**Métis Public Health Consent Form**

The Métis Community is stronger than ever. Let us show everyone how strong and healthy we are.

Please submit your Métis Public Health Consent Form.

MÉTIS NATION
30691 Simpson Road
Abbotsford, BC
V2T 6C7

Métis Nation BC Ministry of Health requires your consent to report on Métis health status. Please read, sign and return the consent form you received. If you have not received one please download the forms from [http://www.mpcbc.bc.ca/cdsp/ethics.asp](http://www.mpcbc.bc.ca/cdsp/ethics.asp) Please sign and return the consent and personal information form today.

The MNBC Métis Public Health Surveillance Program has received great support from Métis all over BC. So far 5337 Citizens were mailed a consent package, over 1050 Citizens have completed and returned there consent forms to participate in the program.

The return rate has surpassed 21% of Métis Citizens receiving a consent package which is better performance than normal returns rates. 3908 Métis Citizens have also just received a reminder post card asking them to reconsider participating in the program. Many Citizens have called to ask questions about the program and to find out where they can get a new copy of the consent package.

The Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) is a national survey of First Nations people living off reserve, Métis and Inuit living in Canada.

If you have any questions please contact Dr. Peter Hutchinson, PhD, MA, BHK  phutchinson@mnbc.ca or (250) 215-0190. Your participation is greatly appreciated and will help future generations of Métis.

It will collect information on important issues facing Aboriginal peoples such as education, employment, health, language, housing and mobility.

**Aboriginal Peoples Survey**

The APS is a sample survey. Not all Aboriginal people in Canada will be asked to participate. The participation of those chosen for the survey is integral for Statistics Canada to be able to provide accurate and timely statistical information.

The next Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) will take place from February to June 2012. APS is a national survey of First Nations people living off reserve, Métis and Inuit living in Canada.

The 2012 APS is a thematic survey with a focus on education and employment. Similar to previous cycles, the survey will also collect important information concerning health, language, housing and mobility.

Why is APS important for me?


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inside this issue:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President's Message 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President's Message Contd. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Métis in the News 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Spotlight 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Spotlight Contd. 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Métis Inspiration 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honoring our Veterans 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Métis Women of BC 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Métis Health 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Métis Education 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nobody’s Children - A National Dialogue 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What’s in your Wallet 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know your Facts 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director’s Message 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back Cover - Contacts 16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Media Contact:**

Tracey Thornhill
Executive Assistant &
Acting Communications Officer
traceyt@mnbc.ca or 1.800.940.1150 / 604.557.5851
Tansi, Bonjour, Hello

What a tremendous honor it was to attend the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards Friday February 24th where I was given both honor and privilege to present the Award for Health to Dr. Janet Smylie (featured on page 7 in this issue).

Dr. Smylie is one of the first Métis doctors in Canada and a highly respected expert in the field of Indigenous health. She is a research scientist at St. Michael’s Hospital Centre for Research on Inner City Health in Toronto and an Associate Public Health Sciences Professor at the University of Toronto. Dr. Smylie is a Proud Métis Citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

MNBC congratulates Dr. Smylie once again on her incredible contributions to the Health Sciences for the Aboriginal people’s of Canada.

The Métis Nation British Columbia cannot say how extremely proud and honored we are to see Senator Gerry St. Germain receive the Life Time Achievement Award.

The Senator, a Proud Métis Citizen of the Métis Nation British Columbia has dedicated his life to the public service and advocacy to improve the lives of Indigenous Peoples. He is the first Métis Senator to serve in Canada’s federal cabinet.

Dedicated to advancing economic enterprise, education and self government he was instrumental in achieving from the Government of Canada the formal Residential School Survivor apology. The Senators’ life time of achievements are reflective of his pride in his Métis culture and passion for all Indigenous peoples in Canada.

MNBC could not be more proud of this Man’s achievements and it is an honor to once again congratulate Senator St. Germain as the 2012 life time achievement recipient.

The evening’s event was a remarkable celebration of all the 2012 NAAF recipients and many of our Métis people from across the homelands attended.

Another Métis Recipient, Candace Sutherland, a Métis Youth from Winnipeg whose incredible compassion and humanity for poverty stricken Indigenous Peoples earned her the Special Youth Achievement award. Her selfless contributions and life time dedication to helping Indigenous Peoples improving their lives is a testament to this young lady’s own experience of growing up knowing what it was like to be without what so many of us take for granted.

These youth are our future and Ms. Sutherland is a fine example of what this future holds if we continue to celebrate them and their achievements on any level.

