Executive members of the MNO Veterans’ Council, from left to right: MNO Veteran Tim Majovsky, President Joseph Paquette and Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy lay wreaths at the “Northwest Rebellion” monument at the provincial Louis Riel Day ceremony at Queen’s Park in Toronto.
**FAMILY**

**Jennifer & David tie the knot!**

submitted by | Jennifer Nicholson
PCMNO Post-Secondary Representative

PCMNO Post-Secondary Representative Jennifer Nicholson (Henry) would like to announce her marriage to David Nicholson on September 30, 2014. They had a small ceremony in Whitchurch-Stouffville, Ontario in which family and friends attended.

submitted by | Jennifer Nicholson
PCMNO Post-Secondary Representative

Jennifer Nicholson (Henry) and David Nicholson on their wedding day.

**Danielle & Mark get hitched!**

submitted by | Pauline Richardson
PCMNO Region 7 Councillor

We are pleased to announce that Danielle Callander (Secord), Youth Representative for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council, and Mark Callander, were married on November 1, 2014 at the Best Western Atiram in Midland. Congratulations to the happy couple!  

submitted by | Jennifer Nicholson
PCMNO Post-Secondary Representative

Danielle Callander (Secord) and Mark Callander on their wedding day.

**New addition to the Métis family**

submitted by | Valerie Boose

We would like to welcome the newest addition to the Métis family, Atlas Martin. The proud Mom and Dad are Tracy and Roger, daughter and son-in-law of Huguette and Douglas Boese, nephew to Kevin Boese and Barbara Bucko, and cousin to Aiden and Grayson. Congratulations!  

submitted by | Valerie Boose

Atlas Martin.

**In memoriam**

In loving memory of Normand "Norm" Guerin, it is with great sadness that the family announces his passing at the Toronto General Hospital on Thursday, October 2, 2014 at the age of 76 years. Beloved husband of Aline Guerin. Loving father of Doug (Sue), Gay (Chris) and Ron (Cathy). Cherished grandfather to Kevin (Melissa) and Eric (Cassie). Dear brother to Gilles (Pauline), Donald, Denis (Helene), Noeline (Reginald), Luke and Christina (Josh). Step grandfather of Tyler (Brooke), Dylan, Daniel, Amy, Mike and Laurie. Step great grandfather of Kaia. Predeceased by his parents Henri and Lilian Guerin. Norm will be remembered for his sense of humour as well as his love and passion for living. He enjoyed travelling, spending time with his family and friends and living life to the fullest. A celebration of life was held in November 8, 2014.

submitted by | Jennifer Nicholson

Normand ‘Norm’ Guerin.

referring to: Jennifer Nicholson (Henry) and David Nicholson on their wedding day.

referring to: Danielle Callander (Secord) and Mark Callander on their wedding day.
Meeting with the Premier
MNO-Ontario meeting advances Métis issues

by | MNO Staff

A n MNO delegation led by President Gary Lipinski and including MNO Finance Officer France Picotte and MNO Chief Operating Officer Doug Wilson met with Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, Aboriginal Affairs Minister David Zimmer and Deputy Aboriginal Affairs Minister David DeLaunay on November 28 at Queen’s Park in Toronto.

These annual MNO-Ontario meetings traditionally take place in November and provide both governments the opportunity to review past successes, ongoing cooperation and discuss upcoming areas of common interest. “The positive tone of this meeting, like those of the past, underscores the benefits of working together,” commented President Lipinski.

Key discussion points included a review of the objectives of the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement that had been renewed earlier this year for another five years. “The Framework Agreement,” stated President Lipinski, “continues to be the foundation of our strong relationship with Ontario. It outlines clearly where our two governments will collaborate for the benefit of Métis people, families and communities.”

“As these meetings take place at the highest level,” explained President Lipinski, “they provide the direction necessary to ensure continued progress on a whole range of issues important to Métis in this province. We are very pleased that Ontario continues to recognize the role of the MNO as representing Métis interests in this province.”

“As these meetings take place at the highest level they provide the direction necessary to ensure continued progress on a whole range of issues.” — MNO President Gary Lipinski

“As these meetings take place at the highest level they provide the direction necessary to ensure continued progress on a whole range of issues.” — MNO President Gary Lipinski

The MNO had been receiving funding for programs through ASETS since 1996. “These are some of the most successful programs of their kind in Canada,” explained President Lipinski, “we have been able to provide millions of dollars of training and financial support to Métis. This kind of support makes it possible for our Métis from across all regions of Ontario to reach their potential and become all they can be.” — MNO President Gary Lipinski

“This kind of support makes it possible for our Métis from across all regions of Ontario to reach their potential and become all they can be.” — MNO President Gary Lipinski

MNO ASETS funding renewed for one year

by | MNO Staff

I t was announced on November 17, 2014 that the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) will receive a one year extension of funding through the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASET) following the completion of its current five year ASETS agreement on March 31, 2015.

The five year agreement signed between the federal government and the MNO in November 2010 provided for 30.6 million dollars over the five years of the agreement. The ASETS program has helped the MNO to address Ontar- io’s labour market shortages and industry demands by providing a wide range of skills development programs and employer focused training opportunities. ASETS has allowed the MNO to improve the well-being of countless Métis individ- uals and families who are now contributing to Canada’s economic growth and success,” stated MNO President Gary Lipinski.

The MNO had been receiving funding for programs through ASETS predecessor programs since 1996. “These are some of the most successful programs of their kind in Canada,” explained President Lipinski, “we have been able to provide millions of dollars of training and financial support to Métis. This kind of support makes it possible for our Métis from across all regions of Ontario to reach their potential and become all they can be.”

The one year renewal will allow the MNO to continue operating its programs while discussions continue to sign another long term agreement with the federal government on Education and Training.

“We are relaxed,” stated President Lipinski, “to be able to continue to provide quality services to Métis people in Ontario as we continue to work towards a renewed strategy.”

“The late Harry Daniels, who initiated Daniels v Canada, is most widely known among Métis people as one of the individuals who negotiated the expressed inclusion of “Métis People” in the Constitution Act, 1982.”

Métis Rights

MNO will intervene in Daniels case at the Supreme Court

In response to the announce- ment on November 20, 2014, which stipulated that the Supreme Court has granted leave to hear an appeal on Daniels v Canada, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski declared that the MNO would seek intervener status during hearings for the case expected in 2015.

“We would have preferred if the Supreme Court had chosen to not hear the case,” explained Lipinski, “as the Federal Court of Canada ruling earlier this year clarified all issues impacting Métis but since the case will go to the High Court, we will be intervening in order to urge the Justices to uphold the decision of the Federal Court.”

The Federal Court decision on Daniels v Canada released in April this year upheld key aspects of the rulings of lower courts that asserted that Métis are the responsibility of the federal government and should be defined as “Indians” under the Canadian Constitution and there- fore should receive similar rights and benefits.

Lipinski added, “that the federal government chose to appeal the case to the Supreme Court rather than enter into negotiations with Métis governments. Now that the case is going to appeal, however, the MNO will intervene to ensure that the voice of Métis in Ontario is heard.”

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Métis Voyageur
Winter 2014, Issue no. 83
Out of the Fur Trade

Historic Research Report
Released on Métis Community in Mattawa/Nipissing Region

The settlement of Mattawa provided a focal point for this research. Situated at the eastern edge of the study area and at the confluence of the Mattawa and Ottawa Rivers, two historic fur trade routes, Mattawa is a complex geographical hub with an extensive network of historic canoe and portage trails, and eventually roads and rail-roads. Consequently, mixed-ancestry Métis populations in the study area were mobile and moved at different seasons and stages of life which affected their presence in the historical record and the artificial boundaries required by this study: a crude triangularly-shaped territory with its apex above Lake Timiskaming in the north, west on the Mattawa River as far as Lake Nipissing, and then east on the Ottawa as far as Fort William/Lac des Allumettes. The researchers recognize that many of the networks presented in this report and those that are not likely transcend these geographic limits.

KEY FINDING:
Links to HBC and NWC employees and First Nations

A mixed-ancestry [Métis] community existed in the Mattawa region that has links with “Countrymen” population of former NWC and HBC employees. This mixed-ancestry Métis population was present throughout the entire study area and is visible through its common kinship, economic and religious practices. This community lived alongside and interacted with First Nations communities. Although this research focuses on the settlement of Mattawa, the extended network of the mixed-ancestry community is clearly evident along the Ottawa River and its tributaries between 1850 and 1920.

KEY FINDING:
Métis were mobile and moved with the seasons

This report confirms what the MNO has always known. A significant, distinctive and interrelated Métis community emerged along the fur trade waterways in this region in the early 19th Century. This community is a part of a larger network that connects regional Métis communities within Ontario as a part of the larger Métis Nation. Any uncertainty about the history and contemporary existence of this rights-bearing Métis community should now be a thing of the past.

This research also fulfills a shared commitment of the MNO and the Ontario Government flowing from the 2004 MNO-Ontario Harvesting Agreement with respect to pursuing joint research on the MNO’s identified traditional territories (as set out in the MNO Harvesting Policy and the attached map). This harvesting agreement, which remains in place today, recognizes the MNO Harvesting Policy and MNO Harvesters Card system in those traditional territories.

“I want to thank both Ontario and Canada for their support of this research initiative.”

“I want to thank both Ontario and Canada for their support of this research initiative. This report confirms what the MNO has always known. A significant, distinctive and interrelated Métis community emerged along the fur trade waterways in this region in the early 19th Century. This community is a part of a larger network that connects regional Métis communities within Ontario as a part of the larger Métis Nation. Any uncertainty about the history and contemporary existence of this rights-bearing Métis community should now be a thing of the past.”

“This community is a part of a larger network that connects regional Métis communities within Ontario as a part of the larger Métis Nation.”

— MNO President Gary Lipinski

“...commitment. This report will also assist the MNO in moving forward in our rights-based agenda based on the facts of history and will ensure proper Crown consultation occurs with the Métis community in this region in the future,” concluded President Lipinski.

KEY FINDING:
Creation of distinct social and cultural environment

The kinship links within this community are significant: 89.92%, or 1027 of the 1142 people studied were connected to each other via immediate kinship links. Marriages were either endogamous (between groups of a same cultural community) or exogamous (incorporating First Nation or Euro-Canadian persons into a mixed-ancestry framework, for example). We see common behaviour and association within the community based on the visual representation of immediate kinship relationships, occupational data, and religious relationships of baptism. While the social network analysis was also limited by the availability of sources, the findings demonstrate presence of a cluster of 200+ persons who strategically associated with one another throughout time and space, creating a distinct social and cultural environment for themselves.

**Duty to Consult**

**MNO James Bay/Abitibi-Témiskamingue Consultation Committee tour mine**

by | MNO Staff

On September 16, 2014, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) James Bay/Abitibi-Témiskamingue Consultation Committee as well as MNO staff were invited on a site visit to Detour Gold Mine, located roughly 250 kilometres from the town of Cochrane, Ontario.

For many committee members, it was a first time visit to this impressive remote mining camp. For others, it had been a number of years since visiting. All participants were impressed with all the mine had to offer.

The MNO has an Impact Benefit Agreement with Detour Gold that has yielded many positive outcomes for both parties. Through employment and training, the Detour Gold Agreement has offered financial contributions that will be used to enhance Métis presence within the mining industry. Also, negotiated funds have led to Traditional Knowledge projects that help enhance and deepen the story of Métis history and culture in this province.

One of the major topics of discussion was the environmental impacts that Detour Gold has on the surrounding land as well as their reclamation process once the mine closes. Detour Gold demonstrated their commitment to keeping their environmental footprint small as well as following government regulations to ensure the land and ecosystem can flourish post mining camp.

Leonard Rickard, Detour Gold Aboriginal Affairs Manager, led the tour. Region 3 PCMNO Representative Marcel Lafrenière presented Rickard with a copy of the MNO Values and Traditions of our Ancestors publication.

**MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law**

**MNO appoints Scott Patles-Richardson as CEO of Infinity Investments LP**

Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski announced the appointment of Mr. Scott Patles-Richardson as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the MNO’s newly created economic development and business arm called Infinity Investments LP on December 9, 2014.

In August 2013, the MNO Annual General Assembly unanimously passed the MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law, which mandated the MNO to create Infinity Investments LP as an independent and arms-length corporate structure to pursue business and economic development opportunities on behalf of Ontario Métis at the provincial, regional and local levels. A copy of this MNO law is available at www.metisnation.org.

Infinity Investments LP (named after the well-known symbol on the Métis Nation’s national flag) will consolidate all of the MNO’s business operations and opportunities under one corporate structure. These MNO business ventures and opportunities already include over 50 rooftops and ground mounted solar projects throughout Ontario, through MNO-Brightroof LP, impacts and benefits agreements with the Detour Gold and New Gold mines as well as several strategic joint ventures with industry partners.

