The lobby of the Supreme Court of Canada building in Ottawa was crackling with excitement as Métis from across the homeland gathered there the morning of March 8, 2013, to learn the Supreme Court of Canada decision concerning Manitoba Métis Federation v. Canada (the “MMF case”).

The MMF case represented over 140 years of Canadian history and Métis had waited a long time for its resolution. It had gone through almost every legal hurdle imaginable and taken over 30 years to reach the Supreme Court. The case was based on the claim that Canada breached its fiduciary and constitutional obligations owing to the Manitoba Métis by failing to fulfill the lands and benefits they were promised as Aboriginal negotiating partners in Confederation. These promises are embedded within sections 31 and 32 of the Manitoba Act, 1870, which are a part of Canada's constitution.

The Manitoba Act committed to set aside 1.4 million acres of land for 7,000 children of the Red River Métis, which includes the modern city of Winnipeg. The land grants were meant to give the Métis a head start in the race for land in the new province and were offered in order to settle the Red River resistance, which was caused by Métis struggling to hold onto their land and rights amid concern of encroaching Canadian settlement.

The federal government, however, distributed the land through a random lottery; as a result the Métis became a landless aboriginal people, with few Métis receiving what they had been promised.

When the case finally reached the Supreme Court in December 2011, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) obtained intervenor status in order to offer its support and to ensure that the voice of Ontario Métis was heard in this important case. The MNO was represented at the Supreme Court by Jean Teillet, the Métis lawyer who, 10 years earlier, represented Steve Powley at the Supreme Court and who is the great niece of Louis Riel. MNO President Gary Lipinski, as well as many MNO citizens and MNO staff members were in the foyer on March 8 awaiting the decision in solidarity with their Manitoba colleagues including MMF President David Chartrand as well as Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras and Métis National Council President Clement Chartier.

"After our long hunt for justice in the landmark Powley case, we knew it was important for us to be here at the Supreme Court," explained President Lipinski. "We — Continued on page 10"
Chief Tecumseh Tribute

By: Jon Rochon, President of MNO Windsor Essex Kent Métis Council

On September 21, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Windsor-Essex Métis Council President Jon Rochon, wife Debrah and daughter Sienna attended the Town of Tecumseh’s celebration commemorating Chief Tecumseh and the First Nation contributions of the War of 1812. The event featured a bonfire, marshmallow roast, a complimentary BBQ, a presentation by Tecumseh descendant Patricia Shanoo, as well as music and speeches from the Point Wolfe First Nation Drum Group, Caldwell First Nation, local history groups and representatives. At the event, a permanent plaque commemorating the event was unveiled. The Rochon family, now joined by MNO Windsor-Essex Council Councillor Wilfred Rochon at the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Thames.

The event was followed by MNO Region 2 Captain of the Hunt Ken Simard with his long-time friend Esko Savala cruising across Lake Superior. The journey began by crossing the Georgian Bay. They arrived at the Midland Bay Port Marina to fuel up and get some rest. The next day, the waterways were very successful.

One of the highlights of the trip was when they passed a commercial fishing boat that was flying a Métis flag. The ship had just lowered its nets and Captain Ken waved and flashed his Métis sash with pride. Throughout the rest of the journey they made their way to the top end of Lake Huron, to the Marina at Sault Ste. Marie; to Batchewana Bay; and back down Lake Superior. They had great weather and the lake was calm. They docked safely in Thunder Bay.

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region 2 Captain of the Hunt Ken Simard recently joined his long-time friend Esko Savala in navigating a 45 foot yacht from the Big Shute in the Trent River to Thunder Bay.

The journey began by crossing over into the rapids which lead to the Georgian Bay. They arrived at the Midland Bay Port Marina to fuel up and get some rest. The next day, Captain Ken took his turn at the wheel and navigated the ship for an hour and a half to Tombermory.
The meeting with the Premier and the Min-
ister took place on November 12 in Toronto.

The meeting was followed by a special dinner
commemorating the 10th anniversary of the landmark

The province agreed that as the current
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government officials were able to draw up the
particulars of the extension agreement quickly
and Minister Zimmer was able to announce
the agreement extension during provincial
Louis Riel Day ceremonies at Queen's Park
on November 15.

President Lipinski and Minister Zimmer
signed the agreement extension that same
evening at the Powley Anniversary event.

“This agreement is a true reflection of the
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— President Lipinski

The extension of the
Framework Agreement will be in force until the two
governments negotiate a new agreement. Ne-
gotiations on this agreement are ongoing and a
good result is anticipated in the not too distant
future.

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A day to reflect on gender-based violence

WORKING TOGETHER TO ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The following message was sent to all MNO citizens from President Lipinski on December 6, 2013

The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada commemorates one of the great tragedies in Canadian history. On December 6, 1989, 14 women at École Polytechnique de Montréal were murdered in cold blood for no other reason than that they were women. Since then December 6 has become a day that all Canadians can reflect on gender-based violence and ways that communities can take concrete actions to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

While gender-based violence affects everyone, part of the legacy of colonialism is the cycle of intergenerational trauma resulting from systemic abuse that has left generations of Aboriginal women particularly vulnerable to acts of violence and crime. Statistics clearly indicate that Aboriginal women are significantly over-represented as victims of assault, sexual assault, spousal abuse and homicide. Métis, First Nations and Inuit women are three and a half times more likely to experience spousal violence than non-Aboriginal women. The rate of spousal homicide for Aboriginal women is eight times greater than that of non-Aboriginal women. In some northern Ontario communities it is estimated that 75 to 90 per cent of women experience violence. These are not numbers. These are our sisters, moms, grandmas, aunts, daughters and granddaughters.

Together we are committed to addressing the root causes of abuse within our Aboriginal communities. This important day in Canada commemorates one of the great tragedies in Canadian history, and the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women is an opportunity for all of us to take time to remember all the victims and survivors of violence against women. On December 6, 2013, please take time to remember all the victims of gender-based violence and join us in working to end all forms of violence against women.

Thank you, Marsi, Megwetch!

Gary Lipinski
President, Métis Nation of Ontario

MNO continues leadership role in efforts to reduce violence against Aboriginal women

Submitted by: Wenda Watteyne, MNO Director of Healing and Wellness

The MNO has been a key player in advancing the agenda to end VAWA. It has participated in five summits on ending VAWA; it is a full signatory to the Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women and an active member of the Joint Working Group on Violence Against Aboriginal Women (VAAW). The Honourable Teresa Piruzza, Minister Responsible for Women’s Issues and the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs were both in attendance.

On October 21, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Chair France Picotte represented President Gary Lipinski on behalf of the MNO at a meeting of the members of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Violence Against Aboriginal Women (VAAW). The Honourable Teresa Piruzza, Minister Responsible for Women’s Issues and the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs were both in attendance.

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The MNO has also been a key player in advancing the agenda to end VAWA. It has participated in five summits on ending VAWA; it is a full signatory to the Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women and an active member of the Joint Working Group on Violence Against Aboriginal Women (VAAW). The Honourable Teresa Piruzza, Minister Responsible for Women’s Issues and the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs were both in attendance.

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Lakehead University’s Faculty of Law signs Aboriginal Protocol Agreement

November 27, 2013 – Thunder Bay, ON

Lakehead University officials have signed a protocol agreement with Nishnawbe Aski Nation, the Union of Ontario Indians, Grand Council Treaty #3, and Métis Nation of Ontario to establish a strong, meaningful and respectful working relationship regarding the Faculty of Law.

The agreement brings together these Aboriginal leaders who will meet on a semi-annual basis to discuss issues relating to Aboriginal perspectives of the law.

“I look forward to working with First Nation and the Métis Nation organizations in furthering the Faculty of Law’s mandate of focusing on Aboriginal law and understanding of Aboriginal issues, the needs of small practitioners, and natural resources law,” said Faculty of Law Founding Dean Lee Stuesser.

“The protocol agreement establishes a much-needed process for ongoing engagement with the Aboriginal community so priorities from our perspective are identified and understood,” said Nishnawbe Aski Nation Deputy Grand Chief Goyce Kakegamic.

“It is essential that the Faculty of Law remain engaged with First Nation and Métis political organizations to ensure that our perspectives on historical and emerging issues are reflected through the curriculum,” Deputy Grand Chief Kakegamic added.

“Lakehead University, with the new Law School and agreements with First Nations, has taken a positive step in creating a strong environment for our young men and women to be positive role models in the world of education,” said Union of Ontario Indians Regional Grand Chief Peter Collins.

“Treaty #3 is known for the promise of a shared learning through an education system that provides opportunities for all Anishinabe to reach their goals,” said Grand Chief Warren White of Grand Council Treaty #3.

“The commitment to an ongoing relationship and a forum where Anishinabe input into the study of law through this protocol agreement is of great value and will benefit those educated in the program and the communities and individuals they will one day work for,” Grand Chief White said.

“As an Aboriginal government in Ontario, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is excited to partner with Lakehead University and other Aboriginal governments through this protocol agreement,” said MNO President Gary Lipinski.

