The Keewayha Cultural Youth Project was very successful. The attendance of the workshops exceeded expectations and the knowledge that was gained was priceless. Their workshops included the making of Medicine Bags and harvesting of traditional medicine, and the big finale of the year was a cultural camp-out that included boating, fishing, jigging, beading, and a bannock-making workshop that was lead by the youth, and most importantly, time spent with the local elders.

The Keewayha Cultural Youth project brought the community together. The Northwest BC Métis have been supported by CCAY for years and it has brought huge benefits. This project is creating leaders and future traditional knowledge teachers. Keewayha Cultural Youth Project are keeping the colorful heritage of Métis alive.

ATTENTION MÉTIS YOUTH!!!!
To stay connected to other Métis Youth and hear about the great community events taking place in your area,

LIKE US on Facebook
www.facebook.com/BCMétisYouth

FOLLOW US on Twitter at
www.twitter.com/MétisYouthBC

Northwest BC Métis Association hosts the Keewayha Cultural Youth Project.

Fraser Valley and Chilliwack Métis Association’s promote community connection.
Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth 2013-2014

In partnership with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), Métis Youth British Columbia (MYBC) is requesting applications for the 2013-2014 Call for Proposals for communities and organizations interested in applying for funding under Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth (CCAY).

CCAY’s objective is to enable participation of urban Aboriginal youth in the economy by providing funding to support projects that:

- Engage urban Aboriginal youth and other stakeholders in planning, development and delivery of programs and services to reduce barriers to urban Aboriginal youth participation in the economy.
- Projects and programs that support urban Aboriginal youth in reducing barriers to their participation in the economy.
- Cultural and language development, preservation and revitalization in relation to the above mentioned initiatives and projects.
- Projects that assist urban Aboriginal youth in realizing their leadership potential through volunteer and social enterprise activities.

Projects Applications must be received via e-mail by Monday, May 10th, 2013 at 4:30 PM (PST). NO EXCEPTIONS.

All proposals must correspond with the format of the 2013-2014 Proposal Application and follow the CCAY Program Guidelines. Applications and Guidelines are also available at www.mnbc.ca.

For further information, please contact Director of Youth, Colette Trudeau at ctrudeau@mnbc.ca.

Youth Cultural Camps 2013 continued...

Health Forum 2013

Métis Nation British Columbia’s Ministry of Health hosted a very successful Health Forum for more than 90 Métis participants. Yoga, Tai Chi, Massage, Reiki, Learn to Jig, Guided Imagery and a spoken word workshop with Zaccheus Jackson, as well as a Health Screening Clinic were offered and thoroughly enjoyed. The sessions provided opportunity to indulge in some self care, which was a great way to end the day.

We had guest speakers: Dr. Shannon McDonald from the Aboriginal Healthy Living Branch, Winston Thompson from Healing Our Spirits, Victoria Pruden from Bridges for Women and Lu Sitowski talking about Wellness after Injury and Cathy Graham talking about Métis Cultural Safety and Services for Women.

The McCreary Centre (based in Vancouver) came to share the first ever report on Métis Youth Health in BC. The information provided was very informative and we were able to distribute the report to everyone. Although the report has some very dire statistics, we focused on the positive in the report. For example, if a Youth has a supportive adult in their lives outside of their family, they were less likely to have thought about suicide (22%) than those without a supportive adult outside their family (40%). We talked about Community Connectedness and how Métis Youth and Elders need more opportunities to gather and how Métis people can support one another on life’s journey.

We ended the conference with a draft video montage of pictures from the forum and of Métis people holding up their positive affirmations of “I am” statements. It was a truly wonderful conference and we look forward to sharing the table work that was done with group post it information and the evaluations of the Forum.

Article by: Tanya Davoren, Director of Health
President’s Message

The MNBC has been extremely busy wrapping up the fiscal year of 2013. The month of March certainly came in like a lion. MNBC staff and leadership were kept extremely busy during the month.

The very significant Federal Court decisions on both Daniels v. Canada and the Manitoba Métis Federation land claim case were a positive beginning to 2013. These decisions certainly set the stage for all positive things to come for Métis in Canada and we are all looking forward to seeing where this takes the Métis in the years to follow. We applaud the work of the legal teams and that of the leadership that led the charge on both of these cases. We hope that the precedent set from these cases will have positive impacts on potential claims for Métis in BC. Please keep viewing the MNBC website for all the updates and information on this decision. The Citizenship Registry is being inundated with calls and applications including Harvesting Cards since the Federal Court Ruling.

