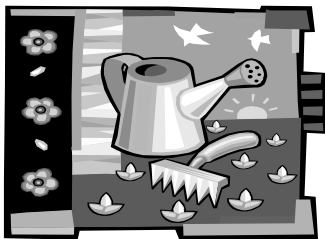


## Summer 2006



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We encourage community council members to submit comments, suggestions, articles, and ideas to the editor.

## 36th Annual General Meeting & Tradeshow

President Reg Meade and the Northern Association of Community Councils Board of Directors are pleased to announce the dates and location for the Conference.

*"Addressing Change Influencing Community Success & Growth"*

August 22, 23, & 24, 2006

Ramada Marlborough Hotel, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Aboriginal & Northern Affairs Day, Mayor & Councillors Forum Meeting Convenes: 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, August 22, 2006



### In partnership

Manitoba  
Aboriginal and  
Northern Affairs



with  Plenary Meeting Convenes:

8:30 a.m. Wednesday, August 23, 2006

Meeting Adjourns: 4:30 p.m. Thursday, August 24, 2006

### Business to be conducted:

Opening Prayer  
Welcoming Remarks from Dignitaries  
Appointment of Chair  
Acceptance of Agenda  
President's Opening Remarks  
Appointment of Resolution Committee  
Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting  
Auditors Report 2005/2006  
Acceptance of Auditor for 2007/2008  
Constitution Amendments  
Regional Meetings

### FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

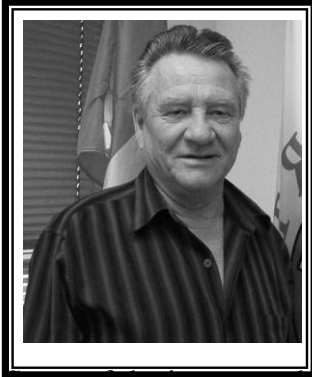
Jacqui Meckling Toll free 1-888-947-6222 or (204) 947-2227

You'll be able to register on line also at <http://nacc.cimnet.ca>

Please send in your registrations and resolutions as soon as possible.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **Reg Meade ~ President's Report**



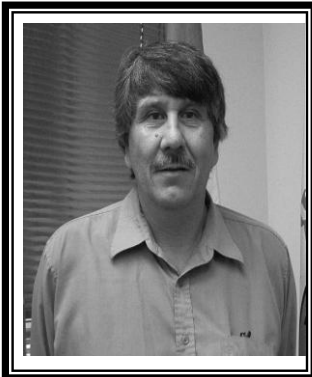
It was with great sadness I attended Chief Francis Flett's funeral in The Pas recently but within the same week provided welcoming remarks to Manitoba youth at their conference held in at the Kikiwak Inn. It was good to see the northern youth participate in this positive activity. In this quarter I attended a press conference concerning MRIF on rural and northern projects approved; and all regional meetings held in Thompson and Winnipeg in conjunction with Aboriginal and Northern Affairs. We did appreciate their efforts and hope that all participants found it a good learning experience.

Some of the issues we have been addressing at the Ministerial level are changes in community status and regulation changes effective April 1<sup>st</sup> to standardized paramedic licensing requirements. I found the Endangered Species Conference held in Winnipeg interesting concerning Sturgeon.

I would like to wish you all a safe summer and look forward to seeing you at the NACC 36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting in August.

## **EXECUTIVE REPORT'S**

### **Helgi Einarsson ~ Eastern Region Chairperson**



Hello once again. Here we are into another issue of Whispering Pines. It doesn't seem like that long ago I wrote for the last issue!! Since then I have been quite busy with the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board. We are working towards our final report for August. I have also been busy with the New Fishermen's Federation having meetings and trying to secure funding for it. We had meetings in Grand Rapids and Swan River. We were supposed to have one in Ashern but couldn't line up the Ministers to attend as they were still sitting in the house. We are trying to set another meeting for zone 6 and 9 for sometime in July.

We also met with the Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs on Alternate Service for Communities under 25. The outcome was to retain Mayor and Council but with no clerk, the Department controls our budgets and dollars. I have not talked to the other communities involved yet but for our community it is not working out very well.

I hope everyone has a fantastic and safe summer and I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Conference in August.

## **EXECUTIVE REPORT'S continued:**

### **Anne Lacquette ~ Western Region Chairperson**



I attended the funeral for George Kulhavy who passed away on April 19, 2006. He was Mayor of National Mills for 21 years. At this time I want to extend condolences to his family. I would like to ask his wife Helen to keep involved with the Community Council and continue working where George left off.