After an extensive recruitment process, Mr. Patles-Richardson was selected by the MNO because he has the skills and expertise necessary to build out and grow Infinity Investments LP. Scott is a seasoned senior executive with over 20 years experience in finance, corporate development and leadership roles gained from a career in corporate banking and executive positions in private companies such as Fidelity Investments and the Tribal Councils Investment Group of Manitoba Ltd. Scott is a citizen of the Pauing阐述 Mi’gmaq Nation who has devoted his career to enhancing Indigenous opportunities through economic development. His passion involves building companies that create opportunities for Indigenous peoples in a manner that balances sustainability and wealth creation.

MNO President Lipinski said, “I am very pleased that Scott will be the CEO in charge of building our Infinity Investments LP consistent with the vision set out by our citizens in the MNO Economic Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law. He is a tested corporate leader and has impeccable business credentials. I believe his skills, combined with the increasing economic opportunities available to Ontario Métis and our nation’s well-known entrepreneurial drive, will be a recipe for success.”

“I am honoured to take on this exciting opportunity to advance business opportunities for Ontario Métis. I strongly believe in building companies that create opportunities for Indigenous peoples and communities in a manner that balances sustainable economic development and the bottom line. With the MNO’s support and credibility, I believe Infinity Investments LP will be able to do just that,” said Mr. Patles-Richardson.

It is expected that the official launch for Infinity Investment LP will be held in early 2015. Additional information will be provided at that time. Infinity Investments LP will complement the mandate and work of the MNO’s other independent and arms-length corporation called the Métis Voyager Development Fund (MVDF), which provides funding and support for resource or related sector Métis businesses.

“With Infinity Investments LP, the Métis Voyager Development Fund and our positive relationships with both government and industry, I believe the MNO is building a solid foundation that will enable our nation and communities to create wealth and become economically self-sustaining in the future. I look forward to Scott helping Ontario Métis in achieving that goal,” concluded President Lipinski.

**MNO James Bay/Abitibi-Témiskamingue Consultation Committee and MNO staff during their site visit of the Detour Gold Mine near Cochrane, Ontario.**

**Scott Patles-Richardson is the new Chief Executive Officer of the MNO’s newly created economic development and business arm called Infinity Investments LP.**

**In August 2013, the MNO Annual General Assembly unanimously passed the MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law, which mandated the MNO to create Infinity Investments LP as an independent and arms-length corporate structure to pursue business and economic development opportunities on behalf of Ontario Métis at the provincial, regional and local levels.**
**Métis Voyageur**
**Winter 2014, Issue no. 83**

## Developing an Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy

By MNO Staff

On September 29, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) participated in a Métis and Urban Aboriginal Leadership Roundtable with the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and the Honourable Tracy MacCharles, Minister of Children and Social Services.

The MNO was represented by President Gary Lipinski; Chair France Picotte, Director of Healing and Wellness Wenda Watteyne; and Manager of Operations Shelley Gomerville.

The meeting addressed the development of an Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy and President Lipinski reported that the MNO had conducted Métis Youth Engagement sessions in 19 communities from June to August.

Participants of the Métis and Urban Aboriginal Leadership Roundtable held on September 29, 2014.

As part of MNOs work in developing the strategy along with the MNO, Aboriginal partners represented were the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres and the Ontario Native Women’s Association.

## New Gold and MNO sign Agreement on Rainy River Mine Project

By MNO Staff

The Sun Country Métis Hall in Fort Frances was filled with guests and members who came out to witness a formal signing ceremony to finalize a Participation Agreement (the Agreement) between New Gold Inc. (New Gold) and the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) on November 6, 2014.

An opening prayer was led by John George, Senator, MNO Sun Country Métis Community Council. Welcoming remarks were provided by Theresa Stenlund, Region 1 Councillor for MNO, Robert Gallagher, New Gold Chief Executive Officer, and MNO President Gary Lipinski.

"This Agreement could not have been achieved without the hard work and support of the Métis community and its elected leadership. I want to acknowledge their perseverance in achieving this Agreement—the ‘first-of-its-kind’ for the Métis community in this area. We look forward to continuing to work with New Gold for the benefit of our citizens and our young people," emphasized Stenlund.

"It was a great opportunity for all of you and your people and the generations ahead of you." said Gallagher.

"We are proud to enter into this Agreement with the MNO and look forward to working together in partnership," said Bob Gallagher, President and CEO of New Gold.

"This is a great opportunity for all of you and your people and the generations ahead of you. We are proud to enter into this Agreement with the MNO and look forward to working together in partnership," said Bob Gallagher, President and CEO of New Gold.

"This is a high priority. The Agreement incorporates processes that reflect the shared commitment of New Gold and MNO in protecting the environment and wildlife, and building a long term, mutually beneficial relationship." said President Lipinski.

"We are proud to enter into this Agreement with the MNO and look forward to working together in partnership," said Bob Gallagher, President and CEO of New Gold.

After the formal signing of the Agreement and gift presentations, entertainment was provided by young fiddler, Katelyne Stenlund. Following her performance, a demonstration of jigs, reels and spoons was given by Métis members who invited guests from New Gold to join in the dance.

"This is not about how well we do it, it’s about dancing together with respect and harmony," noted Wanda Bonafond who gave the dance instructions.

After the dance, a traditional lunch of wild rice soup and hankie was served.

MNO President Gary Lipinski (right) met with the Honourable Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Energy (left) on October 27, 2014.
Today I am writing you not only as the President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) but also as a son, a husband, and a father of a young woman and as a man who wants to end violence against women.

The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women is 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. These are not numbers. These are our sisters, moms, grandmas, auntsies, daughters and half-siblings. It is not enough however to wait for others to take action. The MNO has been working to address the issue of violence against Aboriginal women almost since its inception in 1993 and is a full partner in Ontario’s Joint Working Group to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women and a signatory to the Framework to End Violence that must be examined when presenting at schools and community organizations.

If you are interested in having the ASVCRI visit your school or association, contact us at 807-355-1349.

The Faceless Dolls project is a hands-on art project designed to commemorate the lives of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.

“The Faceless Dolls project is a traveling display when presenting at schools and community organizations. If you are interested in having the ASVCRI visit your school or association, contact us at 807-355-1349.”

**Métis singer-songwriter wins Canadian Folk Music Award**

On November 29, 2014, Métis Nation of Ontario citizens (MNO) Amanda Rheaume was thrilled to join 120 hopefuls at the 55th-anniversary edition of the Canadian Folk Music Awards. The awards were handed out during a down-to-earth gala at Ottawa’s Museum of History. Amanda Rheaume, was the hometown favourite in the Aboriginal category, and won the Aboriginal Songwriter of the Year Award for her song “We Aspire,” which will be released on her debut album. This is a true honour.”

“The Faceless Dolls project is a hands-on art project designed to commemorate the lives of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.”

For more information about Amanda visit: amandarheaume.com.
Métis Voyageur
Winter 2014, Issue no. 83

How the Métis confront the challenges of the Canadian legal system

by Chris Coppin
Adapted from an article in Canadian Lawyer Magazine

C
dian lawyer recently
named Jason Madd
en to his list of To
p 25 influ-
ential figures in Cana-
dian law for his work on behalf
of the Métis people. The Métis are
a distinct cultural group of native
peoples who are descendants of
mixed First Nation and European
heritage.

As the chief editor of the Con-
ference of Western Attorneys
General’s American Indian Law
Deskbook, I wanted to learn about
the challenges a Métis faced in
using the legal system in Canada
to gain recognition and the dif-
fences between how the United
States and Canadian governments
deal with indigenous peoples.

I asked Madden to speak with me about
his work on behalf of the Métis
people, and he graciously agreed.
One challenge to gaining legal
recognition for the Métis was to have
a legal definition of who is a Métis,
according to Madden. In R v Pox-
ley, in which Madden was counsel
for the interveners Métis
National Council and the
Métis Nation of Ontario,
the Supreme Court of
Canada described the
term Métis as “distinctive
peoples who, in addition
to their mixed ancestry,
developed their own
customs, and recogniz-
able group identity sepa-
rate from their “Indian”
or “Inuit and European”
forebears. A Métis community is
a group of Métis with a distinctive
collective identity, living together
in the same geographical area
and sharing a common way of life.”

Thus, Métis are not considered
to be “Indians” (First Nations), but
are a separate cultural group.
One of the problems presented by
this distinction, as described by
Madden, is that the Métis people
have found it difficult, if not impossible,
to get the federal government or
provincial governments to engage
the Métis in negotiations to resolve
Métis claims to lands, harvesting
rights, self-governing rights and
compensation for past wrongs.

The Federal Court found that
over the years, the federal
government had a flexible policy
toward the Métis that at times treated
the Métis as under federal juris-
diction and at times not under
federal jurisdiction. The Federal
Court concluded that the Métis
are included as a group under
the term “Indians” as it is used in
the British North America Act, 1867.

The Federal Court of Appeal
has upheld the Federal Court,
and the federal government appealed
the decision to the Supreme Court
of Canada. A decision on whether
the Supreme Court will hear this
appeal is expected soon.

I found in speaking with Mad-
den, who is Métis, that native
peoples in both the United States
and Canada face many of the same
legal obstacles in dealing with their
respective federal governments.
Although the federal governments
have enacted laws to recognize
and restore native peoples’ rights,
it is through the courts that those
rights are enforced.

Métis Rights in the Courts

Margaret Froh, the Métis Nation
of Ontario’s (MNO) Director of Strate-
gic Policy, Law and Compliance,
has been appointed to a 12-mem-
ber advisory group to examine
important issues affecting Aborigi-
nal Peoples in the justice system.

Co-chaired by Warren White,
Grand Council Treaty #3 (Ogich-
daa Grand Chief), and Murray
Segal, former deputy attorney
general of Ontario, the Aboriginal
Justice Advisory Group will bring
Aboriginal and justice sector lead-
ers together to examine key chal-
lenges facing Aboriginal peoples
in the justice system and provide
advice to the government on ways
to improve the system.

Members of the advisory group,
all of whom are leaders in their
communities and the justice sec-
tor, come from diverse back-
grounds and offer a variety of
perspectives on the justice system.
The group includes current and
former Aboriginal leaders, justice
educators, legal administrators
and agency executives. Besides Froh,
the other members are: Elder Gil-
bert Smith of Nisichawiwin First
Nation, Conrad Delaronde, for-
m er police chief, Grand Council
Treaty #3, Patricia Faries, lawyer
and former chief of Moose Cree
Nation, Robert Lapper, Q.C.,
CEO, Law Society of Upper Can-
da and former head, Aboriginal
Law Practice Group, Government
of British Columbia; Peshaanakwut
Jeft Kinew, youth executive coun-
cil member, Grand Council
Treaty #3, Chief Kelly LaRocca, Mis-
sissaugas of Scugog Island First
Nation, Sylvia Murala, executive
director of the Ontario Federa-
tion of Indian Friendship Centres;
David McKillop, vice-president
of policy, research and external rela-
tions for Legal Aid Ontario; Mor-
ris Zar, former deputy minister of
corrections for the Government
of Ontario.

By improving the justice system
for Aboriginal Peoples, the Ontario
government is working with its
partners to build a more inclusive,
accessible and responsive justice
system for all Ontarians.

Métis Problem Gambling Prevention Program Update

The past few years has found the MNO’s Problem
Gambling Prevention Program (PGPP) develop-
ing and offering a variety of interesting tools
and resources that focus on awareness. These
resource pages are listed below. We encourage
everyone to go online to check them out.

MNO Problem Gambling Homepage now has
multiple pages with resource links:
www.metisnation.org/programs/health--wellness-
problem-gambling-prevention-program

Métis Seniors and Gambling webpage:
Online DVD and new senior’s pamphlet:
www.metisresponsiblegambling.ca/terminals-
problem-gambling-prevention-program/

Métis Youth and Gambling webpage:
Online DVD and resources:
www.metisnation.org/programs/health--well-
ness/problem-gambling-prevention-program/

For inquiries, comments, suggestions, requests for tools and resources regarding problem gambling preven-
tion, if you are in need of assistance, please contact Lorna Rowlinson, Provincial Coordinator, who is now
located at the MNO office in Sudbury. Lorna can be reached by telephone at 705-671-9853 ext. 223 or by
e-mail at lmoran@metisnation.org
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 of the Métis towards taking their rightful place within Confederation.

We proudly wear our sash

by MNO Staff

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 14, 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 ceremonies.

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. During the Louis Riel Day ceremony, however, they are the focal points for honouring Riel and the monument is reverently draped with Métis symbols including a portrait of Louis Riel.

“Louis Riel started we continue working for Louis Riel gave his life so that out of the ashes something new could be born.”

— MNO Chair France Picotte

The provincial ceremony fell on a brisk fall day with over 100 people in attendance from across the province, including some individuals who came from as far away as Thunder Bay, Fort Frances and Kenora. As in the past, events started with a flag raising ceremony in front of the Legislature. News reporters were on hand to witness MNO President Gary Lipinski, the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and MPPs Norm Miller and Lisa Gretzky raise the Métis flag while a crowd of MNO citizens, dignitaries and guests looked on and cheered enthusiastically.

