



# Metis Messenger



July 2003

**Special points of interest:**

- Metis and Friends Day—July 19, 2003
- LMN Open House— August 07, 2003
- Census Canada Data: Metis Largest Aboriginal Group in Labrador

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## Door Opens for Labrador Metis in Shrimp Fishery

The LMN made a great stride forward in receiving a shrimp allocation, thanks to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Minister Thibault. The LMN made requests and lobbied for a shrimp allocation for over five years on the grounds of a northern Aboriginal adjacency interest and community need. "We are glad that the Minister had the foresight to acknowledge this," remarked President Todd Russell after being notified of the decision.

The 750 tonne shrimp allocation is a solid starting point for the LMN. "We will continue to work with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to gain full status as a licence holder and eventually obtain a quota on par with other Aboriginal groups in Labrador and the north."

In the Northern Shrimp Management Plan, the Minister applied the departmental policy to increase aboriginal participation in

priorities, develop fisheries and help create job opportunities in other sectors.

With general quotas to other fleet sectors the LMN will work with various parties including the Province, fishers and unions to ensure that Labrador based interests receive maximum benefits and fishing opportunities.



Mary's Harbour, Labrador. July 10, 2003.

the Northern Shrimp fishery. Mr. Russell also noted that the Minister looked at the plan in the context of serving a broad range of needs. "The under 34 fleet and over 34 fleet were also vying for shrimp and have received a quota. This will help assist our communities, given the devastating blow of the recent announcement of a 40% reduction of crab quotas and the cod closure this year." The LMN intends to use revenue from the shrimp quota to promote LMN

LMN's request for access received a high level of support. "I commend Minister Thibault, Lawrence O'Brien, M.P; Yvonne Jones, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture and Gerry Byrne, Minister of State (ACOA) for their support. This is a very significant development for the LMN and very important to the survival of our Aboriginal communities" said Russell.

## 2nd Bi-annual Metis Friends and Family Day : Come and join us for a day of fun

On Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Kinsmen Park from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. the LMN will host the 2nd Metis Family and Friends Day. Bring the kids and come prepared to enjoy the festivities and have a great time. There will be games, prizes, contests, good food and great friends. Special events for the kids, such as pony rides and a fish pond, have been planned, as well as some surprises for the adults (a celebrity dunk tank promises to be lots of fun.) There will be t-shirts & hats for



Metis Friends and Family Day 2001.

sale, as well as food. Great prizes will be up on tickets. There will be entertainment throughout the day, including Safety Bear and Smokey Bear. Saturday night the adults will be dancing the night away at Rumours to several of our most popular bands, make sure you bring your best dancing shoes! Throughout the night there will be tickets on great prizes, as well as a special door prize.

Transportation will be provided for seniors who want to join in and have a scuff. Seniors can call and leave their name and phone number at the LMN office.

We haven't forgotten our young people, on Sunday night (July 20th) there will be a teen dance held at Rumours. There will be a DJ as well as a Talent Show and door prizes.

If you would like more information or would like to volunteer, please call Darlene @ 896-0592.

Come on out, we would love to see you there!

## News and Notes

### Metis Medal of Honour

The Metis Medal of Honour recognizes a deed or activity of a Metis person performed in an outstanding manner that brings considerable benefit or great honour to the Labrador Metis community, culture, history and/or heritage. Recipients of the award must be of Labrador Metis ancestry. Awards may be given posthumously. If you are interested in nominating someone for this award, please contact the Labrador Metis Nation for an application.

### LMN Open House- Thursday, August 07, 2003

The LMN staff welcomes you to drop by our office, 370 Hamilton River Rd. on Thursday, August 07, 2003. LMN staff will be on hand to talk to you about the work that they are involved in on your behalf. This is an opportunity for the membership to come in and learn more about the services we offer and to meet the staff that work for you on a daily basis.

### Porcupine Strand Archaeological Project

A new archaeological research initiative started on the Porcupine Strand (Sandwich Bay) in the summer of 2001. This research project is lead by Dr. Lisa Rankin, Memorial University of Newfoundland. The main purpose of the project is to determine the cultural occupation of the area to expand understanding of the prehistory of Labrador. This year LMN funded two students to work with Dr. Rankin and her team.

## LMN President Receives Queens Golden Jubilee Medal



Todd Russell, LMN President

The Queens Golden Jubilee Medal is bestowed upon individuals who make significant contributions to their community and regions. In March of this year LMN President, Todd Russell was awarded the medal in recognition of his dedication and life long work for the betterment of Metis people and their communities. His work has helped improve the lives of his fellow Metis and has helped put the Labrador

Metis Nation in the forefront of aboriginal issues.