We continue our work and consultation with industry in creating many opportunities for Métis in BC. We will continue to report on this progress and success.

As the Minister of Natural Resources I am working collectively with the Director, Consultants, Assistants and BCMANR Captains towards our Inherent Hunting, Gathering and Fishing Rights.

(Read more on Natural Resources in this edition).

MNBC held our Métis Nation Governing Assembly on March 9 & 10 and it was very well attended. It is moving and inspiring to see our governance at work. There was very thoughtful and meaningful deliberations as the members of the MNGA discussed the proposed new legislation that could affect some very important changes if ratified by the membership at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for September this year. I want to once again thank and commend Bill Bresser, President of the Métis Nation Greater Victoria for the excellent job he did in stepping up to the plate as the deputy speaker for the MNGA, Bill will carry on in his role at the AGM as Co Chair.

The Métis National Council held a one week forum in Vancouver in March which included the Regional and National Métis Economic Development Symposium, a Labour Market Forum mid-week and the Métis National Council Annual General Assembly on the following weekend. BC Métis Cultural entertainment was front and center throughout the week.

March 8th Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) and Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) joined in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). KPU and MNBC recognize the importance of post-secondary education and training for Métis peoples, their families, and communities and the need for improved levels of participation and success for Métis learners in post-secondary education and training in British Columbia.

On March 19th MNBC and Métis Nation of Alberta signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The purpose and intent of the MOU is to establish a working relationship between the two Métis governments with respect to economic and common Labour market initiatives. This MOU marks the goodwill between the MNA and MNBC in the pursuit of our common objectives of pursuing economic opportunities, taking advantage of joint initiatives and exchanging training information and bringing together collective strength of our institutions.

MNBC is in final stages of launching our new and very improved website and Facebook, watch for this in the coming weeks.

Through the good work of Cultural, Language and Heritage Minister Daniel Pitman and MNBC staff we are very excited and extremely proud to be showcasing our Métis art and culture at the 67th Annual Cloverdale Rodeo and Country Fair over the May long week-end of May 18th-20th. We welcome everyone to join us.

It is going to be a very exciting new fiscal year for the Métis Nation. There are some great things happening with our Women and our Youth and we couldn’t be more pleased to welcome back Colette Trudeau as the Youth Director to assist Minister Kate Elliott, in moving the Youth agenda to the forefront. We are thrilled to see what Minister Clara Morin-Dal Col and the regional Métis Women Representatives have in store for the Métis Women in our beautiful province.

Thanks to the MNBC Senior and Administrative staff for a job well done and on behalf of the Métis Provincial Council we certainly appreciate the work of so many volunteers who are helping to build a stronger Métis Nation BC.

The MNBC Board of Directors is working diligently on behalf of all Métis people in BC and we will continue to move forward with the best interest of our communities in the forefront of our agenda. It is a slow process but we are making strides and we appreciate your continued support as we achieve in making our communities healthier and stronger than ever before.

I want to take this moment to send our prayers and support to our dear friend Bob Trumbley and his family and loved ones. Bob is a very proud Métis warrior who is a champion in his fight and we all want to send our encouragement and love during this very difficult time. In addition, we extend condolences to all those families who recently experienced loss of family members.

MNBC will be continuing our Regional Information Sessions this Spring. All scheduling will be posted on our website and postcards will be mailed to each citizen’s household in respective regions so please look for this beginning in May.

Wit’sotuskiwin Mamaway atoski’thak / Let’s work together!

Ekoushi maaka / Li Michif Aashpaymook / That is it for now / Believe in Métis

Ki’nass kou’mitinowow! / Thank you very much Li Michif Naashyshoon BC

Bruce Dumont

Oki’ma / President Métis Nation British Columbia

* Documents referenced in this article can be viewed on the homepage of the MNBC website.
Natural Resources & Harvesting Rights

BCMNR: Métis Harvesting Rights

The Federal Court ruling (Daniels v. Canada) on January 8, 2013 is a giant step forward for us as Métis people. This monumental announcement takes us even closer to reaching our goal of obtaining full harvesting rights here in BC. This news is exciting but it is important to understand that this is a critical time for us as Métis harvesters. As others will be watching our harvesting activities closely, it is crucial we protect our integrity. We have been working hard for years to develop and implement our own policies that govern MNBC Métis harvesters. This allows us to be responsible for our own harvesting activities and we do not want to jeopardize the value and reputation of our Harvesting Card Registry or Natural Resources Act. It is important to remember that all rights come with responsibilities.

