Every year, Métis from across the Homeland, honour the anniversary of the unjust execution of Louis Riel on November 16, 1885, by holding Louis Riel Day events. Although Louis Riel Day commemorates one of the great tragedies of Canadian history, it is also a day to celebrate Métis culture and the continuing progress the Métis people are making in fulfilling Louis Riel’s dream of the Métis taking their rightful place within Confederation. More on pages 12-14.
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

BY-ELECTION

AGA

Sástin Claus is coming to town

S ástin Claus isn’t coming to town, he’s already here and he’s Métis. In private life his name is Raymond Tremblay, but in the Christmas season he becomes Santa Claus, a caring and sharing exchange, a charity located in Ottawa, with a mission to serve all residents who face economic hardship, regardless of age, ethnicity, creed or culture.

If you are very, very, good, you might meet him almost any time during the Christmas season. He becomes Santa Claus, but in the summer, when he is Raymond Tremblay, you might see his smiling face on Christmas cards (right bottom). The Honourable Peter MacKay’s daughter, Madeleine MacKay, poses with her dad, Peter Rivers of 12, 2012, and weighing in at 6 lbs. (left).

Promoted

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) would like to join Emery and Maureen Gervais in congratulating their son, Grant Gervais, on his promotion to “Sergeant” for Peel Regional Police.

Grant completed 20 years in the Canadian Army and was honorably discharged as a Warrant Officer. After the army, he was employed by the Peel Regional Police where he now serves. His mother, father, brother Murray and sister Leanne, are very proud of their Métis son and brother. Congratulations Grant!

Métis student achieves

Valerie Rose Jean Gordon graduated June 8th, 2012, from the University of Toronto as a pharmacist. She is the daughter of Irene and Allan Gordon (Vice-president, MNO Métis Nation Council). Born and raised in Geraldton with her brother Scott, Valerie attended R.A. Parker Public School and Geraldton Composite High School. “Val” as everyone calls her, began working as a cashier at a corner store at the age of eleven. She eventually owned and managed her own ice cream shop for three years before deciding upon a degree profession.

Desiring to help her community, Val first considered being a pediatrician and attended the University of Western Ontario where she studied health and pharmaceutical sciences for three years. She was then accepted at the Leslie Dan School of Pharmacy at the University of Toronto where she studied for a further four years, and graduated as a pharmacist.

Valerie’s steadfast perseverance and determination were rewarded by success and she is grateful to those who helped ease the financial burden. The Métis Nation of Ontario bursaries; and, Aboriginal Grants for Health Education from the Government of Ontario.

Fundraising on the golf links

T his past June, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Geraldton-Greenstone Métis Council was a major sponsor of the Confederation College Scholarship Golf Tournament. This very successful event was to raise funds for bursaries and scholarships to benefit youth in the Greenstone area. We are always pleased to take part in this yearly event.

From left: William “Torch” Gordon, Brian Burgess, Ted Pile and Bob Velenak at the Confederation College Golf Tournament.

OBITUARY

Shirley L. Corriveau

1948-2012

T he family announces with sorrow, her death in Sudbury, Friday, May 11, 2012 at the age of 64 years. Daughter of the late Hector Dumont and the late Doris (née Doucette) Dumont. Wife of the late George Cameron and the late Oscar Corriveau. Loving mother of Mario Germain (Antia) of Barrie, Diane Malette (Richard) of Hammond, Karen Hylun (Brett) of Chelmsford, Joyce Cameron (Terry Rand) of Walsingham and step mother of Diane Danis (Florian) of Field, Roger Corriveau (Christine) of Welland and Pauline Turnbull (Dave) of Ottawa. Dear sister of Jim Dumont (Diane), David Dumont (Jeanette), Rita Dumont, Stella Dumont (Gilbert) all of St. Charles, Kenneth Dumont of Sudbury and Steve Dumont (Sylvia) of Warren. Lovingly remembered by 16 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

PROUD DAD

Paige Daniel Rivers, born June 12, 2012, and weighing in at 6 lbs. posed with her dad, Peter Rivers of Windsor, ON.

THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

LATE FALL 2012, NO. 73

Produced by the Métis Nation of Ontario Communications Branch

Sam Bayram
Mick Fedyk
Linda Lord
Marc St. Germain

contributors

Anne Trudel
Barbara Anne Wright
Chris Paci
Don Fowler
Mike Fedyk
Raymond Tremblay
Richard Cuddy
Sam Bayram

To submit stories and pictures contact: Métis Voyageur Métis Nation of Ontario 500 St. Patrick St. Unit D Ottawa, ON K1N 9G4 E-mail: mivoy@metisnation.org Phone: 1-800-263-4889 Fax: 613-722-4225

The next Voyageur deadline: January 14, 2013

PUBLICATION #: PM 40025265

Edition: Midwinter 2012, Issue no. 73

HOLIDAY SEASON

MÉTIS SANTA CLAUS

BY-ELECTION

Region 5 By-election Results

By Paul Devillers
Chief Electoral Officer

Paul Devillers, Chief Electoral Officer, has declared Denis Juliette the winner of the Region 5 By-election with 334 votes. Maurice Sarrazin received 293 votes.

Denis, Juliette - 334
Sarrazin, Maurice - 293

AGA

A great Métis gathering

By Ken Simard
Capitol of the Hurt, Region 2

To all Métis citizens who missed the 19th AGA: you have missed the best one yet. All the activities were great. The accommodation, food, meetings, and workshops were the best.

I want to express my thanks for the enjoyment and laughter at the Rivianos Community Theatre. It was a pleasure to see such a good turnout sharing our pride with performers like James Kirkham, the Métis Dancers, and the Métis Fiddler Quartet. The presentation of the Volunteer of the Year Award is always inspiring. I also want to thank all the organizers for their time and hard work putting this AGA together. My family really enjoyed it.

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**Powley**

Personal sacrifice and commitment to the ongoing struggle for Métis rights

By Gary Lipinski  
President, Métis Nation of Ontario

A s many of you are aware, Wednesday, September 19, 2012, marked the ninth anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in *R. v. Powley*. The ground breaking Powley decision ushered in a whole new era of Métis rights. Today is a moment to reflect on how the Powley decision has contributed to the recognition of Métis rights and to celebrate your Métis culture and the Powley family for their personal sacrifice and commitment to the ongoing struggle for Métis rights.

During this harvesting season, please take a moment to reflect on how the Powley decision has contributed to the recognition of our rights.

On October 13, the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) accepted a proposal from the MNO Ottawa Regional and High Land Waters Métis Councils that Ottawa serve as the location for the 2013 Powley Day. "We are very pleased that the two councils in Region 6 have stepped forward to provide the MNO with this opportunity," stated MNO President, Gary Lipinski. "Ottawa is a beautiful city with great venues for AGA events, including several with important ties to the Métis Nation." Among the locations of special interest to Métis are the Supreme Court of Canada building, where the Powley decision was announced, the stunning Museum of Civilization in nearby Gatineau, which was designed by Métis architect Douglas Cardinal, the Aboriginal Veterans Monument, and, of course, the Ottawa River, which was a major fur trade route.

"Ottawa has a lot to offer," explained Dan Gilbeau, President of the MNO Ottawa Métis Regional Council, "and we are excited to invite all MNO citizens to the national capital. We plan on making sure that the MNO's twentieth anniversary AGA is an event to remember!"

The MNO has already started work on securing venues for meetings and accommodations and will be making more announcements about the AGA in the coming months.

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**Métis contributions during War of 1812 recognized**

On October 25, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski, and MNO Veterans’ Council (MVOC) President, Joseph Paquette, participated in a ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa that recognized the contributions of Aboriginal peoples to the effort to defend Canada during the War of 1812.

During the ceremony, His Excellency, Governor-General David Johnston and Prime Minister Stephen Harper presented President Lipinski and Paquette with a War of 1812 commemorative banner and commemorative medal to acknowledge Métis contributions during the war. These banners and medals were also presented to First Nations’ groups and in other ceremonies to Canadian military units that participated in the war.

President Lipinski spoke at the ceremony and described the many contributions of our Métis ancestors. "It is significant," explained President Lipinski, "that Métis contributions during the War of 1812 are being recognized along with those of First Nations and other Canadians. Unfortunately, in the past, this has not always been the case. I am proud to be here today to represent my Métis ancestors who fought for Canada before there was a Canada."

"The Métis have a strong tradition of military service," pointed out MVOC President Paquette. "Our involvement in the defense of Canada started in the War of 1812, and Métis have served in both World Wars, the Korean Conflict, in peacekeeping missions and most recently in Afghanistan."
MNO thanks Premier McGuinty for his dedicated service

H e has been a key player in advancing the agenda to end VAW and has participated in five summits as a full signatory to the Framework to End Violence against Aboriginal Women and as an active member of the PCN, an organization to report on its progress. The PCN is a national organization that works to support efforts to reduce the very high rates of violence against women in Ontario and that person shall be an excellent representative for Region 6 and everyone on the PCN is looking forward to working with her.

MNO thanks Premier McGuinty for his dedicated service

Premier McGuinty has dedicated 22 years of his life to the service of the people of Ontario,” stated President Lipinski. “On behalf of the MNO I want to thank him for that service.”

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“I have had the opportunity to meet with, and work closely with, Premier McGuinty over the last several years,” explained President Lipinski. “On behalf of the MNO, I want to thank him for that service.”

President Lipinski cited the signing of the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement in 2008 as pivotal in advancing the agenda to end violence affecting Métis, First Nations and all Ontario citizens, with Premier McGuinty over the last several years, “explained President Lipinski. “On behalf of the MNO, I want to thank him for that service.”

The Framework Agreement set the tone for our work with Ontario under Premier McGuinty and led to numerous similar agreements with government ministries, agencies and postsecondary institutions,” said President Lipinski.

“Premier McGuinty has dedicated 22 years of his life to the service of the people of Ontario,” stated President Lipinski. “On behalf of the MNO I want to thank him for that service.”

The Premier also played a major role in 2010 being declared the “Year of the Métis.” It was a historic and proud moment for the Métis to be recognized on the floor of the Legislature and this was indicative of the respect the Premier has always shown the Métis.”

