On December 13, 2011, the Supreme Court of Canada heard the voice of Ontario Métis in the most important case concerning Métis rights since the historic Powley decision of 2003. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was an “Intervener” in the hearing of The Manitoba Métis Federation v. Canada (the “MMF case”), which was heard by a full panel of the Supreme Court in Ottawa. 

The MNO along with the Métis National Council (MNC) and the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) had Intervener status in this critical case as well as the opportunity to make oral submissions before the judges. Intervener status is granted to a party that is not already involved in an existing lawsuit but that has a vested interest in the outcome of the case and wishes to make its interests known to the Court by joining with either the plaintiff or the defendant.

This landmark MMF case has taken over 20 years to reach the Supreme Court, and is based on the claim of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) that Canada breached its fiduciary and constitutional obligations owing to the Manitoba Métis by failing to provide the benefit they were promised as aboriginal negotiating partners in Confederation. These promises are embedded within sections 31 and 32 of The Manitoba Act, 1870, which are part of Canada’s Constitution. 

More specifically, these constitutional promises were meant to secure for the Manitoba Métis their existing land base in the 1870s (s. 32) as well as protect their future by providing 1.4 million acres of lands to the children of the Manitoba Métis (s. 31). The MMF argues that the promises of sections 31 and 32 were not achieved and, as a result, the Manitoba Métis remain a landless people in the province they helped create. The MMF’s goal with this litigation is to spur negotiations with Canada and Manitoba in order to finally realize the promise of sections 31 and 32. The MNO and MNA intervened to offer their complete support to the MMF and because the case raises important issues to the Métis Nation overall as well as Ontario and Alberta Métis specifically, since it is the first case to reach the Supreme Court to deal with the obligations of the Crown to fulfill land related commitments made to the Métis Nation. For example, in Ontario, Crown representatives made promises to the Métis in the historic treaty making process that have never been fulfilled. In Alberta, the Crown’s legislative promise of a Métis land base through The Dominion Lands Act was never achieved because the Métis scrip system that was implemented, ultimately robbed prairie Métis of their homelands. “This case provides the Supreme Court its first opportunity to build on the historic Powley case,” explained MNO President Gary Lipinski, “this time, in relation to land related promises made to the Métis people. Ontario Métis, like the Manitoba Métis, never wanted...”
Ethan
On December 8, 2011, Cara and Jason Wright welcomed their son, Ethan Wright, into the world. He weighed 7 lbs 1 oz. Mom and baby are healthy and doing well.

Hanna Lily
On December 12th, 2011, Jennifer St. Germain and Carey Calder welcomed a beautiful baby girl named Hanna Lily into the world. She weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz.

Drew David
Ten little fingers, and a cute little nose, everything fits perfect to head to his tiny feet! Tracy Bald (MNO Community Wellness Coordinator, Midland) and Brad Sinclair are excited to introduce their son, Drew David Sinclair. "It's a boy!" exclaimed his proud mother, Tracy Bald. "He's so beautiful." Proud grandparents are Yvonne and Bob Bald of Penetanguishene, and Dave and Betty Sinclair of Midland (and Brad Sinclair are employed for 43 years. On February 19th, Robert and his wife Carol celebrate their 40th anniversary. Best Wishes on all three events.

Congratulations times 3!
Congratulations go out to Robert McKinnon who turned 65 on December 13th, 2011. On January 1st he retired from The Beer Store where he had been employed for 43 years. On February 19th, Robert and his wife Carol celebrate their 40th anniversary. Best Wishes on all three events.

A Diamond Anniversary
Congratulations to Senator André Vallee and Georgian Bay Métis Council past-President, Allan Vallee, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on December 29, 2011.

Happy Birthday
Happy Birthday to the late Berthe (Bourdeau) Lemieux; cherished father of Pierre Lemieux (Nicole) of Gatineau, QC, Renée (John) of Ottawa and four grandchildren; Jean (Lynn) Lemieux; cherished father of Pierre Lemieux (Nicole) of Gatineau, QC, Renée (John) of Ottawa and four grandchildren and is fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews. Fernand was predeceased by his parents, Arthur and Berthe Bourdeau. Fernand was a much loved husband, brother, uncle and cousin. He leaves behind his beloved wife Helen (Fatou), born on September 4, 2011. Proud grandparents are Yvonne and Andre Bal of Penetanguishene and Dave and Betty Sinclair of Copper Cliff.

Fernand Lemieux passed away peacefully at the Hospice Cornwall on December 3, 2011. Fernand Joseph Lemieux of Cornwall age 92 years was the beloved husband of Helen (Fatou) Lemieux, cherished father of Pierre Lemieux (Nicole) of Gatineau, QC; Claire Redmond (Shaun) of Cornwall, Rhéal Lemieux (Nicole) of Gatineau, QC; Claire Redmond (Shaun) of Cornwall, Rhéal Lemieux (Nicole) of Gatineau, QC; and Conrad and his sisters Desneige Roy and four grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents Raoul and Natalie (Moix) Lemieux, his sister Denise Roy and four brothers, Hilaire, Alcide, Conrad and Rhéal. Mass of Christian Burial was held in St. Croix Church on December 10, 2011. Interment took place at St. Vateur Cemetery, Limoges, ON. As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations payable to the Hospice Cornwall, 1507 Second Street West, Cornwall K6J 3J5 or online at www.cornwallhospice.com would be appreciated by the family. Messages of condolence may be left at www.wahenysullivan.com. Mr. Lemieux was the father-in-law of Métis veteran Shaun Redmond.

Victims of Sixties Scoop
seek redress in courts
I am a claimant in the 60’s Scoop Class Action Suit. The reason I have taken a stand is that aboriginal children are still being removed from their homes at a higher rate than children of other nations. These children are orphans of our land and do not have a voice of their own yet. I am concerned about what is happening to our aboriginal orphans with prescription addictions.
We live in a day of medication where children are being diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). I realize that for many children this is because the school system, another private system, convinces parents that their children are too emotionally disturbed to learn in a school environment and that medication would calm them and increase their ability to learn. Many parents refuse to accept this philosophy and refuse to medicate their children.
Many aboriginal orphans do not have this consistent parental love and understanding from the Children’s Aid Society (CAS) system. Many orphans are leaving the system addicted to medication. We, as citizens of Ontario, accept the words of "cop-out" that CAS uses by saying “orphans slipped through the system.”
Why do we accept these words? Children today have more rights to medicate their children. Many aboriginal orphans do not have this consistent parental love and understanding from the Children’s Aid Society (CAS) system. Many orphans are leaving the system addicted to medication. We, as citizens of Ontario, accept the words of “cop-out” that CAS uses by saying “orphans slipped through the system.”
Cover Story

The Manitoba Métis Federation v. Canada

Industry Partnerships

Agreement is first-of-its-kind between a mining company and a Métis community

Detour Gold concludes Impact and Benefit Agreement with MNO

Detour Gold Corporation (TSX: DGC) ("Detour Gold" or the "Company") and the Métis Nation of Ontario ("MNO"), as represented by its President Gary Lipinski and the MNO's Regional Consultation Committee for the James Bay-Abitibi/Temiscamingue areas are pleased to announce that they have finalized an Impact and Benefit Agreement ("IBA") with respect to the development and operation of the Company's Detour Lake project in northeastern Ontario. A formal signing ceremony will be held to the near future.

The IBA includes provisions on how the Métis community will benefit from the development of the Detour Lake project and throughout the life of the mine, including employment and business opportunities, training and education initiatives and financial participation in the project. The IBA also establishes a Métis scholarship and bursary program at College Boréal and Northern College. Further details about the scholarships criteria will be released in partnership with the colleges in their student handbooks. The IBA reflects Detour Gold's commitment to protecting the environment and wildlife, and supporting the community's social and cultural practices in a spirit of continued cooperation.

Gerald Flannette, President and CEO of Detour Gold, stated, "We are very pleased with our working relationship with the MNO and to have this agreement in place. It is exciting that they have partnered with us to create the Métis scholarship and bursaries at the colleges that will provide educational financial support to Métis youth for the next two decades."

MNO's President, Gary Lipinski, commented. "This IBA is the first-of-its-kind between a mining company and a Métis community. It represents a significant step forward in relations between the mining industry and Ontario Métis. We applaud Detour Gold's leadership in working collaboratively with the Métis community on environmental issues and ensuring it will benefit from the Detour Lake project."

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About Detour Gold

Detour Gold is a Canadian gold exploration and development company whose primary focus is to advance the development of its Detour Lake gold project, located in northeastern Ontario, towards production. Detour Gold's shares trade on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the trading symbol DGC.

Contact:

Laurie Gaborn
Director, Investor Relations
Tel: 416-304-0581

Voice of the Manitoba Métis heard at Supreme Court

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The Argument of the MFF Case

The Manitoba Métis Federation, in showing that there was an inexcusable delay in implementing the original promises, argues that there was a breach of fiduciary obligation by Canada, which left the Métis a marginalized minority in the province. The breach by Canada was a breach of the 1870 Act of Parliament which granted the Métis people the right to their land.

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In December 11th and 12th, 2011, the Métis National Council (MNC) hosted the Métis Nation Constitution Workshop that was attended by its governing members and their respective boards of directors or provincial councils. Over the two days, a variety of presentations addressed a range of issues under consideration as the Métis nation continues to develop the framework for a Métis Nation Constitution.

In a keynote address, President Chartier outlined why a constitution was needed and spoke about the importance of the process that would result in achieving this goal. Presentations on the Territorial Integrity of the Métis focused on the Manitoba Métis Federation’s land claim lawsuit, which was heard in the Supreme Court of Canada on December 11th, whereas the boundaries of the Métis nation and a strategy for restoring a land base provided insight to the foundations of the Constitution.

A series of panels examined the priorities of Métis Nation governments and how these could be included in a constitution. These items included language and culture preservation and promotion, child and family health services and supports, education and training, and economic development. Throughout the workshop there was open discussion amongst the panellists and delegates.

Also heard was a presentation called, “A Constitution for the 21st Century” which allowed the delegates to examine a series of graphics that illustrated the current structure of the Métis National Council and its governing members and how this may be influenced by the adoption of a constitution. In addition, a series of worksheets identifying key questions that need to be addressed as the Métis Nation moves towards the 2013 Constitu- tion Convention and the adoption of a Métis Nation Constitution were distributed for further review and feedback from the delegates.