I would like to commend Leona Hather, Mayor of Red Deer Lake on her tireless efforts contending with the flood that has caused extensive damage to her community. I would also like to thank the surrounding communities for the help and support given to Red Deer Lake.

I want to extend congratulations to Larry Chartrand who was recently elected Mayor of Waterhen.

Mallard Community Council held their first Community Clean Up on May 8 and 9, 2006. The community members did an excellent job and we hope this will become an annual event.

With all the water lying around this spring people need to be aware of the mosquito infestations. With the dangers of several mosquito-borne illnesses it is very important to use insect repellent if you are going to be outside for any length of time.

Megweetch

### **Frances McIvor ~ Northern Region Chairperson**



At our Regional meeting we mainly discussed the housing problems and Aboriginal & Northern Affairs has sent out a letter to each community to send in the concerns as it was acknowledged. We need to address our concerns in a different and effective way. To date I have not received anything from the communities.

Some of the communities have already started the workshop sessions that are being provided by MHRC in partnership with Anokiiwin.

Have a great summer!!

## Government Update

### PROJECTS TO IMPROVE NORTHERNERS' ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOODS

THOMPSON-Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Minister Oscar Lathlin today announced a series of projects under the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative that will help improve the ability of northern communities to gain access to nutritious foods and become more self-sufficient through local production of healthy food.

"The first priority of this initiative is to address some of the key issues identified by the residents of these remote Manitoba communities: training and promotion of local vegetable gardening, and improving the quality and availability of healthy, perishable foods," said Lathlin.

"The program aims to improve access to fresh, nutritional food in remote northern communities. This is in addition to supporting efforts to promote traditional gathering and harvesting of country foods".

"This funding is being used for several pilot projects in northern communities for activities such as community gardens. We are also partnering with the Frontier School Division so that students can learn about growing and eating healthy foods."

Projects include a northern community gardens initiative where over 100 community gardens are planned for 15 remote and semi-remote northern communities on- and off-reserves. Equipment, materials and agricultural technical support will be provided in each of the communities.

As part of the initiative, the Frontier School Division is also developing a science-based healthy foods curriculum for northern students. Approximately 600 elementary-level students will learn about soil and plant sciences including

how to germinate plants. The Northern Healthy Foods Initiative will provide schools in 30 northern communities with complete germinating systems. The germinated plants will then be transferred to family and community gardens. Middle school students will also be instructed in food preparation and food preservation techniques.

Lathlin also noted that other government initiatives such as the Healthy Baby Program and the improvement of transportation infrastructure are also important components in helping to deal with the high cost of food.

"The Healthy Baby Program includes the Manitoba Prenatal Benefit that assists women on low incomes to meet the nutritional needs of pregnancy," said Lathlin. "This prenatal benefit provides support for all low-income pregnant women across the province including women living in First Nations communities."

The winter road system provides temporary road access to over 25 northern communities in Manitoba. The communities depend on the winter roads for the delivery of non-perishable food items, fuel and building supplies by truck at lower cost than having the commodities flown into the communities.

"Since 1999, we have tripled the amount spent on winter roads, added new bridges, taken over 600 kilometres of road off the ice and linked new communities to the winter road network, increasing it to 2,300 km from 1,600 km," said Lathlin.

Partners in the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative include the NACC, Four Arrows Health Authority, Bayline Regional Round Table, Frontier School Division and a number of First Nations and NACC communities in the north.

On May 10, 2006, the Government of Canada approved the **Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement** and announced an **Advance Payment Program** for former students age 65 years or older as of May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005

To assist our First Nation Residential Schools Survivors in their applications for the advance payment, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) has hired a Residential Schools Compensation Coordinator for three (3) months as May 15, 2006.

The AMC welcomes Ms. Jennifer Wood to our organization and anyone requiring assistance filling out the forms or requiring information on the Advance Payment Program can contact her at (204) 987-4111 or by email at [jwood@manitobachiefs.com](mailto:jwood@manitobachiefs.com).

### **Child Related Income Support Program**

The Child Related Income Support Program (CRISP) assists lower-income families with the cost of raising their children. Eligibility is based on the previous year's total family income and applications can be submitted anytime during the year. If eligible, you may receive a monthly supplement of up to \$30 per month per child.

You may be eligible if you:

- live in Manitoba;
- have a child or children under 18 living with you and in your care;
- have a valid Manitoba Health registration number that includes these dependent children;
- receive the Canada Child Tax Benefit payment for these children;
- have a family income within the specified levels; and
- have current family assets with a net worth of \$200,000 or less.
- 

A new application is required each year. If you currently receive CRISP benefits, a reapplication will automatically be sent to you for the new benefit year.