Métis representation:

Theoren Fleury – MC
Audrey Poitras – Jury Member
Muriel Stanley Venne – Jury Member
Chantel Kreviazuk – Entertainer – Manitoba
Andrea Menard – Entertainer – Saskatchewan
Fara Palmer – Entertainer – Part Cree from the Salteaux – Saskatchewan
Inez – Métis Grandfather
Jani Lauzon – Métis background
Sandy Scofield – Métis

On behalf of the Métis citizens, Board of Directors and Staff of the Métis Nation British Columbia, we honor all of the incredibly deserving recipients of the 2012 National Aboriginal Achievements Awards.
President’s Message Contd..

It has been very busy these past few months since our last issue. In March, Leaders from across our BC Métis Nation gathered for our 14th Annual Métis Nation Governing Assembly (MNGA). The assembly, comprised of the MNBC elected Board of Directors and Presidents or Vice Presidents, from the 34 MNBC Chartered Communities, met for two days to carefully deliberate on current and future legislation in moving the BC Métis Nation’s governance agenda forward as mandated by the MNBC Constitution and the MNBC MNGA Act. Overall, 14 Resolutions were introduced for their first reading, some passed and some were defeated. All Legislation passed by the MNGA will be presented to the voting delegates at the AGM in 2012 for Ratification. Delegates as well as observers from our gallery received first hand reporting from community leaders with respect to their past fiscal activities as well as reporting from the Executive Director Dale Drown on the current financial status of the Métis Nation and where our focus in moving the business of the MNBC/MPCBC is for the new fiscal year. There was a great deal of thoughtful and genuine dialogue in determining the passing of certain new legislation for ratification by the members of the 2012 Annual General Meeting, which will take place September 29 & 30 this year. I was moved witnessing our democratic process at work. The location for the MNBC & MPCBC AGM is undetermined as the sale of the school is still pending. Updates on location of the AGM will be posted as soon as we are able. The MNGA was a huge success and it is due to the tremendous commitment and work from our community leaders that made that possible. I want to thank everyone who took time from their personal work schedules and families to show their continued support to our Nation’s governance.

MNBC Board of Directors Cabinet Changes

I am pleased to announce the new Cabinet changes to our Board of Directors effective March 9, 2012.

Bruce Dumont, President/CEO (New) Minister for Culture, Heritage and Language, I am thrilled to take on this role once again as the provincial minister for CHL. Anyone who knows me knows my truest passion is for our Métis Culture and Heritage. I thank Ted Ingram for accepting the acting role as Deputy to assist me in this capacity and extend appreciation to resigned former Minister, Henry Hall for his years of work as Minister and when he was the Director years past in working with our communities and bringing our culture to the forefront and celebrating it with every opportunity he had presented to him.

Dave Hodgson, Vice President (New) Minister for Natural Resources
Dave continues his work as the Minister for Métis Children & Families and Minister for Employment & Training
In his acting appointment as Regional Director for the Thompson Okanagan, Daniel Pitman is the Acting Deputy to Minister Hodgson in Métis Children & Families. Daniel compliments this Ministry with a wealth of knowledge and experience and we are very fortunate to have him working with Dave and the Director, Victoria Pruden in this sector.

Kim Hodgson, Regional Director for North West (New) Minister for Health
Kim will also continue her work as the Minister for Education working with her Director, Colleen Hodgson in moving the agenda for Métis within our schools and communities forward.

Annette Maurice, Regional Director for North Central (New) Annette has accepted the nomination as Secretary for the MNBC and we thank her for taking on this task.

Dan Pope, Regional Director for North East Dan has graciously accepted his nomination as Treasurer for the MNBC/MPCBC as Dan has served in this position in previous years he brings a great deal of experience and we are fortunate to have him back in this role.
I want to personally thank each member of the Board to stepping up to their new roles and responsibilities in their appointments and nominations. These tasks can be quite taxing but are necessary. It is with deep respect to each of you for the work you have done and the work your commitment for the work still left to do. I extend my sincere appreciation to the preceding members whose tireless work within these roles have brought us some great success and have opened the doors for future possibilities for the betterment of our nation.

Thank you Directors, Smith and Trumbley, your years of service and commitment has not gone unnoticed,

Métis Nation BC Welcomes Newest Board Members

It gave me great pleasure to welcome Ted Ingram as the Interim Regional Director for the Lower Mainland and newest member of our board back in March while attending the Regional Governance Council Meeting where his community leadership appointed him. Ted is a Provincial Government employee from the Corrections Branch of Children and Families. Some may remember Ted from his work with the MNBC as a Community Support Justice Worker back in 2007. Ted went on to contract with Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) as an Instructor/Supervisor, which he then contracted as a Liaison Officer in the Federal Government. Ted volunteered as a community escort for CSC clients who are trying to connect with community resources and families and today still remains committed to Social Justice Issues. He has been working very hard to connect with his community since his appointment and I applaud his tenacity and commitment as he has taken on this role with a genuine vision and desire in working with the community leaders for the betterment of the region and its members.