Delegates also heard from two other special speakers during the workshop: Former Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and the Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Federally Recognized Indigenous Nationalities, Jack Charlie was called, “A Constitution for the 21st Century” which allowed the delegates to examine a series of graphics that illustrated the current structure of the Métis National Council and

Métis Nation Constitution workshop gathers leaders from across the Homeland

|| COMMUNITY OUTREACH

MÉTIS SENATORS

On December 14, at the Ontario Legislature, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senator, Alis Kennedy, was presented with the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship at the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship. Senator Kennedy was recognized for over 35 years of volunteering on three continents and in four countries. Her contributions to the MNO and other organisations were also highlighted. As a volunteer she worked on some projects for months at a time, on a full-time basis. This was the case when she was in Peru and South Africa. One such project was where she volunteered full-time with an organization in Africa that educated South Africans and tourists about the plight of cheetahs. This project also involved working with the endangered big cats.

Prior to this, she was one of the two recipients interviewed by CTV regarding these ceremonies and events, she made everyone aware of her Métis identity. “I proudly wore my Métis flag lapel, which I beaded myself,” said Senator Kennedy. She indicated she wore this item to honour a past OMC recipient, the late MNO Senator, Helen Bradley. “I adapted the sash design from a pattern created by Senator Bradley,” explained Senator Kennedy. “Dr Olive Dickason, who served on the first Board of the MNO Cultural Commission, was also a past OMC and Order of Canada recipient.”

For more information about the 2011 OMC recipients visit this web site:


Alberta Court of Appeal Agrees to Hear Métis Harvesting Rights Case

On January 23, 2012, Justice Constance Hunt, of the Alberta Court of Appeal granted leave to appeal in R. v. Hirsekorn—the Métis Nation of Alberta’s (MNA) Métis harvesting rights litigation. The R. v. Hirsekorn case was initiated as a test case as a part of the Métis nation’s “hunt for justice.” This hunt for justice was launched in response to the Stel- mach government’s cancellation of a province-wide Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement (IMHA) that was negotiated between the MNA and the Klein government in 2004. Since the cancellation of the IMHA in July, 2007, Alberta Métis have taken to the courts in order to ensure the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision in R. v. Powley is meaning- fully implemented in Alberta. We are pleased to announce that the Alberta Court of Appeal rejected the Alberta Government’s argument to dismiss the appeal and that the Court has agreed to hear this important case for all Alberta Métis. In her Rus- sons for Judgment, Justice Hunt clearly recognizes that this is a case about fulfilling the promise of section 35(1) of the Constitu- tion Act, 1982 to Alberta Métis. We wholeheartedly agree with this conclusion,” said Audrey Poitras, MNA President.

A hearing date has not yet been set but is expected that the appeal will be heard in the Court of Appeals upcoming spring, 2012 session.
The voice of Métis Youth heard on Parliament Hill

The voice of Métis youth was heard on Parliament Hill on November 23, 2011, in a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples. The meeting was a chance for the senators to hear what the priorities and challenges are for youth today.

The Senate Committee meeting was attended by Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Youth Council member, Mitch Case, and Métis National Council Communications Officer, Adrian Mrélza. An overview of activities and youth involvement was provided to the committee. It outlined the importance of access to post-secondary funding and the need for the current primary funding source for Aboriginal youth to be examined and revised, as the funds are more easily available to serve the youth and promote cultural engagement.

Senators Committee members questioned youth panellists on economic, development issues, education and training initiatives, and what the reality of being a Métis youth in today’s Canada is—especially the issue of young Métis students. It was recommended that these endowment funds be “topped-up” so that more Metis youth will have the chance to achieve their educational goals.

Following the official meeting, the youth were invited to take a tour of the Senate Chamber and have one-on-one time with a handful of senators to ask questions, share ideas and receive advice. It was an opportunity few have had, and the Métis were there beside the First Nations and Inuit youth representatives providing insight on the realities that youth face. It was a discussion that has opened the door to a broader dialogue to be had on Parliament Hill.

The Senate Committee meeting was attended by Métis Youth Council member, Mitch Case, and Inuit Youth Council member, Ian Ross, in the Senate Chamber following the meeting with the Canadian Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples.

Union Gas donates computers to MNO Timmins office

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is happy to announce the opening of a new computer lab in the MNO Timmins office.

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The Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is happy to announce the opening of a new computer lab in the MNO Timmins office. The computer lab will give the Timmins Métis community access to the Internet and software, including a genealogy program for individuals seeking their Métis ancestry.

Thank you to Union Gas for donating the laptops and for visiting the Métis Nation of Ontario Timmins office. Specifically, thank you to Mr. Ian Ross, Regional Manager for Union Gas, whose support for the MNO is invaluable and much appreciated.

I would like to praise the MNO Senators, even though they do not seek recognition or prominence. They quietly shine, knowing that with their combined brightness they become our points of reference and light. Like a star, each senator has his or her own unique quality and character; each shines radiantly.

Our senators are our shining stars. Our Nation can navigate by their steadfast illumination; they are beacons for guidance. Like a star, our Metis senators have their Métis ancestry.

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Sisters share culture

The Emerald Ash Borer

A threat to the Métis Way of Life

The emerald ash borer is a green beetle native to Asia. The beetle was accidentally introduced into the United States and Canada in the 1990s. Since then it has joined the list of invasive species and is highly destructive to ash trees. The beetle has killed at least 50 to 100 million ash trees so far and threatens to kill most of the 7.5 billion remaining ash trees throughout North America. As a Nation the Métis need to be aware of the consequence this destructive insect could have on our way of life. We use the ash tree for a multitude of things, from traditional medicines to gunnels for canoes and even lacrosse racquets and stretching racks for hides. We need to take action to preserve the existence of the remaining ash trees in our regions, so we can continue to harvest this valuable tree.

We need to take preventative steps and avoid moving any potentially infested ash materials and all species of firewood, to non-infested areas of our regions. If we all work together we can maintain the life of this significant tree.

For more information visit this web page. http://inspection.gc.ca/eng/plaveg/pestrava/agrpla/agrplae.shtml
I started with a little girl, my granddaughter, Rebecca. In March, 2009, she asked me to make a presentation to her class. I was about to have an anxiety attack. I knew if I could not do this, my grandchild would be embarrassed, I had no choice, but to continue. After the presentation I felt great. I saw the awe in the faces of the children as I spoke about the Métis and how we were a big part of exploring and developing this great country called “Canada”. They had many questions, the presentation had opened their minds to a part of Canadian history they were unaware of.

A letter from St Elizabeth School in Wainfleet saw the article in the Tribune and called me to ask if I would appear before their grade eight students in March, 2009. After that presentation another teacher who had attended, approached me and said that I should contact a friend of hers at the Welland Historical Museum, Penny Morningstar, curator of the museum. She said that Penny might be interested in my presentation. I contacted Penny and a meeting was arranged.

I met with Penny and Cal Bursey, the finished product of our plans was not yet visible. I am truly sorry that Cal is not here to see the plans that were being made. I am confident that Penny and the council would have been interested in our presentation when it was ready.

We were very excited about the plans that were being made. I am truly sorry that Cal is not here to see the finished product of our plans and dreams. One of the things discussed was for us to do our Métis presentation whenever a class came through the museum, if requested.

An agreement was signed with the museum, the funding was received, and we got the “ok” to begin. I must say, there were many times I would enter the museum and think, “we are not going to be finished by opening day.” Penny felt my apprehension, and kept telling me not to worry, the display would be finished in time. I should have known that with the combined knowledge and experience of Penny Morningstar, Nora Reid, Judy Dickson and Lori Burns, it would be finished in time.

Well, by opening day, November the 19th, 2011, it was completed, and I must admit, Penny was right.

We owe a great deal of thanks to the staff of the museum for all their hard work and dedication; they have done an awesome job on this display.

I would like to thank Judy Baxter for her work with the museum staff and the council (She has been amazing!), Glen Lipinski for all his advice and help with the set-up of the display, the students and teacher at Jean Vanier High School for the impressive job that they did building a replica of the Red River Cart and the crates for this display, and, Tracey-Mae Chambers, a very talented Métis artist who painted and donated to the council the picture of the canoe that you see, above the Red River Cart.

By Stephen Quesnelle
Niagara Region Métis Council
President

Path of the Voyageur

Fur trade history becomes basis for MNO Council’s tourism joint venture

Rainy River and Atikokan are trying to think of a way to celebrate the regions fur trade history in a joint tourism venture. A race using voyageur canoes via Pech and Calm Lakes and the Seine and Rainy River system, is one possibility. The idea ties in well with regional efforts to brand a tourism route, such as the Atikokan-based “Path of the Voyageur” initiative. The history of voyageur canoes traces back to the fur trade when the vessels were used by Métis fur traders who paddled through the region, and would certainly be a way to capitalize on that.

While voyageur canoe racing attracts international competitors, it is a way to showcase Métis history they may not have known, including the Métis. Davidson added that a Métis partnership would also open additional funding potential for projects.

The Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Bancroft office welcomed almost 200 guests to a community Christmas dinner held in Maynooth on December 14, 2011. A special jolly dinner guest, dressed in red, thrilled children and Elders alike. Santa handed out goodies and of course, healthy snacks before enjoying a nice bowl of hot stew with warm kaiser buns, Caesar salad and home baked pies for dessert. Meals were packaged and delivered by volunteers and staff to community members who could not attend.

Guests who arrived early learned how to decorate on a shoe string budget using different sizes of marshmallows on the tree branches. These “Charlie Brown Christmas Trees” served as the centre pieces at all the tables where they were the topic of the night, creating lots of laughter. A large Charlie Brown-style tree greeted guests as they came through the door.

A donation of hand knitted mitts and toques was available to those in need.

The MNO staff at the Bancroft office would like to thank all those who brought home-baked desserts; helped with set up and take down, and of course to all those who attended. We look forward to sharing another feast with you again next year.

Thank you to Sandi Best Wishes in 2012 from MNO staff members Tracey Dale, Tammy Hoover, Robin Davey, Judy Simpson and Amanda Cox.

Community Councils

Our infinite Métis history

By Stephen Quesnelle
Niagara Region Métis Council
President

Atikokan and surrounding area Métis council

Our Infinite Métis History

Showcasing Canada’s hidden history

The Infinite History exhibit was covered by both Niagara Dail Post and The Welland Tribune. The following quotation from the museum Executive Director, Nora Reid, appeared in Niagara This Week: “We need to know all the cultures who have made the Canadian mosaic; I think it’s wonderful we can showcase a hidden part of Canadian history.”

The Tribune noted that Penny Morningstar, Curator of the Welland Historical Museum, had told the crowd that one of the best things about working in a museum is that she has a chance to educate museum visitors about pieces of important Canadian history that have not been known, including the Métis.

She added: “Museums don’t sugar coat the truth.”

