



Profiling the impact of Métis labour force development programming

Métis Works

Lii Michif aashpaymoohk • Believe in Métis



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Métis Nation Economic Development Forum in Winnipeg, Manitoba, January 13-14, 2009.

Métis National Council hosts Economic Development Forum

Unveils Métis Nation Economic Stimulus Proposal

WINNIPEG, MB - Métis leaders, officials, business people and entrepreneurs from across the Métis homeland gathered in Winnipeg on January 13-14, 2009 for the Métis Nation Economic Development Forum. Métis National Council President Clément Chartier was joined by Manitoba Premier Gary Doer and Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand to open the forum.

“The Métis Nation has made significant strides in building our communities economic strength over the last 2 decades,” said Métis National Council President Clément Chartier. “It’s vital we continue this work to ensure our gains don’t unravel during the current global economic downturn.”

Over 2 days of meetings and workshops, participants discussed both long and short term opportuni-

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– Clément Chartier
MNC President

ties for economic development in Métis communities in relation to the new Federal framework for Aboriginal economic development.

Among the issues discussed were the renewal of Métis Human Resources Development Agreements (MHRDA), creating education and training opportunities for Métis students and strengthening financial institutions such as the Métis Capital Corporations.

The forum also included a discussion on the Métis Nation Economic Stimulus Proposal. The proposal was requested by Prime Minister Stephen Harper for consideration in the 2009 Federal Budget, and was also discussed at the First Ministers Meeting with the leaders of the National Aboriginal Organizations on Jan. 15, 2009 in Ottawa, ON.

“This stimulus package includes Métis-specific initiatives and

approaches to ensure that Métis Nation citizens continue to contribute meaningfully and take a proactive role in Canada's economic future," said David Chartrand, MNC Vice-president and Minister of Social Development. "The steps we take towards improving the lives of Métis today will benefit all Canadians in the future."

"Citizens of the Métis Nation are a vital part of Canada's economy; as workers, consumers, investors, business owners, entrepreneurs and tax-payers," says Chartier. "The Métis Nation Economic Stimulus Proposal won't just help Métis, it will benefit all Canadians."

The comprehensive stimulus plan outlines various projects and initiatives geared towards stimulating

economic growth in Métis communities, improving Métis housing, providing job training for Métis workers and fostering Métis participation in Canada's natural resources sector.

"Métis were among the last to share in the boom of the past decade, but are now some of the first to feel the effects of the downturn," said President Chartier. "The Métis Nation Economic Stimulus Proposal offers the federal government many constructive investment opportunities to mitigate hardship in Métis communities and create a more secure economy for all Canadians."

While not specifically mentioned in the 2009 Federal Budget, the Métis National Council hopes to forge ahead with many of the stimu-

lus proposals. The MNC, working with Federal Interlocutor for Métis, Minister Chuck Strahl, will attempt to identify opportunities to capitalize on programs and funding as part of Canada's Economic Action Plan.

"My office has received some preliminary assurances from the government that elements of our Métis Nation Economic Stimulus Proposal can be addressed both within and outside the budget but I will be seeking clarification from the Prime Minister on where specifically we will access stimulus funding," said Chartier.



MNC President Clément Chartier (left), Premier of Manitoba Gary Doer (center) and Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand.



Métis Nation Economic Development Good for Canadian Economy

Opportunities Available Through Métis Nation Protocol

OTTAWA, ON - Métis National Council (MNC) President Clément Chartier is continuing his work with the Conservative government to ensure Métis have full access to economic development opportunities in Canada, and for the Métis Nation to have a meaningful role in mapping out Canada's economic future.

"When Métis people have access to economic development, it doesn't just benefit the Métis Nation, it benefits the entire Canadian economy," said President Chartier. "I hope the Conservative government is sincere in its commitment to ensure Aboriginal people fully share in economic opportunities."

Chartier said economic development is a top priority for the MNC. It

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The Métis Nation Protocol represents an opportunity to build a strong and collaborative partnership between the Métis National Council, its provincial Governing Members and the Federal Government

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– Clément Chartier
MNC President

is one of several important issues to be addressed through the implementation of the Métis Nation Protocol.

The Protocol was signed in Sept. 2008 by President Chartier and Minister Chuck Strahl, Federal Interlocutor for Métis. It commits the Federal Government to bilateral discussions with the MNC and opens the door for multilateral talks between the MNC and its Governing Members, the Government of Canada and Provincial governments from Ontario Westward.

"This agreement marks a significant turning point in Canada's relationship with Métis in Canada," said Minister Strahl, just after signing the Protocol. "It ushers in a new era of open dialogue between the federal government and the Métis National



MNC President Clément Chartier (left) meets with Minister Chuck Strahl, Interlocutor for Métis (right) in September 2008.

Council, one that I believe will lead to constructive change and improvement in the lives of all Métis."

"This protocol is the result of several months of productive discussions between the Federal Government and the Métis National Council," said President Chartier. "If we can keep this momentum going in the coming months, and years, it could lead to a real breakthrough with some substantial improvements to the lives of Métis people in Canada."

The protocol work continued with a meeting later in the year between Minister Strahl, President Chartier, and officials from both the MNC and Federal Government. It was the first in a series of bilateral discussions. In addition to establishing time lines for future discussions, the meeting focused on identifying a number of priority areas important to the Métis Nation, including war veteran

issues, Métis former students of the residential school system and economic development.

"The Métis Nation Protocol represents an opportunity to build a strong and collaborative partnership between the Métis National Council, its provincial Governing Members and the Federal Government," said Clément Chartier. "This meeting was a productive and encouraging first step towards realizing this goal, and securing a prosperous future for the Métis Nation. Through our work with Minister Strahl, I am confident the MNC will show how an investment in the Métis is an investment in Canada."

"The MNC is committed to making sure Métis veterans receive the benefits they've earned and deserve," said David Chartrand, MNC Vice-President. "We want to ensure our veterans' courageous service and sacrifice for their coun-

try is always recognized."

The MNC intends to utilize the Métis Nation Protocol process to ensure Métis Nation citizens have access to economic development opportunities during the current global economic recession.

"The Métis National Council is well aware of the difficulties facing the Canadian economy," said President Chartier. "Through our work with the Métis Nation Protocol, we can ensure the Métis are full partners in building and securing Canada's economic well-being."

The next bilateral meeting between President Chartier and Minister Strahl is expected to take place in early 2009. Check the MNC website at www.metisnation.ca for frequent updates on progress in implementing the Métis Nation Protocol.



A MESSAGE FROM THE
 MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
DAVID CHARTRAND

The Métis Nation is very proud of its success in providing skills development and employment opportunities for Métis people. This publication offers a small peek into the true impacts of the Métis labour force development programming by profiling success stories of clients, communities and delivery institutions.

Established in 1999 as part of Canada's Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy, Métis Human Resources Development Agreements (MHRDAs) provide funding from HRSDC to Métis governments and educational institutions so they can deliver Métis-specific job training and skills development programs to the tune of about \$50 million annually. MHRDAs – namely the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC); Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA); Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI); Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF); and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) – have a proven record of innovation and achieved results. These Métis government delivered programs have demonstrated unqualified success in helping tens of thousands of Métis become competitive and productive members of Canada's workforce.

MHRDA programs and services help ensure Métis people are able to

be full participants in Canada's economy: as workers, employers and taxpayers. Recently the Métis National Council commissioned an independent study by the Centre for the Study on Living Standards. This study, entitled *A Review of the Potential Impacts of Métis Human Resources Development Agreements in Canada*, indicates that MHRDA programs will help boost federal tax revenues from Métis workers from the present \$3 billion to well over \$20 billion within the next 20 years. The study also concludes that the fiscal benefits of Métis Nation delivered job training and employment programs far outweigh the costs to the federal government.

The Métis population in Canada is growing fast and will play an increasingly important role in Canada's workforce. It is imperative that Métis governments continue to play a significant role in facilitating pre-employment essential skills development, post-secondary supports, apprenticeships and work experience opportunities. We are helping industry meet labour requirements by linking Métis people to jobs and by creating employment results through strategic collaborations.

The current federal strategy is

due to sunset on March 31, 2010. As we take the next steps in the partnership between Canada and the Métis Nation, I would like to acknowledge the history of our relationship. Following the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples report and the subsequent response, *Gathering Strength: Canada's Aboriginal Action Plan*, the federal government understood the vision of a nation-to-nation relationship. This relationship was established in the 1990s when we first negotiated the process into reality. The Métis Nation is a strong advocate for MHRDAs and we will continue to work with our federal partners on a successor strategy that builds on the foundation we have worked tirelessly at creating.

As the Minister of Social Development, I would like to recognize the contribution of the Métis National Council and MHRDAs in the creation of this publication. It is an opportunity for us to celebrate achievements and to raise awareness among potential partners including employers, governments, unions, industry associations and learning institutions. It is my honour to share some of our stories with you and hope you enjoy the publication.



A MESSAGE FROM THE
 MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
The Hon. DIANE FINLEY, P.C., M.P.

As Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, I want to extend my congratulations to all the Métis Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement holders profiled in *Métis Works*. The publication recognizes the outstanding achievements of Métis people in Canada and provides a collective opportunity to take pride in the accomplishments that make a difference in the lives of the Métis people across this land.

These stories have shown your dedication to promoting and retaining the cultural, economic, educational and social development knowledge of Métis people in the country. You are not only imparting the history and values of your culture for future generations of Métis

people, but your achievements are an inspiration to other Métis people living across Canada.

Over the years we have collaborated to realize greater responsibility for Métis communities in labour market development. Our government knows that, as a country, we are linked one citizen to another and one community to another. In these difficult economic times, we are determined to reach out to Aboriginal Canadians to help them develop new skills, or move into a new career.

Canada's Economic Action Plan aims to create more and better opportunities for Aboriginal and Métis people by investing an additional \$75 million in the Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund. This fund will help to

strengthen partnerships between qualifying Aboriginal employment services organizations and employers by linking training to market needs and real employment opportunities.

Congratulations for your many successes. With this publication your passion is being recognized by your peers and celebrated by Métis people in Canada.

I wish you continued success.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon. Diane Finley
 P.C., M.P.

Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development

“In the face of the ongoing skills shortages and the current economic situation, the performance of our training program is **more important than ever.**”

Métis Nation BRITISH COLUMBIA

On behalf of the Métis Nation British Columbia I want to congratulate each of the successful Métis students from across the homeland and commend all of our Métis Employment programs. With this vital service delivered from our Nation, we are making a difference for Métis and their families by supporting them into sustainable careers.

Métis workers have a large range of job options open to them but often lacked the certified training to obtain them. The MNBC recognized the importance of addressing skills shortages to ensure the sustainability of the Métis people and Canadian business in years to come. The MNBC boasts a highly successful Employment and Training program, and has aptly trained and helped to employ hundreds of people every year since 1999. Though our funding level has not increased since 1999, and costs for delivery and instruction continue to rise, MNBC has been meeting some of these challenges by increasing our delivery effectiveness and seeking out partners to enhance our ability to service the Métis clients to build a stronger, more highly skilled workforce and reduce skills shortages.

In the face of the ongoing skills shortages and the current economic situation, the performance of our training program is more important than ever. The MNBC has delivered a range of innovative training strategies to develop the skills of the workforce, particularly for industries experiencing skills shortages. In coming years, the MNBC will continue to build and consider new approaches to developing the skills of BC's Métis workforce.

