



Metis Messenger

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LABRADOR METIS NATION



Tribute to our good friend

On December 16, 2004, the Labrador Metis Nation and, indeed, all of Labrador lost a good friend and ambassador with the passing of Lawrence O'Brien.

Born in L'Anse au Loup, Lawrence was first elected to Parliament during a byelection in 1996 and was re-elected three times. He was the first Labrador-born MP to represent the riding and was a staunch defender of the region and its people.

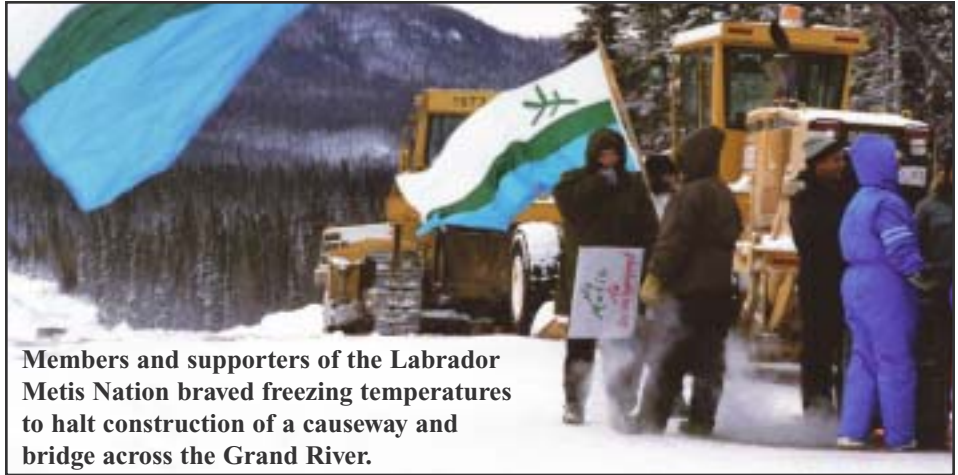
"Lawrence has touched all of Labrador in one way or another," says LMN president Todd Russell. "He was a true friend of the people, and played a key role in advancing some of the major issues that affect all of us."

"Lawrence was a personal friend of the Inuit-Metis of Labrador who was always willing to push our cause and defend our rights," Russell adds. "He will be missed by all who knew and loved him."

Lawrence is survived by his wife Alice and children Michael and Amanda. He was 53.



LAWRENCE O'BRIEN



Members and supporters of the Labrador Metis Nation braved freezing temperatures to halt construction of a causeway and bridge across the Grand River.

Clarice Blake Rudkowski photo

PROVINCE RATIFIES LABRADOR INUIT AGREEMENT

Taking action on the ground

As the House of Assembly was about to ratify the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement on December 6, 2004, members and supporters of the Labrador Metis Nation (LMN) took to the ground in protest - at the construction site of the causeway and bridge on the Grand River near Happy Valley-Goose Bay, and on the steps of Confederation Building in St. John's

"We wanted to demonstrate to the government that the Inuit-Metis of Labrador will not stand idly by and allow our rights to be simply taken away by the stroke of a pen," says LMN president Todd Russell. "It is our firm belief the LIA agreement must contain a legally-binding protection clause for the Inuit-

Metis of Labrador."

The federal and provincial governments, along with the Labrador Inuit Association, formally signed the final agreement during a ceremony in Nain on January 22. It won't become law until it is ratified by the House of Commons. That vote is expected to take place this spring.

"We want nothing more than to celebrate alongside our Inuit brothers and sisters," says Russell. "We are not opposed to them getting what is rightfully theirs. All we want is fairness for our people, and an opportunity to have our rights and titles recognized and affirmed."

"We, too, want the chance to celebrate, to unite families and communities for the common good of all."

INSIDE

FAQs

Frequently asked questions concerning the Labrador Metis Nation's caribou harvesting plan and guidelines.

Page 2

Up and Running

Interested in owning and operating your own business enterprise? The Metis Business Centre may be able to help.

Page 3

Building Partnerships

Labrador Metis Nation files moving forward on a number of fronts.

Page 7

Caribou harvesting plan

1) Is it legal for me to hunt under the guidelines of the Labrador Metis Nation, and will my property be confiscated if I am approached by a wildlife officer?