“I look forward to working with the Lower Mainland regional leadership and community as well as the MNBC Board of Directors and staff. I hope to assist in the growth and wellness of this region and to our Nation. Please contact me anytime! maito:tedingram@mnbc.ca

Back in February the MNBC Board was thrilled to welcome Daniel Pitman as the Acting Regional Director for the Thompson-Okanagan. You can view this announcement on the MNBC homepage www.mnbc.ca.
Métis in the News

Métis Artisan designs for 2012 Aboriginal Achievement Awards

Lisa Shepherd a local Métis Artisan and designer was honored to attend the 2012 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards on February 24, 2012 to celebrate the Métis Achievement Award Recipients of 2012 where Dr. Janet Smylie adorning Ms. Shepherd’s beaded vest accepted her Award for the National Aboriginal Achievement for Health. The vest was inspired by Christi Belcourt’s painting, “Healing Feather Woman”, which Christi had painted for Dr. Smylie. Lisa had special permission from Ms. Belcourt to pull flowers from her painting and bead them in her layout. Maria Campbell also worked with Lisa on the design and fabric choices. The Aboriginal Awards night was full of nice surprises for Lisa Shepherd personally. It was a pleasant surprise when the Lieutenant Governor Hon. Stephan Point and his wife Gwendolyn Point entered as Mrs. Point was wearing one of Ms. Shepherd’s beaded Métis shawls from a design commissioned by the school district to create for her so that they could gift it her when she spoke at their Aboriginal Education forum.

Also attending the Awards that evening dawning one of Lisa’s designs was another very well known artist to the Métis Nation, Dennis Webber.

Lisa Shepherd’s beautiful art work and designs can be viewed on her website at www.lisashepherd.ca

Congratulations to all the recipients of the 2012 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards! Read more on recipients http://www.naaf.ca/program/92

Tracking Hutton

Last month you read about Jeff Hutton, the young Métis baseball player from Ladner, BC, making the Canadian Baseball First Team All-Canadian.

This past month Jeff has been playing in Arizona, playing first base for Team Canada in the Arizona 2012 Winter League.

For our readers who would like to track this young Métis Man’s success story, we have included the link here for the February article from the Yuma Sun http://www.yumasun.com/artickles/hutton-76407-league-college.html

Jeff will be coming home from Yuma Thursday March 1st, after a baseball-packed month in the sun as he was unfortunately not drafted this week as he had hoped. Jeff will continue training and working towards his goal of playing professional baseball and we will continue to bring to you his story.

Métis Nation British Columbia wishes Jeff great success.
Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth

In this Issue we are thrilled to showcase our MNBC Chartered Community's CCAY Projects.

CCAY Project Workshops - Thompson Okanagan

“Red River Cart Building”

The design of the Red River Carts constructed by these youth is from a blueprint that Eldon Clairmont created and has registered. Eldon can be seen selling his “make it yourself Red River Carts” at our AGM trade shows, these take approximately 10 hours to build and they are a foot long with 5 inch wheels.

Eldon has constructed a full size Red River Cart at 14 ft. long with the 5.5 ft wheels. With access to the workshop in one of the schools in the Salmon Arm community it took Eldon one night a week for three hours / approx. 60 hours.

Eldon has also built a 4 foot cart with the 18 inch wheels, taking 30 hours to build.

Eldon is hoping to introduce a new workshop next year for children and adults... finger weaving sashes.

“Bannock Making”

Eldon Clairmont is the President of the Salmon Arm Métis Association in his 5th term as President. Eldon and his wife Shirley and SAMA Board and many volunteers are committed to their community and especially to their Youth. You only have to look at these pictures to see all the work and care that Salmon Arm Métis Association places in their youth to appreciate the level of their commitment. Salmon Arm Métis Association also hosts Youth Gatherings each year. Keep your eye on the MNBC website for the date and details for their next gathering www.mnbc.ca.

MNBC would like to thank both Eldon and Shirley for these photos and to the parents for allowing us to showcase them and all the instructors who assisted in these valuable workshops in teaching our Métis Youth the value of their culture and practices.
Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth

Community’s CCAY Project from the Kootenays

School District #5 was very fortunate this year, in being the recipient of a CCAY Métis Youth Culture grant from the Métis Nation of BC, in partnership with Heritage Canada. The kick-off for the event were two Métis Cultural Celebrations, one in Cranbrook and the other in Sparwood BC complete with a traditional Métis meal of buffalo stew, li bang, live music and Métis jigging. The schools were transformed into beautiful dining area with sashes, flags and miniature Red River Carts adorning each table. It was a feast first for the eyes, all the guests were treated to a display of Métis color and culture.