The LMN Council and staff join the membership in congratulating Mr. Russell for receiving this distinguished honour.

# Metis included in training initiatives for Voisey's Bay

The Labrador Metis Nation (LMN), Voisey's Bay Nickel Company (VBNC), Innu Nation and Labrador Inuit Association (LIA) have established a new company, the Joint Voisey's Bay Training Authority (JETA). This new company was formed to administer the training and employment funding provided by Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) for Labrador's Aboriginal people. The 25 million (approximate) contribution agreement between JETA and HRDC extends over five years and will help prepare Metis, Innu and Inuit for employment for the construction and operation phases at the mine mill site. The Board of Directors of JETA are Rick Gill, VBNC; Todd Russell, LMN; Tim McNeil, LIA and Daniel Ashini, Innu Nation. A working group involving all four parties has commenced to develop a multi-year strategic plan for JETA.

The JETA offices will be located in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

Since the inception of JETA, the LMN

has assisted 44 of it's members in obtaining training to enhance their chances of finding employment at the Voisey's Bay site, during construction. This training was designed to meet VBNC specifications for anticipated employment demands. Members of the LMN trained together with members of the Labrador Inuit Association and the Innu Nation. This has been the first time that all of Labrador's aboriginal people have cooperated together in a project of this nature. In total, 32 members of the LMN successfully completed Heavy Equipment Operator Training on CAT 777 Trucks and CAT 5130 Excavators. 12 more members ( 4 in each course) completed training in Introduction to Commercial Cooking, Accommodations and Housekeeping and Construction Trades Helper.

Additional training is being discussed for the fall. Possible courses may in-

clude Apprenticeship Training in Electrical, Welding, Millwright, Heavy



Metis participate in Heavy Equipment Operator training at the College of the North Atlantic.

Equipment Repair and Process Control. At this time, JETA will only be funding these courses. Seat numbers will be limited and divided between the three aboriginal groups. As plans are finalized and details are determined, training opportunities will be advertised in our communities. Members who are interested in other areas of training should apply to LMN—Human Resource Training for funding, Human Resources Development Canada etc.

## Voisey's Bay: LMN committed to helping you find employment

In February, Wendy Poole was hired as the Voisey's Bay Training and Employment Coordinator for the LMN. Wendy is working out of the Goose Bay office and will assist you in finding employment at the mine/mill site. Wendy is also coordinating all training for our members



Wendy Poole, Voisey's Bay Training and Employment Coordinator

under JETA. If you are interested in work at Voisey's Bay, please contact her for training and/or contractor information.

To date, 17 contracts have been awarded. The details of these contracts can be accessed on the Voisey Bay website at [www.vbnc.ca](http://www.vbnc.ca) or you can contact Wendy for more details.

Employment is projected to increase by mid-July, once a ship with more supplies and accommodations gets to site. All resumes submitted to the LMN have been, and are continuing to be, forwarded to the various contractors as contracts are awarded. Members who have encountered specific issues in seeking employment at Voisey's Bay are encouraged to contact Wendy.

## National Parks-What are they and why do we need new ones?

The Canadian Nature Federation (CNF) has produced a pamphlet called "National Parks and You" to provide information about national parks, including what they are, how they are created, and how local communities

are affected. A copy has been mailed to everyone in the communities near the proposed Mealy Mountains National Park. It may be useful to you if you are interested in learning more about the process to establish the

Mealy Mountains park and how you can get involved. Additional copies are available free of charge from the LMN office, or from the CNF. (Suite 606, One Nicholas St. Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7; 1-800-267-4088; [cnf@cnf.ca](mailto:cnf@cnf.ca)).

## Trans Labrador Highway

The Labrador Metis Nation was one of many groups and agencies who found fault with the recent studies on the Trans Labrador Highway. On April 24 2003, Environment Minister, Bob Mercer announced that the nine hundred page Environmental Impact Statement and four of the individual Comprehensive Studies had to go back to the drawing board. In a thirty page Deficiency Statement the Minister

outlined the problems with the caribou, waterfowl, fish and tourism studies. It is expected that the Department of Works, Services and Transportation and will initiate the necessary improved studies during this coming summer and a further review will be conducted during the fall and winter of 2003/04. The revised work will serve as a Comprehensive Study for the required review under the Canadian En-

vironmental Assessment Act and will also become subject to a Public Panel Review under the provincial legislation. The Labrador Metis Nation has requested a seat on the Public Review Panel and the Provincial Government has agreed. We also hope that the ecological integrity of this pristine part of Labrador, on the doorstep of a potential National Park, can be reasonably assessed and adequately conserved.