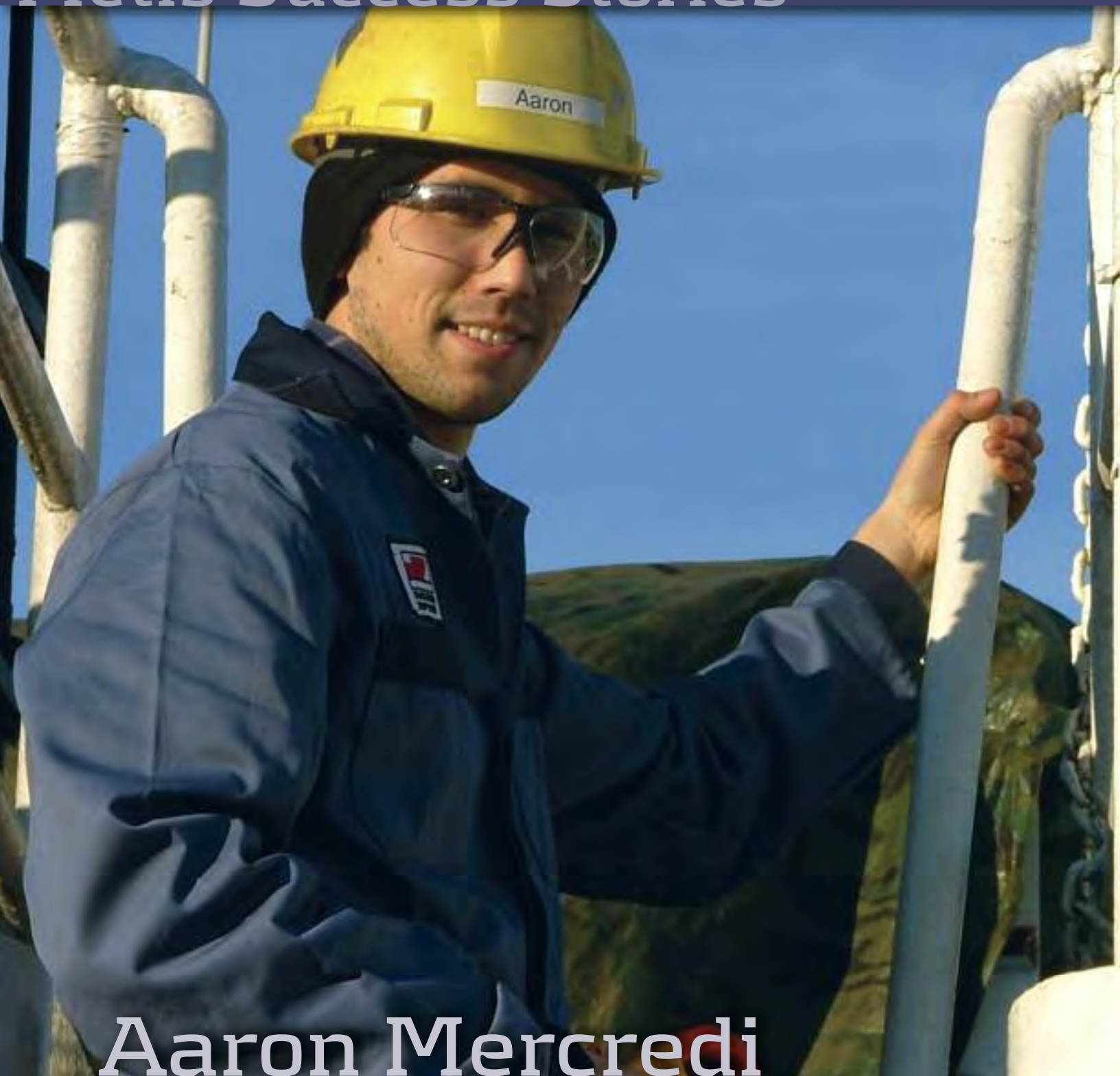
I thank all of the staff throughout the province for their dedication and diligence in making this program such a success. With the tremendous support of the communities, our industry partners, and especially the hard work of the students who have made us so very proud this past ten years, we say thank you.



David R. Hodgson

*Vice-President, Métis Nation-BC
Minister - Employment & Training*

Métis Success Stories



Aaron Mercredi

In the fall of 2007, I entered an Electrical Entry Level Trades Training (ELTT) program through the Electrical Joint Training Committee, a joint project of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 213 and the Electrical Contractors Association of BC. It was a program that I had planned on going through for some time, but had lacked the funds to go to school full-time and to be able to survive financially. The Métis Skills and Employment Centre provided me with a schol-

arship that covered my tuition, books, living allowance and even some tools for the trade. After school, I joined the union and was accepted for an apprenticeship at Vancouver Shipyards, where I am going through my apprenticeship as a Marine Electrician. I am now in my second year and would like to thank the Métis Employment & Training staff, especially Colleen Rose, for helping me to get started in this field and assisting me with turning my plan into a reality.



Métis Skills and Employment Centre

The Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) has seized an opportunity for Aboriginal people; the hot construction market in BC and the Lower Mainland. The combination of record-low vacancy rates, the Olympics, mega-projects and ongoing general Labour market need, indicates that the construction market in BC is the place to find sustainable career work.

The Métis Skills and Employment Centre in Abbotsford BC. delivers Essential Skills and TOWES Testing, math tutoring, Carpentry Level 1 and 2, Safety Certification, Forklift Certification, Traffic Control, and CORE Training (entry to trades). The centre is designed to be a flexible training institution that follows the changing job market.

Over the past three years over 150 students have accessed training through MSEC. Many have been apprentices, inmates from various correctional facilities, students

referred through partners and Métis communities, as well as First Nations, and members of the Christian Labour Association of Canada.

The overall focus has been on trades thus far, but plans for expansion include; Residential Care Aid, Red Seal Chef Training (Instructed By Chef Andrew George), All levels of Carpentry Apprenticeship, Levels 1-4, Early Childcare Education, Essential Skills Learning Centre, Oil and Gas Training and other courses both short and longer term. Through the expansion, MSEC will continue to be open to all, however all programs will always be inclusive of Aboriginal cultural ideals.

It is important to address the needs of all British Columbians in today's economy. Now more than ever we need to provide programs and services that enhance people's skill sets, and need to look at new ways of providing programs that will lead to careers not just jobs.

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Over the past three years over 150 students have accessed training through MSEC.

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Kim Patten completed the Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures (MNBC/ACCESS) which lead her to CN Rail Conductor pre-employment program and a career with CN Rail.



Monique Courcelles completed a Human Service Worker Certificate at the College of the Rockies

Career gets back on the rails

I graduated from the Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures (MNBC/ACCESS), a 6 week pre-employment program which gave me the Essential Skills needed for an interview with CN Rail. The program also gave me pre-preparation skills for a further 5-6 weeks of training with CN Rail.

I have had all kinds of jobs over the years but never really had a career, let alone anything that closely resembled one with the railway system. Even though I knew absolutely nothing regarding the railway system, at the very last possible minute, I decided to jump in with both feet. The CN Rail Conductor pre-employment program gave me skills that were specific to CN Rail and were needed to obtain an interview with CN Rail. Upon completing the CN Rail recruitment process combined with tons of patience, lo and behold, I have now obtained a career.

Had I not chosen to jump in with

both feet I would have still been in a limbo mode wondering what I was going to do for the rest of my life.

Many thanks need to go the individuals who have given me support, encouragement, fun and laughter throughout the whole process. These individuals are: Darcie Petuh, Marlin Ratch and Malonie Langthorne from MNBC; Dian Patterson, Donna Barron, Roxane Alec, Cori Thunderchild and our faithful instructor, Grant Alphonse from Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures, Francesca Debastiani of Service Canada, Kyle - our signal instructor and of course, Stephanie and Fran from CN Rail and all the powers that be, behind the scenes. This team of individuals did an amazing job of presenting the program and ensuring there were successes such as mine. For that, I give them my wholehearted thank you and appreciation as well as a lifelong commitment.

Success Stories

Prior to taking my Human Service Worker training at College of the Rockies in Cranbrook, I was living pay cheque to pay cheque trying to make ends meet. I went to the Métis Nation BC-Kootenay Region Office to access the services within MHRDA.

I knew that I had very good interpersonal skills and was driven to help people and make a difference in people's lives. I was then able to apply for assistance so I could go to college and have supports in place.

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With the resources available I was able to meet my goals. Now I am able to assist those that require support and it is most rewarding as an individual because I can give back to clients.”

With the resources available I was able to meet my goals. Now I am able to assist those that require support and it is most rewarding as an individual because I can give back to clients. I was able to find employment before graduating the Human Service Worker program with three casual positions, one as a Residential Care Aide and the other two as a Human Service Worker.



Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures

The Métis Nation BC and Aboriginal Community Careers Employment Services Society (ACCESS) formed a partnership to develop a strategy to use the Essential Skills ideas in each partner's service delivery. Our staff have been doing major training over the last three years.

The end result of this strategy is the new Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures Program (ESAF), or as several of us have nicknamed it, 'the lab'.

The ESAF program's vision is to deliver an innovative Essential Skills Training program to the Aboriginal Community through employer partnerships and customized training that supports employment success and retention. Instructors provide customized essential skills training using authentic workplace resources that are specific to the learners' needs based on their evaluation of current base Essential Skills levels.

ESAF works closely with the partnering employer from the start.

“ Our staff have been doing major training over the last three years. The end result of this strategy is the new Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures Program or as several of us have nicknamed it, 'the lab'.

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Representatives from employer conduct on-site mini-interviews with learners to identify individual career ambitions, availability, and flexibility in scheduling. In addition, they may act as guest speakers and provide some job shadow opportunities.

This partnership exposes learners to a real view of workplace, company expectations and opportunities for future career development with the employer.

The ESAF team determines specific job requirements and levels of complexity needed to perform the tasks that the job requires. The instructors work with participants to enhance their essential skills levels

to meet the job requirements.

Finally, each learner interviews for a specific entry-level position with the employer. After hiring, the ESAF Team provides a Workplace Skills Coach that works with both the learner and employer to provide ongoing support. This model ensures that the employer and new employee are supported and participants remain successfully employed.

Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures program

An ACCESS/MNBC partnership
735 Carnarvon Street
New Westminster, BC.



Karie Laboucan

Teacher On Call

I was born and raised in Kelowna, B.C., and still live there today. After graduating high school I knew I wanted a higher education, but could not decide what to take. At the age of 25, my love for children finally led me to decide I wanted to become a teacher. It was a very big decision, considering an elementary teaching degree would take 5 years of dedication and 5 years without a steady income. The first 3 years of university went towards building up enough credits to get into the Education program and the last 2 years focused on me becoming a teacher.

Being a “mature student”, I had little financial support and needed to seek other means. I applied for, and received, student loans for all five years of my education, which covered tuition, books and some living expenses, but it wasn’t enough to survive for a whole school-year.

With MNBC’s support, I graduated from the Education Program in 2006, achieving the Dean’s List my last two years. I was part of the first graduating class of UBC. I become employed by School District 23 in 2006, as a Teacher On Call (TOC).

I am very thankful to the Métis Nation for helping me achieve my goals. Applying for the funding also helped me become more educated about my heritage and interested in learning about Métis culture.



Jason Paige

Project Manager Estimator

I was fortunate enough to be selected as a recipient for educational funding. Had my application for funding been rejected I certainly would not have reached my educational goals.

The funding that I received allowed me to manage my time and focus on my studies. Because of this luxury I graduated with a high grade point average, and was selected to attend the Skills Canada BC competition, where only the top 2-3% of students in their field compete against one another.

“The funding that I received allowed me to manage my time and focus on my studies.”

Throughout my career with Acres Enterprises Ltd. I have continued to excel and quickly climbed the corporate ladder. I began working as a field employee, later moved into an assistance estimator position and from there was quickly promoted to assistant project manager.

Today, I am responsible to accurately estimate, manage and bring several million dollar projects to a successful completion.

I am writing this testimonial to recognize the Métis contribution to my ongoing success, and more so, to thank you for the support I received.



Elaine Shawara

Registered Nurse

When I was accepted into the Nursing Program in 2001, I soon realized the next four years were going to be demanding; both academically and financially. I attended the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George and in 2006, I received my Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Growing up, I knew very little about my Métis Heritage. I was in my twenties when I decided to return to school, and thought the only way to complete my post secondary education was through years of student loans. The Métis played a significant part in my educational journey, allowing me to obtain many of the necessary elements required to complete my Nursing Degree. Financial assistance for tuition and books ensured I was prepared to meet my academic commitments throughout my training, not only inside the classroom, but in the hospital environment.

Since graduation in 2006, I have been employed as a full-time Registered Nurse. I enjoy working in the Nursing profession, and hope to further my education in this field in the future. The Métis provided an excellent opportunity, and I am grateful for the support that was provided over the years, encouraging me to reach my goals.

**“Since 1999, over 6,000 Métis have found jobs
as a result of labour market programs offered by the MNA and overall close to
80% of our clients find employment.”**

Métis Nation of **ALBERTA**

In Alberta, Métis people have made huge strides in improving their employment prospects in recent years. This is due in no small part to the Government of Canada’s Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy (AHRDS), which is predicated on devolving responsibility for the management and delivery of Aboriginal labour market development programs to the Aboriginal peoples of Canada themselves.

The Métis Nation of Alberta has taken this responsibility very seriously. We have set in place a suite of employment and training programs and extended their delivery across the province, through such innovations as a Mobile Métis Employment Services Unit. We have taken the lead in developing partnerships with industry, particularly in the oil and gas sector, and with post-secondary institutions to ensure that Métis obtain training for jobs required by the Alberta economy.

The MNA has also taken the lead in improving the accountability framework of the AHRDS. The KETO web-based case management system, which the MNA Labour Market Development unit has developed, has enabled us to eliminate errors in data uploaded to Human Resources Development Canada (HRSDC) and is now being extended to other Aboriginal organizations. The MNA wants to continue to work with HRSDC to improve the quality and integrity of the results data under federal labour market programs. Since 1999,

over 6,000 Métis have found jobs as a result of labour market programs offered by the MNA and overall close to 80% of our clients find employment. Despite this success, Métis unemployment rates continue to be twice as high as other Albertans and promises to increase once again with the onset of a global recession. Down the road a few years, Canada will experience serious labour shortages as the baby boom generation enters retirement years, shortages which First Nations, Métis and Inuit people can help attenuate, provided we act now to provide them with training and qualifications to contribute fully to the Canadian economy.

On behalf of the Métis Nation of Alberta, I wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Canada for the confidence it has shown in us in devolving responsibility for delivering labour market programs to our people. However, we cannot stop now. We look forward to working with the Government of Canada to renew and improve its Aboriginal labour market development strategies – for the good of our people and for the good of Canada.



