Margaret Froh elected as new MNO President
Page 3

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Largest ever voter turnout for an MNO election

Métis democracy is thriving

Louise Goulding retires
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President Froh responds to Ontario’s commitment to reconciliation.
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President Froh addresses Indigenous Health Conference.
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Get to know the new and returning PCMNO members!

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A green legacy
Pages 12 - 13

Reclaiming her voice
Page 31
What Dad means to me

Submitted by Anne Huguenin

A father is a father;  
But a Dad is a man.  
One you can talk to freely,  
And he always understands:  
A voice so calm and serene,  
His gentle soul is never mean.  
A man who has strength inside,  
And wisdom at his age,  
One who is full of pride,  
He helps you turn life’s page.  
A Dad you can rely on,  
In good times and in bad,  
He’ll make you smile and laugh,  
Even though you may be sad.  
A Dad puts you first no matter when and where,  
He isn’t afraid to hug you and show you that he cares.  
A Dad is a role model you look up to with such pride,  
And every day he has said those words,  
They mean much more to you.  
A Dad you can rely on,  
He helps you turn life’s page.

The art of reflexology

On May 11, 2016, many Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Healing and Wellness branch clients enjoyed receiving foot care and reflexology at the Maynooth Foot Care Clinic. Foot care services are provided by Margaret Haden Pawlowski, Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative Foot Care Nurse, who trims toenails, inspects feet and provides diabetic information. Reflexology treatments can also increase blood circulation as it improves the oxygen rich blood that flows to the extremities and can bring the body back to balance.

Provide your feedback on the electoral process

Following the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) general election, the Chief Electoral Officer reviews the election and provides a report to the Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO). In this report, the Chief Electoral Officer may make recommendations for changes to the MNO Electoral Code: Part A in order to make improvements to the code that address issues that may have arose in the operation of the recent election. PCMNO is also inviting interested MNO citizens to submit their suggestions concerning the Electoral Code and the operation of the recent election. Submissions received from citizens will be considered along with the Chief Electoral Officer’s Report. Please limit submissions that flag concerns about the code itself or the electoral process, and instead focus on suggestions on how it can be improved. A copy of the current MNO Electoral Code: Part A can be viewed on the homepage of the MNO website by clicking on the icon: “MNO Election 2016”. Submissions should be sent in writing (by letter or email) to PCMNO, in care of: 

Electoral Process Feedback  
C/O Monique Richard  
Operations Executive Support  
Métis Nation of Ontario  
500 Old St. Patrick Street  
Ottawa ON K1N 9G4  
Or e-mail: moniquerichard@metisnation.org
Exciting MNO election concludes with record voter turnout

Métis democracy is thriving

by MNO Staff

In March and April 2016, candidates for positions on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) campaigned in most Métis communities. MNO community councils were keenly interested in the election as evidenced by the number that held all candidates meetings and who invited the candidates to speak at their events. Facebook and other social media added another dimension to this campaign, as candidates and their supporters outlined their positions and responded to questions via Facebook and Twitter. “It was a very exciting election,” stated Chinta Lemelin, Chair of the Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Community Council, who was actively involved in the campaign. “It was great to see MNO citizens so engaged in the election. It really demonstrates the strength of the MNO.”

Outgoing MNO President Gary Lipinski also commented: “It was gratifying to see the largest voter turnout in MNO history in the recent election. I think this turnout speaks volumes to the work of the outgoing Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) leadership as well as the hard work and ambitious campaigns of all the candidates and their supporters in this election.”

On May 2, 2016, the 2016 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) elections drew a record number of MNO citizens participating in the election of Métis leaders at the local, regional and provincial levels, with a 44.4% increase from the 2012 election in total ballots cast. Métis lawyer and educator, Margaret Froh, was elected as MNO President and the incumbents were successful in all other Executive PCMNO positions as well as in the three Regional Councillor positions that were contested (see complete election roasts in table to right).

I’m especially inspired by the level of engagement of Métis youth throughout this election process.”

“Everyone who ran as candidates and all those citizens who voted in this election have contributed to making our nation stronger,” said President Froh. “I want to thank everyone who was part of our democratic process, including all the candidates, our electoral officials and staff, and the many volunteers who assisted the various campaigns, worked at polling stations, and assisted in the election. Our citizens have spoken and I look forward to working with the new PCMNO and all MNO citizens to make the Métis Nation stronger.” President Froh stated. “I want to express my gratitude and appreciation to outgoing President Gary Lipinski, and to congratulate all returning and newly elected members of the PCMNO. The MNO is blessed with an extremely skilled and dedicated Métis public service, and a very strong and experienced group of leaders in the new PCMNO. Thanks to the excellent leadership the MNO has had in the past, our hard working public service, and the incredible depth of leadership at the local, regional and provincial levels within our nation, the Métis Nation of Ontario will be ready to move forward on the many opportunities before us in the coming months and years.”

The other Presidential candidate, Hank Rowlinson, expressed similar sentiments and stated: “I also want to congratulate all of those who have been elected to serve on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario and to thank all candidates for putting their names forward. Now that the election is over, it is most important for all of us to focus our energies on developing unified ways.”

“Everyone who ran as candidates and all those citizens who voted in this election have contributed to making our nation stronger.”

-MNO President Margaret Froh

2016 Métis Nation of Ontario Elections Results

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) general elections took place on Monday, May 2, 2016. A total of 3303 ballots were cast, which compares with 2288 that were cast in the last general election in 2012. The results of the election were as follows (successful candidates’ names are bolded):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRESIDENT</td>
<td>Hank Rowlinson</td>
<td>1469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Margaret Froh</td>
<td>1834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAIR</td>
<td>Richard Meilleur</td>
<td>772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>France Picotte</td>
<td>1906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kevin Muloin</td>
<td>565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VICE-CHAIR</td>
<td>Marc Laurin</td>
<td>1393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sharon McBride</td>
<td>1840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECRETARY/TREASURER</td>
<td>Maurice Sarrazin</td>
<td>513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lawrence (Larry) O’Connor</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tim Pile</td>
<td>1253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heidi Kimberley</td>
<td>674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGION 2 PCMNO COUNCILLOR</td>
<td>Cameron Burgess</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bryanna Scott</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGION 3 PCMNO COUNCILLOR</td>
<td>Tina Nichol</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marcel Lafrance</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGION 9 PCMNO COUNCILLOR</td>
<td>Derrick Pont</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peter Rivers</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGION 7 MNO YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE</td>
<td>Jordyn Playne</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tyler Logue</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acclaimed Candidates

The following positions have been acclaimed:

- REGION 1 PCMNO COUNCILLOR: Theresa Stenlund
- REGION 4 PCMNO COUNCILLOR: Ernie Gatien
- REGION 5 PCMNO COUNCILLOR: Daniel Boulard
- REGION 6 PCMNO COUNCILLOR: Thomas Thompson
- REGION 7 PCMNO COUNCILLOR: Pauline Richardson
- REGION 8 PCMNO COUNCILLOR: Anita Tucker

PCMNO YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE: Mitch Case

PCMNO POST-SECONDARY REPRESENTATIVE: Katelyn LaCroix

MNO Veterans Council

PRESIDENT: Joseph Paquette
CHAIR: Guy Mandeville
SECRETARY: Greg Garrett
SENIOR FOR VETERANS: Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy
WOMEN’S REPRESENTATIVE: Shelley Claus

MNO Youth Council

REGION 1 REPRESENTATIVE: Kelly Duquette
REGION 2 REPRESENTATIVE: Paul Robitaille
REGION 3 REPRESENTATIVE: Brienne Gosselin
REGION 6 REPRESENTATIVE: Alexandrea Dusome

VACANT POSITIONS:
- YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES FOR REGIONS 4, 5, 8, & 9
- TREASURER, MNO Veterans’ Council

Article 10 of the MNO Electoral Code: Part A contains a provision for filling vacancies at the Annual General Assembly. Please contact the Chief Electoral Officer at mnoelections@metisnation.org should you have any questions in this regard.
Elected in May 2016, Margaret Froh is the first woman to serve as President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). She lives in Barrie, Ontario, which is within the traditional territory of the Geongan Bay Métis community. Margaret is one of eight children born to Frank and Marie (Marchand) Froh. Growing up, Margaret spent her youth fishing and canoeing and was active in air cadets and sports. Her parents instilled strong values in their children, including the importance of volunteerism and education. Originally from the Qu’Appelle Valley in Saskatchewan (near Fort Qu’Appelle), Margaret has lived in Ontario for over 20 years. She moved to Ontario in 1993 to attend law school at the University of Toronto and made Ontario her home. She decided to pursue a law degree after volunteering on a legal defense committee for Mary Pitawanakwat, an Ontario Ojibway-Potawatomi woman who was fighting discrimination within the federal public service.

Margaret has spent her career working on behalf of Métis, First Nations and Inuit peoples. This work has included:

- Acting as Aboriginal Issues Coordinating Officer for the Law Society of Upper Canada, where she established a formal partnership between the MNO and the Law Society, which included the first Louis Riel Day event. This partnership and annual event continues to this day.
- Acting as part of the in-house legal counsel group for the Chipewyans of Rama First Nation where her work focused on strengthening the First Nation’s governance, law and policy.
- Since 2013, Margaret has worked for the MNO as its first in-house legal counsel and Director of Strategic Policy, Law and Compliance. Until her election as President, she served as the MNO’s Associate Chief Operating Officer. In these roles, Margaret has become familiar with the management and oversight of all aspects of the MNO’s province-wide operations, including working with all of the MNO Branches, Community Councils and the Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMO).
- In addition to her work for the MNO and her other community volunteer activity, Margaret sits on various committees and advisory groups focusing on an Indigenous justice for Indigenous peoples in Ontario.

Margaret brings a Métis voice to these critical discussions of justice and child welfare, including:

- The Debewtini First Nation Jury Review Implementation Committee, the committee tasked with overseeing Ontario’s implementation of the 2013 report issued by former Supreme Court of Canada Justice Frank Iacobucci regarding the lack of First Nation representation on Ontario Juries, and

Over the last 20 years, Margaret has also served in elected and executive positions—including the role of President—of various boards of Indigenous community organizations, associations and businesses operating at the local, provincial and national levels in Canada.

Notably, Margaret is the former President of the Indigenous Bar Association in Canada (IBA), a national professional association of Métis, First Nation and Inuit lawyers, judges, law professors and law students. She is the current Chair of the IBA Law Student Scholarship Foundation. She has chaired numerous committees of the IBA, including the IBA Ethics Committee, and served as Chair of the Steering Committee for the Accessing Justice & Reconciliation national community-based research project working with Indigenous communities to revitalize Indigenous law in Canada.

In addition to her volunteer work at the national level, Margaret has been an exciting local initiative aimed at raising awareness around the need for mental health supports for youth in the region, and with a local animal rescue. One of her favourite activities is mentoring Indigenous youth and encouraging them on their academic and professional journeys.

Margaret also shares her knowledge and leadership expertise in her role as faculty for the Barrie Centre’s Indigenous Leadership & Management Program (now the Lougheed Leadership Institute). Margaret teaches part-time for the Barrie Centre and has helped Métis, First Nations and Inuit leaders from across Canada develop their leadership skills, with a particular focus on nation-building and good government. She has also taught as Adjunct Faculty at the University of Toronto Faculty Of Law, and has lectured on Métis, First Nations and Inuit legal issues across Canada and internationally. A former competitive athlete and inspired by her very active mother, Margaret has been working on getting fit again. She happily reports that she is in better shape entering her 50s than she was in her 40s.

Margaret and her spouse, Rachel, live in Barrie. They recently celebrated their sixteenth anniversary. Margaret is a proud auntie of 26 nieces and nephews.

France has succeeded President Lipskiz as the Chair of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) in 2008. Chair Picotte first got involved in Métis politics in Ontario when she served as President of the MNO Timmins Métis Community Council, then she became PCMNO Vice-chair and later PCMNO Chair.

France, a lab technologist, has also been instrumental in promoting and advancing health issues in the Métis community. Her passion for the preservation of Métis culture was recognized when she received the MNO’s Heritage Trust Award for her dedication to preserving the Michif language and the traditional finger weaving practice of the Métis people. Her effort to record more Métis stories is now taking her into the area of research. France has been instrumental in establishing relationships with research bodies and institutions that can shine light on the often untold stories of the Métis in Ontario.

Sharon McBride is a municipal law enforcement officer and has served as MNO Vice-Chair and spokesperson for the Women’s Secretariat of the MNO Nation of Ontario (WSMNO) since 2008. She became actively involved in Métis politics in 1999 when she first learned of her Métis ancestry. She was founding President of the MNO Credit River Métis Council based in Brampton and has served as PCMNO Councillor for Region Eight. Her work on behalf of the WSMNO is focused on securing the funding required to carry out the important advocacy and public awareness role of the Women’s Secretariat.

Over the last 20 years, Margaret has...
Métis Voyageur
June 2016, Issue no. 91

2016 PCMNO Biographies

Regional Councillors

Theresa Stenlund has been acclaimed to serve a third term as Regional 1 Councillor. Theresa, who is also the Chair of the PCMNO 1 Consultation Committee, first joined the PCMNO in 2008 and served as a councillor on the MNO Kenora Métis Council from 2001 to 2008. She received a Social Services Diploma (Honour Roll) in 1996 and has worked in Child and Family Services ever since. Theresa completed an Honours Bachelor of Social Work degree at Laurentian University, (Honour Roll) in June 2012. Bachelor of Social Work degree at Laurentian University, (Honour Roll) in June 2012. Bachelor of Social Work degree at Laurentian

Ernest Gatien is a new member of the PCMNO who has been acclaimed as Regional Councillor for Region 4. He is a former Captain of the Hunt and councillor on the MNO North Channel Métis Council and has been a resource person for the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Consultation Committee. Ernest lives in Blind River and is retired after serving 35 years with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. He holds an Arts degree from Laurentian University and a Diploma in Resource Management from Sault College. While with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ernest worked at various times as a forest fire fighter, a Regional Lakes and Waters Technical Specialist, assistant to the Mining Recorder (MNDM, during the Hemlo Gold rush) and a member of First Nations’ land claims negotiating teams. He was also involved with the Elliot Lake uranium mines decommissioning and did contract management including road and dam construction. Ernest was also a member of the Town of Blind River Planning Board. Ernest has been active for years attending local council meetings and several MNO Annual General Meetings (AGM) and plans to continue working to keep the MNO moving forward in its struggle to attain for MNO citizens what is their heritage and constitutional rights in practice and in law. At the 2015 AGA, Ernest was awarded the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award.

Daniel Boulard has been acclaimed as Regional Councillor for Region 5. He is a former councillor on the MNO Sudbury Métis Council and has been an MNO citizen since 1999. Dan lives in Hemmer. He graduated Cambrian College as a Civil Engineer Technician in 1986 and also graduated George Brown College as a Journeyman Ironworker in 1989. He pursued his career in the construction sector from superintendent, project management, and is currently the vice-president of a local construction firm. For the past six years, Dan has founded Ferus Industrial Contracting and is a proud Métis entrepreneur servicing the pulp and paper, mines, mills, smelters, and power generating plants. Dan has always been active with the MNO participating in several Annual General Assemblies and local council community meetings. Dan looks forward in participating with PCMNO to advance Métis rights.

Thomas Thompson has been acclaimed to serve a second term as Region 6 Councillor. Thomas, who is also the Chair of the MNO Region 6 Consultation Committee, joined the MNO in 2003. He served as a Councillor on the MNO Seven Rivers Métis Council before taking the role of President on what is now called the MNO High Land Waters Métis Community Council. Thomas has volunteered many hours to help over the years including the countless hours he has put into helping other MNO citizens file their paperwork for their MNO citizenship cards. For the past 30 years, Thomas has been a licensed steam fitter and plumber and therefore has an extensive background in the mechanical, oil, natural gas and steam fields. His goal is to make the Métis Nation aware of what proponents will bring to the table. With this knowledge and the information others bring to the table, it will make it hard for people to continue to take advantage of the Métis.