## Career Symposiums help Metis youth make informed decisions

To help our youth succeed, we need to bring them together, listen to their concerns, provide information, and implement programs to meet their needs.

The LMN is doing exactly that. Recognizing the importance of education to help empower our youth, the LMN held career symposiums in Goose Bay and Mary's Harbour

this year. Metis youth in both loca-



Career Expo, Goose Bay Labrador, 2003.

tions were given the opportunity to explore career choices.

Symposium organizer, Darlene Wall said, "The main purpose of these symposiums is to increase education and career awareness to Metis students. Young people need to be more aware of their skills, of the labour market and of work search techniques. We realize that making initial career choices and making decisions regarding future endeavors can be intimidating. It is our hope that we can help with this transition."

The Labrador Metis Nation thanks all people who made this event a success including booth holders, presenters, role models, billets, teachers and especially the youth.

## Targeted Wage Subsidies

Individual Métis who are unemployed and are having difficulties finding work; for example: young people with only limited unskilled work experience can benefit from on the job work experience made possible through Targeted Wage Subsidies (TWS)

Labrador Métis Nation - Human Resource Training (LMN-HRT) can offer temporary wage subsidies to employers as an incentive to hire individuals they probably would not hire otherwise. Employers benefit by having more staff and unemployed individuals

benefit by learning new skills and gaining valuable experience.

An employer(s) TWS proposal is evaluated on the quality of the work experience offered to participants, on the likelihood that the job will continue in the long term.

### Eligible Employers:

- businesses,
- non-profit organizations,
- municipal and provincial government,
- councils, and
- public and educational institutions

### Eligible Participants:

- Unemployed individuals:
- a member of LMN;
  - with limited attachment to the workforce; or
  - currently receiving Employment Insurance (EI) benefits; or
  - whose EI benefit period ended within the last three (3) years; or
  - who received EI maternity or parental benefits within the past five (5) years and are re-entering the labour force after having left it to care for newborn or newly adopted children.

# Metis Forest Management

An intensive campaign and consequently direct action in the Upper Lake Melville area during August of 2002 resulted in a first-ever Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the provincial government to: (1) co-operate on forest management planning in the Upper Lake Melville (District 19), Sandwich Bay (District 20) and the Alexis Bay/Straits (District 21) areas and, (2) to promote the value added forest industry. In December, a Forest/GIS Technician and a Forest Planner were hired to facilitate these two objectives. Work began in February to collect Metis land use data in the Upper lake Melville area and the data entries for trapping, hunting and other land use activities have been entered into a database. This information will be used to identify conflicts with other forest users and to aid in the identification of ecological and cultural protected areas as inputs into forest management. LMN input will influence the forest industry's annual work schedules and activities on an ongoing basis for the next five years. The recently formed Forest Planning Office has obtained the inventory database from the Department of Forest Resources and Agrifoods (DFRA) as well as the historical allocations and permits in all three districts as tools for LMN inputs into planning.



Bryn Wood, LMN Forestry Technician

The general vision for forest management is outlined in a resolution from a meeting of the Metis Nation Council from February of 2002: *"the Metis people have relied upon the resources of the land from time immemorial. The forest have always formed an integral part of our way of life. They provide clean air and water, habitat for wild life, and provide for recreational and cultural activities: and the LMN is mandated to protect the forest resources in Metis territory."* The application of that vision can be best described and implemented through ecosystem based planning which strives to protect, maintain and restore functioning ecosystems through time and over landscapes. Within this planning framework human activities must be carried out which meet the constraints placed upon those activities and, specifically industrial forestry. In other words, ecosystem based planning dictates that without fully functioning ecosystems human activities are not possible in the long term and that economies rely entirely on functioning ecosystems. The most demonstrable example of the failure of an ecosystem to support an economy in Newfoundland and Labrador is, of course, the failure of the Northern Cod fishery. For many

reasons, the problems associated with errors in forestry activities may not show up for a hundred years or more, which is a very good reason to apply precautionary principles in forest planning and not to make the mistakes of the past.

In District 19, the LMN has had some influence on Abitibi Consolidated activities. They have agreed to remove sawlogs from piles at Otter Creek and have agreed to sell up to 12,000 cubic meters for local consumption. This was, in part, the result of a motion from the LMN Council to pursue a twelve centimeter sawlog rule for Labrador which demanded that harvested sawlogs were to be used as sawlogs on Labrador soil, instead of being shipped to Stephenville for pulp. This motion resulted in extensive discussions and correspondence with the DFRA and Abitibi and had very positive results. Another important obligation recently obtained from DFRA is that the Metis Nation will be fully consulted on all amendments to the Five Year Operating Plan in District 19 and specifically, plans and allocations on the South side of the Grand River. This is extremely important because the identified Annual Allowable Cut for the south Side is almost triple that of the North side of the river. Metis land use data has been collected in the Cartwright area and is presently in the process of being digitized into our Geographical Information System (GIS). Further information will be collected during the summer of 2003 and the Metis Forest Planning Office will apply our newly minted policies and inputs to the draft District 20 plan.

