



Métis Nation Saskatchewan

The PMC Bi-Weekly Mail-Out for October 6th – October 16th, 2009

(Volume I, Issue VII)

1. **Title:** 12.7 Million to Train Northerners for Jobs in the Mineral Sector

Ministry: Advanced Education, Employment, and Labour (Minister Rob Norris)

Date: October 8th, 2009

Web Link: <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=4ec93c46-c699-49ed-ab5c-6fbb68d9adef>

Contact: Marieka Barrie, Advanced Education, Employment and Labour, Regina, Phone: 306-798-3170, E-mail: marieka.barrie@gov.sk.ca

Synopsis: The Saskatchewan Government has partnered with private industry and other groups to provide “12.7 million over the next five years for **training and apprenticeship opportunities** in northern Saskatchewan.” This funding is part of the fourth phase of the Multi-Party Training Plan, which “addresses the skill barriers to northerners qualifying for jobs, combines training resources, and links training directly to the labour force demands of the mineral sector.” The money is provided by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment, and Labour, as well as First Nations and Métis Relations, and private business such as Cameco and AREVA.

2. **Title:** October Land Sale Generates \$32.4 Million

Ministry: Energy and Resources (Minister Bill Boyd)

Date: October 8th, 2009

Web Link: <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=91daccff-b3dc-4e93-8e11-61868420fb73>

Contact: Ed Danscok, Energy and Resources, Regina, Phone: 306-787-2591, E-mail: ed.dancsok@gov.sk.ca

Synopsis: The provincial governments October sale of petroleum and natural gas rights generated \$32.4 million, double what the Crown made in August 2009. In total, the province has made \$83.2

million in land sales in 2009. This month's sales "included three petroleum and natural gas exploration licenses [which] sold for \$3.8 million and 273 lease parcels that attracted \$28.6 million in bonus bids." The Lloydminster area made the most revenue for the province with \$13.3 million in sales, followed by Weyburn-Estevan, Kindersley-Kerrobert, and Swift Current.

3. Title: Patient First Review Commissioner calls for More Caring, Better Coordinated Health System

Ministry: Health (Minister Don McMorris)

Date: October 15th, 2009

Contact: Mark Claxton, Patient First Review, Regina, Phone: 306-541-8766

Web Link: <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=920e5560-eaac-4f26-a9f6-a701045a5ab1>

Synopsis: The Saskatchewan government has released the Patient First Review, an independent study commissioned to "enhance patient-centered care at all levels of the system." The review includes 16 separate recommendations, including two that affect Métis citizens. They are: 4) *That health regions, the Cancer Agency and other health care organizations work with First Nations and Métis organizations, Elders, and patients to develop partnerships aimed at improving the health of First Nations and Métis people;* and 12) *That the health system, in collaboration with First Nations and Métis Elders, and patient and family advisors, work to develop a culturally safe and competent health system that better serves First Nations and Métis citizens.* The full report can be downloaded here: <http://www.gov.sk.ca/adx/asp/adxGetMedia.aspx?mediaId=954&PN=Shared>

4. Title: Canadian Rivers in Trouble, study warns

Date: October 15th, 2009

Web Link:

<http://www.leaderpost.com/business/Canadian+rivers+trouble+study+warns/2104100/story.htm>

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Synopsis: A new study by WWF Canada warns that "[s]erious action is required to keep Canada's rivers flowing and to prevent them from being drained by expanding cities, soaring energy demands and climate change..." Ten rivers were evaluated by the WWF, *with the South Saskatchewan River being viewed by them as "the most threatened river of the country because of hundreds of dams and withdrawals of 70 per cent of its flow for agricultural and urban use, not to mention potential climate change impacts."* The full report can be downloaded here:

http://www.canada.com/pdf/WWF_river_report101409.pdf

5. **Title:** Northern School Divisions Join Forces To Increase Aboriginal Employment

Ministry: First Nations and Métis Relations (Minister Bill Hutchinson)

Date: October 15th, 2009

Web Link: <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=8c55b1ac-4a7a-4f24-a6c8-98b4d193730a>

Contact: Bonny Braden, First Nations and Métis Relations, Regina, Phone: 306-787-5701, E-mail: bonny.braden@gov.sk.ca

Synopsis: Three of Saskatchewan's northern school divisions, the Northern Lights School Division, Creighton School Division, and Ile-a-la-Crosse School Division, signed an Aboriginal Employment Development (AED) partnership with First Nations and Métis Relations. As a result, the school divisions have pledged to "take steps to increase Aboriginal participation in their workplaces." Combined, the three organizations employ 789 people. The AED program works to "identify and address barriers to training, hiring and retaining First Nations and Métis people."