Our Ancestors relied on harvesting for sustenance and these activities were, and still are, an integral part of our culture. Our Ancestors had unwritten harvesting rules, such as the Buffalo Assembly and the Laws of the Prairie. The Buffalo Assembly and the Laws of the Prairies were both established by a community way of living. These communal commitments ensured the survival of our people during tough times. The basic principles stated that there was no individual way of thinking and that strength was generated from the collective group. These principles were the basis of our historic Métis culture; therefore our present day infrastructure and principles should honour the past. By following the main principles laid out in these laws we ensure we are able to fulfill our obligations to our families and ensure the continuity of harvesting for future generations.

We, as responsible and committed Captains of the Hunt, desire sustainable use of our natural resources and this includes: managing natural resources to meet present needs without compromising the needs of future generations, providing stewardship of natural resources based on an ethic of respect for the land, balancing economic, productive, spiritual, ecological and traditional values of natural resources to meet the economic, social and cultural needs of the Métis peoples and other aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, conserving biological diversity, soil, water, fish, wildlife, scenic diversity, and other natural resources, and restoring damaged ecologies.

As mentioned before, with rights come responsibilities, for harvesting this includes conservation and safety. We have a responsibility to ensure that our actions in harvesting natural resources do not damage the local population of the resource taken. When the level of use is greater than the ability of the resource to sustain that use, the area can no longer meet the needs our people and the health of the resources becomes threatened. At times, restrictions become necessary for all resource harvesters to ensure the survival of the wild populations and resources. All harvesters (fishers and hunters) must also be aware that safety is extremely important not only for themselves but also for other users of the land. For these reasons, there are some restrictions that are intended for conservation and safety purposes that apply to all Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal users.

We are excited to see what the future holds for Métis harvesters across the province and we are confident that we will gain full harvesting rights. Currently a valid and up-to-date MNBC Harvesting Card With Hunting may only be used to replace the Federal Migratory Bird license. The MNBC Harvester card does not authorize freshwater fishing, saltwater fishing, hunting, trapping or cutting timber. As mentioned before, it is crucial for us to protect the integrity of our Harvester Card Registry and Natural Resources Act. We need to ensure that the traditional foods and activities that we have always enjoyed and respected are going to be protected and available for years to come.

Happy Harvesting,

Your BCMNR Captains of the Hunt and MNBC Natural Resources Staff

On behalf of MNBC, Niché Environmental will be conducting a Métis Land Use study in the Northeast, North-central and Northwest regions for the proposed Spectra Energy Liquid Natural Gas Pipeline.

Niché Environmental will be hosting community meeting information sessions on the following days:

- Prince George - May 1
- Fort St. James – May 3
- Hudson’s Hope – May 5
- Fort St. John – May 7
- Dawson Creek – May 9
- Chetwynd – May 10
- Smithers – May 2
- Terrace – May 5
- Prince Rupert – May 4

Niché will be conducting interviews with MNBC citizens who are harvesters in nine communities:

- Prince George (May 17-20 & 23-28)
- Fort St. James (May 8-16)
- Hudson’s Hope (May 31-June 7)
- Fort St John (May 15-20)
- Dawson Creek (May 21-26)
- Chetwynd (June 2-7)
- Smithers (May 8-15)
- Terrace (May 20-26)
- Prince Rupert (May 31-June 7)

Register now for a MNBC Harvesting Card

Here are some of the many reasons to become a MNBC Harvesting Card Holder!

- To help further Métis harvesting rights in BC
- Have a stronger voice regarding land usage and economic development
- To gather and preserve Métis Traditional Knowledge
- Contribute important data to assist MNBC in carrying out consultation on behalf of Métis in BC

Contact:

Harvester Registry
30691 Simpson Rd
Abbotsford, BC V2T 6C7
Toll Free: 1-800-940-1150
Building a Skilled Métis Workforce
Métis Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Roundtable

Anyone that either listens to the radio or watches television has heard that there is a shortage of skilled workers in British Columbia. The media has provided their interpretation of the skilled worker shortage and government has shared predictions of the gaps that this shortage will create on major construction projects.

The information that is being shared by the many sources is extensive and often does not always focus on the key questions, which is, what does this mean for Aboriginal people, and specifically Métis people, in British Columbia. There are more questions than answers available on how to build a skilled workforce that meets the industry demand in British Columbia. In order to develop a strategy that focuses on Métis people, MNBC developed the Métis Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Roundtable.

The Roundtable included representatives from industry, colleges, universities and technical institutes; unions, contractors, government (federal and provincial) and MNBC employment and training coordinators. The focus of the Roundtable was to analyze all of the information regarding the skilled worker shortage in B.C. and identify the following:

a) Is the skilled worker shortage real and are the statistics valid?

b) What are the occupations that are in the highest demand?