Karen Collins

*Minister of Training & Economic Development
Métis Nation of Alberta*



Accent on Métis Youth

With over 50% of the Métis population under the age of 25 it is not surprising that the majority of MNA labour market clients are under 30. MNA Labour Market Development provides programs specifically targeted at our young people with funding under the youth component of the MHRDA.

In 2005, MNA Labour Market Development launched the Alberta Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards to recognize First Nations, Métis and Inuit youth whose achievements in the fields of academics, sports, culture and community service make them role

models for youth throughout the province. With contributions from corporate and other donors, the awards are presented at a Gala Event every spring.

The March 2008 Gala was held at the Francis Winspear Centre for Music in Edmonton and brought together more than 1,100 people from across Alberta and Canada, including dignitaries and community leaders, to recognize 16 dedicated young Aboriginal people. The event was hosted by Adam Beach and featured top-notch entertainment, rivaling the success of the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards.



A Recognized Success

The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) represents the largest and one of the fastest growing Métis constituencies in all of Canada. In 2006, over 85,000 Albertans identified as Métis, a 29% increase over 2001 Census counts.

The MNA is also the oldest Métis representative organization in Canada, dating back to 1928. It was instrumental in having the Province set aside land for the Métis settlements in 1938. Alberta remains the only province where Métis have a land base. The MNA's labour market development programs are a recognized success. The MNA has been operating labour market development programs, under agreement

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Since 1996, Métis unemployment rates in Alberta have dropped from 18% to 7.9% as of August 2008

- Labour Force Survey

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with Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC) since 1996. In that period of time, Métis unemployment rates in Alberta have dropped from 18% to 7.9% as of August 2008 (Labour Force Survey).

MNA investments in skills development of Métis people have played a significant part in this success. Since 1999, over 6000 Métis whose training has been funded by the MNA have found employment in Alberta. They accounted for over 15% of all Métis employed in Alberta as of August 2008.

The MNA's experience with delivering labour market programs to Métis people in Alberta will be

INNOVATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY



A Métis Nation of Alberta MOBILE UNIT visiting rural and remote communities distant from MES sites on a regular basis.

The Mobile Unit is a modified RV, equipped with satellite feed and other equipment, that allows the MNA to provide a full range of labour market program services on site. The wheel-chair accessible Mobile MES was baptized the “Coureur-de-bois” and is equipped with Internet access, three client computer workstations and an employment counselling office. Shell Canada generously agreed to contribute \$15,000 towards fuel cost for the vehicle in 2007-08.

needed more than ever as unemployment rises due to the global economic recession. The MNA can contribute to ensuring that Canada emerges from this recession stronger than ever by enabling Métis (one of the fastest growing segments of Canada’s population) to meet the labour market needs of the future.

MNA Labour Market Development has deployed client services to reach Métis through out the province. Improving access to labour market programs is one of the prime objectives of the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy and MNA Labour Market Development has taken a number of steps

to ensure that services are provided to Métis throughout the Province:

Fifteen Métis Employment Services (MES) offices have been established throughout Alberta, Lac La Biche, Conklin, Bonnyville, Calgary, Lethbridge, Slave Lake, High Prairie, Peace River, Red Deer, Medicine Hat, Edmonton, Whitecourt, Hinton, Grande Prairie and High Level. Clients are served as close to their community as possible.

Each MES office acts as an employment centre where employers advertise job openings and clients are assisted with resume writing, interview tips and helped with selling their marketable skills. Each MES office also has counsel-

lors on hand who help clients develop Action Plans and to think systematically about the skills enhancements needed to achieve their occupational goals.

MES staff build relationships with agencies and institutions in the community to support the needs of their clients, who may be referred to these agencies if need be. MES offices process client applications for funding to realize their educational needs as identified in Action Plans.

Programs That Work

Through its network of MES offices, MNA Labour Market Development provides a range of skills development and employment assistance programs that assist Métis prepare for, find and keep employment. Anywhere from 800 to 1200 Métis receive funding assistance every year to pursue training and employment opportunities through the MNA MHRDA. This has made a tremendous difference in employment outcomes for thousands of our people. Here are a few of their stories:



**Jennifer
Lamouche**

I completed my Métis Day Home Project training in November 2007. When the time came that I needed to get a job, my heart sank. I don't want to be away from my children. Will I find care for my children? Can I afford childcare? Then I found out about the Métis Day home project. I would be able to stay home with my children and wouldn't have to travel. I want to thank Métis Employment Services and the wonderful staff in High Prairie. I would not be where I am if it wasn't for everyone's help. I am running a day home through Safe Haven Day Home and being able to be home with my two girls. Thank you.



**Barry
Flett**

I received assistance from Métis Employment Services in High Prairie to attend the Oil and Gas Process Operator course that was funded by the Labour Market Development program. Since completion of my course I have gained employment with Penn West Energy Trust. I wish to continue with this chosen field of employment and gain more training as needed. A very big thank you for the funding and support that was given to me throughout my training.



**Angela
Perrault**

My name is Angela Perreault and I am a current graduate of the Chemical Technology program offered through NAIT. With the help of the Métis Nation of Alberta I was able to complete my final year of studies and further my career in the forensics and oil and gas industries. Because of that help, I've recently found employment with Gibson's Energy. I am very thankful for what the Métis Nation of Alberta did for me to help me reach my goals, and I am proud to have made my dreams a reality. Thank you for everything.



Skye Garnier

I attended Reeves College in Lloydminster Alberta in 2006, looking to complete the Business Administrative Management course on December 8th, but finished early on November 3rd. I did very well in my course. So many thanks to the Métis Nation of Alberta for funding me throughout the duration of this course. Because of the support you gave to me, I was able to accomplish my career goal. I am now the manager of a lounge, and I am loving my job. Being a manager has its challenges, but I feel that thanks to the education I received at Reeves, combined with the person I am, I can handle anything I set my mind to. Thanks again.



James McNeil

I was looking for help to attend trade school for the steamfitter/pipefitter trade. Looking through the Otipemisiwak magazine, I came across references to Métis Employment Services. I hoped they would be able to help me with funding information, and made an appointment. The staff answered all my questions, gave me computer access and sponsorship information. In the end, I received funding from their sponsorship program for my first year of studies. I attended NAIT at the Patricia Campus in Edmonton, and received top marks. I am now employed as an Apprentice Steamfitter/Pipefitter.



Marc Pioron

I have recently graduated from Petroleum Engineering Technology with the financial help of the Métis Nation of Alberta. I recommend that anyone who is Métis take the same steps I have. I cannot stress enough how helpful my counsellor Laura Waniandy was with taking care of any issues or questions I had. Through the training that I received, I managed to receive a job with Shell International. I will be trained as a Drilling Foreman, the very job I went to school for. I would like to thank anyone involved in the process of me finishing the program and helping towards a better future for my family and myself.

Committed to Professionalism

The MNA has taken an approach to the management of its MHRDA that emphasizes professionalism and accountability.

Since 2004, MNA Labour Market Development has striven to achieve the goals and objectives set out in a Business Plan. Most of these planning goals have been realized. Among the most important objectives set out in the Business Plan was to improve the reliability of the results data reported to HRSDC.

As a first step in meeting its Client Data Integrity objectives, MNA Labour Market Development invested in developing a new case management software to replace the troublesome program that was in use up to that point. The new software, called KETO, is web-based and builds upon an earlier program (AROSuite) that had been under development by HRSDC. KETO is now operational within MNA Labour Market Development and within its first few months of operation

enabled the MNA to upload error-free data to HRSDC for the first time, exceeding error-free targets set in the LMD Business Plan by over a year. KETO is now being made available on a commercial basis to other AHRDA holders.

KETO Data Systems has been separately incorporated to ensure a business-like approach to further development of the initiative. Six AHRDA groups located across Canada are now using KETO.

MNA Labour Market Development produces a strategic plan on a five-year cycle based on community consultations and client input. The latest strategic planning consultations were undertaken in the fall of 2008. Community meetings were held throughout the province with a final two-day planning session in Edmonton in November 2008. This strategic planning exercise will result in a new Business Plan, changes to programs and operating manuals and more focussed strate-

gic investments.

MNA Labour Market Development has also taken a unique approach to dealing with persons with disabilities. The MNA has created services specifically designed for Métis persons with disabilities with a view to identifying needs in terms of enabling them to improve their employment prospects and providing them with the assistance required to meet these needs. The program was included in an independent evaluation commissioned by HRSDC and was cited as a “best practice” by the evaluators.

The Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy (AHRDS) was put into place to improve labour market outcomes for Aboriginal people. This has enabled the MNA to make things happen for the Métis people of Alberta through more employment, by building for the future and by fostering partnership and innovation to “Get Ahead of the Future.”





MNA President Audrey Poitras (right) presents MNA's contribution to create a \$750,000 Métis Endowment Fund at NorQuest College in Edmonton in August 2008.

Partnership Success

Partnerships are the keystone to success and MNA Labour Market Development has led the way in establishing partnerships with the corporate community and post-secondary institutions in Alberta. It has partnered with firms like EnCana and Trinidad to train clients for the oil and gas industry.

It has entered into Memorandums of Agreement with the University of Alberta, Grant MacEwan College, NorQuest College and the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) that commit us to work together on a variety of projects - a Métis Centre of Excellence with the University of Alberta, a Business Management program with Grant MacEwan and an Essential Skills program with NorQuest College. The MNA expects to enter into similar MOU arrangements with other post-secondary institutions throughout Alberta in the near future.

The MNA was a major partner with the Government of Alberta, industry and other AHRDA holders in the Alberta Aboriginal Apprenticeship Program (AAAP) initiative. It is also a major contributing partner to Trade Winds To Success, an Alberta ASEP project which provides pre-apprenticeship training to First Nations and Métis youth who wish to pursue a career in the construction trades.

The MNA has established a Métis Education Foundation (MEF), an endowment fund to which MNA Labour Market Development has contributed. The MEF has in turn entered into agreements with several post-secondary institutions in the province to create endowment funds for Métis students attending these institutions. In all cases, the institution concerned is matching the MEF's endowment contribution.



JESSE MORRISON
Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Success Stories

The Métis Nation of Alberta helped me considerably in achieving my dream of a career with the RCMP.

I was first sponsored by the MNA for an Aboriginal Community Policing Certificate program at Northern Lights College, which I completed in 2003. While applying to the RCMP, I continued my education with Lethbridge College's Criminal Justice Program.

“ The road to becoming an RCMP constable is not an easy one, but I received extensive advice and guidance from MNA's Métis Employment Services... ”

As I was approaching admission to the RCMP training program in 2005, I was young and financially limited from years of being a student. I needed assistance with living expenses to focus on my training. Being so close to achieving my goal, the MNA assisted me once again to complete my RCMP training.

The road to becoming an RCMP constable is not an easy one, but I received extensive advice and guidance from Métis Employment Services throughout my development.

I am now working to better the lives in my community and the Métis Nation.

“Through its network of local delivery offices GDI T&E is able to offer **solid programs and services such as training sponsorship, employment services, and wage subsidy programs** to Métis citizens throughout the province.”