Métis Voyageur

Winter 2012, Issue no. 69

MIDLAND

Generous donation provides holiday feasts

By Natalie Noonan
MNO – Midland Office

During the busy holiday season, one of our wonderful council members found time (despite his 60th wedding anniversary) to acquire and deliver 16 turkeys to our office.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Allan Vallerie who was able to obtain the turkeys through Ramas Services. Thanks to him 16 more families were able to enjoy a holiday feast, and with leftovers for soup had healthy meals for a while. Many of our clients cannot afford to buy a turkey so this was a timely gift. Thank you to Allan from all of us.

We held our annual Cheer Day Open House in December with a very large turnout. We had an awesome hand and decorations abound. Each staff member contributed food items which served over 30 people and everyone commented on how good it all was. Leftovers went to some of our low income clients who were extremely appreciative.
Christmastime in the Toronto office

By Beth Honsberger and Kate Stewart-McNeil
MNO Toronto Office staff

"Twas the week before Christmas and all through the city, Not an MNO staffer had a second un-busy. Decorations were hung in the office with care, Bringing holiday joyfulness into the air. The employees were nestled all snug at their desks, Finishing last minute work to enjoy what comes next... Even Lisa with her clients, and Jody making calls, And anxiety building about holiday mails. When from the boardroom there arose such a clatter, Kate sprang to her feet to see what was the matter. Out of her office Kelly flew like a flash, To find an office-appropriate holiday bash. With garland on the rafters and the boardroom aglow, Everyone gathered 'round a moose feast below. When what to their wondering eyes should appear? But dessert from Tamara, her best one this year! Kristen had organized a cookie exchange, Which, to a few, seemed a little bit strange... But with four dozen cookies each employee, they came, And acquired the following cookies: By name! There was Shortbread, and Thumbprints, Oatmeal Raisin, and Peppermint cookies. That received quite a raving! Every Hermit and Brownie, Kiss-cookie and Snowball, Was nibbled, and eaten, and enjoyed by them all! As the sash with its many traditions entwined, The group told their stories and wishes in kind. "They knew that from each other they'd continue to learn. And even though they were all sad to adjourn, And away they all flew to their desks and their jobs, Melanie sprang to her feet, to the team gave a nod, As they all enjoyed, The music, how merry! The tree how it sparkled, The food and conversation were such a delight, A green Christmas could not dampen the holiday buzz. Dressed in tinsel and lights, the city it was, Alas, not a flake nor a speck did appear, They all dreamt of snow, and glanced t'wards the sky. And discovered how much each one of them cared. So united in holiday spirit they shared, The group told their stories and wishes in kind. As the sash with its many traditions entwined, The group told their stories and wishes in kind. And away they all flew to their desks and their jobs. ‘Twas the week before Christmas and all through the city, Not an MNO staffer had a second un-busy. Decorations were hung in the office with care, Bringing holiday joyfulness into the air. The employees were nestled all snug at their desks, Finishing last minute work to enjoy what comes next... Even Lisa with her clients, and Jody making calls, And anxiety building about holiday mails. When from the boardroom there arose such a clatter, Kate sprang to her feet to see what was the matter. Out of her office Kelly flew like a flash, To find an office-appropriate holiday bash. With garland on the rafters and the boardroom aglow, Everyone gathered 'round a moose feast below. When what to their wondering eyes should appear? But dessert from Tamara, her best one this year! Kristen had organized a cookie exchange, Which, to a few, seemed a little bit strange... But with four dozen cookies each employee, they came, And acquired the following cookies: By name! There was Shortbread, and Thumbprints, Oatmeal Raisin, and Peppermint cookies. That received quite a raving! Every Hermit and Brownie, Kiss-cookie and Snowball, Was nibbled, and eaten, and enjoyed by them all! As the sash with its many traditions entwined, The group told their stories and wishes in kind. "They knew that from each other they'd continue to learn. And even though they were all sad to adjourn, And away they all flew to their desks and their jobs, Melanie sprang to her feet, to the team gave a nod, As they all enjoyed, The music, how merry! The tree how it sparkled, The food and conversation were such a delight, A green Christmas could not dampen the holiday buzz. Dressed in tinsel and lights, the city it was, Alas, not a flake nor a speck did appear, They all dreamt of snow, and glanced t'wards the sky. And discovered how much each one of them cared. So united in holiday spirit they shared, The group told their stories and wishes in kind. As the sash with its many traditions entwined, The group told their stories and wishes in kind. And away they all flew to their desks and their jobs.

The oldest house in Penetanguishene, located at 12 Water Street, was recently designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. It was built by George Gordon, and is known as “Gordon House”. The first permanent residential dwelling in town. For years a volunteer committee called “the Friends of Gordon House” has sought to have the home designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. Barbara Turner, a member of Penetanguishene’s heritage committee, bought the home with her husband this past November, 2011. “I love the history of the house... and really didn’t want to see it go into the wrong hands and be torn down,” she said. “If you come in and stand in the living room, there’s a feeling there. It’s just great.” Background information compiled by the Friends of Gordon House includes a passage from a book by Micheline Marchand and Daniel Marchal, titled “From Straits of Mackina to Georgian Bay: 300 Years of Métis History”, stating that George Gordon moved his house and business to a location on Water Street in 1825. “It was the first permanent house in the town, and still stands,” said the book. The house also has a significant connection with Métis settlers from Drummond Island, as Gordon’s first wife, a French Ojibway woman, came from Drummond Island and Gordon’s Métis children lived in the house. Councillor Helen Luzius, who sits on the heritage committee, said thanks to the work done by the Friends group, town officials now believe the home is the oldest of second-oldest house in Simcoe County. “It was used as a business, a home (and) a place to hold mass for Sunday service,” Luzius said, adding although previous councils had the home on a list of properties to consider for designation, that step was never taken. “The problem with the home is the original logs had been covered up with stucco finish so we can’t see them, and the veranda has been covered. There had been enough changes to the house, so, under previous rules, what was existing at the time just missed it,” she said. “It wasn’t much of a fail, but it was a fail.” Now, the home passes with flying colours because of (its) historical value.” Designation under the Ontario Heritage Act gives a property special legal status designed to protect cultural heritage resources located on the property. Turner said they have started knocking down some of the drywall, and have uncovered the original logs underneath. They intend to bring the home back as close to its original glory as possible.

The Métis Nation of Ontario is interested in hearing from Métis parents across Ontario about their experiences with early learning including full-day kindergarten.

Contact: chrism@metisnation.org
Remembering Riel Well

Louis Riel’s battle did not end on November 16, 1885, because we are fighting it today

A s Louis Riel Day was marked across Canada, the Sunset Country Métis remembered Riel as the protector of Métis rights and one of the Fathers of Confederation. More than 120 people turned out to enjoy a buffet supper that included a moose roast donated by Captain of the Hunt, Dean McMahon, as well as to hear and dance to music performed by district entertainers. Amidst the merriment—making, the importance of Riel as a Canadian historical figure was also highlighted. “Louis Riel Day takes place on the anniversary of a great tragedy—the execution of Louis Riel on November 16, 1885,” read Theresa Stenlund, Region 1 Métis Nation of Ontario (SMNO) Councillor, who delivered a message on behalf of MNO President, Gary Lipinski, who was attending Louis Riel Day celebrations in Toronto. “Riel’s only crime was that he defended the rights of his people, our people, the Métis,” Stenlund stressed. “Although he fought for the Métis rights in the west, his resistance had repercussions for Métis in Ontario, as well,” she noted. “We were labeled traitors and for generations our culture was forced underground. We became the forgotten people.”

Over the years, however, we began to assert ourselves and take up the mantle of Louis Riel.” Stenlund added “We founded the Métis Nation of Ontario, and with Steve Powley we asserted our Métis rights. Every day that we work together as MNO citizens, we are seeking the recognition that Louis Riel lived for. “Louis Riel’s battle did not end on November 16, 1885, because we are fighting it today. It is for that reason that Louis Riel Day, November 16, 2011, is a day that celebrates our resilience as a people. It is a day we remember what we have achieved so far, and it is a day we steel our resolve so Louis Riel dream can be a reality for our children.”

Sunset Country Métis President, Clint Calder, said the message of Riel must be passed on to the youth. He then gave the microphone to Ericka Tymkin, daughter of Sunset Country Métis Women’s Representative, Michelle Tymkin, who delivered a speech on the history of Riel. Musical entertainment was then provided byJustin Boshey and Elmer and Clifford Whitefish, who got some folks jigging and square-dancing for several songs. Eric Fagerdahl, Ericka Tymkin, Abbey Calder, “Brandy Mac” (Wayne and Daniene Macnabre), the “Sunset Country Chicks” (Brittany Hayes, Charity Rose, and Sandra Allan), and “Distant Legacy Band” (Justin Boshey, Mark Brocheau, Brian Rabatay and Glen Tower) also took to the stage. Special guest was John Bonin, Manager of Aboriginal Affairs for Union Gas (Ontario), who had sponsored the fall harvest fish-fry. Bonin said he is a good friend of MNO President Gary Lipinski, and he is always warmly welcomed by the Métis people, and looks forward to coming to Métis events.

Based on an article by Duane Hicks with The Fort Francis Times On-line: original article may be viewed at: www.fftimes.com/node/247207

Métis

Korean

War

Veterans

honoured

Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Dwight Duncan attends

Métis veterans who served during the Korean War were honoured on December 11th in Ottawa at a special commemoration luncheon that was attended by Métis Nation leaders, citizens, friends of the Métis, and special guest, the Honourable John Duncan, Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and the Federal Interlocutor for Métis. Honourable Métis Nation Ontario War veterans included: Sergeant Les DeJarlas, Chief Warrant Officer Oscar Lacombe, Rifleman Ron Snider, and, Sergeant Jack Cadeau. An honourable mention was given to Corporal John Powley, a leader within the Métis Nation who served Canada from 1958 to 1964. On behalf of the Métis Nation Minister John Duncan presented veterans with a plaque that read:

“The Métis Nation is pleased to extend special recognition and appreciation for your dedicated service in protecting Canada and the world. On this, the 50th anniversary of the Métis Nation, we pay tribute to our Métis Veterans. We reflect upon Louis Riel’s vision for the Métis Nation and your honourable sacrifice as being one and the same in building a solid foundation for future Métis Nation generations. It was your duty to fight – it is our duty to never forget.”

Turcotte family remembers a fallen Métis soldier

On November 11th, we remember with pride our uncle, George Turcotte, Métis war veteran from St. Boniface, Manitoba, who fought and died for Canada in the Second World War. George was a member of the Royal Canadian Regiment and only seven days past his 20th birthday when he died in Italy at the Battle of Ortona, which was won by the Canadians, who sustained incredible losses.

