

Ottawa Metis Settlements Office
November 2009

Aboriginal Shield Program

For the first time since the inception of the RCMP's Aboriginal Shield Program in 2002, Métis are amongst 27 Aboriginal graduates to successfully complete the training for a program designed to support drug and alcohol awareness and prevention in schools within Aboriginal communities. Three Metis Settlement members graduated from the program at a ceremony held in Ottawa, Ontario on November 6th, 2009. The recent graduates from Fishing Lake Metis Settlement are Ann Fayant, Lorne Dustow and Leon Cardinal. They will be working with the J.F. Dion School at Fishing Lake, Alberta to introduce the program.

The RCMP and the Métis Settlements of Alberta have been working together in recent years to have more RCMP presence and programming in Métis Settlements. The Aboriginal Shield Program will be in Métis communities across Canada for the first time and will prove to compliment the RCMP protocol that was signed in October 2009 with "K" Division in Alberta.

The Aboriginal Shield Program is directed at elementary schools with a focus on grades 5 and 6 to bring awareness of crime prevention and drugs and alcohol. The three recent Metis Settlement graduates will now have the opportunity to pass on their knowledge and train others in their community. The program had eight original sites in various parts of Canada that included First Nations and Inuit communities. With the regenerated interest in the program, the Metis Settlements General Council welcomed the program as being truly inclusive of all three Aboriginal peoples as identified in the *Constitution of Canada, 1982*. The inclusiveness of the program contributes to its success in providing a means of prevention towards of goal of greater security on Settlements and for all Canadians.



Garry Parenteau, Federal Liaison, presenting a sash to Maureen Greyeyes-Brant for her work in assisting Metis Settlements with the inclusion of Metis in the Aboriginal Shield Program. Nov. 6, 2009 in Ottawa, ON
Photo credit: Jaime Koebel



Back Row: RCMP Assistant Commissioner Mike Cabana, RCMP Insp. Dan Quirion (DOCAS)
Front: Leon Cardinal (Graduate), Lorne Dustow (Graduate), Ann Fayant (Graduate), Garry Parenteau (Federal Liaison, MSGC)
Photo Credit: Jaime Koebel

Veteran goes to Juno Beach

After nearly 70 years, Mr. St. Germain will see his brother's burial site in Italy after the Metis ceremony in Juno Beach. He will be accompanied by his son, Derrold St. Germain, Metis Settlements General Council President, Mr. Gerald Cunningham and MSGC Elected Secretary, Mrs. Susan Cardinal-Lamouche.

85 year-old Charlie St. Germain from Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement traveled to Courseulles-sur-Mer, France to the Juno Beach Centre for a November 11th ceremony honouring Metis Veterans who served in the world wars. On D-Day, June 6, 1944, a massive Allied force including 14,000 young Canadians landed on the beaches of Normandy to assist France in war times struggles. Amongst those soldiers were many Metis who fought side by side with other Canadians.

MSGC appreciates the Metis National Council for the organization of the event and for welcoming Metis Settlement Veteran, his son and Executives to participate in this important ceremony. Mr. St. Germain will also have the opportunity to meet the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs during his visit. Mr. St. Germain's journey will be documented in a two-part segment on Aboriginal Peoples Television Network on Metis Veterans. The first segment will be aired on November 9, 2009 and the second segment a short documentary will be aired in January.

International Metis Festival

The first International Metis Festival hosted at the International Peace Gardens on the Manitoba – North Dakota border in the Metis homeland was an ideal location for the event that brought people from both Canada and the United States. The artificial borders imposed by mankind were lost in the rekindling of family ties and new acquaintances, the entertainment and Metis cultural information was excellent.

Relaunch of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission at Rideau Hall

On October 15 at the Governor General's Residence, Rideau Hall, the Truth and Reconciliation celebrated a re-launch of the mandate to examine and suggest reconciliation processes for the experiences of those who went to Residential Schools. The dates of the cross country visits can be found at www.trc-cvr.ca

For many Metis, the schools that were attended were Missions, Day Schools and Boarding Schools and although they are not the same as Residential Schools, those with experiences in any of those venues are encouraged to attend the hearings to put forth their stories so that the Metis experience will be recognized throughout Canada. This venue is also a place where experiences of reconciliation are shared between all Canadians. That means all members of Canadian society are also encouraged to attend this inclusive process whether they attended a school or not. It is especially important that stories of Metis truths and reconciliation are told so that our experiences as Metis are recognized in this country just as the experiences of Residential Schools have been recognized.



Pauline Huppe-Parsons (dancer), Governor General Michael Jean, Daryle Gardipy (dancer), Jaime Koebel (Research & Development Officer, MSGC & dancer) and Karen Green, Executive Director, Native Women's Association of Canada

Pandemic Planning

The Métis Settlements Accord of 1990 left three items on the table of the Province of Alberta; Health, Education and Housing. In the area of Health we have reoccurring issues of proper care above and beyond most other Albertans mainly attributed to access.

With the recent Pandemic issue around the world and in this country, and with the first incident in Gift Lake we need to prepare for prevention, action in the event of incident, and post incident processes. Last year through the Ottawa office we became involved with Health Canada in amending the National Guidelines for Pandemic Planning to include Métis in their definition of Aboriginal communities. We further requested Métis to be inclusive of Métis Settlements as we are the only land base Métis that have specific boundaries and are responsible for what happens within those areas.

We have attempted to include Pandemic Planning as Safe communities under the Tripartite agreement, however there is no real mechanism to deliver guidelines. Most Pandemic Planning and Emergency Preparedness plans are delivered by AEMA (Alberta Emergency Management Agency) in Alberta. This agency depends on resources mostly from First Nations and Indian Health to cover its cost to deliver the programming to the First Nations. AEMA is not compensated by Province of Alberta to deliver similar programming to Métis; therefore the Métis do not receive the services of AEMA, particularly we the Métis Settlements.

As of early September, Alberta Health Services has initiated the Alberta Health Services Aboriginal Communities Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee to coordinate roles and responsibilities and identify risks and mitigation strategies for the aboriginal communities during the H1N1 pandemic period.

Most Pandemic Plans are developed and implemented in various parts of Canada and most of Alberta. The Métis Settlements have to “play catch up” in the Aboriginal community as the First Nations have had the luxury of planning and implementing through FNIHB. Rather than trying to re-invent the wheel on knowledge and process we need to tap the available resources.

Legacy of Hope Foundation

In September 15-17, 2006 in High Prairie, Alberta, several Settlement members courageously and generously shared their stories of past educational experiences with the Legacy of Hope. Whether it was at a Residential School, Boarding School, Mission or Day School (LHF) most Metis people have a story to share about their experiences or even about the experiences of someone they know. Since that time, the LHF which is based out of Ottawa, actively gathered many stories from communities across Canada and upon permission granted from participants, they will eventually create DVD's and print material to record and possibly commemorate the stories of the Metis historic educational experience. If you were a part of this project and would like a DVD copy or to know more information, please contact either Maddy Daniels 1-(888)-213-4400 or Jaime Koebel (613) 290-8597.

Batoche 2010

Reminder to start preparing your holidays and schedule for the upcoming celebrations in Batoche 2010. 10 days of entertainment and cultural activities are planned to commemorate the 125 years since the resistance by the Metis at Batoche. The Metis ideals of land loss and infringement on the Metis cultural continue today however we have exchanged our guns and nail loads for computers and *Facebook*.

If you think that's a good line come to Batoche and hear many others!!! See you at Batoche 2010 where you're bound to see familiar faces and have a blast too!