“Métis participation in the Faculty of Law at Lakehead will help address obstacles Aboriginal people face when pursuing post-secondary education, permit a focus on Métis law, attract more Métis to the legal profession and train lawyers who understand the needs of Aboriginal people and communities,” President Lipinski added.

Lakehead President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Brian Stevenson said this agreement is important because the Faculty of Law owes its existence to the commitment of communities in Northwestern Ontario.

“Nishnawbe Aski Nation was one of the groups that approached Lakehead University to create the Faculty of Law,” Dr. Stevenson said. “We value our partnerships and look forward to working with all of these groups to make the Faculty of Law the best it can be for this community and the region.”

Métis back in the courts

Daniels case Federal Court of Appeal hearing

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was present as an intervener at the Daniels case Federal Court of Appeal hearing which took place in Ottawa from October 29-31.

The question before the court is if Métis fall under federal jurisdiction. Due to the significance of the case to Métis rights, the MNO successfully sought out intervener status in the case and Métis lawyer Jean Teillet represented the MNO at the Federal Court of Appeal.

The Federal Court Trial Division released its long-anticipated judgment for Daniels v. Canada on January 8, 2013. The case was initiated by now deceased Métis Leader Harry Daniels, for the purpose of forcing the federal government to acknowledge that Métis people fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government and should enjoy rights and recognition comparable to First Nations.

The Federal Court of Canada ruled that Daniels v. Canada establishes that Métis fall under federal jurisdiction and meet the definition of “Indian,” outlined in the Canadian Constitution. After which, the federal government appealed the decision.

“Depending on the outcome of the case, it could potentially impact Métis people across Canada because the federal government has not yet acknowledged responsibility for the Métis,” said MNO President Gary Lipinski. “If the ruling goes in our favour, we will be in a much stronger position to press the government for negotiations on a whole range of issues.”

Teillet explained the importance of the case and MNO’s involvement as an intervener.

“The idea of whether we are provincial jurisdiction or federal jurisdiction is very important to know,” explained Teillet.

The main point Teillet made on behalf of the MNO was in regards to how the term “Indian” in section 91(24) of Constitution Act, 1867 should be interpreted.

“The provision shouldn’t be interpreted as racial provision,” explained Teillet. “We should be looking at Aboriginal and Métis peoples… as collectives, as a people with their own customs and traditions. I am going to be making a lot of submissions about them not looking at this as a racial provision,” she continued, “and also supporting the final judgement which is that Métis are federal jurisdiction as are all Aboriginal people.”

The federal government has denied its responsibility for the Métis and the case has been before the courts for 13 years.
Métis Youth Ready to Work

On November 16, 2013 Métis youth from across the province gathered in Toronto to attend the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Métis Youth Ready to Work: Transitions to the Labour Market workshop.

This one-day workshop offered a unique opportunity for Métis youth to connect with Métis culture and history, develop new skills and experiences, as well as engage with fellow Métis youth. The workshop featured an overview of the MNO including an in-depth focus on MNO’s education and training programs. A resume writing workshop, job preparedness orientation and a budgeting class were also facilitated.

John Budarick, a Métis paramedic addressed the group and shared his experiences completing post-secondary education and the struggles and successes he encountered when entering the workforce.

Participants of the MNO Métis Ready to Work workshop. (Left to right) (Front row) MNO Education and Training Branch Administrative Coordinator Guylaine Morin-Cleroux, Danielle Dupas, Devyn Parmeter, Terri-Lynn Koury, Amber Griffiths and MNO Supervisor of Special Projects Chris McLeod. (Back row) Kelly Campagnola, Kara Campagnola, Warren Cardinal-McTeague, Jessica MacLean, Matthew Lefebvre, Sahra MacLean, Rheiner Kammer, Alexandra Durome, Cameron Hartman, MNO Senator Dr. Aila Kennedy, Sydney Ducharme, MNO Post-Secondary Education Officer Sheila Grantham and MNO Navigating Employment Coordinator Rae-Anna Gardiner.

Métis culture and heritage supported in B.C.

The Métis Nation of British Columbia (MNBC) recently received a $20,000 community gaming grant from the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development to use towards Louis Riel Day cultural events.

Through this generous contribution the MNBC was able to provide funding to its communities to hold cultural events and other activities that commemerate Louis Riel. As a result, hundreds of MNBC citizens gathered in their regions throughout British Columbia for Métis flag raising and other ceremonies over the past few weeks.

Source: Métis Nation of British Columbia

Saskatchewan’s Black Rod features Métis sash and Infinity symbol

The official unveiling of the Black Rod of Saskatchewan was held on September 23 at the Government House in Regina. The Black Rod represents the symbolic guarding of the Legislative Assembly and will be wielded by the first Usher of the Black Rod, Rick Mantey.

The Black Rod incorporates symbols from all walks of Saskatchewan life. The incorporation of the Métis Infinity symbol and sash speaks clearly to the significant role the Métis played in the development of the province.

Source: Métis Nation of Saskatchewan

Manitoba Metis Federation officials present recommendations to United Nations Special Rapporteur

Officials of the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) met with United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, James Anaya, on October 11 for a dinner and cultural activities. Anaya was visiting Canada to examine the situation of indigenous peoples in the country as a follow up from 2004.

The MMF recommendations focused on Métis land claims, Métis self-government, and issues around Métis lands and resources and economic development.

Source: Manitoba Metis Federation

Métis Nation of Alberta releases first report on Métis health status

On November 15, the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) released a report on the health status of Métis Albertans. The report, called Health Status of the Métis Population of Alberta, is the first of its kind and was made possible as a result of an Information Sharing Agreement with and a $250,000 grant from Alberta Health to the MNA. The grant was used to develop a public health surveillance program to better understand the health status of Métis Albertans. The report used 2009 data to analyze topics such as Métis use of health services, mental health, chronic disease, injury and mortality.

Source: Métis Nation of Alberta

ALBERTA  MANITOBA  SASKATCHEWAN  BRITISH COLUMBIA
One third of all Aboriginal people in Canada are Métis, a fact few people in Canada recognize. The Métis population is also an older population compared to other Aboriginal groups. Research has shown that many Métis seniors are experiencing significantly higher rates of chronic disease and other complex conditions compared to non-Métis Ontarians. There are also unique barriers to Métis seniors receiving care and support they require. For example, Métis people fall under a different legislative and regulatory structure than do other Aboriginal groups and do not have access to programming supports such as the Non-Insured Health Benefits available to many Aboriginal peoples. Many Métis seniors also live in remote and rural areas, where access to services and supports can be limited. For Métis seniors with limited incomes, things like transportation to see doctors and specialists, and having the means to fill expensive prescriptions, can also serve as barriers to care. Finally, access to culturally safe care can be a challenge for older Métis citizens.

It is for all these reasons and more that the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) provides programs and services at the community level. Situated in 18 Métis communities distributed across the province, and based on a whole-of-community, family-centred model of care which is firmly rooted in Métis culture and way of life, MNO community centres serve as important cultural and service hubs that link our Métis citizens to each other, and to essential health services and supports in their local areas. The MNO community centres are especially important in providing our Métis seniors with the kinds of culturally grounded services and supports they need, along with help in accessing medical services. Some of our MNO centres also offer specialist services such as foot care clinics for seniors and other Métis people suffering from diabetes. MNO community centre workers do much in the way of outreach to Métis seniors in need of assistance, visiting their homes to help with things like meal preparation, house maintenance, and other tasks of daily living, while at the same time providing that important cultural connection and support. Through the MNO Community Support Services program we are also able to provide transportation services to help Métis seniors travel to and from their medical appointments.

For the many Métis seniors who are suffering from significantly higher rates of chronic diseases and other conditions, MNO community centres provide a place where they can meet with other Métis community members and receive much-needed support and care, and get help in linking to essential services and programs within the broader community. The centres also provide a haven for culturally safe community care, essential to the well-being of all our Métis citizens.

A full report is available on the MNO website at www.metisnation.org.
Welcome Aboard

TO NEW STAFF AND TO STAFF STARTING NEW POSITIONS

01. ANNE WILKEN

Anne joins the Ottawa MNO office in the position of Finance Branch Administrative Coordinator.

Anne is an enthusiastic person with an Accounting Diploma and several years of experience in accounting. Anne also creates and sells jewellery that she designs! Anne is looking forward to working with everyone in MNO and we are pleased to welcome her to the team.

Submitted by: Judie McKinney, Director of Finance

02. DEVON MARTIN

Devon joins the Toronto MNO office in the position of Consultation Intake Clerk with the MNO Lands, Resources and Consultation Branch.

Devon is a young and ambitious professional with several years of office work experience. In the past he has worked in the insurance and medical industries. He has been the Director of Concessions on the Oshawa Curling Club’s Board of Directors since 2013 and enjoys curling during his downtime. He enjoys challenges and is looking forward to working with the Métis Nation of Ontario.

Submitted by: Mark Bowler, Director Lands, Resources and Consultation

03. DR. BRIAN TUCKER

Dr. Brian Tucker, formerly the Manager of Métis Traditional Knowledge and Land Use with the MNO Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch has become the new Associate Director of Education and Way of Life with the MNO Education and Training Branch. He will continue to work out of the Fort Frances MNO office.