Following the flag raising ceremony, 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 guitar. The No. 10 Legion Branch has been participating in Louis Riel Day ceremonies for 14 years and their dedication and service was greatly appreciated as always.

“Louis Riel Day commemorates the anniversary of the execution of Louis Riel on November 16, 1885. Riel made the ultimate sacrifice for defending Métis rights and although these events took place in the West, his resistance had repercussions for Métis in Ontario. We were labelled traitors and for generations our culture was forced underground. We became the ‘forgotten people.’

‘Today, we are no longer the ‘forgotten people’ because we assert our Métis rights, and by doing so, take up the mantle of Louis Riel. It is for this reason that Louis Riel Day is a cause for celebration in our communities across the Homeland. It is a day to remember our past, live our culture and reaffirm our determination that our children will inherit all the rights Louis Riel fought so bravely to protect.

On November 16, I encourage you to join with your community and your Nation in Louis Riel Day events. It is a day to proclaim proudly: ‘We are Métis.’

Marsi. Megwetch.”

— Gary Lipinski

Métis Nation of Ontario, President
 nicholas and conlin delbeare ssewchuk perform songs in honour of louis riel at the law society of upper canada.

mno president gary lipinski gives his louis riel day address at queen's park in toronto.

toronto city councillor mike layton presents toronto york region métis council president terts beaubelue with a copy of the city of toronto's louis riel day proclamation.

beautiful opening prayer of thanksgiving for all the people who have worked for the métis both past and present. (senator poitras's full prayer can be read on page 32.)

mno chair frances picotte enceord the ceremony and set a positive tone by welcoming everyone and acknowledging guests and dignitaries including the deputy minister of aboriginal affairs, david de launay. "what louis riel started," she explained, "we continue working for. louis riel gave his life so that out of the ashes something new could be born. we [the métis] have been here forever and we will always be here."

chair picotte also read a greeting from the honourable dave levac, speaker of the ontario legislature. speaker levac, who is the first métis to serve as speaker of the ontario legislature stated: "i, being of métis descent, am always excited to have métis heritage events here at the legislative assembly of ontario. each event furthers cultural knowledge of the métis people in ontario and continues to promote strong dialogue between the métis nation and first nations people, and the province of ontario."

in her remarks, mno vice-chair sharon mcbride asked the audience to consider what their métis ancestors were experiencing in 1885. she read from an 1885 ontario newspaper article about the capture of louis riel that indicated there was "joy throughout ontario." she then discussed how the work of métis citizens making a difference in their communities across the province had changed the place of the métis in ontario from what it had been in 1885. "we have been building a future path for our young people," said vice-chair mcbride, "and their future looks so bright."

the improved relationship between métis and the ontario government was the focus of greetings from aboriginal affairs minister david zimmer. while the relationship between métis and the ontario government "has not always been as it should have been, and there was a time when métis were persecuted," he stated, "on a whole the relationship between the mno and ontario has been improving." minister zimmer cited the mno-ontario framework agreement that had been renewed for another five years earlier this year, as the foundation for building a more collaborative relationship between the mno and ontario. he also discussed the aboriginal economic development fund, which can support eligible projects that are not covered by the métis voyageur development fund. he stressed the importance of the mnoinfinity property services and infinity trust indicating: "these are just a few of the ways we are working together that will help métis children, families and communities. [in this way we are continuing] the far-sighted vision of louis riel, which is reborn every year."

norm miller, the progressive conservative (pc) mpp for parry sound-muskoka and aboriginal affairs critic for the pc party, spoke of how much he enjoys attending the famous mno moon river métis council fish fries. the fish fries have always been a great way for mpp miller to learn about métis heritage and culture and the fact that the food is always amazing does not hurt either. mpp miller also said that it was impressive how much louis riel was able to accomplish in his short life and how important it is to continue his legacy today.

the new democratic party (ndp) was represented at the ceremony by mpp lisa gretzky who represents windsor west in the legislature. mpp gretzky spoke about the strength of the mno-windsor-essex métis council and the important work being done by
Continued from page 10

that council. She also congratulated the MNO on some of its successes including the renewal of the MNO–Ontario Framework Agreement and the recent participation agreement signed between the MNO and New Gold (see story on page 6). She indicated her support for a number of MNO goals including the call for a National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and for measures to help close gaps in education and employment for Aboriginal people.

Métis youth were well represented at the ceremony by Alex Young, the Region 9 Representative on the MNO Youth Council and the son of past MNO Hamilton-Wentworth Métis Council President Joanne Young (who was on hand to proudly see Representative Young give his address). Representative Young’s address was very well received with President Lipinski later commenting that “I should hire this guy as my speech writer!” Representative Young compared the current success of the MNO with the trouble the Métis experienced during the past, in particular during Riel’s time. He spoke of his own grandfather who had had to keep his Métis heritage secret, but indicated triumphantly that after the 21 years that the MNO has existed, “We proudly wear our sash!” (Read Representative Young’s complete remarks on page 32).

As in many past years, the MNO 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 reflected on the recent violence in Canada where two Canadian soldiers were murdered by extremists and explained that Louis Riel had done everything he could to prevent violence. She stated that we can “…move beyond violence if we put our hearts over our minds and can…” move beyond violence if we put our hearts over our minds and return to the original intention of peaceful resolution that Riel started with.

The final speaker was MNO President Gary Lipinski. President Lipinski pulled together the theme of how much progress has been made since 1885 that figured prominently in many of this year’s speeches. While progress is positive, he commented that “It seems to take a long time to get things done. We seem to measure success in centuries and decades. Let’s hope that we can start measuring success in shorter periods so that people who worked towards that success will still be around when it is achieved.” President Lipinski pointed out that while Métis have enjoyed many great successes, there is still much to be done in the area of Métis rights. “We need,” he stated, “our rightful recognition as a people with historic rights acknowledged in our province and in our lands.” He commented that although some people have argued that Métis rights conflict with First Nations rights—nothing could be further from the truth. “Absolutely First Nations rights need to be respected,” explained President Lipinski, “but so do Métis rights need to be respected as one of the Aboriginal peoples of this country.” President Lipinski concluded that Métis are always willing to negotiate and want to work collaboratively with the government and the opposition to secure “…our rightful place in this developing country.”

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 by MNO Veteran Tim Majovsky. This part of the ceremony recognized the sacrifices and on-going contributions of Métis veterans. 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 Métis feast. During the feast, President Lipinski and MNO Veterans’ Council President Paquette presented MNO Veteran Tim Majovsky with the Louis Riel Medal and Certificate. These honours recognized that Mr. Majovsky is a verified MNO veteran and his distinguished military service.

MNO citizens and friends of the MNO enjoyed the delicious food at the feast and revelled in the comradeship of their Métis brothers and sisters making it the perfect end to another successful provincial Louis Riel Day ceremony.

!”

MNO President
Gary Lipinski

“We proudly wear our sash!” (Read Representative Young’s complete remarks on page 32)
The politics of identity
MNO and the Law Society of Upper Canada event explores Métis Law

As part of the annual provincial Louis Riel Day events, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the Law Society of Upper Canada partnered in another Public Education Equity event focused on developments in Métis Law. This is the twelfth year for the event, which this time was entitled: “What’s left in section 91(24)? Crown Responsibilities, Government Jurisdictions and Aboriginal Peoples.”

Held the afternoon of November 14 at the Law Society building in Toronto, the program consisted of a panel discussion moderated by Grant Wedge of the Law Society, with prominent Métis lawyers, Jason Maddan and Jean Teillet, and constitutional lawyer Andrew Lokan as panellists. It also included a reception emceed by MNO Chief Operating Officer Doug Wilson and featuring Conlin and Nicholas Delbaise-Sawbuck of the renowned Métis Fiddler Quartet performing Songs of the Métis: An Ode to Louis Riel.

The focus of the panel discussion was on Section 91(24) of the Canadian Constitution, which defines “Indians” as a federal government responsibility. The Daniels v Canada decision brought down by the Federal Court of Canada in April 2014 indicated that Métis are a Federal responsibility and should be defined as “Indians” under Section 91(24) and should therefore be entitled to similar rights and benefits (see page 3 for more about Daniels v Canada). Ms. Teillet explained that what Daniels v Canada boils down to is “identity politics” or, as some might prefer, “identity law.” She stated: “[The Daniels case] is about how you identify Aboriginal peoples in Canada.” She clarified that “Indian” is a legal term only because it appears in the Constitution and does not mean that Métis are culturally “Indians.” In his remarks, Mr. Lokom agreed and indicated that if the BNA Act had been written today instead of in 1867, the term Aboriginal would have been used instead of “Indian.” “The federal government,” he argued, “is exploring the use of different terminology [Indians and Aboriginal] to confuse an issue that should actually be quite clear.”

In his remarks, Mr. Madden argued that 91(24) is a necessary corollary for the treaty making powers and responsibilities of the federal government, and that the federal government has a positive obligation to set up treaties. If Daniels v Canada is upheld then Canada will have an obligation to enter into a process of treaty making with the Métis as they did with First Nations. All three lawyers predicted, correctly as it turned out, that the Supreme Court of Canada would grant leave for appeal of the Federal Court of Canada ruling on Daniels v Canada (see story on page 3).

Following the legal panel, the audience moved to the reception where they heard welcoming remarks from MNO President Gary Lipinski. President Lipinski commented on the high value the MNO places on holding this annual event with the Law Society. “This relationship has been tremendously beneficial to the MNO,” stated President Lipinski. The evening closed with Conlin and Nicholas performing several songs from the Métis Fiddler Quartet’s latest album. Recorded entirely in French, the album combines both historic songs, original songs and storytelling that describe the events that led to Louis Riel becoming the leader of the Métis in Canada, his struggle for Métis rights, and his persecution by the Canadian government.

Grand River Métis Council

Métis flag raising in Guelph
Submitted by | Jennifer Parkinson
President, MNO Grand River Métis Council

On November 14, 2014, to recognize Louis Riel Day, a presentation and celebration were held at École publique Saint-Joseph in Penetanguishene. The presentation was made by Rachelle Brunelle-McColl, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Employment Developer, the MNO office in Midland and by Anne Desroches, Inuit Pedagogical Counselor with the school. They presented information to the students on the influence and impact Louis Riel had for Métis rights. Teachers and students enjoyed the interactive presentation and appreciated the items on display that described Métis history and culture.

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Students learn the importance of Riel

by | MNO Staff

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London

Métis flag flies thanks to MNO Citizen

This year marks the eighth time the Métis flag has proudly flown in front of the London City Hall in recognition of Louis Riel Day. However, this tradition would not have begun had it not been for the dedication and pride displayed by Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen, Alvin McKay. Starting in 2007, McKay has taken it upon himself every year to organize with the London City Hall to ensure that the Métis flag is flown for Louis Riel Day. In its eighth year, McKay was ecstatic to hear that City Hall received a few phone calls inquiring about the flag and its meaning. McKay’s effusive gesture proves how one individual’s contribution can make a difference and can help the MNO in its efforts to spread the word on Louis Riel and the Métis people.
Submitted by Benny Michaud
MNO Ottawa Métis Council, President

On November 16, 2014, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Ottawa Métis Council (OMC) participated in Ottawa’s Annual Halfbreed Hustle to commemorate the life and vision of Louis Riel. Benny Michaud, MNO OMC President, has been a part of the Halfbreed Hustle organizing committee for the past two years. Initiated by four Métis women from Ottawa, the Halfbreed Hustle took place for the first time last year at the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health (Wabano) and was an incredible success drawing over 100 people.

This year, the event was once again held in Wabano’s cultural gathering space and saw approximately 200 people in attendance, making it the largest and fastest growing Métis event in the city. The evening was filled with dancing and music provided by country music singer Kevin Schofield, fiddler Anthony Brascoupe, guitarist David Finkle, and jigger extraordinaire, Jaime Koebel. With a delicious selection of food and beverages catered by Wabano, and a plethora of vendors selling Métis and First Nations artwork and crafts, there was no shortage of things to do when not on the dance floor.

In preparation of the event, MNO OMC members sold council tote bags and Halfbreed Hustle shirts to raise money. Vendors were also asked to donate an item to be raffled throughout the night. All of the proceeds raised will be put towards next year’s Halfbreed Hustle.

“We intended the event to be one big Métis barn party,” said President Michaud. “We want to bring the community together to celebrate the vision that Louis Riel had for our people—the vision being that 130 years after Louis Riel’s execution, we are able to come together on a night like tonight and celebrate the survival of our people and the beauty of Métis culture.”

This past June at a strategic planning meeting, the MNO OMC identified ‘engaging youth’ as one of their essential mandates. The MNO OMC were therefore pleased to see so many Métis youth present at the event. By supporting the Halfbreed Hustle, the MNO OMC have also seen an increase in the number of young people wanting to become involved in the Métis community.

One of the MNO OMC’s goals is to promote awareness of Métis culture and to foster a greater sense of pride among our citizens. Planning has already begun for next year’s event, which is sure to be a larger and even more successful event.