In his spare time, Thomas teaches his children and grandchildren about Métis culture. He looks forward to being able to continue his work with the MNO to better his community and the Métis Nation.

Pauline Richardson has been acclaimed to serve another term as Regional Councillor for Region 7. Pauline was first elected to the PCMNO in 2005 and is a former president of the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council. She is a member of the PCMNO Finance Committee, Chair of the Georgian Bay Traditional Territory Consultation Committee, a member of the Michif Committee. Pauline lives in Tiny and has been an Ontario Disability Support Program bilingual caseworker with the Ministry of Community and Social Services since 1987. She was the 2010 recipient of the MNO Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award and the 2012 recipient of the Ontario Public Servant Employee Union, Tim Brown Award. Pauline was remarried on May 3, 2014, has three children and two grandchildren. Pauline feels she owes a duty of care to the Métis Nation future generation by preserving, by protecting and by monitoring the resources they have been used by our Metis citizens. Pauline also believes that Métis Nation of Ontario needs to find a positive balance between preserving our culture and moving forward in a modern society.

From 1999 to 2016, Peter Rivers was a forest fire fighter. He has an Associates Degree in Fire Science from Lake Superior State University and is qualified as a captain in all fire fighting disciplines (fire rescue, training, and inspections). He was a rescue operations manager for an urban search and rescue team in Michigan for seven years where he was deployed across North and South America. He has also been Fire Marshal and served on the Public Fire Safety Council. Peter has a strong interest in Métis culture, history and way of life. He looks forward to continuing to press for Métis rights.

From 1999 to 2008, Peter is also Captain of the Hunt for Region 9. Peter lives in Victoria and is a fire fighter. He has an Associates Degree in Fire Science from Lake Superior State University and is qualified as a captain in all fire fighting disciplines (fire rescue, training, and inspections). He was a rescue operations manager for an urban search and rescue team in Michigan for seven years where he was deployed across North and South America. He has also been Fire Marshal and served on the Public Fire Safety Council. Peter has a strong interest in Métis culture, history and way of life. He looks forward to continuing to press for Métis rights.

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Congratulations to the new President and PCMNO!

Since the announcement of the election results on May 11, many Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens and friends of the MNO have been congratulating Margaret Froh, the new MNO President, as well as the other new elected and re-elected members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO). This outpouring of goodwill is a testament to the positive spirit that permeates the MNO.

"In choosing Margaret, MNO citizens have elected an individual with exceptional qualities and qualifications to lead the MNO. I have every confidence that she will build on the work of the past and make the Métis Nation even stronger. I also want to congratulate the other elected and acclaimed candidates. Margaret will head up a strong team of leaders who will advance the work of the MNO tremendously in the next four years."
– Gary Lipinski, Outgoing MNO President

"On behalf of the Government of Ontario, we would like to extend our congratulations to Margaret Froh on her election as President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Margaret Froh has spent her career working on behalf of Métis people, with a particular focus on legal and justice issues. With the election results, the Métis Nation of Ontario has recognized her leadership, vision and commitment to strengthening Métis communities across the province. The Métis Nation of Ontario and the Government of Ontario have accomplished much in recent years, including the renewal of the Framework Agreement that sets out how we will work together to improve the well-being of Métis children, families and communities, and the incorporation of the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Act, 2015, which recognizes the Métis Nation of Ontario’s unique corporate structure within the existing provincial corporate law framework. The Ontario government is committed to continuing to build a positive relationship with the Métis Nation of Ontario, and to working together in the spirit of mutual respect and collaboration. We look forward to working with Margaret Froh and wish her the best in this new role.
– Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs David Zimmer

"I have been warmly welcomed by Members of the executive for some time now and have been received by past president Gary Lipinski in friendship. For that, I am truly grateful and honoured. I hope we can continue to strengthen and expand our relationship and friendship. I look forward to meeting you to start our friendship journey."
– Dave Levac, Speaker of the Ontario Legislature

"I am confident given Ms. Froh’s credentials that she will also do the Métis Nation of Ontario very proud. Métis Nation BC is very much looking forward to seeing how the collective vision of the leadership of the MNO unfolds in the coming years and we look forward to continuing our strong working relationship on behalf of all Métis people."
– Bruce Dumont, President of Métis Nation British Columbia

"On behalf of the Board of Governor of the Métis National Council, I congratulate you on your election as President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. I also wish to congratulate the MNO on the record number of voters who voted for candidates at the regional and provincial levels."
– Clément Chartier QC, President, Métis National Council

"Congratulations and sincere best wishes to Margaret Froh on her election as President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. I wish her well as she takes on the many challenges and obligations that come with being President and I look forward to seeing the continued growth and success of the MNO under her leadership. I also want to congratulate all those who were re-elected or are newly elected to the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario. I am confident that the leadership of our proud Nation is in good hands."
– Tony Belcourt, past MNO President

"On behalf of the Ontario Native Women’s Association (ONWIA), I would like to extend our heartfelt and sincerest congratulations that you have been elected as President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. We also congratulate you on being a huge contributing factor to the largest voter turnout in the history of the MNO and on becoming the first female President. We are extremely pleased and celebrate this victory; the victory of a fellow indigenous woman being elected to a vital, political position."
– Dr. Dawn M. Lavell-Harvard, President, Native Women’s Association of Canada

"As the first female president, your election is a significant milestone in the history of the Métis Nation, and I cannot think of a person more qualified to break new ground and inspire the next generation of indigenous women leaders. I am confident that your compassion, perseverance and dedication will serve you well in your new role and I wish you and the re-elected members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario every success."
– Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, Nishnawbe Aski Nation

"I would like to extend my warm congratulations to you on your recent election as President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. I wish you all the best as you begin your term and I look forward to working with you on continuing to strengthen the relationship between the Métis Nation of Ontario and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Your outstanding commitment to justice and child welfare and your legal advocacy on behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario and other Indigenous communities are well-recognized in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry."
– Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

"I would like to congratulate Margaret Froh on her election as the next President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. I call on all MNO citizens to join me in commending her on her victory and to extend our best wishes to her as she now takes the helm of our proud nation in Ontario."
– Hank Rowlinson, 2016 MNO Presidential candidate

"I wish to congratulate you on your recent election as President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. . . . I look forward to working with you and your citizens throughout the province, particularly those residing in Regions 1 and 2. Best wishes as you embark on this amazing journey."
– Don Rusnak, MP Thunder Bay–Rainy River
Congratulations to the new President and PCMNO!

“I want to congratulate you on your election of President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. As the Aboriginal critic for my party, I look forward to working with you. Don’t hesitate to reach out if I can be helpful.”  
– France Gelinas, MPP Nickel Belt

“Congratulations on being elected President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. I look forward to meeting with you in the near future to discuss how Lakehead can continue to help with the MNO’s strategic goals.”  
– Dr. Brian Stevenson, President and Vice-Chancellor of Lakehead University

“Congratulations! So privileged to know you and call you friend. Great things are ahead with you at the helm.”  
– Suzanne Jackson, MNO Citizen

“I am so excited to work with you on behalf of all Manitobans. I congratulate Margaret Froh on being elected President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. I am glad to see a fresh face leading the MNO.”  
– France Gelinas, MPP Nickel Belt

“Congratulations to Margaret Froh, new President of Métis Nation of Ontario. Best wishes & I look forward to working with you.”  
– Sarah A.W. Campbell, MPP for Rainy River

“Yes Margaret! So excited for what’s to come!”  
– Chris Danger McLeod, MN Citizen

Exciting times!! @FrohMargaret hope we can sit down together soon!!! Congrats again!! #MNO #onpoli #cdnpoli

@carolyn_bennett (@again! #MNO #onpoli #cdnpoli)

Congratulations to Margaret Froh, new President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. #MetisStrong

On behalf of Manitoba’s Métis Government & Citizens we congratulate Margaret Froh on being elected President of @MetsNationON @MetsStrong @MBMets_MMF (Manitoba Métis Federation)

Alumna Margaret Froh, LLB ’96, is the new and first female president of the #Mets Nation of Ontario. #Klooff #npoli @UTLLaw (University of Toronto Law Faculty)

MNO citizens gather for fun, food and facts

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff working in the Sault Ste. Marie office will be hosting their monthly Fun, Food and Facts Workshops once again this year. “Our Tuesday groups, as our staff like to call them because they happen on select Tuesdays,” stated Jamie Panoo Fox, MNO Métis Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Worker and one of three workshop coordinators, “provide a wonderful opportunity for men and women, 18 years and older to learn together about Métis culture and how they can improve their health and well-being in a friendly and welcoming environment.” The workshops, offered once per month with the exception of July and August, are held in the Powley Room at the Sault Métis Centre from 11:45 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The workshops are free.

“There is always a lot of banter and laughter as regular participants have fun visiting with each other while they enjoy home-cooked, healthy food,” stated MNO Community Wellness Coordinator Donna St. Jules who is another one of the organizers. “The fun continues during the facts portion of the day where we share Métis health information using traditional teaching styles, hands-on activities, crafts and story work.”

“Our Tuesday groups have created a community, where once it was fractured, it is now interconnected,” stated Sharwa Hansen, MNO Community Wellness Coordinator and coordinator. “People are once again looking out for each other and it spans the generations.”

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:
• Plan Well, Eat Well, Live Well
• Sleep Your Way to Better Health
• Making the Most of your Money
• Métis Healing Scarf
• Make your own Métis Mittens
• Winter Crafts and Activities
• Earth Angel Ornaments
• Faceless Dolls Workshop
• Walk and Sharing Circle to Honour
• Murdered and Missing Women
• Sacred Medicines & Smoking Cessation

For more information about our workshops, please call the MNO Healing and Wellness branch staff in Sault Ste. Marie at: (705) 254-1768

Come out and join in the fun, enjoy some food and get the facts!

What Motherhood means to me

Submitted by Anne Huguenin

A mother can talk to no matter what you say
She is always there to listen as well as she hears
A mother is someone who even when you’re away
You feel her arms around you near
A mother gives all she has and a thousand times more
for her children are her everything she loves them to the core
A mother is a person you want to be around
one who makes you laugh till you’re falling to the ground
A mother makes you special in the way that you should feel
It’s how she makes you feel within
She will always dress your skinned knees
And put a face on your grilled cheese
She will always dry your tears
And hold you close and shed your fears
She’ll laugh with you and put a smile on your face
She’ll always be there to keep you safe
A mother can be your kith and kin
A mother loves you unconditionally and till the very end
for there is no stronger bond
than that of a mother and her children.
Métis citizens and leaders from across Canada march in a procession to Parliament Hill on April 14, 2016 to await the Daniels decision.

The Daniels Case

A significant victory for the Métis Nation

The Daniels case was initiated by well-known Métis leader Harry Daniels in 1999. Following trial and appeal court decisions, the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) heard the case in October 2015 and released its final judgement on Daniels v Canada on April 14, 2016.

In its unanimous decision, the SCC issued a declaration that Métis and non-status Indians are included in section 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867, and affirmed that the federal Crown owes a fiduciary duty to Métis and non-status Indians; and that Métis and non-status Indians have the right to be consulted and negotiated with, in good faith, by the federal government on a collective basis through representatives of their choice.

At the time of this historic decision, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski stated: “This is a significant victory for the Métis Nation. It will facilitate reconciliation between Canada and Métis communities from Ontario westward.”

Mr. Lipinski noted the need for the federal government to “not delay and move quickly to the negotiating table with Métis governments.” He stressed the importance of establishing a land claims process for the Métis Nation. “Starting negotiations immediately on land claims is essential to deal with the historic grievance of the Métis Nation. We can no longer be a landless people in our own country.”

This past May, the MNO held their general election and Margaret Froh was elected as President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. In response to the Daniels’ decision, President Froh proudly remarked that, “the stars are aligning for the Métis in Ontario. The Daniels decision is yet another star that has come into line for our people and it is going to mean long lasting and significant change for the Métis in Ontario.”

President Froh added: “The Daniels decision is going to open many doors for us as a people and it’s going to help move us forward towards a process of reconciliation between Canada and our Nation.”

The Daniels decision is going to open many doors for us as a people and it’s going to help move us forward towards a process of reconciliation between Canada and our Nation.

– MNO President Margaret Froh

Métis delegates play traditional music as they lead the procession to the Supreme Court.

Citizens jig on the steps of the Supreme Court as they wait to be admitted inside to hear the verdict.
Victory in the Daniels Case

Métis’ decision is going to open many doors for us as a people and it’s going to help move us forward towards a process of reconciliation between Canada and our Nation. We’ve got a big job ahead of us. We are going to be taking our seat at the table negotiating a nation-to-nation relationship with the federal government of Canada and we’re going to be dealing with things like lands, like programs and services—things that are going to have real and lasting benefits for our citizens.”

She stressed that the Daniels’ decision does not take away our identity. “We are Métis. We are proud to be Métis. That does not change. It does not impact in any way on our citizenship. It is the citizens of the Métis Nation that will determine who we are as a people.”

She also asserted that the Daniels’ case does not impact in any way on our harvesting rights. “We are going to continue to assert our harvesting rights and to defend our citizens that are out exercising those rights.”

Looking ahead, President Froese sees negotiating self-government as a major goal. “Over the coming months and years, this will be our task. It’s real and lasting change for our citizens and the Métis Nation of Ontario is ready for it.”

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Victory in the Daniels Case
WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE CASE?
The representative plaintiffs were well-known Métis leader Harry Daniels (now deceased), Gabriel Daniels (Harry's son), Leah Gardner (a non-status Indian from Ontario), Terry Jos-ldrey (a non-status Micmac from Nova Scotia) and the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (the "Plaintiffs"). The case was filed against the federal government as represented by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development ("Canada"). At its Supreme Court of Canada, the MNC, Métis Settlements General Council and Gift Lake Métis Settlement intervened on behalf of the Métis Nation. Groups such as the Assembly of First Nations and Chiefs of Ontario amongst others intervened on behalf of First Nations and non-status Indians: Alberta and Saskatchewan also intervened.

WHAT DID THE PLAINTIFFS ASK FOR?
The Plaintiffs asked for three judicial declarations:
1. that Métis and non-status Indians are in s. 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867;
2. that the federal Crown owes a fiduciary duty to Métis and non-status Indians, and
3. that Métis and non-status Indians have the right to be consulted and negotiated with, in good faith, by the federal government on a collective basis through representatives of their choice.

A declaration is a common court remedy in Aboriginal claims cases. A court declares the law in relation to a dispute between government and Aboriginal peoples. The parties are then expected to change their behavior to be consistent with the law.

WHAT IS THE SUPREME COURT SAID
WHAT IS SECTION 91(24) OF THE CONSTITUTION ACT, 1867?
In 1867, when Canada was created—as a new country—various "jurisdictions" were divided up between Parliament and provincial legislatures. Parliament was assigned "exclusive Legislative Authority" for "Indians; and Land reserved for the Indians" through s. 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867. This jurisdiction was assigned to Canada to achieve "the broader goals of Confederation," which included expansion into Rupert's Land and the North-Western Territory as well as building a national railway to British Columbia (para. 25).

The Métis Nation was crucial in ushering in western and northern Canada into Confederation and in increasing the wealth of the Canadian nation by opening up the prairies to agriculture and settlement. These developments could not have occurred without Métis intercession and legal presence. —Daniels, para. 16 (citing Professor John Borrows)

Section 91(24) provided Parliament, and, by extension, the federal government, the "authority over all Aboriginal peoples" in order to facilitate the "westward expansion of the Dominion" (para. 23). This expansion was advanced through Canada's treaty making, agreements and alliances with the diverse Aboriginal populations it encountered. These "relationships" with Aboriginal groups allowed the federal government to "protect the railway from attack" and to smooth the way for settlement (para. 25).

