



METIS MESSENGER

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METIS MESSENGER is published by the Labrador Metis Nation (LMN) four times a year. The LMN is an Aboriginal representative organization formed in the late 70s to enhance, promote and protect Metis individuals, territory and culture through recognition and protection of their constitutional and inherent Aboriginal rights.

Canada's largest wind farm

Metis Development Corporation secures partnership agreement

On January 17, 2006, Metis Development Corporation and Toronto-based wind energy developer, Ventus Energy Inc. announced plans to build a \$2.5 billion wind farm near Churchill Falls, Labrador.

Through a newly-created partnership, Labrador Ventus Limited Partnership, the "Height of Land Wind Park" will be the largest in Canada, producing some 1,000 megawatts of power. Development plans include a phased construction approach over a three-year period. Pending regulatory approval, construction could begin in 2007.

"We spent much of the last year carefully evaluating our potential partners for this innovative development opportunity," says John Douglas, President and Chief Executive Officer of Ventus Energy Inc. "Over time, the choice became obvious. Who better to proceed with than the people of Labrador?"

"We agreed to partner with Ventus Energy because they have a strong wind energy development team and have been well capitalized by reputable institutional shareholders," says Jamie Snook, General Manager of MDC.



LMN President Chris Montague addresses the media during a news conference announcing the proposed Height of Land Wind Park January 17 in St. John's. Looking on is John Douglas, President and CEO of Ventus Energy Inc. and Jamie Snook, General Manager of Metis Development Corporation.

"Development plans have been structured to ensure that every dollar possible is spent in the province and that maximum economic benefits accrue to the people of Labrador."

Labrador Metis Nation President Chris Montague says the development will position Labrador as a world leader in wind energy. "We are very impressed with Ventus as a developer, and we look forward to working with them in this exciting project," he says. "This is a sound environmentally-friendly project that will result in benefits for the people of

Labrador, the province, and the entire country."

The Height of Land Wind Park will have the capacity to produce enough zero-emission electricity to power 500,000 homes and displace the equivalent of three million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. Local, regional and provincial economic benefits will be significant, providing over 2,000 direct and indirect construction jobs and over 200 direct and indirect long-term operation and maintenance jobs in Labrador.

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Charlottetown nurse wins Atlantic award



**CHERIE LEE
CAMPBELL ORAM**

Cherie Lee Campbell Oram of Charlottetown is one of only four recipients in the province to receive the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health Award, celebrating leadership in women's health.

The purpose of the program is to recognize leadership on the part of individuals and organizations working in our communities, universities (students included), health-care facilities, and a wide range of private and public sector services. Award recipients have made significant contributions to the improvement of women's health throughout

Atlantic Canada.

Cherie Lee is a Registered Nurse working at the clinic in her home community. She is currently enrolled in the Nurse Practitioner program to further develop and enhance her nursing skills - which will also lead to more independence as a medical person.

A mother of three young children, Cherie is highly respected in her community, especially among the female population. She is an active volunteer, a committee member of the community Family Resource Centre and a co-leader of a seniors' group.

MDC, Ventus teaming up to build Canada's largest wind park

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This private-sector solution to energy development will not require any provincial or federal grants or loans in order to proceed. Negotiations of a power purchase agreement to sell the expected annual production are currently under way with potential customers.

Development activities to date include: the completion of a comprehensive wind prospecting field trip throughout Labrador and Newfoundland in the summer of 2005; the installation of wind monitoring equipment in the project area, which included obtaining permits from Transport Canada, NAV CAN and Crown Lands (Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Natural Resources); the submission of an interconnection application to Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro in October 2005; the filing of and

Environmental Registration Document with the provincial Department of Environment and Conservation; and the filing of a Project Description with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Authority.

Ventus Energy Inc.

Ventus Energy [ventusenergy.ca] is developing over 5,000 MW of potential wind power projects at 25 sites in Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador.

The company has secured rights to over 17 million acres of land to conduct wind energy developments, and believes this represents the largest portfolio of potential wind energy projects in Canada. Ventus Energy has also secured partnerships with the Cree Nation of Chisasibi, along the La Grande River Hydro Complex in Northern Quebec; Kwesawek Energy Inc. in New

Brunswick; and the Pays Plat First Nation on the north shore of Lake Superior. The partnerships make Ventus Energy the largest developer of wind energy projects with Aboriginal people in the world.

The company expects to begin construction of three wind farms representing 160 MW of new generation throughout the Maritimes in the summer of 2006.