In 2009, the McGuinty government established the “Chair for Metis Studies” at the University of Ottawa and in 2011 it signed an agreement to provide $30 million of funding over ten years to the Métis Youth Development Fund (MVDF). “The kinds of agreements reached with the Ontario Government under Premier McGuinty,” stated President Lipinski, “will improve the lives of Métis people in Ontario for many years to come.”

“We are very grateful for all of Premier McGuinty’s efforts for the Métis and all Ontario citizens,” concluded President Lipinski, “and wish him well in all his future endeavours.”

MNO thanks Premier McGuinty for his dedicated service

Ending violence against Aboriginal women

MNO continues efforts to reduce violence against Aboriginal women

O n September 24, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski, and Regional President, France Picotte, participated with other members of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Violence against Aboriginal Women (VAW) in a meeting in Toronto with the Honourable Laurel Broten, Minister Responsible for Women’s Issues; the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs; Gary Lipinski, MNO President; France Picotte, MNO Chair; Grand Chief Harvey Yesno, Chiefs of Ontario; and Doug Wilson, MNO Chief Operating Officer.

Following the resignation of JoAnne Wass as PCMNO Region Six Councillor, Tom Thompson Jr. has been selected by the PCMNO to complete her term.

The MNO has been a key player in advancing the agenda to end VAW and has participated in five summits as a full signatory to the Framework to End Violence against Aboriginal Women and as an active member of the PCN, an organization to report on its progress. The PCN is a national organization that works to support efforts to reduce the very high rates of violence against women in Ontario and that person shall be an excellent representative for Region 6 and everyone on the PCN is looking forward to working with her.

Tom Thompson Jr. is the new PCMNO Councillor for Region 6.

PCMNO

PCMNO Vacancy Filled

Tom Thompson Jr. selected to serve as Region 6 PCMNO Councillor

On September 28, 2012, the Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) announced the resignation of JoAnne Wass as Region 6 Councillor on the Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario. The PCMNO followed Section 10 of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Bylaws, which define the subsequent action to be taken:

If any vacancy occurs the region may appoint as a replacement, a citizen of the MNO, and that person shall hold office until the next election.

Accordingly, the PCMNO also reconvened on an annual basis. The information each individual provided was shared with the region at the meeting held October 14, 2012, in Toronto. Voting by secret ballot, the PCMNO selected Tom Thompson Jr. to serve as Region 6 Councillor. Thompson was elected with 88% of the vote. For the last several years Tom Thompson has been the President of the MNO High Land Water Métis Council.

“The PCMNO selected Tom from a strong field of candidates,” stated MNO President Gary Lipinski, “and we are very pleased there was so much interest in the position.” He added, “Tom brings many wonderful traits to the PCMNO, including great experience and dedication to the Métis cause. He will be an excellent representative for Region 6 and everyone on the PCMNO is looking forward to working with him.”

Tom Thompson Jr. is the new PCMNO Councillor for Region 6.
Government of Manitoba signs agreement with Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) ending a decade-long struggle for Métis harvesting rights

O n September 19, 2012, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski, offered congratulations to the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) and the Manitoba Government on the signing of a historic harvesting rights agreement.

The agreement is the result of a collaborative research and expansion of laws for the conduct of Métis harvesting as well as a Métis companion within the Métis Nation, said President Lipinski.

This agreement demonstrates that the time has finally come for governments to respect Métis rights and deal with the democratically elected governments of the Métis people. It also demonstrates that real progress and results can be achieved when forward-thinking governments work together,” concluded Lipinski.

For more information about the MNO-Metis agreement visit: www.mmf.mb.ca

Based on an original story: www.winipegfreepress.com/local/metis-hunting-rights-recognized-171903271.html
And the Spirit Lives On

Unique outdoor multi-media presentation portrays Métis ancestral spirits telling stories passed down by Métis elders

Welland playwright, Kay Annable, and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Niagara Region Métis Council President, Stephen Quesnelle, recently shared the history of the Métis with, “And the Spirit Lives On,” a light and sound performance told from the perspective of those who lived it. The event took place at a Welland cemetery the evenings of November 2nd and 3rd.

As part of the Welland edition of the “Niagara Nights of Art”, those in attendance had a chance to learn and enjoy the history of the Métis in Niagara told by the spirits who lived it.

While spectators walked outside of the cemetery, pre-recorded voices of modern Niagara Métis told the story through lighting and visual effects created by Joe Rodgers of Elechtech.

Five stations were set up at the cemetery. At four of these the spirits arose and recounted their Métis history through the magic of light and sound. At the fifth station live performers and Métis music courtesy of champion fiddler Cassandra Swan and guitarist Natalie Pihula completed the show written by Kay Annable with research supplied by MNO Niagara Region Métis Council President, Stephen Quesnelle.

“It’s actually looking at the history of the Métis as they were in southern Ontario,” said Annable, who viewed writing the script as an opportunity to share a rich and often overlooked history. She felt it was an amazing way to present the story that would “do the Métis proud.”

“We are called the lost people,” said Quesnelle, who was excited to see the history of his people shared. That history, he said, was essential to the exploration and formation of Canada as a country.

“I want people to realize they should be proud,” he said.

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

Métis on parade

By Barbaranne Wright
Niagara Region Métis Council

What a great day for a parade! The streets were packed with people who were so happy to see us. Our youngest Métis, Holden Shanks, was with us for the second year in a row and pleased to smile at crowds. Waving with both hands, Holden stole the show!

After the parade Niagara Region Métis Council citizens and volunteers enjoyed pizza and light refreshments at the home of Barbaranne Wright.
“Community and family are at the centre of the Métis Nation,” explained Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski, while attending one of the nine Métis Community Festivals organized by the MNO this summer and fall. “This is why we hold these events, they keep our culture vibrant and alive while giving us the opportunity to have fun and renew friendships.”

Enthusiastic crowds gathered for the Métis Community Festivals held May 27, near Windsor; July 11, at the local park in Bancroft; July 14, at Ma-Ta-Way Park near Renfrew; September 8, at Aaron Park near Dryden; September 13, at the Massey Fair Grounds near Sudbury; September 22, at Silver Lake Park near Port Dover; September 23, at Talbot Park near Lefebvre, and his harvesting team also demonstrated working with cedar wood, which is used in the building of birch bark canoes.

In keeping with Métis spiritual beliefs, MNO Senators provided opening and closing prayers at each festival, setting the proper tone for the events and reminding all participants to be thankful.

### Traditional Practices

Métis culture and traditions were front and centre at each festival. MNO Chair, France Picotte, for example, taught the basic techniques for finger-weaving sashes at the Camp Bickell event. “A key part of these celebrations,” said Chair Picotte, “is passing on the traditional Métis knowledge to our young people.” Region 3 Captain of the Hunt, Andy Lefebvre, and his harvesting team also displayed a moose hanging on poles at Camp Bickell. The moose was shot by Jacques Bickell near Iroquois Falls, and, September 23, at Talbot Park near Lefebvre. The moose was shot by Jacques Bickell near Iroquois Falls; and, September 30, near Port McNicoll; September 29, at Camp Bickell event. “A key part of these celebrations,” said Chair Picotte, “is passing on the traditional Métis knowledge to our young people.”

### Music & Dancing

Music and dancing were big parts of most of the festivals. The Kwejikweowag Métis Women’s Drum Group, the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Youth Drummers, Cindy Thompson’s fiddle students and the Copegog Family Band provided lively performances at the Talbot Park Festival, while Senator John and Dylinda George fired up the dance floor with a jigging workshop at the Aaron Park event. The Talbot Park Festival was also enlivened by Lillian Penner, a young fiddler who got everyone’s heels tapping. Daryle Gardepy taught dance techniques at the Ma-Ta-Way Park event and Les Amis Qui Danse group provided square-dancing instruction at Camp Bickell.

### Community Freezers

Our natural heritage was also celebrated at the Kenora Métis Warmth and Wellness event with a jigging workshop at the Aaron Park event. Hank and Scott Rowlinson provided instruction and supervision and everyone had a great time! Our natural heritage was also celebrated at the festivals. In Aaron Park, Arlene Williams led a nature walk, which enjoyed great participation despite rain during that particular festival.

### Something for everyone

Every festival had many activities for the children and laughter filled the air, especially during events such as the good old-fashioned four-person snowshoe races at Club Richelieu. There were also vendors, displays and door prizes at most of the events. The cooks won rave reviews for their meals that always included traditional Métis fare such as bannock, roasted corn, fish-fry, venison, and moose stew.

Each Métis Community Festival was a resounding success. The hard work of MNO Community Council volunteers with the assistance of MNO staff paid off in enjoyable events for all involved. “Our Métis culture,” stated President Lipinski, “is something that we all can be very proud of, and something that our families and communities keep alive. It is events like these that really bring that home!”

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On August 1, 2012, the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Traditional Territory Consultation Committee travelled to Chapleau, Ontario, to participate in a meeting with Tembec’s forestry staff for the Martel Forest. After introductions, Tembec provided the committee with a tour of the Chapleau sawmill complex including log unloading, debarking and slashing decks; sawmill in-feed decks and saw-line, including trimmer, edger and stacker operations; and the final process at the planer mill, where the lumber is dressed and packaged. The committee took full advantage of the tour and asked numerous questions during each stop.

The meeting served as an opportunity to bring both parties to the table and discuss forest management practices, future planning for the Martel Forest, the status of the current Forest Management Plan, update on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, and general information related to forest management. At the end of the day the focus was on establishing the next steps. Both parties agreed that continued communication is an important factor in developing a long term relationship. Tembec and the committee have agreed that the sharing of the Annual Work Schedule (AWS) will take place after the first submission to the Ministry of Natural Resources. The committee will be given the opportunity to review the documentation and provide Tembec with comments that Métis citizens may have concerning the AWS.