Persons who receive **income assistance** are not eligible for CRISP benefits; however, those who receive only the **health care benefits** portion of income assistance may apply.

For further information, contact:

#### **CRISP**

PO Box 3000

203 South Railway Street East

Killarney MB R0K 1G0

Phone: 523-5230

Toll-free outside Killarney, Manitoba:

1-800-563-8793

Email: [incsupcrsp@gov.mb.ca](mailto:incsupcrsp@gov.mb.ca)

#### **INCOME REQUIRMENTS**

1 child	income under	\$15,719
2 children	income under	\$18,264
3 children	income under	\$20,809
4 children	income under	\$23,353
5 children	income under	\$25,898

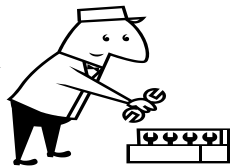
## **ASSiStant Editor's Corner**

I attended the Helen Betty Osborne Memorial Foundations 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala Evening Celebration on May 11, 2006 where my daughter's and three other classmates from Technical Vocational High School the Broadcasting Department filmed and interviewed the past recipients of the awards and they showed the CD at the dinner. It was so exciting to see the Youth working with this wonderful foundation and I wanted to thank the Western Economic Diversification for sponsoring the tickets for the dinner.

I hope that you all have a great summer and Happy Father's Day!!! **KathyFrisk, CRAA**

## From Jacqui's Pit

The NACC staff is busy with planning our 36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and Tradeshow.



Surveys addressed to the Council Clerks/Administrators were sent out recently and we ask for your input to assist us in developing appropriate training. If you could be kind enough to take a few minutes to complete the survey and return it to our office we would appreciate it. Aboriginal & Northern Affairs would like to invite all clerks and administrators to the session on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

In response to the feedback we have received previous years the conference packages for the Community Council to register have been sent out May 24<sup>th</sup>. A number of communities have advised us it is very challenging to get council members together in July to reach an agreement and provide a resolution for delegates to register in a timely fashion. We hope you will find the earlier mailing more convenient. Registration is also available online at our webpage: <http://nacc.cimnet.ca>. This year there will be elections for the Vice-Chair and Secretary/Treasurer in your Regional meetings.

Contact staff – Who does what? As Executive Director I am always pleased to talk to members of the community councils on any issues. As conference coordinator I would welcome your input or questions. Merri-Beth Marcyniuk has joined us this year specific to assisting with conference activities and providing admin backup. Please call our toll free number 1-888-947-6222 if you require any further information.

A number of community councils have submitted resolutions for further action during the year. It is more time effective if we do receive them when the issues come up rather than waiting till conference time.

This month we are pleased to welcome a focused and hard working youth from Wabowden who is Whispering Pines

providing an article on youth issues. Her name is Christine Smith. We would love to see more articles in this area that address youth issues and appeal.

I look forward to seeing you all at our 36<sup>th</sup> AGM August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Travel safe and have a great summer.

Congratulation to (NCN) Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation for the official opening of their Atoskiwin Training and Employment Centre of Excellence (ATEC) on May 25, 2006 in Nelson House, the first purpose-built facility of its kind on a Manitoba First Nation reserve.

The fully accredited, non-profit, community-based, post-secondary training facility will initially provide jobs & training initiatives for the proposed Wuskwatin Hydroelectric generation project.



**NORTHERN  
HEALTHY FOODS INITIATIVE (NHFI)**

The past several months the Northern Healthy Food Initiative has been busy.....

We sent equipment out for the pilot project in the communities, such as rototillers, back pack sprayers, roundup, fertilizer and basic gardening equipment.

NACC was also involved with “Veggie Adventures”, an in-service in Thompson held by Frontier School Division. This in-service focused on curriculum for grades 1-8, and provided seed germination kits and gardening and healthy living activities to be utilized in the classrooms.

A technical manual with information on ordering equipment and other grant information has been put together for the use of those participating with the project. On a side note, if you are planning on starting a garden you should “peg” off the site and avoid cutting grass in that area for about a week. Once the grass is four-five inches long you can then apply round up, remember that round up will KILL anything GREEN it touches. Wait 10 days before digging and tilling your garden. The last frost day is approximately June 10<sup>th</sup>. Good luck and happy growing!

Have a Great Summer!