George is buried in the Moro River Canadian War Cemetery in the commune of Ortona, Italy. He was so far from the sisters, brothers, mother and father who loved him so very much. We remember how brave he must have been, how scared to be in such turmoil at what must have seemed like the other end of the world to a man so young. We are proud of you George Turcotte and we never forget the freedoms you and others provided us.

We will not forget.

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

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SUNSET COUNTRY MÉTIS COUNCIL | LOUIS RIEL DAY, November 16th

DRYDEN | NORTH-WEST MÉTIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The MNO North-West Métis Community Council celebrated Louis Riel Day, November 16, 2011, in Dryden (Left to right) Senator Allan Rouslin; Deputy Mayor, Martin MacKinnon; MNO staff members, Shirley Handlip and Alysha Antoszek; MNO NorthWest Community Council, members Vice President, Dan Robinson, President, Alvia Cimon (right, front, wearing sash); Métis youth; Women’s Rep, Patricia Livingston.

REMEMBRANCE DAY | NORTHERN MÉTIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Métis colours fly in Nov. 11 parade

By Barbaraanne Wright

2011 was the first year that the Métis flag walked in the Remembrance Day parade in St. Catharines. We would like to thank the St. Catharines Legion for their help, and the Women’s Auxiliary for the fine lunch served at the Legion Hall after the parade.

The Métis infinity flag flies proudly in the parade.
**Youth & Elders**

Métis leave feast with renewed sense of community and pride

By Katherine Stewart-McNeil

Department Knowledge and Land Use

O

n November 18, 2011, a group of Métis citizens, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) community council representatives and MNO staff visited the Bruce nuclear site to learn about Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) proposed Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) Project for the long-term management of low and intermediate level waste. The visit was carried out consistent with the Participation Agreement MNO signed with OPG and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) on the DGR Project. This Participation Agreement was developed with the intention of fostering mutually beneficial relationships.

The visit began with a tour of OPG’s Waste Management Facility (WWMF). The WWMF is the facility that currently manages and provides interim storage for the low and intermediate level waste that is received from Ontario’s nuclear generating stations. The group learned that much of the waste that will be placed in the DGR is already at the WWMF—safely stored at surface level in engineered storage structures.

As part of the tour, we heard the following definition provided for low and intermediate level waste: “Low level waste consists of industrial items that have become contaminated with low levels of radioactivity during routine clean-up and maintenance activities at nuclear generating stations. Low level waste includes items such as雇主’s brooms, paper towels, floor sweepings and protective clothing. Low level waste may be processed through incineration or compaction to reduce its volume before storage. Intermediate level waste consists primarily of used

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**Feast celebrates Métis heritage**

By Katherine Stewart-McNeil

Traditional Knowledge and Land Use

On November 26, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council in partnership with the MNO Lands, Resources & Consultations (LRC) Branch hosted a feast in Peterborough that brought the Métis community together to share in good times and great food. The event was held at the Canadian Canoe Museum, a fitting venue, because the museum preserves examples of the canoes that played such a key role in our heritage.

Before the feast, visitors perused the museum and braved up on their knowledge of the birch bark canoe, and other canoes’ histories. The feast was opened by Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council President, Terry Bloom, and a prayer was led by Senator Andy Dufrane. Regional updates from the Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) were provided by Region 7 Councillor Pauline Saunder. Following this welcome, food was served! Neil Lorenzen put together a beautiful spread of traditional Métis foods that had everyone’s mouths watering. The meal received resounding approval from the community.

During desserts, two presentations were given on issues facing Métis communities today. For the first presentation, Forestry Coordinator for the MNO LRC, Jordan Benoit, spoke on the importance of having Métis input in the management of the forests in our traditional territories, and introduced the forest co-management strategy. He gave a detailed articulation of why a strategy that incorporates Métis voices needs to be developed. The second speaker posed the question: What is Traditional Knowledge? Melanie Paradis, MNO Director of Lands, Resources & Consultations, focused on local Métis heritage and the culturally-specific knowledge that is often taken for granted as just being “the way that things are done”—so that it is not lost for future generations. For a long time, Métis heritage was a source of shame. Acknowledging and sharing traditional knowledge will allow Métis people to shape the future to ensure the Métis culture, traditions and way of life are sources of pride for our children.

At the end of the night, the left-over food was brought to the Youth Emergency Shelter (Y.E.S.). Y.E.S. provides emergency housing including meals, support, and guidance to families and all individuals aged 16-24 in need of it.

Many thanks are due to Barbara Card for coordinating this. In all, the event was a huge success. The Métis community came together to celebrate Métis heritage, share a wonderful meal, and learn about the importance of preserving traditional knowledge and promoting the sound management of our forests.

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**Midland | Traditional Knowledge Harvest Feast**

**Youth & Elders**

Métis leave feast with renewed sense of community and pride

By Katherine Stewart-McNeil

Traditional Knowledge and Land Use

On November 26, a feast that celebrated Métis culture and traditional knowledge was held in Midland, Ontario. It was organized by the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) in partnership with the Lands, Resources & Consultations (LRC) Branch of the Métis Nation of Ontario. It saw members of the community come together to share a beautiful meal, and a night of Métis entertainment.

The feast was held at the Georgian Bay Hunters and Anglers Club. The large venue accommodated a group of over a hundred Métis. Many families were among the group in attendance, some of which had three generations present. The diversity of age and experience made the reception to the event especially meaningful. The goal of the feast was to connect elders with youth, and both to their shared heritage, and it did.

Brenda Lauzon, Georgian Bay Métis Council president, greeted everyone with a warm welcome on behalf of the council, and Senator Dora McTighe opened the evening with a prayer:

Regional Feasts mark the Cultural Heritage of the Métis People

Regional feasts mark the cultural heritage of the Métis people to shape the future to ensure the Métis culture, traditions and way of life are sources of pride for our children. At the end of the night, the leftover food was brought to the Youth Emergency Shelter (Y.E.S.). Y.E.S. provides emergency housing including meals, support, and guidance to families and all individuals aged 16-24 in need of it.

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Advancing our Rights Together

An Update on Métis Rights

January 2012

BY Gary Lipinski
PRESIDENT, Métis Nation of Ontario

Our rights agenda has always been central to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). It is the underlying foundation of the Statement of Prime Purpose. It is essential to preserving and protecting our distinct collective identity and culture - as Métis. Simply put, it is at the core of who we are - as an aboriginal people.

We have long recognized that while programs and services may come and go at the whim of funders or budgetary restraints, our inherent rights - as a people - are forever. Moreover, since 1982, our rights have been recognized and protected in Canada’s Constitution – the highest law of the land. In Powley, the Supreme Court of Canada further affirmed this fact.

It is for these reasons why the MNO remains so committed to advancing and protecting Métis rights. We know that our collective future – as Métis – depends on these rights. Today, we are entrusted with carrying the torch and protecting the rights our ancestors always knew they had, and which they fought hard to protect.

This obligation brings significant responsibilities with it because what we do today will affect our grandchildren and generations to come. As well, our rights are collective rights, the negative actions of one or a few can be detrimental to many. Similarly, strategic successes can benefit all of us.

It is for these reasons that the MNO has always attempted to bring our people and communities – together – to advance our rights. Our sash is strong when we have our many threads bound together. It is frail and falls apart when those threads are not united. Being together is how we have achieved our successes with other governments and in the courts. Being apart has always resulted in struggles and setbacks.

It is worthy to note that unlike other “groups” and “organizations,” the MNO has never been unsuccessful in the courts. This is because we only go to the courts when we need to. Further, when we do go to court, we go with the facts and the law on our side. Political rhetoric and false promises will not win in negotiations or litigation. Facts, integrity and reason do. This has been and will continue to be the MNO’s recipe for success.

Over the past decade, our battles in the courtroom have opened up opportunities for us that have never been there before. Consistent with our Statement of Prime Purpose, we have welcomed those opportunities in order to benefit our people and communities. Whether through negotiations with government on Métis harvesting, documenting our history through mapping, or signing an Impact and Benefit Agreement with industry, we are advancing our rights agenda today and for generations to come.

Often, our citizens do not realize that all the discussions, interviews, negotiations, community feasts, research and work at the local, regional and provincial levels are just as important as when our lawyers go into the courtroom for us. While the law and the courts are important, our ability to consolidate our wins in the courtroom so they mean something on-the-ground to our people, is just as important as when our lawyers go into the courtroom for us.

With that said, I want to provide MNO citizens with an overview and update on just some of the MNO’s rights-based work:

…[T]he recognition and protection of our rights as a distinct Aboriginal people in this province will continue to be central to the MNO’s agenda. We now have the opportunity to move our rights agenda from the courtroom to the negotiating table with governments.

– Gary Lipinski, MNO President, May 6, 2008
Lands, Resources & Consultation

In less than 4 years, we have built - together - the only consultation unit in the entire Métis Nation. Through our province-wide consultations back in 2008, which ultimately led to the development of a MNO Consultation Framework and Regional Consultation Protocols, we have been attempting to ensure the Crown’s legal duty to consult and accommodate our communities is fulfilled.

Today, after years of negotiations and work, we have a Lands, Resources and Consultation (“LRC”) Branch that works with communities to ensure Métis rights are protected. While we initially struggled to have governments and industry recognize our unique approach to consultation, we are now witness to dozens of Letters of Intent, MOUs and work plans being signed. Moreover, through this Branch and the work of many citizens we are researching and documenting our people’s historic and ongoing presence and use on the land. From a landmark study on Métis plant use in southern Ontario to traditional knowledge collections across the province, we are putting Ontario Métis on the map.

Most recently, because of our collective efforts, we are witness to our consultation work moving into a new stage — accommodation. This has been accomplished through the negotiation of a major Impact and Benefits Agreement (IBA) with Detour Gold. This IBA includes financial support for environmental work, cultural activities, bursaries as well as shares in the mining company itself, which will collectively benefit Métis citizens and the regional Métis community that will be impacted by the mine. This is the first Métis IBA to be negotiated with a mining company in Ontario! We look forward to this IBA being the first of many “accommodations” negotiated across the province.

The goal of this project is to do research and collect information in the region in order to assess it against the Powley criteria, as established by the Supreme Court of Canada. One of the most exciting parts of this research is that we will finally have the opportunity to review and translate the Old French documents that have never been looked at in the context of Métis research before. This will be an invaluable source of information. It will be of immense assistance to many Métis families in the region for personal knowledge as well as their Registry applications. It is also important to highlight that with respect to this project, instead of the MNO having to bear the cost like in the Powley case - the research is paid for by Ontario and Canada. Moreover, the MNO is an equal partner with Canada and Ontario throughout the process. We look forward to this type of important research being replicated in other regions across the province, where needed. In addition, the results of this research will not only be of assistance with respect to harvesting rights in the region, but it may also support the need for Métis land rights in the region to be addressed, since the ongoing Algonquin land claim overlap with the areas Métis have used and occupied for generations.

