



# METIS MESSENGER

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## WHAT'S INSIDE

RHODE ISLAND  
GOVERNOR WARNED.....2

WIND PARK  
PROPOSAL STRONGER....3

INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY.....4

BUSY SUMMER FOR  
RNR DEPT.....6

PRESIDENT'S  
MESSAGE.....7

The METIS MESSENGER is published by the Labrador Metis Nation - an Aboriginal representative organization formed in the late 1970s to enhance, promote and protect Metis individuals, territory and culture through recognition and protection of their Constitutional and inherent Aboriginal rights.

## Rally for fishing, hunting rights

More than 100 Labrador Metis Nation members and supporters rallied this past summer to send a strong message to both the federal and provincial governments over fishing and hunting rights.

“Today we are asking for fairness,” President Chris Montague told the crowd gathered in front of the LMN office in Happy Valley-Goose Bay June 28. “We are being denied our Constitutional right to harvest salmon and other fish as we have always done in our traditional lands.”

The LMN is the only Aboriginal group whose members are not permitted to access salmon and other fish stocks in Lake Melville. A communal fishing agreement with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Mr. Montague said, would be a good first step in ensuring LMN members are treated fairly.

Mr. Montague also pointed out that eight Metis hunters



Labrador Metis Nation President Chris Montague addresses the fishing and hunting rally June 28.

have been hauled into court for exercising their Aboriginal right.

“They were not charged because of conservation or safety concerns. They were charged because they didn’t carry a

Newfoundland licence.”

Mr. Montague warned that the rally was “a shadow of what’s to come”, and he called on supporters to stand up for their rights and for all of Labrador.



More than 100 Labrador Metis Nation members and supporters turned out to participate in a noon-hour rally June 28 to show their displeasure of being denied hunting and fishing rights.

# Montague informs Rhode Island governor not to expect power from Lower Churchill

Labrador Metis Nation President Chris Montague sent a letter to the Governor of Rhode Island in early July, informing that access to Lower Churchill power will only happen with Metis approval.

"I am writing to inform you that the agreement you recently signed with Newfoundland Premier Danny Williams, to look at the possibility of purchasing power from the proposed Lower Churchill hydro project, fails to acknowledge the fact that you have an obligation to meaningfully consult with the region's largest Aboriginal group," Mr. Montague states in the letter to Donald L. Carcieri.

The Government of Newfoundland continues to ignore Labrador Inuit-Metis rights and interests, as evidenced by the MOU between Gov. Carcieri and Premier Williams, notes Mr. Montague.

Mr. Montague also informed Gov. Carcieri of the July 19, 2006 Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador landmark decision, ordering the Government of Newfoundland to immediately commence meaningful consultation with the Labrador Metis

Nation with respect to construction of a major highway that cuts through Inuit-Metis territory.

"The Court maintained the likelihood for recognition of the Labrador Metis is on the high end of the spectrum," Mr. Montague noted. "It is our view that the Supreme Court decision applies not only to construction of the Trans Labrador Highway, but to all developments taking place, or proposed to take place, in our territory - including the Lower Churchill."

Mr. Montague also noted that the LMN had made numerous attempts to enter into meaningful dialogue with the provincial government on the Lower Churchill issue. The province has refused.

"While we would prefer to negotiate in good faith, we are prepared to take further court action, if necessary, to ensure the rights of our members are acknowledged and affirmed."

Mr. Montague said it is important for the governor to be aware of Inuit-Metis concerns, as well as the environmental impacts associated with hydro development.

"The Labrador Inuit-Metis have

used that river more than any other group of people over the last two centuries, and we will be the ones most affected by this development if it goes ahead. Our largest community, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, is located at the mouth of the river, so we have to make sure we are meaningfully included, consulted and compensated, Mr. Montague stated.

"As an aboriginal organization, we are deeply concerned about the environmental impacts this proposed development will have on our land. The Upper Churchill development further upstream resulted in the creation of a body of water twice the size of the State of Rhode Island. The Lower Churchill project will bring more flooding and destruction to our already damaged ecosystem," added Mr. Montague.

If the State of Rhode Island is interested in purchasing hydro electricity from the Lower Churchill, Mr. Montague continued, then it would be wise for Gov. Carcieri to reconvene another meeting with Premier Williams to discuss ways and means of ensuring the LMN is consulted and accommodated in a meaningful way.



## YOU BE THE JUDGE

On April 11, 2007, the Honourable Tom Rideout, Minister Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs and Attorney General for the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, made the following statement with respect to harvesting rights of the Labrador Inuit-Metis:

"... as a government we're prepared to recognize, in terms of harvesting and gathering and hunting, that the LMN are... a fact of life."