Brian is an ecologist specializing in terrestrial ecology and spatial statistics, with additional background in ecological restoration. He was born and grew up in Northwestern Ontario (Fort Frances), where by following a traditional lifestyle he fostered and maintained a close connection to the lands and waters of the area. Brian has studied at the University of Alberta in Edmonton (Ph.D. in Ecology), Laurentian University in Sudbury (M.Sc. in Biology & B.Sc. in Environmental Earth Science), and Confederation College in Thunder Bay (3-year Environmental Engineering Technology). Brian taught for three years at Confederation College before joining the MNO.

Submitted by: Jen St. Germain, Director of Education and Training

04. EMMANUEL AKOHENE-MENSAH

Emmanuel joins the MNO Ottawa office in the position of Communications Coordinator with the MNO Communications Branch.

Emmanuel is a creative designer with 6 years of experience and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences from the University of Ottawa and an Interactive Multi-Media diploma from Algonquin College.

Submitted by: Mike Fedyk, MNO Director of Communications

05. RACHELLE BRUNELLE-McCULL

Rachelle joins the Midland MNO office in the position of Employment Developer for Region 7 with the MNO Navigating Employment Pathways Program.

Rachelle has been involved in the MNO since 2003 when she served as the MNO Youth Project Officer in Midland. She has maintained an active role within the Métis community since then by organizing cultural events and is a past volunteer with the Regional Advisory Committee. Her education and work experience in the tourism and hospitality industry as well as her commitment to Métis culture make her a welcome addition to the MNO.

Submitted by: Jan St. Germain, Director of Education and Training

06. VELVET JOHNSON

Velvet Johnson, formerly Procurement Officer with the MNO Finance Branch, has become a Contracts and Project Officer with the MNO Education and Training Branch. She will continue to work out of the Ottawa MNO office.

Velvet started her journey with the MNO in 2003 with the MNO Education and Training Branch and the Branch is very pleased to have her return. Her background with the MNO provides her with excellent understanding of employment, training and business functions as well as file management.

Velvet is a graduate from the Aboriginal Studies program at Algonquin College. Since graduating from Algonquin College, Velvet has taught a number of courses at the College and she continues to play an integral role in the coordination of the Aboriginal Studies Program.

Submitted by: Jan St. Germain, Director of Education and Training

07. PALOMA D’SILVA

Paloma joins the MNO Toronto office in the position of Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) Métis Relations Resource Program Coordinator with the MNO Lands, Resources and Consultation Branch.

Paloma is a licensed geoscientist-in-training with the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario (APGO), and a graduate from Western University, with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Earth Science.

Submitted by: Mark Bowler, Director Lands, Resources and Consultation

08. The MNO is very excited to have these new staff members join the team and congratulations Brian and Velvet on their new positions!
A journey from addiction to support and discovery

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has many benefits for Métis people, benefits I have experienced firsthand. I am very fortunate that this organization is part of my life and wanted to share with you how the MNO helped me become the woman I am today.

I am a recovering drug and alcohol addict who also has bipolar, a disorder that I was not aware of until later in my life. I would like to be a speaker for our youth to let them know my story. A story of addictions, the journey it took me on, and the consequences I have had to live with because of my actions. The worst of these being the affect it had on my children whom I have minimum contact with because of my actions as an addict.

Recovery is a long journey and for me, without the help of the MNO and their Community Wellness Workers (CWW) Lisa and Terry-Lynn and of course my husband, I wouldn’t be the sober person I am today.

Before contacting the MNO I was going through a bad part of my life. I was in a very abusive relationship which I was coping with by using drugs and alcohol every day.

I was also a single mother of two children and a student at Niagara College.

It was on November 1, 2009 that the support services staff at Niagara College connected me with the MNO.

The MNO office in Welland set me up with CWW Terry-Lynn Longpre. I saw Terry-Lynn one to two times a week. Terry-Lynn began the healing process by connecting me to community support programs. The first person I saw was my drug and alcohol counselor Dave Labbe of the Native Friendship Centre in Fort Erie. She also connected with Dr. Chan, a psychiatrist I saw through MNO’s telemedicine program. This was a life saver as Dr. Chan was able to discover the root of my problem and diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

Recovery was not an easy journey but my new environment, my new home, and my new husband Dan, was a life saver as Dr. Chan was able to discover the root of my problem and diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

Once in Woodstock, Terry-Lynn-connected me with a MNO CWW based in Hamilton, Lisa Scott.

I started seeing Lisa every week. The challenges she put me up to included many classes at the Domenicos Services of Oxford, an organization that works hands on hand with the MNO. These classes provide helpful information on life skills, addictions, etc.

Lisa also had me attend an anger management course which I have pretty much completed. Part of this course includes the completion post-traumatic demoralization syndrome papers, which I work on daily.

Through all of this work, I am glad to say that I now only need to see Lisa every three weeks.

I know if it wasn’t for Terry-Lynn, Lisa, Dr. Chan, Dave and Dan I would either be dead, still using or even worse, dead. They all have continuously pushed me to not only become sober but also become a better person and mother by challenging me in everyday life skills.

Terry-Lynn and Lisa are always there for me, no matter if it is positive or negative mood in my life. I want to thank the MNO for bringing these two loving, caring ladies. They have inspired me, helped me and have made me a better, loving, non-angry person again. Without their love and support I would not be who I am today.

I am extremely proud to say that I haven’t used drugs since December 2012 and only had one release of alcohol since then.

Today I feel great being sober and I am a loving mother to my two children again.

I would like to be a speaker for the MNO. I have been sober for two years and have seen the difference made by the MNO. I am grateful that I now have a clean slate.

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I have bipolar, a disorder that I was not aware of until later in my life. It is a mental illness characterized by episodes of depression and mania, or points of extreme high and low mood.

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Louis Riel Day & POWLEY ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Finding balance

Provincial Louis Riel Day ceremony highlights

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 towards taking their rightful place within Confederation.

Queen’s Park Ceremony

Many Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) chartered community councils held flag raisings, feasts and cultural celebrations to recognize Louis Riel Day and as in the past, provincial ceremonies were held at Queen’s Park in Toronto. Provincial ceremonies take place at Queen’s Park because the Northwest Rebellion monument and the Legislative Building are both located there. This year, the provincial ceremony was held on Friday, November 15, rather than the traditional November 16, because the Legislative Building would not be open on the weekend and access to the Legislature is necessary to properly stage the ceremony. Ironically, the Legislature is where a price was put on Louis Riel’s head and the monument recognizes the Canadian soldiers who fought in the Northwest Resistance against the Métis, but on Louis Riel Day they are the focal points for honouring Riel and the monument is flanked by 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. Over 100 people attended from the Toronto area as well others from across the province, including some people who came from as far away as Thunder Bay. As in the past, the event started with a flag-raising ceremony in front of the Legislature. APTN, OMNI and City TV news reporters were on hand to witness MNO President Gary Lipinski and Mitch Case, the Youth Representative on the Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PC-MNO), raise the Métis flag while a Legion Colour Guard proudly carry Métis flags. The first speaker was PCMNO Executive Senator Reta Gordon who told the story of Riel’s death. She related the difficulties his family had in recovering his body and returning it to his home in Manitoba for burial. She commented that Riel told us “We can have beautiful dreams … and that we should believe in those dreams and believe in ourselves.” — Senator Reta Gordon

Following the flag raising, the participants formed a procession led by members of the No. 10 Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion and accompanied by Métis fiddler Alicia Blore and her brother Liam on gui- tar. The No. 10 Legion Branch has been participating in Louis Riel Day ceremonies for 13 years and their dedication and service was commented on by several of the speakers during the ceremony that followed the procession.

The procession made its way to the Northwest Rebellion monument where the official Riel Day ceremony was held. PCMNO Senator Rene Gravelle provided the opening prayer and gave thanks for the many blessings received by the Métis and for bringing people of many different affiliations together on Riel Day. MNO Chair France Picotte, emceed the ceremony and set a positive tone by welcoming everyone and acknowledging guests and dignitaries. In addition to those who would later speak in the ceremony, other dignitaries and guests in attendance included Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Employment Dr. Eric Hoskins, Member of the Provincial Parliament Rosario Micciche, Member of Parliament, Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs David DeLaurier and Assistant Deputy Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Hilarry Thancker as well as proponents who work with the MNO, John O’Toole and Lisa Thompson.

(Continued on page 11)
dreams and believe in ourselves.”

Senator Gordon was followed to the podium by MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride. Vice-chair McBride spoke about her recent trips to the Archives to examine copies of old newspapers from the period of the North West Resistance and Louis Riel’s execution. She was shocked by the anti-Métis racism she found in these historic documents and although this saddened her it also gave her strength as it demonstrated the resilience of the Métis people in overcoming prejudice, which was particularly demonstrated on Louis Riel Day “The people of the Métis Nation,” she declared, “will always keep his [Riel’s] spirit alive.”