TEMBEC INFO: Tembec, a global leader in sustainable forest management practices, is a manufacturer of forest products: lumber, pulp, paper and specialty cellulose. CONTACT: Alden Barty, Consultation Coordinator, MNO Land, Resources and Consultations, aaldenb@metisnation.org

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Harvesters Committee was recently involved in two different conservation efforts. The first was the planting of 4,000 trees at the “Millennium Tract” in Simcoe County Forest near Barrie. The Harvesters were responsible for the planning of one section of the planting including over 300 hardwoods, which, when mature, will provide food for wildlife in the area. The volunteers thank Steven Richmond for helping out. Steve also received credit towards his community service requirements for high school.

The Harvesters were assisted by Georgian Bay Bassmasters (a fishing club for men and women that provides fishing education and information, and is involved in youth and conservation activities in the community) and First Wye Marsh Scouts; both had excellent member support. The tree planting was supervised and supported financially by North Simcoe Anglers and Hunters Conservation Club who provided $6,500.00 for the cost of the trees. Hats off to them!

The other conservation effort was the Georgian Bay Bassmasters’ fish habitat project. The Georgian Bay Bassmasters place fish habitats in the water to offer small fish a place to hide and grow. They have been doing this for many years. This is the second year that the MNO Georgian Bay Harvesters Committee has been included in this project. Artificial reefs are used throughout the United States and Canada as a proven strategy for improving fish stocks.

This year, the GBHC Harvesters received a letter of appreciation from the Georgian Bay Bassmasters. “I would like to thank Chris Charter for helping and for his efforts on behalf of the Harvesters Committee,” said Larry Ferris.
Nuclear Site-seeing

As part of the engagement program associated with Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) Project for the long-term management of low and intermediate level radioactive waste at the Bruce nuclear site, OPG committed to facilitate tours with MNO representatives. Three information tours have been arranged to date by Melanie Hamilton, MNO's Nuclear Waste Liaison. The tours took place in November 2009, November 2011 and most recently, on July 6, 2012. The tour groups consisted of MNO citizens, council representatives and MNO staff. Altogether about 50 Mètis participated in the three tours.

The groups toured OPG’s Western Waste Management Facility (WWMF) and the DGR project site. All of the participants said they appreciated the opportunity to see the facilities firsthand. Several comments were made, including seeing for themselves what the nuclear waste is like and how it is currently managed. The community members remarked they were surprised with the small amount of waste.

An important aspect of the tours was getting a chance to ask questions and comment on the project. All comments and questions from tour participants were recorded by Melanie Hamilton—forming a record of engagement between MNO and OPG. Below is a sampling of the types of questions asked by participants, and the answers provided by the DGR representative.

Q: What is nuclear waste?
A: Nuclear waste is the solid waste produced by the nuclear industry that is not suitable for recycling. This includes spent fuel, reprocessing waste and contaminated equipment and buildings.

Q: What is low and intermediate level waste?
A: Low and intermediate level nuclear waste are the waste that is most common. They are used to make energy, but they contain some amount of radioactivity. These waste includes items such as used fuel, floor sweepings and protective clothing. Low level waste may be processed through incineration or composting to reduce its volume before storage.

Q: What monitoring is proposed before, during and after construction?
A: Monitoring is planned before, during and after construction. An Environmental Assessment Follow-up Monitoring Program was included in OPG’s submission to the Joint Review Panel. This program outlines monitoring to verify the effects predicted in the environmental assessment and assess the effectiveness of the mitigation measures, as well as that associated with regulatory requirements.

Q: Will there be any impact on migratory species (birds, fish and animals)?
A: The environmental assessment considered potential effects of the DGR Project on habitat utilization, and vehicle strikes for a number of wildlife species. No residual effects are predicted for any migratory species.

Q: Is there sufficient funding for this project in the long-term?
A: An existing segregated fund, which has been accumulating funds as part of electricity rates, will be used to pay the cost of the DGR Project. The segregated fund is close to being fully funded.

Q: What is the temperature of the rock change?
A: The low and intermediate level waste gives off little heat. Geothermal properties of the rock at the repository level will not be impacted.

Q: What is low and intermediate level waste?
A: 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 mop heads, cloths, paper towels, floor sweepings and protective clothing. Low level waste may be processed through incineration or composting to reduce its volume before storage.

Intermediate level waste consists primarily of used reactor core components and ion-exchange resins and filters used to treat water streams. Ninety-five percent of the total low and intermediate level waste received at the WWMF is low level.

Q: What is the Deep Geologic Repository?
A: OPG is proposing to construct and operate a Deep Geologic Repository for the long-term management of low and intermediate level nuclear waste. The DGR will be located adjacent to OPG’s Western Waste Management Facility (WWMF) at the Bruce nuclear site, in Kincardine, Ontario. The DGR facility would manage about 200,000 cubic meters of low and intermediate level waste. Only low and intermediate level waste from OPG-owned or operated nuclear generating stations in Ontario will be accepted for storage in the DGR.

Used fuel will not be stored in the DGR. The DGR is proposed to be located about 680 m (2230 feet) below ground surface in low permeability limestone, beneath a 200 m (640 feet) thick layer of low permeability shale. OPG believes the Bruce site is ideally suited for the DGR because of the natural attributes of this rock.

www.opg.com/dgr

Métis Citizens share concerns about OPG’s proposed Deep Geologic Repository

Métis citizens share concerns about OPG’s proposed Deep Geologic Repository.

MNO citizens, council representatives and MNO staff tour OPG's Western Waste Management Facility (WWMF) and the DGR project site.

WHAT IS LOW AND INTERMEDIATE LEVEL WASTE?

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The Bruce nuclear site lies within the tectonically stable interior of the North American continent, an area with low seismic potential.

Historic records indicate that in 180 years there were no recorded earthquakes of magnitude greater than 5. A Seismic Hazard Assessment of earthquakes ranging to 7.5 magnitude concluded that earthquakes will not impact the safe operation or long-term ability of the DGR to safely isolate and contain low and intermediate level waste.

OPG is proposing to construct and operate a Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) Project for the long-term management of low and intermediate level waste. The DGR Project will be new ditches separate from the existing on-site drainage ditches.

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OPG's Deep Geologic Repository is a long-term nuclear waste management solution for the Bruce site.
Piping for Vimy

In January 1945, some members of all the Canadian Highland Infantry, including this article’s author Donn Fowler, were fighting north towards Germany, when they were suddenly ordered out of action and exchanged battle-dress for kilts and reclaimed their bagpipes and drums...

By Donn Fowler

The ninth day of April, 1945, was the 28th anniversary of the taking of Vimy Ridge in 1917, by Canadian soldiers, many of whom were Aboriginal Canadians—Métis and “Indian”. A military order had come down to our Canadian WWII Highland units from the 9th Canadian (Highland) Brigade Headquarters. It was circulated for the purpose of ordering that certain trained fighting soldiers were to become LOB (left out of battle) and the centrepiece for a very special commemorative ceremonial monument, both facing down the slope of the hill. After several unsuccessful attempts, the solution was to divide the total massed band into two sections; one portion of the hill. The unified sound of the intended music. The solution was to divide the total massed band into two sections; one section at each end of the huge monument, both facing down the slope of the hill. After several unsuccessful marching practice runs downhill, each of which became a terrible cacophony of dissonant sounds, another solution had to be found. Finally, a hair-raising, (in my view) wonderful blending of the entire massed band sound was attained. The solution was to have only half of the band play while the other half at the other end of the monument held their pipes and drums as though playing, but not playing until both sections had converged, row by row, at the bottom of the hill.

We had given up our pipes and drums for action as stretcher-bearers, specialized medical attendants in the RAP (Regimental Aid Posts), vehicle drivers, dispatch riders, or ordinary rifle soldiers. However, all of the surviving pipers and drummers were suddenly bandsmen again, and reunited at Vimy as one huge band of Canadian pipers and drummers. We had come from all over Canada: British Columbia (Canadian Scottish Regiment) to Nova Scotia, and all those Highland units in between in the Canadian Army. It was a mass of ordinary rifle soldiers. As dispatch riders or ordinary rifle soldiers some of these bandsmen were KIA or DOW (killed in action or died of wounds).

Training at the Vimy Memorial was initially to determine the best way to present an affective and effective playing of appropriate highland tunes without confusing the resultant sound of the intended music. The solution was to divide the total massed band into two sections; one section at each end of the huge monument, both facing down the slope of the hill. After several unsuccessful marching practice runs downhill, each of which became a terrible cacophony of dissonant sounds, another solution had to be found. Finally, a hair-raising, (in my view) wonderful blending of the entire massed band sound was attained. The solution was to have only half of the band play while the other half at the other end of the monument held their pipes and drums as though playing, but not playing until both sections had converged, row by row, at the bottom of the hill.

We then counter-marched together playing in unison up toward the monument at the top of the hill. The unified sound of the pipes and drums was a never-to-be-forgotten musical experience—a real tear-jerker to be honest—of a beautiful remembrance of our 1914-1918 fallen comrades, and of our fallen 1939-1945 comrades as well.

Many of the fallen from the 1914-1918 units were men of the 21st Battalion—who were buried where they fell at the time—and many of these came from Kingston, Ontario, a military town, and were mobilized from the PWOR (Princess of Wales’ Own Regiment [MG]) of Kingston. During WWII, the PWOR also supplied a company of recruits to the 1st Battalion, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders, and these ‘Glens’ became one of the three Battalions of the 9th Canadian Highland Brigade, along with the HLI and NNS (Highland Light Infantry of Canada and the North Nova Scotia Highlanders).
Every year on November 11, Métis from across the Homeland participate in Remembrance Day Ceremonies. Being part of these ceremonies is very important to Métis because we have contributed to the defense of Canada as far back as the War of 1812 as well as both World Wars, the Korean Conflict, peacekeeping missions and most recently, Afghanistan.

Over the years, many Métis have served and many have made the ultimate sacrifice. By making the Métis presence felt at Remembrance Day services, we show our respect for all veterans and we remind all Canadians of Métis service and sacrifice.

MNO veterans and citizens participated in Remembrance Day Services all over Ontario this year. These included the national ceremony in Ottawa, the provincial ceremony in Toronto and the City of Sudbury service.