Métis Nation - SASKATCHEWAN

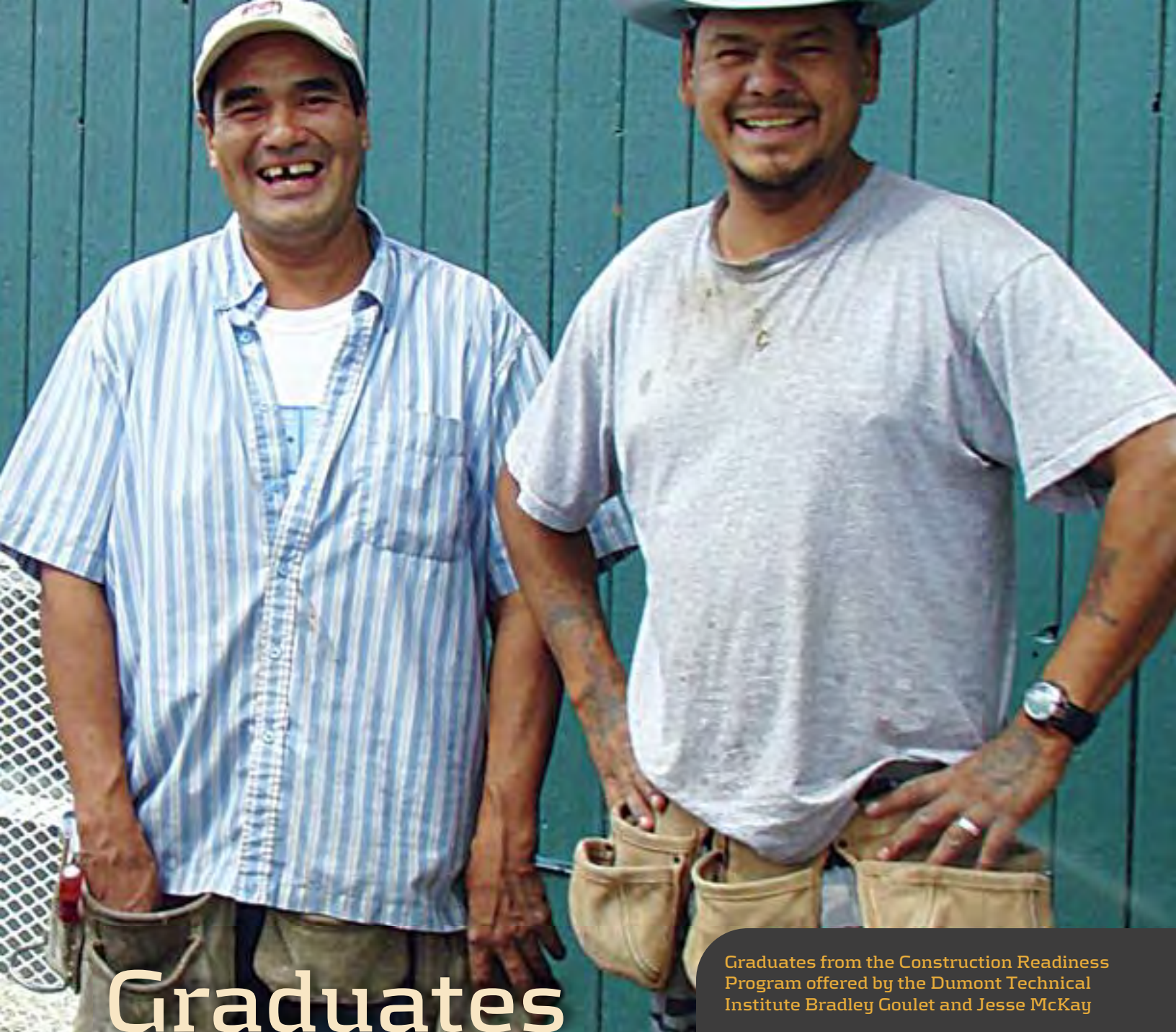
Over the past two years Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment (GDI T&E) has developed and implemented a province-wide service delivery structure to Métis communities in all regions of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S). Although relatively new to Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement (AHRDA) delivery, GDI T&E has quickly proven its ability to successfully build capacity and administer labour market programs and services to Métis constituents. GDI T&E is currently in its second full year of service delivery under the AHRDA.

Through its network of local delivery offices GDI T&E is able to offer solid programs and services such as training sponsorship, employment services, and wage subsidy programs to Métis citizens throughout the province. Furthermore, GDI T & E has forged many meaningful partnerships with business and industry and implemented innovative programs.

The apprenticeship partnership between GDI T&E, Dumont Technical Institute, and the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission is just one example of the positive, proactive steps being taken to ensure Saskatchewan Métis people have opportunities in emerging and expanding areas of the labour market. It is encouraging to see that over the course of its tenure GDI T & E has laid the groundwork for many future successes and positive outcomes.



Gabe Lafond
Minister of Education
Métis Nation - Saskatchewan



Graduates

Graduates from the Construction Readiness Program offered by the Dumont Technical Institute Bradley Goulet and Jesse McKay

Saskatchewan's Métis are in a good position to take advantage of the booming provincial economy and labour shortages. The Métis population in Saskatchewan is much younger than the non-Aboriginal population, and is growing at a faster rate. In 2006, the median age for the Métis in Saskatchewan was 26 years compared to 41 years for the non-Aboriginal population. *(Statistics Canada, 2008. Aboriginal Peoples in Canada 2006: Inuit, Métis and First Nations)*

Furthermore, almost half (49%) of Saskatchewan's Métis population is made up of children and youth aged 24 and under, considerably higher than the 31% of the same age group in the non-Aboriginal population.

Métis are able to provide a replacement labour force for an aging and retiring mainstream workforce as well as take up new jobs created in a booming economy. Outside of immigration and interprovincial migration, the

potential to expand Saskatchewan's economy from a labour perspective lies within the Métis and First Nations populations. As the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce notes, without the engagement of Métis and First Nations people in the labour force, "Saskatchewan's economy is now at capacity in terms of labour." (2000, p.26)

GDI T & E is well positioned to facilitate the entry of Métis workers into the labour market. One of the ways to ensure that Métis have the opportunity to take advantage of employment is by entering into formal partnerships with employers and businesses. In 2007-8, GDI T & E entered into partnerships with thirty-two different employers/businesses to provide a total of sixty-nine employment opportunities under its Wage Subsidy and Student Work experience programs.



left to right: Edwin Davidson, Foreman Ritchie Construction; Brian Small, Operator, Ritchie Construction; Cecile O'Neil, Program Coordinator, GDI T & E; Hal Bradley, Operator, Ritchie Construction; Tony Blacklock, Program Coordinator, Dumont Technical Institute; Mary Anne Broda, Senior Development Officer, Service Canada

Partnerships: Ritchie Construction

In 2007-08, GDI T & E signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ritchie Construction for full-time work placements for Métis clients of eight months duration in the northern community of Sandy Bay, SK. The project included construction of a water treatment plant. The MOU also involved the Dumont Technical Institute in a pre-employment training phase intended to teach basic carpentry skills, worksite safety, and essential workplace skills.

below: Graduates of the Essential Skills Pre-Employment Construction Program



Scholarship and Bursary Program

The 2007-08 workplan prioritizes the necessity to increase overall employment prospects in all sectors of the labour market through the establishment of a scholarship/bursary program. In January 2008, an AHRDA-sponsored endowment fund of \$1.3 million was established in secure interest-bearing investments. All investments are government-backed and secure. Interest accrued on the initial investment will be allocated as scholarships/bursaries, and will be available for eligible applicants.

Details of the Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment Scholarship and Bursary Program are still being finalized, but GDI T&E Director Tavia Laliberte is hopeful that the fund can begin disbursing awards as early as spring 2009.

This scholarship/bursary program was established to encourage Saskatchewan Métis to pursue full-time education in areas that will have a positive impact upon the Métis community while leading to sustainable long-term employment as well as meeting identified labour market needs.

GDI has mechanics and procedures in place to effectively run such a program. The Institute has been administering scholarships for Saskatchewan Métis since the early 1980s through the Gabriel Dumont Institute Scholarship Foundation. The Napoleon LaFontaine Scholarship Fund is based on a similar strategy as the one proposed by GDI T&E.

The Napoleon LaFontaine Scholarship Fund is based on a 1.24 million-dollar capital investment and scholarships are awarded on the interest earned on the fund's principal. The Institute also administers the SaskEnergy Métis Scholarship Program, which originated in 1998 when SaskEnergy made a five-year commitment to GDI and DTI to fund annual scholarships of \$5,000 per Institute. SaskEnergy continues to provide these scholarship funds on an annual basis. More recently, GDI has added a Gabriel Dumont College Graduate Student Bursary Program, administering \$50,000 per year for a three-year pilot phase, and has administered over half a million dollars in scholarship and bursary funds for the Métis Health

and Wellness Scholarship Program. A Scholarship Trustees and Selection Committee awards scholarships twice per year for this program.

Tentative details of the Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment Scholarship and Bursary Program include awards categories for Basic Education students, Post-Secondary students, and a Labour Market Entry award for those who have recently completed an accredited education program.

Basic draft criteria for all awards include self-declaring as a Métis; holding a valid Saskatchewan Health Card; being enrolled or about to be enrolled in a diploma, certificate, degree or adult basic education program that is at least eight months of full-time studies; being enrolled in a public educational institution or an Aboriginal educational institution in Canada which provides an accredited or recognized diploma, certificate or degree program; demonstrating a commitment to the needs of Métis people; and providing a letter detailing an employment action plan.

Staffing Highlights

- 11 service delivery offices in Saskatchewan
- 28 full-time equivalent staffing positions
- 88% of GDI T & E staff are Métis

WSP Highlights

- 24 partnerships through Wage Subsidy Program
- 4 Not-for-Profit
- 9 Private Sector
- 11 Public Sector

Client Highlights

- Establishment of GDI T&E Scholarship Fund
- 1,255 Métis clients served
- 869 Completed Interventions
- Clients in every sector including Business, Trades and Transport, Sales and Service, and Health
- Clients have been employed as Helicopter Mechanics, Aviation Controllers, Licensed Practical Nurses, Dental Hygienists, Radio Broadcasters, and Heavy Duty Mechanics



Kevin Laliberte

Kevin is a 26-year old Métis man from Green Lake who is working on his 4th year of apprenticeship as a Heavy Duty Mechanic. Kevin gives thanks to the Métis AHRDA, GDI T & E and the Ministry of Highways & Infrastructure for helping him work towards his goal of becoming a Journeyperson Heavy Duty Mechanic.

Throughout his 3 plus years, he has been given the opportunity to attend career fairs to promote the Ministry of Highways and their employment opportunities. This has been a great networking opportunity for him. As an employee of the provincial government he has been given the opportunity to be a member of the Aboriginal Government Employees Network (AGEN). This has given him the opportunity to attend the annual AGEN conference and meet other Aboriginal provincial government employees to share experiences and provide each other with motivation. Kevin thanks GDI Training & Employment.



Tracy Durocher

Tracy was born and raised in Beauval, a small Métis community in Northern Saskatchewan. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Saskatchewan and is now employed at the La Loche Health Centre as a Registered Nurse (RN). But it has not been an easy road for Tracy. It took many long hours of working night shifts as a Licensed Practical Nurse to put herself through the first three years of schooling along with being a full-time student during the day. She credits much of her success in accomplishing her degree to her husband Donovan. While Tracy was in school and working night shifts her spouse was at home taking care of their three children, Damian, Danah, and Devyn. Success was also brought on by a lot of hard work and determination.



Christina Wiebe

Christina's family hails from Green Lake, SK though she was raised in Prince George, BC. She moved back to Saskatchewan in 2001 to help take care of her mother who was battling breast cancer. She always knew that she wanted to work in the healthcare field.

Christina went to the Dumont Technical Institute and completed her upgrading and also received a certification in Medical Terminology from the Saskatoon Business College. With all that complete, she entered into the Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program at the Dumont Technical Institute.

After completion of the LPN program, she entered into her practicum at St. Paul's Hospital. She quickly found full time work as the LPN at the Calder Centre in Saskatoon, a place for trouble youth to detoxify and get counseling. She recently got married and is now working back at St. Paul's hospital helping patients in the breathing ward. Thanks to the help of the AHRDA she was able to complete her life's dream of working in the healthcare field and helping in her Métis community.



Loretta Desjarlais

Partnership Success

The Circle of Voices Program is an eight month, full-time youth empowerment program that utilizes theatre to motivate, inspire and support participants to gather and develop tools for success in life. Circle of Voices is a healing journey through the arts.

The Circle of Voices Program is going on its tenth year of production and offering this program to Aboriginal youth. It has helped out over 110 participants through the program including GDI T&E client, Loretta Desjarlais. This year is the first time that GDI T & E partnered

with SNTC to provide training and employment supports for Métis people in the program.

Loretta Desjarlais is Métis, born and raised on a farm outside Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan. Her passion is singing and writing music. She has played on many stages in front of thousands of people and enjoys every second of it. Finishing the Circle of Voices in December 2008 has taught Loretta courage, strength, wisdom and confidence.



CARRYANNE GILL
Prince Albert

Success Stories

Access to post secondary institutions following high school is difficult when you are from a small community, so immediately following high school Carynne Gill moved to Saskatoon to attend the U of S. At the time she was not sure what she really wanted to do with her life but thought that an education degree sounded good. After five semesters, she realized that she was not where she needed to be.

In the fall of 2001 she moved to Regina and took the dental assisting program at SIAST and excelled in her courses. She worked as an assistant for five years and was wait-listed for the dental hygiene program.

After a six year wait for the dental hygiene program Carynne's acceptance letter came. She was thrilled but not sure how she would be able to pay for it. With the assistance of Service Canada she received financial support for her tuition and books, leaving her to cover her monthly expenses. She negotiated a student line of credit to offset these costs and was able to return to school. After some unfortunate events her student line of credit was nearly maxed out after only one year of school. She contacted GDI Training & Employment and was offered income support for her second year including tuition, books, and monthly allowances. Carynne credits GDI T & E for helping her immensely. She did not have the financial stress and was able to focus on her studies. GDI T & E has provided her the opportunity to achieve her goal and complete the Dental Hygiene Diploma Program. Without GDI T & E Carynne states she would most likely not have had the finances or supports she needed. For that she is extremely thankful.