Jessica Paley, Project Coordinator, NHFI

**The 1<sup>st</sup> National Hunger Awareness Day  
June 6, 2006**

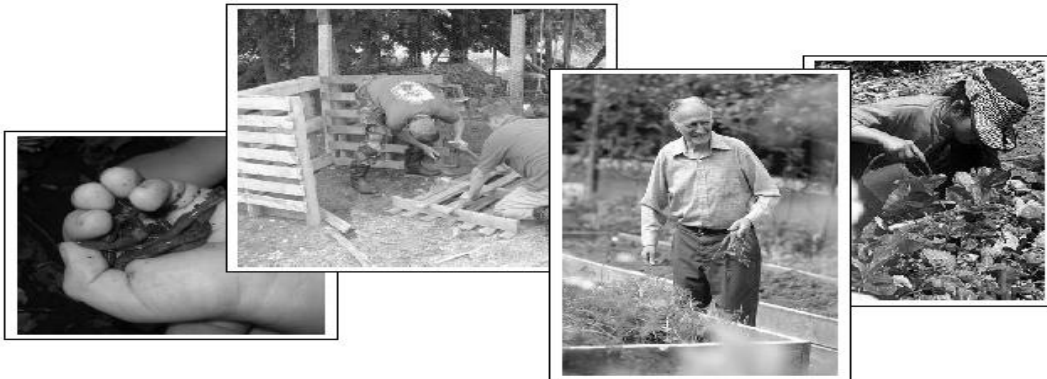
One year ago you were introduced to the beginning of creating the Manitoba Food Charter. On April 28 in Brandon and May 10 in Winnipeg the draft of the Charter was released back to the people of MB who, through 71 consultations, shared their beliefs and ideas about food security. Today the Charter is a tool to help us work toward a food secure province. Learn what it says and how you can implement it in your agency.

**CENSUS 2006**

AFTER POLLING THE MAJORITY OF OUR COMMUNITY COUNCILS ON CENSUS DAY WE PROVIDED A REPORT TO SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MANITOBA ABORIGINAL AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS WE ARE WORKING WITH CENSUS CANADA TO ENSURE ALL COMMUNITIES ARE COUNTED. ANY COMMUNITIES THAT WERE MISSED WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED THEY WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE EXTENSION OF 2 MORE WEEKS FOR TEAMS TO COMPLETE THE TASK. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE IF YOU SHOULD HAVE ANY CONCERNS ON THIS MATTER.



# *Composting:* *Your Chance to Grow!*



Put yourself in the picture:  
come learn about **COMPOSTING** for your garden,  
school, club or community!

TWO OPPORTUNITIES:  
Pick your level of Interest



**June 15, 7:00 p.m.**

**Basics Composting Workshop**—get started in backyard composting with this free one-hour workshop

**June 16-18**

**Master Composter Course:** Learn more than the basics of composting as we explore the biology of the compost heap, compost maturity, compost tea, and more through classroom activities and hands-on demonstrations! After the course share your knowledge with others by hosting backyard compost parties, helping your neighbour, local school, or teaching the garden club, etc. Cost: \$100 (includes a certificate of completion, training manual, resource kit, meals and snacks).

*For more information,  
or to register  
contact:*

 **Compost  
Infoline**  
1-866-394-8880  
*A service of Resource Conservation Manitoba*



# Community News

**Submitted by: Barrows Community Council  
UNDER THE PORCUPINE /  
CELEBRATION OF MUSIC – 2ND ANNUAL  
FESTIVAL / CAMP**

The community of Barrows is already starting to gear up for this summer's Under the Porcupine Festival. Last year was the inauguration year for an exciting 4 day festival that celebrates Northern Manitoba music (fiddles, guitars, mandolins, banjo's, jigging, dancing, etc).

Some of the very best musicians in Western Canada will be at this year's 4 day Festival: **Clint Dutiaume** (9 Time recipient of Manitoba instrumentalist of the year), **John Arcand** (Canada's greatest Metis Fiddler), **Freddie Pelletier** (international guitar legend, **Daniel Koulack** (acclaimed multi-instrumentalist), **JJ Guy** (Saskatchewan Fiddling Champion), Donna Turk (well-known fiddler from Calgary) and **Shamma Sabir** (recognized as one of the best fiddlers in Canada).

The format of the festival/camp is classes (fiddle, guitar, voice and dance) in the mornings and afternoons and then jam sessions. In the evening there are concerts at the community hall which feature the musician /instructors. The final night is one big concert /dance /social with an incredible line-up of musicians all on stage.

The food is all homemade, the hospitality is wonderful and the music is sublime. If you like down-to-earth, home-grown music; and if you live close to the Porcupine Mountains, this is definitely one event that you do not want to miss.

