

None of us is as strong as all of us!

Fly straight and true and may the Creator ride by your side

**Eastern Woodland Métis Nation
Nova Scotia**

Mocassin Trail Newsletter Feb. 2010

By Chief and Administrator (Earth Mother) M.L.Parker

Ahnee (Hello to all) A great deal of time has passed since our last letter but we have had illness in the family. But we seem to be o.k. now.

In this newsletter, in our struggle for UNITY we would like to say that to achieve the path forward, it is time to bring together community leaders and activists, policy makers and other stakeholders from across Canada to respond to the unique challenges and opportunities facing Métis/Aboriginal Peoples today. Approximately 75% of the Métis/Aboriginals population is living in Urban Centers and predictions are that this number will continue to grow.

We wish to explore the experience of the Métis/Aboriginal peoples and seek out ways to overcome the struggle and address the specific needs that come with urban life.

Some of the important issues to be addressed include strengthening Communities and creating more opportunities for education, employment and economic development

**Our Goals and expected outcomes:
UNITY of ALL Métis/Aboriginal
Peoples...**

And: facilitate access to skills and services to Métis/Aboriginal to thrive in an urban setting by focusing on a needs based approach to finding solutions.

And find ways to support and enhance successful programs and foster positive partnerships for further development and capacity building,

We have been to Halifax, once again, to see Mr. Wyatt White of Aboriginal Affairs. We had over an hours visit and

we feel that we are finally being heard. Our next stop is to visit with Myanne Francis the Governor General of N.S. and you can be sure that there will be a date set for this.

In this newsletter you will find an advertisement of interest for all. We have welcomed the Professor of Anthropology of the U.N.B. Dr. Marilyn Walker as an Honorary Member to our Family

We have also welcomed a new group to our growing family. They are called (SHADES OF COLOR Circle) and are from North Preston Dartmouth Co. They are a wonderful group of people and have a great deal of African/Micmac Heritage. Their Chief and President is Vivian Willis and she has written a book on her Grandmother who was the matriarch and was married to an Indian, so therein lies the heritage. She lived to be over 100 years old. We will have the book very soon.

Beginning this month all our members will be able to access the web-site and find a treasury report. This was a suggestion and a good one. You will be able to see how we are spending the monies that you have entrusted to us. We need all our dues up-to-date. We should have much more than this in our bank account.

Chief Mary Lou and the members of

the Grand Council met with Greg Kerr Our M.L.A. (Federal) and are working along with him to assist the members who are in GOOD STANDING for continuing with post-secondary educational studies. Those of you who are interested in this project please call me at 1-902-742-9679 and give me your name and permission to use it for the government study. We need to let them know how important education is to our nation so we can produce people in our society to contribute to the Métis workforce as the TRUE citizens of this great Country.

We are now at a point where we must educate our peoples in what no-one knew yesterday, and prepare ourselves for what no-one knows yet.

AND ALWAYS REMEMBER

Metis/Aboriginals are not like a blanket-one piece of unbroken cloth, the same color and size. We are like quilts, many patches, sizes and colors, all woven together by a common thread.

We now have Métis Flags and License Plates for sale. Call 1-902-742-9679 for info. All orders must be prepaid. Flags are \$30.00 and Plates are \$20.00 we do the shipping and handling.

This concludes this newsletter.

(Chief) Mary Lou Parker

Mount Allison anthropology professor Dr. Marilyn Walker has witnessed things that very few people have had the opportunity to see.

Dr. Walker spent years travelling back and forth across the Canadian Arctic. She has lived among the hill tribes of Thailand, and with Tibetan refugees in India. She has studied traditional medicine in Siberia and Mongolia, and researched biodiversity in the Pacific Northwest. And despite the great geographic distance between them, Dr. Walker says there are many similarities between the groups she studies, especially in their traditions of hospitality and the spiritual connection to the land that supports them.

In her work Dr. Walker tries to understand global issues from a cultural perspective. One of her recent interests has been indigenous shamanist communities, who have close connections with nature. "I'm generalizing, but North Americans have lost their direct connection with nature, which is getting us into

all kinds of difficulties, namely environmental problems. I don't think we are going to get all the answers from conventional science. Lots of cultures have different ways of knowing about the world that we can learn from."

“ Lots of cultures have different ways of knowing about the world that we can learn from. ”

For Dr. Walker travel and learning from likeminded groups has become a way of life. Last year she was made an honorary member and elder of the Aboriginal People of the Maritimes. "It was very important for me personally," she says, "but it also links the Aboriginal community with Mount Allison. We have a common concern about eco-sustainability." While researching abroad Dr. Walker tries to live in the community and do as the community does. She admits it is challenging, but also rewarding: "As an

anthropologist I'm always a visitor. I have to rely on the hospitality of others, and I need to know how to take care of myself and how to be respectful. I also need to learn how much of my experience I can pass on to students, and how much needs to be kept private for ethical reasons." Strangely enough though, she jokes, she feels more of a culture shock on returning to Canada than she does in going elsewhere.

Whenever Dr. Walker returns to Canada she works at maintaining ties to the communities in which she has studied. A few years ago she was able to help a man from a hill tribe in Thailand get his PhD from Trent University. "It was incredibly rewarding to be able to help him because he was so helpful to me in the field." Like many others that she meets in her work, Dr. Walker has kept in touch with the man and even uses his research in teaching her classes. ☐

Anthropologist Dr. Marilyn Walker, front left in red, participates in a traditional Métis ceremony welcoming her as an honorary member of the Eastern Woodland Métis Nation.

Learning from others to help ourselves