Finally, the LRC Branch and the MNO’s leadership continue to push forward on many key issues of importance to Métis harvesters, including, commercial fishing, trapping, incidental cabins, etc. This has included assisting Métis commercial fishers in their fights against the MNR. It has also included supporting applications to the Ontario Ombudsman in relation to unfair practices towards Métis.

The MNO continues to be the only Métis government in Canada to have a negotiated harvesting agreement with a provincial government. While not perfect, the agreement remains the envy of other Métis governments whose citizens continue to be harassed and charged across the Métis Nation. Through this agreement, our MNO Harvester Card holders are able to harvest for food in their traditional territories. The Métis harvest is important to Métis families, Elders and communities.

The MNO’s leadership continues to push for an increase in the number of Harvester Cards it is able to issue each year. It is hoped that progress will be made on this front for the 2012 harvest, and regular discussions are ongoing with MNR. However, one of the key requirements of our MNO-MNR harvesting agreement is for an independent review (audit) of the MNO Harvester Card system, which will validate the integrity and reliability of the system. The review will look to see if our files have adequate supporting documentation which meets the criteria that the Supreme Court of Canada set out in Powley in order to exercise a Métis harvesting right. This is the reason the MNO continues to ask harvesters to ensure their files are complete, since the rights and privileges of all harvesters could be negatively affected by a few incomplete files.

Another part of the implementation of the MNO-MNR harvesting agreement committed the MNO to undertaking joint historic research on Métis communities where we have differences of opinion with the province. Over the last few years, we have worked in partnership with Ontario and Canada to develop a comprehensive research project on the Mattawa/Nipissing region. This region was chosen because the area played a pivotal role in the historic fur trade and it continues to be significantly populated by our citizens today. We are very excited that this project will have the necessary funding, experts and community involvement in order to tell the true story of the Métis in this region.

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MNO/ MNR Agreement

1. MNO and MNR agree that MNO will issue a maximum of 1250 Harvesters’ Cards for this year. The number of 1250 is for this year only. A mutually agreeable process for a change in this number will be developed subject to research and evaluation of the harvesters’ card system.

2. The MNR will apply the Interim Enforcement Policy (IEP) to those valid Harvesters Card holders who are harvesting for food, within their traditional territories and pursuant to the safety and conservation values set out in the IEP in a manner which is identical with its application to First Nations.

3. The Interim Agreement will be for two years with the intention that it will be extended by mutual consent until a final agreement is in place.

4. Both sides agree that an independent evaluation of the MNO Harvesters’ Card system will be performed based on mutually agreeable terms of reference.
Historic Research on Ontario Métis

We have always said that our existence - as Ontario Métis communities - is confirmed by the facts of history. Our rights claims are based on these facts. Unfortunately, the history of our communities is often overlooked, misunderstood or ignored by governments as well as other Aboriginal peoples. We know that the only way to overcome the deeply entrenched biases and misunderstandings that exist about us is to finally tell the Ontario Métis story.

Increasingly, our Community Councils, through consultation and accommodation activities, are getting access to resources in order to undertake that type of research. Reports have been or are being commissioned – across the province – to tell the Ontario Métis story. For example, Dr. Arthur Ray (our expert in the Powley case) recently completed a study that looked at Métis in the Lake Superior region. As well, the MNO is working with the Chair of Métis Research on a study that looks at Métis kinship connections throughout Ontario. All of this work will be invaluable for future Métis rights claims. As well, in order to ensure all Métis citizens have access to this work, these reports have been posted to the MNO’s website at www.metisnation.org/registry/historicresources.aspx.

MNO Intervention at the Supreme Court

On December 13th, 2011, the MNO intervened in the historic Manitoba Métis land claim that was before the Supreme Court of Canada. Similar to Powley for the MNO, the Manitoba Métis Federation has funded this significant litigation for almost 30 years. The MNO was there to show its support for Métis rights, but we also intervened because there are significant legal principles at issue within this case that will impact the entire Métis Nation, which includes Ontario Métis.

In particular, the MNO intervened to raise issues around the importance of the Crown keeping its promises to Métis. Similar to Manitoba Métis, promises were made to Ontario Métis that remain unfulfilled across the province. We hope the Supreme Court will signal that the honour of the Crown requires these promises must be fulfilled. Moreover, we anticipate that this case will provide direction to governments that reconciliation needs to move forward with the Métis - just as it has with First Nations and Inuit peoples. Ideally, the case will challenge the current exclusion of Métis from modern day land claims agreements and negotiation processes.
AN UPDATE ON MÉTIS RIGHTS

REGISTRY CONSULTATIONS PROCESS

1. START PHASE I
   Fall/Winter 2010:
   Province-Wide Community Consultations on Métis Registry and Identification Issues

2. COMPLETE PHASE I
   2011 Annual General Assembly:
   Release What We Heard Report from Community Consultations with Identified Options for Future Discussion and Consideration

3. START PHASE II
   Fall/Winter 2011:
   Province-Wide Community Consultations What We Heard Report on the Identified Options for Future Discussion and Consideration

4. COMPLETE PHASE II
   2012 Annual General Assembly:
   Consideration and Adoption of Options from Consultations for Implementation in the MNO Registry

The message from the court is clear: if you want to assert Métis rights you need to have a credible Registry. It is worthy to note that even before the Supreme Court gave these directions to us, successive MNO AGAs directed the MNO to strengthen the credibility and integrity of its Registry, and over the last decade we have done just that.

While these directions were provided by various MNO AGAs, the MNO never had the resources or opportunity to undertake province-wide consultations on these issues. So, based on the direction of the 2010 MNO AGA, a multi-year consultation process was developed and is currently ongoing. Phase II of the consultations are now underway and information about the consultations is available on the MNO website or through your Community Councils or PCMNO representatives. The MNO’s leadership is encouraging all MNO citizens to attend these important sessions because our rights agenda goes hand-in-hand with a strong and credible Registry.

Registry Consultations

Our MNO Registry is key to advancing our rights agenda. In Powley, the Supreme Court of Canada directed Métis governments to ensure their identification systems were objectively verifiable and credible in order to support Métis rights assertions. Specifically, the Supreme Court said:

“As Métis communities continue to organize themselves more formally to assert their constitutional rights, it is imperative that membership requirements become more standardized so that legitimate rights-holders can be identified. [emphasis added]”

The MNO President Gary Lipinski speaking to MNO citizens at a 2012 Community Consultation on Métis Identification and Registration in Welland, on January 11th, 2012.

Other Litigation

The MNO continues to watch a Métis harvesting rights "test case" in Alberta that deals with Métis mobility. The case, R. v. Hirsekorn, deals with whether Métis can move between settlements in the Métis Nation without losing their harvesting rights. This issue is of great importance to the MNO because, if Alberta Métis are ultimately successful, it could provide new law to enable the MNO to incorporate harvester mobility into its Harvesting Policy. It is very likely that this case will ultimately end up in the Supreme Court.

As well, the MNO continues to watch other litigation that is ongoing across Canada, including, consultation and accommodation cases as well as a Métis harvesting rights case that is proceeding in Quebec.

Conclusion

As you can see, from these few examples, much is happening on our rights agenda. I encourage all citizens to attend our community consultation on Métis identification and registration where more information about Métis rights and all MNO activities will be made available for discussion.

If you have any questions about this update, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of my PCMNO colleagues.

Gary Lipinski
President, MNO
Connecting the generations

MNO Healing and Wellness Branch staff in Sudbury are as busy bees

By Desneige Taylor
Community Wellness Coordinator
SUDBURY

Staff members of the Métis Nation of Ontario Healing and Wellness Branch in Sudbury were busy bees before the holidays.

During the month of November a pink and purple cancer awareness party was held for women. Dale Xilon Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children (amrc) worker conducted car seat inspections for parents prior to the holidays to ensure everyone a safe and secure Christmas vacation. The AMHBC worker also partnered with Shikagamik-Kwe Health Centre for a day of diabetes awareness with a Métis perspective. Attended one of the local high schools to complete a Métis presentation to a cooking class and was able to share a traditional meal with the class.

In December, MNO staff conducted a “Connecting the Generations” workshop. This involved traditional meals, crafts, recipes, songs, and stories. We want to thank everyone who participated in this cultural exchange. One of the participants expressed concern that there is no safe way to enter the Sudbury office. The only entrance involves a flight of stairs which may be problematic for our Elders, clients and citizens with walkers, wheel chairs, or other physical complications, when they want to join workshops and events held at the office. It was also mentioned that these same people cannot always attend council meetings because some locations only have stair access.

The Healing and Wellness Sudbury Branch would like to apologise to those who have been inconvenienced by this situation. We are sorry and do try our best to find suitable locations. Unfortunately, for financial reasons we cannot always accommodate this need, but wish we could.

In January we went to a local elementary school to share some Métis culture with the younger children and partnered with the local university to do a bit of snowshoeing. We look forward to spending more time with our community and sharing the Métis culture. I hope everyone has had a safe and pleasant holiday and we wish you a happy New Year.

Healing Warriors
Métis woman helps soldiers and others cope with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder

By Lance Holdforth
Story is re-printed with the generous consent of The Barrie Examiner

A yoga program helping American soldiers cope with traumatic stress has come to Barrie, and it’s the only one of its kind in Canada.

For 10 years, Nicole Taylor has seen the positive effects yoga has on the human body, and now being the only “Yoga Warriors” instructor in the country, she’s preparing to see how it affects the mind. “Pills don’t solve everything,” Taylor said. “There’s a whole science behind it (the class) going right across the body. It is primarily for past and present serving vets,” she said. “Basically they’re all high-stress areas. They’re all dealing with a lot of the same issues.”

The program is initiated at the Worcester Vet Centre in Massachusetts and has helped thousands of soldiers get through post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) which sparked classes to spread to U.S. military bases. Taylor said, “In the States, I could not believe the huge movement behind this. Just about every (military) base has a Yoga Warriors class.” she said. “It’s been a lot of work, but now it’s starting to take flight.”

Taylor took up yoga to relieve the stress of her job as an operating nurse at the Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket, and now teaches people how to do the same. “The goal is not to bend yourself to the mat” because the word “surrender” may act as a trigger of stress disorder has come to Barrie

Nicole Taylor leads a class of first-responders and military personnel through a class of yoga at the Bliss Studio in downtown Barrie. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BARRIE EXAMINER.

“Yoga Warriors” instructor in Canada.

“Yoga Warriors” instructor in Canada.