Metis Energy Corporation

Metis Energy Corporation [metisenergy.ca] is a new entity established by the Metis Development Corporation to pursue energy development opportunities in the Labrador region. The Metis Development Corporation was incorporated on May 21, 2003 by the Labrador Metis Nation to pursue economic and business opportunities for the Labrador Metis.

Russell captures Canadian Junior Men's Championship

Congratulations to Joey Russell of Labrador City on capturing the Canadian Junior Men's figure skating event at the Bank of Montreal Financial Group Canadian Championships in Ottawa on January 12.

The 17-year old son of Judy and John Russell, of Mary's Harbour and William's Harbour respectively, is currently training at Mariposa School of Skating in Barrie, Ontario.

Joey also won the gold medal in the Junior Men's category at the North American Challenge Figure Skating Series in Pierrefonds, Quebec last August, and competed at the ISU Junior Grand Prix event in Montreal in this past September. The following month he finished 11th place at the Junior Grand Prix event in Okaya City, Japan.

In 2004, Joey captured the bronze medal in the Novice category at the North American Challenge in San Jose, California. He also won the gold medal in the Junior Men's event in the 2005 Maldost Trophy in Zagreb, Croatia.

"He has done really well," says his mother. "We are very proud of him."

With the high costs associated with ensuring Joey receives the quality training he requires, the family has moved to Barrie, Ontario. Ms. Russell says she's hopeful Joey will represent Canada at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia.



Joey Russell captures gold at the Canadian Junior Men's event. Photo courtesy of Skate Canada.

Busy times for Labrador Metis Nation Youth Ambassador



ALYSSA PAUL

Alyssa Paul is 16-years of age and is from Charlottetown. She is a level II student at William Gillett Academy.

Alyssa has taken part in many of the workshops and events sponsored by the Labrador Metis Nation - from the Career Expos and the Battle Harbour Youth Adventure to the Mining Symposium in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. She loves to meet new people and make new friends. Alyssa is very committed to her school work and applies herself diligently to her studies. She loves to bake, ride snowmobile, listen to music and chat to her friends either on-line or on the telephone. She also loves animals and has a

pet hamster called Troy.

She often volunteers her time for activities carried out by the Learning For Life - Preventing Diabetes Project. She took part in the Youth Ambassador Training that took place in Pinware this past fall. Alyssa, along with the other Youth Ambassadors in Charlottetown constructed a diabetes display and posted it at the school during Diabetes Month in November. She is looking forward to continuing her duties as a Youth Ambassador for the Labrador Metis Nation. Her career intentions is to be work in the area of hair, makeup and nails.

PUSHING OUR CLAIM



Labrador Metis Nation President Chris Montague, left, presents a copy of a chart showing the HMS Niger at Pitt's Harbour and the HMS Guernsey at Antelope Harbour, Southern Labrador in 1765, to former Prime Minister Paul Martin during the First Ministers' Meeting in Kelowna, British Columbia this past November. The drawing likely depicts Newfoundland Governor Hugh Palliser approaching Inuit (Karalit) kayaks during the Peace and Friendship Treaty event of August 21, 1765. It also shows Inuit habitations onshore and a sketch of the planned Fort York. Provenance is unknown but likely drawn by James Cook or Michael Lane. Reprinted by the Labrador Metis Nation, with permission of the United Kingdom Archives Hydrographic Office at Taunton, England. Looking on is Chief Dwight Dorey of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples.



Organizers hoping LabQuest becomes annual event

The success of last summer's LabQuest program has prompted organizers to make it an annual event.

LabQuest is a program developed to expose high school students to the many health careers available to them.

Last summer, students from the coastal Labrador communities of Black Tickle, Cartwright, Nain and Natuashish, joined others in Happy Valley-Goose Bay for a week of fun and learning.

The students were given some exposure to college and residence life, by staying at Happy Valley-Goose Bay campus of the College of the North Atlantic and eating in the cafeteria.

The weekend was filled with fun events like the multicultural youth gathering, a movie and a tour of North West River. The students even had an afternoon to go shopping, and were able to view the play, "Woman of Labrador."

They visited the Labrador Health Centre and listened to different professionals and toured various departments. These sessions were held Monday to Wednesday with job shadowing occurring on Thursday morning. Most of the students chose to job shadow in the Laboratory with others choosing Physiotherapy, Nursing and Pharmacy.

As part of the program, students were exposed to the social side of college life with events such as yoga, glow bowling and the Velcro wall activities during the evening.

