



Friday October 30, 2009

Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC)
Métis Community Governance Chartered Associations
Métis Citizens

RE: Presidential Monthly Updates September & October 2009

Taanshi kiya'wow / Bonjour
Ta'wow / Bienvenue

Dear MNBC Leadership and Métis Citizens:

Please accept the following Presidential Monthly Updates for September and October 2009 submitted to Métis community leaders, Métis citizens, and various Federal, Provincial, and Industry Government partners.

September & October update - 2010 WINTER GAMES

Hiring Opportunities still available for 2010 companies

Thank you to all that participated, all of your assistance led to the hiring fair becoming a great success! One employer Sodexo utilized the Métis Skills and Employment Centre to conduct an orientation the week after the hiring fair. Sodexo held their orientation and hired people all in the same day. EV Logistics' another local company looking to hire a 150 full permanent positions for January and February 2010 has shown an interest in using the Métis Skills and Employment Centre Gymnasium for future functions.

Hiring Numbers coming in:

Métis people are getting employed with the 2010 opportunities! Métis individuals are encouraged to submit their resume and covering letters to mchalmers@mNBC.ca

Sodexo does not track statistics of hiring, however, based on a quick review of their hiring reports, they have hired over 25 Self Identified Métis from referrals to date, and continue to review applications to verify referral source, and identities. Sodexo is still looking for some front and back of house positions, please review the web page for more information.



PTI Group has hired at least 10 identified Métis people and has offered several other individuals employment that for whatever reason has turned offers down. The PTI Group, is putting recent hires to work at various other work camp facilities where openings permit. PTI Group has several opening still available and is also actively recruiting Plumbers, Carpenters and Electricians with Red Seals for Work Camp employment.

NBC has hired numerous individuals from MNBC referrals from across the homeland and is still interested in receiving applications for Drivers, Line Cooks, Cleaners and Wait Staff. Several of these positions have accommodation provided and would be ideal for people located out of town.

Contemporary Security Canada continues to actively recruit for all positions from Screeners to X-Ray Operators to supervisors and communication officers. These positions are a great fit for veterans and for mature workers. Some discussion around accommodation has taken place.

Douglas Site Services is new employer and is currently looking for 150 cleaners for February and March 2010, people interested should apply at work@siteservices.com.au

Métis Story Boards

MNBC will have a story board collection available for some of the 88,000 accredited media expected to arrive as soon as October and we will supply access to Métis Stories, Articles and Photos for their use. High Definition photos, HD avi files, and write ups of either historical or contemporized with initial paragraph as standalone and as bridge to larger size "up to" 750 words articles are being collected. Should you have an article or photo you would like to submit please contact Marcel at Mchalmers@mnbc.ca no remuneration will be provided for materials gathered.

Métis Nation Stratosphere Presentation and Métis Pavilion Show

Photo stills in High Definition or 4000 x 4000 required for the Métis Projection show which will play after the regular FHFN night show starting at 9pm and going till closing of the pavilion. We need at least 10 gigs more of avi, mpeg and or jpeg material. This will allow MNBC to create our own show for various locations. Materials needed for this project as soon as possible. Communities and Provinces failing to provide materials will have NO COVERAGE in any of the shows.

Opportunity to Participate in an ARTISAN VILLAGE:

The FHFN, in partnership with VANOC, is seeking experienced and talented Canadian Aboriginal artists and artisans interested in participating in the Artisan Village and Business Showcase during the 2010 Winter Games. This program will include First



Nations, Inuit, and Métis artists from a variety of professional levels, and diverse backgrounds

Through an evaluation process, pre-qualified artists and artisans will have the opportunity to display and sell artwork, products and services that will play a role in creating a lasting impression of Games experience for millions of people worldwide. The Artisan Village and Business Showcase will be seen by thousands of visitors during the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games which run from February 12 to 28, 2010.

Please see the Application for detail information and send in your completed application before September 30, 2009.

The application has been sent to each Chartered Community President and is presently posted on the MNBC webpage in the 2010 section. It has also been emailed to all Governing Members Presidents across Canada for distribution amongst their membership.

September update - MNBC CENTRALIZED REGISTRY

Application Processing Time:

Current application processing time is approximately six (6) months.

Application processing time does fluctuate from between four (4) to (10) months over the course of a fiscal year.

Statistical Reporting Refinement Update:

Please see attached statistical report

Southern BC Registry Clerk:

The Central Registry would like to welcome to the team Dianna Williams, Southern BC Registry Clerk. Dianna is based out of the Kamloops MRHDA office and is pleased to assist individuals with the Citizenship application process. Included below is her contact information:

Dianna Williams
Southern BC Registry Clerk
#208-444 Victoria Street
Kamloops, BC
V2C 2A7
Phone: 250-320-7055
Email: reg3registrar@mnb.ca



Citizenship Application File Archiving:

Due to the large volume of incomplete files, the Registry has implemented an archival process. Applicants with an inactive file for one (1) year or longer; will be contacted by the Registry Clerk with a final notification of the list of items that are required to complete their application. If the items are not received by the Clerk within thirty (30) days, the file is archived and forwarded to the Vancouver head office. If an applicant would like to re-start their application process in the future, they will need to supply a new application package. This has been very successful in prompting applicants to complete their files, as well; it has significantly reduced the number of inactive files housed with each Clerk. To date, the Central Registry has archived 1295 files.

Central Registry Policies and Procedures:

The Central Registry is currently in the process of developing a Central Registry Policies and Procedures manual. It is anticipated this will be complete late 2009 and will be available on the MNBC website when it is complete.

Harvesting Card Implementation:

The Central Registry is working with BCMANR to provide assistance with the processing of harvester card applications and card issuing.

Total Applicants to Date	
Approved Issued Cards	4455
Approved Pending Card Order	7
Approved Pending Community Acceptance	46
Active/Incomplete	2106
Pending	0
Deceased Citizen	27
Deceased Applicant	14
Deceased Total	41
Appeal Option Notification	218
Appeal In Progress	12
Appeal Decision In Favor of Applicant	0
Appeal Decision In Favor of Registry	16
Appeals Total	28
On Hold For Renewal	67
Moved Out of Province	36
Archived Files	1295
TOTAL	6708

INAC	
Registered	4
Not Registered	3858
Unconfirmed	4141
TOTAL	8003

Regional Breakdown: Being Worked On	
Kootenay	300
Lower Mainland	834
North Central	587
North East	255
North West	210
Thompson Okanagan	615
Vancouver Island	599
TOTAL	3400

Gender	
Male	3965
Female	4038
TOTAL	8003
Adult	
Male	3477
Female	3549
TOTAL	7026
Youth 10-15	
Male	253
Female	234
TOTAL	487
Youth 6-9	
Male	115
Female	111
TOTAL	226
Child 0-5	
Male	118
Female	140
TOTAL	258
No Birth Date Specified	
Male	2
Female	4
TOTAL	6

Regional Breakdown: Approved	
Kootenay	545
Lower Mainland	1017
North Central	851
North East	240
North West	348
Thompson Okanagan	827
Vancouver Island	634
TOTAL	4462



October update - MNBC CENTRALIZED REGISTRY

Application Processing Time:

Current application processing time is approximately six (6) months. Application processing time does fluctuate from between four (4) to (10) months over the course of a fiscal year.