Since 2004, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has laid a wreath at the National Cenotaph in Ottawa during National Remembrance Day ceremonies. The wreath is laid each year by MNO Executive Senator Reta Gordon and Métis veteran, Shaun Redmond. Senator Reta and Shaun have performed this important gesture on behalf of the MNO in good weather and bad because it is very meaningful on a personal level for both of them, and because it is important to recognize our many Métis veterans who gave and continue to give so much in securing and sustaining the rights and freedoms that we all enjoy.

Shaun enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1971 and rose to the rank of lieutenant prior to joining the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in 1980. Although retired, he still serves as a captain in the Reserves and trains cadets. “My father’s brother was killed in action in Italy during World War II,” explained Shaun, “and it [laying the wreath] is a way to remember him.”

Each year following protocol, Shaun, as a veteran, presents the MNO wreath to Senator Reta who then lays the wreath on the cenotaph. Senator Reta’s father and her nine uncles all participated in World War II. Then later in the 1950s, her four brothers also served in the military and one of her brothers, Senator George Kelly, even participated in the national Remembrance Day ceremonies this year. “It is good to let everyone know the Métis are here and that we support Remembrance Day,” explained Senator Reta.

This year Senator Reta and Shaun also participated in a ceremony at the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument prior to the National Remembrance Day Ceremony. The National Aboriginal Veterans Monument is located a short distance away from the National Cenotaph and is an important symbol of the contributions of Métis and other Aboriginal veterans to Canada.

Another Remembrance Day service took place at the Sudbury Arena this November 11 with several MNO citizens actively participating. The Rev. Steve Callaghan, Métis veteran and Councillor on the MNO Sudbury Métis Council provided the prayer during the ceremony and a wreath was laid on the Cenotaph on behalf of the MNO by Senator Kempton Gravelle and Gail Charbonneau, Métis Facilitator at Cambrian College in Sudbury.

This year MNO veterans Harvey Horlock and Senator Alis Kennedy were also invited by the Office of the Premier to attend provincial Remembrance Day Ceremonies at Queen’s Park in Toronto. This was Premier McGuinty’s last Remembrance Day as Premier. It was under his leadership that the Veterans’ Memorial Mural was created.

Brigadier-General Omer Lavoie, who served in Afghanistan, spoke of how difficult it was to send soldiers to their death and to have to tell their parents and loved ones of their passing. Major-General Richard Rohmer, Canada’s most highly decorated soldier also addressed those in attendance.

The participation of MNO veterans and citizens in these Remembrance Day ceremonies and ones like them all over the Métis Homeland is very important to the whole Métis Nation because it reminds all Canadians of the sacrifices the Métis have made and of our long tradition of military service.

Lest We Forget

Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans and Citizens maintain vital Remembrance Day traditions
Louis Riel Day events celebrated throughout Métis Homeland

Fulfilling Riel’s Drea

QUEEN’S PARK • TORONTO

LOUIS RIEL DAY NOVEMBER 16th

Fulfilling Riel’s Dream. Riel Day events celebrated throughout Métis Homeland

any Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) chartered community councils held flag raisings, feasts and cultural cele-

brations to recognize Louis Riel Day. As in the past, provincial ceremonies were held at Queen’s Park in Toronto because the Northwest Rebellion mon-

ument and the Provincial Parliament Building are both located there. Ironically, the monument recognizes the Canadian soldiers who fought in the Northwest Resistance against the Métis, but on Louis Riel Day it is draped with Métis symbols and a portrait of Louis Riel is reverentially placed upon it.

It was a beautiful fall day in Toronto for this year’s provincial ceremony with over 100 people in attendance, not only from the Toronto area, but from as far away as Thunder Bay. As in the past, events started with a flag raising cere-

mony. Jennifer Henry, the Postsecondary Rep-

resentative on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), raised the flag with MNO President, Gary Lipinski, the Honourable Dave Levac, Speaker of the Ontario Legislature, and the Honourable Chris Bentley, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Minister of Energy looking on.

Following the flag ceremony, the partic-
pants formed a procession led by members of the No. 10 Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion and accompanied by Métis fiddler Ali-

cia Bores. The No. 10 Legion Branch has been participating in Louis Riel Day ceremonies for 12 years and their dedication and service was commented upon by several of the speakers during the ceremony that followed the proces-
sion. Although Alicia had broken her leg a few days prior to Louis Riel Day, she refused to be deterred from participating in the procession and her determination provided a shining example of the Métis spirit!

The procession made its way to the North-

west Rebellion monument where the official Riel Day ceremony was held. PCMNO Senator Joseph Poitras provided the opening prayer and thanked the Creator for the many blessings received by the Métis and for bringing people of many different affiliations together to recognize Riel Day. MNO Chair France Picotte, escorted the ceremony and welcomed everyone. She set a positive tone for the ceremony stating: “On each Riel Day I ask those assembled to think back to the last Riel Day and remember what they have done to advance the Métis Nation in the last year, and to also think forward about what they will do in the upcoming year for the Métis people.”

Next to address the crowd was the Honour-

able Dave Levac, Speaker of the Ontario Parliament. Speaker Levac is an MNO citizen and is the first person of Métis ancestry to serve as the speaker of a provincial parliament or leg-

islature in Canada. He related the story of how he discovered his Métis heritage and he explained now that he is aware of his back-
ground it means “...more to me than I ever knew it could.” He added that as speaker, his oficial portrait would eventually be painted and displayed in the Parliament Building. Proudly he stated that in this portrait he would be wearing his sash, “because I am Métis,” he proclaimed.

Speaker Levac was followed to the podium by MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride. Vice-chair McBride said that she would have liked to meet Louis Riel so that she could tell him that “his people are not ashamed—we are a recognized Aboriginal people.” She also said she would like to tell him that “...you are loved and remem-

bered” and “your spirit lives on through all of us.”

Chair Picotte introduced the next speaker, the Honourable Chris Bentley, Minister of Abso-

ritual Affairs and Minister of Energy, as a “good friend of the Métis.” It was noted that Minister Bentley enjoys an unrivaled record for attend-

ing MNO Annual General Assemblies and other MNO events and has played a role in some of our greatest achievements. Minister Bentley commented that the Métis have “shown lead-

ership, endured great challenges and made sac-

rifices,” for the betterment of all Canadians. He also spoke about the success of the MNO Ontario Framework Agreement, signed in 2009, that has contributed to building a strong positive relationship between the MNO and the Government of Ontario, which led to among other things, the establishment of the Métis- Voyager Development Fund. “The re-kindling of the Métis-entrepreneurial spirit,” declared Minister Bentley “was an important result of our working together.”

Michael Prue, a New Democratic Party (NDP) Member of the Provincial Parliament (MPP) represented NDP leader Andrea Hor-

wath at the ceremony. As a member of the No. 10 Legion Branch, MPP Prue has attended Louis Riel ceremonies loyalty for 12 years. In his statements he focused on how dramatically attitudes towards Louis Riel have changed since he was first taught about Riel in high school. “Children are learning a different story,” he commented, “today he [Riel] is recognized as a true Father of Confederation.”

Métis youth were represented at the cere-

omy by PCMNO Postsecondary Representa-

tive Jennifer Henry. Representative Henry spoke about the value and importance of post-

secondary education in insuring a strong future for the MNO. She also explained that we must “teach our youth the stories of our past,” and
for this “we look to our elders.” Representative Henry spoke eloquently in tribute to one of the MNO’s great elders, Senator Earl Scofield, who had passed away earlier in the month. She declared: “His [Senator Scofield’s] spirit lives on in the Métis Nation.”

As in most past years, the MNO was honoured with the presence of Jean Teillet at the Queen’s Park Ceremony. Ms. Teillet is the great-grandniece of Louis Riel and is the famous Métis rights lawyer who took the Powley Case to the Supreme Court of Canada and won. Chair Picotte commented when introducing Ms. Teillet that by defending Métis rights in the courts, “she has taken on the family business to make sure the Nation is vibrant and alive.” In her remarks, Ms. Teillet focused on the improvements the Métis have seen in the last decade. “We are not fighting that house anymore,” she said, referring to the Ontario Parliament only a short distance away. “Things have changed dramatically from the days when people took up arms; from the days full of disgrace.” She added, “we have worked hard and the yardstick has moved forward.” She concluded her remarks saying: “The fact that we are here [at this ceremony] over a 100 years later, is a testament to the power that his [Riel’s] image has created for us.”

The final speaker was MNO President, Gary Lipinski. President Lipinski said that Riel sacrificed himself for his dream so that the Métis might take their rightful place in Confederation. Referring to his execution, President Lipinski said: “It was a travesty that should not have happened. Think of the Canada we could have built if his ideas would have been embraced. When Louis Riel was executed, all Canadians lost a great leader.” President Lipinski then highlighted how the MNO is working to fulfill Riel’s dream. “Providing Métis children and youth with the opportunity to be the best they can be,” he stated, “is a key priority.” He also described the MNO’s plans to build economic self-sufficiency so the MNO will no longer be dependent on government funding.

“It is these types of goals that speak to the aspirations of the Métis people,” he said. The ceremony ended with the laying of wreaths of remembrance on the Northwest Rebellion monument. The participants then moved inside the Provincial Parliament building for a delicious traditional Métis feast. After everyone enjoyed an excellent meal, President Lipinski made a special presentation. Two MNO veterans, Harvey and Norman Horlock had been unable to attend this year’s Annual General Assembly, where other MNO veterans were presented with Queen’s Jubilee Medals. While Norman was still unable to attend Riel Day in Toronto, Harvey was able to attend and received his medal from President Lipinski and accepted Norman’s medal on his behalf.
Remembering Riel

Chartered MNO community councils organize Riel Day events in their communities

In Sudbury, Louis Riel Day events drew around 120 people of all ages and backgrounds. Students from both the French and English school boards participated, as did pre-school-age children and adults. The Métis flag was raised and workshops were held on Métis music, the sash and culture. “We prayed for our next generation,” said MNO Sudbury Métis Council Chair, Rick Meilleur, “to learn about their culture and continue to spread the Métis way.”