Student volunteers were everywhere, greeting and registering guests, helping people find seats, restrooms, and drinks. There were representatives from the Métis Nation of BC, Ktunaxa Nation, City of Cranbrook, District of Elkford, City of Sparwood, School District #5 along with a full house of families. Parents, Grandparents, Aunties and Uncles joined their children for an evening full of fun, food, music and dance. People were all smiles as they jigged with their kids and with each other, the music was excellent, and anyone who wanted to could join in with sets of spoons which were provided.

The door prizes flowed, and there was lots of excitement around the fifty fifty draw. The atmosphere was very friendly as people met, mingled and enjoyed themselves. This was a great opportunity to get families together in a celebration of traditional Métis values and culture.

The schools were busy during the day before and after the cultural celebrations, with Métis Elders demonstrating and working with students to create capotes, beadwork, music, dance and stories. The College of the Rockies invited our district jigging group to liven up their lunch hour with music by fiddler Alex Lamoureux, and jigging by the students. Many people enjoyed the show, and the students were thrilled with having the opportunity to jig to live music.

Following the cultural celebration, Kokum Marie came back to the communities for Cooking with Kokum and Michif language lessons. Families came together in various foods rooms at our schools to make La Galette and Les Boulette in the traditional Métis fashion. Marie interjected singing and language lessons throughout the evenings, and families were elated to celebrate their culture through traditions and music.

The Métis cultural activities were well received, and much appreciated by the staff, students and families of School District #5. We are a district that covers a lot of geographical space; the Métis events helped pull us together, everyone cooperating to present these awesome opportunities for our students. Thanks to MSNBC and Amy Cross for this gift. As the students are saying, ‘we would love to have more Métis culture!!’

Article by: Sharon Trefry
Aboriginal Education
Mt. Baker High School 250-426-5241 ext 748
email sharon.trefry@sd5.bc.ca

Beadwork by: Alexis as taught by Metis Elder Doreen Bergum
Capote workshop taught by Metis Elder Donna Kennedy
Butterfly Jiggers and Metis Kitchen Party
Enjoying La Galette made with Kokum Marie Schoenthal.
“It is hard to define the positive impacts!”
Debbie McPhee
Métis Youth, Ph.D. Candidate for Indigenous Governance

His name is Adam Gaudry, he is a Métis Ph.D. Candidate in the Indigenous Governance Program at the University of Victoria and is a member of the Greater Victoria Métis Nation. Adam grew up in Ancaster, Ontario, but his family, the Gaudry’s, are from Sioux Narrows on the Lake-of-the-Woods in Northwestern Ontario. Adam attended Queen’s University at Kingston and completed a BAH in Political Studies, and an MA in Sociology.

Adam is currently conducting research and writing his Ph.D dissertation on the development of Métis government alongside the progress of Métis history. Currently, Adam is talking with Métis people across the country, from different walks of life and different life experiences, in order to write a people’s history of the Métis nation.

Adam is also interested in community-based learning and the relearning of traditional Métis skills. Adam currently resides in Victoria, British Columbia on unceded Lekwungen territory, with his partner Elaine.

Adam is an all-inspiring Métis youth who was a recent speaker at an MNBC Chartered Community, Métis Nation Greater Victoria event where he inspired many who attended and undoubtedly through his passion for Indigenous Governance, specifically Métis will continue to inspire in years to come. Adam has recently been offered a fellowship at Yale University in New Haven Connecticut for one year.

One of the visions Adam has is offering a “free course” on 19th Century and Early 20th Century Métis history for those interested in it. But that will have to be put on hold until he returns from Yale.

Adams Dissertation is officially called the “Henry Roe Cloud Dissertation Writing Fellowship” and It is held at Yale University in New Haven Connecticut for one year. To view the full description please log onto http://erm.yale.edu/fellowships-opportunity

Alwin Holland pays Tribute to Métis

MNBC Northeast Regional Director Dan Pope submitted this photo of the Fort St. John Alwin Holland school in the Northeast region where grade 4 & 5’s, ages 9 and 10 year olds created these beautiful portrait replicas of traditional Metis beading art as a part of the Aboriginal Art program. This project was based on the celebration of cultures where the focus was on Metis beaded flower artwork. Among these creative and inspiring students were Metis children learning and experiencing their culture and teaching their peers in turn.
BC Métis Veterans Honoured

Esteemed Métis Veterans Senator Ron Snider and Mr. Len Desjarlais, Korean War Veterans, were honored for their service in the Korean War at the Métis National Council meeting in Ottawa held in December.