While there is no formal agreement with the provincial government, Aboriginal Affairs Minister Tom Rideout has given reassurances to the Labrador Metis Nation that wildlife

officers will not pursue, except in extenuating circumstances in the interests of conservation and safety, any seizures or confiscations of items used by hunters or wildlife taken by hunters who are able to demonstrate they are members of the LMN.

2) Can I get someone to hunt for me?

You can designate someone to hunt for you as long as the designated person is a member of the Labrador Metis Nation, and has their Metis identification card on hand while hunting.

4) What is the procedure to have someone else hunt for me?

Provide the Environment/Forestry Office at the Labrador Metis Nation with the name and Metis identification number of your hunter so that this information can be kept on record. Provide your hunter with both the hunting guidelines from the Labrador Metis Nation and the hunter return form.

5) How many tags can I receive?

Tags are assigned per household based on need. In most instances a maximum of four tags are given. However, in some circumstances, such as a large family, then tags will be assigned accordingly. A letter should be written explaining why there is a need for a large amount of caribou meat. Caribou tags are assigned, keeping conservation in mind.

6) How can I get my tags if I live outside Happy Valley- Goose Bay?

Tags can not be assigned if you are not currently living within the land claim area. However, if you are living outside of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, tags are sent to most communities for distribution by a

member there, or through local councillors.

Arrangements can also be made to have someone pick up your tags for you in Happy Valley-Goose Bay by sending a signed letter

or phoning the Labrador Metis Nation office, stating your name and Metis identification number, and clearly identifying an individual to pick up your tags for you.

7) Is each family member entitled to an allotment of caribou tags?

As of this year, tags are being given out per household. If one family member picks up four tags, then another member of the house cannot come in and pick up four more tags, and so forth.

8) Do these tags enable us to hunt any caribou herd in Labrador?

No. Caribou herds whose population is threatened or endangered will not be part of the hunt supported by the Labrador Metis Nation. Only George River Caribou are to be hunted - staying in the zones that are open.

9) What is the cost associated with the caribou tags?

Caribou tags are provided to members of the LMN at no cost. However, it is strongly recommended that members who do not already have the new photo identification card that they purchase one as soon as possible. The processing fee is \$10. It is mandatory that hunters have their Metis photo ID with them when hunting.

10) Do I need to have a valid FAC to hunt using tags provided by the Labrador Metis Nation?

Yes. The Labrador Metis Nation is following hunting safety and conservation guidelines.

Summary of Guidelines

1. As of November 22, 2004 caribou hunting tags will be issued, without cost to LMN members based on family subsistence needs, with the number of tags per family determined in connection with stated need based on family size and degree of reliance on traditional food. These guidelines do not cover transferal of caribou meat or hunting privileges to individuals who are non-Metis.

2. Metis hunters/harvesters are authorized to hunt for and use LMN issued tags for LMN members who are unable to prosecute their own hunt. All hunting is to be reported to the LMN offices before the hunt to permit appropriate conservation and safety considerations.

3. The total number of tags to be issued by the LMN for the 2004/2005 (Fall and Spring) hunts is to be determined on the basis of sound conservation principles.

4. The provision of tags to LMN hunters is strictly for food (subsistence) purposes of members of the LMN. No commercial or guided sport hunting is to be carried out under these LMN Guidelines.

5. LMN hunters issued tags are to report the particulars of their hunt. Reporting will be facilitated by a Caribou Hunt Return to be provided to all applicant hunters, and can be done by mail or fax to the LMN office in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

6. All caribou taken in the hunt shall have a tag affixed to one leg of each animal from the time the animal is killed to the point it is processed for domestic consumption. Unused tags are to be returned to the LMN office to assist us in maintaining accurate figures on the harvest and to permit proper assessments of conservation requirements.

See Guidelines Page 8

FAQs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Metis Business Centre up and running

The Metis Business Centre was officially opened on October 22, 2004.

The Centre was dedicated by elder Ken Mesher, and there were remarks by Labrador Metis Nation President Todd Russell, Rex Goudie on behalf of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, and Max Butler who conveyed best wishes on behalf of the MP's office.

A partnership between ACOA and LMN, the centre will enable Labrador Metis to become involved in owning and operating their own business enterprise. The centre is located in the

Labrador Dental Clinic building in space formerly occupied by the Labrador Winter Games Headquarters at 2 Bowell Street, Happy Valley-Goose Bay - across the road from the LMN office.

The centre is a two-year project and is staffed by Amy Moss, business analyst; and by Gail King, office administrator.