Teaching the teachers about Louis Riel Day

Submitted by Richard Cuddy, President, MNO Credit River Métis Council

On November 6, 2014, Richard Cuddy, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) President, was invited to the Peel District School Board (PDSB) to make a presentation detailing the significance of Louis Riel Day. President Cuddy had the opportunity to share Louis Riel’s biography, history and accomplishments from a Métis perspective.

President Cuddy explained that Louis Riel was a great Métis leader executed by the Canadian government for leading the Northwest Resistance in defence of Métis rights and the Métis way of life. President Cuddy provided the teachers with a brief biography of Riel’s birth, education, leadership and eventual execution on November 16, 1885.

Every year, Louis Riel Day is held on November 16 to remember what Riel sacrificed and renew the commitment to continuing his work. The MNO celebrates Louis Riel First Nations art and crafts, there was no shortage of things to do when not on the dance floor. In preparation of the event, MNO OMC members sold council tote bags and Halfbreed Hustle shirts to raise money. Vendors were also asked to donate an item to be raffled throughout the night. All of the proceeds raised will be put towards next year’s Halfbreed Hustle.

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Every year, Louis Riel Day is held on November 16 to remember what Riel sacrificed and renew the commitment to continuing his work. The MNO celebrates Louis Riel
Remembering Riel

by Steve Henschel

Adapted from an article in Niagara This Week

O
n Friday, two days ahead of November 16—Louis Riel Day—Derek Pont, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMC) President, members from the MNO NRMC, Paul Grenier, Welland City Councillor, Mark Carl, Deputy Mayor, and other representatives met in front of the Welland City Hall to raise the Métis flag. Councillor Grenier said the city is proud to be recognizing this special day for the fifth year running.

November 16 marks the day in 1885 when Louis Riel was executed by the Canadian government for treason for his role in the Northwest Resistance that took place that same year. Due to the Northwest Resistance as well as the earlier Métis resistance at the Red River in 1870, Métis were widely considered traitors, especially in Toronto. “Across Canada they scattered,” said Pont. “At that point every Métis became a criminal in the eyes of many.”

Pont explained that many Métis disappeared into large urban centres where they could deny or hide their heritage, or moved to remote areas to found small communities. “Most hid in plain sight,” said Pont.

Pont recalls that his grandmother would never admit her Métis heritage. “Even my parents wouldn’t talk about it,” said Pont, understanding now as an adult that there were clues to his hidden heritage. He remembers his father arguing with his mother because there was no milk in the fridge. Now that Pont knows about his heritage, he understands its importance. At that time in the 1960s—the residential school era—government officials could make a case for the state taking guardianship over a Métis or First Nations child if there was not milk in the fridge.

Pont explained that Louis Riel Day was held every year across the homeland on November 16, the anniversary of Riel’s execution in 1885. While Louis Riel Day marks one of the great tragedies of Canadian history its recognition demonstrates our continuing resilience and determination to regain our rights and preserve our way-of-life in Ontario and across the Homeland.

To commemorate Louis Riel Day, MNO citizens and communities held events across the province to recognize the many contributions of the Métis to Canada, to celebrate Métis culture and to highlight the struggles that Métis continue to face.

Louis Riel Day across the province

The year 1885 was very difficult for Ontario Métis. During that year the Northwest Resistance took place where Métis took a stand and fought for Métis rights and the Métis way-of-life. The Canadian government suppressed the resistance and executed Métis leader Louis Riel for treason. Ontario Métis were also labeled as traitors and for generations the Métis in Ontario had to hide their culture and heritage because there was no milk in the fridge. Now that Pont knows about his heritage, he understands the importance of Riel and the recognition of the Métis as one of Canada’s three official Aboriginal groups.

Pont joined the MNO NRMC to start learning about his heritage; he stayed to start sharing it. “A lot of my own family’s history was lost,” said Pont, underlining the impact of the decades of stigma and hiding of the Métis population. “Generations of our culture were lost,” he said. Over the last 20 years, with the vindication of Riel and the recognition of the Métis as one of Canada’s three official Aboriginal groups, things are improving.

Pont noted that he visits schools to teach children about the role of the Métis in Canada’s history. His grandson—in contrast to his grandmother—is able to feel pride of his Métis roots. “He’s going to grow up knowing his culture,” said Pont. “It makes me feel good about the whole thing…he doesn’t get ridiculed, he doesn’t have to worry about that.”

Pont explained that Louis Riel Day, which in some provinces is a statutory holiday, is a day to reflect on the journey of the Métis and remember the importance of the leader. “We look to Louis Riel for inspiration,” said Pont.

Participants join hands at the Louis Riel Day celebration in Welland.

T Partners join hands at the Louis Riel Day celebration in Welland.

PETERBOROUGH: Daryl Bennett, Mayor of Peterborough, and participants gather around for a picture during the Louis Riel Day flag raising ceremony in Peterborough.

OTTAWA: Warren Cardinal-McTeague (second from right), University of Ottawa (uOttawa) MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator and participants at the uOttawa Riel Day celebration. Opening prayer was offered by Senator Lois McCallum (far left) and a jigging demonstration was provided by former uOttawa facilitator Brad Lafortune.

THUNDER BAY: Lakehead University MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator, Lucy Fowler, hosted festivities including dot art, finger weaving and special guests in honour of Riel Day.

OTTAWA: Jordyn Playne, Carleton University MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator, hosted a “rock the mocs” day and held a finger weaving demonstration at the Ojihgwanong Aboriginal Student Centre.

TIMMINS: Members of the Timmins’ Métis community gather at the Hollinger Park cenotaph to pay tribute to Louis Riel on Sunday, November 16, 2014. (Photo by The Timmins Press)

BARRIE: Members of the Barrie Police Service take part in a flag raising ceremony at City Hall in Barrie, Ontario.
November 16, 2014 marked the third consecutive year that the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) was host to a full afternoon gathering of almost 150 MNO citizens, family, friends and MNO CRMC partners to celebrate Louis Riel Day. It was clear that this year’s celebration would be the best one yet!

President Cuddy then introduced MNO CRMC members: Women’s Representative, Wendy Elliot; Youth Representative, Samantha Cuddy; Councillors, Karen Derocher, Jean-Marc Mahé, Baker, Wade Fiddler, and MNO CRMC Chair Bill Morrison, who has worked closely with Krista and the PDSB to create the self-ID policy. The event could not have been possible without the help of Senator Bergie and former Councillor, David Neville, whom I will dearly miss. Senator Bergie’s tireless contributions to the MNO CRMC will be sorely missed. President Cuddy acknowledged that the day, because “I’m not only saying goodbye to the only Senator I’ve ever served with, but to my highly respected colleague and friend whom I will dearly miss. Senator Bergie’s departure will leave a hole in my life”.

MNO staff members were present with displays that informed guests on MNO healing and wellness, employment and training, and community services. Participants were able to purchase 50-50 tickets at the MNO Veterans’ booth, set up by Joe Paquette, President, MNO Credit River Métis Council (VC), his wife Pam, and Senator Dr. Allo Kennedy.

Krista Tucker Petrick, the Peel District School Board’s (PDSB) First Nations, Métis and Inuit/Equity Resource Teacher, organized a booth that explained the PDSB’s Voluntary, Confidential Self-Identification Policy for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students (Self-ID Policy). MNO CRMC representatives, Senator Ray Bergie, President Richard Cuddy, former Councillor Neville, and former MNO CRMC Chair Bill Morrison, have worked closely with Krista and the PDSB to create the self-ID policy.

A short promotional video has been created and is available on the PDSB website. Jim Tolles, MNO CRMC Traditional Knowledge Resource, created an expansive traditional and cultural Métis display for participants to stop in and view. Another booth was set up by Hydro One Brampton, which offered energy tips and conservation information. There was also a bake table and a calls table.

President Bergie opened the afternoon festivities with a prayer. President Cuddy provided opening remarks explaining, “Some say it is ironic that our communities gather to remember on the anniversary of Louis Riel’s execution on November 16, 1885. What they fail to understand is that without this most selfless, ultimate sacrifice, this gathering today would not be possible. The Métis will never again be ignored, forced underground or forgotten and we celebrate this across the homeland. By doing so, we honour Louis Riel and his legacy by affirming our inherent rights as Métis.”

President Cuddy then called the MNO CRMC Councillors to the stage as well as Senator Bergie and former Councillor, David Neville. President Cuddy personally thanked the Councillors’ families stating, “They bear the burden of our passion to serve our community and we would be nothing without their love, understanding and support.”

Next were presentations for Senator Bergie and former Councillor, Neville, who unfortunately will not be part of the MNO CRMC starting in December 2014. Former Councillor Neville was always willing to lend a hand and even stepped up to the challenge of MNO CRMC Acting Chair while handling the Education portfolio. His work with the Halton School Board was instrumental in

having the Métis flag raised at Milton District High School on November 13, 2014. Former Councillor Neville’s tireless contributions to the MNO CRMC will be sorely missed. Senator Bergie has been our longest serving Councillor to date and has always guided the MNO CRMC with humour, integrity and dignity.

President Cuddy directed special attention to Ethier who was responsible for the planning, execution and success of the day’s celebration. It was clear to all how hard she must have worked to put together the gathering. Rochelle was thanked with an enthusiastic round of applause.

The event could also not have been possible without the help of a large group of volunteers, including: former MNO CRMC Councillor Darlene Lenti; MNO CRMC Women’s Representative, Wendy Elliot; former Councillor, David Neville; Councillors Karen Derocher; Councillor Jean-Marc Mahé; Youth Representative, Samantha Cuddy; Angela Cuddy; Helen Barron; Janice Graham; Shonna Ethier; Trevor McLellan; Charlene Hall; Michele Iwan; Karen Stewart; Jentina Topolie; Katherine English; Lott Henderson; Brooke Henderson; and Amanda Lenneard. President Cuddy would like to give his apologies should anyone have been omitted. Everyone who helped to make the event a success should be commended for such a wonderful job.

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continuing on page 16.
Cuddy explained how “the MNO CRMC recognizes the importance of our Veteran’s not just in our community but to our Nation. Like Riel, their selfless sacrifices are a big part of why we are able to gather today. The MNO CRMC would like to take this opportunity to announce that the proceeds for today’s 50-50 draw will be donated to the MNO VC. When you purchase these tickets you are supporting our Veterans.”

Hydro One Brampton representatives, Karen McCarthy and Scott Miller, were next to the stage and presented a cheque for $500 to the MNO CRMC as a donation of support for the Louis Riel Day gathering. The cheque was graciously accepted by President Cuddy, who added, “The MNO CRMC are grateful for the support that helped to make this event-and the community gathering possible. We will continue to build a relationship beneficial to MNO CRMC citizens and Hydro One Brampton.”

Patrick presented a cheque for $2000 to the MNO CRMC on behalf of the PDSB as a donation of support for the Louis Riel Day gathering. The cheque was accepted by President Cuddy on behalf of the MNO CRMC. President Cuddy thanked MPP Dhillon and Singh by presenting them both with a copy of the MNO book entitled, Values and Traditions of our Ancestors. This year’s festivities focused on entertainment and included the following: a ladies drumming circle, Antoine Driette from Ottawa who delivered an amazing jiggling demonstration and a workshop that culminated in an impromptu performance by the workshop participants; and the Métis fiddle duo, Kim and Rajan Anderson—a crowd favourite who played fiddle music up to the traditional feast. Couples were on the dance floor in no time and youth and elders joined in on some of the songs with the spoons. All of the musicians put on a spectacular performance that continued through dinner and finished just in time for the announcement of raffles and draws.

President Cuddy concluded the afternoon by thanking all of the sponsors, partners, and MNO citizens.

No sooner had President Cuddy returned home, did the MNO CRMC begin to get feedback from the event. ‘Great Louis Riel Day celebration!’ Rochelle and colleagues did a super job’ wrote Bob and Bob H. “Barb W. also wrote in and said, ‘Thank you so much for a great day at the Louis Riel celebration. The drumming, music, food, booths—draws—it was all really nice. […] it was fantastic to know that you work closely with them [PDSB] and that you are spreading the word about Métis culture. The work that you and the MNO CRMC do is very important. Please let all of the volunteers, the MNO CRMC, Elders, Rochelle and the sponsors know that all of their work was really appreciated. Again, thank you.”

The women’s drum circle performs at the Louis Riel Day celebration.

Community members enjoy a traditional feast at the Credit River Métis Council’s Riel Day celebration.
It's never too early to celebrate Christmas

submitted by | Yvonne Jensen,
MNO North Channel Métis Council President

On November 23, 2014, the MNO North Channel Métis Council (NCMC) kicked off the holiday festivities by sharing in an early Christmas dinner in Iron Bridge. The NCMC would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year in 2015! ☝️

The MNO North Channel Métis Council members smile for an early Christmas picture. Back Row: (L-R) Councillor Reg Bennett, Women’s Representative June Fagen, Senator Blair Sterling, and Chair Stan McHale. Front Row: (L-R) Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer Jensen, President Yvonne Jensen, and Youth Representative Taylor McNally.