Our Veterans were selected to represent MNBCC after consulting the Métis Veterans BC Committee. Both received a personalized plaque describing their service with picture along with a sash.

Honourable Minister Duncan, Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (Left) and Métis National Minister responsible for Veterans, President David Chartrand (Right) on hand to present the awards.

Photo credit: Lissa Smith (Minister responsible for Veterans and Health)

Celebrating the Life of Tom Finnie

Tom Finnie: November 16, 1936 - April 19, 2012

Tom Finnie, Husband, life partner and best friend of Jackie passed away in his home with his loving partner and son by his side after a battle with cancer. Tom was born in Windsor, Ontario where he grew up volunteering to help physically disabled people. He was a kind and gentle man well liked throughout the various communities.

In 1953 he joined the navy and served in the Korean Conflict. After the conflict he was based in Metchosin where he was on the Deanery Council in the Anglican Church, established an Aboriginal Youth social club in Victoria and was a playing coach for the NADEN team (Navy base in Victoria). He was involved with all aspects of scouting in Metchosin and Cold Lake.

While in Metchosin he was a volunteer fireman. One of his accomplishments was that he sang in a light opera “The Pirates of Penzance” He retired from the Armed Forces in 1979. He was very active with the Kinsmen, Legion Korean veterans association, President of the Wachiay Friendship Centre, and worked and sponsored with the army cadets in the Comox Valley. Tom was also an integral part of the Aboriginal Head Start Program in the Valley. He was also president of the Courtenay Rock and Gem Club as well as the president of the Courtenay Legion Women’s Auxiliary.

His big enjoyment was being with people. Tom was athletically inclined and participated in a wide variety of sports. He was a boxer in the Navy, and was always in swimming competitions.

He and Jackie are known for their drum making workshops throughout the Island and the Province. He met his life mate Jackie in 1959 and married and had 4 children.

The family is asking that in lieu of flowers that a tree be planted in Tom’s memory or a donation be made in his name to a charity of your choice.

Thank you to Jackie Finnie and MIKISIW President Bryce Mercredi for this picture and article. Tom will be sorely missed by all who knew him.
It is with great honour that I write this message on behalf of our Métis Women of BC.

"There has been much work done to ensure a strong Metis Women’s presence in both the Provincial and National levels of Metis governance". Métis Women BC became part of the MNBC governance structure with the completion of the Métis Nation Women's Act accepted by the majority membership of the MNBC Annual General Meeting in September of 2011. The first reading of the Act was at the Métis Nation Governing Assembly in 2011. Prior to that work, the MWBC Policies and Procedures were completed. Our participation in the MNGA this year was to put forth 3 resolutions—two that were housekeeping in nature and one to enable the Elected Métis Region Rep the capability to have a vote as a part of the MNGA. The latter will be presented to the 2013 MNGA with more information resulting from further research.

The MWBC were and have been a part of the formation of the Women of the Métis Nation—Le Femme Michif Otipimisiwak. While the work to become a National organization has been in process for a few years, the final work being completed October 2010, the official incorporation happened in September 2011, and the first Annual General Meeting on March 30 and 31, 2012 in Edmonton Alberta. BC where 7 MWBC Women Representatives and 2 Métis Women attended—one from Region 6 and one from Region 2, and me as the MWBC Provincial Chairwoman. It was at this meeting that we:

- Elected a National President of the Le Femme Michif Otipimisiwak—Melanie Omeniho
- Chose and honored 3 Métis Women With the Queens Celebration Medal of honour
- Shared and listened to each other’s views, passions and thoughts for the future
- Enjoyed the Awesome event of being with Métis Women from across Canada
- Agreed to a plan to work toward Multi-year funding
- Agreed to a work plan—-For the Métis Language of Michif user friendly learning devices to be developed, a Steering committee to focus on "Bringing the Children Home", to ensure “Communication” be developed to reach all grassroots Métis Women and a user friendly Website that connects to the Provinces.

There is much work to do now, to ensure grassroots Métis Women have a strong presence, as it was for those that walked before us. We must honor in our memory—we are a part of the journey—there are those that walked this journey before us and there will be those that will walk after us. Our job is to keep the path open

Once again, I feel compelled to say how honored I am to be a part of the MWBC and all the work we have done together, ensuring that we acknowledge the gifts each Métis woman brings to the circle.

Ekosi maka, Hiy Hiy!