Visitors will find a complete office setting with individual computer workstations where clients can research business ideas, and also take advantage of advice on preparing business plans and

seeking funding. The centre also has links with all the major banks, Aboriginal business funds, and entrepreneurial funding through the Ulnoweeg Corporation - which offers excellent business loans at low interest rates to budding Aboriginal entrepreneurs.

The centre is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 – 4:30 and our telephone number is 896-5035. If you have a good business idea, come see us and we may be able to make your idea come true! Visit our website www.metisbusiness.ca for additional information.

ON THE RISE

More Metis students becoming involved in research projects

By Julie Bull

Research has always been something that has interested me because I feel that it is through research programs that we become more aware of the needs of people around us. In turn, we are better able to identify and develop services to meet these particular needs.

I have realized in the short time working as a researcher last summer that I was right in saying those things. Research is rewarding to the researcher and to the community as a whole.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is a growing concern for the people of Labrador and I feel that I have helped in a small way with the development of necessary resources for those people who are affected.

There is no doubt that a nine-week summer program is not the 'be all and the end all' for FASD research, but it cannot be denied that it is the beginning of great things to come.

As a member of the Labrador Metis Nation, it is more than a pleasure for me to be involved in this pivotal moment for Labrador. Research is on the rise and the people of Labrador will reap the benefits of projects that will occur in the area. I would take any opportunity like this one in the future with open arms and I look forward to becoming an instrumental part of the development of programming and services through future research in Labrador.

Upon returning to my studies at the University of Prince Edward Island, I feel that I have gained both academic and personal skills through this program that will be instrumental in my future endeavors. There are many things that I will do in my life, both in an academic and professional setting, which I will reiterate the knowledge and experience that I have gained through such a short working time.

I would welcome the opportunity to



JULIE BULL

do future projects similar to this one. There are many people in the world who are doing their part to help, and I feel that I am helping in the way of research.

I would invite all people who want to become part of the ever-growing team of people who want to help our communities, to become a researcher in a field that is interesting to them.

Fishing, wildlife charges dismissed, stayed

Some 20 wildlife charges against 10 Inuit-Metis hunters were stayed by the provincial Department of Justice in December, less than two months after the Government of Canada decided not to lead any evidence into charges against 35 Inuit-Metis fishers.

The wildlife charges, some dating back as far as four years, ranged from carrying a firearm without a valid game licence to illegal possession of caribou. The fishers were charged after they set out to salmon fish without licences in 1999 and 2000. They harvested salmon for food in protest over government regulations that infringe on their Aboriginal right to fish salmon in their traditional territory.

"The LMN has been working very diligently and strategically towards the acknowledgment of our harvesting rights,"

Russell said. "We will continue to push the provincial government to enter into a harvesting agreement so that our members will no longer fear being prosecuted for carrying out traditional activities on our land."

Cooperation with Ottawa was signaled last summer when the government entered into discussions with the LMN and granted the organization a multi-species communal fishing licence under the Aboriginal Fishing Strategy. The communal licence allows Inuit-Metis to fish for food purposes in a portion of LMN territory.

"Although we have problems with the geographical boundaries imposed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans on our communal licence we are optimistic that it can be resolved given the this new cooperative climate," Russell says.



Labrador Metis Nation President Todd Russell provides a salmon to Metis elder Jack Holwell of Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

Annual General Assembly highlights

The Labrador Metis Nation Annual General Assembly will be held in Happy Valley-Goose Bay on Feb. 26 and 27. Intended to reflect the direction that the organization has taken, our theme this year is 'Standing Firm: Taking Back our Land'. A priority within this two-day Assembly will be to celebrate LMN achievements, to set direction for the new year and celebrate our culture and contribution to Labrador and Canadian society.

The AGA, which will take place at the Aurora Hotel in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, gets under way at 5 p.m. Friday evening with registration, followed by the President's Meet and Greet. Sessions will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Workshops will be held on civil disobedience, nuclear waste, harvesting and youth. The assembly banquet, taking place at the Royal Canadian Legion, will be highlighted by a performance of "Woman of Labrador", as well as the unveiling on a new LMN Awareness Campaign. Music and entertainment will also be provided - great fun for Metis and friends and supporters!

Thursday, February 24 is election day for the following Labrador Metis Nation communities: Cartwright, Black Tickle,

Paradise River, Norman Bay, Charlottetown, Pinsent's Arm, William's Harbour, Port Hope Simpson, Mary's Harbour, St. Lewis, Labrador Straits, and Labrador West. Voting will begin in Happy Valley-Goose Bay and North West River on Feb. 26 during the AGA.