He further stated: "...we will just keep our distance and not interfere with the Metis right to hunt for subsistence hunting."

Meanwhile, eight Labrador Metis hunters have been charged for carrying out their Constitutional right to hunt. Has the Newfoundland government broken another promise to the Labrador Metis Nation?

With respect to land claims, the Minister was quoted as saying: "... there was a time when Andy Scott was Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development when I get a phone call from him asking if we were to negotiate ... a land-claim settlement with the Metis of Labrador based on political considerations would the Province participate? And I said, 'not likely.'"

Why are our hunters before the courts?

Why does the Newfoundland Government continue to suggest Ottawa refuses to accept our land claim?

Is the Newfoundland Government trying to push the Inuit-Metis of Labrador to the brink of extinction?

Does the Newfoundland Government care about the Inuit-Metis of Labrador?

**You be the judge!**



# Major wind developer will strengthen Height of Land project, Montague says

The sale of Ventus Energy Inc. to the world's sixth largest power producer this past summer is good news for the proposed Height of Land Wind Park near Churchill Falls, says Labrador Metis Nation President Chris Montague.

"We are delighted with this transaction," says Mr. Montague. "Not only does it make our proposal stronger, it signals a great opportunity to open lines of communication with the provincial government."

SUEZ International Energy's North American affiliate (www.suezenergyna.com) acquired Ventus for \$124 million earlier this week. The transaction marks the first entry of SUEZ into the North American wind energy market. Ventus and the Labrador Metis Nation forged a partnership in January 2006 to construct a \$2.5 billion wind park capable of producing 1,000 megawatts of power. The Government of Newfoundland, however, has refused to allow the project to go ahead - suggesting that "big wind" proposals will not be considered until the province completes its long-awaited energy plan.

The Labrador Ventus Limited Partnership agreement between Ventus Energy and the Metis Energy Corporation remains intact, notes Mr. Montague, adding that he is hopeful the provincial government will now come to the table in an attempt to get the project up and running.

"Whatever the reason for refusing to work with us to develop this great opportunity for the people of Labrador and the province as a whole, the government should reconsider its position in light of the Ventus sale," says Mr. Montague.

"SUEZ is a long-time global leader in utilizing renewable energy sources, and the company's expertise would be an asset to the province's fledgling wind-energy sector."



VENTUS PHOTO

Based in Houston, SUEZ Energy North America, Inc. is the business unit of SUEZ Energy International responsible for managing the company's positions within the energy value chain in the U.S., Mexico and Canada, including electricity generation and cogeneration, natural gas and liquefied natural gas,

asset-based trading and origination, and retail energy sales and related services to commercial and industrial customers. SUEZ Energy International is a business line of SUEZ (NYSE: SZE), which is an international industrial and services group that employs 140,000 people worldwide.

# Fisheries decision 'good' for members

On behalf of Coastal Labrador Fisheries Ltd. I would like to thank MDC Fisheries Ltd. for their consideration and co-operation with respect to landing snow crab at St. Lewis this season. The partnership formed between Lloyd Normore Ltd. and your organization saw a very well operated MV Calm Sea catch and land superior raw material. Catching every pound of her quota without breakdown will show that a good decision was made on this enterprise last fall.

Commitment from your offices to the community of St. Lewis, the early season start, ice conditions and price all worked in favor on landing here. Again, this season this was the first plant open and processing in Southern Labrador.

Catching the crab while they are in prime condition has now replaced fishing for stamps. Picking your apples so to speak when they are ripe, is the way of this fishery. Baiting the fishing grounds before shrimp or capelin spawn compete with your squid for to attract the snow crab!

I will certainly see Mr. Chris



MV Calm Sea

Montague... over the next few months. However, I ask that you pass along a sincere thank you from the 60 or so workers here at Coastal that now have a chance of better employment at home because of this wise partnership.

Any questions pertaining to the fish-

eries of this province our company are there to give an answer with decades of sound experience as background. A bond of friendship here continues to grow on this Metis business decision.

**Thank You,  
Keith Hardy**



## Ray Turnbull Memorial Bursary presented

Chelcie Soroka accepts the 2007 Ray Turnbull Memorial Bursary from Labrador Metis Nation President Chris Montague. The bursary is awarded annual to a Labrador Metis student in recognition of commitment to academic achievement and community involvement. The award has a monetary value of \$2,000 to help offset costs associated with post-secondary studies. Chelcie will attend the Sir Wilfred Grenfell campus of Memorial University this fall to further pursue a career in the medical field. Chelcie is the daughter of Cheryl and Chris Soroka of Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The bursary is named in honor of Ray Turnbull, a former Education and Employment Officer with the Labrador Metis Nation who passed away in 2004 after a long battle with cancer.