Article provided by: Donna Wright, MWBC Provincial Chairwoman

Thank you Minerva Foundation!

Susie Hooper must have had to pinch herself when she was contacted by the Minerva Foundation for BC Women to inform her she was the new proud owner of an iPad2. Susie is the Regional Métis Nation of BC Women, Regional Representative for the Northwest.

Susie contacted MNBC to pay respect to us for sending the survey out through the MNBC Distribution back in February. The Minerva Foundation for BC Women invited Aboriginal Organizations to participate in an online survey to identify the needs of Aboriginal women in BC. Through the MNBC’s Distribution of this survey the Foundation received a GREAT response from Métis citizens. Those that completed the online survey by February 29th were entered into a draw to win an iPad2.

Like many other surveys that arrive in our mailbox everyday that most of us don’t take the time or don’t have the time to fill out and submit no matter how they entice you Susie as a Métis Women’s Regional Representative found it to be of some importance and now reaps the benefit of doing so.

We are so pleased that one of our Women Representatives was the lucky winner! Congratulations Susie!
VANCOUVER MÉTIS
COASTAL HEALTH EVENT
A SUCCESS!

MNBC was pleased to have the opportunity to work with Vancouver Coastal Health on a Métis Health and Wellness Event January 28th and 29th at the Blue Horizon in Vancouver.

Minister responsible for Health Lissa Smith welcomed participants from Vancouver, Richmond and Powell River who were treated to amazing views from the 30th floor meeting space. Diana Day and the amazing team at Vancouver Coastal Health brought realms of new information to those that attended the event. Participants had the chance to circulate through health information booths and enjoy many presentations including an informative presentation from Métis Physician, Dr Jay Wortman.

Métis participants enjoyed playing a few games and won prizes and shared some jokes with Gail Parenteau (Regional Health Coordinator/Educator) who shared her Métis Health and Wellness Bingo program. Regional Director and Minister responsible for Language, Culture and Heritage Henry Hall, had a great deal of Métis Artifacts on display that generated great discussion. Lisa Shepherd and the Maple Sugar Jiggers provided banquet entertainment and had the children join in. MNBC's Health Ministry and Vancouver Coastal Health now have strengthened the relationship and have already jointly collaborated on a proposal for Injury Prevention in our Communities. We again would like to thank Diana Day and the staff of VCH for working with us and making it a great success.

Left to Right, Tanya Davoren, MNBC Director for Health and to her left, Diana Day -Leader, Aboriginal Community Development/Engagement - Vancouver Coastal Health

Left to Right, Henry Hall, to his left, Respected Elder, Philip Gladue, standing next to Elder Gladue is Dwayne Gladue.

Photo's taken by Gail Parenteau and Eugene Moore

Article provided by: Tanya Davoren, Director for Health

“MY Big Fat Diet” - Dr Jay Wortman shares his research on the benefits of a land based diet and how a High Fat Low Carb diet best serves all Aboriginal people.
**Is There Funding for My Post Secondary Education?**

Post secondary education and training for Métis people in British Columbia is complicated. Why?

There are two federal government bodies that represent Aboriginal people in Canada, the department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) and the Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians (OFI). AANDC provides post secondary education funding for First Nations and Inuit through the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP). AANDC has two funding programs that provide financial assistance for eligible Status Indian and Inuit students to help offset tuition, travel or living expenses. OFI does not provide any programs comparable to this. MNBC is working with the federal and provincial governments on post secondary education funding that is inclusive of Métis including an endowment fund.

If you are a Métis person in B.C. and need to access funding for post secondary education these are some of your options:

**Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS)**

The ASETS program is delivered through Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and is federally funded. It is designed to help Aboriginal people prepare for and find high-demand jobs quickly, as well as keep them in the long term. All Aboriginal people, regardless of status or location, may access its programs and services.

Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) is an ASETS (previously MHRDA) agreement holder and there are seven (7) regional offices in British Columbia. MNBC employment and training staff work with Métis people to access funding. Funding can be provided at a university to a maximum of 64 weeks therefore the final two years of university are eligible and the first and second year cannot be funded. Funding is unavailable for Masters and Doctorate programs. There is funding for many training programs including apprenticeships and funding is often individual and case-based.

**Aboriginal Learning Links (A Post Secondary Resource) [www.aboriginallearning.ca](http://www.aboriginallearning.ca)**

The Aboriginal Learning Links website was developed by the Aboriginal Post Secondary Education and Training Partners Table and includes many sources of funding for Aboriginal students. It is a one-stop-shop for bursaries, scholarships and awards as well as housing and childcare resources. MNBC was involved in the development of the website and the Aboriginal Student Award for Métis students.