The following members have put their names forward as councillor candidates in the upcoming election:

Zone 1 (Cartwright, Paradise River and Black Tickle), two Councillors - Edwin Heard (elected by acclamation) and John Martin (elected by acclamation).

Zone 2 (Port Hope Simpson, Charlottetown, Norman Bay, Pinsent's Arm and William's Harbour), two councillors - Denley Ward Sr., Darlene Ward, Betty Strugnell, Bonnie Burt and Boyce Turnbull.

Zone 3 (Fox Harbour, Mary's Harbour and Lodge Bay), two councillors - Nina Pye, Keith Rumbolt and Israel Penney.

Zone 4 (Happy Valley -Goose Bay, Mud Lake, North West River, Labrador West), four councillors -Kirk Lethbridge, Chris Montague, Gary Broomfield, David Hamel, Jessie Tobin, Don Dyson, Percy Davis and Ted Davis.

Zone 5 (Labrador Straits), one coun-

cillor - Wade Earle and Beatrice Hancock.

Youth Councillor (elected at large), Amanda Cull and Christa Turnbull.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Community meetings will also be held at the following places:

Feb. 13 - Forteau, 7p.m., Community Centre;

Feb. 14 - Mary's Harbour, 7p.m. Community Centre;

Feb. 15 - St. Lewis, 7 p.m., Fisherman's Landing Lounge;

Feb. 16 - Port Hope Simpson, 7 p.m., Alexis Hotel;

Feb. 17, Charlottetown 7p.m., William Gillette Academy;

Feb. 18 - Norman Bay, 10 a.m., Community Hall

Feb. 18 - Pinsent's Arm, 7 p.m., Community Hall;

Feb. 19 - William's Harbour (time and place to be announced);

Feb. 21- Black Tickle, 11a.m., Community Hall;

Feb. 22 - Cartwright 7:00 p.m. Parish Hall.

For updated information, visit our website at www.labmetis.org or contact Shirley Pye at 709-896-0592.

KAYAKING ALONG LABRADOR'S SOUTH COAST

Happy Valley-Goose Bay to Cartwright

This is the first installment of a three-part series. Part II will be printed in the Spring edition of the Metis Messenger, with Part III being printed in the Fall.

BY RICHARD LEARNING

In the summer of 2002, I began what would be the first of three kayak trips paddling down the Labrador southern coastline, from Happy Valley-Goose Bay to Capstan Island in the Labrador Straits.

DAY ONE - July 07

On July 07, 2002, my oldest brother, Jim, and I began our kayak trip from Happy Valley-Goose Bay to Cartwright. It was raining and cold as we left from the beach off Mud Lake Road and started across the Churchill River.

We had lunch at Muldoon Point and from there we headed for Point Epinette Island. Crossing Carter Basin was very difficult because the wind had picked up considerably, making the waves about five feet high and very choppy. We had to paddle tight to the land after we crossed the bay. We kayaked along Point Epinette before making our way to Cliff McLean's cabin at Point Epinette Island.

We arrived at the island cold and wet, around 6:40p.m.

DAY TWO

Next morning the sun was shining and after thanking Cliff, we were off for Hares Ears at 6:30 am.

We had lunch at Kiniriakak Point. The weather was beautiful with not a breath of wind, and the water was 'flat calm' as we kayaked along. We arrived at a cabin owned by Clayton McLean at 6:30 p.m. The sun was shining on the sandy beach as we paddled ashore. We spread our wet clothes on the front bridge of the cabin to dry in the warm sun. There we had a good night's sleep.

DAY THREE

It was raining and windy. We left Hares Ears at 9 a.m., and had lunch at Place Point.

We went on to Cabot Island where we found a rusty hatchet, and spotted a ring seal on a rock about 100 feet off shore.

PART ONE

That evening we stopped at Frenchmen Point to set up our tent for the night.

DAY FOUR

The wind was blowing hard on the land and we couldn't leave because the waves were too rough coming onto the beach. This was a lesson for both of us. The next time we would find a protected cove before settling for the night - we were too exposed here on the open lake. We spent the day resting and exploring the area.

Later that evening the wind and waves started to die down, and since we had a couple of hours kayaking left, we decided to break camp. We left at 7:30 p.m. and headed off for English River. After about 10 minutes paddling, we sighted a black bear walking along the beach, toward our old camping spot.