Organizers would like to thank the staff at the Labrador Health Centre for taking part in this program, as well as to the community partners for planning and implementation.

LEARNING FOR LIFE ~ PREVENTING DIABETES

Youth Ambassador training program big success

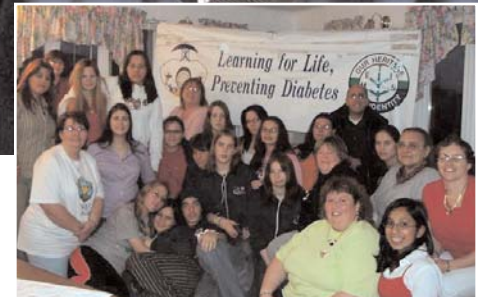
A total of 14 youth from a number of communities in Labrador participated in a training program this past October to become ambassadors for the Labrador Metis Nation, as well as the Learning for Life ~ Preventing Diabetes Project.

Held in Pinware, the four-day event attracted various resource people, with sessions focusing on diabetes information, nutrition, wellness, HIV/AIDS information, cultural awareness, career counseling, traditional craft making and many others. It was a time of learning for the youth and they participated with great interest.

This training will give those who participated the opportunity to promote awareness of living a healthy lifestyle among their friends and family. All are to be commended for taking on this responsibility and commitment.

Many thanks to the sponsoring organizations that provided prizes or monetary donations. Thanks are also extended to the chaperones and resource people who helped make the program a tremendous success.

If you have any suggestions for future activ-



ities or would like to have more information about Type 2 Diabetes, please get in contact with Darlene Wall at 896-0592, dwall@labmetis.org or Melita Paul at 949 0292, mpaul@nf.aibn.com

LMN-HRT UPDATE

We are part way through another school year. For those of us with LMN-HRT it has been a busy one. Currently, we are supporting some 91 individuals and, yet, there is still a stream of clients coming through our doors. We also have or are assisting some 36 projects.

If there are short-term training project needs between now and March 31, please bring them forward. There may be available funds for additional individual clients and projects, pending funding remaining within our budgets.

It has been a busy fall and winter. During the fall, Ms. Deborah Goulet joined us as our new permanent Programs Officer, while Ms. Wendy Poole, our Employment

Counsellor took a work-related leave of absence.

At present, we are busy making preparations for the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement (AHRDA) Work Plan for the next fiscal year - 2006-2007. And we are also working on the Post JETA Operational Plan for 2006-2007 and 2007-2008.

The Post-JETA Agreement is very exciting in that it will result in additional funding coming into the LMN for training, education and employment for resource related developments within Labrador.

- Carter Russell
Manager

Fundraising drive under way for kidney dialysis machine

The Labrador Dialysis Committee is moving into a fundraising drive to raise money for a kidney dialysis machine for Labrador.

Committee chair Kirk Lethbridge, who is also a member of the Labrador Metis Nation Council, said that all research has been done and that Labrador does not meet the criteria of 10 clients, set by the Health boards, to warrant a machine.

"At this time, we know of six people who could utilize this machine, and we also know from the medical community that there is an epidemic of diabetes and that these are the people who may develop serious kidney problems and need dialysis," he says. "The provincial government has to put dialysis units in areas where there are 10 or more who can benefit from the unit - Labrador is not yet qualified for such a unit.

"Labrador will not likely reach the magic number of 10 if those needing the necessary healthcare have to leave the region and move away, and even die, which we know of at least three people

have done," adds Mr. Lethbridge. "Such criteria is unjust and keeps the people of Labrador at the back of the health-care class system in this province. We feel that we have no choice but to fundraise, and we are determined to see this through."

The Labrador Dialysis Committee is currently working on hiring a part-time coordinator, and is in the process of being incorporated and pursue tax free status from the federal government for those who wish to donate.

Anyone wishing to donate, or organize a fundraiser in their community may be encouraged to do so. The Nunatsiavut government (LIA) is also in support of this and are active on the LDC. Support continues to grow.