Vice-chair McBride was followed by the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. Minister Zimmer spoke about the significance of the dual anniversaries that the MNO is celebrating in 2013. Commenting on the tenth anniversary of the R. v. Powley Supreme Court decision, Minister Zimmer stated: “Powley was instrumental in recognizing Métis rights as well as in recognizing the distinctiveness of Métis culture and communities. He also read a scroll from the Government of Ontario congratulating the MNO on the twentieth anniversary of its founding in 1993. Minister Zimmer went on to recognize that this year is the fifth anniversary of the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement which was signed in 2008. “The Framework Agreement,” explained the Minister, “is the basis for our current collaborative relationship which has created many opportunities for partnerships. Among the successes related to this agreement have been the Métis Voyageur Development Fund, the New Relationship Fund, Feed-in Green Tariff program, Housing Investment Strategy, Mattawa Research and the 2010 Year of the Métis.” (for a story on the renewal of the MNO Framework Agreement go to page 3).

Norm Miller, a Progressive Conservative MPP represented Opposition Leader Tim Hudak at the ceremony. MPP Miller, whose constituency of Parry Sound—Powley was instrumental in recognizing Métis rights as well as in recognizing the distinctiveness of Métis culture and communities.” — Minister David Zimmer

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(Continued from page 11)

Muskoka overlaps with much of the same area as the MNO Moon River Métis Council spoke about how much he enjoys attending the famous Moon River fish fries organized by that council. MMP Miller also read a letter from Ontario Legislative Speaker Dave Levac congratulating the MNO on its 20 year anniversary as well as the 10 year anniversary of the Powley decision and its many achievements in that time. Speaker Levac is Métis himself and although he has attended Louis Riel Day ceremonies many years in the past, he was unable to attend this year.

Métis youth were well represented at the ceremony by PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case. Representative Case is extremely active at all levels of the MNO. He leads the MNO Youth Council, serves as an MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator and is very active on his local chartered MNO community council. All of that in addition to his PCMNO duties! In his address Representative Case is extremely active at all levels of the MNO. He leads the MNO Youth Council, serves as an MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator and is very active on his local chartered MNO community council. All of that in addition to his PCMNO duties! In his address Representative Case is extremely active at all levels of the MNO.

MNO President Lipinski was honoured with the presence of Jean Teillet at the Queen’s Park Ceremony. Ms. Teillet is the great grand-niece of Louis Riel and is the famous Métis rights lawyer who took the Powley case to the Supreme Court of Canada. Ms. Teillet focused her comments on the incredible change in attitude towards the Métis in Ontario, in particular within the Ontario government, in the last 20 years. “In 2003 we couldn’t even get the janitors [in the Legislative Building] to talk to us,” she explained, “but today and for several years now, we have government Ministers here with us at this very ceremony.” She added: “A lot of people gave of their time and energy to this cause and today we are on a good road – with our current leadership we are doing well.”

The final speaker was MNO President Gary Lipinski. President Lipinski mounted the tragic lost opportunity represented by the execution of Louis Riel. He pointed out that Riel had made every effort to negotiate with the Canadian government and that the government’s intransigence led to the events of the North West Resistance. “We cannot allow ourselves,” he declared, “to be in a position where negotiations fail.” President Lipinski explained that Riel had sought balance and that what had been missing until recently in Canada and Ontario’s relationship with the Métis. Referring to the North West Rebellion monument and the lack of a similar monument at Queen’s Park recognizing Métis contributions and achievements he stated: “In the not too distant future, we hope to even have balance of these grounds [Queens Park].” President Lipinski indicated that since the signing of the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement, most that the need for balance has increasingly been recognized and respected in Ontario. “This is taking us from an era of denial,” stated President Lipinski, “towards an era of reconciliation.” He concluded by saying: “It is encouraging at this moment in history to be working with a government as friends. It is by working together that we will all succeed.”

The ceremony ended with the laying of wreaths of remembrance on the Northwest Rebellion monument. The wreaths were laid by executive members of the MNO Veterans’ Council, President Joseph Paquette, Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy and Sg’t-at-Arms Greg Garratt. Most of the speakers during the ceremony recognized the sacrifices and on-going contributions of Métis veterans and the laying of the wreath at the monument by veterans is always a poignant moment.

MNO Chair Picotte wrapped up the ceremony on a thoughtful note by 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.”

With the ceremony complete for another year, the participants then moved inside the Legislative building where they enjoyed a delicious traditional Métis feast.  

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Supporting Photographs:

- Aboriginal Affairs Minister David Zimmer speaking at the Queen’s Park Louis Riel Day ceremony.
- Métis lawyer and great grand-niece of Louis Riel Jean Teillet and President Lipinski during the moment of silence at the Queen’s Park Louis Riel Day ceremony.
- Métis fiddler Alicia Blore and her brother Liam accompanied the Louis Riel Day procession at Queen’s Park.
He taught us to be proud

Mitch Case, PCMNO Youth Representative

The voice of youth is very important to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). Accordingly, PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case spoke on behalf of Métis youth at the provincial Louis Riel Day event and we are pleased to present his complete remarks below.

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, elders, Senators, veterans, fellow youth, fellow Métis and members of provincial parliament.

I was asked to bring thoughts and words about Louis Riel and his legacy from the perspective of Métis youth. When I asked this question to other youth I received many inspiring answers.

“He taught us to be proud,” they said. “He showed us we should always stand up for what we believe in.” “He showed us that it’s okay to be who we are, okay to be Métis and important to be proud.”

When I think of Riel, I often think of the words he left behind for us. He left us with so many quotes that we can draw inspiration from as individuals and as a Nation.

With this also being the 10th anniversary of the Powley decision, I have thought often about what Riel told his followers in 1885. “In a little while it will be over. We may fail. But the rights for which we contend will not die.”

Riel was right, the battle in 1885 may have been lost, but as a people we have remained and our rights are now, over 100 years later, being recognized and respected by governments across Canada. This is because our people never lost our courage to fight and for that, I thank the Powley family, the lawyers, the political leadership and the communities who stood with them through the fight.

Riel told us: “We must cherish our inheritance. We must preserve our nationality for the youth of our future. The story should be written down to pass on.” This has and continues to be done by our people and communities. The generations who have gone on before us have made sure that the stories of who we are have never died.

Riel told us: “We would sleep for 100 years, but when they awake, it will be the artists who give them their spirit back.” I see this every day, I see Métis youth picking up beads, paint brushes, fiddles and drums, lacing up their mocassins to jig at every opportunity. The spirit of the Métis people is strong among the youth and it is getting stronger every day.

Métis youth are standing up, strong and proud as indigenous people. They know their history, they know their stories. They are learning their culture, traditions and languages. They know the history of our people, but most importantly they can see the future of our people. I see the amazing work of the young people I represent and I know that because of what they do, our future has never looked brighter.

Marcii, Miigwetch!

On August 1st 2013 TransCanada Corporation announced plans to move forward with the Energy East Pipeline project based on binding, long-term contracts received from producers and refineries.

“We are very pleased with the outcome of the Open Season for the Energy East Pipeline held earlier this year and are excited to move forward with a major project that will bring many benefits across Canada,” said Russ Girling, TransCanada’s president and chief executive officer. “This is an historic opportunity to connect the oil resources of western Canada to the consumers of eastern Canada, creating jobs, tax revenue and energy security for all Canadians for decades to come.”

Girling added that interest in Energy East supports refineries’ desire to have access to a stable and reliable supply of Western Canadian crude oil – pushing out expensive contracts with foreign regimes. Eastern Canada currently imports approximately 700,000 barrels per day. It also confirms the desire producers have to support safe and innovative ways to get their crude oil to market.

“Energy East is one solution for transporting crude oil but the industry also requires additional pipelines such as Keystone XL to transport growing supplies of Canadian and U.S. crude oil to existing North American markets,” added Girling. “Both pipelines are required to meet the need for safe and reliable pipeline infrastructure and are underpinned with binding, long-term agreements.”

The Energy East Pipeline project involves converting a portion of natural gas pipeline capacity in approximately 3,000 kilometres (1,864 miles) of TransCanada’s existing Canadian Marineline crude oil service and constructing approximately 1,400 kilometres (870 miles) of new pipeline. The pipeline will transport crude oil from receipt points in Alberta and Saskatchewan to delivery points in Montreal, the Quebec City region and Saint John, New Brunswick, greatly enhancing production access to Eastern Canadian and international markets. The pipeline will terminate at Canarput in Saint John, New Brunswick where TransCanada and Irving Oil have formed a joint venture to build, own and operate a new deep-water marine terminal.

With 60 years of pipeline experience, TransCanada has learned that to advance a project of this size, open and meaningful discussions with Aboriginal communities and stakeholder groups are key. TransCanada has been out in the field collecting data and engaging with Aboriginal and stakeholder groups for the past several months as part of its initial design and planning work for the project and that will continue.

Currently, TransCanada operates its facilities near many Aboriginal communities across Canada and prides itself on the positive partnerships it has developed over many years. TransCanada believes that by developing positive, long-term relationships with the Aboriginal communities whose lives may be impacted by its activities, it can conduct its business while respecting community interests.