Statistical Reporting Refinement Update:

Please see attached statistical report

Citizenship Application File Archiving Reminder:

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PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE REGARDING THE PROOF OF RESIDENCY POLICY:

Children under the age of 18 years will not be required to provide proof of residency. The report card or school attendance record will only apply to individuals over 18 (i.e. college students that may have no other proof of residency).

The Regional Registry Clerks have reported that the response to this change has been favorable over all. Applicants understand that this policy was implemented to protect the integrity of the Registry and this additional documentation requirement assists the staff in verifying that MNBC citizenship cards are issued only to individuals that are able to prove they are residents of the province of British Columbia. Please contact your Regional Registry Clerk if you have questions regarding the Provincial Residency Policy.

Central Registry Policies and Procedures:

The Central Registry is currently in the process of developing a Central Registry Policies and Procedures manual this will be completed for Board of Directors review and approval mid-November 2009.



Statistics Report

[Send Report as Email](#)

Total Applicants to Date	
Approved Issued Cards	4491
Approved Pending Card Order	13
Approved Pending Community Acceptance	52
Active/Incomplete	1943
Pending	0
Deceased Citizen	27
Deceased Applicant	14
Deceased Total	41
Appeal Option Notification	188
Appeal in Progress	5
Appeal Decision in Favor of Applicant	0
Appeal Decision in Favor of Registry	25
Appeals Total	30
On Hold For Renewal	67
Moved Out of Province	37
Archived Files	1465
TOTAL	6595

INAC	
Registered	4
Not Registered	3935
Unconfirmed	4121
TOTAL	8060

Regional Breakdown: Being Worked On	
Kootenay	301
Lower Mainland	825
North Central	595
North East	253
North West	211
Thompson Okanagan	623
Vancouver Island	599
TOTAL	3407

Gender	
Male	3989
Female	4071
TOTAL	8060
Adult	
Male	3498
Female	3583
TOTAL	7081
Youth 10-15	
Male	254
Female	234
TOTAL	488
Youth 6-9	
Male	117
Female	110
TOTAL	227
Child 0-5	
Male	118
Female	140
TOTAL	258
No Birth Date Specified	
Male	2
Female	4
TOTAL	6

Regional Breakdown: Approved	
Kootenay	546
Lower Mainland	1030
North Central	853
North East	241
North West	348
Thompson Okanagan	838
Vancouver Island	648
TOTAL	4504



September & October -MINISTRY OF EDUCATION & HOUSING

During the months of September and October, the Ministry of Education completed a data base of public and independent schools in British Columbia. The data base identifies school districts within in each MNBC region as well as how many schools there are and if they are elementary, middle, secondary or alternative. The data base will be utilized for educational materials that will be sent out to schools. The data base will be developed further throughout the year.

MNBC is involved with the Ministry of Housing and Social Development at the provincial level and is a partner on the steering committee. One of the accomplishments of the committee is the *Aboriginal Housing Information Tool*. The housing tool is web based and its goal is to provide Aboriginal people with information on housing as well as providing community members with the opportunity to share information.

- Government published reports and announcements relevant to Aboriginal housing (Links to reports, updated regularly)
- Key Housing Programs and Services
- Building and Safety Information
- Local Government Information
- Education and Training Programs
- Other Jurisdictions - Aboriginal Housing Programs/Initiatives/Research
- Other Applicable Legislation/Policies

Information Sharing Page

Based on the feedback we have received, there is a need for a mechanism for individuals and groups involved in off-reserve Aboriginal housing (primarily housing providers) to share information easily. An information sharing page will allow MNBC to forward links for job opportunities, RFPs, upcoming conferences, workshops, training etc. to Aboriginal Housing team staff to be posted on the page.



September update - MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

Employment and training is please to announce our new program, Beyond the Barriers that will be delivered through the Essential Skills and Employment Enhancement Centre at MSEC. This program is a result of a proposal to the Government of Canada under the Aboriginal Skills Training Stimulus Investment Fund. The program is designed to assist the multi-barrier or disabled client.

The program is 12- weeks in length and will include Essential Skills testing and individual learning plans designed to assist participants with building their skills. The participants then enter into trades exploration and culinary exploration programs and finish with practicum placements with employer partners to gain on the job experience. Through the duration of the course, participants are fully supported and assisted to eliminate or reduce those barriers that continue to prevent them from gaining suitable employment, this includes financially through living supports.

The Beyond the Barriers Program also grants participants with several certifications in the service and construction field to facilitate easier transitions into employment. Once the course is completed the program provides a Job Coach to maintain good habits and support participants into employment or assist in moving them into additional training.

The Essential Skills and Employment Enhancement Centre will also provide a resource for the staff of the Employment and Training department to assist clients with Essential Skills building support and services throughout the province.

This first intake for the Beyond the Barriers program will be starting in November 2009. If you are interested in the program or know someone that could benefit by enrolling, please contact one of our regional staff or the MSEC. Contact info can be found at www.mnbc.ca

The next Carpentry Level 1 class is scheduled for November 2nd, 2009 and our ITA designated Level 2 next class will be January 11th, 2010. All classes scheduled are accepting applicants now and all classes are listed and updated regularly on the MNBC web site. If you are interested in any courses please contact the MSEC or your Regional Employment & Training office.



October update - MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

Métis Nation BC, Aboriginal Community Career Services Society (ACCESS) and BC Housing were honored in October at the Canadian Society for Training and Development (CTSD) President's Dinner with a "WOW" Award for Training Excellence in recognition of the Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures Program (ESAF). ESAF is a 30-day program designed to develop workplace essential skills. The goal of the program is sustainable life-long professional and personal success for participants through: the development of the skills needed to thrive in a knowledge-based society; and the resilience needed to adapt to life and workplace changes.

Minister Hodgson and Director of Employment & Training Marlin Ratch accepted the award at the ceremony in Toronto along with Agnes Ross of BC Housing, John Webster and Cori Thunderchild of ACCESS, and Francesca Debastiani from Service Canada. Other award winners in the same category were WestJet and CIBC

CSTD is a professional association focused on training, learning and performance in the workplace. Our partnership was selected for its BC Housing intake for an award based on their criteria (CTSDs) for creativity and innovation, learning, quality and collaboration, as well as continuous improvement efforts on behalf of learners.

September update - MINISTRY OF YOUTH

The Annual Youth Meeting took place in conjunction with the AGM on September 25th. The Ministry of Youth successfully hosted 20 Youth from across British Columbia where they took part in culture and language workshops, took photos with Olympic Mascots, heard from guest speakers, and more.

Minister of Youth, Stephanie Albiston and Director of Youth, Colette Trudeau, traveled to Smithers, BC to do a UMAC 09/10 project monitoring with Tri-River Métis Association. Tri-River President, Kim Hodgson and Youth Representative, Alicia Hooper facilitated the weekend where Youth did pelt identification, made survival kit, fished, and shared stories around a fire.

