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First Peoples’ Group appoints new vice-president

Tony Belcourt has been appointed Vice-President & Senior Partner, Corporate and International Relations of First Peoples Group.

A well-respected lobbyist and negotiator, Belcourt has played a key role in establishing a national voice for Canada’s Métis and Non-Status Indians. His efforts were an important contributing factor in the Métis being recognized in the Constitution Act, 1982, as one of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada.

First Peoples Group (FPG) is a 100% Aboriginal owned and operated firm that provides community-based Aboriginal knowledge and management consulting. FPG services include policy development, negotiation, conflict resolution, facilitation and Aboriginal Awareness training. ♦

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Métis traditional knowledge documentary now available online

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) released a groundbreaking documentary film on March 3, 2011. It was produced as part of a first-of-its-kind traditional knowledge study on Métis plant and vegetation use in southern Ontario.

Entitled, “Southern Ontario Métis Traditional Plant Use Study” the documentary highlights some of the unique traditional and medicinal practices of Métis in relation to plants and vegetation in southern Ontario, which differ from First Nations. The study also documents notable changes to the environment in southern Ontario over the past few decades and how these have impacted Métis plant and vegetation use, as identified by Métis Elders and traditional resource users.

The film was premiered at a Métis community feast held in Whitby on June 5th, 2010. It is now available to the general public for educational purposes on the MNO website.

The MNO democratically represents Métis people and Métis communities in Ontario through a province-wide governance structure at the local, regional and provincial levels. The MNO has developed a province-wide framework for ensuring effective consultation with Métis communities throughout the province, which is supported by the Ontario Government’s New Relationship Fund.

For more information on the MNO or on how to consult with Ontario Métis visit www.metisnation.org. ♦