For more information please contact Brenda Gaudry (545 6215) or Blaine Klippenstein (545 6246).

## **Folklorama 2006**

**Canada's Cultural Celebration runs  
August 6<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

Metis Pavilion is scheduled from August 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at the Indian & Metis Friendship Centre 45 Robinson Street Winnipeg.

## Integrating Aboriginal People in Natural Resource Management Conference



*Artwork by Anthony Monias*

Tansi, Aneen, Bozhoo, Ho, Han, Wotziye!

Welcome to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Inter-Jurisdictional Conference on Aboriginal Involvement in Natural Resource Management.

We are pleased to invite you to Manitoba's conference on addressing Aboriginal involvement in natural resource management. As with two previous conferences, the main objective of the conference is to provide a forum in which natural resource managers and Aboriginal partners can share their best practices based on the success and challenges of the past. The conference will be held on June 21 - June 24, 2005 at the University of Manitoba Fort Garry Campus, University Centre in Winnipeg. In the event you require further information or clarification on any part of the conference please email your concerns or contact us directly by phone:

Bruce Bruyere at Conservation,  
Aboriginal Relations Branch  
200 Saulteaux Crescent  
Winnipeg, MB R3J 3W3 Email:

[iapnrm@gov.mb.ca](mailto:iapnrm@gov.mb.ca)

Ph: (204) 945-2694 Fax: (204) 945-4552 Or  
Thomas Beaudry Ph: (204) 945-0007

## Wabowden Community Council

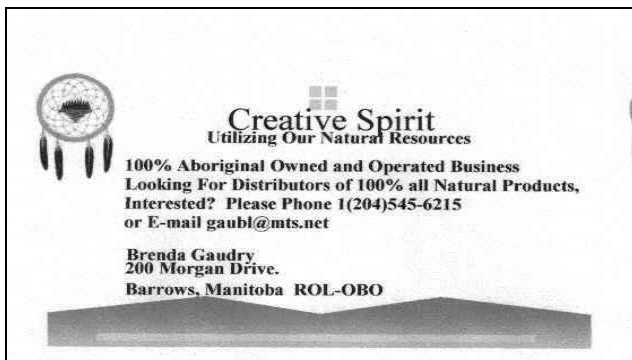
The community of Wabowden recognized and honored Reg Meade on May 20th at the Ke-na-now Centre in Wabowden. Reg has given up many things in life that we all take for granted. Many of us, in one conversation or another, have crossed Reg's path in his efforts and determination to make Wabowden and Northern Manitoba a place that we can all be proud of!

The community acknowledged his dedication and commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of the north that he represents. The evening program was made up of a PowerPoint presentation with some history of Reg's life in a Northern Affairs Communities. Many people contributed with their stories of Reg and they were greatly appreciative of how he has helped with many of the changes that have taken place for northerners.

NACC staff and Board of Directors would also like to send their best wishes to Reg.

*Keep up the great work!*

**It is with great sadness that we announce that Edith Thickfoot a longtime resident of Dallas/Red Rose passed away on April 29, 2006. Peacefully at the age of 104 years two weeks short of her 105<sup>th</sup> birthday at Peguis Senior Centre. She will be greatly missed by the Dallas/Red Rose Community.**



### **Tribute to George Kulhavy**

After a lengthy illness George Kulhavy beloved Husband, Dad and Papa passed away to be with his Lord and Saviour on Tuesday, April 18, 2006.

George was the sixth of seven children born to William and Amelia Kulhavy on October 3, 1941 in Minitonas, Manitoba. He was raised on the family farm in Lidstone, Manitoba.

On June 13, 1970, George was united in marriage to his loving wife Helen Bilow. They lived in National Mills, Manitoba where he ranched for many years. Over the years he went from ranching to self employment in the logging business and working on the Dew Line in the Arctic as a heavy equipment operator.

George was also the Mayor of National Mills for 21 years. **Honorary Pallbearers** "All Those Who Have Shared In George's Life"

**Whispering Pines is a quarterly publication of NACC, which provides an essential means of communication between isolated communities and regions. Whispering Pines has been serving as an information tool of northern communities since the early 1970's.**

**Your comments are greatly appreciated. The next issue is scheduled to be sent out in September 2006.**



## Reminder to Youth in Northern Manitoba!

Summer is here and this means that many families are on the highway, they are going on boating trips, weekend trips, camping trips, swimming, and fun at the cottage. There are some simple things to think about before you head out and have a safe and fun summer.