The "Indians" in s. 91(24) included all of the Aboriginal peoples within Canada in 1867 as well as those to be encountered as the country expanded (para. 46). Notably, in the "westem territories," the Aboriginal peoples encountered included various Indian tribes, bands, etc. (i.e., First Nations) as well as the Métis (i.e., the MNC) (para. 16; see also Manitoba Metis Federation v. Canada, para. 2). Both of these groups—First Nations and Métis—were considered "Indians" within s. 91(24) because they were indigenous to the territory and necessary partners in Confederation (para. 37).

In modern times, s. 91(24) continues to be about advancing Parliament's "relationship with all of Canada's Aboriginal peoples," thereby making "reconciliation with all of Canada's Aboriginal peoples in Parliament's goal" (paras. 36-37). The Court notes, however, that s. 91(24) 's "relationship" function plays a "very different constitutional purpose" than s. 35 (paras. 37-49) as explained further below.

WHY DOES INCLUSION IN SECTION 91(24) MATTER TO METIS AND NON-STATUS INDIANS?
The Court held that uncertainty about whether Métis and non-status Indians are in s. 91(24) has left them in a "jurisdictional wasteland with significant and obvious disadvantaging consequences." The Court upheld the Trial Judge's findings that the "political football—back passing" tactics of governments towards these groups had "produced a large population of collateral damage" people (para. 14). While inclusion in s. 91(24) doesn't create a duty on to legislate, the granting of a declaration that these groups are included in s. 91(24) provides them with "certainty and accountability" about "where to turn for policy redress" and has an "undeniable salutary benefit" (paras. 15, 50).

WHY NON-STATUS INDIANS ARE INCLUDED IN SECTION 91(24)
At the hearing of the appeal, Canada conceded that non-status Indians are in s. 91(24). The Court noted that Canada's concession was not determinative, so answering the legal question still had practical utility. As such, a declaration that non-status Indians are in s. 91(24) was issued (paras. 20, 50). The Court also noted that since all Aboriginal peoples are in s. 91(24) (and non-status Indians are included within those peoples) any "definitional ambiguities" about who non-status Indians are did not preclude a judicial determination that they are in s. 91(24) as a starting point (para. 30) with specifics to be "decided on a case-by-case in the future" (para. 47).

WHY MÉTIS ARE INCLUDED IN SECTION 91(24)
In order to achieve its expansionist goals, Canada needed to facilitate positive "relationships" with the large and diverse Aboriginal populations it encountered. This included dealing with the Métis—as "Indians" under s. 91(24)—both prior to and post Confederation. As such, the Court issued a declaration that the Métis are included in s. 91(24) (para. 50). In order to support its conclusion, the Court noted:

- Métis were considered "Indians" for the purposes of pre-Confederation treaties such as the Robinson Treaties of 1850 (para. 24).
- Many post-Confederation statutes considered Métis to be "Indians" (para. 24), including an amendment to the Indian Act in 1899 to include "Halfbreeds" in liquor prohibitions (para. 27).
- Canada's jurisdiction needed to be broad

A summary of Daniels v. Canada at the Supreme Court of Canada

"Another Chapter in the Pursuit of Reconciliation and Redress..."
This issue is particularly important for those Métis groups who are "in" or "outside" of First Nations—i.e., those who are recognized as "Indians" in s. 91(24) and their distinctiveness has not been compromised through this inclusion (paras. 39, 41).

SECTION 35 RIGHTS AND DEFINITIONAL ISSUES ARE ADDRESSED DOWNSTREAM FROM JURISDICTION
Since Daniels was not about whether Métis or non-status Indian communities possess Aboriginal rights or claims recognized by s. 35, the Court found "there is no need to delineate which mixed-ancestry communities are Métis and which are non-status Indians" at this determination of jurisdiction stage. Essentially, all of these groups are included in s. 91(24) "by virtue of the fact that they are all Aboriginal peoples" (para. 40).

Determining whether "particular individuals or communities" are in s. 91(24) are "facts-driven questions to be decided on a case-by-case basis" (para. 47). At the jurisdiction stage, "community acceptance" is not required because the net is widely cast to include all Aboriginal peoples, including "people who may no longer be accepted by their communities because they were separated as a result, for example, of government policies such as Indian Residential Schools" (paras. 46-49).

The Court, however, went on to highlight that Métis or non-status Indian inclusion in s. 91(24) is not the same as being recognized as a rights-bearing community or rights-holder in the purpose of s. 35 (para. 49). Section 91(24) serves "a very different constitutional purpose" than s. 35. Section 91(24) casts a wide net and deals with Parliament's "relationships with all Aboriginal peoples. Section 35, on the other hand, protects 'historic community-held rights' and calls for just settlement of rights and claims (para. 34, 49, Haida Nation v. BC, paras. 20, 25). In effect, rights and definitional issues are answered downstream from jurisdiction.

The Court reaffirmed that in the Métis context, the criteria in R v. Powly must still be met to establish Métis rights (paras. 48-49). In the non-status Indian community context, R v. Van der Plet likely applies or an individual must show they are a descendant/beneficiary of a treaty or a non-status member of a First Nation community.

Specifically, in relation to Métis rights, the Powly criteria for establishing a rights-bearing Métis community or identifying rights-holders (i.e., self-identification, ancestral connection to the historic community and community acceptance) still applies (paras. 48-49). Daniels does not change these requirements. As the Court previously held, it is important to remember that, no matter how a contemporary community defines membership, only those members with a demonstrable ancestral connection to the historic community can claim a s. 35 right. Verifying membership is crucial, since individuals are only entitled to exercise Métis Aboriginal rights by virtue of their ancestral connection to and current membership in a Métis community (Powly, para. 39).

The [1982] constitutional changes, the apologies for historic wrongs, a growing appreciation that Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people are partners in Confederation, and the recognition that reconciliation with all of Canada's Aboriginal peoples is Parliament's goal—

—Daniels, para. 37

MÉTIS INCLUSION AS SECTION 91(24) "INDIANS" DOES NOT COMPROMISE MÉTIS DISTINCTIVENESS
Since the term "Indians" in s. 91(24) includes all of the Aboriginal peoples recognized in s. 35, the Court emphasized that Métis inclusion in s. 91(24) does not undermine Métis distinctiveness—as a unique Aboriginal people—because the Court noted that "[t]here is no doubt that the Métis are a distinct people" and noted it has previously recognized Métis communities in both Alberta and Manitoba as a "culturally distinct Aboriginal people" (para. 42-43). The Court also highlighted that the trust—who have their own history, language, culture and separate identity—cannot be "erased" or "swallowed" because of First Nations—are already recognized as "Indians" in s. 91(24) and their distinctiveness has not been compromised through this inclusion (paras. 39, 41).

The [1982] constitutional changes, the apologies for historic wrongs, a growing appreciation that Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people are partners in Confederation, and the recognition that reconciliation with all of Canada's Aboriginal peoples is Parliament's goal—

—Daniels, para. 37

The inclusion of Métis as "Indians" in section 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1982, does not undermine Métis distinctiveness. Métis communities in Alberta and Manitoba have been recognized as a "culturally distinct Aboriginal people" by the Supreme Court of Canada. The Court emphasized that Métis inclusion in section 91(24) does not undermine Métis distinctiveness as a unique Aboriginal people because the Court noted that "[t]here is no doubt that the Métis are a distinct people" and noted it has previously recognized Métis communities in both Alberta and Manitoba as a "culturally distinct Aboriginal people" (paras. 42-43). The Court also highlighted that the trust—who have their own history, language, culture and separate identity—cannot be "erased" or "swallowed" because of First Nations—are already recognized as "Indians" in s. 91(24) and their distinctiveness has not been compromised through this inclusion (paras. 39, 41).
The objective of the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award is to recognize individuals who contribute as a volunteer to the Métis Nation of Ontario year round and have done so for a number of years. Each year a volunteer meeting the criteria is named as the recipient of the Suzanne-Rochon Volunteer of the Year by a Selection Committee of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

PROCESS: Any MNO citizen can nominate a volunteer for the award by completing a nomination form and sending it to: Suzanne-Rochon Volunteer of the Year, Hunter Courchene Consulting Group, 1065 Boulevard de la Carrière, Gatineau, QC J8Y 6V5, or e-mail: carolyn@huntercourchene.com.

Deadline for nominations is July 22, 2016

CRITERIA: The individuals nominated must exemplify the kind of volunteer contribution demonstrated by Suzanne Rochon-Burnett. They will have given generously of their time and effort, are strong advocates of the Métis Nation and their record of selfless commitment has been firmly established. They are seen as caring, giving individuals that others look up to and admire. The candidates will have provided an extended period of service as a volunteer.

Nominations for the 2016 Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award close on: July 22, 2016

The Suzanne Rochon-Burnett VOLUNTEER of the YEAR AWARD 2016

Every year since 2006, the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award is presented to a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen who has made ongoing contributions to the Métis Nation and his or her own community.

The 2015 recipient was Ernest Gatien, the MNO Region 4 PCMNO Councillor, who has been involved in the MNO for over 10 years. Ernie has spent countless hours promoting Métis culture and heritage; in particular, he is well-known for being available anytime for his fellow Métis.

The 2016 Volunteer of the Year Award will be presented at the MNO Annual General Assembly in North Bay, August 27-29.

If you know of a dedicated MNO citizen who deserves to be considered for the award please read the information below and complete the nomination form.

Ernest GATIEN
2015

Bob MCKAY
2014

Brenda POWLEY
2013

Marlene GREENWOOD
2012

Olivine BOUQUET-TIEDEMA
2012

Gordon CALDER
2011

Pauline RICHARDSON
2010

Louise GOULDING
2009

Richard SARRAZIN
2008

Reta GORDON
2007

The Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award was first presented in 2006. Named to the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario, Suzanne was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Brock University where she served on the Board of Trustees. She was a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation and the first woman inducted into the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame. Suzanne passed away in 2006. To honour her memory and recognize her outstanding service as a volunteer the MNO named Suzanne as the first recipient of the inaugural Volunteer of the Year Award which now bears her name.

Métis Nation of Ontario

Redrock Fire Camps
We are hiring 1st Cooks, 2nd Cooks and General Helpers for our Northern Ontario Fire Camps
Apply at: www.redrockcamps.com

DR. SUZANNE ROCHON-BURNETT
was a founding member of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Named to the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario, Suzanne was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Brock University where she served on the Board of Trustees. She was a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation and the first woman inducted into the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame. Suzanne passed away in 2006. To honour her memory and recognize her outstanding service as a volunteer the MNO named Suzanne as the first recipient of the inaugural Volunteer of the Year Award which now bears her name.
President Froh responds to Ontario’s commitment to reconciliation

On May 30, 2016 in the provincial Legislature, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh along with other Indigenous leaders responded to the announcement from Premier Wynne concerning the Ontario government’s commitment to reconciliation. The Ontario government’s commitment arose out of the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s (TRC) final report that called on governments to work with Indigenous partners to address the legacy of the Indian Residential School System in Canada. The TRC dedicated an entire volume of its 2015 Final Report to the experience of Métis children, families and communities suffering under Canada’s residential school system, and its assimilationist policies; however, the Métis experience of residential schooling remains largely untold. The TRC issued its Final Report and 94 Calls to Action to address the legacy of the Indian Residential School System in Canada.

The vast majority of the 94 Calls to Action issued by the TRC in their Final Report include all Indigenous Peoples. The Ontario government’s announcement today on reconciliation is another significant milestone marking Ontario’s commitment to establish strong, collaborative and mutually respectful relationships with Indigenous peoples in Ontario.

President Froh also emphasized the importance of Ontario working with Indigenous partners like the MNO “I commend the Government of Ontario for taking the important steps announced today to begin to specifically address the 94 Calls to Action.”

Quoting from that Report, “The Métis experience of residential schooling has been overlooked for too long. There is no denying that the harm done to the children, their parents and the Métis community was substantial. It is an ongoing shame that this damage has not been addressed and rectified.”

President Froh stated: “Ontario’s announcement today acknowledges the hugely negative impact these schools had, and continue to have within our communities; and it charts a course of action to begin to address them.”

The actions announced here today must do the SAME – they must include Métis, First Nations and Inuit – if we are to effect real change and achieve reconciliation in Ontario. The vast majority of the 94 Calls to Action issued by the TRC in their Final Report include all Indigenous Peoples.

Together we must chart a new course forward for our province, and for our country, based on respect, understanding and trust.”

-MNO President Margaret Froh

President Froh addresses the Ontario Legislature

May 16, 2016

Good morning. Bonjour. Tawensi kiyu mataen, Margaret Froh dishinkashon.

I am the President of the Métis Nation of Ontario and I am very honoured to be here this morning to address the Legislature along with First Nations and Inuit leaders.

I want to begin by acknowledging the territory that we are on, and by thanking the Elder for the opening prayer. I also want to acknowledge:

- all Members of the Ontario Legislature;
- the First Nations and Inuit elders, community leaders, citizens and guests who are present in the House this morning;
- and the Métis citizens and members of our Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario–our Métis provincial government-who are in the gallery today to witness this historic event.

Premier Wynne’s announcement today on reconciliation is another significant milestone marking Ontario’s commitment to establish strong, collaborative and mutually respectful relationships with Indigenous peoples in Ontario.

Last year, the work of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada – the TRC – came to a close, and it issued its Final Report and 94 Calls to Action to address the legacy of the Indian Residential School System in Canada.

Ontario’s announcement today acknowledges the hugely negative impact these schools had, and continue to have within our communities; and it charts a course of action to begin to address them. Métis, First Nations and Inuit children, families and communities suffered under Canada’s residential school system, and its assimilationist policies; however, the Métis experience of residential schooling remains largely untold.

For many Métis children, residential schools and day schools operated by the churches and supported by provincial and federal governments were the only option for receiving an education. Some were forced to attend, while others were sent by their families in the hope of an education and a better future.

As with First Nations and Inuit – Métis families and communities continue to be deeply affected by the legacy of residential schools.

The TRC dedicated an entire volume of its 2015 Final Report to the experience of Métis within the residential school system. Quoting from that Report, “The Métis experience of residential schooling has been overlooked for too long…There is no denying that the harm done to the children, their parents, and the Métis community was substantial. It is an ongoing shame that this damage has not been addressed and rectified.”

The actions announced here today must do the SAME – they must include Métis, First Nations and Inuit – if we are to effect real change and achieve reconciliation in Ontario.

I want to acknowledge and give thanks to TRC Commission Chair, Justice – now Senator – Murray Sinclair, and Commissioners Chief Wilton Littlechild and Dr. Marie Wilson, for the care, attention and compassion they showed in dedicating themselves so completely to the work of the TRC. They have provided all Canadians with a true gift in the statements they have gathered on behalf of survivors, and the vision they have provided for a better way forward.

Continued on page 13
of reconciliation,” she added.

In conclusion, President Froh stated: “The Métis Nation of Ontario is committed to working with Ontario, with all parties of the Legislature, with other Indigenous Peoples, and with all Ontarians to this end — together we must chart a new course forward for our province, and for our country, based on respect, understanding and trust. That is the brighter future for all of Ontario.”

The announcement of Ontario’s reconciliation plan was a major event at the Legislature. It included apologies to the victims of residential schools from Premier Kathleen Wynne, Opposition Leader Patrick Brown and New Democratic Party leader Andrea Horwath and started with a Sunrise Ceremony. Other members of the MNO leadership who attended included former MNO President Gary Lipinski, PCMNO Chair Françoise Picotte, MNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle, MNO Youth Council President and Youth Representative Mitch Case, and MNO Post-Secondary Representative Katelyn Lacroute.