At 9:30 p.m., we arrived at English River, set up our tent next to an old run-down tilt, lit the old wood stove in the tilt and hung our clothes there to dry.

DAY FIVE

At 6 a.m., we were heading for Trout Point and then straight for Pelter's Island, where we had lunch before setting off towards Stag Island and then on to Rigolet.

Once we were in the Hamilton Inlet for the first time, I could smell the salty ocean air; the smell was so refreshing. We were lucky that the tide was falling which made our time much faster. If the tide was rising we would not be able to paddle against it since it comes in at about five knots. The weather was warm and the wind was on our back so we were making good time. We arrived at Rigolet at 7:30 that evening. We pulled our kayak up on Max Blake's lawn and spent the night.

DAY SIX

We left at 11 o'clock the next morning. As we kayaked, we saw whales, seals, sea birds and the clear green ocean.

We were heading for Lesters Point where Howard Michelin, and his brother,

Steward, were spending the week netting salmon. Before we left Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Howard had invited me to drop in there for a meal of fried salmon. As we arrived at the cabin, we could smell the salmon frying and we were hungry! The salmon was very tasty and filling. We thanked them for the meal and at 2 p.m. once again were headed for Cartwright. At Turner's Bight, we dropped in to see Frank Webber and Dick Michelin who were at a friend's cabin there. We had a lunch with them and left at 6:30 p.m. to kayak for another hour to Cranford Harbour where we camped for the night.

DAY SEVEN

The next day was sunny and warm and we were off at 7a.m. As we kayaked down Groswater Bay, it was calm and there were hundreds of young ducks everywhere. We ate our lunch at Snook's Cove and rested for an hour before doing a little walk around of the place. We got going again and headed towards Cuff Harbour. Just inside Indian Islands, we saw a black bear on the hill above the shoreline. We kayaked along the shore and stopped at a cove to camp. After we were settled for the evening, we climbed a hill and looked out over the ocean. Some distance out there was a long string of icebergs across Groswater Bay. What a beautiful sight.

DAY EIGHT

The next morning were up at five o'clock. The tide was dead low and we had to carry our camping gear and kayak about 200 metres to get to the water. As we were carrying the equipment over the shoals, we saw fresh caribou tracks in the mud. They must have passed by earlier that morning. Today was Jim's 65th birthday and we decided we would have breakfast at West Bay, which was once a fishing community but is now deserted.

We arrived around 10a.m. The sun was nice and warm so we lazed around for about an hour and a half looking at the fallen houses and the old rotting fishing nets.

See Kayaking on Page 8

LEARNING FOR LIFE: YOUTH ADVENTURE

Preventing Type 2 Diabetes

Battle Harbour was the site of an adventure camp for 21 Labrador youth (from ages 13 to 17) last summer.

The "Learning for Life -Preventing Diabetes" project of the Labrador Metis Nation was the major sponsor for this event. Darlene Wall and Melita Paul from the "Learning for Life" project organized this event with help from Ethel Byrne and Nicola Penney from the Grenfell Regional Health Services Diabetes Education Centre. LMN President Todd Russell also attended and participated.

This recreated fishing village provided the perfect setting for some good old-fashioned fun. Activities to promote healthy eating and active living included trail walks, skipping competitions, snack preparation, and diabetes dinner theatre, as well as a visit from Ticker Tom.

Time was also allotted for education sessions of peer pressure, career planning, diabetes awareness and the history of Battle Harbour and the Labrador Metis Nation. There was also time for a little swimming, fishing, and a campfire, com-



T.J. Davis of Happy Valley-Goose Bay hauled in a few tom cod while taking part in the Learning for Life event in Battle Harbour last summer.

plete with ghost stories.

Research shows that the incidence of Type 2 Diabetes is increasing among our youth. This successful camp is just one of the events organized by the LMN and

Grenfell Regional Health Services to help prevent this disease. Thank you to all sponsors who helped to make this event possible and a thank you to the youth for making it so successful.

LMN-HRT Level III Scholarship

Five scholarships of \$2000 each are awarded annually to Metis students who are graduating from Level III and who have demonstrated admirable community and school involvement as well as academic achievement.