Signs and Symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

• Recurrent re-experiencing of the trauma (for example, distressing memories, flashbacks that are usually caused by reminders of the traumatic events, recurring nightmares about the trauma and/or dissociative reliving of the trauma).

• Avoidance to the point of having a phobia of places, people and experiences that remind the sufferer of the trauma or a general numbing of emotional responsiveness.

• Chronic physical signs of hyperarousal, including sleep problems, trouble concentrating, irritability, anger, poor concentration, blackouts or difficulty remembering things, increased tendency and reaction to being startled and hypervigilance (excessive watchfulness) to threat.
The DGR is proposed to be located about 680 m (2230 feet) below ground surface in low permeability limestone, beneath a 200 m (660 feet) thick layer of low permeability shale. The Bruce site is ideally suited for the DGR because of the natural attributes of the rock. A number of key elements provide confidence in the safety of the DGR. They include:

- The DGR is isolated from surface and drinking waters;
- Low permeability rock formations under and above the DGR provide multiple natural barriers to safely isolate and contain the waste;
- The 450 million-year-old rock formations have remained stable through tectonic events, climate changes and several ice ages, and are expected to remain stable for at least the next few million years;
- The DGR site is within the tectonically stable interior of the North American continent, which is a region characterized by low rates of seismicity;
- The radioactivity in the low and intermediate level waste will decay with time; most of the waste volume contains primarily shorter-lived radionuclides; and
- The properties of the host rock and shaft seals will limit the movement of radioactivity to very slow rates.

The presentation concluded with information on the DGR Environmental Assessment (EA) results and the DGR regulatory process’s next steps. The conclusion of the EA is that the DGR Project will likely not result in any significant adverse environmental effects. Detailed findings of the DGR EA are presented in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Technical Support Documents. These documents, along with the Preliminary Safety Report (PSR) were submitted by OPG to federal authorities in April 2011 and can be accessed at www.opg.com/dgr or www.nwmo.ca/dgr.

In terms of next steps, a three member Joint Review Panel (JRP) will be appointed to consider the environmental assessment and license application for site preparation and construction of the proposed project. Once the Joint Review Panel is appointed they are expected to shortly thereafter announce the start of a six month public review period, followed by a public hearing.

For further information, contact:
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**MNO leadership key to Circle of Light conference**

**By Dr. Chris Paci**

MNO Manager of Education

**The Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) worked with the Ontario Ministry of Education and the federal Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to plan the third Circle of Light Conference, November 13-16, 2011, in Toronto. The Circle of Light is important because it brings together a thousand delegates including educators, school board members, government officials and students to discuss and share Aboriginal education “best practices”. The MNO played a prominent leadership role in organizing this event and MNO presenters enjoyed a high profile during the conference.

The opening prayer was led by MNO Senator, Dr. Alis Kennedy, and MNO President, Gary Lipinski, provided the opening address. In his remarks, President Lipinski highlighted the successful partnerships the MNO has been building with school boards and with the Ministry of Education and how this work advances educational opportunities for Metis youth. MNO Senator, Reta Gordon, opened the second day of the conference in a very good way by reminding delegates of the importance of commemorating Louis Riel Day.

The MNO hosted three workshops run by MNO Director of Education and Training, Jennifer St. German and Postsecondary Education Analyst, Benny Michaud; Education Officer, Chris McLeod; and Manager of New Projects, Scott Carpenter. In addition, Administrative Coordinator, Guylaine Morin-Cleroux staffed an information table and Senator Gordon and Metis youth, Mitch Case, presented on the Elders’ and Senators’ panel. The session was facilitated by MNO Manager of Education and Training, Dr. Chris Paci. Other Metis presenters included noted canoe builder, Marcel Labelle; a keynote presentation by Metis author, Joseph Boyden, and, Jessica Contant (see below) and Jennifer Henry participated in a youth engagement panel.

The MNO has seen growing recognition and acceptance in Metis education advances educational opportunities for First Nation, Metis and Inuit students. Jessica is seen below delivering her presentation, titled, “Who are the Metis?”, at the Circle of Light conference.

She also had the pleasure of meeting and being photographed with Susan Aglukark, one of the keynote speakers at the conference. Jessica is the MNO Youth Representative for Region 3 and the granddaughter of a very proud Senator, Eugene Contant.

Jessica Contant, a grade 12 student at Cochrane High School, was one of two students chosen from the District School Board Ontario North East, to go to the Circle of Light Conference held in Toronto during November, 2011. The conference was on education for First Nation, Metis and Inuit students. Jessica is seen below delivering her presentation, titled, “Who are the Metis?”

**Métis Youth make voices heard at Aboriginal education conference**

Jessica Contant, a grade 12 student at Cochrane High School meets Susan Aglukark at the Circle of light conference.
COMMUNITY NEWS

Family seeking service dog for autistic son

William Plummer is a ten-year-old Métis boy, who was diagnosed with autism in the spring of 2011. He was born with congenital nystagmus, a neurological condition of the visual motor cortex of the brain that causes involuntary eye movements, among other things. Over the next ten years William exhibited a variety of symptoms and was subjected to a battery of tests.

In effect, the congenital nystagmus was masking another problem and William was finally diagnosed—after ten years—as high functioning autistic. It answered a lot of questions for his parents. Autism is a socialization and communication disorder that affects 1 in 150 children and the number is rising at an alarming rate. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a lifelong, neurological developmental disorder. It is extremely complex and can present itself in many different ways. The most common characteristics of autism are: significant delays, impairment to social development, delayed and or unusual communication, and repetitive, ritualistic behaviours. No two children with autism are alike.

Now that the Plummers have an autism service dog for William. His speech is getting better and he is going to a mainstream school, with an educational assistant for support. The service dog would be able to give him the gentle nudge he needs to come out of his shutdown at school and calm him when he is stressed or anxious, as well as help guide him with his poor depth perception.

The Plummers would like to get an autism service dog for William, but the cost of a specially trained dog is $18,000. “The service dog would be able to give him the gentle nudge he needs to come out of his shutdown at school and calm him when he is stressed or anxious, as well as help guide him with his poor depth perception.”

The EEP strives to support positive, lasting change for current as well as future participants of all the MNO Employment in Energy programs.

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snanche@metisnation.org
Kirk Fournier
(705) 264-3939
kirk@metisnation.org

WILLIAM PLUMMER AND FRIEND

A donation of any amount would be greatly appreciated. If you are able to help, you can donate by going to:

www.canadahelps.org/grp/13588

Tax receipts are issued from Canada Helps (www.canadahelps.org)

For more information on autism service dogs visit this site:

www.autismdogservices.ca

MNO training program a high voltage success

By Shwana Snache
Employment in Energy - South
and Kirk Fournier
Employment in Energy - North

I n our educational and career pursuits, success is at times difficult to define. Building on previous success of the Minto Nation of Ontario (MNO) Employment in Energy Program has once again been instrumental in assisting participants embark upon their chosen careers in the energy sector.

With the addition of a second site running out of Northern College in Timmins, the Employment in Energy Project (EEP) has been able to establish new partnerships, expand on existing ones, and offer the program to Métis and other Aboriginal learners in two separate locations this past year.

Building upon the successful partnership established with Georgian College-Barrie Campus, the EEP-South was enhanced with the addition of a new course, “General Engineering” to bring the Technology Foundations course load up to seven courses over the semester. Fifteen students from both mainstream and the Métis Nation of Ontario participated, began the program at Georgian in August, 2011.

It is worth noting that more women have been showing interest in this program, and four Métis women had the distinction of completing the course last November and earning their Certificate of Achievement.

In addition to regular in-class training, the 2011 EEP-S’s class explored field trips including one to the Kortright Conservation Centre as well as hosting several guest speakers from both mainstream and the emerging green energy sector. Five members of the class even received sponsorship to attend the 23rd annual Association of Power Producers of Ontario (APPPO) Conference in Toronto where they met with industry and made contacts in the field. Two EEPS students were interviewed by the media and their interviews can be heard at nationtalk.ca.

Upon completion of the 16 weeks of study, the EEP-South was successful securing work placement for students with Ontario Power Generation, Valiant Construction, Acute Electrical, The Great Canadian Wiring Co Ltd., Georgian College-Midland Campus, and Tower Enterprises. Work placements are scheduled for up to 16 weeks. One particular student, Aaron Sallows, knew he wanted to work on power lines from the beginning of the program and now as a Valiant employee is working with the fly crew recently featured on the Rick Mercer Report. Aaron is enjoying his dream job as a lineman and is a prime example of how this program has been successful changing the lives of participants.

The EEP-North, in partnership with Northern College-Porcupine Campus, in Timmins, recently wrapped up the academic component of the project. Twenty Métis and other Aboriginal participants engaged in 16 weeks of condensed learning. The project goal was to combine rigorous in class learning with hands-on energy and multi-trade experience. Participants were also exposed to guest speakers from energy leaders like Hydro One and Union Gas. Field trips to view green energy components such as wind turbines and solar panels, gave students a view of this vastly growing sector. Most important, participants from both sites were able to earn transferable post-secondary credits that can be applied to future post-secondary opportunities.

The EEP-North proved very efficacious for two particular participants. Mathieu Leblanc had always had an interest in trades. He viewed the Employment in Energy Project as a means to investigate that interest. Mathieu’s interest in trades and the project convinced him to pursue a job within northern Ontario’s strong mining community. As of December, 2011, Mathieu is gainfully employed with Goldcorp. Mines in Timmins. He states the interest gained through the project motivated him to this goal. He is also very proud of the post-secondary credits he attained while in the project.

Jeff Portelance came to the project very apprehensive as he had not been involved with education for many years. Through diligence, he endured through the project. Jeff’s strength paid off as he sought work with Hydro One as a sub-contractor. Jeff now works in remote areas for Hydro One as a line cutter. He credits the confidence he gained while in the project with giving him the courage to pursue his employment goals.

On January 9, 2012, the Employment in Energy-North participants began their placement experience. We are proud to include Barick Gold, Electrical Service Solutions – Timmins, D H & E Electrical, Con’s Electric, 5 Nations Energy, and Northern College Porcupine Campus, as project employers for this round. We know our participants will get a fulfilling and well-rounded experience with these energy sector employers.

In consultation with our partners the Métis Nation of Ontario Employment in Energy Project was developed when the Métis Nation of Ontario became aware of an emerging need within the energy sector. As the population ages, the number of trained, skilled, workers is diminishing rapidly. Who will fill these positions as they vacate? The MNO’s answer is “strong and capable Métis people”.

The EEP strives to support positive, lasting change for current as well as future participants of all the MNO Employment in Energy projects.