Appropriately several residential school survivors were part of the events at the Legislature and among these was Ruscyla Shaw, who is an MNO citizen. President Froh and the other MNO leaders present had the opportunity to meet Ms. Shaw as was numerous government representatives and the representatives of First Nations and Inuit governments that were also present.

The Métis Nation of Ontario is proud of the respectful and productive relationship it has developed with the Province of Ontario as demonstrated through the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement. “We will build on that solid foundation to work — together — to advance reconciliation,” she explained. “Six months ago, all three parties of the Ontario Legislature stood together in support of the passage of the Ontario Secretariat Act — recognizing the Métis Nation of Ontario’s unique governance structure. That was an act of reconciliation,” she added.

In conclusion, President Froh stated: “The Métis Nation of Ontario is committed to working with Ontario, with all parties of the Legislature, with other Indigenous Peoples, and with all Ontarians to this end — together we must chart a new course forward for our province, and for our country, based on respect, understanding and trust. That is the brighter future for all of Ontario.”

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On behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario, I commend the Government of Ontario for taking the important steps announced today to begin to specifically address the 94 Calls to Action in the TRC’s Final Report, and to do so through a collaborative process in close partnership with Métis, First Nations and Inuit peoples in Ontario.

The Métis Nation of Ontario is proud of the respectful and productive relationship it has developed with the Province of Ontario as demonstrated through the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement. We will build on that solid foundation to work — together — to advance reconciliation. As a Canadian, I recognize that I have a role to play in the process of healing and reconciliation — indeed, each and every one of us have a role to play in that process.

The Métis Nation of Ontario is committed to working with Ontario, with all parties of the Legislature, with other Indigenous Peoples, and with all Ontarians to this end. Together we must chart a new course forward for our province, and for our country, based on respect, understanding and trust. That is the brighter future for all of Ontario.

Merci – Thank you - Marsee

L - R) Natan Obed, President of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami; Verna Porter-Brunelle, PCMNO Senator; Hon. David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation; the Right Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario; Andrew Weley, Residential School survivor; the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario; Dr. Dawn Lavell-Harvard, President of the Native Women’s Association of Canada; Margaret Froh, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario; and Isadore Day, Regional Chief with the Chiefs of Ontario.

President Froh with Parry Sound MPP Norm Miller.

President Froh addresses the Ontario Legislature at Queen’s Park.

MNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle (R) and other Indigenous Elders at the Ontario Legislature.

President Froh (middle) and Ontario Minister for Aboriginal Affairs David Zimmer (middle-right) greet supporters following President Froh’s address to the Ontario Legislature.
Métis Voyageur

June 2016, Issue no. 91

MNO President Margaret Froh delivering her keynote address at the Indigenous Health Conference (IHC) 2016: Towards Health and Reconciliation.

MNO and Métis Way of Life showcased at recent Indigenous Health Conference

by MNO Staff

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) had a strong and vibrant presence at the recent Indigenous Health Conference (IHC) 2016: Towards Health and Reconciliation held on May 26 to 27, 2016 at the Hilton Meadowvale in Mississauga. The main conference theme of reconciliation was complemented by a focus on identifying solutions for improving health for Indigenous peoples through addressing the environmental, social and other determinants of health.

The conference, hosted by the University of Toronto, attracted a large and diverse audience of over 750 delegates from across Canada and beyond, including Métis, First Nations and Inuit leaders and representatives, healthcare providers, researchers, policy makers, and senior government officials.

Key note speakers and panelists included: Dr. David Suzuki, Dr. Cindy Blackstock, Dr. Evan Adams, Dr. Thomas Wong, Dr. Malcolm King, MNO President Margaret Froh, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami President Natan Obed, Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day, Chief Wilton Littlechild, Dr. Ian Mosby, and Dr. Barry Lavallee, among others.

In opening the conference, the organizer Dr. Anna Banerji stressed the critical role health care providers have to play in reconciliation and in advocating for the improved health status of the individual, family, and the community in Indigenous populations.

Following Dr. Banerji’s welcome and opening remarks, President Froh delivered an invited, keynote address on the topic of reconciliation and highlighted the historical presence of Métis people across Canada. She flagged recent events that have the potential to contribute positively to the process of reconciliation with the Métis Nation—most notably, the April 14, 2016 Supreme Court decision in the Daniels case as well as current federal commitments to addressing outstanding Indigenous rights issues in Canada.

President Froh also spoke about the significant health needs of the Métis people of Ontario, highlighting the substantial research being carried out by MNO and partners to bring to light key Métis health, social and wellness priorities.

On the following day, MNO staff and research partners—which included, Dr. Storm J. Russell, MNO Senior Policy and Research Analyst; Cody Carmody, MNO Policy Analyst and Project Coordinator; Dr. Jennifer Walker, Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences; Dr. Martin Cooke, University of Waterloo; and Dr. Loraine Marette, Cancer Care Ontario—gave a one hour workshop that discussed MNO’s collaborative research and broader efforts to improve Métis health and well-being. MNO Senator Joseph Poitras also participated in this discussion. The workshop outlined the MNO’s evidence and culture-based approach to research, program development and service delivery, and highlighted the important role the MNO frontline workers play in improving Métis health and well-being in Ontario.

MNO youth representatives were also present in force at the conference and served as Métis cultural ambassadors throughout the event. They hosted two tables in the main exhibition area that displayed a wide array of Métis art work, cultural artefacts and other

From left to right: Dr. Malcolm King, Director, Institute for Aboriginal People’s Health, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and members of the Indigenous Health Conference 2016 Planning Committee, Dr. Storm Russell, MNO Senior Policy and Research Analyst, and Dr. Anna Banerji, Conference Director and Director of Global and Indigenous Health, Continuing Professional Development, University of Toronto.

For more information about the conference, please visit: www.cpd.utoronto.ca/indigenoushealth/.
Lieutenant Governor Dowdeswell congratulates outgoing President Lipinski on his tremendous leadership

submitted by
Joanne Meyer
MNO Director of Intergovernmental Relations

On April 27, 2016, Outgoing Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski met with the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, for the second time. Her Honour requested the meeting to congratulate Mr. Lipinski on his tremendous leadership as President of the MNO.

“You have dedicated yourself for over two decades to improving the quality of life for many,” stated Her Honour. “Through the MNO, you have contributed to achievements that are of historical significance to our province, as well a source of great pride among all Ontarians.”

Her Honour has shown particular interest in the Métis and has attended several events with the Métis Nation of Ontario including the 2015 Louis Riel ceremony in Toronto as well as a meeting in Fort Frances in August 2015. Reminiscent on this meeting, Her Honour stated, “I enjoyed our meeting when I was in Fort Frances and to learning more about Métis issues in our province.”

Earlier this year on February 26, 2016, Her Honour presented the MNO with the Lieutenant Governor’s Ontario Heritage Trust Award for Community Leadership at Queen’s Park in Toronto.

Outgoing MNO President Lipinski met with the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

Outgoing President Lipinski has last formal meeting with the Honourable Carolyn Bennett

On April 28, 2016, Outgoing Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski met with the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, in the MNO’s Toronto office. This meeting represented Mr. Lipinski’s last official meeting with a Minister of the Crown in his capacity as MNO President.

At the meeting, Minister Bennett thanked Mr. Lipinski on his two decades of service to the Métis Nation and congratulated him on the remarkable turnaround and successes of the MNO over the last eight years.

Mr. Lipinski presented Minister Bennett with a formal invitation to the MNO’s upcoming 2016 AGA in North Bay. Mr. Lipinski stressed the need for Canada to quickly move forward on implementing the historic Daniels decision as well as establishing a federal Métis claims process.

Outgoing MNO President Lipinski praises 2016 Federal Budget as landmark for Indigenous Peoples

In a statement released on March 22, 2016, shortly after the release of the federal budget, outgoing Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski praised the 2016 Federal Budget introduced in Parliament by Finance Minister Bill Morneau. “What we saw in Parliament today was truly historic,” commented Mr. Lipinski, “the government is investing unprecedented funds in its relationship with Indigenous peoples and it is honouring its commitment to deal with Indigenous peoples on a nation-to-nation basis.”

Mr. Lipinski cited the government’s provision of $2.5 million over five years on a Métis Nation economic development strategy as being especially heartening. “We were also pleased to see the government repeat its commitment to the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS),” said Mr. Lipinski, “and the $96 million over five years the federal government is committing to renew the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy.”

Mr. Lipinski explained that these investments in economic development and employment training will result in improved socio-economic conditions for Indigenous peoples. “These investments will include education, infrastructure and training,” stated Mr. Lipinski, “and it will make a huge inter-generational difference in the lives of Metis and other Indigenous peoples.”

“Another key element of the budget,” added Mr. Lipinski, “is the commitment to renew the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) ASETS has been very important to the MNO and has helped many Métis youth become true success stories and role models. We look forward to this program continuing to make a big difference for our people and especially our youth.”

“We were also pleased to see the government repeat its commitment to the National Inquiry in to Missing and Murdered Indigenous women and girls,” concluded Mr. Lipinski.

Commitments to Métis Economic Development Strategy

Commitments to Métis Economic Development Strategy among many highlights for the Métis Nation

Some of the key commitments to the Métis Economic Development Strategy include:

1. The government's $2.5 million investment over five years in a Métis Nation economic development strategy.
2. The government's $96 million investment to renew the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS).
3. The government's $25 million investment over five years on a Métis Nation economic development strategy.
4. The government's commitment to renew the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS).
5. The government's commitment to the Métis Nation of Ontario, including the 2015 Louis Riel ceremony in Toronto and the 2015 Louis Riel ceremony in Fort Frances.
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These commitments reflect the government's recognition of the importance of economic development for Indigenous peoples and their communities. They also demonstrate the government's commitment to improving socio-economic conditions for Indigenous peoples, including Métis communities.
A green legacy
Moving Métis self-government forward

It is not every day that outgoing Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski finds himself exploring the rooftop of a building in Toronto but Wednesday, April 27, 2016 turned out to be just that kind of day. President Lipinski was on the roof of a building at Upper Canada College to tour one of the 50 solar energy projects that the MNO is a 50.1% or more owner of in Ontario. President Lipinski received the tour from David Oxtoby, CEO; Ven Seshadri, Vice-President; and Syd Healey, Project Development Manager; of CarbonFree Technology—the MNO’s partner in these exciting ventures.

“This is my first tour of one of our solar facilities,” Mr. Lipinski commented. “It was wonderful to see. It’s a beautiful sunny day today, and to see the facilities in full production was great. Green energy, to me, is very in line with the values the Métis Nation of Ontario puts on reducing our carbon footprint.”

The fact that the MNO has solar projects in 50 locations is an impressive accomplishment especially when considering that the MNO only entered into the business of providing solar energy in 2012. In 2011, the government of Ontario amended its contracting policies for its Feed-in Tariff (FIT) program in order to encourage solar energy companies to recruit Aboriginal partners. One of these companies was CarbonFree Technology—a major player in the solar industry that had already developed a large number of solar facilities in both Canada and the United States. The MNO was also aware of the changes to the FIT program and in 2012 the two entities entered into talks that resulted in the creation of the Métis Nation of Ontario – BrightRoof Solar Limited Partnership (LP). MNO owns 50.1% of the economic interest in the partnership and BrightRoof Solar LP, an investor in Ontario solar projects managed by CarbonFree Technology, owns the remaining 49.9%.

On the partnership with the MNO, CarbonFree’s CEO Oxtoby stated: “Working with the MNO has been a dream come true. Gary and the MNO leadership are easy to work with, very professional and businesslike. We are so glad they chose us as their partner.”

In mid-2013, the Ontario Power Authority awarded 63 contracts for rooftop and small ground-based solar projects to Métis Nation of Ontario – BrightRoof Solar LP. This was formally announced by Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli prior to the 2013 MNO Annual General Assembly. Of these projects, 50 were eventually built and commissioned while the remaining 13 were not built due to failing various technical feasibility assessments.
It was very timely that the FIT contracts were announced just prior to the AGA because at the 2013 AGA the MNO also passed its first law: The MNO Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law. This law is an essential element in the MNO drive for self-government and the new solar projects are a key ingredient to making the law effective. As outlined in the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose, economic self-sufficiency is a necessary element of self-government. As long as the MNO is dependent on grants and support from other governments it will never be totally self-governing. With the MNO solar projects, the MNO now has the potential to raise revenue independent of other governments. “Someone can’t give you self-government,” Mr. Lipinski stated at the 2013 AGA, “it is something we must build for ourselves.”

“This [solar energy project] partnership creates business opportunities that produce revenue generating streams for future generations, stated Mr. Lipinski, “so I think this is a wonderful fit on so many fronts. We can do good things for the environment, do good things to reduce climate change, and create revenue streams that Metis people can benefit from for years to come.”

Winning the contracts and passing the self-sufficiency law were, however, only the first steps. If the MNO was going to realize revenues for future generations there was still a great deal of work to be done. The solar facilities needed to be built and connected to the provincial grid so the electricity they generate can be sold.

All of this required a significant investment by the MNO and CarbonFree. The MNO was able to raise some of the funds from loans obtained through the Metis Voyageur Development Fund and the province’s Aboriginal Loan Guarantee Program. These loans will have to be paid back before the MNO will be able to return the profits from the solar facilities back to its citizens according to the provisions of the economic self-sufficiency law.

Today, MNO-owned solar projects generate 17,700,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) a year. The kilowatt-hour is a unit of energy equivalent to one kilowatt (kW) of power sustained for one hour. Put it more user-friendly terms, the average household in Ontario uses 10,000 kWh a year and MNO projects generate sufficient electricity to power 1770 households a year.

While this is an impressive accomplishment, Mr. Lipinski sees even greater success in the MNO’s future. “This partnership and the philosophy to produce green energy is something that I think the Metis Nation of Ontario will continue to build on. I would like to see the day when the Metis Nation of Ontario produces enough green energy to meet the needs of every MNO citizen and beyond.”

CarbonFree’s CEO Oxtoby agreed: “The MNO has become a significant player in the solar industry and a very desirable partner. Its work in solar power has opened up other potential areas of growth including wind power and infrastructure.”

“In keeping with that potential, the MNO’s significant solar assets have recently been moved over to the MNO’s new arms-length economic development arm Metis Infinity Investments LP. Metis Infinity Investments LP was also part of the plan envisioned in the MNO Prosperity and Economic Self-Sufficiency Law and is a great foundation for building a diversified portfolio of assets that will eventually generate revenue to support MNO self-government.”

Mr. Lipinski was a key figure in bringing all aspects of these projects to fruition, his busy schedule had never afforded him the time to actually visit any of the MNO solar projects. So with his term near completion, he decided he should get a look at what is one of the greatest legacies he is leaving MNO citizens.

During the tour he said: “What I find totally fascinating about the partnerships and our projects is that you can see that there is very little environmental footprint. These projects are installed on buildings that are already established. The rooftops are vacant and can be used to gather energy from the sun. There is no destructive impact on the environment.”

While MNO citizens can feel a justifiable pride in its solar projects—a green legacy that is advancing Metis self-government—

“...the MNO has become a significant player in the solar industry and a very desirable partner. Its work in solar power has opened up other potential areas of growth including wind power and infrastructure.”

— David Oxtoby, CarbonFree Technology CEO
Métis soldier remembers his post at Vimy Ridge

submitted by
Joseph Paquette
MNO Veterans’ Council President

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and MNO Veteran, proudly stood on guard at Vimy Ridge in France. In this picture, Majovsky was posted from the Canadian Airborne Regiment to the 9th Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (CMBG). Majovsky was selected as Sentries in 1985 for the Remembrance Day ceremony at Vimy Ridge. Thinking back on this day, Majovsky says it was “an honour that I will never forget... hahah!”