The MNO Grand River Métis Council held a Métis flag raising ceremony at Guelph City Hall and during the ceremony presented a sash to the Mayor of Guelph. The event included Métis fiddling and jigging, finger-weaving, a delicious feast and MNO displays. Louis Riel Day events sponsored by the MNO Sunset Country Métis Council in Fort Francis included jigging and spooning workshops and demonstrations. The MNO Niagara Region Métis Council held flag raising ceremonies at both the St. Catharines and Welland City Halls and presented sashes to the Mayors of each city.

In her presentation, Ms. Teillet recounted how some Aboriginal and Métis rights were finally included in The Constitution Act, 1982. She spoke about the results of this achievement, as well as those hopes that remain unfulfilled.

Mr. Madden reviewed some of the significant legal cases influencing Métis rights currently in front of courts in Canada. He demonstrated that the various legal cases being fought across the Homeland are starting to “colour in the map,” as more and more territory is added to areas where Métis rights are being recognized.

In her presentation, Dr. MacDougall provided some personal examples of the issues that her legal colleagues had addressed by looking at the history of the Métis Laframboise family. She demonstrated that this Family, in many respects, typifies the Métis experience.

Following the panel discussion, the seminar participants enjoyed a performance from Métis singer, Rebecca Cuddy, and a reading by Métis writer, Maria Campbell, from her book Stories of the Road Allowance People.

The state of Métis law, research and self-government in Canada

South of the provincial Louis Riel Day ceremony at Queen’s Park, the MNO partnered with the Law Society of Upper Canada to host a seminar on The State of Métis Law, Research and Self-Government in Canada. The seminar is held annually as part of the Law Society’s Equity Initiative Program that delivers a series of public education events throughout the year to promote awareness, education, and discussion on the challenges and opportunities facing Aboriginal, Francophone and other equality-seeking communities.

This year’s seminar featured a panel discussion with Métis lawyers Jean Teillet and Jason Madden, as well as Dr. Brenda MacDougall, the Chair of Métis Studies at the University of Ottawa. The panel was moderated by Métis lawyer Margaret Froh and included comments from Law Society of Upper Canada “Bencher”, Susan Hare, and MNO President, Gary Lipinski.
Dedication & Service

MNO Community Council members awarded Queen’s Jubilee Medals

Three members of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) chartered Community Councils were recognized recently for their contributions to their community councils and to the Métis Nation. These included Stephen Quesnelle, the outgoing President of the Niagara Region Métis Council; Derrick Pont, the newly elected President of the Niagara Region Métis Council; and Doris Evans, the Secretary-Treasurer of the MNO North Bay Métis Council.

Doris Evans

Doris Evans received a Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal from Nipissing Member of the Provincial Parliament Vic Fedeli. Doris is not only the Secretary-Treasurer of the MNO North Bay Métis Council but also a local Métis Elder. She was nominated for working to forge ties between local Métis and area communities, and her active promotion of Métis culture and heritage.

Doris was surprised with the medal presentation at the Métis flag-raising at North Bay City Hall marking Louis Riel Day.

“Since relocating to North Bay 15 years ago after a lifelong career serving others in nursing, Doris has truly made a difference in many lives here,” said Fedeli. “It’s wonderful that Doris made a difference in many lives here,”

Stephen Quesnelle

Stephen Quesnelle was presented with the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal by Malcolm Allen, the Member of Parliament for Welland; at a ceremony held at the Welland Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. Stephen was one of 30 recipients from the area and the ceremony was attended by over 200 people. The medal recognizes his more than 13 years of volunteer work promoting Métis culture and serving in various capacities on the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council and its predecessor the MNO Welland Métis Council. As President of the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council between 2010 and 2012, Stephen raised the profile of the Métis community in the district through Louis Riel Day flag-raising events in several Niagara Region cities, participation in Canada Day events, Remembrance Day ceremonies, and local parades. He formed a very successful partnership with the Welland Historical Museum and served on Aboriginal housing and education committees. Stephen has actively and enthusiastically represented the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council at school and college presentations. He also recently spoke at the Ontario Museum Association Annual Conference and initiated discussions with Niagara College that led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the College and the MNO.

Derrick Pont

Derrick Pont was presented with a Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal by Niagara West Member of the Provincial Parliament Dean Allison on November 13. He was recognized for over 25 years of volunteering, which began with a long and successful association with the Scouting movement.

Derrick joined the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council in 2008 and prior to being elected president this year, served as Chair and as a member of the Consultation Committee. He is passionate about Métis education and has presented to many schools in the Niagara region, teaching students and teachers about Métis history, culture and way-of-life. He believes it is very important to educate the public concerning the misconceptions about Métis people and his dedication to Métis rights has enlightened and inspired many.

Doris, Stephen and Derrick are all worthy recipients of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal and their dedication and service makes them excellent role models for Métis youth.

All in the family

Three Métis siblings honoured with Queen’s Jubilee Medals

Recently, three members of the same Métis family each received Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medals. The recipients are Senator Reta Gordon and her brothers, twin John and George Kelly. George Kelly was recently chosen as “Senator of the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans’ Council” (see Voyageur 72, page 22). John and George are both Métis veterans who served in the Canadian Navy and in that capacity attended the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in London in 1953.

Métis culture celebrated at Discovery Harbour

On August 11th, 2012, visitors to Discovery Harbour enjoyed a serving of Métis heritage and culture during the seventh annual Métis Day. Bo’yee Neejee. “Bo’you neckie’ is a combination of the French greeting “bonjour” and the Ojibwa word for friend, “nejejee” and was a common greeting during the fur trade era in Canada. Discovery Harbour has a strong historic connection to the Métis people who were part of the military migration from Drummond Island to the original Penetanguishene base in 1826 following the War of 1812.

New this year was the Kwikwetlem Métis Women’s Drum Group, who performed morning and afternoon. The C and C Métis Singers presented “The Métis Traditional Shanty ‘Cache, a theatrical-style performance that focussed on the Métis tradition of sharing and caring. The Métis Fiddler Quartet, renowned for their mastery of both traditional and Métis old-style fiddle playing, appeared three times throughout the day. Rounding out the day’s entertainment with more great toe-tapping tunes were popular fiddler Alicia Flore and the music and vocals of La Famille Lelouve.

Métis culture was also celebrated through displays and demonstrations: traditional sash weaving, fur trade trapping, beadwork, and moccasin making. Visitors were able to hear Michif—the traditional language of the Métis, see a voyageur encampment and learn about life in the wilderness: baghooking, history, tailoring, leather bag making, and cooking demonstrations that included the traditional ‘three sisters’ soup’ and harnock, illustrated domestic life.

There was even a horse-and-wagon ride that transported visitors from the admission area to displays and activities.
Aboriginal health programming under siege

Funding cuts make it difficult for Aboriginal organizations to participate in health research

By Paul Christopher Webster
Toronto, On

The federal government is deliberately undermining capacity to generate accurate Aboriginal health data and circumscribing discredited health data so as to downplay the severity of the Aboriginal health crisis in Canada, critics charge. The strategy includes attempts to undermine national data-gathering capability, publishing data that underestimates infant mortality and suicide rates, and slashing funds for Aboriginal associations that were involved in data gathering and research, the critics add.

"My fear is that the government is reverting back to generating Aboriginal health policies without input from Aboriginal researchers," says Claudette Dumont Smith, President of the Native Women's Association of Canada. "We no longer get to participate in health programs, including many with research components. We've been silenced."

National Aboriginal health data is "shabby", Dr. Michael Kramer, professor of pediatrics, epidemiology and biostatistics at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, says, adding that the government's decision to abolish the mandatory long form census casts serious doubt on its commitment to generating reliable data on Aboriginal health conditions.

Several others concur. "This appears to be a concerted effort by the government to diminish the collection of data about Aboriginal health conditions," notes Peggy Taillon, President of the Canadian Council on Social Development, a nongovernmental organization in Ottawa which has filed a lawsuit against the government for abandoning its responsibility to collect data on Aboriginal and other disadvantaged communities.

"If you don't ask the question you don't get the data. And if you don't have the data you don't have to respond to the health needs," she says, adding that the association is equally disturbed by discrimination of such initiatives as the Aboriginal Children's Survey.

Among the most egregious elements of the campaign is the publication of inaccurate infant mortality data, charges Dr. Janet Smylie, associate professor of family medicine at the University of Toronto in Ontario and research scientist at the Keelman Research Centre of the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital.

Public Health Agency of Canada (phac) data asserts that the infant mortality rate on Aboriginal reserves is 7 deaths per 1000 live births, about 40% higher than the national average. "But Smylie's studies, conducted under the rubric of the Canadian Perinatal Surveillance System, indicate that the rate is at least double the national average (Can J Public Health 2010;101:143–48). "The government continues to dodge the facts on Aboriginal infant mortality," she says.

The cuts to Aboriginal research capacity, meanwhile, pose a long-term threat to evidence-based Aboriginal health care, warns Dr. Marcia Anderson DeCoteau, assistant professor of community health sciences at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg and past President of the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada. "What gets measured gets done."

Smylie's evidence that Aboriginal infant mortality rates are incorrect is likely typical of other indicators of Aboriginal health status that are either misrepresented or unknown, DeCoteau adds: "Life expectancy among Aboriginal peoples is also a contested core indicator. I believe the official figures underestimate inequities in life expectancy by at least 30%.

At least 10 Aboriginal bodies have had their health research funding cut by the government, including the Native Healing Foundation, the National Aboriginal Health Organization, the First Nations Statistical Institute, the Native Women's Association of Canada, the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatsiaq.

"We're seeing a systematic rollback in Aboriginal health research capacity," says Bruce Dumont, President of the Métis Nation of British Columbia, and Minister of Health for the Métis National Council. "These cuts could well be terminal for Métis-led health research, which was in its infancy."

Similarly, Terry Audla, President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatsiaq, argues that the cuts impair the ability to "meaningfully engage" in health research at a time when life expectancy among the Inuit is 15 years shorter than the Canadian average, while suicide rates are 11 times higher, and infant mortality rates 3 times higher, than the national average.

The money the government saved through such cuts "will be lost many-fold as the flow of information and the creation of new knowledge and capacity with which Aboriginal peoples were addressing their health inequities ceases," says Sylvia Abotiy, Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Health at the University of Saskatchewan.