PARTNERSHIPS:

| BUSINESS/COMPANY | POSITION | PROGRAM |
|--|---|---------|
| Northern Hamlet of Cole Bay | 2 x Maintenance Worker Bookkeeper Assistant Office Assistant | SWE |
| Métis Heartland Forest Inc. | 2 x Camp Attendant | WSP |
| CUMFI (Bobby's Birches) | Lawn Maintenance | SWE |
| Northern Village of Ile a la Crosse | Minor Sports Coordinator | WSP |
| Prince Albert Parkland Heath Authority | 4 x Senior Nursing Assistants 4 x Special Care Aides 8 x Special Care Aides | SWE |
| Buffalo Pharmacy Ltd. | Pharmacy Technician Trainee | SWE |
| City of Prince Albert | 2 x Playground Supervisor 3 x Parks Engineering Worker | SWE |
| Buffalo Narrows Fabricator Shop | Welder | WSP |
| CUMFI (Bobby's Birches) | Administrative Assistant | WSP |
| NW Fabricator Shop | 3 x Apprentice Welders | WSP |
| Keewatin Yatthe Regional Health Authority | 5 x Health Administration | SWE |
| Better Than Nothing Dollar Store | 3 x Cashier | SWE |
| CIBN Radio | Student Broadcasting | SWE |
| Métis Nation of Saskatchewan | 4 x Laborer for Back to Batoche | SWE |
| Pine Island Community Resource Panel | Recreation/Concession Worker | SWE |
| Ministry of Highways | Maintenance/Preservation of Highways | WSP |
| KaPaChee Training Centre | Office Administration | SWE |
| City of Saskatoon | 2 x Youth Leaders Me-Ta-We-Tan Project | SWE |
| Ministry of Highways | HD Mechanic Apprentice | WSP |
| Prince Albert Indian & Métis Friendship Centre | Data Entry Clerk | SWE |
| Eagle Vision Mulching Inc. | Receptionist | WSP |
| Parks Canada Agency | Heritage Presenter | WSP |
| Scoopee Doo | Customer Service | SWE |
| Prince Albert Food Bank | Share a Meal Helper | SWE |
| Lake Country Trading Post | Cashier Cook Assistant Baker Assistant | SWE |
| Town of Kelliher | Laborer | SWE |
| KaPaChee Training Centre | Office Administration | SWE |
| Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry | Parish Addictions Support Worker | WSP |
| Tinyeye Technologies | Applications Developer | WSP |
| Northern Air Operations | Apprentice Maintenance Engineer | WSP |
| Prince Albert Housing Community | Maintenance Trainee | WSP |
| Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools | Métis Teacher | WSP |



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT INC.

Gabriel Dumont Institute

The key training and employment priorities are categorized into nine sectors. The following illustration shows the amount of resources expended directly on Métis clients for training and/or employment supports in each sector.

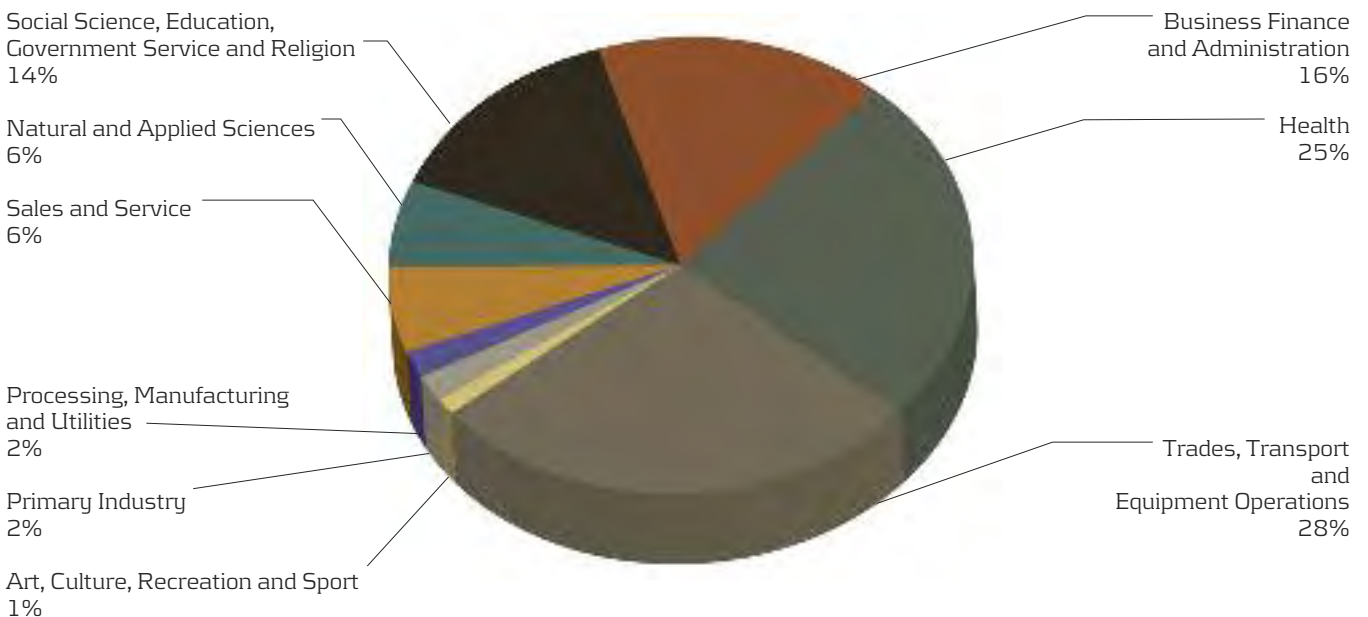
The workplan identifies all priorities necessary to keep abreast of labour market shifts and trends so that GDI T & E clients may access emerging opportunities. The Institute accomplishes this objective through its involvement and consultation with a number of sector part-

ners, through such labour market needs assessment processes as the Northern Labour Market Committee, and through DTI's Annual Needs Assessment, which is conducted in consultation with Métis communities across the province.

RESULTS

The 2007-08 annual workplan provided GDI T & E with a blueprint for Métis training and employment service delivery in Saskatchewan. The workplan targeted the following training and employment activities:

- Trades
- Apprenticeship
- Oil and Gas
- Forestry
- Mining
- Healthcare
- Human Services
- Business
- Finance and Administration
- Protective Services
- Upgrading



Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment
 \$ Spent per Sector 2007-08

**“In Manitoba we have seen
Métis unemployment rates drop
from 12.5% in 2001 to 8.4% in 2006.”**

MANITOBA

Métis Federation

The MHRDA has proved to have had deep and profound effects for many Métis families in Manitoba. The opportunity for training is repeatedly the missing link for many struggling families, and far too often this cannot be achieved alone.

The employment and training services the MMF provides to their clients is unique in its approach and flexible enough to meet the individualized needs of each person. The success that is proven through paper and statistics is not as visible as the strength, and confidence that grows in the faces of our clients, their children and families.

During my term as Minister of MHRDA, I have witnessed families grow, youth choose better paths, and confidence emerge throughout the Métis Nation.

The MHRDA has produced real results for Métis people. For this reason, it is imperative to ensure a seamless transition of an improved labor force development strategy post March 31, 2010 so that there is no interruption in services to clients and no negative impact on the partnership arrangements that are producing these real results for real people and real families. In Manitoba we have seen Métis unemployment rates drop from 12.5% in 2001 to 8.4% in 2006.

At the Manitoba Métis Federation, we strongly believe the success of this program is a prime reason why the employment picture for Manitoba Métis is the best among the aboriginal nations in Canada. Our recipe for success has been Métis serving Métis people – we have the ability to find, assist and train our clients. Our

people are more comfortable working with us in an accepting and supporting environment.

On behalf of the MMF, our Métis government, I want to ensure you that we will be working hard to ensure this service continues to be delivered to the Aboriginal people, by Aboriginal people.

The government of Canada has now renewed the AHRDA program on a one year interim basis.

Policy priorities oftentimes occur when a change in government happens. However, it is hard to imagine that governments would change a successfully delivered program, a program that, by any measure, is contributing with both an economic benefit to our economy, as well as the social benefits that come from stable families and communities. As we seek a respectful and smooth transition, I assure you that the MMF always strives to build upon our past successes while seeking new ways to continuously improve.

Our program is a model that can be imitated. We are willing to listen to new ideas but also hope that all sides will be sitting with us now and in the future with an open mind and heart, as we all seek to improve the lives of all Canadians.



John Fleury
Manitoba Métis Federation
Minister, MHRDA



Skills

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR PROGRAM

Operating Engineers Training Institute of Manitoba (OETIM)

Due to an overwhelming demand for Heavy Equipment Operator training by both participants and employers, the Winnipeg LMB-HRDT office has offered this program twice within the same fiscal year of 2008-2009. The latest project is being held in conjunction with the Winnipeg Métis Association Inc.. This has created a unique opportunity for the participants as the WMA is involved with Habitat for Humanity. The participants of

this program will complete excavation on future homes, as part of their training, for their own Métis people. They will be involved with the clearing, moving of earth and other training aspects that enabled them to participate in house preparation. The program also provides training with pre-operation inspections, transporting of heavy equipment and equipment maintenance.



Jasmine Bohmier

“I want to be a teacher because I know that knowledge is the key to life and I feel that it would be such a blessing to teach others about the things I love.”

Jasmine is from the community of Lorette, with funding from the MMF, she completed her last year of Education at St. Boniface College in April 2008. Jasmine upon completion of her degree has secured a full-time teaching position at Myles MacDonnell Collegiate.



Andre Gendron

“I view this position as an important honour and an integral part of the fabric that holds our society together.” Andre, from the community of Lorette, completed his final year of Education at St. Boniface College, with funding through the Southeast Local Management Board. On completion of his final year, Andre has secured employment at the College Louis Riel teaching history and geography.



Ronald Ducharme

Ronald applied for funding for the Fire Fighter/Paramedic Program with the Emergency Response Service which was held from September 8, 2006 to October 28, 2007 and was approved by the MMF.

After Ronald successfully completed the program he had found full-time employment in Elie, Manitoba as a Paramedic and he has also applied with the City of Winnipeg.

Memorandums of Understanding

The Métis are an integral part of the solution to labour demands in Manitoba in a tightening market and the growing shortage of skilled workers. With so many companies on the hunt for skilled workers, the MMF through MHRDA has been able to leverage the skills of the Métis and achieve major employment results. This is why the MMF has engaged in a series of formal partnerships under the memorandum of understanding signed under the AHRDA.

Healthy Environments

Several years ago, the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) saw a potential project in and around Lake Winnipegosis. The idea sprang from the Métis fishermen and resident in the communities dotted around the edge of the lake.

“For many reasons, the rivers, creeks and other waterways leading into Lake Winnipegosis were not providing the necessary flows to ensure a healthy ecosystem in the lake,” stated MMF President David Chartrand. “A decline in trappers led to more and more beaver dams, muskrat houses and other blockages. Spawning areas were being eroded and the general health of the lake was on the decline. We had to do something.”

What the MMF ended up doing had multiple effects. The Lake Winnipegosis project would provide employment, clean the rivers, assist communities and build up families.

The objective of the project was to

educate the trappers and community on the importance of our environment by cleaning up these traditional spawning grounds of Lake Winnipegosis, and at the same time restoring the damage done to the ecosystem. An ecosystem can be thought of as a natural unit (wetlands, pine forests, or the entire lake) consisting of living and non-living parts which interact to form a stable system.

Activities of those employed through this program include:

- removing beaver dams and muskrat houses from the areas;
- clearing the mouths of tributaries flowing into Lake Winnipegosis;
- educating the community about this type of environmental renewal and about the need for these types of programs to enhance our environment.

In addition to the positive environmental impacts, the project also provides employment in the spring and

summer for the fishermen and trappers in the communities.

This initiative will also lead to a significant increase in employment in the fishing industry in future years as the fish stock thrives with greater spawning rates. The program will also lead to less dependence on social funding and in improved quality of life for the Métis people residing in this area of Manitoba. This program employs nine staff during the spring and summer months.

The renewal of the spawning ground will result in a significant increase in the survival rate of hatchlings in the creeks, rivers and lake. The health of our communities is dependent on the health of our rivers, creeks, and lakes. The must be maintained as a valuable resource which will lead to a considerable increase of employment in the fishing industry.



Thank you for sponsoring me for my bachelors course. My last day of school was July this I have not yet received a diploma or graduation picture from my school but will send you a copy of both when I do I have found employment at a center in St-Vital mall.

Thank you for everything

Anthony Sabourin

Lien historique national de la
Maison-Riel
530, chemin River, C.P. 73
Saint-Vital (Manitoba) R2M 4A5
(204) 257-1783



Riel House
National Historic Site
330 River Road, Box 73
Saint-Vital, Manitoba R2M 4A5
(204) 257-1783

June 10th, 2008
Alberta Thomas
MMF Southeast Region
Employment Counsellor

Dear Alberto,

First of all, I would like to thank you and the MMF for sponsoring me during the final year of my Bachelor of Education. Without your financial help, it would have been terribly difficult for me to focus on my studies. I truly believe that your sponsorship program is of vital interest to the future of the Métis Nation. By helping young Métis with their education, you are ensuring that our community will have a strong leadership for years to come.

Secondly, I would like to inform you of the work that I have found since graduating from my university program. I have been employed as Site Manager of the Riel House National Historic Site of Canada since mid April and will be working in this function until the end of August 2008. As a Métis, I am proud to be able to promote our culture and history through this post. In addition, I am searching for employment as a teacher for the 2008-2009 school year. I am searching for a teaching position at a middle to high school level in either the francophone or the franc-immersion programs. I have already applied for employment in the Division scolaire 'Rivier and Peninsula Trails' school divisions. Once I am contacted for one of the said school divisions, I will inform the MMF of this new development.