Santa Claus is coming to town!

submitted by | Raymond Tremblay,
MNO Citizen

This Christmas Season, our Santa Claus, also known as MNO citizen Raymond Tremblay, finally earned his driver’s licence and had access to a grand new sleigh. Thanks to his fast and furious ‘Ferrari’ wheels, Santa was able to make many more children happy this year!

Starting on November 15, Santa made six consecutive weekend appearances at the Rideau Centre in Ottawa. Photographer, Peter Beinger, was available to take pictures of the children with Santa.

On December 3, Santa accompanied Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson at the Southway Lighting of the South End—an annual event sponsored by the Southway Hotel and Conference Centre in Ottawa.

On December 10, Santa attended the annual Christmas party for the Aboriginal Professional Network of Ottawa at the Heart & Crown restaurant in the Byward Market.

On December 12, Santa was at a fundraising event for Training in Partners Educational Services (TIPES) at the Timothy’s World Coffee on Laurier. TIPES is a non-profit educational and therapeutic service that provides support to children, teens, and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders and related/developmental exceptionalities.

On December 14, Santa met with students from QuickStart—an early intervention program for people with autism. This event will be held at the Rideau Centre in Ottawa. And finally, on December 21, Santa attended the Malayali Association of Ottawa Christmas party.

Throughout the season, Santa also made additional impromptu visits to various other families and groups to spread joy and the spirit of Christmas.

But as we all know, Santa made one of the most important visits of all on Christmas Eve, so we hope that you did not to leave him a couple of your favorite cookies and a small glass of milk!

Merry Christmas to one and to all! Joyeux Noël à tous! ☀️

COUNCIL CORNER

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) benefits immensely from the dedicated volunteers who are members of its Chartered Community Councils. These hard-working individuals spend hundreds of hours building and strengthening their Métis communities.

MNO councils are the cornerstone of a strong foundation for the MNO in its push toward its inherent right to self-government. MNO Councils are important communication hubs who play a significant role in fostering community empowerment and development for Métis citizens living within the geographic territory of that council.

MNO Community Council election results

Congratulations to the MNO Grand River, Northwest, Credit River, Sunset Country, and Kenora Métis Councils on their recent elections. Here is a list of the new and returning elected officials and their appointments:

MNO Grand River Métis Council
President Jennifer Parkinson
Chair Barbra Lair
Senator Carol Lewis
Secretary/Treasurer Leslie-Anne Munro
Women’s Representative Bridget Brown
Councillor Paul Smith
Councillor Donald Crawford

MNO Northwest Métis Council
President Debbie Etherington
Chair Ron Robinson
Senator Al Roussin
Councillor Armand Cimon
Councillor William Aho
Councillor Allen Mireault

MNO Credit River Métis Council
President Richard Cuddy
Women’s Representative Wendy Elliot
Youth Representative Samantha Cuddy
Councillor Karen Derocher
Councillor Dale Buisson
Councillor Jean-Marc Mahieu

MNO Sunset Country Métis Council
President Clint Calder
Chair Rosalyn Calder
Senator John George
Women’s Representative Lesley Grienke
Youth Representative Sarah Marusky
Councillor Karen Chowhan
Councillor Wendy Kabel
Councillor Wade Nelson

MNO Kenora Métis Council
President Joel Henley
Chair Cynthia Laliberte
Senator Karen Cedarwall
Secretary Nina Henley
Treasurer Sandra Trickle
Councillor Jordan Benoit

The MNO would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected council members and thank all council members for their time and dedication to the citizens of the MNO.
Mary Jessop
Mary Jessop joins the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) as Director of Finance out of the MNO office in Ottawa. Mary has enjoyed a distinguished career in financial management and accounting with over 40 years of experience working in the private, non-profit, political and public accounting sectors. Mary comes to the MNO from the Liberal Party of Canada where she had been Director of Finance. In this position, she improved financial policies and accounting processes for both the National Party and 308 riding associations.

Prior to the Liberal Party, Mary worked for Nortel Networks where she held a number of financial positions with increasing responsibilities. In her last role at Nortel, she was the Finance Manager responsible for the Global Services line of business which had an annual budget of 1.5 billion dollars. She was also a key player for outsourcing Nortel’s Information Technology, which was a one billion dollar project.

Some of Mary’s other career highlights include working for a major accounting firm for two years in England and building a respected private accounting and management consulting practice. Mary is a graduate of Carleton University in Ottawa and received her Chartered Accountant designation in 1978.

Mary is married and is the mother of three grown children. In discussing her family Mary shared that, "The fact that I have been married 41 years suggests I am a stubborn woman although not patient. I also have the scars to prove that I raised three teenagers."

Mary is looking forward to working for the MNO and commented, "I think that my professional skills and my passion for social justice will make my new post at the MNO another very exciting chapter in my life."

submitted by Doug Wilson, Chief Operating Officer

Jade Bourbonniere
We are pleased to welcome Jade Bourbonniere to the MNO in the position of Education and Training Branch Operations Co-ordinator. Jade will work out of the Ottawa MNO office. Jade self-identifies as Métis and joins the MNO after working at Carleton University as an Undergraduate Recruitment Officer, where she travelled across Ontario speaking about all aspects of the University to students, teachers, and parents.

Through this position and other previous experiences, Jade has developed strong organizational and administrative skills such as flexibility and time management. Jade has a strong passion for helping others succeed and achieve their life goals. During her third year in University, she volunteered at the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre as an individual in assisting their education and career goals while they served time inside the institution.

Jade graduated in April 2014 from Carleton University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Honours Criminology & Criminal Justice and Psychology.

submitted by Jennifer St. Germain, Director, Education & Training

Brian Scime
The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to announce that Brian Scime, who held the position of Human Resources (HR) Assistant, has moved to the Finance Branch in the position of Payroll Administrator. Brian continues to work out of the MNO office in Ottawa.

Prior to working at the MNO, Brian held an HR position at the Heritage Conservation Directorate. He also worked in HR contract positions in other federal government agencies and has does ongoing work with Value Village as a Halloween costume advisor, a job he excels in!

Brian holds a Master of Science degree in Psychology from McMaster University and a Certificate in Human Resource Management from Algonquin College in Ottawa.

submitted by Mary Jessop, Director of Finance

Jesse Fieldwebster
The MNO is pleased to welcome Jesse Fieldwebster to its Midland office. Jesse joins the MNO in the position of Consultation Assessment Coordinator with the Lands, Resources and Consultation Branch.

Jesse comes to the MNO with ten years of interdisciplinary experience in the environmental field, which has included work with landowner outreach, environmental engineering and regulatory compliance. He previously worked for Magnetawan watershed Land Trust where he consulted numerous landowners on a variety of disciplines, including environmental legislation. Jesse’s career has focused on collaborative projects, including education programs and multi-institutional research groups. This involved coordinating between a number of different stakeholders for access to land, equipment and personnel.

Jesse holds a Master of Environmental Engineering degree from Griffith University, a Post Graduate Certificate in Environmental Engineering from Conestoga College as well as an Honours degree from the University of Guelph.

submitted by Aly Alibhai, Director of Lands, Resources & Consultations

Sara Kelly
The MNO is pleased to announce that Sara Kelly, who held the position of Assistant Genealogist with the Registry Branch, has moved to the Communications Branch where she now holds the position of Communications Assistant. Sara continues to work out of the MNO office in Ottawa.

Prior to coming to the MNO, Sara, who is an MNO citizen, worked for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada where she served as a Web Communications Coordinator. She also held several other contract positions with the Federal government where she gained a strong background in communications and administrative work.

Sara graduated from the University of Ottawa in 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts in English.

submitted by Mike Fedeli, Director of Communications

Shafic Khouri
Shafic Khouri joins the MNO as an Energy Resource Development Analyst in the MNO Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch out of the MNO Toronto office.

Shafic comes to the MNO with extensive and wide-ranging environmental assessment (EA) and regulatory experience most recently gained through his work in the Northwest Territories as Project Assessment Analyst in the Department of Lands, Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. This capacity, Shafic managed government intervention in the EA and regulatory review of large-scale industrial developments and oversaw, coordinated and provided advice to teams of biophysical and socio-economic experts and senior management.

In his most recent position with the GNWT, Shafic was responsible for developing government positions on EAs and the Crown’s Duty to Consult Aboriginal, implementing environmental policies and procedures, creating technical and public reports and working with Aboriginal co-management boards.

Shafic graduated with a Masters in Political Science / Global Governance from the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Waterloo. He also has a First Class Honours Bachelor of Science degree in Biology with Distinction from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

submitted by Aly Alibhai, Director of Lands, Resources & Consultations

Julie Cruikshank
The MNO welcomes Julie Cruikshank as the new Communications Coordinator, working in the Communications Branch and based in the MNO Ottawa office.

Julie is a professional graphic designer and writer who comes to the MNO from DailyXtra, where she worked as a reporter. She has also worked as a freelance writer and designer, and has done communications work for the Music and Beyond Festival and the Chisholm medal.

Julie holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick. She is looking forward to bringing her editorial and design skills to the MNO!

submitted by Mike Fedeli, Director of Communications

The MNO is pleased to welcome everyone to the team!
Remembering our missing sisters
Sisters in Spirit vigils honour missing and murdered aboriginal women

October 4 is a day when we honour the lives of missing and murdered aboriginal women and girls and support families who have been tragically touched by the loss of a loved one to violence. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was an active participant in this movement for social change. On October 4, 2014, MNO offices all across Ontario helped organize Sisters in Spirit Vigils in honour of our sisters. These vigils of healing and hope were extremely popular with over 200 held nationwide and over 50 held in Ontario alone.

The MNO Bancroft office, Maggie’s Resource Centre, and the Tamarack Women’s Centre worked in partnership to host the annual October 4 Sisters in Spirit vigil in Bancroft. The event opened with the prayer gifted from Senator Reta Gordon. The Strong Women song was then presented by Marsha Depotier, MNO Victim Services Coordinator.

Even with the rain, there were over 25 people in attendance for the vigil. Bernice Jenkins, Mayor of Bancroft, opened the vigil and addressed the need there is to support women living in violence and to help keep them from harm. Mayor Jenkins explained that there is also the need for men to go back to their original roles as protectors and providers for our families. Mayor Jenkins also spoke about the new community safety committee that is being developed for Bancroft.

The final speaker was Bill Kilpatrick, Councillor for Dungan Ward 2 and a coordinator for the John Howard Society. Kilpatrick spoke about his work with men and how there is the need for men to be able to show emotion and cry. Kilpatrick also spoke about how we need to heal our communities of past wounds and how we must continue to work in partnership in order to accomplish this task.

Depotier ended the vigil by giving each participant a balloon to release into the air to represent our lost women. Latex balloons are biodegradable as they are made of natural rubber.
In Brampton, the annual Sisters in Spirit vigil on October 4 was a collaborative event co-operatively organized by MNO staff in the Brampton office, the MNO Credit River Métis Council (CRMC), the Mississauga Halton and Central West Local Health Integration Networks, Family Services of Peel, the Peel Aboriginal Network, and the Peel Committee Against Woman Abuse. This was the third vigil to take place in Brampton, but the first time that the MNO staff and MNO CRMC have hosted the event with the Peel Aboriginal Network.

The vigil began with an opening prayer, drumming and a few words from Sharon McBride,PCMNO Vice-Chair, who served as the master of ceremonies. This was followed by a heartfelt prayer provided by MNO Senator Ray Berger.

Many speakers attended the vigil to advocate for Aboriginal women and their struggles, including MP Brampton-Springdale Haninder Malhi, Contemplative Carley Gervais, an MNO citizen, MP Mississauga-Brampton South, Amit Mandar; MP Mississauga-Streetsville, Brad Butt; and the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

Others in attendance included Chief of Peel Police Jennifer Evans, Regional Councillor for the City of Brampton, John Sanderson, and over 70 members of the Brampton, Mississauga, and Halton communities.

The missing or murdered Aboriginal women were honoured with traditional songs from Aqua and Talisha, the drumming of PAN, and blessing from Alicia Blore. On display were 100 faceless dolls made by community volunteers to help bring attention to the need for a national public inquiry.

Life stories were read aloud, gifted by families who have a missing or murdered loved one. Some of these cases have been solved, while others remain a mystery. The families wanted to share the message that these missing women are still very much loved and that they want justice.

After each person spoke at the vigil, a single, red rose was placed beside a picture of each woman on the table.

After each person spoke at the vigil, a single, red rose was placed beside a picture of each woman on the table. The roses represented love.

The vigil ended with final prayers, followed by members of the community lighting their candles and placing them with the victims’ photos.

In Ottawa on October 4 Roughly 120 people of all ages gathered together at the MNO Ottawa office to honour the lives of the missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls across Canada. Eight other city organizations also helped sponsor the event.

The master of ceremonies was Jessica Rice, MNO Employment Developer. MNO Senator Roland St. Germain led a prayer of remembrance for the women and reminded everyone that these women are our mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, and grandmothers.