Health Canada has also slashed intramural funding for a host of Aboriginal programs, including ones to address diabetes, fetal alcohol syndrome, youth suicide, infectious diseases and maternal and child health. The cuts prompted Thomas Dignan, Chair of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Aboriginal Health Advisory Committee and acting community medicine specialist for Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch in Thunder Bay, Ontario, to decry that "the state of Aboriginal health is a national embarrassment and leadership is needed now more than ever."


For its part, the federal government says it is now examining the accuracy of infant mortality data and is shifting Aboriginal health research funding under the rubric of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), according to PHAC spokesman Sylwia Gomes and Health Canada spokesman Gary Holub.

Gomes says the agency is aware that the figures it publishes on Aboriginal infant mortality have been challenged and notes that Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch is "currently addressing the quality of First Nations and Inuit infant mortality data through regional engagement with provinces, territories, and Aboriginal peoples."

Holub explains that as part of a government-wide administrative overhaul, federal Aboriginal health research funds "will primarily be administered through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, while Health Canada focuses primarily on overseeing the First Nations and Inuit Health program."

CIHR has invested $151.5 million in health research related to Aboriginal peoples' health since 2006, including $31 million in fiscal 2010-11, Holub notes. He adds that CIHR launched a $25 million initiative aimed at understanding how to reduce Aboriginal health inequities.

But Malcolm King, scientific director for the CIHR's Institute of Aboriginal Peoples Health, believes that many of the Aboriginal health organizations that have been defunded by Health Canada played an important role in helping CIHR-supported researchers establish community-based research programs. The cuts "certainly make it more difficult for Aboriginal organizations to participate in health research," he notes.

MNO Healing and Wellness staff take part in Diabetes Expo

Richard Aubin, of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Healing and Wellness Branch in Timmins, and Julie St. Onge, of the Canadian Diabetes Association, co-chaired the fourth annual Diabetes Expo on October 18 and 19 at the Centre Culturel L'Alouette in Timmins. Aubin commented that the two-day event has increased its reach to professionals and the general public by at least 50 percent.

"We have a great committee dedicated to this event and some really wonderful sponsors who I want to thank for their support," said St. Onge.

The two-day event included expert speakers; a series of workshops; a "kids’ program"; and a provide one-stop shop to local health care professionals in attendance, and to health care workers in Kapuskasing, Kirkland Lake, New Liskeard, North Bay, Moose Factory, Fort Albany and Hearst through live teleconferencing using the Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN).

Right: Richard Aubin (far left), of the MNO Healing and Wellness Branch in Timmins, co-chaired the fourth annual Diabetes Expo.
Métis crooner climbs charts

There's a new Métis singer/songwriter lighting up the adult contemporary charts.

Franklin McKay, a citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) based in Atikokan and Area Métis Council, recently released a new EP titled "Alimony," marking a fan-driven return to its reggae rock roots.

The artwork of Kristy Cameron, a well-known artist who has collaborated in the past with writer David Bouchard, was recently displayed at the Photographe Gallery in Atikokan.

Fier d'être Métis

Par Raymond D. Tremblay, Ottawa

Finalement j’ai découvert qui je suis. Livre d’espoir, je n’ai plus aucun ennui. En toute vérité, je me suis senti emballé. Réclamant mon héritage, j’ai vu mon passé. Dieu savait que mes ancêtres aimaient la nature. Tout à coup, j’ai ressenti une grande fierté bouillir en moi. Rien ne pouvait m’empêcher de crier ma joie sur tous les toits. Et oui, mon sang chaud de Métis circulait au sein de tout mon être.

Métis artists’ work featured at Atikokan gallery

The artwork of Kristy Cameron, a Councillor on the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Atikokan and Area Métis Council, was recently displayed at the Photographe Gallery in Atikokan.

Métis voyageur

Métis lead band releases new music

In the last edition of Métis Voyageur we introduced our readers to Métis artist Ryan Guay and his four-piece reggae rock band, Street Pharmacy (see page 8). On September 25, the band released a new EP, "Alimony," marking a fan-driven return to its reggae rock roots. Alimony is available for download on the band's Founding Fan site and iTunes.

ABOUT THE NEW EP

Six new songs were recorded for Alimony over six days at Catherine North Studios in Hamilton, Ontario. Highlights include the rule track "Alimony," which tackles the crumbling institution of marriage in today's society. The first track, "Step Outside," has anthem-like qualities similar to their 2007 release, Free Delivery, with a country-inspired bridge that is new to Street Pharmacy.

The second track is a unique reggae version of Blind Melon’s "Change" that fuses intricately folk instrumentals with reggae grooves and tight vocal melodies. Lead singer, Ryan Guay, demonstrates his strong but youthful pipes throughout the challenging vocals, staying true to both the original song and Street Pharmacy's distinctive reggae sound. Songs like "Twenty One" and "Shepherd's Pride" add more experimental song structures and arrangements to the band's distinctive sound.

The final song, "It Ain't That Crazy," is a reggae-infused hip hop track that features verses from Willard-based rapper Sosa and A Plus from Hieroglyphics/Souls of Mischief, one of the band's main musical influences. A Plus anchors the final verse with his signature hieroglyphics west coast flow, taking the EP to an unexpected, energized level. The track was produced and engineered by Adam Tune of live hip hop remix act "Keys n Krates." Tune has worked with Street Pharmacy since its inception in 2006. All of the other tracks were recorded and mixed by moon-and-6 and Marcone at Catherine North Studios, and produced by moon-and-6 and Ryan Guay.

To experience Street Pharmacy visit any of the media below: www.youtube.com/streetpharmacymusic www.streetpharmacy.com

Artists & Culture

Franklin McKay is an MNO citizen from Sault Ste. Marie pursuing a music career in Toronto.
I’ve often been asked to describe where my ideas come from when I write. They say “write about what you know”. Well, I spent most of my life learning about Canadian history, the fur trade, and the Aboriginal people. I also live my culture every day. I don’t set a special time aside to write, I let it come to me. I created my main characters in the first book of the saga, Rainbows in Time. I knew them, threw them in a situation, and then sat back and watched them. At times, the story evolved so quickly I could hardly keep up writing it down.

Miss of Time (Book 2) flew off my pen the moment Rainbows in Time was published, and so well received by my readers. In Miss of Time, Lee Ann and Michael had the children and the family they both wanted more than anything else in the world. The love they were deprived of in their youth grew was fun for me. Their antics and pranks literally spilled onto the page. The more I wrote, the livelier the characters became. Each child’s character was developing before my eyes, almost like a movie. Then Ben went to the Great Sand Hills. It wasn’t planned, it just happened. That scene was very difficult to write because it sprang from the heart and the fact that I still miss those I’ve lost in the years.

Tides of Time unrolled in twists and turns that explore our deepest emotions at times. Lee Ann and Michael face happiness and devastation that I hope will make the readers wonder how they would handle the situation. Their experiences will sometimes challenge our own beliefs and convictions. Like Lee Ann, the readers will not always agree with Michael’s actions, but he is doing what he believes is best for his family, his tribe and his people.

When taken together, I believe that this saga will capture our hearts. I wish all of you many pleasant blessed voyages in your lifetime.
Ralph Earl Scofield

WWII Veteran, Métis Senator Dies at 87
1925-2012

By Linda Lord

Ralph Earl Scofield was born in Margo, Saskatchewan on February 26, 1925, to Ralph William Scofield, a drover and farmer, and Clara Marie Chartrand, the daughter of Marie Cecile Ducharme and Gaspard Chartrand. In about two years, the family moved to The Pas, where Earl’s sister “Claire” was born.

After the separation of their parents, the children lived with their maternal grandparents, Marie and Gaspard Chartrand in The Pas where they attended Sacred Heart Catholic School. Grandfather Gaspard was a Métis fiddle player and a great step-dancer. He was employed as a fur buyer for the Northwest Fur Company and Revillon Frères Fur Company.

This was the time of The Great Depression and, as Senator Earl remembered: “We were squatters, work in the gold mines in the Porcupine area. Gaspard Chartrand. In about two years, Ralph Earl Scofield was born in Margo, Saskatchewan...”

1935, when I was 10 years old, I had four sled dogs that were used to haul wood for our kitchen stove. To feed the dogs, we boiled bones and guts from the butcher shops. On weekends, Fridays and Saturdays, the local grocery stores would take their vegetables and fruits to the city dump and would pass our place. When the fruit and vegetables were thrown in the garbage dump, I would pitch in and go to salvage what was still usable. My mother would wash it up. While in the bush getting wood, I would set a brass snare wire to catch rabbits. Life was very hard in the Great Depression. At the age of 14 Earl got a job working for an Italian farmer on Nabob Road at the creek. He was paid 50 cents each day, and received room and board. He gave all of his money ($15 a month) to his mother. It was a hard life: waking before day-light every day. There were plenty of chores to look after, such as cleaning the barn, pumping hundreds of gallons of water out of the creek for three horses, and 20 cows, bulls, pigs, and chickens. He worked on the farm for a couple of years until he was 16 years old in 1941.

Earl’s next job was at Pizzali Brothers International Bakery, making Italian bread for 12 dollars per week and one loaf of bread per day. Meanwhile, he attended night school at Timmins High School to learn machine shop and other related skills. After completing his courses, Earl found a job at the Dome Mine machine shop in South Porcupine making water pumps for the Navy. By now, the Second World War had begun and using his step-father’s name (Engman), both Earl and his mother joined the Algonquin Regiment Militia Reserve Army and began training at Niagara-on-the-Lake. A year later Senator Earl turned 18 and volunteered for the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Ralph Earl Scofield took the oath of allegiance with 26 other men at the theatre in Timmins, Ontario. First, he was sent to Edmonton, Alberta, then Moret Joli, Quebec and attended McGill University in pre-air crew training for the Air Force. As a graduate, Earl went to Three Rivers, Montreal, and Lachine, Quebec, before being sent to England to train on two-engine Wellington bombers, and then to a heavy conversion unit to train on Halifax four-engine bombers.