CALL OUT TO ACTNOW SMOKING CESSATION WINNERS: If you write up and photo made it into the ActNow Smoking Cessation Calendar and you have yet to receive your Gift Certificate, please contact the Director of Youth, Colette Trudeau, with your contact information at: ctrudeau@mNBC.ca

YOUTH WRITING CONTEST: The Ministry of Youth is looking for submissions from Métis Youth in the form of short stories or poems. The winner of the contest will win a



Roots Backpack and will be featured on the “Youth Celebration” portion of the MNBC website. For more details, please visit the Youth page on www.mnbc.ca. Please submit your short story or poem to the Director of Youth, Colette Trudeau at: ctrudeau@mnbc.ca or mail your submission to: Suite 905 - 1130 W Pender Street, Vancouver BC V6E 4A4. Deadline is October 31st, 2009.

October update - MINISTRY OF YOUTH

The Minister of Youth and Director of Youth has had the opportunity to monitor UMAC projects across B.C. The newest project monitor was the “Traditional Métis Youth Hunting Camp” that took place in Prince George and was hosted by the Prince George Métis Community Association. Youth were able to participate in Traditional and Non-traditional Hunts, Bannock Making workshop, Plant & Medicine identification and Animal Tracks identification.

If you have a UMAC project that is taking place in your community, please contact the Director of Youth, Colette Trudeau, with the date(s) of your event, as UMAC project monitoring is a key deliverable in the initiative.

The Ministry of Youth is pleased to announce the approval of their proposal for the LearnMichif.com project through the CCO’s Gateway funding. The LearnMichif site represents but one small step in the battle against language loss and culture erosion. This year’s new project is Youth and Elder focused. Youth will be trained to and tasked with recording video and audio of Elders, community members, artists and musicians for the website. The Ministry of Youth will be working closely with the Ministry of Heritage, Culture and Language, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Elders to make this project a complete success. The project begins in November 2009.

The Ministry of Youth is currently accepting submissions from Métis Youth in the form of short stories or poems. The winner of the contest will receive a Roots Backpack and will be featured on the “Youth Celebration” portion of the MNBC website. For more details, please visit the Youth page on www.mnbc.ca. Please submit your short story or poem to the Director of Youth, Colette Trudeau at: ctrudeau@mnbc.ca or mail your submission to: Suite 905 - 1130 W Pender Street, Vancouver BC V6E 4A4.

The Ministry of Youth is looking for talented, up and coming Youth that are doing something great in your communities. The goal is to feature these Youth under the “Youth Celebration” portion on the Youth MNBC website. This will be continuous throughout the year, so please keep your eyes and ears open for any up and coming Métis Youth.



The Minister of Youth and Director of Youth are members of the 'United Aboriginal Youth Collective' (UAYC) and has currently approved a draft 'Child and Family Services Plan'. The UAYC will be working closely with MNBC's Ministry of Children and Family in finalizing the 'Child and Family Services Plan' and will be seeking further input from their stakeholders. The UAYC has already received interest from the BC Representatives for Children and Youth and the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

MYBC is currently working on growing the Provincial Youth Database. This is a key tool for Métis Youth across B.C. to stay connected to Youth contests, events, the Annual Youth Meeting, scholarship opportunities and more! The Provincial Youth Database is currently under construction on the MNBC Youth page. Please contact Director of Youth, Colette Trudeau for the application form at this time: ctrudeau@mNBC.ca

September update - MINISTRY OF SPORT

ASRPAPC- Aboriginal Sports, Recreation, Physical Activity Partners Council met recently to discuss new strategies to coordinate efforts as to ensure that physical activity remains a priority and continues as a supportive means to greater overall health and well-being. ASRPAPC continues to strategize and plan for the launch once funding is confirmed.

KidSport 2009 \$200 Grants available to help kids get involved!

The cost of organized sports can be a barrier to participation and limit the choices for some families. With the help of dedicated supporters, KidSport™ works to fulfill its mission of eliminating the financial barriers to sport participation, "So All Kids Can Play!" Kids have the opportunity to reach their highest potential when they have access to physical activity, which can positively impact physical health, development of social skills, self-esteem, and friendships. Established by Sport BC in 1993, KidSport™ is a community-based sport funding program that provides grants for children aged 6 to 18 to participate in a sport season of their choice. For more information and to apply please follow the email link: http://www.kidsportcanada.ca/index.php?page=british_columbia_welcome

ActNow Healthy Living Ambassador programs

-more information will be available October 28th. Please contact Director of Health, Tanya Davoren, 250-308-7920 or tdavoren@mNBC.ca with questions.

Athlete Ambassador :

-High performance, competing at the International level – four positions vacant.

University Ambassador:

-Looking for a total of 100 Ambassadors



Aboriginal Ambassador:

-Currently looking for a total of 20 positions

ATHLETES! Share your story! - MNBC's Ministry of Sport will be sharing the accomplishments of Métis Athletes on our website and in quarterly editions of Kiwetin's Whispering Winds. MNBC's Sport and Health Ministry recognizes that organized sport has a positive influence on our Youth, Mental wellness has been linked to regular physical activity and organized (or team) sports. Youth that are physically active are more likely to succeed in school and have greater self confidence, thus more likely to resist drugs, alcohol and harmful tobacco use.

To share your story, please include a brief write-up and two or three good quality digital pictures. Please contact ttourond@mNBC.ca if you have any questions.

September update - MINISTRY FOR HEALTH

ActNow Participant Survey - The ActNow participant online survey invitation is being emailed out to Communities as we begin our ActNow evaluation process. If you do not have access to internet, a mailed survey or a phone interview can also be arranged. Many thanks to those that have already completed the ActNow Leaders Survey and now are supporting the Participant Survey! A gift certificate to Subway or Save-On More Foods (Overwaitea Food Group) is being offered to 1:5 participant Surveys in appreciation of your time in filling out the Survey so **please contact Tresley at ttourond@mNBC.ca if you participated in an ActNow project and have not received an email survey link.** We thank you in advance for assisting in our evaluation process!

H1N1 Information – <http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/kbaltindex.asp>

Health link 811 provides a symptom checker option for H1N1. You can input your information and the answers will provide medical advice. Alternately you can dial 811 and speak to a Registered Nurse regarding your health.

The H1N1 flu virus is contagious and is spread the same way as regular seasonal influenza. This happens when an infected person coughs or sneezes and their germs enter the nose, eyes, or throat of another person. The germs can also rest on hard surfaces like counters and doorknobs, and can be picked up on hands and transmitted to the respiratory system when someone touches their mouth and/or nose. It is not possible to catch it by eating pork or pork products or through blood transfusions.

Prevention is the best medicine:

***Wash hands** often if a sink is not available use **hand sanitizer**,

***Keep common surfaces disinfected**,



- *Cough and sneeze into your arm (elbow), instead of your hand,
- *If you are sick, stay home until your symptoms are gone and you feel well enough to participate in all activities,
- *If you get flu-like symptoms and are pregnant, have underlying health problems or if your symptoms get worse, contact your health care provider. www.fightflu.ca

Aboriginal Health Transition Fund - Our five part-time Regional Health Coordinators have been working very hard to advance Métis health in your area Health Authorities. The Regional Health Coordinators have spent time training in their new role, working with health screening devices (blood pressure, blood glucose and total cholesterol meters) and recently participated in a proposal writing course facilitated by Director Victoria Pruden (Women, Elders and Veterans) Métis Nation British Columbia. All 5 Regional Health Coordinators look forward to meeting you at the Annual General Meeting.