For more information contact:

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UNVEILING AKUNIKTUT Workshop designed to develop community-oriented archaeological research in southern Labrador

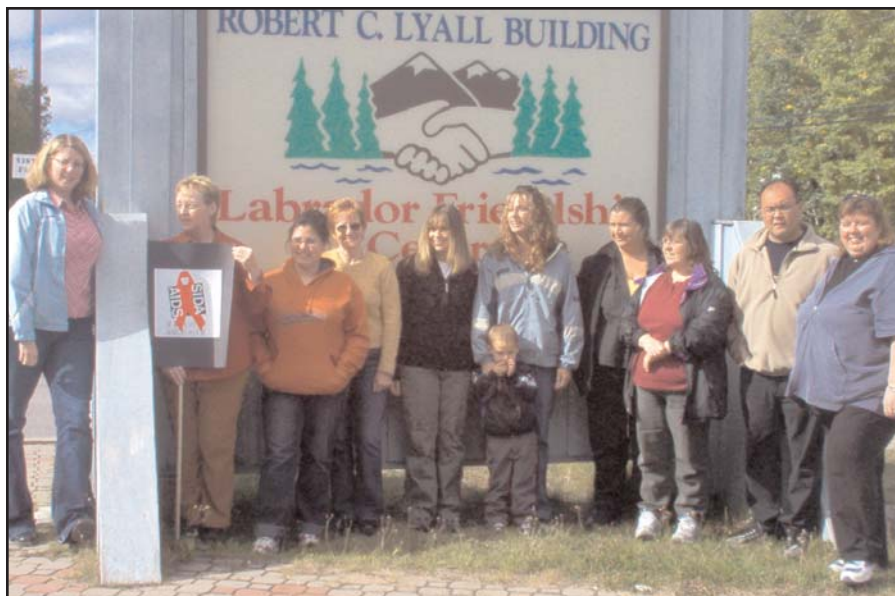
Many residents and visitors to Cartwright during the past several years have noticed field workers and archaeologists transporting people and the tools of their trade to the Porcupine Strand and Huntington Island. The lead archaeologist for these field excursions has been Dr. Lisa Rankin, of Memorial University, who has just completed three field seasons in the area. Her findings are in the process of publication and shed new light on the historical peopling of south/central Labrador - which is important to the descendants of the area who are members of the Labrador Metis Nation.

One of several interesting finds which has been published in a Master's thesis by a student of Dr. Rankin's, Natalie Brewster, is the clear identification of the southernmost known Thule/Inuit site in Labrador (Huntington Island), dating to the mid to late 1600s. As noted from the thesis abstract: "*the results of this research have shown that the Inuit occupations in Southern Labrador during the 17th Century (1600s) were much the same as those in northern Labrador, with the exception that they are a part of the southern most frontier of Inuit expansion.*" The current research also identifies the lack of extensive field work in southern Labrador to answer some of the very basic questions about the cultural history of the region.

To that end, the Labrador Metis Nation, in partnership with Dr. Rankin, has been working for two years to obtain the necessary funding for a workshop which will examine the temporal and geographic data gaps in this cultural history.

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AIDS WALK



Members of the Labrador Metis Nation participate in the annual AIDS walk held this past fall.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is a great opportunity to wish everybody a Happy New Year! The past year was one of change and adjustment. We have worked hard to encourage growth and defend our rights. The results put us on the threshold of great success.



CHRIS
MONTAGUE

We have launched an intensive media campaign to ensure our voice is heard throughout the province and the country. People know who we are. We have received much support from people who, just a few short months ago, did not know of our existence. Our profile is higher now than it has ever been.

As promised, we will continue to both build on our past foundations and establish new frontiers. We are, with the cooperation of the Metis Development Corporation, setting up new business ventures which were inconceivable a short time ago. In concert with this, we work to defend our traditions and our land. Archaeological work is being conducted on the south coast of Labrador to establish a more accurate picture of native occupation. Our title claim becomes stronger with every new discovery.

Our country has just gone through an election which can change some of the certainties of the past. Locally, some of the members supported one candidate or the other - that's a gift of democracy. Our task now is to come together and seize the opportunities which come with change. We got our greatest strength not from any government or political party, but from ourselves, the grassroots people of our organization. Together we can move well beyond the threshold of success.

GOLDEN COD

Gilbert Bay designated Marine Protected Area

Located between Port Hope Simpson and William's Harbour, Gilbert Bay, has finally been officially designated as a Marine Protected Area (MPA) under Canada's *Oceans Act*. The designation, announced this past fall, is the culmination of a journey that began nearly 10 years ago when scientist from Memorial University of Newfoundland, with assistance from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, first began conducting research on the cod population in the bay.