TransCanada’s has developed an Aboriginal Relations Policy that is guided by trust, respect, and responsibility. This policy must be flexible to address the legal, social and economic realities of Aboriginal communities across Canada. TransCanada is a leading North American energy infrastructure company with one of the best safety record in the industry. Energy East will be designed and operated with safety being a top priority – that is what Canada expects, and that is what TransCanada will deliver. TransCanada recognizes that oil is essential to our daily lives, from heating homes to the thousands of products relied on every day. We will ensure this oil is delivered in a safe and responsible way.

TransCanada intends to proceed with the necessary regulatory applications for approvals to construct and operate the pipeline project and terminal facilities in early 2014.

For more information on the Energy East Project, please visit www.energyeastpipeline.com and for TransCanada’s complete Aboriginal Relations Policy, please visit www.transcanada.com.
The people of the Métis Nation... will always keep Riel’s spirit alive...

— Sharon McBride, MNO Vice-chair
Louis Riel Day: We feel it in our hearts

Louis Riel Day is a day of pride, honour, remembrance and unity. During this year’s Provincial Riel Day ceremony at Queen’s Park, it was clear that the participants had the 20th anniversary of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the 10th anniversary of the historic Powley decision in the forefront of their minds when we asked them to speak from their hearts about Riel Day.

“It is an honour to be here. I am so proud to be standing here. Before the Powley case we were ashamed to show ourselves. After the case, it was like a coming out for us. It was a time for us to be proud of our culture.”

– Art Bennett, Region 4 Captain of the Hunt

“This is a time to honour Riel and a time to think about what I have done for the betterment of Métis people this year. The Powley case took a long time and it is so historically important. To me, Powley is a stepping stone in our recognition as a people of Canada. We have always been here, and now after the Powley decision, on Riel Day we come out and publically say I am Métis! Powley gave us the out, pride and insurance to share who we are.”

– France Picotte, MNO Chair

“Nice to come down. I have been coming to the Queen’s Park ceremony since 2008. The Powley decision took a long time. It is great to now see after 10 years the progress it has made; we never thought that it would have such an impact at the time. You can see the difference at Riel Day; people are even recognizing our symbols. Today is a day for us to reflect upon what Riel and the Powley case has done for the Métis people. Today is a day to unite and show our pride.”

– Andre Bossé

“The Powley case pushed the rights agenda for Métis harvesting. I am happy for the next generations to have access to these rights. And I am thankful to the MNO for the hard work that they do to continue Riel’s vision by getting us to where we are today.”

– Theresa Stenlund, PCMNO Councillor Region 1

“I have been coming to the ceremony for 10 years. It is a reaffirmation of our commitment to Louis Riel and ourselves. He has fulfilled what he wanted for the Métis Nation.”

– Anita Tucker, PCMNO Councillor Region 8

“Riel was only 41 when he left this earth but he had accomplished so much in that time. Imagine what else he could have accomplished if he walked the earth just a bit longer. Today is a day to be somber, reflect and a day to be proud.”

– Sharon McBride, MNO Vice-chair

“This is my first time attending the ceremony at Queen’s Park. I am very excited and honoured to be here. I feel such pride to see the flag rise and share my history with the world. It feels like a big family reunion.”

– Deidre Thompson, MNO High Land Waters Métis Council Acting President

“It always strikes me that Louis Riel is the only leader in Canada that we memorialize every year. Riel was always a great leader and an honourable man.”

– Jean Teillet, Métis lawyer & great grand-niece of Riel

“He accomplished in his death what he couldn’t do in his life – uniting the Métis people and that is what we are doing here today.”

– Executive Senator Reta Gordon

“Today is a day to honour a man that did not deserve the means which he got. We shouldn’t have to fight as hard as we do for the rights we have always deserved. Riel day was a minority in the past but we can see the progress that has been made.”

– Tom Thompson Jr., PCMNO Councillor Region 6

“I can’t wait for there to be a statue at Queen’s Park that honours and represents Louis Riel. I am looking forward to that day.”

– Cam Burgess, PCMNO Councillor Region 2

“I have been here every year and travel from Midland. This is our time to join as a family come out of the closet and show who we are. Before the Powley decision, we never used to say we were Métis, we had to hide and now we are people.”

– Senator Audrey Vallee
One of the great things that happened during this year’s Louis Riel Day events was a reading by Lawrence Hill from his new book Blood: The Stuff of Life, which was the basis for this year’s Massey Lectures. The reading was part of the MNO/Law Society of Upper Canada event held on November 15.

Much of Hill’s writings touches on issues of identity. Blood being no different. The book offers a “provocative examination of the scientific and social history of blood, and on the ways that it unites and divides us today.”

Broken down into five chapters, Blood draws on the topics of biology, history, religion, culture, nationality, sports, arts and more. When learning about Hill’s speaking engagement, I found myself asking what the connection is between Hill’s book and the MNO. I rushed out to purchase a copy of the book and as I read through the pages, the connection became more and more apparent.

Back in the chapter on bloody history, Hill stated, “There is no need to preoccupy ourselves with degrees of blood mixing, and how profoundly the connection between blood quantum and Métis identity has lodged itself in the collective consciousness of Canadians.”

Hill wasn’t the only one who brought the Powley case up as an example. He writes that the Powley case illustrated “...how thoroughly we have lost sight of Louis Riel’s reminder that there is no need to preoccupy ourselves with degrees of blood mixing, and how profoundly the connection between blood quantum and Métis identity has lodged itself in the collective consciousness of Canadians.”

Purpose.

Anybody required to think about that every day is occupied with what degree of mingling we have of European and Indian Blood? No matter how little we have of one the other, do not both parties and both love require us to make a point of saying, "We are Metis?"

Perhaps it is not surprising that these lines also appear in the opening of the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose: “When asked if he could elaborate on this, Hill stated, “Louis Riel’s comments helped crystallize and cement the point I was already making. Even Riel said there is a fixation on blood quantity. He said we are Metis and we should forget about the numbers.”

In the end the Supreme Court of Canada rejected this way of thinking and focused on Métis as distinct peoples with their own customs and cultural practices. This decision was a first of its kind.

After the many years of litigation, in the end the Powley case not only ruled that blood quantum is in its efforts to see the Powleys convicted. “The Ontario Ministry argued in court that they [Steve and Roddy Powley] were guilty [for hunting without a license] because they are not Métis,” he explained. “Why are they not Métis? Because Steve Powley was 1/64 Aboriginal descent. They were focussed on quantifying the blood.”

In the case this is how forcefully the Ontario government argued about how blood quantum in its efforts to see the Powleys convicted. “The Ontario Ministry argued in court that they [Steve and Roddy Powley] were guilty [for hunting without a license] because they are not Métis, explained. “Why are they not Métis? Because Steve Powley was 1/64 Aboriginal descent, they were focused on quantifying the blood.”

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About Lawrence Hill

Lawrence Hill is the son of American immigrants — a black father and a white mother — who came to Canada the day after they married in 1953 in Washington, D.C. Growing up in the predominantly white suburbs of Don Mills, Ontario in the sixties, Hill was greatly influenced by his parents’ work in the human rights movement. Much of Hill’s writing touches on issues of identity and belonging. Hill is the author of nine books. His 2007 novel The Book of Negroes (also published as Someone Knows My Name and Aminata) won the Rogers Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize, the Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best Book and both CBC Canada Reads and Radio Canada’s Combat des livres. A television mini-series based on the novel is currently in production. In fall 2013, Hill gave the CBC Massey Lectures. Blood: The Stuff of Life, which aired on CBC Radio.

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It seems to me that the most meaningful way to define a people is by the notions of group acceptance, cultural practices and self-identity.” — Lawrence Hill

A Twitter Author Lawrence Hill reading from his book Blood: The Stuff of Life during the MNO/Law Society of Upper Canada event where he also autographed copies of the book.
Every year Louis Riel ceremonies are held to remember what Riel sacrificed in the defense of Métis rights and the Métis Way of Life. Riel Day has become a time to not only remember the sacrifice but to rejoice and reflect upon all things Métis.

Along with the provincial ceremony held at Queen’s Park, MNO chartered community councils organized Louis Riel events in their communities across the province. Flag raising ceremonies were held at City Halls in Thunder Bay, Welland, St. Catharines, Guelph, Cochrane, Dryden, North Bay and Toronto to name a few. Riel Day celebrations and feasts were also held by several community councils, and one was even hosted by the MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council at the Ottawa Police Service headquarters. The event included a flag presentation and jigging with Chief of Police Charles Bordeleau.

The MNO Northwest Métis Council held a dinner event which was followed by a reception. Nearly 120 people attended the event.

The MNO Grand River Métis Council held a flag raising ceremony at Guelph City Hall which also featured the fiddling of Rajan Anderson and champion jigger Modeste McKenzie. City of Guelph Councillor Karly Wittstein was in attendance and was presented with a sash by MNO Senator Carol Levis.

Here are some photos from these events. Additional council Riel Day event details are featured on pages 20 and 21.
O n September 19, 2003, after 10 years of litigation, the Supreme Court of Canada declared that Steve and Roddy Powley as members of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community had the Métis right to harvest and that this right is protected under section 35 of the Canadian Constitution Act, 1982. Because the Powleys had the courage of their convictions, Métis rights were recognized and affirmed by the Supreme Court for the first time.