The following are updates from your Regional Health Coordinators in your area:

Vancouver Island Regional Health Coordinator (Vancouver Island Health Authority)
Romy Pritchard, Cell: 250-896-2786, Email: rpritchard@mNBC.ca

*Métis Chartered Communities in the Vancouver Island Health Authority and include North Island Métis Association, Miki'siw Métis Association, Mid-Island Métis Nation, Cowichan Valley Métis Nation, Alberni Clayquot Métis Association, Métis Nation Greater Victoria

In this last month new relationships have been formed with other areas of services in the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA). VIHA is undergoing a Mental Health and Addictions review of services for Aboriginal people. The South and the Central areas of Vancouver Island have met with key stakeholders that include on reserve services, public health, and off reserve Aboriginal services. These meetings have allowed for dialogue regarding access, service delivery, and sharing of information between various services with VIHA. Through these meetings this Health Coordinator has been able to collect referral information for both youth and adults so that each Metis Chartered Community on the Island will be able to share this knowledge with community members.

Other progress has been made through continuing to attend various regions health working groups with Aboriginal service providers and the VIHA. Again this has allowed for educational opportunities about the Metis Communities on the Island. Currently there are health working groups in Cowichan Valley, Central Island, and Campbell River. Yet to be established are Port Alberni and Victoria. It is the hope of this Health Coordinator that a representative from the local Metis Nations will be able to regularly attend these meetings to discuss health concerns from each Community. President Bill Delorme attended the last Cowichan Valley health working group.



Work continues on with the Metis Wellness Days through meeting and communicating with each of the Communities on the Island. Currently coordination for the first Metis Wellness Day for the Port Alberni/Clayoquot Metis Wellness day is happening between VIHA, President Judy Black, Susan Assop, MWBC – Clara DalCol, and a volunteer

Cheryl Hebert. The Port Alberni/Clayoquot Metis Wellness Day is set for October 28th. This Health Coordinators looks forward to meeting lots of Community members at this event!

On a last note Community members continue to access the Health Coordinator for advocacy for health services. Services in this month included mental health and addictions support and access for health services for terminally ill family members. Overall it has been a busy and productive time laying the foundations for better relationship of health services and Metis people on the Island.

Greater Vancouver Regional Health Coordinator (Vancouver Coastal Health Authority)

Holly Tennant, Cell: 604-454-8163, Email: h Tennant@mNBC.ca

*Métis Chartered Communities in the Vancouver Region include the Vancouver Métis Cultural Society and Holly is also working with the Provincial Health Services Authority

For the month of September, in the Greater Vancouver Health Ministry Region, the highlight was our success in receiving the Marketing Action Plan grant from BC Recreation and Parks Association. We have already mailed flyers about our “Métis in Motion” campaign to all Lower Mainland Métis Citizens between the ages of 35 – 55. If you are in that group and you didn’t receive a flyer, please contact Registry to update your address. Corresponding radio ads on the Métis Matters radio show have begun airing and posters are being distributed at health clinics and other meeting places around the Region. Thank you to everyone who has partnered with us on this program.

The planning of a Métis Women’s Health Conference is also under way, in partnership with Lerinda Swain of BC Women’s Hospital and Health Centre and various other agencies.

Another highlight of early September was the development of an application for funding for a PHAC (Public Health Agency of Canada) Community Food Planning to Action Project. The topic centers around investigating and reporting about MNBC’s current food security status and the resources we can access to improve our situation. Only three communities in Canada will be selected for this project, and we will know by early October if we will be one of them.



On September 10th I attended the Aboriginal Maternal Child Health Committee meeting with First Nations Health Society. The following include some of the topics under discussion related to Métis wellness:

- World Breastfeeding Week is coming up Oct 4-11.
- There was an update from NCCAH (Donna Atkinson), who recognized our Health Ministry as part of their team, and mentioned work with Dr. Smiley, recently receiving press for the Indigenous Child Health Project.
- The Baby's Best Chance book that has been well-known for many years, but was out-dated has been re-done, and there is a companion DVD. I will be receiving a box of them for distribution. The DVD is meant to be a teaching tool, rather than something to give out to families. There was supposed to be an Aboriginal version in production, but the MHLS (Maternal Healthy Living Secretariat) has lost funding, so they will not be proceeding with that portion of the project.
- PHAC is working on a new framework called "Public Health Policy Framework for First Nations, Inuit and Métis". They had a meeting with Bruce Dumont about this initiative in the summer. There are not funds currently attached to it.
- I will be receiving more information about a "Nobody's Perfect" Parenting Program, also available through PHAC.
- A guest speaker for Child Health BC, Mary Lou Matthews made a presentation and passed out their Annual Report, and 2004-2007 Progress Report. These are available through me, if someone would like to see them.

Finally, I attended a PHSA Aboriginal Sub-committee meeting at BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre, presented at a Region 2 Governance Council Meeting, and further developed relationships with Community Developers at Vancouver Coastal Health, project managers at British Columbia Centre of Excellence for Women's Health, and local Métis Citizens.

Lower Mainland Regional Health Coordinator (Fraser Health Authority)

Tim St. Denis, Cell: 604-341-9216, Email: tstdenis@mNBC.ca

*Métis Chartered Communities in the Lower Mainland Region include North Fraser Métis Association, Nova Métis Heritage Association, Waceyá Métis Society, Fraser Valley Métis Association, and Chilliwack Métis Association.

This past month has been mainly focused upon on fulfilling the requirements of a Marketing Action Plan to promote physical activities in our Metis Chartered Communities. We have been doing mail outs, producing and distributing posters, producing radio ads and working on websites to promote the activities. I presented our programs at the Metis Governance Council Meeting and at the Chilliwack Metis Society. I have also been doing blood screenings at the Nova Metis Heritage Office. The Aboriginal Health Improvement Council for the Fraser Health Authority is having their AGM. I have been asked to



organize a Métis demonstration of fiddling and jigging which is in place for Friday September 25th. I have also been preparing handouts which will include our latest copy of the Whispering Winds Magazine.

Thompson / Okanagan and Kootenay Regional Health Coordinator (Interior Health Authority)

Gail Parenteau, Cell: 250-309-3101, Email: gparenteau@mNBC.ca

*Métis Chartered Communities in the Interior Region include Merritt District Métis Association, Métis Heritage and Cultural Council, Kelowna Métis Association, Salmon Arm Métis Association, Two Rivers Métis Society, Vernon District Métis Association, West Local, East Local, South Local, Central Local, Métis Nation Columbia River Society and Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association.

We have had a change in Regional Health Coordinators. Cori Ducommun has resigned as his position was beginning to conflict with his full time studies in Registered Nursing. We thank Cori for his time as a Regional Health Coordinator and wish him all the best in his schooling.

Gail Parenteau will begin in her position as of September 26th and eagerly looks forward to connecting with the Communities in her area. Welcome Gail!