April 9, 2017 will mark the 100th year commemoration of the battle of Vimy Ridge. During the First World War, more than 15,000 Canadians fought at Vimy Ridge and claimed victory. However, this victory came at a high cost: 3,598 Canadians were killed and another 7,000 wounded (Statistics taken from Vimy Ridge Project page).

Under very cloudy skies, facing wind, rain and snow, Métis veterans, legion members, veterans, CP serving members and various Cadets Corps, proudly marched in remembrance. Also in attendance were many dignitaries including Lieutenant General Richard Rohmer OC., CMM, DFC, O.Ont., K.StJ, CD, QC, Knight of the Legion of Honour and Chief of Reserves.

MNO veterans attend Dedication of Memorial Order of Service

submitted by
Joseph Paquette
MNO Veterans’ Council President

On May 15, 2016, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 54 in Orillia held a Dedication of Memorial Order of Service ceremony at Veterans’ Memorial Park. This ceremony was held to honour soldiers from Orillia who lost their lives during the world wars. Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans’ Council Sergeant-at-Arms (Sgt-at-Arms) Rob Baskey, OPP Sergeant, arranged to have MNO veterans attend this memorial.

Under very cloudy skies, facing wind, rain and snow, Métis veterans, legion members, veterans, CP serving members and various Cadets Corps, proudly marched in remembrance. Also in attendance were many dignitaries including Lieutenant General Richard Rohmer OC., CMM, DFC, O.Ont., K.StJ, CD, QC, Knight of the Legion of Honour and Chief of Reserves.

MNO Korean War veteran recognized for service

submitted by
Joseph Paquette
MNO Veterans’ Council President

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veteran Sergeant John (Jack) Edward Cadeau C.D., grew up in Port Severn, Ontario. When the Korean War broke out, he felt the need to serve his country and in April 1951, at the age of 17, he joined the army. Sergeant Cadeau spent 25 years in the service and retired in June 1975. Sergeant Cadeau was recently awarded two prestigious awards in recognition of his military service.

The first award was presented on February 14, 2016, when Sergeant Cadeau received the Louis Riel medal and certificate, which formally recognizes him as an MNO veteran. Sergeant Cadeau is also one of two MNO-verified Korean war veteran.

The second award was presented on May 29, 2016, when MNO Veterans’ Council President Joseph Paquette, MNO Chair Sharon McBride—who is Sergeant Cadeau’s daughter—and her family, paid a surprise trip to Georgetown for the Ambassador for Peace Medal Presentation. Also present at the ceremony were the following PCMNO members: Chair France Picotte, Region 7 Councillor Pauline Richardson, Senator Verna Porter-Bruneau, Youth Representative Mitch Case and Post-Secondary Representative Katelyn Lacoste.

Sergeant Cadeau was awarded the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal, which was presented by Hoo Jung Park Geun Hye, National Unification Advisory Council Hye Joon Collins Kennedy (far left).
Getting in touch with their roots
2016 Métis Nation of Ontario Infinite Reach March Break Camp

Youth in today's society don't typically connect with their heritage like this.

Joel, Milton ON

of fire-starting. These lessons focused on teaching the youth about the Métis Way of Life. Paquette has noticed that the youth are eager to learn more about the wilderness and their culture.

"It wasn't that long ago that the youth were afraid to stand and be afraid of who they are. I think we've surpassed that...it's a good stage in the development," he said.

Kevin travelled from Courtice to attend the March Break Camp. He recently learned of his Métis heritage, and his experience in Mattawa has helped him discover more about himself and to meet other Métis youth around his age.

"The highlight was the collaboration with Métis people and everyone here. They were very nice, generous and overall a very great team. We got to go out in the wild; the elders would teach us survival skills and it was very, very amazing," Kevin said.

And no matter where you're from or what language you speak, it's easy to make friends.

"C'est très intéressant spécialement si vous avez pas d'internet, y'a pas rien, t'es just comme connecté avec le dehors. Nous sommes comme très gentils pis tu peux faire des amis super vite," said Roni, a Métis youth from Sudbury.

The MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp explores Métis heritage but it also helps the youth connect for their future. Wanda Botsford, an MNO Education Officer, has witnessed this first-hand.

"It helps them to think about what they want to do for career choices plus it also helps our youth become connected to the land, to the culture and to people. When I talk to some of our youth who were participants two or three years ago, they mention that they still stay in touch with the people that were here and they look forward to seeing them again."

The 2016 MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp was held from March 13 to 17 and is an annual event hosted by the MNO.

A video of the 2016 MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp can be viewed on our website at www.metisnation.org.
Louise and her son, BJ Goulding, during a Métis community harvest in October 2004.

Louise at the launch of “From the Straits of Mackinac to Georgian Bay”, a history of Métis people in the Georgian Bay region, in 2007.

Louise Goulding holds the smudge feathers presented to her by MNO citizen Irene Peel.

Founding MNO citizen Louise Goulding announces retirement

“It was an honour to have served this great Nation”

by MNO Staff

A fter dedicating over two decades of service to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), Louise Goulding has announced her retirement as Deputy Chief Captain of the Hunt. It was an honour to have served the people of this great Nation for the last 22 years,” said Louise. “I have chosen to announce my retirement the week of May second as it marks the 22nd anniversary of my attendance at the MNO’s Founding Delegate’s Assembly, which took place May 4-7, 1994.”

Louise Goulding is a truly exceptional individual who has been fighting for Métis people since the very beginning of the MNO,” stated outgoing MNO President Gary Lipinski. “The MNO would not be where we are today if it had not been for Louise’s dedication and perseverance to advocate for Métis people.”

Louise is one of the founding members of the MNO and her involvement stretches back all the way to 1993. “In October of 1993, Louise was appointed the first MNO Deputy Captain of the Hunt for Region 7; she stayed in this role until 2013. In 2008, Louise was then appointed MNO Deputy Chief Captain of the Hunt—a role she has maintained up to her retirement announcement. Louise’s diverse work within the MNO also includes her election as PCMNO Councillor for Region 7 in 1999. While on PCMNO, Louise was later a member of the Finance Committee.

Louise is a founding member of the MNO Moon River Métis Council (MRMC) and was elected President in 2004. Louise has also held various other positions within the MNO MRMC such as Chair and Secretary. Louise’s involvement with the MNO does not stop there. From 2004-2010, Louise held the position of Chair for the Rendezvous Committee for Region 7. Louise was also made the MNO Representative at the Métis National Council’s Métis Rights Panel from 2010-2011.

Louise has also been an instrumental force in helping to record Métis history through her work with the MNO Moon River Métis Council (MRMC) historical report: From the Straits of Mackinac to Georgian Bay, published in 2007. She also served on the PCMNO Councillor for Region 7 in 1999 and was the PCMNO Councillor for Region 7 in 2008. While on PCMNO, Louise was later a member of the Finance Committee.

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Louise’s humble spirit is evident as she jokes that “perhaps what I will be most remembered for are my fish fries!” On a personal level, Louise explains that while working with the MNO she has gained so many amazing friends and has countless memories she will forever cherish. “I have grown so much during these last 22 years and have learned so much, which has helped shape me into the person I am today,” said Louise. Louise would like to thank the past and current leadership of the MNO. “It has been a great pleasure to serve alongside this Nation’s great leaders;” she explains “I truly enjoyed working with all of you and I will forever cherish our friendships. I wish the new leadership much success in continuing to move this great Nation forward.”

While in her role as MNO Region 7 Captain of the Hunt, Louise spent countless hours in court assisting MNO Harvesters with the help of the MNO’s legal counsel. “The MNO legal counsel has made it easier for me to walk into a courtroom knowing that I have their full support and much needed guidance,” explained Louise. Last but not least, she acknowledged her husband Chris. “From the beginning he has supported me, my people, and my Nation, and has stood by my side over the last 22 years,” she explained “Without him, I would never have been able to spend so many hours volunteering for a Nation I love so dearly.”

“This is an incredible accomplishment to have worked in so many roles and helped so many Métis people across Ontario,” stated Mr. Lipinski. “Louise has had a big presence in the MNO over the years and her work has been invaluable and will not be forgotten.” Although one chapter has ended, Louise is excited for the next chapter in her life to begin as she continues working full time with her husband Chris at their construction company, Moon Island Construction Ltd. Louise also looks forward to spending more time with her four grandchildren.

The MNO would not be where we are today if it had not been for Louise’s dedication and perseverance to advocate for Métis people.”

- Outgoing MNO President Gary Lipinski

The following year in 1995, Louise was appointed the first MNO Captain of the Hunt for Region 7, which has helped shape me into the person I am today,” said Louise. Louise would like to thank the past and current leadership of the MNO. “It has been a great pleasure to serve alongside this Nation’s great leaders;” she explains “I truly enjoyed working with all of you and I will forever cherish our friendships. I wish the new leadership much success in continuing to move this great Nation forward.”

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The following year in 1995, Louise was appointed the first MNO Captain of the Hunt for Region 7, which has helped shape me into the person I am today,” said Louise. Louise would like to thank the past and current leadership of the MNO. “It has been a great pleasure to serve alongside this Nation’s great leaders;” she explains “I truly enjoyed working with all of you and I will forever cherish our friendships. I wish the new leadership much success in continuing to move this great Nation forward.”

While in her role as MNO Region 7 Captain of the Hunt, Louise spent countless hours in court assisting MNO Harvesters with the help of the MNO’s legal counsel. “The MNO legal counsel has made it easier for me to walk into a courtroom knowing that I have their full support and much needed guidance,” explained Louise. Last but not least, she acknowledged her husband Chris. “From the beginning he has supported me, my people, and my Nation, and has stood by my side over the last 22 years,” she explained “Without him, I would never have been able to spend so many hours volunteering for a Nation I love so dearly.”

“This is an incredible accomplishment to have worked in so many roles and helped so many Métis people across Ontario,” stated Mr. Lipinski. “Louise has had a big presence in the MNO over the years and her work has been invaluable and will not be forgotten.” Although one chapter has ended, Louise is excited for the next chapter in her life to begin as she continues working full time with her husband Chris at their construction company, Moon Island Construction Ltd. Louise also looks forward to spending more time with her four grandchildren.
The MNO was well-represented, hosting an information booth offering knowledge about MNO programs and services available throughout the province. Senator Vern Porter-Brunelle participated in both the opening and closing prayers, standing strong with First Nations and Inuit Elders, and MNO Director of Education and Training Jennifer St. Germain spoke on behalf of outgoing Chief Operating OfficerDoug Wilson.

Throughout the forum, MNO speakers noticed high attendance during the many panels and workshops organized with PUAF partners. On the first day, MNO staff co-hosted four different workshops. Wanda Botsford participated in Addressing the Needs of Children and Families while Rae-Anna Gardner was one of three speakers during Creating Pathways to Employment Through Skills Development Partnership. The last two workshops of the day included Joanne Meyer as a speaker for the Community Development Through Private Sector Partnerships and Anne Trudel at Wise Practices in District School Board Relationships With Community.

On the second and final day, Brian Tucker was one of four speakers for the Making Reconciliation Happen in Mainstream Institutions.

Keynote speakers throughout the forum included Inuit activist and environmental, cultural and human rights advocate Sheila Watt-Cloutier, and Dr. Elaine Todres, Chief Executive Officer of Todres Leadership Counsel. During her closing keynote, Dr. Todres wore the MNO’s Métis timeline scarf, a gift she received from an MNO gift bag. The timeline scarf depicts the history of Métis culture within Ontario and is an item that can easily help with sharing knowledge on Métis history.

The PUAF was also a gathering to share culture and tradition. In addition to informative presentations by MNO staff, cultural performances were also included on the agenda. Métis fiddlers and dancers performed at the end of the first day, drawing participants to join them in song and dance with Métis youth.

Closing comments of the forum were delivered by Deborah Richardson, Ontario’s Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, ending the two-day forum as an overall success with the possibility for more PUAFs in the future, where Ontario communities can all work together.
Hearing the voices of our youth

PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case

I am very excited to have been acclaimed to my second and final term as President of the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council. In my years with the MNO Youth Council, I have served as a MNO Region 4 Representative as well as a term as President. During those years, I have learned so much. The work that I was able to do with youth from across Ontario has been extremely rewarding.

I am also very excited to meet with and work with the newly elected and acclaimed team of youth over the next four years. We have a team of hard-working, dedicated and thoughtful youth who are committed to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the youth who live in our communities. There are still some vacancies on the MNO Youth Council (MNO Regions 4, 5, 9, 9) and we will be working with the Chief Electoral Officer to determine a process to fill those vacancies as soon as possible in order to ensure that youth are adequately represented across the province.

We have set an impressive record in our four short years. We have consistently brought more resolutions to the floor of the assembly than any other constituency in the MNO. When we bring resolutions, they are meaningful and grab the attention of the people of the MNO. The MNO has come to realize that the youth are engaged, informed and are, in many ways, a force to be reckoned with. We have raised the level of respect, which is paid by all aspects of the MNO, to the youth. We have also made significant moves to raise the profile of Métis youth outside of the MNO in Ontario and nationally.

We have set the standard for youth involvement and meaningful inclusion of young people in governance. Through the partnership we have developed with the Women’s Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO), our young women have become a part of the National Métis Women’s Movement through Les Femmes Métis Michif Otipemisowin. The MNO has become a model for the inclusion of youth in the national conversation. The WSMNO have included our youth in their coordination protocol; however, there are still other MNO regions that are lagging behind. We have yet to see our charter and bylaws ratified by PCMNO or the AGA. We have yet to see the restatements of the National Métis Youth Council as part of the MNC. Recently we have a potential threat to our position from the MNO with the troubling changes of Bill 153, MNO Secretariat Act, 2015, which we were able to fix thanks to the strong and united voices of our MNO youth.

There are still many challenges ahead of us—not only for youth but for the Nation as a whole. These challenges can be seen as exciting to some people. With court cases starting to be granted in our favour—such as the Daniels’ case—this could mean a long, protracted negotiation with the federal government and provinces to reach an agreement, which will ensure that they live up to the responsibilities outlined in these decisions. Also ahead of us is the possibility of bringing forth a lands claim process for the Métis people. A focus on the Métis people this term will include a National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women as well as the implementation of the recommendations by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to ensure that our voices are not lost in the conversation.

The MNO Youth Council will face many challenges, however we must ensure that the voices of our youth remain a priority and that our other priorities do not get lost along the way. To face these upcoming challenges, the youth must continue to be vigilant and persistent in all that we do.

I look forward to these next four years and I encourage all youth to become a part of the conversation. Reach out to your regional representatives, reach out to your community council representatives and as always, feel free to reach out to me.

Let’s work together and continue the success.

Mitch Case
PCMNO Youth Representative
mitch.case@hotmail.com

"The Story Should be Written Down to Pass On"

Elders, knowledge holders and storytellers needed for a community-led project

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council has given the green light to a project that will record and tell the story of the Sault Ste. Marie (the Salte) Métis community. The name of the book is, The Story Should be Written Down to Pass On. Elders, knowledge holders, and storytellers are needed for this community-led project.

The book will focus on Métis oral history but will also include archival, primary source research and secondary source material. This collection of stories will recount the history of Métis people within the Sault and will explain how this Métis community thrived, survived and is thriving once again. Stories will include topics such as Métis history, resistance, resurgence, cultural revitalization, the sadness of loss and hope for the future. From funny anecdotes to stories of the land, this book will have something for everyone.

A few stories from elders and knowledge holders have already been collected; however, the goal is to attain as many stories as possible from a variety of knowledge holders.

We are open to any story by individuals from the Sault Métis community. We are also interested in stories by individuals from other parts of the Métis Homeland that have a connection to the Sault (i.e. Sayers Trial family, seasonal movement, etc.).

In keeping with our Métis view of regional territories, the Sault area can extend from the Sault, north to Marathon across to Dubreuilville, White River, Chapleau, La Cloche, Killarney, Espagnol—essentially Region 4. This area can also include northern Michigan, Drummond Island and Michilimackinac.

