



# President's Report

August/September 2009  
Volume 1 Issue 1

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## Greetings from the President of the MN-S

Robert G. Doucette  
President, MN-S

Over the course of the community consultations Métis citizens pointed out the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) needed to do a better job in communicating with our citizens. This Presidents report is one of the mechanisms we are deploying to ensure Métis citizens and non Métis people can read, understand and act on the issues affecting Métis people living in Saskatchewan.

Moving forward, you can count on a bi-monthly Presidents report and a Quarterly State of the Nation report which will illuminate our efforts and successes as a Nation. These reports will be made available online and through mail outs to everyone. In doing so, Métis citizens will be enlightened, informed and ready to act on any issue which will require a collective unified front. I hope you enjoy this report and if you have any questions please call. God bless all of you and your families.

## Back to Batoche 125<sup>th</sup> Celebrations

The planning for the 2010 Back to Batoche has commenced. There is a huge significance as this year marks the 125<sup>th</sup> year since the 1885 conflict between the Métis Nation, First Nations and the colonial government of Canada. This year the MN-S will host 7 days of celebration. The event will tentatively start on July 19<sup>th</sup> and finish July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010. To date, we are turning over every funding stone which will make this event a huge success. We anticipate over 25,000 people will attend the 2010 Back To Batoche. For example, Métis individuals across the homeland including the 5 provincial provinces, the territories, the Northern U.S. which include Wisconsin, North/South Dakota, and Montana have indicated they will be attending this significant celebration.

To accommodate the influx of Métis citizens attending the celebrations, construction on another kitchen plus 5 additional provincial pavilions has commenced. Our goal is to have a children's playground, new ball diamonds, 50 additional electrified sites and a Bed and Breakfast developed prior to the start of these celebrations.

*Please see Back to Batoche 125<sup>th</sup> Celebrations on page 3*

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## Sports

Representatives of Sask Sport and the MN-S met at the Sask Sport office in Saskatoon to discuss the most effective way to utilize funds. This will connect Métis children and youth with the sport system and determine what initiatives require support. This will also ensure communication on the various programs available to Métis communities/citizens and the importance of the current partnership between the MN-S and Sask Sport.

The goal of this partnership is to ensure Métis Communities/individuals are aware of the opportunities and the supports available to them. Moving forward, Minister Louis Gardiner and the MN-S will meet in the coming months with Sask Sport representatives to establish initiatives which will support Métis accessing funding and program opportunities.



Back to Batoche Days 2009

## Canadian Red Cross

2010 marks a significant year for the Canadian Red Cross as their flag flew for the first time in Canada at Batoche during the battle in 1885. During 2010 the Canadian Red Cross will be staging their National Annual General Assembly in Saskatchewan and are looking to hold an event at the MN-S Batoche grounds. Also, the Canadian Red Cross wants to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the MN-S so they can work with Métis communities. All in all, it was a good first meeting and it was an honor to meet the staff of the Saskatchewan Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross Secretary General - CEO Conrad Sauve and Western Canada Red Cross Director Leslie Dunning.

## MN-S Fisheries Roundtable

MN-S held a Fisheries Roundtable on September 22 and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Approximately 100 people were in attendance, including representatives from the Métis Fisheries Advisory Committee. During day 1, a Pipe Ceremony and Opening Ceremonies kicked off the meetings with messages from our MNC President Clem Chartier, MN-S Fisheries Minister Max Morin and Representatives from the Province. Over the two day Roundtable, participants attended four workshops surrounding Fisheries, Management, Habitat Protection and Monitoring. A gala banquet was held in the evening at which time seven of our citizens were honoured with award plaques to thank them for their efforts in fighting for Métis Fishing rights over the years.

## MN-S Head Offices

The MN-S has moved to a new home. It is now located at 406 Jessop Avenue in Saskatoon (Sutherland district). This move was fortuitous as the ceiling tiles in the SMEDCO office at the former MN-S building collapsed after 5 days of repeated rain. I can't imagine what could have happened if someone would have been working in the old office and had the roof fall on them. Nonetheless, our black mold infested, bug crawling, roof leaking days are over and we have moved into a new head office, which is clean, accessible, and a fresh start for all of the MN-S. Our affiliates have also moved to 406 Jessop Avenue. This includes MACSI, SMEDCO, PMHC and all of the MN-S programs and services such as Tripartite, Registry, Finance, etc just to name a few.

## STATS Canada

The MN-S Representatives met with an official of Statistics Canada, Ms. Tracy Pascal to discuss how both levels of government can work together on initiatives beneficial to both parties. For example, Stats Canada will produce data specifically related to the region/locals and the Métis citizens. In turn, this will give a snapshot of the varying profiles of Métis children, youth, Adults and our elders residing in these areas. The long range goal is to produce data on a wide range of topics which could include family, childcare, community, education, employment, health, housing, income, languages, social activities, just to name a few.

## Métis National Council

The Métis National Council (MNC) held its meeting in Saskatoon on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Topics discussed at this meeting included Draft audited Statements for the 2008/2009 fiscal year, General Assembly date, MNC Board of Governors (BOG) meeting and protocol progress update. As of the last meeting the MNC currently finds itself \$2,560,154 million dollars in debt. Further, the MNC does not have a deficit reduction plan to tackle this debt. Presently, President Chartier and MMF President David Chartrand are trying to negotiate a reduction on the aforementioned amount. Doubtlessly, the audit was passed by the majority of the MNC BOG members which will allow the MNC to bring this audit to the Federal funders and the MNC AGM which is slated for November 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 in Vancouver.