North Central, Northwest and Northeast Regional Health Coordinator (Northern Health Authority)

Sandra Conlon, Cell: 250-631-2003, Email: sconlon@mNBC.ca

*Métis Chartered Communities in the Northern Region include Prince George Métis Association, New Caledonia Métis Association, North Cariboo Métis Association, North West BC Métis Association, Northwest Métis Association, Tri-River Métis Association, Fort St John Métis Society, Red River Métis Society, Northern Rockies Métis Society, Moccasin Flats Métis Society and the North East Métis Association.

The autumn in the north is a time of even busier schedules. I have been connecting more with Chartered Communities in the past few weeks, as many come back together again after a summer break, and look forward to connecting with more at Regional Governance Meetings across the North. I hope to meet many of you at this year's Métis Nation British Columbia Annual General Meeting in Penticton, and will in fact attend the North Central Regional Governance Council Meeting while there. I continue to work in partnership with other health partners in planning a Regional Diabetes Event with a focus on the benefits of a traditional diet. I congratulate the communities which have already taken the positive step of choosing an individual to represent them on the Aboriginal Health Improvement Committees at Northern Health in their respective areas. I also continue to encourage and assist every community to achieve this important representation. In the next few weeks and



months I will be visiting Métis Chartered Communities throughout all 3 Northern Regions; I will be offering Health Screening at this time as well.

Chronic Disease Surveillance Program (CDSP) – Program Manager Dr Peter Hutchinson, phutchinson@mNBC.ca.

The Chronic Disease Surveillance Program (CDSP) has completed some important hurdles. After meeting with the MNBC Senate the Senators agreed to provide ethical guidance for the CDSP. The MNBC Senate will ensure that the Métis Citizens privacy and information is protected when they consent to participate in the CDSP. The MNBC Senate also reviewed the CDSP consent form and informational brochures. The CDSP consent form and informational brochures are currently being reviewed by MNBC and by the CDSP partners at the Ministry of Health Services (MoHS). Work continues on developing the Data sharing agreement with the MoHS. Discussions with the Ministry have resulted in MNBC's Ministry of Health renaming the program to **Métis Public Health Surveillance Program (MPHSP)** to broaden the scope of health beyond chronic disease.

Partnerships continue to provide further developments in health; the Office of the Federal Interlocutor was excited about the proposal submitted by MNBC to increase Métis Capacity to utilize health information, we anticipate this project to begin in October. The CDSP manager will be presenting at the NEARBC Pathways to Health and Healing Conference, discussing the Provincial Health Officers 2nd report of the health and Well-being of Aboriginal people in British Columbia. This report marks the first time that Métis were included in the PHO's reports.

Partnerships also continue to grow with BC Cancer Agency. The BC Cancer agency is currently conducting preliminary work to conduct research on the accessibility of Cancer care services for Aboriginal people in BC. This preliminary work includes consulting with Aboriginal community service provider to identify stakeholders who could benefit from and assist in the research project.

In preparation for the Métis Public Health Surveillance Program, Angel Fisher has joined us in a part time role to upload Maiden names from the Citizenship data-base and will be preparing envelopes for the mailing of consent forms which we anticipate will be mailed out before year's end.

I started the position of Chronic Disease Surveillance Registry Clerk in August 2009. My position within health is part time, rotating from two to three day weeks. My first task is to enter all maiden names of Métis Nation British Columbia's Citizens into the database. I begin each week by selecting a letter in MNBC's filing room and start separating all the Citizens in that letter into two groups, male and female. I then begin to document all the female Citizen names into an excel document to keep track of which Citizens have gone



through this process and to achieve a better estimate of how many names we have completed to date.

I then go into each individual's file and find supporting documentation of their maiden name and begin to enter them into MNBC's database. After all the maiden names have been entered for that letter I combine all the male and female Citizens together and begin to alphabetize that letter. So far to date there are a confirmed 515 maiden names entered into the database, While this task can be quite time consuming I feel that the process is moving along at quite a fast and steady pace.

Thank you for reading through all the exciting things happening with Métis Health. If you have any questions regarding the Métis Public Health Surveillance Program (MPHSP) please do not hesitate to contact: Program Manager Dr Peter Hutchinson, p.hutchinson@mNBC.ca 250-215-0190, or Director of Health, Tanya Davoren, tdavoren@mNBC.ca at 250-308-7920.

Aboriginal Health Transition Fund

Our five part-time Regional Health Coordinators have been working very hard to advance Métis health in your area Health Authorities.

The following are updates from your Regional Health Coordinators in your area:

Vancouver Island Regional Health Coordinator (Vancouver Island Health Authority)

Romy Pritchard, Cell: 250-896-2786, Email: rpritchard@mNBC.ca

*Métis Chartered Communities in the Vancouver Island Health Authority and include North Island Métis Association, Miki'siw Métis Association, Mid-Island Métis Nation, Cowichan Valley Métis Nation, Alberni Clayquot Métis Association, Métis Nation Greater Victoria

The Vancouver Island Regional Health Coordinator participated in MNBC's AGM along with the other Regional Health Coordinators to provide health screening clinics. The AGM was a powerful time that presented opportunities to connect this Metis people across the Province and talk about Metis health. It was also wonderful to see the Vancouver Island Nations all together as well.

On October 8 & 9th the First Nations Health Council, Child Health BC, and VIHA worked with area Aboriginal people to provide a two day forum on Improving the Health Outcomes for Children and Youth with Complex Health Needs. The goal of the two day gathering was to hear ideas on improving health services for families whose children have



complex health issues and providing these services closer to home especially after leaving Children's Hospital in Vancouver. Health care professionals and parents/community members gathered together to look at solutions that can be implemented. The Metis Chartered Communities on Vancouver Island had 7 seats available for these working groups amongst the other Aboriginal groups on the Island.

Most of the work this month has focussed on networking with the various partnerships for the Metis Wellness Days. The first Metis Wellness Day will be hosted by the Port Alberni/Clayoquot Chartered Community on October 28th from 10 – 6 pm with a Community potluck to follow from 6:30 – 8:30. The various partnerships that are working to provide presenters, organization, funding, and donations include MNBC, BC Cancer Agency, Port Alberni/Clayoquot Chartered Community, Métis Women of BC, City of Port Alberni, Centre for Aging, VIHA, AV Times, and various other community agencies, services, and businesses in Port Alberni. The first Metis Wellness Day will include: health information fair, Elder's tea, and snacks throughout the day and door prizes. Workshops will include: Women's Breast and Cervical Cancer, Yoga and Stress Reduction, Managing Chronic Illness and Pain, and Depression. This event promises to be a great opportunities to learn and connect with other community members. All are welcome!

Greater Vancouver Regional Health Coordinator (Vancouver Coastal Health Authority)

Holly Tennant, Cell: 604-454-8163, Email: [htennant@mNBC.ca](mailto:h Tennant@mNBC.ca)

*Métis Chartered Communities in the Vancouver Region include the Vancouver Métis Cultural Society and Holly is also working with the Provincial Health Services Authority

In the MNBC Greater Vancouver Health Ministry region, since the AGM, we have been continuing development of the Métis in Motion physical activity campaign, continuing to plan for the upcoming Métis Women's Health Conference, and offering Health Clinics to local Métis people.

