forward to presenting my report on our visit to Batoche in our August Newsletter.

Hope all are having a pleasant summer.

Women Veterans

Grace Poulin in her book "Invisible Women – WWII Aboriginal Servicewomen in Canada" indicated that locating and in her case, interviewing any aboriginal servicewomen "was no small feat". She also says "it is imperative that generations of Canadians understand the sacrifices and contributions made by these women". I ask the women of our communities who have served and who are serving our country

as members of our military forces, Coast Guard and RCMP stand up and be recognized for the contributions you have and are making to your country. Tell your community leaders and the MNBC Standing Committee for Métis Veterans of your service role.

Grace Poulin's book highlights the stories of a few aboriginal women who served

Barbara Hulme

during WWII. It also focuses on WWII aboriginal women Veterans and some of the experiences and situations they have faced since their discharge from the service. At the time of publication in 2007, some individuals were still dealing with bureaucratic agencies on matters of compensation and pension benefits.

If you would like more information please contact the Veteran's Secretary.

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JULY Birthday Greeting

July 1st, Ken Fisher

July 18th, Stan Dotchain

July 26th, Ernest Parenteau

Rene Therrein: MNBC Minister Responsible for Métis Veterans

In 2004, I was officially elected as the Northwest Regional Director for Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) and was subsequently appointed as the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Language. In 2006, I was appointed as the Minister Responsible for Métis Veterans and have truly valued the learning experiences and knowledge I have gained. As the Minister Responsible for Métis Veterans I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and recognize the work that has been accomplished on behalf of BC Métis Veterans:

Re-establishment of the Métis Veterans Standing Committee

Continued negotiations with the Office of the Federal Interlocutor for 2008-2009 resources

Continued efforts to assist Métis Veterans to obtain MNBC Citizenship

Métis Veterans identifier on the MNBC Citizenship Card

Held two provincial meetings with the MNBC Executive

In conclusion, the current Métis Nation British Columbia leadership is at the end of the current term of office. In December 2007 Métis Nation Governing Assembly leaders approved the date for the next provincial MNBC General Election to be September 13th, 2008. As one of the current leaders on the MNBC Board of Directors and the Minister Responsible for Métis Veterans it has been a privilege to work with the representatives on the Métis Veterans Standing Committee on behalf of Métis Veterans within the province of BC.

Dumont Scouts & Color Party News

MNBC has appointed the responsibility of Dumont Scouts to the MNBC Veterans Committee. Dumont Scouts are BC Métis Veterans acting in an official capacity as Dumont Scouts who have been requested to be in attendance at various MNBC hosted meetings and gatherings. Their responsibility

as Dumont Scouts is to maintain order during meetings and gatherings. Dumont Scouts can easily be identified by the new updated uniform for Dumont Scouts (as seen in picture).



R to L: Veterans Chairman Walter Koenders, MNBC President Bruce Dumont and Art Lefever, Veterans Committee Vice Chairman and Service Officer.

D-Day Celebrations

A D-Day memorial service was held on Friday 6 June 2008 at Royal Canadian Legion # 256 Nanaimo. In attendance was MNBCVC Chairman Walter Koenders, with wife Mary, and MNBCVC Service Officer H. Art Lefever, with wife Marlene. A special guest appearance by MNBCVC Membership chairman Darrel Byron and his colour party from



Chemainus Legion arrived to take part in the Parade. All then retired to the hall for a free veteran's luncheon.

Photo Art Lefever, Walter Koenders and Darrel Byron

News & Updates by Region

Region 1 A.Lefever

Vancouver Island

11 July Art Lefever and wife Marlene will be travelling by train to Edmonton, Alberta and returning on 19 July. This is a trip that VIA rail introduced for the month of July. This was available for all veterans to travel on the train free, while their family member travels for half price. Check into VIA Rail for next July. I will keep you informed if I hear any information for 2009.

27 July 2008 is the 55th Anniversary of the Korean War Cease fire. Province of B.C has declared this day Korea Veterans Day. Korea Veterans Association Unit 61 will be holding a sit down service at 1200 hrs. at Royal Canadian Legion Branch #256, Nanaimo. There will be a pot luck luncheon to follow the service. All are welcome to attend for free however please contribute sandwiches, or a slice for the luncheon.

Region 2 K.Fisher

Lower Mainland

I am pleased to report that the push for more Veterans to sign up in the Lower Mainland, is under way.

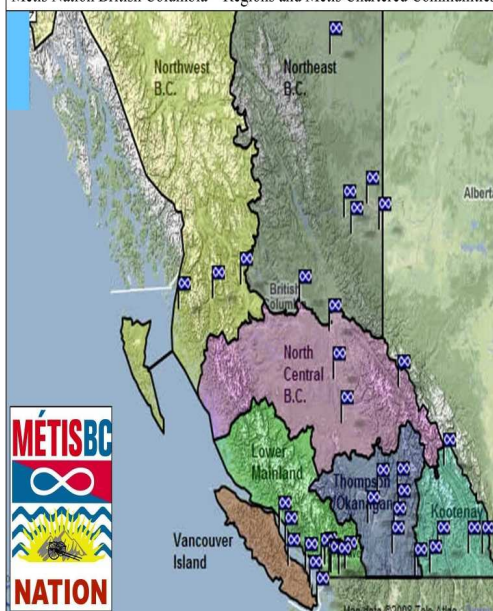
We also have a few plans underway to elevate the profile of the Métis Veterans in BC.