## Busy summer for Research and Natural Resources Dept.

This summer has been a busy one for the Research and Natural Resources Department, with the opening of the Labrador Metis Nation communal fishery in July.

The fishery enables each Metis household to harvest four to six salmon and enjoy a by-catch quota of charr, trout, herring and several other species of fish and shellfish.

The Department ran the community freezer again this year and delivered well over 100 fish to 40 Metis elders or members with a permanent disability.

The LMN is expanding on the communal cod fishery this year and will be harvesting 10 MT of cod again and has purchased freezers for Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Cartwright and Port Hope Simpson to hold fish for distribution to members. Elders and disabled members along the south coast will enjoy cod from the community freezer and, due to the lack of access for members of Upper Lake Melville, every Metis household can receive three cod.

### WOOD

The Department is currently doing research pertaining to historic and current domestic wood use to determine whether or not the LMN meets the test of the recent Sappier, Gray and Polchies court case in New Brunswick. In this case, Aboriginals won the right to harvest wood for domestic use based on a traditional rights. The LMN sees this as



**President Chris Montague presents salmon to Metis Elders Flossie Oliver, right, and Ethel Webber of Happy Valley-Goose Bay.**

a precedent that should extend to our membership, allowing us to harvest wood freely for domestic traditional use.

### KNOWLEDGE BASE

The Department has been working with Smart Labrador to develop a new website, which is now active and can be visited at [www.labradormetis.ca](http://www.labradormetis.ca). The website will soon contain the Metis Knowledge Base, featuring traditional knowledge of Labrador, stories, recipes, images, etc. It is hoped that this initiative will promote a better understanding of our culture, will engage and interest

Metis youth and provide a means of increased communication amongst the membership.

### STUDENTS

The Department would also like to acknowledge the hard work of the six Metis students. David Burden, Jenna Martin, Tiffany Lambourne, Craig Brown and Ashley Clark and Blair Goudie all worked for the Department for 16 weeks, on such projects as the Metis knowledge base, liaising with researchers, coordinating Metis Family and Friends Day and working with the Metis communal fishery.

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Members of the Labrador Metis Nation are asked to please contact the LMN head office with the names of members who have passed away. The LMN's Membership Committee is in the process of reviewing and updating the membership list. Your co-operation would be most appreciated. Please call the office at 709-896-0592 or toll-free at 1-877-896-0592.



LMN President Chris Montague with Guy Poole during Liz's walk.

Guy, centre, with Victoria Paul and Wayde Paul, at Cartwright Junction, some 90 kilometers into Liz's walk. Wayde accompanied Guy for some 125 kilometers.



## Liz's Walk

# More than \$6,000 raised for Type 2 Diabetes during second leg of trek across Labrador

This year the Learning For Life ~ Preventing Diabetes Project partnered again with Mr. Guy Poole to do a walk in memory of Guy's wife, Liz, to raise awareness of Type 2 Diabetes. This year was the second leg of Guy's dream to trek across Labrador.

Liz Poole lost her battle to diabetes in September 2004 at the early age of 57 due to complications caused by the disease. It was Guy's dream to carry out a walk in his wife's memory. In 2006 Guy walked the near 200 kilometers in and out of each of six communities in south-eastern Labrador connected by road.

More than \$6,000 in donations was raised. A substantial contribution was made to the Canadian Diabetes Association for research and the remainder of the money was used to produce and print 1,000 calendars made up of pictures from the walk and were distrib-

uted into homes in Metis communities.

Guy was determined to take on the second leg of his trek this year; another 185 kilometers of gravel road from Cartwright to the Charlottetown access road branch. The walk began in Cartwright, greeted by a community breakfast, on Friday, May 25. It proceeded with great support from businesses, southern Labrador family centers and many community volunteers. Guy completed the 185 km trek after six days on May 31. There were several walkers who had joined him over the week - one man from Charlottetown, Wayde Paul, walked 125 km.

Guy has great energy and stamina for a 63-year old man who continues to train hard and work a full-time job at Voisey's Bay after retiring from Newfoundland Labrador Hydro. He plans to continue his walk next year from Lodge Bay to L'anse au Clair.

The Learning for Life Project has sponsored with the help of community organizations and volunteers to carry out community walks in most of the Metis communities in memory of Liz.

If you would like more information about Liz's Walk, please get in touch with Darlene or Melita at the following:

Darlene Wall  
Diabetes Awareness Coordinator  
PO Box 460, Stn. C  
Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL A0P 1C0  
dwall@labmetis.org

Melita Paul  
Diabetes Awareness Assistant  
PO Box 59  
Charlottetown, NL A0K 5Y0  
mpaul@nf.aibn.com



### **METIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS DAY**

From left, LMN staff members Leanne Fowler and Tammy Lambourne, along with friend Sean Mugford posing in front of the LMN photo booth display at this year's Metis Family and Friend's Day, held July 21 at the E.J. Broomfield Memorial Arena, Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

## **MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS**

LMN members requiring emergency medical assistance are able to take advantage of several programs.