Under the direction of the Metis Council three Forest Management Committees are in the process of being formed as advisory bodies. There is also an ongoing dialogue with DFRA on permits held by Metis member in all three districts and there has been a firm commitment from government to consult with the LMN on all new permits and any permit increases.

## Metis Development Corporation (MDC)

The Metis Development Corporation (MDC) was incorporated on May 20, 2003. This officially notes the start of a new era for the Labrador Metis as we venture forward in direct participation in all sectors of the Labrador economy.

The new Board of Directors of MDC is comprised of the following persons: Todd Russell - President; Alex Par - Vice President; and Jamie Snook - Secretary-Treasurer. The executive is joined by Directors: Carter Russell and Clarice Blake-Rudkowski. Currently, the Metis Development Corporation is staffed by John Fleet - General Manager.

MDC has a number of initiatives underway including a Tourism Study,



John Fleet, MDC General Manager

which is being done by Dennis Knight Associates, from St. John's. The consultant report will be tabled by the end of June and will include strategies for

tourism development in Upper Lake Melville and Southern Labrador.

Work is also underway in compiling a Metis Business Directory. Two students, Angela Learning and Sonya Mesher, have been hired to do a complete survey of all businesses operations in Labrador which are owned by Metis.

The directory will be completed by the end of August and will be available on-line and be linked to the Labrador Metis web-page.

MDC is actively pursuing business opportunities in all sectors of the Labrador economy including Forestry, Fishery, Mining, Environment, Civil Construction, Engineering, & Training.

MDC has retained Claude Rumbolt to work with communities and individuals connected to the fisheries. This project will continue for the foreseeable future.

MDC will have its own web-page linked to the Labrador Metis site by the end of the summer and it will include tips on how to start a business and where to seek financial advice. For further information, please contact: John Fleet 896-5722 or by email: [jfleet@hvgb.net](mailto:jfleet@hvgb.net)

## Fishery Committee to be established

The LMN Council is looking for members to establish a LMN Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee. The Council has approved the Committee structure as follows:

- full time crabber and shrimper (area 6)

- supplementary crabber (area 5)
- under 35 crabber and shrimper
- Plant worker
- LMN Councillor

If you are a member of the Labrador

Metis Nation, fit the above specifications and are interested in representing your sector on an LMN fisheries committee, please contact Claude Rumbolt, LMN Fisheries Specialist.

## HOPE AIR : Helping Canadian patients travel for free



*"Hope Air arranges free transportation for Canadians who must travel for medical care"*

Hope Air is a registered charity that arranges free air transportation for Canadians who must travel for medical care, but cannot themselves afford the flight costs.

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible for this services:

- Be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant and be living in Canada,
- Demonstrate financial need,
- Have a scheduled appointment for medical treatment

covered under a provincial medical plan,

- Hope Air requires at least three weeks notice, to allow us time to arrange transportation, and
- Pay a \$50 processing fee.

For more information on this service, please call:

1-877-346-4673  
416-222-6335  
Monday-Friday, 9-5 EST

## Canada's next Prime Minister visits Metis communities

Paul Martin, leading contender for the next Prime Minister of Canada, visited two Labrador Metis Nation communities on his tour through Labrador.

When asked the question about his approach to land claim settlements, Mr. Martin said he was open to a Labrador Aboriginal Claims Commission that would include the Labrador Metis Nation, Labrador Inuit Association and the Innu Nation.

In Charlottetown, he was greeted by flag waving Metis youth. Inside the community centre a supporting audi-



Paul Martin, Candidate for Liberal Party of Canada Leader

ence were delighted to hear Mr. Mar-

tin speak about the tremendous Metis people. He said, "Your people have been here since time immemorial. You should be proud of the contribution they have made to the diversity of this part of the country and Canada as a whole."

We extend many thanks to Mr. Martin and his wife Sheila for taking the time to visit our territory. We also thank Mr. Lawrence O'Brien and those who participated in helping to organize.

Voting for delegates to the leadership convention will take place in September.