(It is important to note that the most reliable way to determine this is to ask industry)

c) Which post-secondary institutions provide training in these occupations?

d) What funding is available for training and what are the criteria?

The most significant recommendation that was made by the Roundtable was that in order to meet the demand for skilled workers in B.C. and provide training and employment opportunities for Métis people, sustainable long term partnerships must be made. MNBC can provide funding to Métis community members for post-secondary education and training through the Aboriginal Employment and Skills Training Strategy, (ATES) but it is often limited and the total amount of funding remains the same although the need for post-secondary education is growing.

Ministry for Children & Families

Spring is a time of birth and renewal. After a very long winter, filled with what seemed like endless months of rain and snow, we are all happy to feel the warmth of the sun and take in some outside activities. Spring for me is about enjoying the sights of flowers and leaves on the trees budding, birds lively chirping, geese returning, hearing children’s laughter as they frolic outside- all of which bring me a renewed sense of liveliness. I begin thinking of up-coming summer activities such as camping, fishing and back yard BBQs with friends and families, hiking and biking. Alas, as pleasant as it is, to reverie in anticipation of family summer activities, the intent of this article is to bring you up to date on what the Ministry of Children and Families has been doing over the winter months.

Minister Pitman and I have been involved in many meetings with both levels of government, to ensure that programs and services are available for Métis children, youth and families. In particular, we have been very busy working on the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan with both the provincial Ministry of Aboriginal Rights and Reconciliation (MARR) and the federal Aboriginal Affairs Northern Development Canada (AANDC) which is intended to improve the socio-economic standards of Métis families living in rural and urban settings. Several community forums occurred throughout the province consulting on how to improve the current social service programs that exist and how to better increase the accessibility of these programs for Métis families. It has been very challenging being involved in this project but our determination and conviction to improve the lives of Métis families never wavered and our tenacity and perseverance in participating in this project remained steadfast. I am pleased to report that Métis youth had their own ORAAP engagement and presented some very encouraging recommendations to the provincial and federal governments. A noteworthy success of ORAAP, for MNBC, is that we were able to raise the profile of Métis people with the social service sector as well as with both levels of government. We have commitments to forge formal working relationships with several Urban Aboriginal organizations, which is another significant success to this project. I am pleasantly optimistic to state, that we are entering a new chapter in our working relationships with both levels of governments, since they have become fully aware of the need to be both respectful and honour the distinct culture of Métis People, in all their funded Aboriginal services and programs. I will keep you updated on the plans for ORAAP and any direct outcomes for Métis children and families as they occur over the upcoming months.

Some new provincial initiatives that I will be working on include participating on the provincial Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD) restructuring of Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) services and participating on the Aboriginal Early Years Child Development project. The intent of my involvement is to ensure that Métis children and youth are included in these services and programs, equally important, that these services are accessible to them. As these projects roll out I will keep you informed on their progress.

Article by: Cole McGillivary, Director of Industry Engagement, Partnerships & Education

Métis Nation British Columbia Newsletter

It is through partnerships that MNBC is increasing the amount of funding for Métis community members for post-secondary education and training. Part of this is establishing endowments and bursaries at many post-secondary institutions in B.C. and implementing a “Métis Learner Protocol. Partnerships with government are critical to ensure that Métis people are being included in all post-secondary education and skills training strategies that are being developed in the province and are represented in all initiatives.

Two of the projects that MNBC is collaborating on with industry, government, unions and contractors are the Lakes District Aboriginal Training to Employment (Burns Lake/Prince George) and the North East British Columbia Energy-Mines Aboriginal Workforce Development Project (Fort St John area). Many other projects and partnerships are in various stages of development including a Pre-Employment Environmental Monitoring Program.

Watch for a copy of the Métis Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Roundtable report and new information on MNBC training projects under the News & Events section under Ministry of Employment & Training of the MNBC website!

Article by: Colleen Hodgson, Director of Industry Engagement, Partnerships & Education
As we move into Spring and a new fiscal year, MNBC continues to move forward on all fronts whether it is in health care, children and family matters, employment training and partnerships, culture, natural resources, or citizenship registration. For the first time in a long time, thanks to the great work of our Chief Financial Officer Karen Nagra and her finance team, there has been increased stabilization of our finances and our staff has been able to focus on better meeting the needs of Métis people in British Columbia in each of the above noted areas. That increased focus is taking them on the road into many of the Chartered communities, or bringing community members, including youth and elders into forums dealing with health care, youth activities and discussions about public government programs and policies better addressing the needs of aboriginal and Métis people. Additionally, we are taking the initiative to raise awareness of the private sector in BC to Métis entrepreneurship.