With this training completed Earl was sent to active duty on squadrons of Halifax bombers. The Halifax weighed 35 tons when loaded with bombs, seven or eight men, and 2200 gallons of 100 octane gas. Senator Scofield completed 17 missions over Germany, bombing targets mostly at night. When he was posted to #15 Swordfish Squadron at Eastmoor, Yorkshire, he found that his mother’s brother, Roger Chartrand, from The Pas, Manitoba, was at the same base but he was at #132 Squadron, called “Leaside.” During these war years there were four brothers in uniform and on active duty overseas: Earl’s brother “Cecil” is buried in Belgium; his step-brother, Henry Villeneuve, was in the army; Jules Villeneuve was in the Air Force, and is buried in England.

“On January 4, 1945, while attempting to take off for a bombing mission,” Senator Earl recalled, “We left the runway and passed between stockpiles of bombs. At a speed of over 100 miles per hour, we crashed into the trees on the far side of the aerodrome. At impact, I was thrown out of the tail turret and flew through the air and landed on a fallen tree. I had hurt my legs and my back. I was blown right out of my flight boots, but got up and ran until my legs could no longer support me. Our bomber exploded and burned up. All of our crew got out with only burns and minor injuries.”

When the war ended in Europe, Senator Earl was sent home for a month’s leave in Timmins before going off to fight Japan. However, the Americans dropped the atomic bombs on Japan and the war was over.

Earl was honorably discharged as a “Flight Sergeant Air Gunner” and began looking for work in the Timmins area. He tried lumbering, but found the mosquitoes and black flies more than he could bear. Earl said: “In that part of our world you are either in lumbering or mining, and... there aren’t many mosquitoes underground,” so he went back to work at the Dome Mine.

In 1950 Earl moved to the Windsor area where he worked five years for GM and then took a course in electronics and with that new skill went to the Chrysler Corporation until his retirement 28 years later. Senator Scofield received many well-deserved honours. He was a proud Métis, active with the Métis Nation of Ontario, Windsor, Essex, Kent Métis Council. He attended many MNO Annual General Assemblies (AGA), including AGA 2012, where he was presented with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

He was also a recipient of the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal, was invited and attended powwows where he participated in the Grand Entries carrying the eagle staff in honour of the veterans; was asked to be one of three elders on a dispute resolution committee for Health Canada in Windsor; was a member of the Air Force Club, the Canadian Legion, the National Aboriginal Veterans Association (NAVA) and the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans’ Association (MNOVA).
I am very sad to hear of the passing of Senator Earl Scofield. At the last AGA, right after the election of the PCMNO Senator, I was speaking with Earl and asked him to pray for me that I might be a Benefit to the Metis people as a PCMNO Senator. And, being the type of person that he was, he started to give me words of encouragement which helped me a lot. Then we started to talk about God—you could surely tell that this was a man who loved his Creator, and now he is with him. As a veteran, he contributed so much to his country and he was such an encouragement to all who got to know him.

We are grieving because we will miss him, but we can also celebrate his life because of the impact he has left on every one of us. This is not a sad ending for Earl Scofield, this is a happy beginning for him. He is at peace and at rest with his Creator. We are praying for his family and his loved ones that God will strengthen them as they go through this great loss. Knowing him has made a positive difference in my life.

God Bless.

– Rene Gravelle, PCMNO Senator

As we grieve the passing of Senator Earl Scofield we know he is in a better place, at peace with his Creator. I have learned through experience: it is those left behind that grieve, not for the Senator but for ourselves. They make such an impact on us we do not want to see them leave. As all of us know, Senator Scofield did just that, left us with memories, his knowledge, humour and of course his dedication to the Métis people. My recollection is of the Senators’ meeting when Senator Reta Scofield asked him to say the closing prayer, it was straight from the heart, he stated it would probably be his last closing prayer as his health was failing.

A little verse I read somewhere:

*When we are born, we come into the world crying as people standing around us laugh for joy, as we leave this world, have leaving with joy as people around us cry*.

My deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Senator Scofield.

– Verna Porter, PCMNO Senator

I met Senator Earl at my first AGA in Thunder Bay, in 2007; we connected right away. He treated me as a veteran despite the fact that I never served overseas. In my time, unlike today, women did not serve in missions, especially not in combat areas. I was very honoured to be present at the 2007 AGA, when, amongst six deserving veterans, Earl received his eagle feather from an Elder at the Sacred Fire, and when he received a cap, a veteran Canadian flag, and a sketch of himself that all the senators signed, he was truly touched by that.

Earl was always there to answer my questions when I was a rookie senator, he was very patient, gracious and always friendly. He will be sorely missed by his family, his fellow veterans and senators, his Métis family and the Nation as a whole.

Earl you may have lost your boots during the war, but you certainly passed into the spirit world with them on rest, in peace my dear friend.

– Senator Alis Kennedy

I’m very saddened by the passing of a good friend. Always gave me knowledge and traditional values. His smile brought sunshine even on rainy days. On behalf of the Sudbury Metis Council and myself send our thoughts and prayers to the family.

– Senator Kempton Gravelle

Last night the Spirit, Creator, called home a great man of the Metis Nation. Senator Earl Scofield-Veteran, Elder, is now in the arms of the spirit. On behalf of the MNOFC I want to offer our sincerest condolences to the Scofield Family.

Let us take time to reflect on the things the Senator brought to us in his life. Let us take time to remember how important it is for us to spend time with our elders and teachers while we can.

My sadness is not for the Senator who is now at peace and exploring the realm of the spirits, but for us and our Nation who have lost a great teacher, a compass for us to all take guidance from. A tireless advocate for Metis youth we can all learn so much from him and his actions.

Prayers will be sent out tonight and for the next 4 nights for the Senator ‘Boots’ as he crosses through that westen doorway, for his family, friends, the Metis Community in Windsor and for the entire Metis Nation at this time.

We will miss you greatly Boots, but we will never forget you or your work.

Wesewi.

– Mitch Case, PCMNO Youth Rep

You have called our warrior to your protection.

Let his spirit like an eagle soar with the spirits of the four directions.

He has done with his time on earth. He is gone to his welcoming home on the other side, wearing his eagle feather from an Elder at the Sacred Fire, and when he received a cap, a veteran Canadian flag, and a sketch of himself that all the senators signed, he was truly touched by that.

Earl was always there to answer my questions when I was a rookie senator, he was very patient, gracious and always friendly. He will be sorely missed by his family, his fellow veterans and senators, his Métis family and the Nation as a whole.

Mother Earth, let winter’s snowy blanket rest lightly, so that his spirit may be on its way like an eagle soaring homeward.

His Spirit is free from troubles as he makes his journey.

We offer our prayers of thanks that you always be here at Earl’s side on his way to his new home.

Bless those he leaves behind, with the strength of eagles’ wings to help us to fly. Let his spirit soar with the spirits of the four directions.

We thank Grandmother Moon who protected him from the cold.

We all know that the Metis Nation is a people who have lost a great teacher, a compass for us to all take guidance from. A tireless advocate for Metis youth we can all learn so much from him and his actions.

Prayers will be sent out tonight and for the next 4 nights for the Senator ‘Boots’ as he crosses through that westen doorway, for his family, friends, the Metis Community in Windsor and for the entire Metis Nation at this time.

We will miss you greatly Boots, but we will never forget you or your work.

Wesewi.

– Mitch Case, PCMNO Youth Rep

Great Creator, you have called our brother Earl to you.

We ask that you welcome our brother.

I offer this sacred tobacco, as I offer the prayer for the fallen warrior as He has gone on his long trip across the dark waters.

His spirit is now free from all that has pained him. We thank Grandfather from the east who gave Earl the light to guide him on his path.

We thank Grandfather from the south who gave him the warmth.

The wind of the Four Winds, the Wind of the Creator, can change a person’s life. He knows what it is like to rededicate the prayer she composed for the late Marion Larkin (1925–2006) and offer it on behalf of Senator Earl.

A Prayer for well-known and much-loved Senator

Executive Senator, Reta Scofield, reminded us about Senator Earl and what a major presence he was among the MNO Senators, the MNO Veterans, and the MNO as a whole. *‘He always called me, ‘ma petite mere Metis’ (my little Metis sister) and I always called him, ‘mon grand frere Metis’ (my big Metis brother’)*

Reta recalled his arrival at the
MNO represents Métis Nation at Indigenous Education Summit

On October 4, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski, spoke at the Indigenous Education Summit held in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

The conference attracted hundreds of delegates from across Canada, including the Honourable Paul Martin, former Prime Minister of Canada, and Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, both of whom spoke at the conference. The majority of delegates came from Aboriginal governments, organizations and communities, or were representatives of other governments, post-secondary and K-12 educational institutions, or researchers. In addition to President Lipinski, the MNO was also represented by Jennifer St. Germain, Director of the MNO Education and Training Branch, and Dr. Chris Paci, MNO Manager of Education. Director St. Germain and Dr. Paci presented on improving transitions for Métis learners from high school to post-secondary institutions.

In his address, President Lipinski explained the efforts being made by Métis governments across the Métis Homeland to improve educational opportunities for Métis people, and touched on several significant successes. He also drew the delegates attention to areas where progress has been slow or impeded by the jurisdictional barriers between federal and provincial governments and compounded by problems of social and economic disparity—including poverty, poor health and inadequate housing—that to this day result in lower than average education and employment outcomes for Métis.

Despite difficulties, however, President Lipinski made it clear the Métis Nation is succeeding. “We are moving beyond federal inaction,” he told the audience. “Jurisdictional wrangling will not block progress to the detriment of Métis people and all Canadians. We will continue to use our relationship with the federal government under the Métis Nation Protocol and our relationship with the provinces through the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group to advance this process. If Ottawa and the provinces are truly committed to improving living conditions for Métis people, it is time to abandon excuses for not working with us and instead build on our successful track record of delivering results.”

If Ottawa and the provinces are truly committed to improving living conditions for Métis people, it is time to abandon excuses for not working with us and instead build on our successful track record of delivering results.