The purpose of the Gilbert Bay MPA is to protect a genetically distinct population of Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) that live in the approximately 60 square-kilometre marine area. More specifically: "the protection of the Gilbert Bay cod population, its key habitats and supporting ecosystem". The reddish-brown cod that make Gilbert Bay their home spend their entire lives within the confines of the 20 km long bay, with segments of the population migrating out to the mouth of the bay during the summer months to feed on pelagics such as capelin. The reddish-brown or "golden" coloration that is exhibited by the cod is the result of the carotenoid rich diet of invertebrates in Gilbert Bay.

A community driven initiative, the Gilbert Bay MPA is largely due to the work of the Gilbert Bay Steering Committee (GBSC), comprised of 14 members made up of local community leaders, representatives from local fisheries

committees, the Labrador Metis Nation, Southeast Aurora Development Corporation, Memorial University, provincial Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, and SFO. Over the years, the GBSC has acted as an advisory body on all aspects of the MPA initiative, including scientific research, interim protection, consultation, and management planning. With the designation, the future of the GBSC lies in assisting in the implementation of the management plan for Gilbert Bay, which will govern and regulate all activities within the MPA.

In the four years that the GBSC has been working on getting Gilbert Bay designated as an MPA, the committee has volunteered thousands of hours to the project. Recently, in order to assist the GBSC in their endeavors, a community coordinator was hired. The coordinator is an employee of the Newfoundland and Labrador Legacy Nature Trust, which is a registered charity dedicated to conserving, enhancing, and restoring the quality of the unique natural environment of Newfoundland and Labrador; and is made possible by funds from the Legacy Nature Trust, Mountain Equipment Co-op, the Shell Environmental Fund, and DFO.

Other organizations that have provided funding and assistance to the Gilbert Bay project over the years include the Canada-Newfoundland Comprehensive Labrador Cooperation Agreement;

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HUMAN RESOURCE TRAINING

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

The Labrador Metis Nation-Human Resource and Training Department would like to remind all LMN members that *the deadline for applying for financial assistance for the 2006-2007 academic year is Friday, April 28, 2006.*

The LMN-HRT mandate is to assist as many members as possible to obtain the necessary training required for today's competitive job market.

If you require further information, please contact Ms. Debbie Goulet, Education/Employment Counselor, or Diane Brown, Administrative Assistant, at 1-877-896-0592 (toll free), or 709-896-0592.

Gilbert Bay designated Marine Protected Area

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Canadian Centre for Fisheries Innovation in partnership with the Labrador Fishermen's Union Shrimp Company Limited; Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada; Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; and the LMN.

Having an area designated as an MPA not only protects other marine organisms within the MPA, due to the regulations put in place to protect the cod, but also to other areas such as the fishery, tourism, science, education, etc.

A common misconception among many, however, is that the designation will prohibit all activities within Gilbert Bay. This is not true. The regulations pertaining to the Gilbert Bay MPA are designed to protect the cod population and its key habitats (e.g. spawning areas) while minimizing the impact they have on human activities within the area.

The LMN has provided this assis-



The unique golden cod of Gilbert Bay in southern Labrador.

(Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans photo)

tance over the years through the provision of both funding and resources to the Gilbert Bay project. The LMN has also helped with informing the public about the project by providing funding and space for Gilbert Bay's MPA community coordinator to put up an information booth at the 2005 Annual General Assembly. In the future, the LMN will

no doubt continue to play a prominent role in contributing to the success of the Gilbert Bay MPA.

For more about the Gilbert Bay project, visit www.gilbertbay.com or contact:

Jason Simms

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Oceans and Habitat Management Branch

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Newfoundland and Labrador Region

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Workshop designed to develop archaeological research

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The funding was recently obtained through the Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada to proceed with the workshop.

The academic invitees include most of the relevant scholars working in the field of anthropology, archaeology and ethnohistory from Memorial University, Laval University, Bowdoin College and the Smithsonian Institute, in addition to a number of scholars without institute affiliations.

The Labrador Metis Nation will send LMN members, consultants and staff interested in the subject areas of economic development, land claims, rights assertion and Inuit/Metis history.

The workshop will primarily review the current state of academic knowledge on the pre European contact and early post contact eras.

The workshop will also result in the

development of a five-year research work plan for south/central Labrador which will include identification of targeted research areas, community support systems and how the gathered knowledge will be used and distributed to the public and through the school systems.

It is the hope of the organizers that the field activities which have taken place in and near Cartwright over the past few years can be expanded to all the communities of south/central Labrador.

It is a clear goal to establish a solid team of researchers which can answer those very basic questions about the culture history of the descendants of the Inuit people who lived on Huntington Island during the 1600s. Who were they? How did they stay alive in this harsh Labrador environment? Where are their descendants today?