Region 3 E.Parenteau

Thompson Okanagan

Since the formation of the MNBC Veterans Standing Committee (MNBC-VC), I have been able to visit Métis Gatherings at both the Salmon Arm and Vernon Métis chartered communities. The formation of the new MNBC Veterans Committee has been received with many positive notes. I have made contact with all the known Métis Veterans with-in our region and look forward to welcoming them as new members to the MNBC Veterans committee. I have been in contact with Veterans Affairs and now have on hand, a considerable amount of information pertaining to some of the Veterans Assistance programs

Métis Nation British Columbia—Regions and Métis Chartered Communities



available through DVA.

Two common questions I have been asked regarding the MNBC-VC is whether a cost is involved in membership; and I would just like everyone interested to be aware that at the present time, there are absolutely no fees for membership. The second question usually related to the difference between MNBC-VC and the other service organizations, such as the Legion; my response is usually our organization is similar in camaraderie of the service to our country, and the awareness and assistance to services available to Veterans. But one important difference is that the MNBC-VC wants to be aware of all Métis Veterans from all avenues of Service, so that they will not go neglected or forgotten in history. With the support of MNBC and the determination of the Veterans already involved with the Veterans Committee, we are building an awesome foundation for Métis Veterans. I look forward to working with everyone to make this happen.

Region 4 G.McGregor

Kootenay

Nothing much happening in the Kootenays. I was suppose to go to a meeting in Trail in June but that was

cancelled due to a court case in Cranbrook. The captain of the hunt in the Kootenays and myself are trying to get the communities in the East Kootenays to hold their meetings one day after another so we do not have to travel so much.

Region 5 S.Dotchain

North Central

No report available

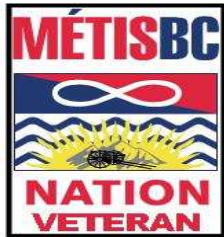
Region 6 A.Anderson

Northwest

The Northwest Métis Association has been fairly active these past few months. Each year in June the Northwest Métis Association participate in Seafest Days. The Métis take part with an information and food booth. People search us out and line up for our tasty Bison Burgers! This year the Regional Registry Clerk came from Terrace to provide citizenship information, answer questions on citizenship, historical Métis information and also helped us out when the burger line got long! On July 1st, Canada Day, President April McLean-Collart and I opened an information booth at the celebrations. Five members signed up, and information and referrals were shared with another 15 people. On July 5th a Stone Soup celebration was hosted for our community. The story of Stone Soup was told and we were gifted with a "starter stone" for our own Stone Soup gathering next year. This years event was held at Prudhomme Lake, a good time was enjoyed and several pans of bannock and a big pot of soup were eaten! July 6th to 9th the BC Aboriginal Elders Gathering was held in Prince Rupert. There were many Métis elders from across the province. Peter Brass and myself, were honoured. Métis Veterans who took part in the Grand March, and all agreed it was a very powerful experience.

Northeast Region 7

Vacant Position



MNBC Veterans Committee

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Vancouver BC V6E4A4

Phone: 1-800-940-1150
1-604-801-5853
Fax: 1-604-801-5097

MNBC-VC Secretary
2833 Creighton Valley Rd.,
Cherryville, BC V0E2G3

Serving Métis Veterans of BC

We're coming to the web!

Watch for us at:
www.MNBC.ca

Veterans Committee Contact List

Interim Executive
Chairman - Walter Koenders 250-248-2556
walterbk@shaw.ca

Vice Chairman - Art Lefever 250-390-1245
lefever83@yahoo.com

Secretary - Gail Parenteau 250-547-6525
mrsparenteau@gmail.com

Membership - Darryl Byron 250-746-2109
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Women's Rep - Barbara Hulme 250-477-6982
barstan@shaw.ca

Interim Regional Reps.
Region 1: Art Lefever 250-390-1245
lefever83@yahoo.com

Region 2: Ken Fisher 604-589-7879
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Region 3: Ernest Parenteau 250-547-6525
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Region 4: Gordon McGregor 250-354-4332
gordon88@telus.net

Region 5: Stan Dotchain 250-962-7856

Region 6: Arnold Anderson 250-624-2395
raveness_rose@yahoo.net

Region 7: VACANT
MNBC Minister responsible for Veterans
Rene Therrien
rtherrien@mNBC.ca

Service Officers' Corner

Art Lefever CD
lefever83@yahoo.com 250-390-1245

If you need assistance in regards to your Veterans pension, VIP Services or other Veteran related services available, please contact 1 866 522-2122. You will be connected to a case worker that will be able to assist you in your pension queries.

I would like to ask you two questions.

1. Do you have a disability?
2. Do you pay income tax?

If you answer yes to these questions, you could be eligible for a tax benefit. I have been introduced to a company that is interested in assisting persons with disabilities to

attain missing important Tax credits which could include significant unclaimed Tax refunds from previous years. **Ken Lagasse Inc. Chartered Accountant.**

If you have access to a computer, you can complete the form online at www.disabilitytaxcredit.ca.

An over the phone eligibility assessment can be completed by calling the appropriate phone number listed here.

Western Canada

Toll Free: 1-866-829-4446
Telephone: 604-629-1919
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395-3665 Kingsway Ave.
Vancouver, BC V5R 5W2

Vancouver Island Residents

Toll Free: 1-866-499-2699
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87 Burnside Rd. West Victoria, BC
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A fellow Métis Veteran applied and received a financial benefit. I have applied and after my interview have found I am eligible for a large tax return and future benefits.

Please keep me informed.