One scholarship is awarded per Zone as follows:

- Zone 1:** Black Tickle, Cartwright & Paradise River;
- Zone 2:** Charlottetown, Norman Bay, Pinsent's Arm, Port Hope Simpson and William's Harbour;
- Zone 3:** St. Lewis, Mary's Harbour & Lodge Bay;
- Zone 4:** Happy Valley-Goose Bay, North West River, Churchill Falls, Labrador City and Wabush;
- Zone 5:** Labrador Straits (L'Anse au Clair to Red Bay).

CRITERIA

In order to qualify, students must successfully complete Level III and plan to pursue post secondary training. They must also provide a short essay on future goals and aspirations and why they feel they are a good candidates for the scholarship. As well, they must provide three character references

(principal/teacher, community group/council leader and one other).

The deadline for applications is **April 30, 2005.**

Reference letters, essay and midterm grade report should be mailed in one envelope and post marked by the deadline. A certified final grade report, signed by your principal, must also be submitted when school is finished in June.

All materials should be sent to:

Labrador Metis Nation – HRT Scholarship
Attn: Ms. Wendy Poole
P.O. Box 460, Stn. C
Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador
A0P 1C0

Applications may be faxed to 709-896-0594 but originals must follow by mail.

Forestry, Trans-Labrador Highway and wildlife

Building partnerships helping to play role in moving LMN files forward

The Forest Management Plan for Cartwright, Paradise River, Black Tickle area (District 20) was released from the Environmental Protection Act on Dec. 3, 2004.

Some 30,000 cubic metres of wood per year is now available for domestic and commercial uses. The LMN has hired a forest research assistant who will conduct a review of the options for the best forest uses in the District. The report will be submitted to the LMN by the end of February.

The research includes a review of several case studies (from across the country and in northern Newfoundland) and a survey of all the commercial permit holders in District 20. It is expected that the four main options for long-term development identified by the Forest Planning Office (LMN) will have been reviewed by the LMN Council and recommendations can be made as to how to move forward by the end of March. Those include: (1) the formation of a co-op; (2) partnerships of existing operators in the district; (3) partnerships between local people and outside interests; and (4) development of the forest resources by parties outside the district.

The latter option is the least desired by people in the District. Survey results show that option 2 (partnership within the community) is the most reasonable way forward. It is expected that the Department of Natural Resources will soon call an Expression of Interest to utilize the timber identified in the Management Plan.

Public meetings have been held during the fall and early winter in four communities in District 21 (Charlottetown to the Straits). These meetings have been very poorly attended, except in the area of the highest level of industrial activity (Port Hope Simpson). The LMN encourages all members to attend these meetings. Many forest operations can impact other land uses and it is very important that the public express its views, so that future conflicts may be avoided.

A total of 305 land use surveys

REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

(Metis members) has been completed by the Forest Planning Office in the District, and the information will be used as inputs to the Management Plan in District 21.

In District 19 (Upper lake Melville) a public Forest Monitoring Committee has been formed to oversee the implementation of the five- year management plan.

The causeway/bridge across the Grand River, expected to be completed in a couple of years, will give access to a further 146,000 cubic metres of wood. As a result of intense lobbying by the LMN (in part) a call for proposals and Terms of Reference has been issued by the provincial government to investigate the integration and development of the sawmill industry, value added products, secondary products and marketing for Labrador. Results of that study should be available for review and implementation this spring.

TRANS-LABRADOR HIGHWAY

Two contracts have been issued and work has begun on Phase III of the TLH. At the Happy Valley-Goose Bay end, 150 meters of causeway has been extended into the Grand River. On the Cartwright end, a temporary bridge has been constructed across the Paradise River and several kilometers of road has been roughed out towards Happy Valley-Goose Bay. LMN environmental personnel and the LMN Fisheries Guardians have been keeping a close watch on these construction activities.

The LMN recently signed a joint agreement with the Innu Nation to write a proposal for a project which will conduct scientific surveys on salmonid stocks and fish habitat in 25,000 sq. km of the Eagle River Plateau through which this

road will be constructed. The purpose of the scientific work, which both parties are hopeful will be a five-year project, will be to acquire baseline data for monitoring the impacts of the road and provide a background for mitigation of negative effects. These watersheds are probably the last pristine salmonid habitats left in North America and probably the last chance to get it right. This proposal from the LMN and Innu Nation for the scientific work will be presented to DFO. The proposal will be supported through the Aboriginal Involvement in Aquatic Resources and Ocean management (AAROM) program.