LMN President Chris Montague donates one-third of his annual salary to enable members to access needed medical care and services. For more information, please contact the LMN office at 709-896-0592, or toll-free at 1-877-896-0592.

The provincial government implemented the Medical Transportation Assistance Program in 1998 to assist residents who incur substantial costs when travelling via commercial air to access insured health services which are not available within their health region and/or within the province. For more information, please contact the office of the Minister Responsible for Labrador Affairs at 896-3099 or toll-free at 1-866-996-5670.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### **Taking the lead**

It seems like a generation since our last assembly, but it's only been about a year. We have kept true to our theme "Moving Forward", but it's been more like a waltz than a march - three steps forward and two steps back. Our aim and our successes have been in maintaining the lead.

Overall, our fishery was a success. We are building infrastructure to improve our conditions over the coming years. In MDC Fisheries, we have - for the first time - shown a profit. This was a result of our two licences that landed crab and shrimp to the limit of their quotas. This year we shall endeavour to acquire more licences and to work more closely with our people on the coast, especially in Black Tickle.

We have moved forward on our Powley Implementation Project. We have worked on governance and membership to make our organizational status more legitimate. However, the provincial government has taken a more aggressive stand by charging our hunters with wildlife infractions. The LMN is working to resolve this issue by looking at the possibility of fighting a test case in court.

In the broad field of economic development, we continue to be challenged by the attitude of the provincial government. Our wind park is still on hold, but this summer our company has merged with Suez International Energy - the world's sixth largest power producer.

The LMN has been very active in cultural events throughout this summer, and we have voiced our concerns for common issues. We continue to raise our profile, not only in the local area, but in the province and across Canada as well.

The medical file has not moved with government, however my emergency medical fund is available. The provincial government has also increased the travel subsidy. It gave me great pleasure to personally buy a Stryker stretcher for the clinic in Cartwright. It's a relatively small gesture to a community that has left such an indelible mark on me personally, but it underlies my commitment to our communities.

Our land claim file received some serious consideration from Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Jim Prentice. It was days away from getting an independent legal opinion which, I believe would have moved it ahead. Unfortunately, the minister was replaced and our progress is delayed for a few months. When all is settled we will take up where we left off and move this file forward. When we do, so much of what we dream of should come true.

Anything is possible if we continue to take the lead.



**CHRIS MONTAGUE**

# Seniors gather for day of sessions and fun

The Labrador Metis Nation and Labrador South Home Care hosted a Senior's Event in Mary's Harbour on July 11. The funds to carry out this event were made possible by the Northern Regional Wellness Coalition.

A lot of planning and organizing went into making this event a success. A full day of sessions and fun activities were planned for the seniors. Some 50 seniors travelled from the Labrador Straits area and 22 came from Lodge Bay and Charlottetown, with several residents of Harbour View Manor in attendance as well.

The seniors were very excited about coming together to learn information on healthy living and diabetes presented by Melita Paul of the Learning For Life ~ Preventing Diabetes Project. Other presentations included one by Sandra Rumbolt of the Eagle River Credit Union on financial abuse, something seniors often experience without knowing it. RCMP Cpl. Ann Noel from the Mary's Harbour detachment greeted the incoming seniors. She also did a presentation to the group on various crimes that face our seniors and how they can be more educated to stop it from hap-



**One of the participants of the Senior's Event provided entertainment by squeezing out a few tunes on the accordion.**

pening to them.

The seniors also shared stories and jokes with each other and one provided entertainment by playing the button accordion. At the end of the day the seniors were tired, but greatly appreciative of those who helped bring them together.

A special thanks to the Harbour View Manor staff and residents in Mary's

Harbour and the many others who helped set up and serve food during the day, especially the students. Thank you to Deb Barney, the Labrador South Home Care co-ordinator, for her work in getting the seniors from the Straits area to Mary's Harbour. Special thanks again to the Northern Wellness Coalition for the funds to make this event possible.



## Youth Ambassador - Natasha Poole

My name is Natasha Poole, and I am from St. Lewis, Labrador. I am 17-years old and going into Grade 12. After high school I plan on having a career where I can work in the environment because I love the outdoors. My favorite things to do is read, listen to music,

chat online, and just be with my friends. I have been to several different Metis youth gatherings including the Learning For Life-Preventing Diabetes, and the Multi-cultural Youth Gathering in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Both have been wonderful experiences.

*Check out our new and improved website at*

[www.labradormetis.ca](http://www.labradormetis.ca)