## National Aboriginal Day Celebrations

Events to celebrate National Aboriginal Day was held in many Labrador Metis communities on June 21, 2003. In Goose Bay a planning team composed of Metis, Innu and Inuit representatives organized for a day of fun at the Old Town Square. It provided an opportu-



National Aboriginal Day, June 21, Goose Bay.

nity for Aboriginal people to display their crafts, art, culture and to enjoy traditional snacks. A regional event, or-

ganized by the Learning for Life Program took place in Port Hope Simpson. Other communities such as Black Tickle and Pinsent's Arm held their own festivities. William's Harbour and Norman Bay plan to celebrate National Aboriginal Day at a later date. All in all, National Aboriginal Day was celebrated by many Labrador Metis all across the Big Land.

## Census Canada reports Metis are the largest Aboriginal group in Labrador

New data from the 2001 Census show that the Aboriginal population is younger and growing rapidly compared to the non-Aboriginal population. In Newfoundland and Labrador, 18,775 people identified as being an Aboriginal or having Aboriginal ancestry. The Metis population increased by 11.4% between 1996 and 2001. This can be attributed to a number of factors including that people are self identifying at a higher rate. The total Metis population in the province is 5,480, which makes it the largest Aboriginal group in Labrador. The Inuit identity population came in under the Metis at 4,560.

### 2001 Census Figures:

Total Aboriginal Population for the Province

**18,775**

Total Aboriginal Population for Labrador

**9,700**

Aboriginal Identity Population for the Province

Metis - 5,480

Inuit - 4,560

Communities with the Largest Metis Population

Goose Bay 1470

Cartwright 465

Port Hope Simpson 440

## LABRADOR METIS NATION

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We're on the Web!  
[www.labmetis.org](http://www.labmetis.org)

The Metis Messenger can be obtained at the Labrador Friendship Centre, Labrador Metis Nation Office (370 Hamilton River Road, Warr's Pharmacy Ltd., Hamilton Drugs, Labrador Institute and the College of the North Atlantic.

## Supreme Court Powley Case: Province said Metis do not have enough Aboriginal Blood

The Province of Newfoundland and the Labrador Metis Nation (LMN) appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada on March 17, 2003 as interveners in the Powley Case. The outcome of the case could have wide repercussions for all Metis people across Canada.

The Province of Newfoundland said "the Metis of Labrador do not have enough Aboriginal blood." "We are not sure why the provincial government, who supports the idea of a land claim is fighting against hunting rights for our members." said President Russell.

It is expected that the Supreme Court will make their decision on the Powley case this fall. Hunting and fishing charges pending against Labrador Metis members have been held over until after the Powley decision has been made.

## MDC Logo Contest

The Metis Development Corporation is seeking a unique logo design for its' marketing material and letterhead. Your design should include some element of the Labrador Metis Nation symbol. Our corporation is a business entity of LMN and the should incorporate an element depicting progress; and a bright future.

It is recommended that the design make use of the primary colours in the Labrador flag. Interested persons should submit their design to: Metis Development Corporation, P.O. Box 460, Stn. C, Happy Valley – Goose Bay, Labrador, A0P 1C0.

Prize for the winning design is \$250.00  
Deadline for submissions: July 25, 2003

## What the Royal Commission said about the LMN

The Royal Commission on Renewing and Strengthening our Place in Canada made the following statements about the Labrador Metis:

"The Labrador Métis (descendants of contact-period European men and Inuit women) do not have access to the full range of programs and services available to many other peoples of Aboriginal descent. They have submitted land claims documentation with the federal government, but, as of yet, have been unsuccessful in having it accepted for negotiation. The Labrador Métis Nation President told the Commission that these two factors make the membership feel they are being treated unfairly when compared to their neighbors, the members of the Labrador Inuit Association and Innu Nation.

The federal government must bring clarity to questions surrounding the status of the Labrador Métis Nation and the acceptability of their land claims application." [page 51]

"...the Commission is of the view that the federal government must place greater emphasis on bringing clarity to the rights and entitlements of the Aboriginal peoples in this province, with priority being given to: (i) concluding land claims negotiations with the Inuit and Innu, and the creation of reserves at Natuashish and Sheshatshiu, (ii) finding a way to enable all Mi'kmaq and the Labrador Métis Nation to access federal Aboriginal programs and services, and (iii) making a final decision on the Labrador Métis' land claims application.

The Aboriginal peoples in this province have waited many decades for government action. Progress has been made, but it is slow in coming and is not at the same rate for all groups. The federal government must realize the sense of urgency which accompanies the concerns expressed and, with the support of the provincial government, must find ways to work more effectively with the Aboriginal leadership to ensure a strengthened future for all Aboriginal people in the province. [page 51]

The complete report can be viewed on the Government of Newfoundland website: [www.gov.nf.ca](http://www.gov.nf.ca).