As 2013 marks the 10th anniversary of the historic Powley case, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) held a commemorative event with the Law Society of Upper Canada to recognize the ongoing significance of the Powley case to the Métis Nation.

The Powley case was public legal education equality event co-sponsored by the MNO and the Law Society of Upper Canada. Each year the event is held in partnership with the Law Society of Upper Canada to focus on developments in Métis law in Canada. Due to the anniversary of the Powley case, this year’s event was entitled “Ten years after the Powley case: How can it be?”

President Lipinski addressed when he spoke after the opening prayer for the event. “Salt of the earth. On behalf of all MNO communities, put their full support behind Steve and Roddy and this crystalized to bring the MNO to the Powley family and thank them for their rights and contributions recognized.”

President Lipinski also explained that besides being an important Métis rights case, the Powley case was crucial in the development of the MNO. “The Powley case,” he said, “was the case that helped bring the MNO together. People need a cause; they need something to stand behind.”

After President Lipinski, Jason Madden’s presentation looked forward to upcoming and ongoing court decisions that will impact Métis rights in the future. The key cases will include the Daniels case which the federal government has jurisdiction for Métis and how the court case will play out is still largely unknown although he expects to be using the case to support other Métis rights litigation well into the future.

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After President Lipinski expressed the gratitude of the entire Nation to the Powleys, Senator Brenda Powley spoke about the impact of the Powley case on her family. She explained that Steve Powley had been a very private man, who did not like to even be photographed and that it was a huge adjustment for him to adapt to the media glare that had accompanied the Powley case. She described the fear of being taken to court and the resulting confiscation of their meat from a severe illness he asked: “What was my purpose in life? In what ways was I like them? What was my purpose in life?”

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President Lipinski addressed when he spoke after the opening prayer for the event. “Salt of the earth. On behalf of all MNO communities, put their full support behind Steve and Roddy and this crystalized to bring the MNO to the Powley family and thank them for their rights and contributions recognized.”

President Lipinski also explained that besides being an important Métis rights case, the Powley case was crucial in the development of the MNO. “The Powley case,” he said, “was the case that helped bring the MNO together. People need a cause; they need something to stand behind.”

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**MNO Credit River Métis Council**

**Louis Riel Day gathering**

Celebrating the recognition of Métis culture, identity and history

By: Richard Cuddy, President of the MNO Credit River Métis Council

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On November 17, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council hosted a Louis Riel celebration and gathering in Brampton. MNO citizens from neighbouring MNO Hamilton-Wentworth and MNO Great Lakes Métis Councils also attended, bringing the total number of guests to over 1,500.

Senator Ray Bergie provided the opening prayer and MNO Credit River Métis Council President Richard Cuddy provided welcoming remarks. President Cuddy also spoke about the significance of 2013 and the dual anniversaries of the MNO and the Powley decision.

During the event, MNO Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch staff presented a Powley decision.

Guests were treated to a buffet feast consisting of salad, beans, fish soup, scalloped potatoes, vegetables, moose, venison and so much more. Special thanks to the contributions provided by our Harvesters Joe Paquette, President of the MNO Veterans’ Council and Jim Tolles; also to Chef Mike Tenue for the preparation of the venison back quarter.

The Council would like to thank their staff and supporters of the community attended. The Dryden Dryden Phases II Combating Racism; Conservation Halton; Centre Ontario de Pr´évention des Agres- sions (COPA); Mississauga Halton and Central West LHINs; Dufferin Peel District Catholic School and Peel District School Boards; Peel Children’s Aid Society; the Region of Halton and Councillor John Sanderson, Regional Councillor for Wards 3 and 4 in the City of Brampton.

“Gatherings like these are vital to our community’s stability, sustainability and growth.”

— Richard Cuddy

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**New reason to remember Riel Day**

Recent Supreme Court ruling vindicates Métis leader.

By: Steve Henschel (Niagara This Week – Welland)

WELLAND — As the Métis flag was raised in front of city hall there was a special reason to remember this year.

As they did over the past four years, representatives from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Niagara Region Métis Council met with Mayor Barry Sharpe and city representatives to raise the flag in honour of Louis Riel Day. The small crowd gathered last Friday, one day ahead of the actual Nov. 16 date of Riel’s execution as the leader of the Métis.

“The fight he began for the Métis people, we are celebrating that,” said MNO Niagara Region Métis Council President Derrick Pont.

“He stood up,” said Pont, explaining the Métis leader and his provincial government were influential in the establishment of Manitoba as a province, participating in negotiations with the Canadian government in 1870. Those negotiations were supposed to yield dedicated lands for the Métis.

“The government at the time started sending surveyors out and giving away that land,” said Pont. “He (Riel) stood up.”

Riel would lead the Métis in open rebellion and eventually be executed for his involvement.

“He ended up losing his life to that cause,” said Pont. “Now, 128 years later, vindication has finally come.”

Pont explained this year the Supreme Court finally made a ruling on the MMF’s Canada case. In a 6-2 vote the court found that “the Federal Crown failed to implement the land grant provision set out in s.31 of the Manitoba Act, 1870 in accordance with the honour of the Crown.”

Pont explains the ruling makes this year’s Riel Day particularly special as it shows the promise he fought for was indeed ignored and abused by the Canadian government of the day.

“What he was fighting for has been finally justified by the courts,” said Pont. “The Métis people are not to be forgotten anymore.”

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**Dryden Riel Day Celebration**

Submitted by: Mandy Montgomery, MNO Employment Developer

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Dryden office held a Louis Riel Day Celebration on Friday, November 15.

A Métis flag raising took place at Dryden City Hall where members of the MNO Northwest Métis Council, MNO staff and supporters of the community attended. The Dryden Mayor assisted with the raising of the flag.

This was followed by a reception at the MNO office where everyone enjoyed snacks and refreshments.

A feast hosted by MNO staff proved to be a huge success with 115 community members attending. Entertainment was provided by “Boarder Line” who performed a number of dances including square dances and jigs.

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**2013 LOUIS RIEL DAY & POWLEY ANNIVERSARY EVENTS**

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**Midwinter 2013, Issue no. 78**

Métis Voyageur

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The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) North Bay Métis Council held a Louis Riel day flag raising event at the North Bay City Hall. The Council was very honoured by the presence of the North Bay Mayor Al McDonald and Nipissing Member of Provincial Parliament Victor Fideli. Mayor McDonald read the Louis Riel Day proclamation and another highlight was a reading about the life of Louis Riel by Denis Tremblay, a councillor for the MNO North Bay Métis Council.

Dignitaries, MNO North Bay Métis Council members and MNO staff watch the Métis flag rise at North Bay City Hall in honour of Louis Riel Day.

Méthis youth visits historic grave of Louis Riel

Submitted by: Theresa Stenlund, PCMNO Region 1 Councillor

On a recent family trip to Winnipeg, Katelyne Stenlund, the daughter of Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Region 1 Councillor Theresa Stenlund, had the opportunity to visit the St. Boniface Roman Catholic Cemetery. This cemetery is the final resting of Louis Riel and while there Katelyne had her picture taken with the grave of the great Métis leader.

Métis youth visits historic grave of Louis Riel

Submitted by: Theresa Stenlund, PCMNO Region 1 Councillor

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MNO Niagara Region celebrates fifth year of Riel Day flag raising ceremony

Submitted by: Glen Lipinski, MNO Community Relations Coordinator

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Niagara Region Métis Council held a beautiful flag raising ceremony in honour of Louis Riel Day at St. Catharines City Hall on November 15. This was the Council’s fifth year raising the Métis flag in honour of Louis Riel Day at St. Catharines. Among MNO council members and staff were St. Catharines Mayor Brian McMullen, Member of Parliament Rick Dykstra and Member of Provincial Parliament Jim Bradley.

Original article published by the City of Toronto.
MNO Employment and Contracting Community Gathering

Submitted by: James Wagar, MNO Manager of Natural Resources and Consultations

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) in conjunction with the Niagara Region Métis Council and Union Gas hosted the MNO Employment and Contracting Community Gathering on October 29 in St. Catharines.

MNO citizens from Region 9 and Region 8 who attended had the opportunity to spend time with the community, speak with a number of universities and seek out new employment opportunities with a variety of companies. Companies providing employment opportunities included Union Gas, Niagara Region Wind Corporation, Enercor, TSP Towers Canada, PCL, AECON Utilities and Link-Line.

The event included speeches from MNO Region 9 Youth Representative Alex Young and PCMNO Region 9 Councillor Peter Rivers as well as representatives from Union Gas and the Niagara Region Wind Corporation.

MNO citizens and organization representatives at the MNO Employment and Contracting Community Gathering.

(Left to right) John Bonin, Union Gas; Peter Rivers, MNO Region 9 PCMNO Councillor; Jo Anne Young, President of the MNO Hamilton-Wentworth Métis Council; Alex Young, MNO Region 9 Youth; Cora Bunn, President of MNO Grand River Community Métis Council; Richard Cuddy, President of MNO Credit River Métis Council and Derrick Pont, President of MNO Niagara Region Métis Council.