The Métis in Motion physical activity campaign has sparked the interest of some beginner dancers, by way of press releases, radio ads, website ads and flyers mailed to Citizens' homes. Interested individuals have come out to practice with Yvonne Chartrand's Louis Riel Métis Dance Company at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre on Hastings Wednesday evenings. Participants learn traditional dances and as of last week, can bring an instrument and learn to fiddle, giving a total of two hours and fifteen minutes of instruction per evening. Our campaign has been selected for an upcoming profile by BC Recreation and Parks Association.

Planning of the Métis Women's Health Conference is underway. In the Greater Vancouver Health Ministry region we are currently moving toward that goal by applying for funding to the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority under the Healthy Living Program.



On September 24th, the Greater Vancouver Regional Health Coordinator attended the Aboriginal Health Strategic Initiatives Aboriginal Mental Health and Addictions Forum. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Lee Brown, Interim Director of the Institute of Aboriginal Health College of Health Sciences, UBC. He spoke about “Changing the Language of Mental Health”.

Representatives from the Health team traveled to Abbotsford for the Métis Showcase on the 3rd and 4th of October. The Health Ministry set up a table for distribution of ActNow participant surveys, Food Guides, Métis Public Health Surveillance Program brochures and for blood screening.

Finally, the Health Coordinator will attend the Vancouver Métis Cultural Association’s AGM on November 12th at 6pm, 3090 Kingsway. There will be a Health Clinic set up, and Métis recipe books will be handed out, free of charge, as long as supplies last.

Lower Mainland Regional Health Coordinator (Fraser Health Authority)

Tim St. Denis, Cell: 604-341-9216, Email: tstdenis@mNBC.ca

*Métis Chartered Communities in the Lower Mainland Region include North Fraser Métis Association, Nova Métis Heritage Association, Waceyá Métis Society, Fraser Valley Métis Association, and Chilliwack Métis Association.

The start of this past month was consumed with trying to make a strong Metis presence at the Fraser Health Authority Aboriginal Health Services Annual General meeting. I arranged to have a Metis entertainment team present to demonstrate fiddling and jigging to the 150 plus front line workers. A recent copy of our magazine, Whispering Winds, was also distributed to everyone who attended. I felt a strong Metis presence was made and I was given a chance to address the Senior Executives from FHA on some statistics concerning Metis Health.

The MNBC AGM in Penticton was a chance to participate in our governance in action and touch base with key stake holders. We did some health screening at the intermissions and I was able to speak in person with each president of the 5 Metis Chartered Communities in my area. I asked to be included on the agendas of their next meetings.

Attending the Metis Showcase sponsored by the Fraser Valley Metis Association in Abbotsford allowed me the opportunity to do health screenings to those who attended the two day event.

I attended a lively evening at the new Metis Training School in Abbotsford, put on by the Waceyá Metis Association in Langley. I was scheduled on their AGM agenda however the meeting was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum. I am on the agenda for their future meeting as soon as it is announced.



I have been laying the ground work for future health workshops, having secured two properties for free and a list of possible presenters, I am now seeking funding.

I have been reading two articles produced by Metis Elders on Traditional Healing in preparation for next weeks Traditional Healing workshop that all Regional Health Coordinators will participate in.

Thompson / Okanagan and Kootenay Regional Health Coordinator (Interior Health Authority)

Gail Parenteau, Cell: 250-309-3101, Email: gparenteau@mnbc.ca

*Métis Chartered Communities in the Interior Region include Merritt District Métis Association, Métis Heritage and Cultural Council, Kelowna Métis Association, Salmon Arm Métis Association, Two Rivers Métis Society, Vernon District Métis Association, West Local, East Local, South Local, Central Local, Métis Nation Columbia River Society and Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association.

Orientation for the position of Regional Health Coordinator was September 25th, in Penticton just prior to the MNBC AGM. While attending the MNBC AGM I was able to assist my fellow team member with the Health Check Clinic and familiarize myself with the equipment we use during our Health Check Clinics.

While at the AGM in Penticton I also had the opportunity to begin introducing myself and network with Métis Chartered Community Members and MNBC staff. My first full week on the job I was fortunate to have a one on one orientation with Director of Health and Sport, Tanya Davoren.

The majority of my time this month was spent, reading through all the information related to the job, establishing contact with each of the Métis Chartered Communities within the Interior Health Authority (IHA), networking, researching funding opportunities and orienting myself to, and, updating the new equipment used in the process of this position. I have agreed to participate in the IHA monthly H1N1 Flu Teleconference and report update to my fellow Team member. Next H1N1 teleconference is scheduled for Oct. 28th/09.

I attended the two day, Aboriginal Health and Wellness Advisory Committee (AHWAC), Interior Health Authority (IHA), meeting in Kamloops. Where I had the opportunity to participate in discussion and learn information regarding:

- Self – identification of Aboriginal ancestry and electronic health records which IHA has undertaken with the final outcome to be the implementation of an



- electronic system which will assure the health care needs of Aboriginal clientele within the IHA region are being addressed by improving service quality as well as easier access to those services.
- Cultural Safety Program, which is an on-line program that is going to be provided by IHA to educate employers & employees to be culturally accurate and aware. Expected to be available on-line, January 2010.
- Contracting process and Aboriginal health funding allocations.
- IHA Policy discussion on Aboriginal Policy Development Protocol
- Aboriginal Health Plan 2010-2014 Process
- BC Tripartite First Nations Health Plan
- Information and update from IHA regarding the H1N1 Flu Virus

I visited the Salmon Arm Métis Association General Meeting where I introduced my position as Health Coordinator to the members gathered, circulated and collected ActNow Participant Survey.

I am glad to be part of the effort to create a strong, healthy Métis Nation in BC.

North Central, Northwest and Northeast Regional Health Coordinator (Northern Health Authority)

Sandra Conlon, Cell: 250-631-2003, Email: sconlon@mNBC.ca

*Métis Chartered Communities in the Northern Region include Prince George Métis Association, New Caledonia Métis Association, North Cariboo Métis Association, North West BC Métis Association, Northwest Métis Association, Tri-River Métis Association, Fort St John Métis Society, Red River Métis Society, Northern Rockies Métis Society, Moccasin Flats Métis Society and the North East Métis Association.

This past month I participated in planning and facilitation of the *Diabetes and the Traditional Diet with Dr. Jay Wortman Day* which was a collaborative effort between Kitsumkalum Health, Métis Nation British Columbia Health Ministry, and the Kermode Friendship Society. Rene Therrien, MNBC Minister of Culture, Heritage and Language and Northwest Regional Director, spoke on behalf of MNBC and entertained the participants with his warmly welcomed fiddle playing. We had excellent attendance by Northwest communities including Métis Chartered Communities, First Nations, municipalities and health professionals from the Northern Health Authority. Dr. Wortman was a captivating speaker; he was interactive with the audience, welcoming questions and comments throughout his presentation. Other speakers included the president of the Canadian Diabetes Association, the northern lead for the BC Cancer Agency, and a Community Development Leader from the BC Healthy Living Alliance Initiative.