Participants enjoyed the sound of drumming and singing and viewed displays of the faceless dolls and the Blanket of Love, Hope and Healing assembled for the families of Sisters in Spirit.

Guest speaker, Gladys Radke, co-founder of Treat Justice, handed out images of women and girls to the crowd while sharing their stories of circumstance and the need for a national inqury.

The Great Lakes Métis Council would like to thank everyone who helped make the event happen. Miigwech.

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Métis featured in new monument

‘Trial Through Diversity’ memorializes War of 1812

by Emily Chan
Reprinted from CTVNews.ca

On November 6, 2014, a new monument was unveiled on Parliament Hill, inspired by the War of 1812 more than 200 years after its last battle on Canadian soil.

The monument, designed by Toronto artist Adrienne Alison, is called “Trial through Diversity.” It features seven bronze figures representing the people who fought for Canada during the war.

The figures include a Métis fighter, a Canadian militiaman, a member of the British Army and a woman bandaging a fighters’ arm. All of the characters stand in a circle, facing outwards.

The figures stand on top of a rough granite base, which is meant to symbolize the “ruggedness” of the land in the 1800s. There are also two granite pieces on either side of the monument shaped like pieces of a boat. These are meant to represent naval warfare during the War of 1812. One of the figures, a Royal Navy sailor pulls a rope attached to the boat’s base.

The texture and shape of the base are also meant to remind viewers of the rough cliff on which Parliament stands and the arches of the Parliament buildings.

The minister of Canadian Heritage and official languages, Shelly Glover, unveiled the new monument Thursday morning to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Malcolm’s Mills. “This new landmark on Parliament Hill will forever remind us of the courage and bravery of those who served,” said Shelly Glover, Minister of Canadian Heritage.

The minister said: “It’s really well put together.” Janny Salis, a tourist from the Netherlands, said the statue is part of Canada’s internationally recognized war history. In the Netherlands, she said, Canada is widely known for its role in the Second World War.

“It made a big impression,” Salis said of the monument. “We must every year remember the wars.”

The War of 1812 began in June 1812, when Canada was not yet its own independent country. During that time, American forces invaded what is now Canada in their fight against Great Britain.

Militia from Upper and Lower Canada joined Métis, Aboriginal, and British forces to fight back the invasion. The war officially ended when the Treaty of Ghent was ratified in 1815.

The government’s commemorative website for the War of 1812 says Canada would not exist without the victories in the war. But the government was criticized in 2012 for dedicating $28 million for the campaign to commemorate the war featuring festivals, re-enactments of historic battles, and commemorations coins and stamps.

Many thanks to Father Dan and St. Dominic Parish

submitted by Ken Simard, MNO Region 2 Captain of the Hunt

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) would like to thank Fr. Dan Lapolla and St. Dominic Parish for their generous donation of school supplies. Ken Simard, MNO Region 2 Captain of the Hunt, and Métis citizens have passed on these wonderful gifts to Métis and First Nation children in the Thunder Bay region, including first Nation schools in the Greenstone area.
Educating our youth

Students learn about the Métis way of life

On October 29, 2014, MNO Credit River Metis Council (CRMC) visited Grade 3 students at the Peel District School Board in Mississauga to share Métis history and culture.

The day began with MNO CRMC member Rochelle Ethier leading a discussion on what it means to be Métis, who Métis people are, and explaining the traditions of the Métis way of life. Students then rotated between four different workstations for a more interactive hands-on approach to Métis culture. The first workstation focused on Métis traditional music and included instruments such as the fiddle, wooden spoons, and the Métis cultural dance—the jig.

Jim Tolles, MNO CRMC Traditional Knowledge and Resource, led the second workstation, which involved a Métis cultural display of tools, fur, and various hides. Tolles also brought with him fire starting kits, which the students got to try out for themselves.

The third workstation led by Sam Cuddy, MNO CRMC Youth Representative, involved teaching the students how to finger weave bracelets.

The final workstation, led by Rochelle Ethier, involved a discussion of topics such as: the meaning of the Métis flag, the traditional uses of the Métis sash, the purpose of hunting and trapping, and, the many roles of fire including warmth, lighting and cooking. Students also got an opportunity to touch and feel a real deer hide.

All of the preparation and planning that went into this presentation resulted in it being a huge success. “Thanks again from all of the staff and students for a wonderful presentation,” said Grade 3 teacher Karen Palmer. “The kids really enjoyed the variety of hands-on activities available for them to learn about the Métis culture.”

This presentation would not have been possible without the generosity of the MNO CRMC, who donated MNO coloring books, which tell the story of the Métis people, wooden spoons, and, embroidery thread for all 90 students to complete finger weave bracelets.

Métis youth fights stereotypes

‘Take a pause and think about who you’re talking to, and how you’re going to reach them.’

Lucy Fowler takes different approaches to combat stereotypes about her Métis heritage among the children and seniors she engages in her work.

This summer, the 26-year-old worked for the Métis Nation of Ontario’s (MNO) summer youth cultural program, going out to schools, festivals and retirement homes to “speak to people about who Métis people are, what we look like, that we’re still around, that it’s not just a fictional, historical kind of presence.”

Fowler said younger children aren’t shy about “spouting stereotypes” about Aboriginal people. “It can be difficult, but you keep your own feelings out of it,” she said. “And then they’re a lot more set in those opinions...so it takes a lot more patience.”

Fowler said it’s “really rewarding” to see her work is helping change people’s opinions. “I think about who you’re talking to and how you’re going to reach them,” Fowler said. “And try to keep your own feelings out of it.”

MNO Region 7 holds first annual meeting

by Pauline Richardson,
PCMNO Regional Councillor for Region 7

On October 4, the first Annual Regional Meeting for Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region 7 was held in Collingwood, Ontario.

Council members from the MNO Moon River, Georgian Bay and Great Lakes Métis Councils came together to discuss the business of the region.

Sponsored through the Memorandum of Understanding with Ontario Power Generation (OPG), the meeting was a success in building a strong bond and collaborative efforts to work together as a region.

The annual meeting featured New Relationship Fund training and an OPG presentation on the Deep Geologic Repository Project by Scott Berry, Manager, Site Public Affairs Corporate Relations and Communications Nuclear Issues / Nuclear Waste Management / First Nations and Métis Relations.

Council members also attended workshops to assist them in developing community goals and a communications plan.
Every year on November 11, Métis from across the homelands participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies. Being a part of these ceremonies is very important to Métis because we have contributed to the defense of Canada as far back as the War of 1812 as well as in both World Wars, the Korean Conflict, peacekeeping missions and most recently, in Afghanistan. Over the years, many Métis have served and have made the ultimate sacrifice. By making the Métis presence felt at Remembrance Day services, we show our respect for all Veterans and we remind all Canadians of Métis service and sacrifice.

Since 2004, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has laid a wreath at the National War Memorial in Ottawa during National Remembrance Day ceremonies. In most years, the wreath has been laid by MNO Executive Senator Reta Gordon and a Métis veteran. This important gesture on behalf of all Métis citizens is performed in good weather and bad because it is important to recognize our many Métis Veterans who gave and continue to give so much in securing and sustaining the rights and freedoms that we all enjoy. Recent tragic events including those at the National War Memorial itself, remind all of us that members of our Armed Forces put themselves in harm’s way every day to protect the lives and liberties of their fellow Canadians.

This year Senator Gordon was joined for the first time by Métis Veteran Rene Roland Joseph Leonard. Veteran Leonard was born in 1920 in St. Boniface, Manitoba. A descendent of Louis Riel, Veteran Leonard was always aware of his Métis identity and joined the MNO in 1993—the year the MNO was founded. Veteran Leonard served in the Royal Canadian Engineers from 1953 to 1980, including tours in both Cyprus and Germany. On November 5, 2014, he was presented with both the Louis Riel Medal and the Batoche Medal from the MNO Veterans Council. Veteran Leonard’s daughter, Catherine Vieau, says her father never imagined that he would be asked to honour his ancestors and brothers and sisters, both past and present, by representing the MNO at the National War Memorial. He considers it a privilege and was at a loss of words to express what it meant to him.

Following protocol on November 11, Veteran Leonard presented the MNO wreath to Senator Gordon, who then laid the wreath on the Memorial. Senator Gordon's daughter, Kelly, who passed away in 2013, was present, by representing the MNO at the National War Memorial. He considers it a privilege and was at a loss of words to express what it meant to him.

Following protocol on November 11, Veteran Leonard presented the MNO wreath to Senator Gordon, who then laid the wreath on the Memorial. Senator Gordon’s father and her nine uncles all participated in World War II. Then later in the 1950s, her four brothers also served in the military including MNO Senator George Kelly, who passed away in 2013. “It is good to let everyone know the Métis are here and that we support Remembrance Day,” explained Senator Gordon.

Senator Gordon and Veteran Leonard also participated in a ceremony at the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument prior to the National Remembrance Day ceremony. The National Aboriginal Veterans Monument is located a short distance away from the National Cenotaph and is an important symbol of the contributions of Métis and other Aboriginal veterans to Canada. MNO citizens, like Senator Gordon and Veteran Leonard, who participate in Remembrance Day events are continuing to keep an important tradition vital and alive.

This Powley Day, September 19, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Ottawa Region Métis Council and other members of the Métis community gathered to acknowledge Steve Powley, a leader among Ontario’s Métis people.

Powley Day commemorates Steve Powley, a Métis hunter from the Sault Ste. Marie area, who in 1993 was charged for hunting without a license. The charges led to court battles for the right to harvest and eventually saw its way through to the Supreme Court of Canada, where it was affirmed that Métis people indeed have the right to harvest foods in a means that is traditional to that of their ancestors. This decision is a significant milestone for Métis in Ontario and Canada.

Held at the University of Ottawa, the evening’s celebrations included a heartfelt lecture from the MNO founding president and recent recipient of the Order of Canada, Tony Belcourt. Belcourt spoke to those gathered about the struggles encountered during the Powley case such as the lack of understanding of Métis culture and denial of the existence of Métis people in Ontario, as well as the continued efforts that are needed to ensure that Métis harvesting rights are upheld in Ontario.

Continuing on in the celebration was a light buffet style feast as well as a demonstration and lesson of Métis jigging by University of Ottawa graduate student Brad La Fortune. The event was a great success and enjoyed by all.
Walking with our Sisters Exhibit in Thunder Bay
submitted by Valerie Stortini, ASVCRI Coordinator

As part of a 31-city North American tour over a six year period, the Walking with our Sisters (WWOS) exhibit stopped in Thunder Bay from September 19 to October 12, 2014. The exhibit was displayed at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery. The opening of the exhibit was a huge success attended by over 200 people and local media.

The WWOS is a commemorative installation of over 1,700 moccasin vamps that each symbolize a missing or murdered Aboriginal woman in Canada. The vamps were created and donated by over 1,300 people across the country. In concept and execution, WWOS was originated by Métis artist and MNO citizen, Christi Belcourt. This initiative focuses on sexual violence and how services can be improved in the area to meet the needs of First Nations, Métis and Inuit women.

The tremendous amount of commitment and effort put into this event was most evident with the transformation of the room into a moving and colourful display. The exhibit room’s floor was covered in red cloth, which held a turtle design and covered cedar branches. Traditional cedar was also evident throughout. However, the power and energy of the exhibit was from the vast array of vamps on display. While designs varied from simple and straightforward to being much more complex, all of the vamps were made with the same spirit of hope and community. The atmosphere of the display area was one of power and hope.

The WWOS exhibit is not government funded and therefore relies on the help of volunteers required at each stop of the tour and in between. Volunteer opportunities range from helping with set-up and take-down to being involved on the organizing committee.

The WWOS exhibit to Thunder Bay would not have been such a success without the support of many of the volunteer groups. The local WWOS organizing committee dedicated months of their time, energy and effort into the planning of this major event. Throughout the planning process, they received input from Elders, local citizens and people from the national WWOS group as well as Christi Belcourt.

When it was announced that the exhibit would be coming to Thunder Bay, the MNO Thunder Bay Community Office was eager to offer their support and time to the event. MNO Community Wellness Coordinator Joan Panizza was part of the WWOS Thunder Bay Planning Committee and was one of the many community members in particular that made this event such a success. In addition, many volunteers from all across Canada put in a lot of their time to create this truly beautiful and moving exhibit.

As a thank you to all of the volunteers who made the WWOS exhibit possible, the MNO’s Aboriginal Sexual Violence and Community Wellness Community Resource Initiative (ASVCRI) contributed a luncheon during the set-up for all volunteers. Valerie Stortini, ASVCRI Coordinator, attended the luncheon and was also able to discuss her program with many of the volunteers.

The Métis Voyageur will continue to cover the WWOS exhibit. The exhibit will next be in an Ontario location from September 23 to October 16, 2015 when it comes to Ottawa MNO Ottawa staff are committed to offering their time and support to this moving exhibit.