Councillors participate in MNO Governance and Finance Training

Submitted by: Glen Lipinski, MNO Community Relations Coordinator

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Niagara Region Métis Council recently both participated in the MNO’s two-day Governance and Finance Training. Training was held from October 19-20 for the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council and from November 2-3 for the MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council.

Facilitated by Glen Lipinski, MNO Consultation and Community Relations Coordinator and Beth Honsberger, MNO Community Relations Coordinator, the two-day training focused on governance and began with a “Métis 101.” Additional topics covered included visioning, challenges, opportunities and planning for councils. Lipinski and Honsberger also concentrated on finance and the New Relationship Fund. They delivered sessions focusing on polices, procedures, aspects of budgeting and general reporting.

Region 9 Consultation Committee tours Dawn Compressor Plant

Submitted by: James Wagar, MNO Manager of Natural Resources and Consultations

Building relationships with proponents requires ongoing work and learning about the companies that the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) partners with. Part of this important work is made possible by MNO consultation committees. The Regional Consultation Committees work in collaboration with MNO staff to ensure inclusive, transparent and meaningful Métis engagement with proponents across the province.

On October 9, Union Gas provided the MNO Region 9 Consultation Committee, invited community council members and MNO staff with a tour of the Dawn Compressor Plant. This tour is part of the ongoing relationship building between the MNO and Union Gas throughout the province.

The plant is Canada’s largest natural formation natural gas storage facility. The center holds 155 billion cubic feet of natural gas in 23 reservoirs - enough to heat about 1.9 million homes for an entire year.

The Committee members enjoyed the tour which was very informative and provided greater insight into the work of Union Gas.
Learning to harvest
MNO Georgian Bay Métis youth group
Submitted by: Larry Ferris,
MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Chairperson

From October 12-13, six members from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council youth group participated in the First Hunting/Firearms Safety Course. All six participants passed and seven more also took the course from October 19-20.

As part of the training, MNO Captain of the Hunt for Region Seven Greg Dumont provided an overview of the MNO Harvesting Policy and the rights and obligations associated with the policy. The MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council would like to thank the Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth for providing a grant to fund this course.

Perhaps someday these young people may even join the ranks of the MNO Harvesters. On another evening, the youth group enjoyed an evening of sausage making.

Youth made sausages from venison provided by the Gar- ratt and moose and some venison provided by Harvester Larry Ferris. They ground up the moose meat and mixed the meat with pork fat and then put it into the sausage casings. All the youth and some of the parents participated in the process.

Thanks to Garratt for organizing all the materials and Janice Ferris for providing the special recipe.

Everyone enjoyed samples and where able to take some sausages home. Some sausages were given to Métis elder Gerry Morland. Métis entrepreneurs were also invited to display information about their services. This also provided the opportunity for the community to learn about Métis culture.

The highlight of the evening was the fish fry which attracted 75 people. During the celebration, the children demonstrated their talents in face painting taught by Elizabeth Morland. Métis entrepreneurs were also invited to display information about their services. This also provided the opportunity for the community to learn about Métis culture.

On October 15, council members also attended the Ecole Ste-Croix Thanksgiving celebration. The Council participated in the celebration by donating canned goods they collected at their previous harvest gathering.

Harvesting with the MNO Temiskaming Métis Council
Submitted by: Liliane Ethier, President of the MNO Temiskaming Métis Council

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Temiskaming Métis Council has been very active in their community. Some recent activities include a harvest gathering and a Thanksgiving celebration.

On September 21, the MNO Temiskaming Métis Council hosted a harvest gathering in New Liskeard. The gathering was a great success with over 90 people attending.

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Community

Métis capote coat workshop
By: Cora Bunn, President of the MNO Grand River Métis Council

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council held a capote coat workshop earlier this month. Members from the MNO Credit River Métis Council, Hamilton-Wentworth Métis Council, Niagara Region Métis Council and the Ottawa Regional Métis Council participated in the fun filled event. Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) Vice-chair, Sharon McBride was also in attendance.

A capote is a historical Métis dress item often made from a woolen Hudson’s Bay Company blanket. The coats are lightweight but warm and extend to the knees. The capote coat has become an original and unique work of art as they are commonly decorated with beadwork, embroidery, sashes, fringes and quillwork.

By: Derrick Wentworth, Member of Parliament for Welland-Markham-Port Perry

On September 21, the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council President Derrick Wentworth held a harvest gathering in New Liskeard. The gathering was a great success with over 100 attendants and great weather and of course, awesome food. The day’s entertainment was provided by the Niagara Old Tyme Fiddlers.

Among notable attendees were Member of Parliament for Welland Malcolm Allen, Member of Provincial Parliament for Welland Cindy Forster, and Mayor of Welland Barry Sharpe.

Participants of the capote coat workshop.

Activities during the MNO Temiskaming Métis Council harvest gathering included face painting and a food drive for Thanksgiving potluck harvest dinner.

Celebrating the harvest
Submitted by: Glen Lipinski,
MNO Community Relations Coordinator

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Niagara Region Métis Council held their annual potluck harvest dinner on September 29.

The event was a great success with over 100 attendants and great weather and of course, awesome food. The day’s entertainment was provided by the Niagara Old Tyme Fiddlers.

Among notable attendees were Member of Parliament for Welland Malcolm Allen, Member of Provincial Parliament for Welland Cindy Forster, and Mayor of Welland Barry Sharpe.

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Remembrance Day

LEST WE forget.

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE WAS SENT TO ALL MNO CITIZENS FROM PRESIDENT LIPINSKI ON NOVEMBER 11, 2013

We owe all veterans, including our own Métis service men and women a debt that can never be repaid. The freedom we enjoy and its many benefits were dearly paid for through their sacrifices and courage.

The Métis have a strong tradition of military service. 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.

On November 11, please take the time to remember our veterans who paid the ultimate price for our freedom and thank those who are still with us. ∞

Gary Lipinski
President, Métis Nation of Ontario

Welland Remembrance Day parade
MNO NIAGARA REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL PLAY SIGNIFICANT ROLE

Submitted by Amanda Pont-Shanks, MNO Niagara Region Métis Council

On Sunday November 3, members of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Niagara Region Métis Council participated in the Welland Legion Remembrance Day parade at CHIPPEWA PARK.

Council members Amanda Pont-Shanks, Chair Giselle Legiehn as well as MNO citizen Marjorie Berry proudly carried Métis flags in the Legion Flag Party. Council members Reg Bernier, Senator Garry Laframboise, President Derrick Pont, and Métis youth Holden Shanks all walked in the procession.

Senator Laframboise placed the wreath in front of the cenotaph to pay respect to past and present veterans who fought to keep Canada free and safe.

Others in attendance included Welland Mayor Barry Sharpe, members of the provincial government, and a War of 1812 re-enactor, to celebrate 200 years of peace between Canada and the United States.

Members of the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council also participated at the Remembrance Day ceremonies in Port Dalhousie and St. Catharines.

Lest we forget. ∞

MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council remembers

Submitted by The MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Atikokan and Area Métis Council participated in the Remembrance Day celebration at their local Royal Canadian Legion.

Council Treasurer Sandra Gauthier-Poelman, whose now deceased father is a veteran, represented the Council and laid a wreath in honour of all Métis Veterans. ∞
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in honour of North Bay Métis veterans during North Bay’s Remembrance Day ceremony. North Bay Métis veterans Doris Evans laid a wreath in the position of Senator and Veteran Evans in the following year’s ceremony as it would require prolonged standing and Shaun Redmond was injured her foot but could not lay the wreath as it would require prolonged standing and Shaun Redmond was out of the country.

Standing in for Senator Gordon and Redmond at this year’s ceremony was veteran and MNO Registrar Jane Brennan and her husband, Veteran Steve Mackenzie. Registrar Brennan has had a distinguished record of military service and is well known to MNO veterans for her interest and support of their projects. “The Métis veterans I know have served with dignity and courage that are a source of pride to their families,” explained Registrar Brennan. “You can see this in the support and respect given to them.”

“Remembrance Day is important for veterans because it is a time to reflect, remember and honour those that didn’t return with them,” she continued. “For everyone else it is not only the opportunity to reflect, remember and honour those that didn’t return but also a chance to learn and understand the history of what occurred.”

Métis veterans showed their dedication at Remembrance Day ceremonies all over Ontario. Two such veterans were Ernie Cotes and Peter Gendron who despite the cold and rain, placed wreaths at the War Memorial monument in Owen Sound.

At the Remembrance Day ceremony, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senator Marie Greenwood and Veteran Doris Evans laid a wreath in honour of North Bay Métis veterans during North Bay’s Remembrance Day service.