Many young child and youth die every year from water related incidents during the summer. So before you head into a boat and or swimming put on a life jacket. "They really do save lives". Another thing to remember is that Alcohol does not mix with water. One half of all adolescent male drownings are caused from drinking while boating and swimming, lets try and minimize this and have a enjoyable and safe summer.

Another simple thing to remember while you are having fun is wearing a helmet while on an ATV or bicycle. People including Youth have many excuses about not wearing a helmet. Many young children and adolescents are seriously hurt while falling off there bicycle or ATV, some survive with no brain damage and some have severe trauma leading to brain damage or paralyzed for life. A helmet can help save your life but you also show other children younger than you, that you are responsible and are being a Role Model.

Last thing is an open campfire. When you are camping watch your campfire so it is not unattended and make sure that it is out before you leave somewhere, because of the risk of forest fires. So with this I hope you and your family have a safe and a happy summer and always think before you do something that is dramatically life changing.

Christine Smith Wabowden, Manitoba

**Emergency Medical Responder Submitted by: Wabowden Community Member**



On June 21, share in the celebration of National Aboriginal Day- a special day to highlight the unique heritage, culture and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Metis people in Canada. National Aboriginal Day is part of the "Celebrate Canada!" program which also includes Saint-Jean-Baptiste (June 24), Canadian Multiculturalism Day (June 27) and Canada Day (July 1).

As National Aboriginal Day celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Government of Canada encourages you to take part in a local event or to help organize activities in your area. To help you promote

National Aboriginal Day, posters and other products are available free of charge. To order these products, please complete the online order form at [www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/nad/](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/nad/). **Closing date for orders: Thursday, June 15, 2006**

You can also phone 1-800-567-9604

By mail: National Aboriginal Day

c/o Mail Management Services P.O. Box 8320, Station "T" Ottawa, ON K1G 3H8.



### **METIS YOUTH FROM WABOWDEN ACCOMPLISHING HER DREAMS**

Her name is Christine Smith and she was born in BC and grew up in western Canada from the age of 6. Her present home is now in Wabowden, Manitoba.

She is now 18 going on 19 and graduating from high school. Her dream in life is to become an RCMP officer and has been since she was 9 years old.

In 2004, she was chosen from her school to go to the RCMP Depot in Regina through the Lieutenant Governor's Youth Experience Program; it was a dream come true.

She was flown down with the RCMP airplane to attend the events. She underwent training for a week at the depot.

She was able to see troop 31 graduates, which she says was a real honor. "The smiles and relief on their faces; knowing what they had accomplished over the 6 months of training, now knowing that they would be moving onto what they had went in for 6 months earlier."

In the same year she finished and completed her Level 1 Fire Fighting with high marks.

In 2005 she was in the group TADD (Teens Against Drunk Driving), which she was the spokesperson talking to the youth at her school about Drinking and Driving and the consequences.

Another accomplishment she achieved in 2005 was receiving her Emergency Medical Responders License for the Ambulance.

Her passion in life is to help people in need; she will

continue to do this either as an EMT or when she becomes an RCMP officer.

Just recently she was given the opportunity to be an Emergency Services Intern attendant. This job is to recruit youth into the Ambulance Service and to teach the younger students of the community about water safety, helmet safety, fires etc....

She is proud to be Metis, to have lived in Manitoba and to be part of the Metis Culture.

#### **Christine's Quote;**

"To all the youth in Manitoba we need to start giving respect to other people including elders; because we represent Manitoba and Canada"

"Everyone should have a role model whom they look up to and admire. Her role model that she has had since she was small is her dad."

***"Make dreams and always stick to them, and be proud of who you are."***

### **Technician Opportunities at MTS**

Technician career opportunities in MTS craftline occupations fall into four disciplines. Each of these disciplines is inter-related in establishing the communication network for voice data, wireless, video and Internet protocol services. MTS craftline occupations provide a wide range of hands on technical opportunities that could exist across the following areas:

- **Equipment Installation**
- **Central Office**
- **Line and Cable**
- **Field Service**

For further information on career opportunities at MTS, please visit their website at [mts.ca](http://mts.ca) and click on careers or Mail to: MTS Allstreams Inc  
Box 7500 Winnipeg, MB R3C 3B5



## Wuskwatim Dam

The massive Wuskwatim dam project has received the go ahead, pending a vote by members of NCN First Nation. This will be a huge

decision facing the residents of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation. The Chief of the First Nation, Jerry Primose has stated due to the dwindling hunting and fishing stock, a new employment and revenue source is necessary. On the one hand most are not in favor of further massive dam developments in the North due to natural resource concerns; we also realize that economic growth has to start taking place on many of the reserves. Many have witnessed first hand the outrageous cost of the basic living necessities....in Shamattawa, Manitoba for example; the milk was \$16 dollars for a four litre jug!!! These residents are in dire need of some form of economic growth. We hope that this type of progressive thinking continues in many of the northern areas. The area affected by the dam is supposed to be the size of the Polo Park shopping mall in Winnipeg. After six years of negotiating the \$1.2-billion Wuskwatim Generation Project, the fate of the dam is now in the hands of a northern aboriginal community that is wrestling with mistrust and skepticism.