In March MNBC organized and chaired a two-day Roundtable on Métis Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training in Vancouver that brought representatives from the private sector, public government and Métis business together to discuss ways of partnering up to provide both business opportunities, skills training and employment opportunities for Métis. This has never been done before in the country, but MNBC did it and it was very successful.

We are also establishing firsts in several other areas. In our citizenship registry, we have now exceeded 8000 Citizens, and the number continues to grow each month. We mailed out as many citizenship application forms in the month following the Daniels Federal Court decision (over 1000) as we typically mail out in an entire year. We also have over 500 Métis Harvesters in our system – the highest number ever, and we are adding more each month. Our ASETS program staff through our seven regional offices are serving more Métis people in helping them obtain trades training and education upgrades than ever before. Our staff members in Natural Resources, working closely with our BCMANR Captains are more involved in monitoring new mining projects, and oil and gas related projects in the province than ever before. Through the combined efforts of both our Minister and Director of Children and Family, addressing the needs of Métis children in care is a higher priority than ever before. And our new Youth Director is already re-engaging with Métis youth all over the province and working with communities on developing projects that will help Métis youth take advantage of economic opportunities.

We at MNBC are working hard on behalf of all Métis people in British Columbia. Our staff is committed to doing the best job possible to serve the needs of Métis people. Some days meeting all the needs can be challenging, however all staff feel a special pride when we can make a difference in people's lives.

Sincerely,

Dale Drown, CAE
Executive Director
Métis Nation British Columbia

Our Vision
To build a proud, self-governing, sustainable Nation in recognition of inherent Rights for our Métis Citizens.

Our Mandate:
To develop and enhance opportunities for our Métis communities by implementing culturally relevant social and economic programs and services through Teamwork, Respect, Dedication, Accountability, Integrity and Professionalism.
Over six hundred (600) Métis Certificates of Recognition as one of the “Aboriginal Peoples of Canada” have been mailed to newly registered Métis.

The MNBC Central Registry is pleased to announce it has issued more than 8,000 Métis Citizenship cards since October 2004. This is a significant milestone for MNBC as each individual registered is physically issued a card.

The MNBC is proud of the credibility of the Central Registry and recognizes the importance of not grandfathering individuals in.

Registered individuals are issued tamper proof secure Métis identification cards.

Cards are renewed on a regular five (5) year cycle, much like a BC driver’s license, to ensure registry accuracy and credibility with Métis Citizens, government partners and stakeholders.

For more information please contact the Registry Department at 1-800-940-1150/604-557-5851 or visit our website at www.mnbc.ca under the Registries tab.
Join us on Facebook

We are launching our NEW website and Facebook, this month!!
Please check with our website www.mnbc.ca for these exciting changes.

Métis Business Directory

Are you a Métis Citizen who owns a business and you would like to promote it on our website?

If you would like for us to post your business on our business directory send your electronic business card or brochure to traceyt@mnbc.ca and we will post your information accordingly.

Métis Mail Subscribers

Want to receive daily updates and information on MNBC and upcoming events?
Join us as a mail subscriber.

Go to the MNBC homepage and click on “MNBC Mail Subscriber” and you will automatically begin to receive your mail directly to your inbox.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Upcoming Community Events

Here’s what’s happening in and around your community.

Lower Mainland

Golden Ears Métis Society Weekly Youth Jigging Classes beginning April 16, 2013 [Contact Wendy Lawrence 604-463-4175]
Chilliwack Métis Association Potluck & Jigging Workshop - May 18, 2013 3-7PM [Contact michelle.lavergne@shaw.ca]
Junior Jiggers competition May 5, 2013 [Contact goldenearsmetis@gmail.com]
Fish & Game Club Outdoors Skills Youth Camp - Register Now! - June 28 - July 7, 2013 [Contact michelle.lavergne@shaw.ca]

North West

North West BC Métis Association Bush Tea and Bannock - May 5, 2013 1:00pm to 4:00pm
Terrace > Ferry Island (look for Métis flag) - *bring your chairs and mugs*

Do you have an event in your community that you would like posted in our community events section?
Send your post to traceyt@mnbc.ca

Contact MNBC
Toll Free: 1-800-940-1150 / 604-557-5851
Fax: 604-557-2024
www.mnbc.ca
30691 Simpson Road,
Abbotsford, BC
V2T 6C7