Other activities I have participated in throughout the past month include attending the Regional Governance Council Meetings of the Northeast and Northwest Regions, a General Meeting of the Northwest BC Métis Association, and the MNBC AGM. I have made plans to visit North Central Region Chartered Communities in November, with confirmation of attending the Annual General Meetings of the New Caledonia Métis Association and the North Cariboo Métis Associations to meet Community members and offer complimentary Health Screening. I continue to support Communities with researching grant opportunities, food security and diabetes issues and look forward to visiting Communities throughout the north to connect with members and provide Health Screening to all who desire.

Chronic Disease Surveillance Program (CDSP) – Program Manager Dr Peter Hutchinson, phutchinson@mNBC.ca. Cell: 250-215-0190

The Chronic Disease Surveillance Program, has been renamed the Métis Public Health Surveillance Program, and is waiting approval from the Ministry of Health Surveillance. The consent form, a necessary requirement to link Métis Citizen information anonymously with Ministry of Health Services administrative data, needs to be approved by the Ministry of Health Services and the MNBC's legal council. Similarly the agreement that sets out roles and responsibilities of each BC Ministry involved, including the Ministry of Health Services, the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, and Vital Statistics, is currently awaiting approval from the each respective ministry. In the mean time preparations continue for the roll out of the program, once approval is obtained from all parties involved the Métis Public Health Surveillance Program will hit the ground running.

While awaiting approval from the BC Government the Program Manager is in discussions with the BC Cancer Agency and the BC Cancer Registry, the organization that retains information on individuals diagnosed with cancer. These discussions include identifying ways that MNBC and the BC Cancer Registry can work together to provide information to program and policy developers on Métis Citizens experiences with cancer. Currently a draft application to access this information is being developed in conjunction with BC Cancer Registry, BC Cancer Agency and the CDSP manager.

A separate project with the BC Cancer agency is working to identify barriers to cancer care for Aboriginal populations. The CDSP Program Manager has been invited to participate with other stakeholders in the development of this research project. Currently this project is in its infancy but holds promise for informing how the BC Cancer Agency could improve access to care for Métis people.



The CDSP Program Manager is also busy identifying other opportunities to increase available health and social determinants of health information on Métis populations. The McCreary Centre, a small non-profit organization concerned with the health of young people in British Columbia, is interested in working with MNBC. The information available at the McCreary Centre is currently being reviewed by the CDSP Program Manager and will be shortly engaging the McCreary Centre Staff in accessing the available data. Other data sources are also being reviewed to identify what information is available that may provide insight into the health and well-being of the Métis population. This includes data available at the Inter-University Research Data Centre and public access data available through the Statistics Canada.

The CDSP Program Manager has also contacted Statistics Canada in order to discuss how the MNBC may be able to administer the Aboriginal Peoples Survey – Métis Supplement to Métis Citizens in BC. This project would provide invaluable information to appropriately address the social determinants of health inequities that the Métis population experiences.

Late in September the CDSP Program Manager presented at the NEAR BC conference at the University of Victoria. The Conference was meant to be a discussion on the Provincial Health Officer's Report on Aboriginal health and well-being. The conference was a great opportunity to meet and talk with other Aboriginal communities about how to improve health information. In Early November the CDSP Program Manager will give a presentation on the developments in the Métis Public Health Surveillance Project at the Aboriginal Strategies Conference in Edmonton.

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If your address has changed please contact MNBC's office so we can update your information. Thank you **Angel Fisher – Part time Health Registry Clerk**

Thank you for reading through all the exciting things happening with Métis Health. If you have any questions regarding the Métis Public Health Surveillance Program (MPHSP) please do not hesitate to contact: Program Manager Dr Peter Hutchinson, phutchinson@mNBC.ca 250-215-0190 or Director of Health, Tanya Davoren, tdavoren@mNBC.ca at 250-308-7920.



September & October - MINISTRY FOR VETERANS

On behalf of the Métis Nation British Columbia's Métis Veterans Standing Committee, and Minister Responsible for Veterans, Lissa Smith, we wish to extend our sincere thanks to all of the Métis Citizens, Members, Friends and Family who so generously supported the Métis Veterans Journey to Juno Beach. Your contributions are assisting us to send Métis Veterans to the historic dedication of a monument to Métis Veterans at Juno Beach, France, in November 2009. Please direct your inquiries regarding the Journey to MNBC Minister Responsible for Veterans, Lissa Smith, at 250-213-5171 or lsmith@mnbca.ca.

September & October - MINISTRY FOR WOMEN

The Métis Women of British Columbia are pleased to announce two upcoming Métis Women's Gatherings, generously sponsored by the Aboriginal Women's Programs of the Department of Canadian Heritage. Clara Morin Dal Col, Regional Women's Representative for Vancouver Island is hosting a Métis Women of British Columbia Leadership Retreat in the Courtenay/Comox area on October 23rd and 24th. Clara is interested in networking and connecting with Métis Women on Vancouver Island, and may be reached at: 250-731-5670. Sherry Arko, Regional Women's Representative for the Thompson Okanagan Region is hosting a Métis Women's Wellness, Culture, and Leadership Retreat October 23-25th in Kelowna, with community Métis Women's Representatives. Sherry is also interested in hearing from Métis Women in the Thompson/Okanagan area, and may be reached at: 778-220-3087.

The provincial Métis Women of British Columbia Leadership had very productive meetings held in conjunction with the Métis Nation British Columbia Annual General Meeting, and look forward to creating more opportunities for women at the community and regional level to become involved in their programming this year. The MWBC pilot program, Sihtoskatowin: A Métis-specific approach to Violence Prevention, has been identified by the National Office of Status of Women Canada as a "best practice", and we will be sharing symposium findings and recommendations of BC participants to support the development of National programming for Métis Women and Communities.

September 2009 - MINISTRY FOR ELDERS

The Métis Nation British Columbia has been approached by the Metro Vancouver Urban Aboriginal Strategy to assist in the development of two community-based elders networking events to take place in Metro Vancouver in December 2009 and January 2010. Participation will be open to all Métis Elders in our Lower Mainland Communities, and we will be advertising these sessions as planning gets finalized in the upcoming month. We wish to extend our thanks to Mike Ferguson of the Office of the Federal Interlocutor, as well as our Métis Nation British Columbia representatives on the MVUAS Advisory



Committee for their support in assisting these partnerships, to develop for the benefit of our Métis Elders.

The University of Victoria hosted a Métis Celebration on September 29th at the new First Peoples House on the campus of the University of Victoria. Approximately 80 attendees enjoyed the dynamic jigging and celebration facilitated by Beverley Lambert, and a special thanks is extended to Métis Nation British Columbia hosts Lissa Smith, and Samantha Sansregret, as well as the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria.

Métis Elders, Phillip Gladue and Tom McCallum will be featured presenters at the second in a series of Métis Culture events at the University of Victoria on October 24th and 25th.

The Métis Knowledge Keepers sessions have been an extremely well-attended program, and this installment will focus on Métis Identity and diversity of Métis Languages. All community members, University of Victoria students and faculty are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Victoria Pruden at vpruden@mnhbc.ca or 250-208-4937.