Once again, I am sincerely thankful for the financial help offered to young Métis through the MMF Human Resource Development & Training program and I hope that it will continue to sponsor future generations of our youth in order to guarantee a strong, vital and growing Métis nation.

Sincerely yours,
André Gendron, B. A., B. Ed.
Site Manager
Riel House National Historic Site of Canada

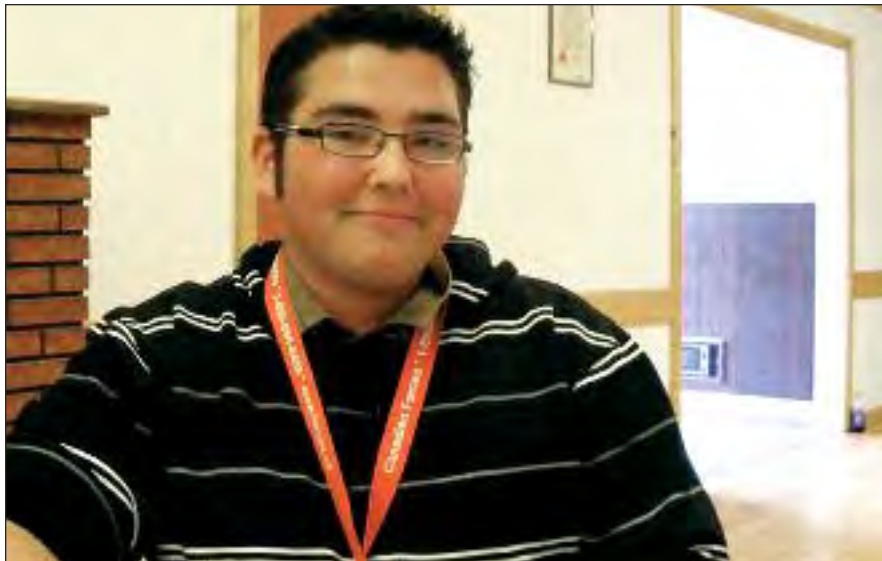
André Gendron
P.S.

As requested, enclosed is a picture of me (center) along with two of my staff members, standing in front of the Riel House.

Board + Staff ILMB,
Manitoba Métis Federation;

Thank you for investment + contribution to my education and training. Without the support, I would not have been able to achieve my goal. Great Work!!!
ILMB
Respectfully,
Sevante





Kingsley Jarvie

Unique Experiences

Hello there, I am Kingsley Jarvie. I was the MMF summer student of 2008. I am proud to say that I was the first male volunteer at LWRC. I later applied for the summer student position and one day after my interview I got the job.

At the resource centre I was given a warm welcome. It felt good to be there and help, and I got the impression that I was wanted there. Once I got to know the staff they became more like family. Working there has helped me make decisions about my future goals, and lifelong friends.

I learned that the Resource Centre is not just focused on helping women, but the community as well. They have contributed so much to the community and vice versa.

I was assigned various tasks to complete such as cleaning, folding

clothes, designing posters, cutting grass, running errands, and other fun and sometimes not so fun jobs. But in the end, they got done and that is all that really counts, right?

Eventhough we were busy like crazy getting all the renovating done, working with clients, and at the clothing exchange, we always found time to have a little fun. All the little things are what I appreciated the most.

I feel that I have accomplished something by first volunteering here, then working here and to know that I opened a door for others to walk through. I was the first male employee and that felt cool.

Thank you so much for the wonderful experience, I really discovered a lot and I am very pleased to take what I have learned with me.



CHELSEA IRELAND
Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Success Stories

Chelsea Ireland came to our office to apply for funding for the Police Studies program at Assiniboine Community College in Brandon.

On August 23, 2006 she was approved for funding to pursue the program. She entered into the training program in September 2006 and graduated with straight A's in May 2007.

She had always been interested in working in the police force as many of her family members had in the past. She is a very active member in her community, in Aboriginal activities and feels that she would be a good role model to others.

“ Chelsea graduated in 2008. She is very thankful for the assistance and is excited to be able to share a photo of herself in uniform at her graduation. ”

Chelsea applied to the RCMP and was informed in July that she would begin training at the RCMP Depot in Regina, which is a six month training program. Chelsea graduated in 2008. She is very thankful for the assistance and is excited to be able to share a photo of herself in uniform at her graduation.



Youth in touch with Métis culture

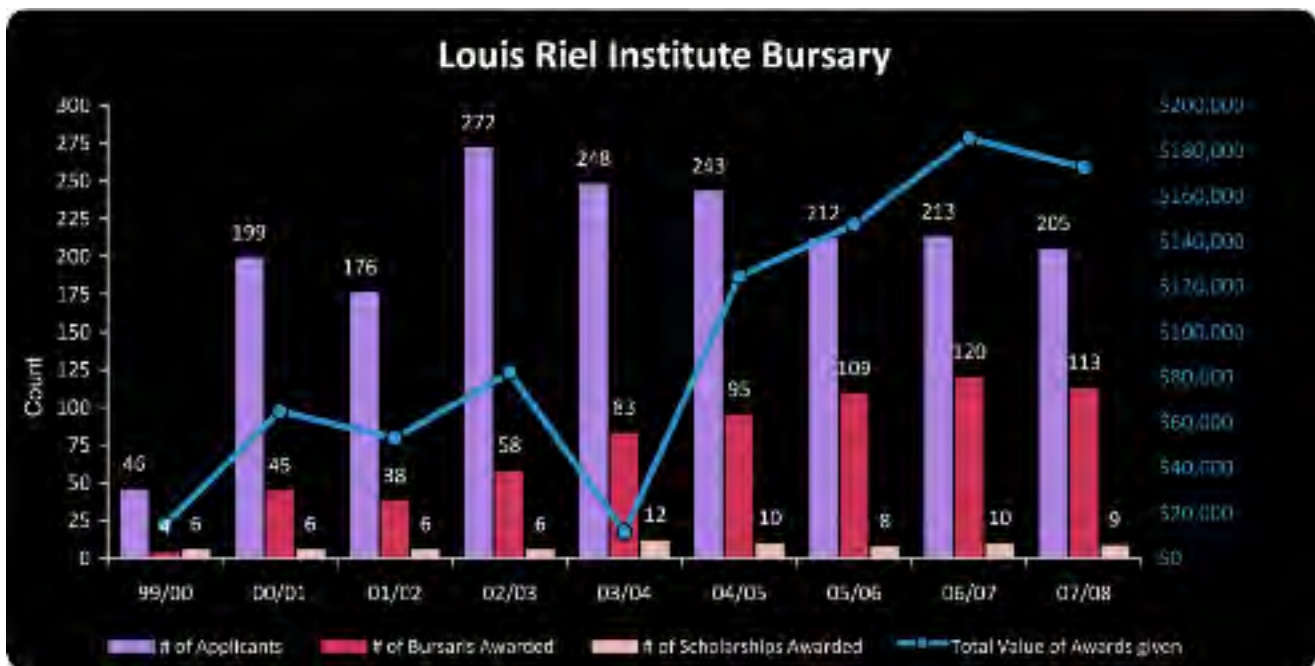
Métis students at Springfield Collegiate Institute will be involved in the class known as Métis Cultural Exploration, where they will construct a traditional Métis Red River Cart. The students will be given a High School credit upon completion

of the 110 hour course. The students will be hand selected by the school guidance counselor and must be Métis as well as in need of additional credits in order to graduate. While constructing the cart, students will receive cultural and histori-

cal teaching related to the past significance of the cart and its place in the Red River culture. This project is being partnered by a second initiative supported by the school, where a group of students will be documenting the construction of the cart.

Louis Riel Institute

The MMF has built an endowment fund of over 8 million in the past decade to assist promising Métis students. This part of our program began with a small amount of seed money from the MMF's funding through AHRDA. It has been built over the years with matching funds from Manitoba's universities, including the newly created University College of the North in Thompson. In the last fiscal year, the MMF, through MHRDA, awarded more than 120 students with scholarships and bursaries at the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg.



Informal partnerships

- Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
- Canada Post
- Employment Manitoba - Employment and Training Partnerships
- Credit Union CSR training
- Manitoba Child Care Program
- Trans Canada Pipeline
- Accent Care Home and Hospital Health Services
- Global Placement Services
- Manitoba Liquor Control Commission
- Great Plains Rail Contractors
- CN
- Home Depot
- Manitoba Lotteries
- Great Northern Remanufacturing
- Agricore United
- Enbridge
- Ledcor
- Winnipeg Transition Centre
- Manitoba Lotteries Corporation
- Manitoba Floodway Authority
- Information Communication Technology Association of Manitoba (ICTAM)
- The Manitoba Tourism Education Council (MTEC)
- RBC
- CBC



Heavy Equipment Operator trainees created fish rearing ponds in the Interlake Region of Manitoba.

Economic Development

The MMF partnered with the province of Manitoba department of Competitiveness, Training and Trade to provide Heavy Equipment Operator training in the Interlake Region of Manitoba. The trainees trained on the equipment, but rather than moving dirt in an open pit, the trainees created fish rearing ponds. This was such a success that the MMF has begun planning similar initiatives in other communities.

The ponds provide a safe environment for growing hatchlings, which then are released into Manitoba lakes. This results in a significant increase in the survival rate of young fish up to the time that they are commercially harvested.

“We are seeing the results in our catch,” said MMF President David Chartrand. “Our nets hold the proof as to the future success of these programs.” These are some of our

initiatives that are designed to lead to increasing production and employment for the fishing industry. A strong commercial fishery will provide the foundation for other businesses and employment. Sales and services in our communities rely on the revenue generated by fishing.

Ultimately, a healthy community economy will lead to less dependence on social funding and an improved quality of life for Métis people around the lakes and elsewhere. The MMF will continue to undertake research and development in our traditional resource-based industries such as trapping, forestry, mining, and of course, fishing.

“We are confident these investments will lead to significant benefits,” said President Chartrand. “Using our MHRDA resources effectively, we are taking a lead in protecting our livelihood and our future.”



MMF President David Chartrand and Mayor of Winnipeg Sam Katz.

MMF partners with the City of Winnipeg

Recently a new project was discussed with the City of Winnipeg, and a formal business plan was submitted. The project has the potential to create change in the City’s North-end and Core areas.

The proposed initiative will assist in developing basic life skills and work ethics for the targeted clientele, while focusing on cleaning up the yards and surrounding areas that have been unkempt or untidy for years.

“ This unique approach will provide a work experience opportunity which otherwise may not exist, while instilling a sense of community pride in the families ”

This unique approach will provide a work experience opportunity which otherwise may not exist, while instilling a sense of community pride in the families living there. A combination of work experience and classroom training will be the first step to establishing the necessary skills to either begin job search strategies, or additional skills training that will create the foundation for long term sustainable employment opportunities.



Amy Pouliot

Amy Pouliot Received services from the MMF in June 2007 to seek assistance with her employment goals. Amy wanted to complete her final year Bachelor of Arts degree. Upon completion, Amy graduated with honors in History, and is currently employed at the National Health Organization-Métis Centre. She is now a Junior Research Officer and is working on a number of Métis health topics. Amy is also working on a Michif revitalization project.



Karlee & Kaylee Krochak

Karlee and Kaylee are Métis women twins from Benito. They applied for funding to attend the accelerated Health Care Aide program offered by the University College of the North in Swan River and were approved by the Northwest Local Management Board. Both girls have successfully completed the program and are now employed by Benito Health Centre as Health Care Aides.



Health Care Aide Workers

Six Métis residents of the Swan River Valley applied for funding to become Health Care Aide workers and were approved by the Northwest Local Management Board. At the time of applying, five were unemployed and one was employed part-time. After successfully completing the Health Care Aid Program they are all employed full-time in their chosen field.

Employability skills upgrade



Clients from the Manigotagan - Participants enrolled to update their certificates, add to their employable skills, and build CPR and First Aid capacity in their communities.

“Creating opportunity and ensuring access to higher learning is paramount to the socio-economic health of Métis people and the province as a whole.”

Métis Nation of ONTARIO

Thousands of Ontario Métis from urban, rural and remote communities have benefitted from the Métis Nation of Ontario Training Initiatives Branch since it began providing services in 1996. The branch, now known as MNO Education and Training provides access to a wide range of training, education and employment programs. Using a single window approach, job seekers can access employment programs, education supports, health services, youth initiatives, resource materials as well as direct links to potential employers.

Educational attainment and skills development are necessary if Métis people are to be suitably positioned to take on the leadership roles required to advance the interests of the Métis community. In Ontario, Métis make up just over 30% of the Aboriginal workforce. A skilled Métis workforce will help address a growing skills shortage and bolster Canadian efforts to improve productivity. With 25% of Métis under 14, the Métis population is one of the fastest growing sources of potential workers. Creating opportunity and ensuring access to higher learning is paramount to the socio-economic health of Métis people and the province as a whole.

The MNO's desire to engage with government and

industry on education and training is increasingly recognized. Community discussions on the *Ontario, First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework* have taken place across the Province. This discussion will help to advance ideas for Métis specific education policy that will promote and support student achievement. By continuing to provide labour market training initiatives MNO can also help entrench life long learning and self-reliance within Métis culture.