After the last paragraph one might think it is all bad, however, the MNC is engaged on productive discussions with the Federal government on Post Powley funding, a Métis Economic Development Conference for November in Calgary and are preparing for the Council of Federation Ministers on Aboriginal Affairs and the National Aboriginal Organization leaders meeting which will be held in Toronto on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Further, the MNC will be sending Métis Veterans of World War 2 to France - Juno Beach in the month of November. A Métis Memorial will be unveiled at that time to honor Métis soldiers who fought and died on D day during June of 1944. So as it is with a lot of things in life, there are some bad and some good. The MNC will continue the work on behalf of Métis citizens across Canada.

*Back to Batoche 125<sup>th</sup> Celebrations from page 1 continued...*

Also, the MN-S and the Back to Batoche committee will be sponsoring a contest to create a logo for the 125<sup>th</sup> celebrations. It is open to everyone across the homeland and includes a prize for the winning logo. This logo will be used on all of our promotional/marketing items, so I encourage everyone to enter. We will have the agenda of events set by December of 2009 and I will be introducing the provincial committee members at the MNLA in November. As this is an event which stretches across the homeland, Métis Nation of British Columbia President Bruce Dumont will co-chair the 125<sup>th</sup> Back to Batoche celebrations with me as I have assumed this portfolio chair.

Finally, the world will be watching and participating in our event this year so we need to be ready. Book your holidays, the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary Back to Batoche Days celebrations are going to be fun, informative and a week of celebration you will never forget.

## Youth

The MN-S has hired 2 Provincial Youth coordinators with the goal of reorganizing and reinvigorating the Métis Youth movement in Saskatchewan. The Métis youth ultimately met in Saskatoon on September 19<sup>th</sup> and discussed a number of issues ranging from being proud to be Métis, getting Métis youth involved politically with the organization, and topics such as racism, education, addictions, sports opportunities just to name a few. I want to congratulate the Métis youth for taking this step forward, getting involved and hopefully assuming the future mantle of leadership.

## 125<sup>th</sup> Celebrations

Currently, the MN-S is working on a plan to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1885 Métis resistance throughout 2010. The MN-S recognizes this is a year of opportunity to reflect, re-conciliate, re-engage and celebrate the survival of Métis citizens and our great nation. Therefore, all through 2010 the MN-S will engage Métis citizens and Saskatchewan citizens to think about the last 125 years and how we will move forward together as equals. It will be a year we will not forget and it is my hope the greater society at the end of 2010 will have a better appreciation and understand the Métis people, our culture, languages and the contributions our people have made to Canada and throughout Saskatchewan.

## Nuclear Waste Management (NWMO)

In 2005, the Métis National Council signed an agreement with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) and Natural Resources Canada to conduct a series of national consultations with each provincial Métis governing body. These consultations included the Métis Nation Ontario (MNO), Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) and the Métis Nation – British Columbia (MNBC).

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the MN-S was unable to participate in the national engagements and was approached by the NWMO to conduct a series of regional/local consultations throughout the province for and with Métis citizens. These consultations are strictly for the purpose of discussing site selection criteria, not selecting sites.

### In Memory Of..

During the months of August and September we were saddened by the loss of three prominent Métis community leaders/Activists. Accordingly, Senator Roy Fosseneuve (Cumberland), Jeff Morin (Ile a la Crosse), and James Kennedy (Meadow Lake) all passed away and will be missed by family, friends and Métis citizens. To the families of these men we say, "thank you" for allowing them to work on behalf of Métis people. To the three Métis leaders who passed on we say "thank you" for being there for us, the Nation. You will be remembered.

### Senate

On September 21<sup>st</sup> the MN- S Senate met in Saskatoon and discussed a wide range of issues. For example, acquiring capacity to conduct Senate business remains. The MN-S Senate has asked the Treasurer to help them secure some type of finances. Other discussion points included, putting one Senator on each of the affiliate boards, hosting a Senate/Elders conference in February of 2010, and addressing the numerous issues Métis elders face on a daily basis.

The MN-S has an obligation and a responsibility to participate in these engagements and approach into this extensive environmental project with a neutral position on used nuclear fuel storage in Saskatchewan. The purpose of these engagements is to begin the dialogue and allow Métis citizens to have a voice during the compilation of site selection criteria. Therefore, the MN-S fully supports an opportunity to provide all available information to our citizens so you can make a fully informed decision and develop the Métis Nation Saskatchewan position on this important subject.

To date, we have hired Mr. Thomas Roussin as the Nuclear Waste engagement coordinator (NWEC). he will be responsible for coordinating and implementing the MN-S engagement strategy with NWMO. The NWEC will be in charge of coordinating these engagements in Métis communities across Saskatchewan.



*"Judge" Senator Roy  
Fosseneuve*

### Women

Métis women met in Saskatoon during August, 2009. The Métis women had two days of events which included governance, team building, cultural/wellness workshops and a banquet. On Sunday, approximately 120 Métis women gathered and elected a new Métis Women President and Executive which include Monell Bailey – President, May Henderson - Vice President, Pat Caron – Treasurer and Pat Lentendre – Secretary. Congratulations to the new MW-S Women's Executive and Métis women in general, for hosting a great Annual Assembly. I look forward to Ms. Bailey's participation on the Provincial Métis Council.