EXAMPIES OF THE TYPES OF STORIES WE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN INCLUDE:

• Fur trade, voyaguer
• War of 1812
• McIvor Bay Incident, Robinson treaty negotiations
• Hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering plants, medicines, maple products
• Recipes and traditional foods
• Traditional economy (logging, trapping, commercial fishing, guiding)
• Music and stories of music, entertainment, etc.
• Stories from the land, places where our people lived: seasonal movement, etc.
• Stories of spirituality (ways in which you or your family connected with the Creator)
• Modern day stories of resurgence: involvement in the Powley trial, asserting rights, confrontations with game wardens, political organizing through Ontario Métis and Non-Status Indian Association [OMNSIA], Ontario Métis Aboriginal Association [OMAA], or the MNO or as individual/families
• Any and all stories relating to the Sault Métis community

We are also looking for Métis memorabilia that we can add to the book, such as: photographs, beadwork, woodwork, clothing, moccasins, hunting/fishing/trapping tools, maps, spiritual items, historic or contemporary documents, etc.

All contributors will be credited in print with a picture and brief biography and will receive a free copy of the published book.

In addition, knowledge holders will be given the option to be included in online outreach videos for Métis youth and community members.

This letter represents the opinions of the writer only and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Métis Nation of Ontario. The letter has been edited slightly for grammar and punctuation.

If you are interested in participating, or want more information please contact Mitch Case at mitch.case@hotmail.com or 705-297-0084.
Canada and Manitoba Metis Federation sign historic Memorandum of Understanding

MNO President Froh offers congratulations on behalf of Ontario Métis

by MNO Staff

On behalf of Ontario Métis, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh offered congratulations to the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) on signing a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Canada on May 27, 2016. The MOU sets out a process for ultimately arriving at a negotiated settlement between Canada and the MMF to address the Manitoba Métis community’s outstanding constitutional claim against the federal Crown, which was recognized by the Supreme Court of Canada back in 2013.

In the Manitoba Métis Federation v. Canada, the Supreme Court held that the federal Crown’s 1870 promise to provide 3,565 square kilometres of land to the children of the Métis families living in the Red River Settlement was not met. As a result, the Supreme Court declared that “the federal Crown failed to implement the land grant provision set out in s.31 of the Manitoba Act, 1870, in accordance with the honour of the Crown.” The Supreme Court also recognized that remediating this breach of the federal Crown’s constitutional duty owing to the Manitoba Métis was “unfeasible business” between Canada and the MMF.

Specifically, the MOU provides for time-limited exploratory discussions process to permit and MMF and Canada to find the common ground to move into formal negotiations. At the signing, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett stated: “The court decided there needed to be a relationship, and so today we have agreed that we will develop a framework for what that actually will mean in breathing life into the rights of the Métis people that are in section 35 of the Constitution.” MMF President David Chartrand added that he hopes to have a framework agreement in place by the fall and that any future settlement is “going to change the very lives of our nation forever.”

MNO President Froh said, “This MOU is a very important step in advancing reconciliation between the Crown and the Manitoba Métis community. I applaud MMF President Chartrand and his Cabinet on their unwavering determination to advance justice for their people. From our experience with the Powley case, the MNO knows very well just how much time and energy goes into advancing a case all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada. We wish the MMF well in its negotiations and are optimistic that their success provide a framework for other Métis communities to advance our own negotiations with governments based on other outstanding claims that exist throughout the Métis Nation.”

For additional information about the MOU, including an interview with Métis lawyer and MNO citizen Jason Maddlen, please visit: www.ctvnews.ca/canada/potential-billion-dollar-deal-for-metis-as-feds-address-historic-land-dispute-1.2921150

PCMNO Vice-Chair attends National Roundtable for MMIWG

by MNO Staff

Sharon McBride, Vice-Chair of the Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), attended the Second National Roundtable for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) in Winnipeg as a delegate for the Ontario government.

Vice-Chair McBride, who is also the Women’s Secretariat of the MNO (WSMNO) Spokesperson, was in Winnipeg for the event from February 24 to 26 with the first day being a closed-door session for the families of MMIWG. Over the next few days, the families met with provincial and territorial leaders to discuss recommendations for achieving justice and ending the violence directed towards Aboriginal women.

The federal government has committed to conducting a national inquiry on MMIWG. Since January 2016, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Dr. Carolyn Bennett has conducted pre-inquiry consultations in order to form a plan on what the inquiry should look like and who should be involved. Minister Bennett was present for the Second National Roundtable.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne also attended the roundtable and encouraged provinces to act beyond the inquiry and take action on their own. On February 23, the Ontario government announced their long-term strategy to end violence against Indigenous women.

Premier Wynne was one among several premiers who attended the roundtable along with many federal and provincial ministers.

MNO leadership and staff meet with the Honourable Jeff Leal

Launched by Joanne Meyer
MNO Director of Intergovernmental Relations

At the beginning of May, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) leadership and staff met with the Honourable Jeff Leal, MPP Peterborough and Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. The meeting took place in Kemptville and was an opportunity for Minister Leal to meet with Métis leaders in the area. Discussion revolved around opportunities to develop the agricultural sector in northern Ontario. One such opportunity is a potential livestock pilot in the Great Clay Belt.
Mental Health Week

MNO Healing and Wellness branch provides updates on mental health and addiction services

submitted by
Wendy Stewart
MNO Manager of Mental Health and Addictions

The 65th annual Mental Health Week, with a focused theme of taking a closer look at the concerns and needs of the country’s senior population, took place May 2-8, 2016. During this week, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)’s Healing and Wellness branch provided an update on its recent mental health and addiction activities.

The MNO’s Healing and Wellness branch has a long standing history of working to meet the health needs of Métis people and takes pride in continually advocating on their behalf. In support of these activities, the MNO partnered with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC), Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFFFC) and Ontario Native Women’s Association (ONWA) to embark in several community engagement sessions with the goal of identifying community mental health and addiction priorities.

The MNO wants to ensure input and advice from Métis communities are incorporated into the MNO’s vision for Métis culture-based mental health and addictions services and programs while, at the same time, take an active role in informing Ontario’s Mental Health and Addictions Strategy (MHAS) in meeting the unique needs of Métis people. As a result the MNO successful- ly hosted four community engagement sessions in March 2016 at the following locations: Welland, Toronto, Thunder Bay and North Bay.

Over 130 participants attended the sessions – providing meaningful input and advice on each community’s mental health and addictions gaps and needs. In addition, the sessions also provided an opportunity for the MNO to show- case its services and to network with community stakeholders. As one participant put it: “I enjoyed the opportunity to meet other programs, have clients learn more about what the MNO offers and to share the highlights of what good work is happening in our community to MHA (mental health and addictions).”

The MNO would like to thank all those staff members and citizens involved in helping make the events such a success! Particular thanks goes to: Joan Appel, Sabrina Roy, Jo-An Panizza, Melissa Pignat, Terry Lynn Lonsg, Tammy Winst
tle, Rebecca Vanoitandien, Glin Lipinski, Shelley Gonnieville and Ginny Gonnie and Tera Beaulieu—Métis citizens and facilitators in this project.

Moving forward, the MNO will be working with the MOHLTC, OFFFC and ONWA to inform Ontario’s Mental Health and Addictions Strategy and to assist in the planning and implementation of regional mental health and addiction service enhancements. In ad- dition, the MNO will also be using this information to inform its own endeavour of expanding its scope of mental health and addiction ser- vices and supports available to cli- ents, including youth and seniors.

We look forward to working with MNO staff and citizens alike in making this happen over the next year.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact: Mental Health and Wellness Branch, Manager of Mental Health and Addictions, Wendy Stewart, wendy@metisnation.org or 613-798-1488 ext. 125.

Service with a personal touch

Community members in Region 4 have access to the Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Community Support Services (CSS) program at the MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie office. The MNO CSS program provides support to those in the community who are elderly, chronically ill or facing other health challenges. In this northern community, access to larger health care centres, such as in Sud- bury or Toronto, can prove difficult for those who are unable to find adequate or affordable transporta- tion out of their community. A typical day trip to Sudbury for cancer treatment can take up to 12 hours roundtrip. This can be extremely taxing on a patient that is frail and unable to travel any other way but by car. The MNO CSS program aims to find solutions that are client-centred and can adapt to varying situations.

Brittany McHale-Johnson, MNO CSS Coordina- tor, assists clients in planning and executing these out-of-town trips. Most program participants are pleasantly surprised to hear that they can actually have the MNO CSS coordinator travel with them if needed. Examples of types of support include: as-

istance with gas cards for out-of-town travel, help filling out the Northern Health Travel Grant, coor- dination of volunteer drivers, and personal provi- sion of transportation.

MNO CSS services are not only for individuals with an illness, but are also available for anyone who may be in a caregiving role for a client. Care- givers may opt to access MNO CSS services for referrals, community support as well as assistance with transportation. The MNO CSS in Sault Ste. Marie is a guiding light in the North.

For more information on how you can access the MNO CSS within your region, please contact the MNO head office at 613-798-1488 or toll-free at 1-800-263-4889.
Métis youth stands up for inclusion

Below is the letter that Mitch Case sent to Mayor Provenzano after learning that local Métis were excluded from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s final report on residential schools:

“We live here, we work here, we pay taxes here; our stories live here and this is our home. Exclusion from any reconciliation process is completely unacceptable.”

Mitch Case

One hundred and sixty six years later our people are still waiting for Canada, Ontario or Sault Ste. Marie to make that right. Not only is the city located on top of our community, but the very building that you work from and make decisions in is located on the original river lots of the Babine, Metis and Lefond Metis families.

Not only does Sault Ste. Marie have a long Metis history, but today there are over 3,000 Metis people who call Sault Ste. Marie home. We live here, we work here, we pay taxes here; our stories live here and this is our home. Exclusion from any reconciliation process is completely unacceptable.

Despite our long history and our contributions to Canada, discrimination against the Metis Nation continues across the homeland; Metis people are federally excluded and, we live the discrimination and exclusion continuing here in Sault Ste. Marie. By not including the Sault Ste. Marie Metis community in the reconciliation effort, this discrimination and exclusion is coming directly from the mayor and council.

It may be that this exclusion is deliber- ate, or because of a lack of knowledge about the Metis community. I also wish to reiterate my offering to the mayor to discuss ways to build a relationship between the Metis community and the city.

Finally, I am requesting an opportunity to come before City Council to make a presentation about the history of the Metis community in Sault Ste. Marie and our modern-day aspirations as a people.

Mitch Case
PCMNO Youth Representative
MNO Council paddles the historic Don

submitted by Todd Ross
MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council Chair

On May 1, 2016, a small group of ‘voyageurs’ from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) and community had the honour of leading a caravan of roughly 300 canoes down the historic Don River for the Manulife Paddle the Don event. Premier of Ontario Kathleen Wynne and soon-to-be-MNO President Margaret Froh braved the rapids to offer a helping hand on this great voyage.

As part of a new partnership with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), the MNO TYRMC was invited to the event and was supplied with five canoes to lead the paddle. MNO TYRMC President Tera Beaulieu and MNO TYRMC Senator Constance Simmons were present in full Métis regalia.

After the opening prayer by Senator Simmons, Premier Wynne spoke on behalf of the Province of Ontario and then assisted with the launch of the MNO TYRMC canoes.

Paddling with the MNO TYRMC were: MNO TYRMC Chair Todd Ross, Kirk MacKenzie, Jim and Rosalyn Morrison, Jonathan Charland, Shaun Cameron, Lawrence and Madlyn Dussette, President Froh and Rachel Osborne.

Paddle the Don is a 10.5 km canoe trip that launches at Eglinton and Leslie and finishes at Lake Ontario. Every year the TRCA opens the G. Ross Lord Dam to raise the water levels, which allows hundreds of paddlers to make their way through the river valley, under the bridges and along the Don Valley Parkway through a series of rapids—ranging from class 1 to 3 (class 1 being the easiest and class 3 being the hardest). The journey provides a unique view of the city and reminds us of the importance that rivers have played in southern Ontario and in Métis history.

Over 600 people took part in this year’s paddle, including Toronto-Danforth MP Julie Dabrusin, Don Valley West MP Rob Oliphant, King-Vaughan MP Deb Schulte, and Beaches–East York MPP Arthur Potts.

Planning has already begun for next year’s event. The MNO TYRMC are excited to announce that they have been invited to return and are looking forward to expanding their participation.

MNO youth spread knowledge of Métis history and culture

submitted by Lindsay DuPré
MNO Citizen

On May 10 and 12, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council’s youth committee collaborated with the York Region District School Board (YRDSB) to offer daylong workshops on Métis history and culture. They visited German Mills Public School and Ashton Meadows Public School and worked with over 100 students and educators from First Nations, Métis, Inuit and non-Indigenous backgrounds.

The workshops were organized as part of the youth committee’s yearlong Weaving the Sash project—an initiative aimed to strengthen connections to identity and culture for Métis youth in their region. Weaving the Sash has created opportunities for youth to learn from a variety of mentors and knowledge keepers and encourages them to continue learning and building relationships with one another through a series of seasonal cultural events. Inspired by these experiences, many of the youth have been motivated to share their knowledge about Métis history and culture; this collaboration with the YRDSB offered a wonderful opportunity to do so.

The workshops included presentations on how Métis communities first formed, the role of the voyageurs, traditional medicines, music and dance, and historical and contemporary uses of the sash. Everyone was also welcomed to join in on several hands-on activities such as playing the spoons, jigging, dot art and finger weaving. It was a powerful day of sharing stories, laughter and culture—central pieces to any Métis event.
MNO Kenora Métis Council hold their 2016 Annual General Meeting

Newly acclaimed PCMNO Region 1 Councillor Theresa Stenlund summarized the PCMNO election results and talked about the record voter turn-out this year. She congratulated the newly elected MNO President Margaret Froh and the other candidates who will now sit at the PCMNO table.

PCMNO Councillor Stenlund also updated citizens on topics such as: the MNOs debt repayment of $4.2 million dollars; MNO solar energy projects; the Daniels’ decision and what this means for the Métis Nation; the Region 1 Treaty #3 Modern Day Land Claim; and, the first MNO Region 1 signed Co-operation Agreement (Traditional Land Entitlement Claim) with the Mnataanjigamiing First Nation.

The AGM ended with several draws, a question and answer period, and a closing prayer by Senator Cederwall. A reception followed the meeting, which allowed time for fellowship and a chance for citizens to speak with the MNO KMC members one-on-one.

Nina Henley, MNO Kenora Métis Council Secretary

Métis Voyageur
June 2016, Issue no. 91
MNO staff host a Strengthening your Inner Sash workshop

submitted by Andrea Easton
MNO Community Wellness Coordinator

On May 11, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff in Ottawa provided a self-esteem workshop for Métis women at a women’s drop-in centre in downtown Ottawa. The workshop was called, Strengthening Your Inner Sash. Using best practices, traditional knowledge and hands-on activities, the 10 participants gained tools to improve their self-esteem. All participants made Honouring Métis Women bookmarks. On the back of these bookmarks, the women wrote positive affirmations about themselves for the purpose of always being able to remind themselves of their own value and worth.

A light snack of zucchini brownies was provided and one of the participants won a prize, which included the recipe and ingredients to make zucchini brownies at home. All of the participants took home their workbooks to continue their education at their own leisure.

Generations Mother’s Day Tea

submitted by Tammy Hoover
MNO Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinator

In honour of our Métis mothers and all of the special women within our community, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff from the Bancroft office hosted a Generations Mother’s Day Tea on May 6, 2016.