If you are interested in pursuing post secondary education, visit the MNBC website at [www.mnbc.ca](http://www.mnbc.ca) and click on the Employment and Training link to contact the regional office in your community. Watch for education updates at [www.mnbc.ca/education](http://www.mnbc.ca/education).

**MNBC Strives To Connect Métis Communities**

Learning that reflects Métis which is fulsome and meaningful is our priority! This is partly accomplished through partnerships with post secondary institutions in British Columbia. There is a significant Métis population in the West Kootenay Boundary region and MNBC in collaboration with Selkirk College have an overall vision for a broad Protocol or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Métis Nation BC and Selkirk College. The MOU allows for clear, appropriate, and more respectful understanding of the context on which the college could improve learning experiences and service to Métis learners.

The Métis community has been working hard with Selkirk College to accomplish this vision and MNBC Women’s Chair Donna Wright and education advocate, Nelson Métis Community President Bob Adams have been instrumental in making this a reality. The MOU will be celebrated at the opening ceremony for a new Aboriginal Gathering Place in May. Although MNBC plays an important role in policy development for Métis education in B.C. it is truly the Métis communities that influence change and are the stake holders in schools and post secondary institutions.

Métis Nation BC President Bruce Dumont is encouraged by the engagement of the Selkirk College educators and their commitment to promote Métis Culture, language and Heritage within the Kootenay’s at large. The MNBC Education Minister Kim Hodgson and Education Director Colleen Hodgson are instrumental in bringing this MOU to a reality.

Aboriginal Gathering Place Ground Breaking Ceremony

(Bob Adams 3rd from right)
NOBODY’S CHILDREN

In March the Métis National Council held a conference in Saskatchewan, Alberta. MNBC’s Minister Responsible for Elders, Annette Maurice participated as an Advisory Council Member supporting the Métis Nation Residential School, National Dialogue, “Nobody’s Children”.

Ms. Maurice, a former attendee of the Beauval Indian Day School, is a strong advocate for the need to support “Métis-specific” recognition, and healing. In particular the continued exclusion of Ile-a-la-Crosse Boarding School from the list of schools recognized as “Residential Schools”.

The Residential School conference was an important opportunity for both Residential School attendees, as well as those who have been impacted by multi-generational effects to dialogue and shape the Métis National Council’s plan for advocacy and programming to support recognition and healing.

There was consensus at the conference that a second National Dialogue will be pursued in the upcoming year, to move ahead on healing and reconciliation for Métis Citizens.

Ottawa, ON – (April 5, 2012)

Métis National Council President Clément Chartier says that the hurt runs deep. “

The Dialogue included panel sessions on the legacy of exclusion, experiences of Métis residential school attendees, experiences of day school attendees, experiences of Métis covered by the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement and the impacts on family, culture and language as a result of the residential school systems. “We have several generations now that require healing, the residential school system has scarred our Nation and the time has come for us to address these issues and feelings that we have been suppressing for so long,” states President Chartier.

In the Constitution Act 1867, the federal government only recognized its responsibility for two of the three Aboriginal Peoples leaving the Métis Nation in jurisdictional limbo bouncing between the federal and provincial governments – the Métis were ‘Nobody’s Children’, a position the Métis Nation finds itself in even today.

“In the end it doesn’t matter who funded these schools that were full of thousands of Métis children. The policy set out to extinguish our culture, language and beliefs while torturing the adolescents out of us through physical, sexual, emotional and psychological abuse was as real for us as it was for the survivors of the Indian Residential Schools that Canada recognizes and takes responsibility for,” explains President Chartier. “This Dialogue gave us the strength to move forward as a Nation and to find our way through this damaging part of our existence. I am confident that we come out of this a stronger, more unified and caring Nation for our future generations.”

Three primary outcomes emerged from the Dialogue: a working list of Métis residential, boarding and day schools that were attended by the Dialogue attendees which will be added to as more schools are identified; the stories of several Métis survivors which have been recorded on video for historical purposes; and lastly, that second conference will be held within the next year to continue the healing process and determine what the next steps are for the Métis Nation in resolving the outstanding issues of Métis residential, boarding and day schools.

Article by Victoria Pruden and excerpt provided from MNC news release April 5/12.
What’s in your wallet???

MNBC Citizenship & Registry

The Métis Nation BC Central Registry is pleased to announce there are approximately seven thousand (7000) Citizenship cards issued to date.

The current application trend is family members of existing Citizens submitting applications for the provincially issued Métis Identification card as well as first time applicants.

The upcoming September 2012 Provincial Election is a great opportunity for Métis in the province to participate in the electoral/governance process.