Reconnecting youth with Métis traditions and culture through art
submitted by Susan Schank, Office Coordinator for the MNO Great Lakes Métis Council

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Great Lakes Métis Council (GLMC) has recently launched a new initiative to reconnect youth with their Métis traditions and culture—the Youth Art Program.

The Youth Art Program is designed to develop artistic talent and creativity and develop understanding and awareness of Aboriginal culture and tradition by providing theoretical knowledge as well as a historical and cultural context of the subject being studied. It allows students to apply and develop the skills being taught through a variety of styles and subject matters and makes sure the student not only understands the work, but that they are connecting with their work and enjoying what they are doing. The MNO GLMC arts program has four programs which follow the medicine wheel: four harvesting cycles, four stages of life, four elements of life and four directions. Each program has three courses with roughly one course per month. Each course is community in their post-secondary institutions.

Each program starts the first month of that season: March 21, June 21, September 21 and December 21. Youth are from several communities including Grey, Bruce and the north end of Wellington counties.

Thank you to Bruce Power for their support.


The installation is displayed on the floor of the Thunder Bay Art Gallery.

Reaching out to Métis Students
by MNO Staff

This October, Métis students from across Ontario gathered for the MNO’s Infinite Reach Student Solidarity Network Facilitator orientation session held in Waterloo, Ontario. New and returning MNO Infinite Reach Facilitators (IRF’s) from 19 post-secondary institutions were given a two-day orientation session to familiarize themselves with the MNO, the Infinite Reach Student Solidarity Network, and to prepare for the upcoming year.

As part of the orientation, students were given tours of both Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo. IRF’s from each institution gave a guided tour and shared the different services provided to students on those campuses. The IRF’s were welcomed and hosted by Aboriginal Support Staff Andre Monteau from the University of Waterloo and Melissa Ireland from Laurier University. The meeting was also attended and supported by the MNO’s Veterans Council President Joseph Paquette and MNO Senators Roland St Germain and Carol Levis.

This year’s orientation included a presentation on the MNO Healing and Wellness Community Engagement toolkit, which supports the community wellness council in discussing the important issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. The IRF’s held a Faceless Doll’s workshop and were joined by the Laurier University Change Project, which addresses issues of gender based violence on campus.

On the Saturday evening, cultural activities and a dinner were enjoyed by all. Some of the facilitators in attendance had participated in the MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program this past summer and shared their finger weaving knowledge as well as their overall experience of the program. This gathering was a great opportunity for new facilitators to meet and talk with senior facilitators and MNO Senators.

The MNO is very proud of our IRF’s who volunteer their time to support the Métis youth in their post-secondary institutions.
Fall Harvest Gathering in Thunder Bay

by | MNO Staff

The Eighth Annual Fall Harvest Gathering took place from September 23-25 in Thunder Bay and had over 800 visitors in attendance. The event, organized by the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council, celebrates First Nations and Metis knowledge holders who share traditional lifestyle practices with their respective communities.

Every Fall Harvest Gathering includes hands-on, interactive work stations that are steeped in traditional knowledge. At this year’s gathering, visitors learned about a variety of traditional Aboriginal practices, such as wild rice preparation; hide preparation; drumming; snowshoe trunking; and commercial fishing practices.

The annual event, organized by the MNO, is committed to improving opportunities and experiences with the aim to bring together First Nation and Métis youth. We thank everyone for their active participation and insightful feedback.

And the winners are...

by | MNO Staff

As part of the Métis Nation of Ontario’s (MNO) work in developing an Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy, the MNO conducted Métis Youth Engagement Sessions in 19 communities across the province from June to August 2014. These sessions were a huge success and attracted over 100 Métis youth participants. The sessions were an opportunity for Métis youth to tell the MNO about their goals, aspirations and experiences with the aim to improve opportunities for them in the future.

At each session, participants could enter a draw for a chance to win one of three Dell tablets. We are happy to announce that the winners are: Emma Harrison (Allenton, Ontario), Gabriel Picard (Shuniah, Ontario) and Christina Hannah (Windsor, Ontario). Congratulations! We hope you enjoy your new Dell tablets!

The Council would also like to thank Bruce Power for sponsoring the event.

Métis youth craft weekend

submitted by | Greg Garratt, MNO Region 7 Captain of the Hunt

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council recently hosted a Traditional Knowledge and craft weekend for the Métis youth. Organized by MNO Region 7 Captain of the Hunt Greg Garratt, youth ages 10-29 spent the weekend making a set of handmade moccasins, bone necklaces and dream-catchers. The weekend allowed these youth to experience a part of their culture and connect to their roots. Along with the crafts, the youth were told anecdotal Aboriginal stories and participated, for many a first time, in a smudging ceremony.

Many elders and volunteers, including Ken Fraser, came and went over the weekend participating with the youth. Also in attendance was the Council Youth Representative Danielle Soccour.

The moccasin instructors were very patient and helpful. Many thanks to Chris and Melissa Walker from Little Wolf Creations. Thanks also to Colleen Mor选 for providing cedar tea and Heather and staff from Gidley’s Galley Restaurant for providing meals and refreshments.

The Council would also like to thank Bruce Power for sponsoring the event.

Participants of the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Traditional Knowledge and craft weekend hold their handmade dream catchers.
Mélanie-Rose Frappier speaking at the grand opening of the Heritage Discovery Centre at the Ermatinger Clergue National Historic Site on July 17.

Midland Autumn Community Kitchen

On October 8, 2014, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Community Wellness Coordinators from the Midland office, Tracy Bald and Karlyn Ouimet, prepared a Thanksgiving meal as part of their Autumn Community Kitchen event.

Meals were giving to our elderly and isolated clients who may have gone without a holiday meal this year. The meal included roasted turkey, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, turnip, roasted butternut soup and some sweet potato. Twenty four meals were given out.

Some of the feedback received included, “Thank you so much for thinking of me,” “I no longer have family around to celebrate the holidays with. This was such a nice treat, thank you.” And “I would like to say it was good and we enjoyed it.”

Special thank you to Lorraine Moutney for assisting with preparing the meal and all the MNO Midland staff who were dedicated to quality control.

Métis Voyageur Games featured on Warrior Games

During the 2012 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA), a film crew from Aboriginal Peoples Television Network’s (APTN) program Warrior Games covered the Métis Voyageur Games—a long established tradition at AGAs—to feature in an episode of the program. The Warrior Games episode on the Voyageur Games was recently aired on APTN and made for an exciting and fun segment! The entire program can be viewed at aptn.ca.
ACHIEVEMENTS

Veterans Council President honoured

Joseph Paquette receives commendation from Minister of Veterans Affairs

by MNO Staff
With files from veterans.gc.ca

The Métis Nation of Ontario is proud to announce that MNO Veterans Council President, Joseph Paquette, has received the prestigious Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation.

Since serving in uniform, many of Canada’s Veterans continue to provide outstanding service to their country, their communities and their fellow Veterans. To formally recognize the contributions of these outstanding Canadians, the Governor General authorized the creation of the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation.

The Commendation is awarded annually to individuals who have contributed in an exemplary manner to the care and well-being of Veterans or to the remembrance of the contributions, sacrifices and achievements of Veterans.

Mr. Paquette served with the Lincoln and Welland Regiment and the Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada. From 2008 to 2010, he was a Councilor/Veteran with the Credit River Métis Council, striving to establish good relations with local heritage organizations and Aboriginal Veterans associations.

In 2009, Mr. Paquette became the secretary of the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans Council (MNOVC) and was instrumental in maintaining and updating the Veterans’ registry, the Métis Veterans’ Wreath and the Veterans’ Community Charter.

In 2011, he created the MNOVC’s website and currently serves as President. He also represented the Métis Nation of Ontario and the Métis National Council at a ceremony in Fort York, commemorating the War of 1812.

A member of the Aboriginal Veterans Association, Mr. Paquette also continues to actively promote his Métis heritage and the contributions of his fellow Métis Veterans by participating in local, provincial and national commemorative events.

Mr. Paquette was awarded the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012 and the Lieutenant Governor’s Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2014.

Congratulations to Mr. Paquette on all of his accomplishments.

Timmins Council honours veterans

Citizens receive Louis Riel Veterans Medals

submitted by Alain Lefebvre,
MNO Timmins Métis Council President

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Timmins Métis Council was proud to host a Veterans Ceremony for MNO citizens Robert Barrette, Vice President of the MNO Timmins Métis Council, and Dave Lalonde, Board Member of the MNO Timmins Métis Council. On September 10, 2014, both Barrette and Lalonde received the Louis Riel Veterans Medal and Certificate from the MNO Veterans’ Council.

Surrounded by friends and family, Barrette, Unit 5e Régiment du génie de combat (5RGC), and Lalonde, 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) were recognized, as veterans under the charter agreement of the MNO Veterans’ Council, for meritorious service in Canada’s Armed Forces which included each completing a six month NATO tour of Yugoslavia in the late 1990s respectively.

On hand to present awards were MNO Chair France Picotte, with help from Jean Carriere, Director of Emergency Medical Services for Timmins and area.

On behalf of the Timmins City Council, Timmins City Councillor Mike Doody also attended to give a few words and congratulations.

The MNO Timmins Métis Council, MNO Veterans’ Council and MNO citizens in the Timmins and surrounding area congratulate you on your dedication to the security of our country.

-Alain Lefebvre
Métis youth graduates with multiple honours

Chantel Pilon demonstrates academic and athletic excellence

Submitted by | Robin Pilon

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen, Chantel Pilon, recently graduated from the University of Waterloo with a Bachelor of Arts Degree, Honours Recreation and Business—Co-operative Program. Chantel graduated on the Dean’s Honour List, the President’s Athletic Academic Honour Roll and the CIS Academic All-Canadian list. Chantel is currently working on her Master’s Degree in Recreation and Leisure at the University of Waterloo (UWaterloo) while also coaching the Waterloo Warrior Track and Field Team.

Chantel was recently inducted into the Quinte West YMCA. A special presentation at the Quinte West YMCA.

Success Stories

Young Métis women celebrate accomplishments

Melissa-Jane Pecman

Submitted by | Bobbi Aubin

Melissa-Jane Pecman, daughter of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Bobbi Aubin, is a recent graduate of the four-year Geology Program at Laurentian University. In her fourth year, Melissa received funding through the MNO Métis Mining Strategy program.

Successful in finding employment in her field after graduation, Melissa is currently finishing up a three-week work stint in Nunavut with her employer, ORIX Geoscience Inc., which works with a variety of exploration and mining companies focused on Canadian and international organizations.

Base and precious metal projects. Melissa grew up in Northern Ontario where hunting, fishing and camping was a passion she still enjoys today. Being an avid outdoorsperson mixes in well with her geological career.

Melissa spends her leisure time by working out, hiking, playing music, collecting rock samples, cooking and spending time with family.

Leah Belle

Submitted by | Richard Gravelle

At only 12 years of age, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Leah Belle is quite the accomplished singer. Not only was she crowned the 2014 Sudbury’s N’Swakamok Aboriginal Idol this June, she was also recently hand-picked by music producer Jace Martin to perform at the Six Nation Reserve’s Culture for a Cause Concert in Ohsweken, Ontario from August 15-17.

Having been in the music business for more than 20 years, Martin knows talent when he sees it. Martin discovered Belle when he judged the N’Swakamok Aboriginal Idol competition. “He was so impressed that he invited her down to perform,” said the Grade 7 student’s mom Gillyan Gravelle.

Taking the stage on the late Saturday afternoon, Belle, who has been singing since she was four, performed a couple country songs as well as a cover of a Journey song. Soon audience will be able to listen to Belle’s impressive voice from the comfort of their own homes as she is set to join Martin in Toronto to record her first record in studio.

An accomplished young girl, Belle is the second MNO citizen to win Sudbury’s Aboriginal Idol challenge as the winner from 2013 was Michelle Prevost-Fortin.

Gift of culture

Submitted by | Reta Gordon, MNO Executive Senator

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Executive Senator Reta Gordon recently presented the MNO Values & Traditions of Our Ancestors to MNO Founding President Tony Belcourt in honour of his recent investiture in the Order of Canada.

Created by the MNO, this beautifully illustrated book provides an engaging introduction to Métis people, history, culture and aspirations.
HARVESTING

The thrill of the hunt

submitted by | Art Bennett,
MNO Region 4 Captain of the Hunt, Region 4

I had gone to the same spot where I harvested a young bull—a male moose—last year and even sat on the same stump. Upon my arrival, I gave one long cow call and sat down and waited. About ten minutes later, I heard a branch crack behind me and a rustling sound that I thought was pretty far away. Thinking that I had a bit more time, I slowly turned around and there was this big bull only about thirty feet from me standing with his head down watching me.

I immediately placed my rifle to my shoulder and took aim. As he turned sideways, I squeezed the trigger but nothing happened. Although it seemed like an eternity had passed, it had probably only been a matter of seconds before I realized what had gone wrong.

I had been so startled to see the bull so close to me, that I had not put my safety lever all the way to the off position. By the time I realized my mistake, the moose had turned yet again and all I could see was his behind disappearing into the balsam and spruce. I did not want to just wound him, so I decided not to fire.