The afternoon consisted of table games, prizes, traditional music, conversation and hearty laughter. Guests enjoyed a delicious slice of homemade lemon loaf served with a hot cup of tea. This special celebration brought women from different generations together and allowed opportunities for knowledge and traditions to be shared. It was a special moment to value the role of our life givers—our mothers.

Weaving the Sash: MNO youth hold a traditional medicine and cooking workshop

submitted by Elisse St. Germain, MNO TYRMC Youth Committee Member

On Saturday, May 7, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) Youth Committee hosted a Métis medicine and cooking workshop at the Fort York Historical Site. This workshop was part of the MNO TYRMC Youth Committee’s Weaving the Sash: Métis youth, culture and connection (Weaving the Sash) project, generously funded by the Laflaw Foundation.

MNO TYRMC Senator Constance Simmonds began the workshop with an opening prayer and performed a smudging ceremony on the roof of the Fort York Visitor Centre. Senator Simmonds went into great detail on the teachings of the four sacred medicines: tobacco, sweetgrass, cedar, and sage. The youth learned about the significance of these medicines for the four stages of life, the four directions, and the role they can play in our own personal healing. Each youth then built their own bundle using fabric and the four types of medicine.

In the afternoon, MNO Knowledge Keeper Virginia Barter taught the youth her bannock recipe and they cooked it over the fire in the historical kitchen. Once it was ready, everyone enjoyed a feast of bannock and the other dishes lovingly prepared by Barter and the MNO TYRMC Youth Committee, such as venison, smelt, and duck.

Barrer also shared traditional foods prepared in contemporary ways, which proved that we can still enjoy healthy traditional diets in our busy, urban lives. It was a fun and delicious way to build relationships with each other, our elders, and our Métis culture! Each of the MNO youth were gifted a copy of a Métis cookbook.

MNO council meets with Lieutenant Governor Dowdeswell

submitted by Darlene Lent, MNO Credit River Métis Council Treasurer

On May 10, 2016, the city of Brampton had a visit from the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. This event included distinguished guests such as Her Worship Mayor Linda Jeffrey, a number of Brampton City Councillors, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (CRMC), local and international business leaders, representatives from educational institutions, public service groups including fire, medicine and police, and the Peel Aboriginal Network. This was Her Honour’s first visit to Brampton.

The event included a roundtable discussion, which had a theme of sustainability. This topic is a priority for Her Honour as it focuses on the perspectives of economics, environment and local planning.

After the roundtable discussion, MNO CRMC Treasurer Darlene Lent and Senator Bill Morrison welcomed Her Honour to the area and presented her with a Métis sash. They thanked Her Honour for the visit as well as the informative discussion. A reception was later held for guests at the Alderlea House.

MNO staff and participants show off the bookmarks they made during the workshop.

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MNO staff and participants show off the bookmarks they made during the workshop.
The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) have sat on the Cultural Advisory Circle for Georgian Bay Islands National Parks (GBINP) going back to the days of MNO Senator Helen Bradley. The Circle promotes the Aboriginal cultures of the area with respect to the GBINP. The work on the Cemetery of the Oak has been continued with representatives from Beausoleil Island, Georgian Island, the MNO GBMC, Wasauksing First Nation, Rama and First Nation Bands.

Dating back to the 1800’s, the cemetery was one of the first places Métis were buried. Beausoleil Island was also one of the places that some of the Drummond Islanders settled. However, the soil was poor for farming and eventually people moved off of the island. First Nations history in this area is documented as far back as the Middle Archaic Period, 7,000 years ago.

In the early 1900s, the cemetery fell into disrepair. Fortunately, when the island became a national park—Georgian Bay Islands National Park of Canada—Park Warden George Lynn began carefully reconstructing the cemetery and rebuilt many of the crosses. Ground Searching Radar has been used to determine the actual size of the cemetery. Under the watchful eye of Parks Aboriginal Liaison Officer Brian Charles, great care has gone into the preservation of this sacred and historic site.

The cemetery has had its boundaries shifted to include burials of ancestors who were laid to rest on the outside of the original fence line. Great care has gone into the preservation of this sacred and historic site.

Below is a first-hand account of MNO GBMC Chair Larry Ferris’ trip to the Beausoleil Island Cemetery of the Oakes with MNO GBMC:

Métis youth Dalton Latondress, former MNO Senator Dora McInnis and MNO Community Senator Ray Bergie and myself were all able to make the trip to the cemetery. We were very happy to have Dora along for the visit, as she is a direct descendant of Louis Beausoleil, who the Island is named after.

As we walked among the graves, it was a moment to listen to our elders as they pointed out specific Métis names and told us about their families. There were also First Nations elders present who similarly talked about many of the same ancestors and their relations. The elders were able to show us the connections that we have with each other, which was a great moment.

I was grateful that our MNO Senators were present and were able to share their knowledge. It was very encouraging to see a Métis youth like Dalton take the time to listen to his elders.

After we were doing exploring, the GRINP provided a barbecue lunch for guests, at which point [Parks Officer] Charles explained the history of the cemetery. Two information plaques were then placed at either side of the cemetery. The plaques were written in Anishinaabe, French, English and Michif.

The translation for these plaques was done by the [MNO Michif Committee]. It is a great feeling to know that these signs—which are in our language, and explain the Métis past and connection to this very land—will be there for thousands of visitors to see and read.

Larry Ferris, MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Chair
MNO Credit River Council host canning workshop

submitted by
Darlene Lent, MNO Credit River Métis Council Treasurer

On April 26, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) hosted a canning workshop at the Fortinos Community Room Kitchen in Brampton.

Facilitated by Darlene Lent, MNO CRMC Treasurer, participants learned about the boiling method of canning and gained hands-on experience by making cranberry-orange jam. A healthy alternative to store bought variations, cranberries have been used in Métis culture for many years and offer vital health benefits.

Harvesting berries is a big part of Métis heritage and canning is just one of the important methods of preserving food.

"It gives us a chance to enjoy the fruits of our labour at a later date and also gives us the satisfaction of preserving our own food and knowing exactly what we are consuming," explains Lent.

This workshop engaged all participants as they prepared and canned jam, which they took home with them. Not only did everyone have a lot of fun and form great friendships, but participants learned something new. MNO citizen Karen Stewart also was of great assistance as was Simon Bain, MNO Community Wellness Coordinator, who supplied MNO aprons and cooler bags.

This canning workshop is one of the many public events intended to promote Métis culture and way of life and was hosted by the MNO CRMC, with the help of the Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant.

MNO Council invited to speak at Indigenous Education conference

submitted by
Christa Lemelin
MNO Peterborough & District Wapiti Métis Council Chair

On April 22, 2016, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council (PDWMC) President, Andy Dufrane, and Chair, Christa Lemelin, attended the opening ceremonies of the first international Indigenous Environmental Studies and Sciences (IESS) conference hosted by Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario.

The conference entitled, Reimagining the Sacred Power of Creation: Essential Knowledge for Transformative Action, aimed at gathering international indigenous teachings and traditional knowledge to address complex global environmental issues.

MNO PDWMC President Dufrane was invited to provide a few welcoming words to a packed room of international leaders, teachers, students and community members. The weekend long conference included the following keynote speakers: Dr. Vandana Shiva, Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer, Dr. Manulani Meyer and the Honourable Jeff Leal, MPP (Peterborough).

The workshops were geared to developing partnerships with government and industry. The workshops also delivered important skills and strategies for conflict management and resolution.

The MNO PDWMC hopes to continue to deliver these workshops in the future. Anyone interested in taking part in one of these workshops, are welcome to contact the MNO PDWMC for more information.

MNO Council partners with Fleming College to deliver capacity building workshops

submitted by
Christa Lemelin
MNO Peterborough & District Wapiti Métis Council Chair

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council (PDWMC) recently partnered with Fleming College in Peterborough to deliver a series of workshops to help enhance capacity building within the council and the community.

The workshops were geared to improving engagement and communication skills, with a focus on developing partnerships with government and industry. The workshops also delivered important skills and strategies for conflict management and resolution.

The MNO PDWMC hopes to continue to deliver these workshops in the future. Anyone interested in taking part in one of these workshops, are welcome to contact the MNO PDWMC for more information.
**New Amanda Rheaume single raises funds for murdered and missing Indigenous women**

by MNO Staff

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and award-winning artist Amanda Rheaume announced that proceeds for Red Dress, the first song released from her upcoming album Holding Patterns, will be donated to the Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) in honour of murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG).

Rheaume announced the song’s release on Canada AM on Tuesday, March 29.

On her Facebook page, Rheaume posted: “I am SO blessed and excited to release the first song off my new album, Red Dress. This song is meant to honour the missing and murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada (MMIWG). My dear friend and incredible artist Chantal Kreviazuk lent her voice to the song and it’s cause and I couldn’t be more excited.”

The NWAC works on advancing the well-being of Aboriginal women and girls, their families and communities through activism, policy analysis and advocacy. The association represents and speaks on behalf of Aboriginal women in Canada at the national level. It addresses many concerns, including violence with a special focus on missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.

Holding Patterns, Rheaume’s new album, is scheduled to be released on May 6, 2016. In a previous interview, Rheaume shared that the album would hold 10 or 11 new songs.

**Amanda Rheaume gets personal on new album**

Adapted from a story from metronews.ca by Trevor Greenway

On May 3, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Amanda Rheaume revealed a more personal side while playing at the National Arts Centre Fourth Stage sold-out show in Ottawa to launch her new album Holding Patterns.

The Ottawa-born, Métis songstress and Aboriginal Juno nominee is letting the whole world in on her life—her many struggles of growing up, her toxic relationships and her anger surrounding the staggering numbers of missing and murdered Indigenous women in our country. In a sense, you could say that Holding Patterns is her raison d’être.

“It’s definitely a new feeling to be so open and vulnerable about what I’ve been going through, but I think it’s really important, because we are all human,” says Rheaume. “Circumstances are different, but feelings are the same. We can relate to each other even just by different circumstances.”

The concert was very interactive as concert-goers were able to pose questions to the Métis songstress. The concert felt very intimate while explaining the meaning behind every song and her thoughts when writing them.

The entire album is a personal embrace for Rheaume, coming to terms with her family history, grief, loss love. Patterns is somewhat of a storybook—tales of struggle and their anger surrounding the staggering numbers of missing and murdered Indigenous women in our country. In a sense, you could say that Holding Patterns is her raison d’être.

“The album gets really heavy on Red Dress, in which she teamed up with Chantal Kreviazuk to make a statement about victim-blaming among missing and murdered Indigenous women. The powerful song hits home, especially with Rheaume’s smoky voice singing, ‘I am a woman with no worth.’”

“After these women are either murdered or taken or sexually assaulted, there is still a large number of opinions that say, ‘they shouldn’t have been where they were or they could have made a decision to not be in that situation,’” states Rheaume. “When you hear a woman’s voice saying, ‘I’m so sorry. I’m not worthy,’ for me, I felt that was the most effective way to get my feeling out about it.”

The song is a fundraiser for the Native Women’s Association of Canada’s Safety and Violence Prevention Program and takes on heavy issues like intergenerational trauma and addiction. To buy the song Red Dress and support this great cause, please visit reddresscampaign.ca.
Building Métis community through school outreach

submitter by
The MNO Grand River Métis Council

What do the schools in Guelph, Kitchener and Waterloo have in common? These schools have a Métis community that knows how to work together. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) have been education-focused for many years. MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson leads by example in taking her community into schools.

Throughout Ontario, many school boards and their educators are requesting Métis education in their classrooms. President Parkinson remembers proudly her Métis community educational outreach in Region 9. The MNO GRMC volunteers willingly share their knowledge with others in a variety of settings. One of their favorite venues is in elementary and high schools. In 2015, 32 lucky schools benefited from their dedication; 2016 statistics have yet to be tallied.

President Parkinson says that within a 45 minute session, her team of volunteers can deliver a sash presentation down to a science. Like the diverse colours on the Métis sash, President Parkinson has a team of Métis volunteers with varying abilities and interests. Each brings a talent and when woven together, makes a strong group of active MNO citizens. Similar to the teachings on the Métis sash, one strand can easily break, however, when many are woven together, it is strengthened and creates a team that supports and distributes the work load.

Some Grand River Métis who are directly involved in these school presentations include Jennifer Parkinson, Barb Lair, Bridget Brown, Carol Čević, Carol Ricard, Dave Skene, Leslie Muma, and Paul Smith. By going into schools, Métis content is presented from a Métis perspective. School presentations have many advantages for our Métis children, such as: they get to see themselves in the stories, they learn about Métis achievements and contributions; and, they learn accurate Métis history and culture. Another benefit is that this information is then passed on from the students to their families.

The MNO GRMC have also held two presentations during teacher professional development days. Teaching educators ensures that our unique Métis history so that they can share accurate information with their students. These presentations also introduce teachers to Métis community knowledge holders who can approach for further information, presentations and assistance.

Another educational influence is the Aboriginal Education Committees within school boards. Métis representative attend meetings and have input on school activities. In the demographical region of Grand River, five active committees are attended, which includes post-secondary institutions. Representation on these committees keeps the local council and Métis Nation informed on school board needs while ensuring the Métis have a strong voice.

Once a year, the MNO organizes the Aspiring to Our Highest Potential conference for MNO citizens who represent the MNO on District School Board and Post-Secondary Aboriginal Advisory Committees. At the conference, participants are provided with information and training and are able to share activities and workshops they have organized. President Parkinson and MNO GRMC volunteers always attend this conference and are an inspiration to other participants. If you are interested in getting involved, notification of upcoming conferences are sent to community presidents for representation.

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MNO Bancroft office holds a Volunteer Appreciation Day

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen shared a story with an MNO staff member on the topic of long-term care. The MNO staff member thought that this story would be worth sharing:

According to our client, her sister—who was her mother’s caregiver—moved her mother into a nursing home for people living with Alzheimer’s without consulting with her other siblings or her mother. This decision was defended by the sister as their mother was no longer capable of making this decision for herself. Needless to say, this decision caused great conflict within the family.

It is not surprising that many people would rather avoid the topic of long-term care, as it involves sensitive subjects like finances, aging and health concerns. However, this story demonstrates the importance of engaging in conversations with parents and relatives about long-term care and developing a plan to guard against the threat of needing it.

There is a saying that says: “We teach best what we need to learn the most.” It reminds me, to do just that: discuss my long-term care with my loved ones!

Here are some tips for discussing long-term care with loved ones:

- **Ask questions.** Hear the other person’s concerns before discussing your own.
- **Use a different situation as a transition to your conversation.** “Mom, do you remember when Aunt Mary was diagnosed with dementia and her daughter had to quit her job because they couldn’t afford a home nurse? That’s the kind of situation we want to avoid by proactively planning ahead.”
- **Ask them about the long-term care they would like to receive if they need it.** Where would they live? Who would care for them? How would they pay for it?
- **Listen carefully and stay focused on their concerns.** Let the parent or loved one talk about their fears and hopes for the future. Communicate in a way that encourages future discussions.
- **Create a strategy and put it in writing.** After the conversation, write down any decisions that were made and what needs to be done. Make a check list and go through it to ensure that all plans are carried out. It is important to write down any specific wants or needs so that everyone knows what to expect later.

Tips for discussing long-term care with loved ones submitted by Rose-Anne Boyle, MNO Community Support Services Coordinator.

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ACHIEVEMENTS

Reclaiming her voice
Métis Fine Arts grad demonstrates excellence

by MNO Staff

Kelly Duquette, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and MNO Youth Representative for Region 1, just completed her four-year Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree from the University of Ottawa (uOttawa).

Every year, uOttawa BFA graduating students come together to put on a collaborative exhibition to showcase all of their best work to the public. Duquette was one of 43 emerging artists whose artwork was included in this year's exhibition. The exhibition, entitled Ôde, took place on April 22, 2016 at the uOttawa Visual Arts Department.