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A C O M M U N I T Y T R I B U T E

Pamela Tremblay, artisanan-Métis-artisan and Noreen Kruzh, author, proudly learn the square-stitch basic beading style during a December beading class in Midland provided by the Métis Nation of Ontario.

MÉTIS CULTURE AND CRAFTS

Tax receipts are issued from Canada Helps (www.canadahelps.org)

For more information on autism service dogs visit this site:

www.autismdogservices.ca

| MÉTIS VOYAGEUR | Winter 2012, Issue 69 | 18 |
Collège Boréal marks first anniversary of Centre Louis-Riel

On November 15, 2011, representatives of the Métis Nation of Ontario attended a celebration at College Boréal to recognize the first anniversary of its Centre Louis-Riel, located at the heart of the college’s main campus in Sudbury. This event was part of a week-long program which the college unveiled on the eve of the day commemorating the death of Louis Riel. On this anniversary, College Boréal’s President, Denis Hubert-Dutrisac, emphasized the centre’s main accomplishments: “After just one year of activity, Centre Louis-Riel has met its challenge by offering one year of activity, Centre Louis-Riel was created to better serve the specific needs of our Aboriginal and Métis students.”

Francis Picotte, Chair of the Métis Nation of Ontario and member of College Boréal’s Board of Directors, recalled the context in which Centre Louis-Riel was created: “In August 2009, the Métis Nation of Ontario and College Boréal signed their first memorandum of understanding with the aim to better serve the specific needs of the Métis people in Ontario. Two years later, I am pleased to see College Boréal’s significant participation in the Northern Aboriginal Festival, the awarding of $11,000 in bursaries and the construction of a traditional canoe are some of the highlights of a year that has been particularly rewarding for our Aboriginal and Métis students.”

France Picotte, Chair of the Métis Nation of Ontario and member of College Boréal’s Board of Directors, recalled the context in which Centre Louis-Riel was created: “In August 2009, the Métis Nation of Ontario and College Boréal signed their first memorandum of understanding with the aim to better serve the specific needs of the Métis people in Ontario. Two years later, I am pleased to see College Boréal’s many accomplishments for the benefit of Métis students and the concrete impact they have for the recognition of our people.”

Eric Dupuis, Coordinator of Aboriginal and Métis Projects at College Boréal, discussed a new asset provided by Centre Louis-Riel. Since October 19, Marie-Claire Vignola, an Aboriginal Elder and a member of the Métis Nation of Ontario, welcomes Boréal’s students and personnel every Wednesday in individual and group meetings. She encourages and guides Aboriginal persons while sharing the unique cultures with visitors in an atmosphere of openness and mutual respect.

College Boréal has recently constructed a traditional Métis canoe. A story about the canoe was featured in a news story on TFO’s program ‘'Reflexe’.

Métis youth recognized by Minister of Education

Jessica Drouin-Contant from École Secondaire Cosharne High School has received recognition from Minister of Education, Laurel Broten.

Jessica addressed trustees and administration at the January 17th board meeting about her experiences at the Circle of Light conference, held November 14-16 in Toronto. Circle of Light 2011 provided an opportunity for educators in both provincial and First Nation school systems to participate in joint professional development. Jessica’s presentation was about the Métis people. Congratulations Jessica!

The newest member of Toronto’s Finest

By Tamarra Shepherd and Kelly Honsberger

Jon Burns, a self-identified Métis from Durham Region, describes his decision to become a frontline constable with the Toronto Police Service as “nothing short of a wake-up call.” Now one of the newest members of Toronto’s finest, Jon sees his new career as full of possibilities, but it wasn’t too long ago his future was much more uncertain.

A General Motors (GM) production technician for twelve years, Jon was certain a change in careers might involve, but even when his application was accepted: “This helped immensely, as I was able to focus on my training without having to worry about the financial burden that would be placed on my family.”

This helped immensely, as I was able to focus on my training without having to worry about the financial burden that would be placed on my family.

His decision to enroll as an officer with the Toronto Police Service. His seven years experience as a volunteer firefighter gave him valuable insight as to what his new role might involve, but even when Jon was certain a change in careers was what he wanted, he knew there would still be many challenges to come. He explains: “Having been laid off, money was tight.” Jon applied for funding through the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Education and Training Branch and described what it felt like to learn

And the ultimate shutdown of the GM plant when the company declared bankruptcy. It was after the suggestion of a friend that Jon decided to enroll as an officer with the Toronto Police Service. His seven years experience as a volunteer firefighter gave him valuable insight as to what his new role might involve, but even when Jon was certain a change in careers was what he wanted, he knew there would still be many challenges to come. He explains: “Having been laid off, money was tight.” Jon applied for funding through the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Education and Training Branch and described what it felt like to learn vocational preparation, Jon was able to realize his goal of becoming an active member of the Toronto Police Force.

As hard as he worked, he credits much of his support to his family and especially his daughter who played a special role in his success. He explains: “particularly, having a daughter in high school [helped] me study, and provided me with the techniques to be a successful student.”

With this unwavering base of support and the financial assistance of MNO, Jon was able to change the course of his own life, his family’s and untold others he will affect in his new career.
Tina Nichol’s new bilingual book for young children is now available. Rowin’ Nolan was inspired by Tina’s eldest son and is dedicated to him. His name just happens to be “Nolan”. As he grew, she could not help but notice how much time he spent with books—looking at them and talking about them with other kids his age. Tina read to him every night until he could read for himself and wanted to create his own book. Together they created the story and the “wild wild song”.

In this tale, Rowin’ Nolan discovers that Mother Earth speaks to the right listener. The story aims to help children understand the order of life among all living creatures. It also has a strong message for everyone: on how our presence can affect the environment around us.

Tina might have made a book with her son and left it at that, but she wanted to share her story with other children. She discovered that, “the biggest barrier to any project or initiative you’re working on is money... It takes many people to create one book. The designer, the editor, the writer, the illustrator, etc... It gets quite costly when you think about hiring all these people to help get your book to press.” However, not everyone had to be paid. Claire Kearns, Cecile Wagar, the writer, the illustrator, etc... It gets quite costly when you think about hiring all these people to help get your book to press. “I enjoyed every minute of it,” Tina said. “In order to secure funds to go ahead with the project, Tina applied to the Métis Nation of Ontario Training Initiative self-employment program and was able to get approval to start her own business.”

Another barrier Tina Nichol encountered was the need to manage her time. “Although you keep plugging away, your sense of commitment to the work can be hard to find... It was hard sometimes to pause in between work and the kids. There are so many steps to properly developing a book and the author always has to multi-task to get to the final production of the book. This process can also take time, which delays the book from going to press.”

The book is charming in two languages and the illustrations are part of that charm. Illustrator, Linda Roberts-Sailer lives off the grid on an abandoned silver mine. After years as a graphic artist in Montreal and Toronto, Linda left it all to pursue personal and spiritual health and eventually settled in the “Near North”. The illustrations are simple enough to be recognized by young children yet so well executed that the adult reader might like to just look at the pictures. While planning for at least two more books, Tina spent an entire day at Eclisip Publique Des Navigateurs in New Liskeard, Ontario, reading to grades 2 through 6. Her presentation included her book on the projector screen, Tina the storyteller, and the children in costumes playing the characters in the book. “I enjoy every minute of it,” she said. “My goal is to encourage teachers, parents and the children to read loud. Have fun with reading. It is the best skill to have out there...”

To order a copy: kdbeckett@live.ca or karole@live.ca

*Book 1: Rainbows in Time: $20
Book 2: Mists of Time: $20
Free delivery in Ottawa. Mail delivery outside Ottawa is $5 per book or $10 for both.

www.RainbowsInTime.ca
Small book with big teachings

Moon Time Prayer is the debut offering from Métis author Cindy Gaudet. True to her belief in the power of community and her commitment to building and sustaining sisterhood, Moon Time Prayer is a shining example of what women can create when they work together.

The book is beautifully illustrated by self-taught Métis artist Leah Dorion, and launched in December, 2011. The opening ceremony took place at the Great Canadian Theatre Company (corner Holland and Wellington), and included 16 local First Nations and Métis women artisans who shared a wide range of traditional and contemporary products.

The story itself chronicles the initiation of a young girl, Sparrow, into her grandmother’s world. She is mentored by her grandmother and her auntie as they teach her the importance of this transition in a girl’s life, and the power and responsibility that naturally come with this rite of passage. Moon Time shares spiritual teachings which consider the power of the moon, the earth, and their connection to women as sacred beings.

Moon Time Prayer, a small book with big teachings, is distributed by Moon Lodge Canada and retails for the introductory launch price of $12. The CD, including the audio of the book, songs, women’s teachings by Grandmother Isabelle Meawasige and meditation is available for $18. For more information or to order your copy, visit www.moonlodge.ca. Books are also available at Mother Tongue Books in Ottawa and the CD is available on iTunes.

Canadian Aboriginal Writing and Arts Challenge

For Aboriginal Canadians between the ages of 14 and 29 years old

This is an opportunity to have your writing reviewed by the foremost Aboriginal storytellers. You could even win a cash prize and have your work published in a national magazine.

Artists are also eligible to win cash prizes, have their work reviewed by the foremost Aboriginal artists, and exhibit in a gallery! The deadline is March 31, 2012.

For more information visit: www.our-story.ca

HARMONY, HOPE AND CONNECTEDNESS – THIS IS WHAT THE SASH NOW REPRESENTS!

My Métis Sash

By Raymond D. Tremblay

Magic seemed to surround my waistline. Yes, it filled my entire being with sunshine.

Memories of my vivid past slowly sprang forth. Eager to learn more, I visited my family up north. This is when I discovered that my family was Métis. Instantly, I longed to know more; if not, I’d be remiss! Setting my sights high, I learnt about my valued traditions.

Several times I heard about the Métis sash and its depictions. Ah, my ancestors proudly wore it around their waists, now it’s me! Symbol of our colourful Métis heritage, it became part of our destiny. Harmony, hope and connectedness – this is what the sash now represents!

A poem for Sebastien

Another Métis baby was born to my son, Eric Tremblay and his wife, Erin Merry. Sebastien Daniel Thomas Tremblay weighed 8 lbs and 1 ounce upon delivery and is enjoying excellent health. The day before his birth, I was moved to write him the attached poem.

Maxine, is also very excited about his birth.

A Miracle of Life

By Grandpapa Ho Ho Raymond D. Tremblay

For Sebastien Daniel Thomas Tremblay born on October 19th, 2011

As I waited for your arrival, I bowed my head and prayed. My heart was pounding at an alarming rate. I felt totally elated. I could not wait to see and touch your brand new sweet tiny body. Really, since your conception, you have always been a ray of beauty. As I pondered upon your future on Mother Earth, I only saw happiness. Challenges will often cross your path but you will be brave and relentless. Loving others unconditionally as Jesus taught us will be one of your strengths. Eager to fulfill your mission in life, you will bring much joyfulness to your parents.