Manitoba Hydro officials and Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) community leaders unveiled the groundbreaking agreement March 30, 2006 in Winnipeg. Now they need to take the agreement to the northern aboriginal community -- based in Nelson House about 800 km north of Winnipeg -- and sell it to the 4,000 NCN members. We believe the community will in fact vote (in favor). But having said that, it's their decision and they will decide what's best for their community, said Manitoba Hydro CEO Bob Brennan. If the community doesn't ratify the agreement at a June

14 referendum, it will be scrapped, he added.

## Problem Predator Removal Program

Manitoba Livestock producers are losing stock annually to predators such as coyotes and wolves. This spring Manitoba Conservation enlisted the cooperation of the Manitoba Trappers Association to assist in the removal of problem predators only. This is a service to benefit the livestock producers and the program will operate on a trial basis. There is financial consideration for participating trappers, as control methods are necessary when pelts are of little value.

How the program works:

- Producers register a claim with a Manitoba Agriculture Services Corporation (MASC) agency office. The Claimant may then contact the MTA for assistance and a trapper will be assigned.
- Producers are required to sign a Waiver of Liability releasing the trapper and the MTA from damages that may occur.
- Participating trappers must be paid MTA members as Workers Compensation and Liability Insurance are a requirement of the program and are carried by MTA.

Trappers must be experienced in trapping predator species. Bears are not included. **For more information please contact Manitoba Trappers Association Cherry White @ 1 (204) 345-9107**

# Whispering Pines Newsletter

The next issue of Whispering Pines will be published in the fall of 2006. Articles for December's issue should be submitted by August 15<sup>th</sup>. Articles submitted from the Communities are placed in the Whispering Pines free of charge! So please send your articles today. Thanks!



## The Spirit of the Earth Awards

Congratulations to the 2006 Spirit of the Earth Award recipients. These organizations and individuals were formally recognized at an Awards ceremony in Thompson, MB on National Aboriginal Day, June 21st. Manitoba Hydro is proud to announce the 2006 Spirit of the Earth Award recipients. In this the fourth year of the Spirit of the Earth Awards program, 12 awards were presented to Manitoba organizations or individuals who have made a significant contribution to our environment.

The Spirit of the Earth Awards promotes environmental awareness while recognizing the culture and history of Aboriginal people. This annual Awards program publicly recognizes environmental activity planned by Aboriginal people, or non-Aboriginal people working in partnership with Aboriginal communities. A Spirit of the Earth Awards Advisory Panel selected 12 submissions that best meet the evaluation criteria. The 2006 Spirit of the Earth Award recipients are:

- Alex Robertson Museum, Alonsa, and Percy and Lawrence Houle, Ebb & Flow First Nation - "Wisdom of Elders" stories.
- Anthony J. Martin, Millie Flett and Michael Bridgford-Read, St. John's High School, Winnipeg - Aboriginal Cultural Sculpture Workshop.
- Caroline Bjorklund, Churchill, for sharing her culture through traditional Dene crafts, clothing and tools.
- Myrtle DeMeulles, Churchill, for reviving the art form of tufting in which caribou hair is used to sculpt works of art.
- Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, for the establishing the *Brokenhead Wetland Ecological Reserve*; protecting Manitoba native orchid species and rare plants.
- Mushing Wapusk Adventures & Blue Sky Expeditions, Churchill - Dogsledding Eco-tourism Business.
- MacDonald Youth Services, Thompson, for their Wilderness program.
- Aboriginal Education Division of Red River College, Winnipeg - Medicine Wheel Garden.
- Wapanohk Community School, Thompson - Land Based Education, Winter Festival and Transition Class.
- Wellington School, Winnipeg - Project Mother Earth.
- Joe A. Ross School, The Pas - Outdoor Education program.
- Youth Award: R. D. Parker Youth Aboriginal Council of Thompson - Annual Youth Aboriginal Conference.