Honouring North Bay Métis veterans

Submitted by: Linda Krause, MNO Employment & Training Officer

This Remembrance Day, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senator Marie Greenwood and Veteran Doris Evans laid a wreath in honour of North Bay Métis veterans during Memorial Garden in North Bay’s Remembrance Day service held at Memorial Garden in North Bay. Senator Greenwood and Veteran Evans are long-time active members of the MNO North Bay Métis Council, Senator Greenwood in the position of Senator and Veteran Evans in the position of Secretary-Treasurer. Both Senator Greenwood and Veteran Evans are representatives for Métis veterans from families with military backgrounds, they understand the need to honour each and every man and woman who has served. Last year Veteran Evans was awarded the Diamond Jubilee Medal which was presented to her by North Bay Member of Parliament Vic Fedeli.

Métis youth group veterans awareness night

Submitted by: Greg Garrott, MNO Veterans’ Council Sg’t-at-Arms

This Remembrance Day, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council youth group hosted a veterans awareness and fun evening. Métis youth enjoyed crafts, colouring, trivia and education about Métis veterans and how they helped shape Canada. Organized by MNO Veterans’ Council Sg’t-at-Arms Greg Garrott and MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Chairperson Larry Ferris, the evening included contests, prizes and sandwiches provided by Bernice Paradis.

The MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council has done excellent work with youth activities over the past few years with much of the thanks going to the many volunteers on council and their families. The Council hopes to host a youth-veterans weekend in the new year on an expanded level.

2013 REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

MNO remembers our Métis veterans

Every year the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has participated in the national Remembrance Day ceremonies in Ottawa by laying a wreath at the National Cenotaph on behalf of all MNO citizens. Being part of these ceremonies is very important as Métis people have contributed to the defense of Canada as far back as the War of 1812.

For more than a decade MNO Senator Reta Gordon and MNO Veteran Shaun Redmond have performed this important gesture on behalf of the MNO. This has always been meaningful to them as Redmond is a veteran himself and Senator Gordon’s family has deep military ties, with her father and five brothers all having served in the Armed Forces. Unfortunately this year Senator Gordon injured her foot and could not lay the wreath as it would require prolonged standing and Shaun Redmond was out of the country.

Standing in for Senator Gordon and Redmond at this year’s ceremony was veteran and MNO Registrar Jane Brennan and her husband, Veteran Steve Mackenzie. Registrar Brennan has had a distinguished record of military service and is well known to MNO veterans for her interest and support of their projects. “The Métis veterans I know have served with dignity and courage that are a source of pride to their families,” explained Registrar Brennan. “You can see this in the support and respect given to them.”

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Attending the Remembrance Day ceremonies and laying a wreath is a form of respect. It is a way of saying that we haven’t forgotten the service and sacrifice.” — Jane Brennan
Métis youth presents at Burt Award for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Literature Gala

Submitted by: Theresa Hendricks, MNO Payroll Officer

Marissa Hendricks, daughter of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens Theresa and Keith Hendricks, recently presented at CODE’s Burt Award for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Literature Inaugural Gala. The event was held on October 2 at the Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Quebec.

The award was established by CODE – a Canadian charitable organization that has been advancing literacy and learning in Canada and around the world for over 50 years – in collaboration with William (Bill) Burt and the Literary Prizes Foundation.

Part of a unique global readership initiative, CODE’s Burt Award aims to recognize excellence in literary works for young adults by Métis, First Nations and Inuit authors. It is a unique literary award that arrives to provide Aboriginal youth across Canada with access to culturally-relevant and engaging books.

Approached by CODE, Marissa provided a reading of Métis Burt Award finalist, Catherine Knutsson’s novel Shadows Cast By Stars to a crowd of over 100 people. The novel blends a contemporary feminist sensibility with Arthurian legends, Greek mythology and Native traditions to create a rich and captivating story narrated by a Métis character.

Marissa was one of five youth chosen to speak at the event and was introduced by Métis Nation- al Council representative Marc LeClair. The evening also featured Aboriginal music, including Métis fiddler Anthony Brascoupe.

“It was a great experience that CODE gave me,” said Marissa. “I’m so happy that they selected me to read a passage on behalf of the Métis community.”

First place winner was awarded to Richard Wagamese for his novel Indian Horse. Second place was awarded to Tara Lee Motin for her novel At I Remember It and third place to James Burtleman for his novel A Long as the Rivers Flow.

“Congratulations on this great achievement!”

Métis scientific researcher 1 of 5 in Canada to receive prestigious award

Submitted by: Richard Cuddy, MNO Credit River Métis Council President and Dr. Melissa Perreault

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Dr. Melissa Perreault was recently one of five basic science researchers in Canada to be awarded the prestigious National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD) Awards, now known as the Brain and Behaviour Research Foundation (BBRF), Young Investigators Award for 2014.

BBRF is an organization that plays a pivotal role in providing research support to scientists committed to mental health research. The goal of the BBRF is to “alleviate the suffering caused by mental illness by awarding grants that will lead to advances and breakthroughs in scientific research.”

The BBRF selects the most promising ideas for the NARSAD Awards to young, independent and distinguished investigators. One of the priority areas of the BBRF is to fund basic neuroscience research in an attempt to understand what happens in the brain to cause mental illness.

A researcher at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in Toronto, Dr. Perreault acquired her Ph.D. in psychiatry and behavioural neuroscience. Her research focuses on discerning the neurological mechanisms underlying cognitive dysfunction in schizophrenia.

“I am optimistic that this research could result in the identification of novel therapeutic targets not only in schizophrenia, but in other disorders of cognitive dysfunction,” stated Dr. Perreault. “As individuals who are dealing with mental health issues manifest distinct symptoms and therapeutic interventions must be tailored to each individual patient, it is critical to understand how these disease processes work from the level of the gene up to the manifestation of the behaviour.”

Dr. Perreault is one researcher of a team of basic science and clinical scientists at CAMH, a facility that combines mental health research with clinical care, education, policy development and health promotion to help transform the lives of people affected by mental health and addiction issues. CAMH, among other agencies in Toronto, offers special services to Aboriginal peoples experiencing addiction and mental health issues.

“This award is an exceptional accomplishment and we look forward to the outcomes of Dr. Perreault’s research in the area of schizophrenia,” said Dr. Renee Linklater, CAMHS Manager of Aboriginal Community Engagement. “It is promising to see Métis scientists contributing directly to the field of evidence in mental health research. With expertise existing in the community, it will further the advancement of Métis specific interventions that will improve the healing and wellbeing of Aboriginal populations in general.”

Dr. Perreault’s achievement, like all Métis success stories, demonstrates how much MNO citizens’ contributions can benefit their own communities and also the population of Ontario and Canada.

Congratulations on this great achievement!”
New MNO video series highlights Métis success stories

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) offers a variety of education and training programs, bursaries and scholarships in partnership with post-secondary institutions and employers. These programs have assisted Métis people advance their education and careers through funding and work placements.

To highlight the success of some of the Métis who have taken advantage of the MNO’s offerings, the MNO produced a series of videos highlighting these individuals in such fields as trades, health care, aviation and administration.

One video features Darryl and Jason Grenier. From Midland, the Grenier brothers were looking to further their training in the trades. After consulting with the MNO, the brothers received funding to further their education and training in HVAC and gas fitting. In this video, the brothers share their experience of working with the MNO and how the MNO’s support helped to start them off in the right direction.

Another video features Justin Belcourt from Sudbury. Justin graduated from Aviation College in pilot training but due to financial difficulties he could not complete the second component of his training, instructor rating. That’s when he decided to contact the MNO. The MNO was able to provide the financial means that allowed Justin to complete his training and essentially achieve his dream job as a flight instructor.

Melissa Folz is also the feature of a video. Originally from Sault Ste. Marie, Melissa was a student of the Sault College and Laurentian University collaborative nursing program. In her fourth year, she was required to move to Toronto for a placement at Sunnybrook Hospital, a move which she could not afford on her own. The MNO was able to provide financial support to fund Melissa’s tuition, books and travel to complete her degree in nursing. Melissa is now able to sustain a living in Toronto in a very rewarding nursing career.

MNO’s very own Guylaine Morin-Cleroux is also the feature of another video. Guylaine joined the MNO through the Métis Training Strategy Program as a receptionist, and is currently the Administrative Coordinator for the MNO’s Education and Training Branch, a position that she very much enjoys. In 2009 she came on board as a permanent employee which she still is today and plans to be in the future.

To watch the videos or for more information on MNO’s education and training programs please visit the MNO website at www.metisnation.org
Young Métis artist receives first award

Submitted by: Loma Rowlinson
Métis Young Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Provincial Coordinator

Dakota Rowlinson, a new and young Métis artist received his first award. The 11 year old son of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff member Melanie Rose Frappier, has been selected as one of the recipients of the Aboriginal Youth Achievement Award which she received at the award ceremony in Ottawa on October 18.

The award recognizes youth for their perseverance and dedication to the Aboriginal community and for their achievements and contributions as role models. Frappier is an active youth member of the MNO and was one of the participants of the 2013 MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp in Mattawa.

Frappler is an active participant in various Aboriginal events such as Louis Riel Day and National Aboriginal Day in her Sudbury community. She also had an important leadership role as Northern Ontario's representative in the Youth Ambassador of Canada program, which included the experience of a three-week student exchange in the United States.

Congratulations on this great achievement!