INFINITE REACH STUDENT SOLIDARITY NETWORK

Reaching out to Métis students adjust to post-secondary life

With support from the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities, the Infinite Reach Network officially began last September (2011) with Infinite Reach facilitators at a number of colleges and universities. Each of these facilitators engaged first-year Métis students and helped them adjust to student life. Over the course of the last year, there were approximately 25 separate cultural activities and information events run by our Infinite Reach facilitators, each of which helped to create a culturally safe space at their schools and encouraged Métis students to proudly identify with our culture and traditions.

September, 2012, marks the start of the Infinite Reach Network’s second year and even more colleges and universities are involved with both returning and new facilitators—a positive sign that the network will continue to succeed and grow. In July, facilitators were brought together for the Infinite Reach intake and orientation. This first meeting was spent discussing the various roles and responsibilities of facilitators and exploring strategies for engaging Métis students, particularly those in their first year. If you or someone you know is a Métis student at one of the colleges or universities listed you are invited to contact the facilitator at your school. Together, we can build a community of Métis learners that will work to support Métis students as they navigate post-secondary studies.

If your school is not listed and you are interested in becoming part of the Infinite Reach network, please contact Benny Michaud (benny.michaud@mnc.on.ca).
Aspiring Métis lawyer passes the bar with a little help from the MNO

By Kelly Honberger
TORONTO

For Trevor Winter, the decision to become a lawyer was a matter of finding joy and purpose in his work, but becoming a lawyer can be daunting in many ways—one of the most difficult and exhaustive exams in any chosen career. As Trevor said, “The amount of material that you have to learn for the bar exams it will allow me to be called to the bar.”

The money I received from the MNO was for the Bar Admission Course that is done by the Law Society of Upper Canada. By successfully passing this course and writing the two bar exams it will allow me to be called to the bar.

Trevor recounts just how trying that time was: “To properly study for the bar exams I had to sacrifice almost an entire summer. I locked myself in the windowless library of our building so that I couldn’t see what I was missing outside. I would study from 9:00 A.M. until about 9:00 or 10:00 P.M. To overcome the stress I would make sure that I ran every morning before I studied, spending what free time I did have with my wife.”

Difficult as it was, Trevor is extremely supportive of the people who believed in his goal and his ability to reach it. “The support of my wife and family really helped me during the most stressful times.”

THAT SUPPORT PAID OFF. After successfully passing his bar exam, Trevor found employment with the Ministry of the Attorney General. The importance he places on maintaining a close connection with his heritage and community led him to his involvement with Aboriginal Legal Aid, where he now sits on the board of directors.

He says: “The reason that I chose this career is because I love how the law works and how it can shape our lives. There are so many intricacies to the law that you are always learning something new and being challenged. The most rewarding aspect of my career is knowing that I am making a difference.”

Education is the new buffalo

New horizons opening up for Métis people

By Shanyn Porter

I am the lucky recipient of a $200 bursary, awarded to me to assist with my studies here at Brock University as I go through my part-time studies, working towards a subsequent degree, in the Bachelor of Education (Adult Education) program.

Last spring I became inspired by the Aboriginal people I teach at Niagara College in their pre-apprenticeship programs and I knew that the direction my career would take would be to work with my community, my culture of learners, and help them become strong to make positive changes for their future.

Recently I have heard the term “Education is the new Buffalo”, and this couldn’t be more true. Aboriginal people have been ready for a long time to embrace this idea, and opportunities are beginning to open themselves up, and I need to be a part of that. This degree I am working towards now helps me to be able to continue down a path of educating others and helping them achieve successes. Thank you again for this bursary.

Help to achieve education goals

By Janna Loyer
Brock University

THANK YOU very much for the bursary you have awarded me. My goal is to be an occupational therapist and I am enrolled in the Kinesiology program here at Brock University. Although I will be qualified to work when I graduate, I am interested in further education to increase my knowledge in the field. That is why I have decided to come back for another semester to take more classes and improve my eligibility for Masters of Occupational Therapy.

Being awarded this bursary helps me to further my education. I would not have awarded me the money to use towards my books and tuition so I can work less hours and focus on school more in my last semester of my undergrad degree. I am proud to be Métis and I would like to thank you for supporting me.
MNO and Niagara College enter into education partnership

A commitment to forge lasting relationships between post-secondary institutions and MNO

On September 30, 2012, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and Niagara College signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU is intended to strengthen and formalize the long-standing positive working relationship between MNO and Niagara College. This document establishes several key areas for collaboration and partnership. These include increasing Métis participation in, and access to, Niagara programs and services, engaging in joint Métis research initiatives; and, promoting Métis content across the curriculum.

MNO President, Gary Lipinski, said, “Niagara College is the thirteenth post-secondary institution in the province to recognize and address the unique needs of Métis and to agree to work in partnership to ensure that programming offered at the college addresses those needs.”

The MOU with Niagara College is part of a larger relationship building process of bilateral partnerships with post-secondary institutions that includes a MOU signed between the MNO and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. According to President Lipinski, “this MOU is a significant achievement for the Métis people in Ontario because it demonstrates a commitment to forge a lasting relationship between post-secondary institutions and the MNO. The agreement with Niagara College builds on the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement, which the province signed with the MNO over two years ago.”

Niagara College has a longstanding commitment to fostering leadership and development with both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students, and to advancing the understanding of Aboriginal cultures, heritage and languages within the college and broader communities.

“We’re very pleased to have citizens of the Métis Nations of Ontario as current standing members of our Aboriginal Education Management Circle, and as part of our growing population of students and graduates,” said Dr. Dan Patterson, President of Niagara College. “This agreement allows both institutions to work together as partners in the development and delivery of post-secondary education and training programs for Aboriginal students.”

About Niagara College

Niagara College offers more than 100 diploma, bachelor degree and advanced level programs at campuses in Welland, Niagara-on-the-Lake, and Niagara Falls, as well as more than 600 credit, vocational, and general interest Continuing Education courses. Areas of specialization include food and wine sciences; advanced technology; media; applied health; and, community safety, all supported by unique learning enterprises in food, wine, beer, horticulture and esthetics.

Tissés des liens avec les écoles francophones de l’Ontario

Le secteur de l’éducation et formation de la NMO a fait de nombreux débuts auprès des conseils scolaires francophones.

Le développement des relations entre les conseils scolaires et les conseils communautaires Métis à entamer des discussions de partage indiquant les intérêts que nous avons en commun, de faire le tour des questions ou des défis que nos étudiants métis font face, le succès et la résilience des élèves, l’auto-identification, pour en nommer quelques-uns. Les conseils scolaires francophones sont ravis d’avoir la chance de créer des partenariats avec les citoyens de la NMO et de faire connaissance des ressources disponibles qui ont été développées avec du contenu spécifiquement Métis.

De plus, les conseils scolaires sont invités à communiquer avec le secteur de l’éducation lors de leur recherche de gens disponibles pour les présentations dans la salle de classe. Nous sommes fiers de faire la promotion des connaissances et la sagesse inestimable de nos sénateurs, sénatrices, nos amis(es), les membres des conseils communautaires, les jeunes représentant(e)s, les animateurs (rices) « d’Infinite Reach » et le personnel de la NMO.

La fiente d’un ou une Métisse est le gage de notre survie et de notre épanouissement. Nous avons un héritage linguistique et culturel d’une valeur inestimable à partager avec tous.

Métis student receives scholarship

Congratulations to MNO citizen Thomas Veima of Timmins, who was the recipient of an $18,400 scholarship to enter the first year of a three year Denturism program at George Brown College. Health Canada’s First Nations and Inuit Health Branch provides funding for bursaries and scholarships in health sciences such as medicine, nursing, dentistry, clinical psychology, physical therapy, pharmacy and laboratory research.

START TODAY – MAKE A DIFFERENCE TOMORROW!

“ A French learning environment filled with opportunities and experiences in a field I’m passionate about. ”

Julien Dutil-Séguin, Technologue forestière / Forestry Technologist*
MNO launches Métis Mining Strategy

A commitment to forge lasting relationships between post-secondary institutions and MNO

By Chris Paci, Manager of Education; Scott Carpenter, Manager of Projects and Partnership; Jennifer St. Germain, Director of Education and Training

We often read in the papers about government programs in northern Canada that are aimed at getting people trained for jobs, in particular in areas where mines and other large scale developments are occurring. The majority of these programs are limited in scope. We have not seen a large number of Métis men and women involved in the mining sector because there was limited funding for training Métis for the full range of good jobs in the sector. It was rare to meet Métis accountants, geologists, environmental specialists, caterers, or managers working in the mining sector. The industry offers many positions with large companies and increasingly there are very good jobs with small and junior mining companies and their subcontractors.

Thanks to new funding from the Government of Canada, we can now provide assistance through the Métis Mining Strategy. Statistics Canada predicts that the aging labour force in Canada will result in labour shortages in the not too distant future in a host of occupations. At the same time, the average age of the Métis population in Ontario is around 26. Ours is a young and growing population and if we are to take advantage of the wave of skilled job shortages, we need to make sure the community has the skills to meet future needs. The time is right for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to launch this new innovative program to assist Métis men and women to become aware and train for these good jobs.

Through the Métis Mining Strategy, the MNO will connect companies with students looking for careers in the mining industry. The MNO will provide participating employers with key information and assistance:

- Access to a talent pool of students who are pursuing a wide range of areas of study, including those enrolled in Master and Ph.D. programs;
- Support in identifying students that meet a given company’s labour market needs;
- Wage subsidies for student placements for 30 hour/week for 12 weeks.

At the same time, MNO will seek out Métis students who are aware of all the opportunities the mining sector affords. We’d like to match students to mining companies where they can get exciting on-the-job work experience. The Métis Mining Strategy will be able to assist with tuition, books and other costs related to the higher education of Métis students. Students will be enrolled in degree and diploma programs throughout Ontario, and work placements will take place at mine sites and corporate offices throughout Ontario.

The MNO is looking for mining industry partners and 90 students over the next three years. Shortly, we will have staff and an advisory committee in place for the program, which will include representatives of the mining industry, colleges and universities. If you’re digging it, you can get more information on this great opportunity by contacting: Scott Carpenter, Manager of Projects and Partnership - MNO Métis Mining Strategy, at 705-527-9363 or scottc@metisnation.org.