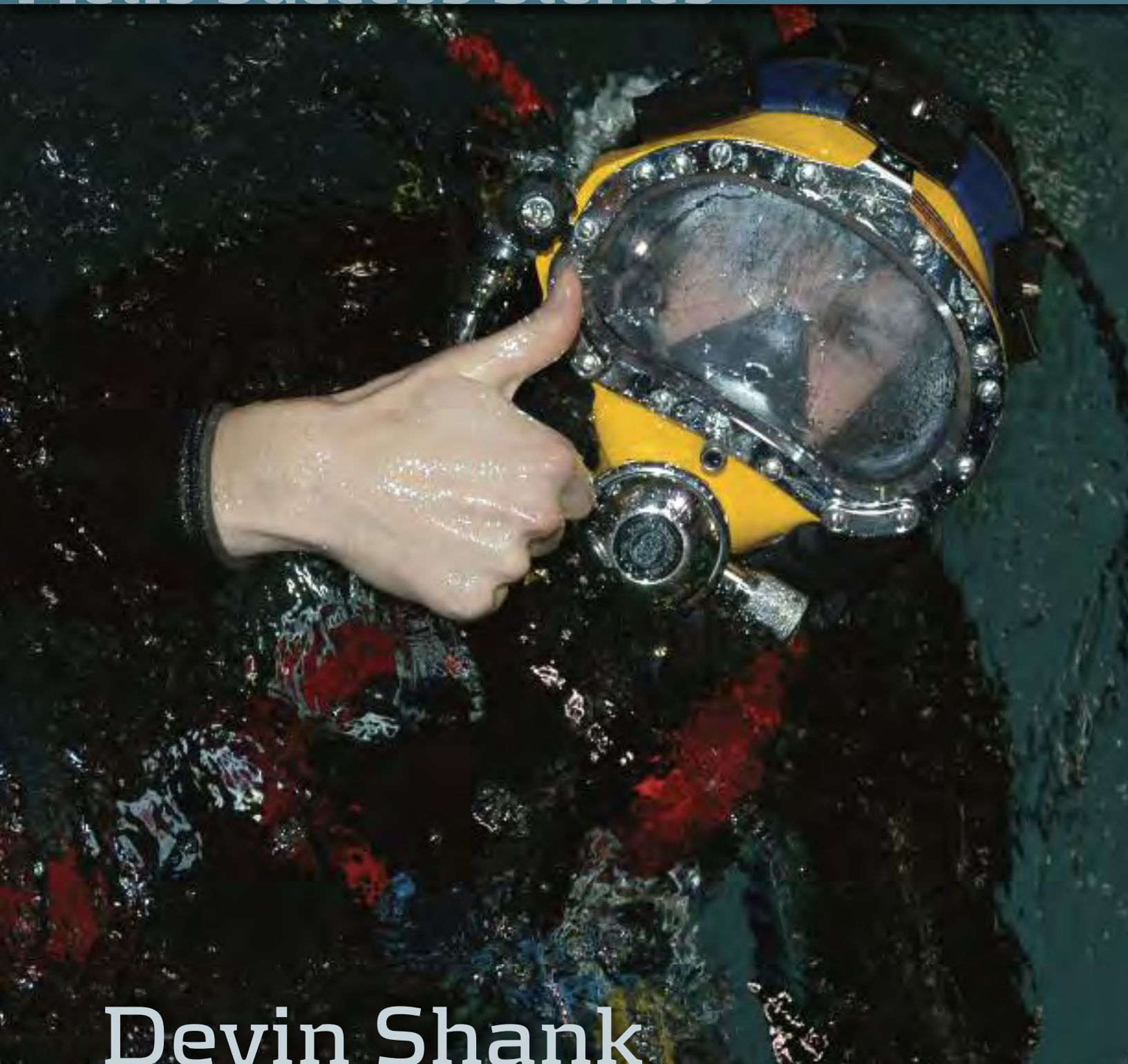
As Portfolio Holder for Education and Training on behalf of the MNO, I am pleased with the progress being made in the Labour Market Development area. This positive growth is expected to continue as Métis rights are more readily recognized and accepted. The path ahead is one of both challenge and opportunity. We are optimistic as we move forward with our government partners that we are on our way to a brighter future for the Métis in Ontario.



France Picotte

*Portfolio holder Education & Training
Chair - Métis Nation of Ontario*

Métis Success Stories



Devin Shank

ACHIEVING THE DREAM • Of the people we were able to help last year, a very special one comes to mind. A young man in his early twenties came to me with a vision. With the help of his parents he had started realising that dream in high school. Only one thing could stop him from going on and that was the necessary resources to pursue his dream.

Being Métis this young lad approached our office for help. We gave him the encouragement and funding he

needed to attend Seneca College, which has the best commercial diver program in Ontario. With no financial worries, he was able to concentrate on his schooling, and I am proud to tell you that he finished first in his class. He is now working as an underwater welder for the City of Sturgeon Falls. He has had many job offers and can go just about wherever he wants. Who is this young man? His name is Devin Shank. Devin is one of the many MNO Education and Training success stories.



Aboriginal Affairs Minister Brad Duguid (centre) and MNO President Gary Lipinski (left) sign an historic Framework Agreement recognizing the unique history and ways of life of Métis communities in Ontario.

Strengthening Relationships

Métis Nation of Ontario President Gary Lipinski and Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Brad Duguid signed a historical MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement on November 17th, 2008.

The *Framework* is monumental in recognizing the unique history and ways of life of Métis communities in Ontario. The MNO and the Ontario government will work together to improve the well-being of Métis children, families, and communities while working to protect and promote the distinct culture, identity, and heritage of Métis people.

This Framework has opened the door to stronger bilateral partnerships with other Ontario Ministries. MNO recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Education and is working to finalize an MOU with the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities (MTCU).

“
The MNO and the Ontario government will work together to improve the well-being of Métis children, families, and communities.
”

Chair in Métis Studies

The University of Ottawa has been awarded the Chair in Métis Studies after being selected by an arm's-length selection panel who chose the winning proposal from among those submitted by eight Ontario universities.

"Important academic and research work about the Métis people and their culture in Ontario and across Canada will be supported and enhanced by this investment", said Dr. Paul Genest, President of the Council of Ontario Universities.

The First Research Chair in Métis Studies was announced September 30th, 2008. Gary Lipinski, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and Métis leadership from across Ontario joined the Honourable Brad Duguid, Ontario Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Honourable John Milloy, Minister of Colleges Training and Universities and Paul Genest from the Council of Ontario Universities to formally announce the Ontario university selected to host the Research Chair of Métis Studies. The first of its kind in Ontario, the Chair's goal is to increase research and create a greater common understanding of the Métis people in Ontario, past and present, while enhancing the quality of post-secondary education for Métis students.

The announcement was the realization of many years of collaborative efforts and work by the Métis Nation of Ontario. The MNO engaged Universities across Ontario and worked closely with the Ontario Government and the Council of Ontario Universities to see the Chair come to fruition. In 2007, the McGuinty government committed \$2 million to support the creation of



MNO President Gary Lipinski and President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ottawa Allan Rock

a Chair. In 2008, this commitment was enhanced by \$1 million. The successful Ontario university has also committed an additional \$1 million to support the Chair position, bringing the total endowment for the Chair to \$4 million.

"For the Métis Nation, this announcement represents a new and exciting chapter in our history as a distinct Aboriginal people--a chapter where the stories of our people, our communities and our contributions to this province will finally start to be told. We look forward to working with the selected university in order to begin to write the largely untold history of the Métis people in this province and to sharing that history with fellow Ontarians", said President Lipinski.

The University of Ottawa is expected to have the Chair installed in their position early in the 2009-10 academic year. The university is committed to providing additional direct resources to further support the work of the Chair.



TIFFANY MILLER
Thunder Bay
Canadian Diabetes Association

Success Stories:

"The Métis Nation of Ontario played a pivotal role in helping me find the career of my dreams and I cannot even begin to express how grateful I am for your kindness, generosity and assistance through this journey.

The financial support of the MNO Student Bursary Program meant a lot to me. As a student, I worked two part-time jobs for more than thirty hours a week in order to pay for school. Thanks to the MNO I was able to work a little less and focus more on my studies. As a result, I was able to complete two college diplomas and maintain position on the Dean's List.

After graduation, I knew that the job market in Thunder Bay was limited so I looked to the MNO for help. I applied for the Métis Training Initiatives Wage Subsidy Program and successfully received funding to obtain paid employment training at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation as a Special Events Coordinator. At the Foundation I earned invaluable experience in fund development, events planning, graphic design and volunteer management.

I truly believe that without the support of the MNO I would not have my career as Development Coordinator at the Canadian Diabetes Association today. There is nothing more rewarding than having your dreams come true and then being able to give back to the community who helped you."



Métis youth from Ontario on a two week cultural exchange to Ecuador.

In the Land of the Condor

In August 2006, 11 Métis youth aged 18-29 from across Ontario went on a 14-day trip to Ecuador to do community service in Otavalo, an Indigenous community. This project was offered through a partnership between the Métis Nation of Ontario's Education and Training Branch and Canada World Youth's Global Learner Program. Youth were responsible for fundraising a portion of the total costs.

“ This mutual sharing of history, values, traditions and pride in arts and culture enriched our young Métis travellers. ”

These young people were afforded a chance to increase their understanding of Ecuador and its Indigenous culture by living and volunteering in an Ecuadorian community. Of course, being immersed in a different culture encouraged the participants to reflect on their own identity and culture as Métis youth.

This mutual sharing of history, values, traditions and pride in arts and culture enriched these young Métis travellers.



Métis youth and role model Ginny Gonneau

“There Are No Words...”

I am very thankful for the opportunities that have been provided to me by the Métis Nation of Ontario.

When I was eighteen, I participated in the Métis Canoe Expedition from Lachine, Quebec to Thunder Bay, ON. Myself and nine other “voyageurs” re-traced 2,000 kms of historical canoe routes used by the Métis voyageurs 200 years ago. We paddled a 26-foot replica birch bark canoe ten to twelve hours a day for a total of 52 days!

I still look back on this trip and think about what an amazing experience it was. The expedition changed my life. It strengthened my cultural identity as a young Métis person and it increased my confidence and motivation to succeed in life.

I went on to work for the Métis Nation of Ontario part-time throughout my university studies and full-time during my summer breaks as an intern and summer career placement student.

During university, I also applied

for and received bursaries from the MNO bursary program to assist with the cost of my courses and textbooks to complete my degree in women's studies and history.

After more than two years of mentorship, I moved into the position as Provincial Youth Coordinator for the MNO. During this time, I had the opportunity to co-supervise a Métis youth international exchange to Ecuador, an initiative coordinated in partnership with Canada World Youth. I gained many valuable skills from this experience.

I also want to thank the MNO for assisting my family. My mom, in her mid 40s, was able to go back to school to become a Personal Support Worker with help from the MNO.

My life would be very different today without these opportunities. I would like to thank the MNO staff who continue to help Métis people across Ontario and Human Resources Development Canada for providing the funds to continue these invaluable programs.

Métis Success Stories



Lesley Frost

Office Manager - North York

The MNO Training and Education office in Region 8 (Greater Toronto Area) recently partnered with View College, a local training and placement service, to run an Office Assistant Training Program for Métis. Leslie Frost, one of the clients who took the training, secured full-time permanent employment with the View College as a result.

After the training, the instructor and the Regional Employment and Training Coordinator worked together to get Lesley on a Métis Wage Subsidy Program to manage the office at View College.

"I only had good experiences with MNOTI. They were all extremely nice and helpful. If it wasn't for MNOTI, I wouldn't have this job right now."



Ryan Guay

Summer Student - Welland

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for allowing me to take part in the Summer Employment Program you have offered for the last three years.

The jobs that I have worked due to the generosity of the Métis Nation of Ontario include working at an independent CD store as well as at Youth Innovations as an employee of the City of Welland. My experience there taught me an immense amount of new skills that I believe will help me in any job situation.

My role at Youth Innovations was to run events for local youth as well as to organize volunteers. My proudest accomplishment at this job was the production of Welland's first ever city-wide band compilation CD. The disc brought the young musicians of Welland together which was the whole goal of the project.

Thank you for supporting my summer employment for the last three years! Without the MNO, these experiences wouldn't have been possible!



Ashley Press

Ph.D. Student - Welland

I was awarded a Bursary from the Métis Nation of Ontario Training Initiatives program to conduct research for my Ph.D. thesis on home-based family literacy. The University of Toronto managed the funds through my thesis supervisor. The Métis Nation of Ontario staff were very friendly and supportive.

The support helped me complete my Ph.D. degree in Developmental Psychology and Education. It helped me offer a family literacy program to over 100 families representing a range of cultural diversity in neighborhoods where families are often not well connected to community resources. The research on this program will help me make a contribution to improving early education for minority families.

I feel that it is important to support Aboriginal Canadians to complete advanced degrees. As a Métis Canadian, I want to be able to give back to my community through support in education.