I could tell that the moose was heading for the beaver pond so I took off running and leapt over the dead falls like an Olympic hurdler. I thought I might be able to get a clear shot at him once he had made his way through the pond.

By the time I arrived, I could hear lots of splashing from the pond and I noticed that he was now with a smaller bull. I took a good look at them through my scope but did not relish the thought of wading in a cold stinking beaver pond, so I decided to let them go. I knew that even if I had fired, I probably would have missed as I was still huffing and puffing from my Olympic sprint!

The next morning I went back to the same spot as I knew that quite often a bull will stick around if he thinks there is a cow, a female bull, in heat nearby. My intuition was right as I could hear him crashing around some trees. I tried to sneak up on him but he got wind of me and walked out to where my brother, Rick, was waiting. Rick took him with one clean shot right behind the ear. A quick clean kill meant that no meat was wasted and that our freezers are full!

I have realized that it doesn’t matter how many animals one has harvested or how old you get, you still get excited!

brothers Art (left) and Rick Bennett celebrate with their catch.

Harvesting Meeting

submitted by | Yvonne Jensen,
MNO Citizen and North Channel Métis Council President

On November 9, 2014 the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) North Channel Métis Council (NCMC) held a meeting on harvesting rights at their head office in Blind River, Ontario. MNO citizens from Elliot Lake and Blind River attended the meeting. The meeting began with Yvonne Jensen, MNO NCMC President, introducing Art Bennett, MNO Region 4 Captain of The Hunt, to the group.

Bennett assured the citizens that if he did not have the answer to any of their questions, he would get back to them. Questions asked during the meeting concerned Region 4 boundaries, acceptable hunting practices, and regulations about cutting wood. Throughout the afternoon, Bennett and some of the citizens shared entertaining and informative stories.

Bennett also signed harvesting applications and answered questions about the application process. Light refreshments were enjoyed by all.

President Jensen closed the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. She presented Bennett with a book called Values and Traditions of our Ancestors, which was very much appreciated.

Harvester cards get a new look

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Harvesters recently received brand new Harvester’s Certificates in the mail. The new cards’ beautiful design was created by Métis graphic design artist Marc St. Germain and will not only provide essential legal documentation to every MNO Harvester, but will also be a symbol of Métis pride.
**The majestic moose**

submitted by | Joseph Paquette,  
MNO Veterans’ Council President

Joseph Paquette, MNO Veterans’ Council President, gives a first-hand account of his hunting trip.

The day started with a beautiful sunrise amidst a perfect blue sky. This was following two days of rain. Climbing hill after hill and calling every so often did not put me any closer to filling my moose tag.

I finally settled at the corner of three crossroads. It seemed like the ideal place with a great view in three directions. I started at a rate of 100 yards, took the safety off, and pulled the hammer and all I heard was click. The safety was on! It then took the safety off, and pulled back the hammer for the second time. During all this time, the moose did not move. I took the shot. He eventually staggered about 60 feet and then laid down.

What a great gift for my family and community.

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**Trapping 101**

submitted by | Jim Tolles,  
MNO Credit River Métis Council

The beautiful island lake conservation area of Credit Valley in Orangeville brought fantastic weather for a trapping workshop this past October Jim Tolles, MNO Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) Traditional Knowledge Resource, facilitated a workshop for 10 people, which covered the basics of trapping. Throughout the session Tolles explained the different types of traps that exist, the places they can be used, and the various animals that can be caught.

The workshop was very hands-on to Tolles’ incredibly interactive display complete with traps and furs. The display also included various resources that have allowed Tolles to get a trapping license and be able to continue his journey of trapping.

The workshop also included many perks such as a draw for a door prize, donated by local outdoors and sports store Dufferin Outdoor Supply. It was won by Angela Hartley. Participants were also able to stay warm by the fire and enjoy a meal at the end of the workshop, provided by the MNO CRMC. The workshop attracted a wide variety of participants including local citizens and MNO CRMC Councilor Jean-Marc Mahau.

MNO CRMC members were extremely pleased that the participants thoroughly enjoyed the event. “I just wanted to thank you for all of your hard work in coordinating the trapping workshop! Your organization skills are superb. We really appreciated the delicious pizza, coffee, hot chocolate and everything else you did to make us comfortable and so proud to be Métis,” said participant Paulette Sartain.

“I know you can say that this is just a part of your job, but people can truly tell when a job is done with lots of love and attention.”

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**Two victories in one year for the Whalen family**

submitted by | Kevin Whalen,  
MNO Citizen

Kevin Whalen shares his first-hand account of a successful harvest below:

The bull moose was taken by my son Collin and me, along with my other son Braden’s help who broke sticks from time to time to enhance the bull in showing himself at the beginning of the rut, as well as the help of my father’s moose scouting skills.

Ten minutes seemed like an hour when the bull moose first responded back to my cow call by loudly thrashing in the bush to complete silence. I continued to call on and off and we hid out of site while the moose circled around us as the wind was in his favor.

We could occasionally smell him and he would grunt and thrash in the dense forest every couple minutes. He was getting closer and louder until we saw the tag alders spread apart as he stepped out into opening for the shot. Let’s just say there was excitement and high fives all around—we could begin to breathe again! There is a lot of work ahead, and a toast to honor the Powley Family. We will never forget this traditional hunting experience and the memories.

Our family struggled to verify our harvesting files but hard work and persistence paid off for the Whalens and it was worth the victory in the end. After receiving a letter in 2013 requesting we turn in our harvesting cards, MNO President Gary Lapalme encouraged my family and I to work with MNO Registry staff to get the information they needed.

After working with my family members, the MNO Registry team, legal, Kevin Powley, MNO Captain of the Hunt for Region 4 Art Bennett, and others for the past year and a half, we were notified this past July by the MNO Registry staff that we have successfully fulfilled the required documentation as required in the Powley Test, Supreme Court of Canada.

We were informed that Historic Sault Ste. Marie will be our harvesting territory. That’s two victories in one year for the Whalen family!
City of Edmonton recognizes Métis week

On November 10, 2014, the City of Edmonton and the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) came together to recognize the contributions of the Métis people to the establishment and development of Edmonton.

“Edmonton’s Métis population is a valued part of our great city’s historical and cultural legacy. Their pioneering spirit helped establish Edmonton as a cultural and economic gathering place, and their influence helps make Edmonton the vibrant, prosperous city it is today,” said Councillor Tony Caterina.

Councillor Caterina proclaimed November 9 to 16, 2014, Métis Week in Edmonton. The Métis flag was raised outside of City Hall, preceding the week.

The celebration builds on the recognition and cooperation. Both the City and the MNA entered into a Memorandum of Shared Recognition and Cooperation. Both sides have worked together to increase opportunities for positive social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal people living in Edmonton.

On Wednesday, November 12, the High Level Bridge was lit blue and white in honour of Edmonton’s Métis population.

At a time of assaults against young Aboriginal women, Winnipeggers have elected its first Métis mayor. Brian Bowman, 42, was sworn in as Mayor on November 9, 2014. Brian Bowman’s victory is heralding a new wave of leadership by smart, young, ambitious Aboriginal people that has implications not only for Winnipeg but for other Canadian cities with growing indigenous populations.

Manitoba

The City of Winnipeg elects its first Métis Mayor

Source: The National Post

At a time of assaults against young Aboriginal women, Winnipeggers have elected its first Métis mayor. Brian Bowman, 42, was sworn in as Mayor on November 9, 2014.

“Just before I was sworn in,” said Mayor Brian Bowman, 42, who got teary-eyed during the speech, “I was writing my speech and added in a recognition that we’re in the heart of the Métis Nation. I was told that those words had never been uttered by a mayor in the chamber, so when I did the swearing and uttered those words, the weight of history was definitely not lost on me.”

Mayor Bowman had an Ojibwa elder bless the swearing-in ceremony, and handed out gifts of tobacco to members of council as a traditional Aboriginal gesture of goodwill.

“I just think of where this province has come from. This is the birthplace of Louis Riel. We have a growing indigenous community in Winnipeg, it’s something I’m very proud of and more and more Winnipeggers are seeing that as a source of strength,” said Mayor Bowman.

Mayor Bowman’s victory is heralding a new wave of leadership by smart, young, ambitious Aboriginal people that has implications not only for Winnipeg but for other Canadian cities with growing indigenous populations.

Saskatchewan

Métis artist, Andrea Menard, releases her fourth CD

Andrea Menard is a well-known Métis singer/songwriter and actress and has created life-long fans with her songs, stories, and her message of hope.

Menard has just released her fourth CD, Life, which is a collection of uplifting songs that motivate positive change and open the heart. Menard is collaborating once again with her long-time producer and co-writer, Robert Walsh.

A well-loved television actor, Menard is also known for her performances in Blackstone, Rabbit Full, Hard Rock Medical, and Muscimin Plains. Menard’s one-woman musical stage play, The Velvet Devil, was made into an award-winning television movie for APTN and CBC’s Opening Night. Sparkle, Menard’s third album, is featured in a 70-minute, holiday special on APTN, called Sparkle: An Evening with Andrea Menard. Both shows garnered Gemini nominations for Menard’s outstanding performance.

Menard’s new symphony show, I Am Andrea Menard, which debuted with the Regina Symphony Orchestra in May 2014, takes all the elements of her various talents—the jazz crooner, the traditional Métis singer, the actress, and the storyteller, and showcases a genuine personality.

British Columbia

Métis Nation continues to work on consultation activities

Source: Métis Nation of British Columbia

Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) is working on consultation activities for over 30 proposed projects around the province. By conducting stronger research, the MNBC hopes to raise the level of consultation and accommodation required throughout BC.

The captains of the British Columbia Métis Assembly of Natural Resources and Natural Resources Canada staff have held numerous consultation sessions around the province on several projects including the proposed Kinder Morgan expansion. They have conducted numerous research projects around the province to document where and how Métis are exercising their inherent Aboriginal rights.

Most recently, this information was used in a 150-page report they submitted along with detailed maps to the Site C Federal Joint Review Panel assessing the proposed project. They were able to clearly demonstrate how the project will impact Métis who are using the area, and BC Hydro fully admitted that if the project were to go ahead it would have negative ramifications for MNBC citizens. This research has resulted in Métis being granted a medium duty to consult for the Site C project which is a first in BC.

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What Louis Riel means to me

Alex Young, MNO Youth Representative, Region 9, delivered the following address at the Louis Riel Day ceremony at Queen’s Park on November 14, 2014.

My unexpected reflection period started right away, on a personal level as I considered my own involvement within the MNO and how it has changed during the last 22 years—from attending AGAs as child, to being involved on a council level in Hamilton, to the point where I am now a member of the MNO Youth Council. However, as I thought more on my own involvement, I started to think about the changes—the MNO itself has gone through in that same time.

The MNO is currently one year my junior and although I think I’ve done alright for myself over the last 22 years, it is absolutely incredible how much we have grown as a nation. Consider where we started—the MNO was formed in 1995 by a relatively small group of individuals who wanted to bring together Ontario Métis communities. The governance structure that could lobby on behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario citizens. Before this, we were at best viewed as a collective political party who served in government and through legal and lobbying efforts. We were continuing to grow faster than ever and that is something that was driven home for me by reflecting on our past. We are not a forgotten people anymore. The MNO Statement of Prime Purpose is the document that encapsulated the original and continued vision of the MNO. It contains, in particular, one line that resonates very strongly with me: “These are our lands. They are Métis lands. The Métis Nation of Ontario, our past which nurtures us today and which we value as the precious foundation of our future.”

On days like today, and indeed weeks like this week, where we are encouraged to pause and reflect on the events of the past, words like these are extremely important to keep in mind. We should never forget where we have come from or the sacrifices and struggles that others, like Louis Riel, went through to get us to where we are today. However, I would ask that you don’t stop there. The events of the past have shaped where we now stand and it is up to us to use that knowledge to better our future as a nation and as a people.

Aboriginal people. We proudly wear our sash and celebrate our distinct culture and language. We have witnessed and have been a part of an incredible resurgence in Métis pride and identity and we haven’t stopped.

The MNO continues to work for our Nation and our people both on the ground and through legal and lobbying efforts. We are continuing to grow faster than ever and that is something that was driven home for me by reflecting on our past. We are not a forgotten people anymore. The MNO Statement of Prime Purpose is the document that encapsulated the original and continued vision of the MNO. It contains, in particular, one line that resonates very strongly with me: “These are our lands. They are Métis lands. The Métis Nation of Ontario, our past which nurtures us today and which we value as the precious foundation of our future.”

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On days like today, and indeed weeks like this week, where we are encouraged to pause and reflect on the events of the past, words like these are extremely important to keep in mind. We should never forget where we have come from or the sacrifices and struggles that others, like Louis Riel, went through to get us to where we are today. However, I would ask that you don’t stop there. The events of the past have shaped where we now stand and it is up to us to use that knowledge to better our future as a nation and as a people.

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