Manitoba  
Aboriginal and  
Northern Affairs



In Partnership with

**ATTENTION: Delegates, Administrators/Clerks you can register online for NACC's 36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting & Tradeshow**



***August 22th to 24th, 2006***

Web site: <http://nacc.cimnet.ca>

Mailing address:

750-331 Smith Street

Winnipeg, MB R3B 2G9

If you don't have access to the internet we will be sending out the information in the mail shortly.



## **Silent Auction**

**For more information please contact:**

**Jacqui Meckling, Executive Director**

**Ph: (204) 947-2227**

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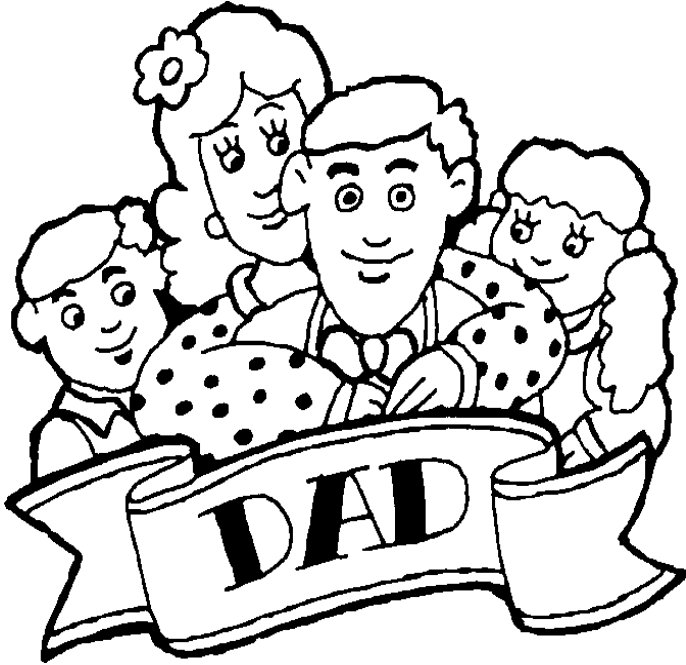
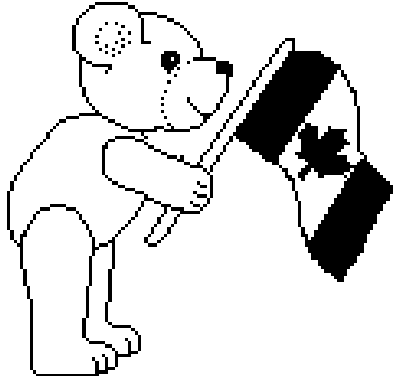
**Toll Free: 1-888-947-6222**

**E-mail: [nacc@mts.net](mailto:nacc@mts.net)**

**Costs of the Tradeshow Booth are Free to Community Councils and you can apply on line.**

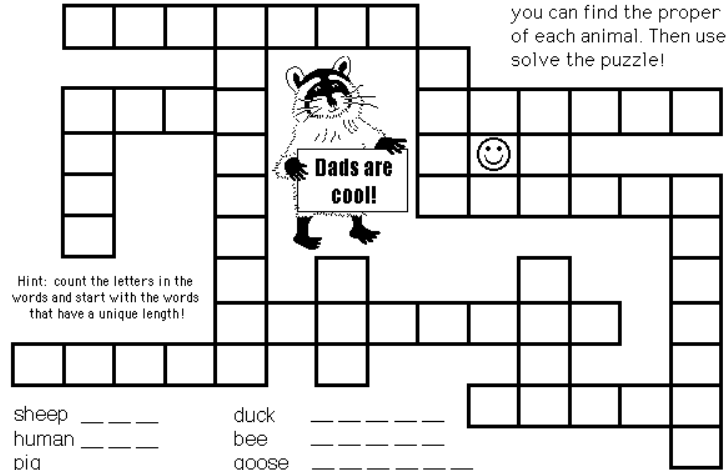


# CHILDREN'S PAGE



## Animal Kingdom Fathers

Many father (male) animals in the Animal Kingdom have a different name than their counterparts the mother (female). You can find the proper name for each animal. Then use the puzzle!



Hint: count the letters in the words and start with the words that have a unique length!

- |        |       |         |       |       |       |
|--------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| sheep  | _____ | duck    | _____ | horse | _____ |
| human  | _____ | bee     | _____ | moose | _____ |
| pig    | _____ | goose   | _____ |       |       |
| deer   | _____ | cat     | _____ |       |       |
| rabbit | _____ | chicken | _____ |       |       |
| cow    | _____ | turkey  | _____ |       |       |

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