October - MINISTRY FOR ELDERS

The University of Victoria hosted a Métis Celebration on September 29th at the new First Peoples House on the campus of the University of Victoria. Approximately 80 attendees enjoyed the dynamic jigging and celebration facilitated by Beverley Lambert, and a special thanks is extended to Métis Nation British Columbia hosts Lissa Smith, and Samantha Sansregret, as well as the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria.

Métis Elders, Phillip Gladue and Tom McCallum facilitated a language workshop at the second in a series of Métis Culture events at the University of Victoria on October 24th and 25th. The Métis Knowledge Keepers featured conversational language practices, Metis traditional foods, dancing, and a focus on Métis Identity and diversity of Métis Languages. Special thanks to Samantha Sansregret, Métis Elder in residence at the University of Victoria, and the faculty and staff of Indigenous Affairs and the First Peoples House.

September - MINISTRY FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

The Métis Nation British Columbia has been a partner in the creation of a Provincial resource kit in collaboration with the United Way's "Success by 6" project. A celebration to launch the resource kits has been planned to take place November 9, 2009 at the Sty-Wet-Tan (Great Hall) UBC First Nations Longhouse. Among the performers to be featured at the celebration is Métis Dancer and jigger, Maddy McCallum. The Métis Nation British Columbia will be planning for distribution of these resource kits to



communities, families, and child and family service agencies in February 2010. Indications of interest can be forwarded to Victoria Pruden, at vpruden@mnbca.ca or 250-208-4937.

The Métis Nation British Columbia Ad Hoc Adoptions committee is going to be meeting in November 2009, to review and finalize recommendations regarding Métis Adoption, as presented and discussed at the MNGA in January 2009. Métis Citizens are encouraged to share their perspectives and thoughts on Adoption with the committee for consideration at their November retreat. Please contact Sid Peltier to submit your perspective for review by the Committee, he may be reached by telephone at: 1 250 638 8589 or by email at: peltiers@telus.net.

September & October– MINISTRY OF CULTURE, HERITAGE & LANGUAGE

The Culture, Heritage and Language Ministry continues to assist the Metis Youth of BC to implement their plan to bring the LearnMichif.com project under their control and management.

The Ministry is also supporting the delivery of the first university credit Michif language course. This course is planned for delivery later this fall and will be the first of its kind in British Columbia. The MNBC Ministry of Education is the lead on this project.

The Director participated in the commemoration of the first Metis Heritage Site in October. The McDougall Wildlife Sanctuary is a piece of land protected by the BC Wildlife Act. Located in the Flathead River Valley in southeastern BC, the sanctuary was formerly the site of the “Settlement of Joe McDougall’s Ranch” Joe settled in the Flathead about 1907, one of many Metis to be in the valley from as early as 1800. Joe’s wishes were that no one hunt at the mineral lick on the property and Metis always honored this wish. After his passing, Joe’s wife arranged to sell to the Nature Trust who then arranged for the area to become a wildlife sanctuary protected by law. About twenty Metis attended a short ceremony and the placing of a plaque at the site. Joe’s relatives have already seen the plaque and passed their gratitude on to MNBC.

The Ministry is actively searching for funding sources to support cultural events, language and Metis heritage site development.



September & October update – MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MNBC Harvesting Card applications continue to come in to the MNBC Registry for processing. Citizens are reminded that at this time the Harvesting Card is only authorized for use in replacing the Canadian Migratory Bird license. At present, government requires Métis to have all other licenses to hunt, fish, and trap or cut wood. Government enforcement officers will charge Métis who do not have government licenses.

In September, Minister Trumbley and Director Ducommun presented on MNBC Consultation at the 2009 Energy Forum in Dawson Creek. The majority of the oil and gas industry players and a number of provincial government agencies attended this forum. The presentation, which focused on the MNBC Consultation Guidebook, went very well. MNBC was approached by a number of companies and organizations that have requested further meetings to find out more about MNBC and our consultation process.

MNBC and Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines (under the Enbridge Métis Consultation Project Team) have agreed on the terms of a Métis Traditional Knowledge project. This project will include hiring five community interviewers to collect Métis Traditional Knowledge (MTK), support for BCMANR to identify MTK related to harvesting, technical support of MNBC Biologists and community meetings. This is the first work plan developed by the MCP Team. The next priority is to develop a work plan for Community communications and engagement. Training, job market, economic development and contract procurement discussions will be on future MCP Team agendas. For more information on the Enbridge Métis Consultation Project Team please view the Consultation pages on the Natural Resources section of the MNBC website.

A funding agreement to participate in the environmental review for the Mount Milligan Mine project in north central BC has been signed by both the federal government and MNBC. Funds have not yet arrived but are expected shortly. The project which includes: forming a Métis Consultation Project Team, review of the project proposal for a Mine, Power line and road, collection of Traditional knowledge and community meetings will likely start in November.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Authority has identified the MNBC Consultation Process as a best practice for Aboriginal consultation. MNBC has been asked to present on our Consultation Process to the Pacific Federal Aboriginal Consultation Network (PFCAN) conference in Vancouver on November 5, 2009. PFCAN has representatives from many federal departments, including: Transport Canada, Indian Affairs, Department of Justice, Environment Canada, Public Works, Parks Canada, Fisheries and Oceans, Western Economic Diversification, and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.



The Ministry of Natural Resources supported the Prince George Youth Harvesting camp in October. The Director and two BCMANR Captains were able to attend and set up camp, participate in activities and presentations and assist in harvesting activities. Youth from three north central communities attended. Activities included: firearm safety and use, nature walk/medicines and herbs, trapping seminar, hunting and others. The participants of the camp were able to get hands on experience in all aspects of processing a moose that was harvested by a local Métis Elder with assistance from the Director and Captains. The camp was a great success and planning has already commenced for next year's camp

MNBC has signed an agreement with Denali Canada to undertake activities around the proposed Denali pipeline project in northeastern BC. Denali is providing resources to assist MNBC to hire a consultation/resource person to assist with the development of relations with Denali. This position will be advertised soon and the Ministry of Natural Resources is looking forward to talking with any Métis who is interested in this position.

In October, Mr. Bob Trumbley (Minister responsible for Natural Resources) Dean Trumbley (COO) and Gary Ducommun (Director of NR) met with BC Minister of Environment Barry Penner and his senior aboriginal advisor and enforcement manager. The meeting provided an opportunity for MNBC to inform Minister Penner and his staff on Métis Nation BC and our governance and management processes. The meeting was polite and informative. As MNBC expected, the Province of BC did not offer anything new in the way of how Métis will be treated in relation to harvesting. The BC Minister did support the offer for further dialogue that came to MNBC from both the MOE Aboriginal Affairs and Conservation Officer Service. MNBC will follow up on these offers, however, we do not believe that they will lead to a change in the BC position that Métis Rights have not been proven through the courts in BC.

On behalf of the MNBC Board of Directors I would like to thank all of our Métis community leaders, citizens, staff and partners for your continued support and joining with us in celebrating the 12-year milestone of our BC Nations' incredible achievements and success at the 2009 Annual General Meeting.

Marsay

Bruce R. Dumont
President

Kishchee tey mo'yawn aen li Michif wi'yawn
(Proud to be Métis)

