

Metis community helps celebrate GDI milestone

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Among the words praising Rod Bishop were these: bold, confident, charitable, dedicated, energetic, fearless, intense and stubborn. Bishop often clashed with government officials and his own people while marshalling the Metis of Green Lake into a political force, re-establishing the Green Lake Metis Society and establishing strategic alliances.

He ran unsuccessfully against Jim Sinclair for

leadership of the Saskatchewan Metis organization but Sinclair later remarked, "[W]ithout people like Bishop there would never have been the Metis movement that is here today, because he spoke up, he believed in what he said, and he died a poor man with nothing ... His dedication to the rights of Metis is unquestionable."

Harry Daniels, activist, linguist, political leader, writer and actor was

described as charismatic, passionate and utterly dedicated to advancing the rights of Canada's Aboriginal peoples. For 40 years, he worked to improve his fellows' lot via national and international venues. Daniels recognized many injustices, including the marginalization of women. As founder and president of the Native Council of Canada, he positioned the Metis in the repatriated Constitution.

Ron Rivard has worked to build the Metis for 25 years, through provincial, national and international arenas. He served for 10 years as the first executive director of the Metis National Council. He met with John Paul II to gain the Pope's support for constitutional issues. He sat on numerous boards to advance Aboriginal interests. Ron Rivard & Associates focuses on enhancing economic opportunities for Metis and

First Nations communities.

Community activist, political leader and businessman Alex Maurice volunteered for many causes in northern Saskatchewan, sat on several boards and held a number of political offices. From President of the Metis Nation, Local #37 to Associate Minister of Northern Affairs for the Metis Nation, Maurice strives to create strong economic development agreements for northwestern Saskatchewan.

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– Andrea Menard, singer, actor, writer, producer

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