One day, you will fully realize how much your parents loved you with all their hearts. Faith and hopeagain filled their entire beings - they had created two sweetshearts! Love, only pure love could bear such wonderful fruits. Count yourself lucky! I know your parents very well. For me, they’re sacred gifts of the Divinity. Forever faithful to each other, they wanted to share their life with you. Eh, it is no wonder that you are a miracle of life! This is so true!
TENTATIVE POLL STATIONS MNO ELECTION 2012

March 1, 2012

REGION 1

FORT FRANCES POLL STATION
Sunset Country Métis Council
426 Victoria Ave., Fort Frances, Ontario
MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.
- Black Hawk
- Birchdale - Border
- Benezid
- Eno
- Couchiching
- Ramzy River
- Northwest Bay
- Sleeman

REGION 2

THUNDER BAY POLL STATION
Thunder Bay Métis Council
226 May Street South, Thunder Bay, Ontario
MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.
- Shabaqua Corners
- Finnmark
- Lappre
- Kakabeka Falls
- Munillo
- Stanley
- Noluta
- Hymera

REGION 3

TIMMINS POLL STATION
Timmins Métis Council
347 Spruce Street South, Timmins, Ontario
MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.
- Timmins
- Schumacher
- Gold Centre
- Dome
- South Porcupine
- Hoyes
- Comnaught
- Barbers Bay
- Shillington

REGION 4

SAULT STE. MARIE POLL STATION
Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council
26 Queen St. East, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.
- Gros Cap
- Pointe aux Pairs
- Kentvale
- Echo Bay
- Sault Ste-Marie

REGION 5

SUDbury POLL STATION
Sudbury Métis Council
261 Alder Street - Upstairs, Sudbury, Ontario
MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.
- Carter - Border
- Lively
- Bigwood - Border
- Alcan - Border
- Nolalu
- Coniston
- Copper Cliff
- Markstay
- Garsen

REGION 6

OTTAWA POLL STATION
550 O'Connor St., Unit D
Ottawa, Ontario
MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.
- Kanata
- Stittsville
- Manotick Station
- Nepean - Border
- Gloucester
- South Gloucester
- Edward Bell
- Blossom Park
- Carleton Place
- Casselman
- Naven - Border
- Blackburn
- Orleans
- Rockchute Park
- Notre-Dame des Champs

REGION 7

MIDLAND POLL STATION
Gray Gorge Métis Council, 305 Caradoc Crescent (off of King Street), Midland, Ontario
MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.
- Sawtell Bay
- South Bay
- Honey Harbour
- Cedar Point
- Tobermory
- Port Severn
- Thunder Beach
- Penetangouche
- Paradise Point
- Victoria Harbour
- Wasaga Beach
- Fesserton
- Midland
- Kerrie Point
- Wysebridge
- Coldwater
- Vasey
- Waverley
- Moosetone

REGION 8

Mail-Ballots for all of Region 8

Mail-ballots for all of Region 8 will be distributed on Sunday, April 8th, 2012. MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots by mail at the polling station identified above.

REGION 9

WELLAND POLL STATION
Niagara Region Métis Council
46 King St., Welland, Ontario
MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.
- Homer
- Jordan Stn.
- Jordan
- Lincoln
- St. Anna Brakmak
- Williamsport
- North Pelham
- Fowehid
- Ridgeville
- Effingham
- Fennville
- Pelham
- Winger
- Chambers Corners
- Wanless
- Ogilvy Corners
- Long Beach
- Burnaby
- Gasline
- Shardton

HAMILTON POLL STATION
Hamilton-Wentworth Métis Council
445 Concession Street, Hamilton, Ontario
MNO Citizens residing in the communities listed below shall cast their ballots at the polling station identified above.
- Louisville
- Kilbride
- Shabane
- Westover
- Carlisle
- Flamboyant Centre
- Milgrove
- Clayton's Cross
- Greenville
- Rockton
- Tiny
- Patern Corr.
- Lynden
- Flamborough
- Ancaster
- Copecon
- Jeresville
- Albion
- Duffs Cor.
- Mount Hope
- Onondaga
- Middleport
- Caledonia
- Brantwood
- Carlisle
- Fulton - Border
- Woodburn
- Ellida
- Vinemount
- Winona
- Fruitland
- Dundas
- Aldershot
- Waterdown
- Burlington
- Bronte - Border
- Hamilton
- Gritney
- Stoney Creek
- Waterford
- Maidstone
- Paquettes Corners
- Essex
- McGregor
- Gesto
- Mission Centre
- Amherstburg
- Wilbur Beach
- Bell River - Border

NOTE

All Citizens residing in Communities not listed within the poll station boundaries will receive a mail-in ballot. A final polling station list identifying the communities to receive mail-in ballots will be posted on the MNO website on or before April 10th, 2012. ALL MAIL IN BALLOTS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER AND POSTMARKED BY MAY 7th, 2012.
With commemorations of the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812, Sault Ste. Marie is certainly the place to be in the summer of 2012. However, it is weddings booked at every venue every weekend in August that has resulted in having to move the start of the AGA back one day resulting in a Sunday instead of the traditional Saturday start to the business meetings.

Pre-AGA / AGA Dates

Pre-AGA workshops and meetings will take place Friday, August 24 and Saturday, August 25, with the AGA starting on Sunday, August 26, concluding on Monday, August 27 and wrapping up around lunch time on Tuesday, August 28.

Accommodations & Attractions

We hope the seven month advance notice will allow sufficient time to adjust to these new dates which now make it possible to secure excellent facilities and accommodations for AGA events and delegates.

The main AGA venue will be the Sault Ste. Marie Comfort Inn Suites and Conference Centre, which is conveniently located near many area attractions including, Fort St. Joseph National Historic Site; Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site; the Agawa Canyon Tour Train depot; and, the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre Museum. The MNO has obtained accommodations at that hotel and at the Garden River camp grounds for those who prefer to be closer to the land.

As always, the AGA will be a chance to catch up with old friends and meet new ones while working on the business of the Métis Nation and celebrating Métis culture and heritage.

More information on the 2012 AGA will be announced in the next Voyageur and eVoyageur as well as on the MNO website www.metisnation.org

Lakehead Supports Aboriginal Learners

Lakehead University is committed to helping Aboriginal peoples further their educational aspirations. Aboriginal programs at Lakehead offer academic, research, and cultural support services tailored to Aboriginal needs.

Office of Aboriginal Initiatives
aboriginalinitiatives.lakeheadu.ca
1-807-766-7219 or toll free 1-888-558-3388

Specialization & Access Programs
Department of Indigenous Learning
Native Nurses Entry Program
Native Access Program

Aboriginal Education
Honours Bachelor of Education (Aboriginal) P/J
Native Teacher Education Program
Native Language Instructors’ Program

Administrative & Support Services
Office of Aboriginal Initiatives
Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services
Lakehead University Native Students Association
Nanabijou Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement
Lakehead University Aboriginal Alumni Chapter
Elders Program
# ATTENTION ALL CITIZENS OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

## ELECTION NOTICE 2012

**Hours of Polling:**
- 9:00 AM CST - 8:00 PM CST (Region One)
- 9:00 AM EST - 8:00 PM EST (Regions Two - Nine)

**Advance Poll:**
May 5, 2012
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM
(In each relevant time zone)

**Polling Stations:**
Tentative list from Chief Electoral Officer or at www.metisonation.org/governance/2012-election.aspx

**Nominations Close:**
April 15, 2012 5:00 PM ET

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## DATE OF ELECTION:
**MAY 7, 2012**

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## POSITIONS FOR ELECTION TO THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO (PCMNO)

### EXECUTIVE POSITIONS (PCMNO)
- President
- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretary - Treasurer

**Candidates require seven signatures by registered electors from five of the nine regions**

- $100.00 non-refundable deposit (Certified cheque or money order only. Make payable to the MÉTIS Nation of Ontario)

### MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO VETERANS COUNCIL (MNOVC)
- President
- Senator
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Woman’s Representative
- Sergeant-at-Arms

**Candidates require four (4) signatures of electors who are veterans**

- A signed Veteran’s Affirmation (Statement that the candidate is a veteran)

### MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO YOUTH COUNCIL (MNOYC):
- Regional Youth Representative *

**Must include a statement that the candidate on the date of election will be between the ages of sixteen (16) and twenty-six (26) years of age.**

### OTHER PCMNO POSITIONS:
- 9 Regional Councillors

**Candidates require 21 signatures by registered electors from within their respective region**

- $100.00 non-refundable deposit (Certified cheque or money order only. Make payable to the MÉTIS Nation of Ontario)

- Post-Secondary Representative (PCMNO)**

**Must include a statement that the candidate intends to be a student at a post-secondary institution in Ontario for at least 2/3 of the term of office.**

- Youth Representative (PCMNO): *

**Must include a statement that the candidate on the date of election will be between the ages of sixteen (16) and twenty-six (26) years of age.**

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## NOMINATIONS:
Will be accepted by the Chief Electoral Officer up to and of the nominations closing date of April 15, 2012, either in person, by mail, e-mail or facsimile. Deposits, where required, must be received by end of closing date. If nomination forms are submitted by facsimile or email, the original forms must be received by mail or in person before the posting of candidates April 22, 2012.

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## NOMINATION FORMS:
Made available through the MNO website www.metisonation.org/governance/2012-election.aspx or by email from the Chief Electoral Officer.

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## POSTING OF CANDIDATES:
April 22, 2012.
Upon completing a review of all filed nominations to ensure they meet the necessary requirements, the MNO Chief Electoral Officer will issue an official candidates’ listing. The listing will also be posted on the website.

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## PRELIMINARY ELECTORS’ LISTS:
April 1, 2012 - made available at all MNO Council Offices.
Upon provision of evidence satisfactory to the Chief Electoral Officer of legitimate errors and omissions, names can be added or deleted up to 14 days before the election.

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## FINAL ELECTORS’ LISTS:
April 20, 2012 - posted in Council Offices.

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## MNO ELECTORAL CODE:
The procedures and rules governing these elections are contained in the MÉTIS Nation of Ontario Electoral Code: Part A, and will be available through MNO Community Councils and on the MNO website.

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For further information or for a copy of the MNO Electoral Code please contact:
- Paul Devillers, Chief Electoral Officer
- John Graham, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer
MÉTIS Nation of Ontario
300 Old St. Patrick Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 9G4
Tel: 613-789-1488 | Toll Free: 1- 800-263-4889 | Fax: 613-722-4225
mnoelection@metisonation.org

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