WILDLIFE AND SPECIES AT RISK

The current caribou tagging program has been a success. In the 2003-04 season, 86 recipients picked up tags for their caribou hunt. This year, (2004-05) more than triple that number of hunters have picked up tags. It is important that the hunter returns are sent in to the Happy Valley-Goose Bay Office so that the best possible data can be obtained for management and conservation of these herds. A workshop will be held at this year's AGA to obtain input from LMN members.

A person will be hired this winter, through the Aboriginal Involvement Fund, to visit communities and hold information sessions concerning the new Species at Risk Act. These presentations will inform the LMN about the new legislation.

Metis will also be asked how they can best have inputs into the Aboriginal Involvement Fund, which is designed to ensure that people are well aware of threatened and endangered wildlife species in their area.

The LMN has also recently partnered with the Province, the Innu Nation and the LIA on the Habitat Stewardship Program, which is primarily involved in the recovery of terrestrial species such as woodland caribou and wolverine. One person will be hired for that program in April.

Kayaking along Labrador's south coast

Continued from Page 5

We found an old Comfort woodstove taken apart ready to ship but was obviously left behind.

It was time to leave this wonderful spot and head up along the West Bay Strand. After kayaking for about an hour, we realized we weren't moving ahead. The wind was pushing against us too hard. The waves rolling onto the beach were huge, maybe eight to 10 feet high. We made our way to shore.

That evening, the wind died so we kayaked around Paradise Point to Woolfreys Brook where we spent the night.

DAY NINE

The next morning we rounded Cape Porcupine heading straight for Sandy Point where we ate lunch before heading across the mouth of North River to Table Hill Bay Cove.

We lazed about the beach for a couple of hours before heading for Cartwright arriving late in the evening. The trip was over and the next day we were on the ferry for Goose Bay. Jim and I had kayaked about 325 km.



Labrador Metis Nation
P.O. Box 460, Stn. C
Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL
Canada A0P 1E0

Phone: 709-896-0592
Fax: 709-896-0594

E-mail: spye@labmetis.org
www.labmetis.org

Human Resource Training

The deadline for applications for post secondary funding for the 2005/2006 school year is April 30, 2005. All applications must be received or post marked by this date.

All required supporting documentation should be submitted with the application, with the exception of Level III transcripts which must be submitted in June. Applications are available on our website at www.labmetis.org under the Programs and Services link, at local EAS offices or by calling 1-877-896-0592.

Applications received after the deadline may not be considered unless the budget allows after all punctual applications are addressed.

Caribou harvesting guidelines

Continued from Page 2

7. All LMN hunters must follow the rules of safety in prosecuting the hunt.

8. Metis hunters should hunt and kill only barren land caribou from the George River herd. Metis hunters must refrain from harvesting Woodland Caribou from herds such as the following: Red Wine population, Lac Joseph population and Mealy Mountains population. These measures are a reflection of concerns within our membership.

9. Respecting conservation we recommend that Metis hunters should hunt and kill only in the areas deemed appropriate by the LMN and consistent with zone openings.

10. Hunting must be conducted within the guidelines established by the LMN.

11. Hunters must have their Metis (photo) ID cards in their possession at all times.

12. If you are approached by a Wildlife Enforcement Officer, hunters must identify themselves as a Metis person, show their Metis identification card, and state that they are hunting under the guidelines of the Labrador Metis Nation.

13. Members should dispose of the remains of their hunt in an appropriate fashion with all due consideration for health and the environment. We recom-

mend that remains are left an adequate distance from the Trans Labrador Highway.

14. Metis hunters are recommended to follow traditional safety practices and safety guidelines as set out by Federal and Provincial regulation, until such time as the LMN can iterate its own guidelines.

These guidelines have been issued pursuant to Executive Order 11-15-2004 and are designed as an interim measure.

Further community consultations and negotiations could result in new guidelines or amendments to existing guidelines.

The caribou return system will be used to estimate populations for the purposes of conservation and wildlife management in the interests of Metis people and our environment. Caribou returns should be mailed to:

Labrador Metis Nation,
P.O. Box 460, Stn "C",
Happy Valley - Goose Bay, NL
A0P 1E0
Or by Fax: (709) 896-0594

Tags will be issued from the Labrador Metis Nation office in Happy Valley-Goose Bay as well as from the Southern Star Employment Services offices in Cartwright (Billie Dyson), Port Hope Simpson (Glynes Penney), Charlottetown (Lisa Dempster) and Mary's Harbour (Susie Penney).