Individuals wishing to run and or vote in the fall election are required to hold a valid Citizenship card.

To ensure your eligibility to run and or vote in the election please contact the Central Registry to confirm your card is valid, to renew or request an application package to fill out and submit for processing for a Citizenship card.

The Central Registry can be reached at 1-800-940-1150.

MNBC Citizenship Card

Commonly Issued Community Membership Card

Do you know the difference between the MNBC Citizenship Card and the commonly issued Membership Card? Contact the MNBC Central Registry at 1-800-940-1150 to confirm.
### Governance & Rights Facts At A Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal &amp; Provincial Government Recognition as official Métis Identification Registry in BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powley compliant Métis Identification Registry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powley compliant Métis Harvester Registry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governing Legislation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognized governing member of Métis National Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seat on the National Métis Rights Panel (Métis National Council)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seat on the National Métis Environment Committee (Métis National Council)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Métis Citizen & Harvester Facts At A Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No fee for Citizenship or Harvester cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five year annual renewal process to keep our Citizens &amp; Harvesters files current</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Citizenship or Harvester card renewal fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secure tamper proof Citizenship &amp; Harvester cards, not laminated cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff dedicated to Registry department &amp; available during regular office hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens five years of age and under are eligible to receive children’s books free of charge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to services and programs such as Blade Runners, Culinary Arts Program &amp; Education and Training funding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in governance &amp; electoral processes available to all registered Citizens of eligible age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in annual Harvester Survey to forward Métis Rights in the province of BC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
With Spring coming on strong in most areas of British Columbia, this is a time when many organizations that deal with public governments are very busy either closing out the last fiscal year, or finalizing operational plans for the new fiscal year. Métis Nation British Columbia is very much like these other organizations, particularly non-profit, and we are doing all that and more.

We continue to take the steps necessary to address our financial challenges, and while some of the steps are easier than others, steps are being taken nonetheless and progress is being made. Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Karen Nagra and I have put in place certain financial management and accounting controls to increase our ability to manage the day to day operations of this $12 million organization, and we have implemented operational efficiencies to reduce the overall costs of running day to day operations. Thanks to additional funding from the Office of the Federal Interlocutor the CFO has been able to add a couple of essential positions to her finance team which has been a big help as we prepare for year-end audit work and keep up with all the other financial demands.

As I reported in the last newsletter, our property on Simpson Road was put on the market in January of this year and we have received an offer and the sale is pending. If things unfold as we would like, the property will be sold and we will be into new offices by mid-summer. The new offices will be affordable and functional. An actual location for our new offices has not yet been determined.

There have been some staff changes. We are currently looking to hire a new Director of Natural Resources, and a new Consultation Coordinator. Information about both of these positions have been posted on our website, deadline is April 27/12. We have already received some applications and are looking forward to selecting the successful candidates. These are both important positions within our organization, especially given the number of new mining and oil and gas related projects in British Columbia. In other areas of operations, subject to the availability of funds this fiscal year, we will be looking at adding staff positions in the areas of youth and economic development.

I’m pleased to tell you that for the first time in many years we will be holding regional information sessions in some regions in May and June, and then in all regions later this Fall. This will be an excellent opportunity for senior staff and the President to meet with Métis citizens, hear your concerns, and provide as much information to you as possible on various initiatives and activities. Locations and dates for the regional sessions will be posted very soon on our website.

My thanks to the President /CEO Bruce Dumont and the Board of Directors for their continuing support of the decisions that the Chief Financial Officer and I must make on a daily basis, and my thanks and appreciation to the MNBC staff throughout British Columbia who are working hard on behalf of Métis citizens every day.

Dale Drown, CAE
Executive Director
Métis Nation British Columbia
Our Vision

To build a proud, self-governing, sustainable Nation in recognition of inherent Rights for our Métis Citizens.

Our Mandate:

To develop and enhance opportunities for our Métis communities by implementing culturally relevant social and economic programs and services through Teamwork, Respect, Dedication, Accountability, Integrity and Professionalism.

Do you have a community story, personal achievement or maybe a traditional Métis recipe for our “Community Spotlight” that you would like to see in our next issue? Contact me at traceyt@mnbc.ca or call 1.800.940.1150 ext. 231. I would love to hear from you!

If you or someone you know would like to be a MNBC Mail Subscriber log onto our website www.mnbc.ca and click onto Mail Subscriber on the homepage in the top right corner http://mnbc.ca/forms/subscriber.asp

Looking to support Métis owned and operated businesses or have yours listed? Check out our MNBC Métis Business Directory on our website at http://mnbc.ca/contact/business_directory.asp or email traceyt@mnbc.ca