

Metis support organization takes a step forward

Metis children who are in families in trouble should be dealt with by an agency that understands their cultural needs.

That's why the Lii Michif Otipemisiwak Family and Community Services is joining with the Ministry of Children and Family Development to provide services for those families and their children.

Colleen Lucier, executive director of LMO, said Wednesday the joint offices are celebrating with a grand opening on Friday.

The 2006 census showed at least 3,000 people in Kamloops are Metis. Lucier believes that number is higher.

Her agency has already been providing support services to Metis in Kamloops. Being linked with the ministry means Metis children will automatically be streamed to LMO, where options other than non-Metis foster care will be sought.

Decisions involving children and struggling families will be made in partnership.

"We work with the most vulnerable of the population. We try to emphasize the importance of cultural identity," said Lucier.

"We're not a cultural centre, but we really believe in order to address the issues a family might be struggling with, they need to get grounded and re-engage with who they are."

Lucier said instead of a child being put into foster care while the parents pull their lives together, all sides will meet to address the main issues going on and determine what's best for the child.

Alternatives to apprehension, such as a relative caring for the child or at least a Metis family, will be given priority, she said.

"It's important to keep children within their family, connected to their culture and identity," she said.

"Foster care hasn't been successful for the aboriginal population. We're trying to change that."

First Nations children in Kamloops who need support or protection are dealt with through Secwepemc Child and Family Services.

Lucier would like to see that happen for the Metis, too. Kamloops and Kelowna are just opening partnership offices, which is a step forward from the current system. There is an autonomous Metis agency in Surrey.

"It's proven there's better outcomes for children if they can be within their family," she said. And if not, then a Metis household.

"There still has to be due diligence to make sure it's a safe family member."

TREATY COMMISSIONER UPBEAT ON PROGRESS

After suggesting last year that it may be time to shut down the B.C. treaty process because of a lack of progress, the province's chief treaty commissioner is seeing some glimmers of hope.

Sophie Pierre says 13 new aboriginal land-claim agreements are close to being signed.

Last year, Pierre expressed frustration that only two deals had been inked in 19 years and treaty negotiations were lagging, but now she says there's been a revival in the process involving the federal and provincial governments and First Nations.

However, in marking the 20th anniversary of the treaty process, Pierre admits the B.C. Treaty Commission could be around for another 20 years. /CP

Online map promotes film tourism

By JASON HEWLETT
Daily News Staff Reporter

The growing trend of movie tourism has prompted the Thompson-Nicola Film Commission to design a digital map of all the film and TV projects shot around the region.

Expected to launch on the Thompson-Nicola Regional District website on Nov. 15, the map will include a synopsis for each of the 60-some feature films, TV series and movies-of-the-week that have been created here, said Vicci Weller, the commission's executive director.

There will also be a list of cast and crew, a trivia question about the project and, most importantly, where the locations are and how people can get there, she said.

"We'll pinpoint all these areas," said Weller. "It's going to



DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO
THEN MAYOR Terry Lake with Jamie Bamber on the set of Battlestar Galactica near Kamloops.

be exciting."

Several high-profile projects have been made in and around Kamloops during the last decade, including Firewall with

Harrison Ford and The A-Team with Liam Neeson. Both were shot at Tranquille on the Lake.

An Unfinished Life with Jennifer Lopez and Robert Redford,

as well as the apocalyptic thriller 2012, filmed at various locations in the area, including Ashcroft and Lac du Bois.

Weller said movies and TV shows have a dedicated fan base, and more and more often these fans will travel to a location to see where the project was made.

This was the case three years ago when two fans of the sci-fi TV show Battlestar: Galactica came to Kamloops to see where the episodes Eye of Jupiter, Rap-ture and Daybreak were filmed.

"Some of them become pretty special locations and have meaning to these film tourists," she said. "It's a niche market of tourism that's growing and becoming an important part of the film industry."

Weller hopes the map will not just appeal to film fans from within the regional district, but also from across North America.

WHY DOESN'T WASTING POWER SEEM AS RIDICULOUS?

Let's be smart with our power and waste less energy by washing our clothes in cold water, turning off the water when shaving and by taking shorter showers. For more tips and great deals on energy-saving products during Power Smart Month visit powersmart.ca

BGhydro powersmart

\$50 MILLION ESTIMATED

MAXMILLIONS + **14x \$1 MILLION** EST.

CONGRATULATIONS MAXMILLION WINNER

Brian of Surrey, BC - October 5, 2012

TAKE IT LOTTO TO THE MAX

bclc Know your limit, play within it. **GameSense** **19+**