Student Bursaries

In 1998, the Métis Nation of Ontario established a bursary program, to assist Métis students in their pursuit of post-secondary education. The initial investments were matched by the Province of Ontario's Student Opportunity Trust Fund program. Métis bursaries were established at 32 Colleges and Universities across the Province and each year awards are allocated from the interest accumulated on the investment.

MÉTIS STUDENT BURSARIES Are Available at these Institutions:

UNIVERSITIES:

ALGOMA QUEENS
BROCK RYERSON
CARLETON TRENT
LAKEHEAD TORONTO
LAURENTIAN WESTERN
OTTAWA

COLLEGES:

ALGONQUIN FANSHAWE MOHAWK
CAMBRIAN GEORGE BROWN NIAGARA
CANADORE GEORGIAN NORTHERN
COLLEGE BOREAL HUMBER OCAD
CONESTOGA LAMBTON ST. CLAIR
CONFEDERATION LOYALIST ST. LAWRENCE

SAULT COLLEGE
SHERIDAN
SANDFORD FLEMING

MÉTIS STUDENT BURSARIES AWARDED

| YEAR: | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | TOTALS |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| AWARDS: | 102 | 114 | 130 | 141 | 130 | 127 | 140 | 884 |
| TOTAL \$: | \$102,050 | \$114,463 | \$118,972 | \$91,670 | \$102,426 | \$105,595 | \$147,552 | \$782,728 |



Daniel Charland

Community building

My adventure into northern Ontario began the first weekend after completing my second year at the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Toronto. For months I had been planning this trip with the help of a classmate and contacts referred from the U of T's First Nations House. It was now about to begin.

From a portable classroom at J.R. Nakogee School, we gave presentations on oral health, including an interactive plaque disclosing exercise and tooth brushing instruction. The youngest students also had an arts and crafts session where they decorated toothbrush shaped bookmarks and brushing charts.

I have moved on to the next stage of my education. I graduated from the University of Toronto dentistry in June 2008. I was accepted into a master's and specialty in pediatric dentistry at University of California in San Francisco which I began in July 2008. It is a three year program and will prepare me well for a career providing dental care to children (some of whom will be Métis and other Aboriginal people I am sure!).

I would like to thank the MNO for funding this invaluable experience. I am proud to have an active role in educating children and promoting oral health in under-served communities in Ontario.



Melissa Button and her son Seth.

Opportunities that make a Difference

I received my training through the MNOTI office in Hamilton. I began training as an office administrator in 2002, and from there I was offered a contract position as a Youth Project Officer.

Walking in the door with no other experience but working in a grocery store and pet store, left me with little confidence, I didn't feel I had many employable skills at all. The MNO really helped me develop skills I didn't even know I had. Before working for the MNO I was so anxious and shy, I wasn't even able to call the pizza guy to order a pizza! This job really opened doors for me. It alleviated many of my anxieties and built up my confidence.

During my stay at the MNO I encountered many wonderful opportunities which would later assist me in securing my current position as

an Aboriginal Youth Advisor for the Native Youth Advancement With Education Hamilton (NYAWEH) at Cathedral High School. I increased my knowledge of traditional teachings and Métis culture. The skills I developed training as an Office Administrator, impressed my current employers, which lead them to hire me as a Youth Project Officer.

I am truly thankful for all that they have done for me. They helped me discover my roots and find my path in life. I will never forget all that I gained from my experience with the MNO.

My experience with the Métis Nation of Ontario was absolutely fabulous! It was the opportunity and change that I needed in my life to make a difference.



ALISON POWELL
Queen's University

Success Stories

"I started at Queen's University this past fall in the Faculty of Education. I am in a program called "Aboriginal Teachers Education Program" (ATEP). I will be graduating from Queen's in the spring of 2009 and I will be a qualified teacher, with my focus on Aboriginal studies. I wouldn't have been able to achieve this without support from the Métis Nation of Ontario where I was lucky enough to be a summer student receptionist in the Dryden office.

Special thanks to Alvina Cimon, who was always kind to me and who was an excellent boss, and to Dana O'Donnell, who found funding so I could have this wonderful opportunity.

“ I wouldn't have been able to achieve this without support from the Métis Nation of Ontario ”

The ATEP is a strong and supportive department within the faculty. The goal of this program is to educate students in situations that surround Aboriginal students. In classes, we revisit Aboriginal history, consider the challenges and celebrate the achievements that Aboriginal people have made in the education system while recognising the struggles that still need to be overcome. The classes, which take place in an open atmosphere of learning and sharing, are supportive and safe. I have grown as an individual, as a teacher and as Métis women."

Métis Employment Services BRITISH COLUMBIA

Vancouver Island - Region 1

#156 D Government St.
Duncan, BC V9L 1A2
Ph: 250-746-6271 or 888-632-9450
Fax: 250-746-5856

Lower Mainland - Region 2

#201-10114 King George Hwy
Surrey, BC V3T 2W4
Ph: 604-582-4791
Fax: 604-582-4753

Thompson/Okanagan - Region 3

#208-444 Victoria Street
Kamloops, BC V2C 2A7
Ph: 250-851-9263 or 1-888-823-9263
Fax: 250-851-9236

Kootenay - Region 4

Suite 2 - 131 7th Avenue South
Cranbrook, BC V1C 2J3
Ph: 250-417-3305 or 1-888-417-3306
Fax: 250-417-3626

North Central B.C. - Region 5

#201-513 Ahbau Street
Prince George, BC V2M 3R8
Ph: 250-561-2754 or 1-877-561-2754
Fax: 250-561-2790

BladeRunners Program

1074 6th Avenue
Prince George, BC V2L 3M4
Ph: 250-649-0579
Fax: 250-649-0569

Northwest B.C. - Region 6

#304-4546 Park Avenue
Terrace, BC V8G 1V4
Ph: 1-250-615-0035 or 1-877-638-4776
Fax: 1-250-615-0036

Northeast B.C. - Region 7

10021 - 100 Street
Fort St John, BC V1J 3Y5
Ph: 250-787-1957 or 1-888-700-1957
Fax: 250-787-1939

Métis Skills and Employment Centre

2020 Abbotsford Way
Abbotsford, BC V2S 8G3
Ph: 604-850-0832 or 1-888-850-0832
Fax: 604-850-0842

Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures

735 Carnarvon Street
New Westminster, BC V3M 1E6
Ph: 604-521-5929
Fax: 604-521-5931

Métis Employment Services ALBERTA

Toll free: 1-888-48-MÉTIS

Full Time MES Offices:

Lac La Biche

Suite 101, 10107 - 102 Ave.
Ph: 780-623-2524

Bonnyville

5102 - 51 St.
Ph: 780-826-7368

Calgary

5, 2611 - 37th Ave. NE
Ph: 403-250-8902

Red Deer

4822 - 50th St.
Ph: 403-342-6636

Medicine Hat

#919 Tractor Ave. SE
Ph: 403-504-4056

Edmonton

3rd Floor, 12308 - 111th Ave.
Ph: 780-423-2237

Slave Lake

353 Main Street NE
Ph: 780-849-4660

High Prairie

4910-51 Ave, Box 96
Ph: 780-523-2004

Peace River

9615 - 100th St.
Ph: 780-624-0703

Grande Prairie

9840 - 97th Ave.
Ph: 780-539-5477

Part Time MES Offices: Conklin, Fort McMurray, Fort Vermillion, High Level, Hinton, Lethbridge, Manning, Whitecourt

Métis Employment Services SASKATCHEWAN

Gabriel Dumont Institute Training & Employment Offices

www.gdins.org
Email: general@gdi.gdins.org
Toll Free: 1-877-488-6888

GDI T & E - Head Office

917-22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9
Ph: 306-242-6070

GDI T & E - Saskatoon

1001-22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0S2
Ph: 306-683-3634

GDI T & E - Nipawin

Box 2513, 210-1st Street W
Nipawin, SK S0E 1E0
Ph: 306-862-5045

GDI T & E - Prince Albert

1308B- 1st Avenue East
Prince Albert, SK S6V 2B1
Ph: 306-763-8013

GDI T & E - La Ronge

207 La Ronge Avenue
La Ronge, SK S0J 1L0
Ph: 306-425-5283

GDI T & E - North Battleford

103-1272-101st Street
North Battleford, SK S9A 0Z8
Ph: 306-445-5081

GDI T & E - Meadow Lake

220 B-2nd Street East
Meadow Lake, SK S9X 1Y5
Ph: 306-234-2370

GDI T & E - Yorkton

7-1st Avenue North
Yorkton, SK S3N 1J3
Ph: 306-782-5266

GDI T & E - Regina

1235-2nd Avenue North
Regina, SK S4R 0X5
Ph: 306-352-5620

GDI T & E - Ile-a-la-Crosse

Box 510, Ile-a-la-Crosse, SK S0M 1C0
Provincial Building on Lajeunesse Avenue
Ph: 306-833-2760

GDI T & E La Loche

D-5 La Loche Avenue, Box 910
La Loche, SK S0M 1G0
Ph: 306-822-2812

GDI T & E--Beauval

Sister Simard Centre
Beauval, SK S0M0G0
Ph: 306-288-2304

Métis Employment Services MANITOBA

Human Resource Development and Training - Manitoba Métis Federation

300-150 Henry Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3B 0J7
Ph: (204) 586-8474
Fax: (204) 947-1816

MMF Southwest Regional Office

656-6th Street
Brandon MB R7A 3P1
Ph: (204) 725-7525
Fax: (204) 725-7528

MMF Interlake Regional Office

P.O. Box 160, St. Laurent, MB ROC 2S0
Ph: (204) 646-4091
Fax: (204) 646-4093

MMF Northwest Regional Office

Box 837, Dauphin, MB R7N 3J5
Ph: (204) 638-9086
Fax: (204) 638-0496

MMF Thompson Regional Office

44A Copper Road
Thompson, MB R8N 0V6
Ph: (204) 677-1435
Fax: (204) 677-1437

MMF Southeast Regional Office

P.O. Box 13
Grand Marais, MB ROE 0T0
Ph: (204) 754-3112
Fax: (204) 754-2687

MMF Winnipeg Regional Office

408 McGregor Street
Winnipeg, MB R2W 4X5
Ph: (204) 947-9287
Fax: (204) 947-9317

MMF The Pas Regional Office

P.O. Box 2467
The Pas, MB R9A 1M2
Ph: (204) 623-5701
Fax: (204) 623-1599

MMF Provincial Recruitment Initiative

150 Henry
Winnipeg, MB R3B 0J7
Ph: (204) 586-8474
Fax: (204) 947-1816

MMF-HRDT Southwest LMB

[Local Management Board]
656-6th Street
Brandon, MB R7A 3P1
Ph: (204) 725-7525
Fax: (204) 725-7528

MMF-HRDT Southeast LMB

Box 13
Grand Marais, MB ROE 0T0
Ph: (204) 754-3112
Fax: (204) 754-2687

MMF-HRDT Northwest LMB

505 Main St. South
Dauphin, MB R7N 1L3
Ph: (204) 638-9086
Fax: (204) 638-0496

MMF-HRDT The Pas LMB

Box 2467
The Pas, MB R9A 1M2
Ph: (204) 623-5701
Fax: (204) 623-1599

MMF-HRDT Winnipeg LMB

408 McGregor Street
Winnipeg, MB R2W 4X5
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MMF-HRDT Thompson LMB

171 Cree Rd.
Thompson, MB R8N 0C2
Toll Free: 1-866-677-1430
Ph: (204) 677-1430
Fax: (204) 677-2240

MMF-HRDT Interlake LMB

Box 160
St. Laurent, MB ROC 2S0
Ph: (204) 646-4091
Fax: (204) 646-4093

Métis Employment Services ONTARIO

Métis Education and Training

500 Old St. Patrick St., Unit #3
Ottawa, ON K1N 9G4
T: 613-798-1488 or 1-800-263-4889
F: 613-722-4225

Fort Frances, ON

Box 403 Courier Address
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3M7 426 Victoria Ave
T: 807-274-1386 or 1-888-793-3334
F: 807-274-9773

Thunder Bay, ON

226 South May Street, 2nd Floor
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 1B4
T: 807-624-5019 or 800-256-2595
F: 807-622-2899

Timmins, ON

347 Spruce St. South
Timmins, ON P4N 2N2
T: 705-264-3939
F: 705-264-5468

Sault Ste. Marie, ON

26 Queen Street East
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 1Y3
T: 705-254-1768
F: 705-254-3515

North Bay, ON

101 Worthington Street East
North Bay, ON P1B 1G5
T: 705-474-2767
TF: 888-825-1742
F: 705-474-8569

Sudbury, ON

260 Alder Street
Sudbury, Ontario P3C 5P4
T: 705-674-1502
TF: 888-789-0868 in 705 area only
F: 705-674-9908

Midland, ON

355 Cranston Crescent
Midland, ON L4R 4K6
T: 705-527-1228
TF: 888-684-7347
F: 705-527-9363

Toronto, ON

222-75 Sherbourne Street
Toronto, ON M5A 2P9
T: 416-977-9881
TF: 888-466-6684
F: 416-977-9911

Hamilton, ON

445 Concession Street
Hamilton, ON L9A 1C1
T: 905-318-2336
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