Duquette's exceptional talent and promise was recognized as she won first place and was awarded the Edward and Isobel Ryan Visual Arts Department.

Duquette's painting series is entitled, I Forgot Who I Was, But Now I Remember. All of the paintings in the series are 3 feet x 2 1/2 feet. Duquette explains her series:

"Following over one-hundred years of silence, assimilation and oppression within Canadian society, the Métis peoples have begun to re-emerge and reclaim their culture. This unique time in our history has become an inspiration behind my artwork. Painting has allowed me to reflect on the issues related to my hidden identity and my experience as a Métis youth. The reductive quality of my work represents the loss of our language and traditions, while the intervention of abstract beadwork and acrylic paint reinforces our strength and resilience as a distinct rights-bearing people.

"As pigments mix, liquid frisket is stripped away, and opaque acrylic paint hides the colours beneath, my process becomes metaphorical. Each artistic decision reflects on the ethnooriginis and historical treatment of Métis peoples within North America. My video piece titled, Identity in Process, is designed to translate this process into a 2D art form which achieves an overall effect that is comparable to my finished paintings. The spoken phrase at the end of the film is in Michif-French—a single dialect of the traditional Métis language taught to me by a number of knowledge keepers in our community. Chir- pren ma keulukur, erprend ma voyoi, erprend kikchu, translates to, ‘we are reclaiming our culture, reclaiming our voice, reclaiming our identity’.

For more information about Duquette and her artwork, please visit her Facebook page.

One of the paintings in Kelly Duquette art series, I Forgot Who I Was, But Now I Remember. The painting is created using dispersion pigment, beadwork, pouring medium and acrylic on linen.

MNO youth artists needed for the 2016 MNO AGA trade show

Many of our Métis youth artists are reclaiming their Métis culture, heritage and traditions. There is a beautiful old prophecy about this idea, which talks about young people walking along the trail of history and picking up the things that had been left along the way. Our great Métis leader Louis Riel spoke of a prophecy, which compliments this idea: “My people will sleep for one hundred years, but when they awake, it will be the artists who give them their spirit back”, today these prophecies are coming true.

Many MNO youth artists are involved in activities such as beading, painting, carving, sewing, leatherwork and music. Our people have stories that need to be told, and through our art our youth are finding creative ways to tell these stories.

Last year at the 2015 Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Midland, the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNO Youth Council) hosted a collaborative youth vendor table at the trade show. At this table, we were able to promote the work of eight young and talented artists and sold over one thousand dollars’ worth of beadwork, paintings, photographs and more.

As part of our commitment in continuing to promote the talent of our young MNO artists, the MNO Youth Council will be hosting this initiative again at the 2016 AGA in North Bay.

All MNO youth are encouraged to participate by contributing their own pieces of artwork to the table. We are looking for anything from beadwork and sewing to photography and music and everything in between! Our hope is to showcase and promote the beautiful and creative artistry of our MNO youth. This year’s table will be managed by Samantha Stein, a Métis youth artist. Samantha Case.

We would not be able to support our MNO youth artists at the AGA if it were not for the generosity of our sponsors. We are fortunate to already have secured a sponsor for this year. Our sponsors last year were the owners of Gidley’s Galley restaurant: MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Treasurer Heather Garrett and MNO Veterans’ Council Secretary and MNO Region 7 Captain of the Hunt Greg Garrett. Their generous sponsorship helped to cover the registration cost for all MNO youth artists.

Interested youth are encouraged to contact Samantha Case by emailing samantha-case@hotmail.com or by joining our Facebook conversation by searching ‘Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Vendor Table 2016’.

Interested sponsors can contact Mitch Case at mitch.case@hotmail.com.
Métis Voyageur
June 2016, Issue no. 91

MNO citizen launches outdoor lifestyle magazine: Wild Guide

submitted by
Nancy Hatch
MNO Citizen

Life-long Kenora resident and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Anthony Griffiths recently co-launched Wild Guide, a quarterly outdoor magazine, with his friend Brad McMann. The magazine premiered its first issue on March 7, 2016. Griffiths and McMann, friends since high school, are both outdoorsmen who want more people to enjoy the outdoors and all the activities it offers. Griffiths has worked as a guide on Lake of the Woods for 17 years. His co-publisher, McMann, worked in the magazine business for five years as an art director.

In an interview with the Kenora Miner News, Griffiths stated that, “[Being outdoors] has been more of a year-round fix for me where I can enjoy the outdoors and keep pursuing living that ultimate dream really. We live in the right place to have something like this going.”

Wild Guide’s summer issue is expected to be released in June. The current issue is now available on most magazine shelves.

MNO citizen receives Director of Education Commendation award

submitted by
Sara Kelly, MNO Citizen

On May 3, 2016, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Carol David was awarded the Director of Education Commendation Award at Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica in Ottawa. Presented annually during Education Week, this award represents the exceptional contributions made by employees to the Ottawa Catholic School Board.

A reflective, humble and faith-filled leader, David instinctively puts students and colleagues before all else so that they can be successful and feel supported. These traits are the foundation on which she builds the High Needs unit at St. Patrick’s High School in Ottawa. You simply have to look at the various groups she created to see the extent of her leadership in building a caring community.

A decade in her present role (17 years with the Ottawa Catholic School Board), David is, without question, a very demanding position. It is testament to her skill, dedication and deep faith that she has made tremendous strides with high needs students in every aspect of their educational journey. She is the perfect marriage of compassion and grit—fair and firm.

Several of her peers speak of her as the “miracle worker;” “keeps going and keeps calm;” and, “is both patient and creative.” Never one to give up, she is always persistent and hopeful, forming an ever-present confidence, which in turn, triggers confidence in others. She is more than willing to share her knowledge. One colleague comments that she provides “a big umbrella for people to gather under.”

David knows she is not only a voice for her students in need, but she must help them find their own voice. Her interaction with both students and their families is a close one, making inclusivity a highly valued and integral part of St. Patrick’s High School. She appreciates all aspects of the person, making those needed connections that help to break down barriers.

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She works very hard to benefit a small group of students, but her efforts make all of the difference. David’s world is one of possibilities, not limitations.

Métis youth carries the Infinity Flag during annual Powwow

submitted by
Jessica Brunnet, MNO Employment Counsellor
Cecile Coutu, Cambrian College Métis Elder

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Devon Lachance proudly wore his Métis sash as he represented Métis youth and the Sudbury Métis community during the 2016 Cambrian College Powwow on March 11, 2016.

Lachance, a Métis youth living in the Sudbury region, had the honour of carrying the Métis Infinity Flag during the opening and closing ceremonies at the Powwow. An avid guitar player, he has a passion for music and is currently enrolled in the music program through Cambrian College. He enjoys immersing himself in his Métis culture and felt very grateful to represent Métis youth at the Powwow. Lachance was also one of this year’s recipients of the 2016 MNO Bursary.

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Dedicated Métis leader Alvina Cimon passes

by MNO Staff

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news of the passing, on May 17, 2016, of Métis community leader Alvina Cimon. Alvina was well known across the Métis Nation as a dedicated leader of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Northwest Métis Council and was a long-time council member and past council president. Alvina served approximately 20 years as president, which is longer than any other person has served as a community council president. MNO President Margaret Froh and PCMNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile, recently spent some time with Alvina and her family on a recent trip to Dryden. “Alvina’s sense of humour was strong that day and I was looking forward to my next visit with her. I am deeply saddened to hear the news of her passing,” stated President Froh.

In 2012, at the Annual General Assembly that year, Alvina was recognized for her leadership when she was presented by the Queen’s Jubilee General Assembly that year, Alvina was recognized for her stated President Froh.

Alvina Cimon with the Queen’s Jubilee Medal at the 2012 MNO Annual General Assembly.

Alvina Cimon (center) with MNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile (L) and President Margaret Froh (R).

As many of us know, Alvina was frequently held up by Mr. Lipinski as an example for her dedication to the MNO and the Métis cause. He often related the story of a meeting of community council presidents where concerns were raised about the lack of funding to support their activities. Alvina stepped up to the microphone and said: “I just do what needs to be done to make sure we can keep the office going. I was out on the weekend collecting bottles on the side of the road to help ensure council had enough to keep going.” The story shows how dedicated Alvina was—she would do anything to help others, and to keep the council and the office going.

“Alvina’s commitment to community, and her strong work as a community leader was an inspiration to us all. Her loss will be deeply felt across the nation. On behalf of all MNO citizens and our Métis public service, I extend condolences to Alvina’s family and the entire regional community. I will be keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers,” concluded President Froh.

Alvina Florence Cimon

In loving memory of Alvina Florence Cimon (Roussin), who passed away on Tuesday May 17, 2016 at the age of 78 in the Dryden Regional Health Centre, surrounded by her loved ones.

Alvina loved her family with great care and had an open door to animals in need. She was a strong, dedicated advocate in the Métis community. Alvina will be lovingly remembered by her mother, Albertine Roussin, her sons, Armand Sr. (Clara), Armand Jr. and Brian Cimon. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Benjamin (Janet), Armand Jr. (Tiffany) and Armanda Cimon (Shawn), four great grandchildren, as well as eleven brothers and sisters. She was preceded in death by her spouse, Adelard Joseph Cimon, 2011.

A Memorial Service will be held on Tuesday May 24 at 1:00 p.m. at the Dryden Community Funeral Home Chapel with Father Al Campeau officiating. Interment of ashes will follow in the Dryden Cemetery.

In memory of Alvina Florence Cimon

Parent tip: Don’t ask open ended questions to your kids. Yes or no answers might have you running in circles.

Weston Legge

Our Métis family has grown by one more! Dale Legge, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Human Resources Coordinator and MNO citizen, is proud to announce the arrival of his son, Weston Legge, born on April 14, 2016, weighing 8 pounds 6 ounces. Mother, baby, big brother and daddy are all doing well!

Legge

My marathon dad

submitted by Richard Aubin

MNO Citizen

Last edition, I wrote about the running challenge I gave my mom. To be fair, the following article is a memory I have of my dad’s great race with a wild rabbit thanks to his mischievous son.

At 62 years old, I can still recall the day that I made my dad run after a rabbit when it was about six years old. To this day, no one in my family knows the truth behind that great race.

The story begins like this. The Métis hunter in me came to surface one summer day as I picked up an unconscious rabbit. I struggled to carry my unconscious rabbit. I struggled to carry the rabbit when I was about six years old. I was excited and proud to be bringing home wild meat! Dad shouted at me to drop it quickly. Stalled I did, wondering what I did wrong. Dad then asked me how I got this rabbit. After giving him the answer filled with half-truths, he called the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to report a possible rabid rabbit. They told him to catch the rabbit alive.
ACROSS THE HOMELAND

We call those lands the Métis Homelands. The Homelands stretch from the lakes and rivers of Ontario, cross the wide prairies, traverse the mountains into British Columbia and into the northern reaches of the Northwest Territories. They include the hills and valleys of the north-central American States.

—from the Métis Nation of Ontario Statement of Prime Purpose

British Columbia

On May 25, 2016, the Métis Nation of British Columbia (MNBC) Minister for Métis Children & Families Daniel Pitman and empowermetn and development Stephanie Cadieux, BC Ministry staff members Debbie MacLean and Denise Devney, and MNBC Commission for Children and Family Services (MCCKFS) in BC, Executive Director Eva Cole for a meeting and brief tour.

The meetings focus was to see how MNBC, MCCFS and the province can strengthen the working relationships between MNBC and Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCDF) to improve outcomes for Métis children and youth in care.

“It was a very positive and productive meeting” said Minister Pitman. “We are working very hard to make a difference in the lives of Métis children and youth in care and we feel very good about the dialogue and are confident it has improved our relationship moving forward in working in the best interest of these children and youth.”

MNBCC looks forward to a follow-up meeting with the province and the renewal of the MOU between MCDF, MCCFS and MNBC.

—Source: Métis Nation British Columbia

Alberta

A Métis community in northern Alberta has hosting several families from Newfoundland and Labrador displaced by wildfires near Fort McMurray, deepening a bond that already existed between the two groups.

“Kikino means our home so we welcome people to our home,” said Dave Thompson, manager at Kikino Silver Birch Resort and Campground.

Thompson said the lakeside resort, about a three-hour drive south of Fort McMurray, was already popular with Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who like to be near the water. “They love similar to us. They hunt, they fish, they trap,” he said.

Many Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who live in Fort McMurray have have resorts at the resort, said Thompson, so when the evacuation order was issued he prepared for an onslaught of evacuees. Thompson said so far, the Kikino community has hosted a dance for the evacuees, and cooked up a Jiggs dinner on Saturday.

Marvin and Holly Meintz are emotional talking about the support from Kikino residents.

“It’s overwhelming actually, the kindness of strangers.”

—Source: CBC News Newfoundland and Labrador

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park is in Stewart Valley, about 50 kilometres north of Swift Current, in southwest Saskatche

A replica Red River Cart sits on display at Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park on Monday, April 4.

On Tuesday, May 10, 2016, 17-year-old Métis youth Kayleen McKay completed her goal of running 42½ kilometers to raise money for Drag the Red. She began her journey in Duck Bay, Manitoba on April 30, 2016. Kayleen has ran an average of over 40 kilometers a day.

“We are very proud to see a young Métis Citizen making a difference in her community,” said Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand. “She is an inspiration to our Métis youth.”

In December of last year, Kayleen and her family lost a close family member to suicide. When the police could not recover the body, Drag the Red stepped in and searched the Red River until they found him.

She launched her fundraiser—Kayleen’s Run for Drag the Red—to honor her cousin and to give back to the volunteer group who helped her family. The money she is raising will go towards purchasing a new boat to be used whenever families need to search the Red River for clues on missing loved ones.

—Source: Manitoba Métis Federation

Manitoba

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome Madison Rahal to the position of Policy Analyst with the MNO Education and Training branch. She will be working out of the Hamilton office.

Madison is a recent graduate from the Public Administration program at Humber College. Prior to her graduate studies, she completed a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Criminal Justice and Public Policy at the University of Guelph. Her passion for Métis policy issues as well as being an active advocate for Métis rights will be an asset.

We are delighted that Madison is choosing to work with the MNO and are pleased to welcome her to the team.

—Source: Métis Voyageur

Building the MNO Team

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is excited to welcome a new staff member.

MADISON RAHAL
Policy Analyst
Hamilton

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome Madison Rahal to the position of Policy Analyst with the MNO Education and Training branch. She will be working out of the Hamilton office. Madison is a recent graduate from the Public Administration program at Humber College. Prior to her graduate studies, she completed a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Criminal Justice and Public Policy at the University of Guelph. Her passion for Métis policy issues as well as being an active advocate for Métis rights will be an asset.

We are delighted that Madison is choosing to work with the MNO and are pleased to welcome her to the team.

—Source: Manitoba Métis Federation

Welcome to the team, Madison!
Every year, the citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) hold our Annual General Assembly (AGA) where we gather together with our friends, family and colleagues to conduct the business of the Nation, showcase our rich culture, pass on our traditions to younger generations and celebrate our stories.

The 2016 MNO AGA will be held in North Bay jointly hosted by the Region 5 MNO chartered community councils, which include the MNO North Bay, Mattawa and Sudbury Métis Councils. The President and PCMNO’s welcome to the AGA will be held the evening of Friday, August 26 with the arrival of the voyageur canoes at the Champlain Park. The formal AGA will begin on Saturday, August 27, continue all day Sunday before wrapping up around noon on Monday, August 29.

A short three and a half hour drive from Toronto or Ottawa, North Bay is a friendly and inviting city that is a popular year round destination. Offering plenty of activities, amenities and services to meet your needs, North Bay’s vibrancy is only exceeded by its hospitality! The venues for the AGA include the Best Western North Bay Hotel and Conference Centre and the Travelodge North Bay Lakeshore. One of the highlights of this year’s event will be a four and a half hour French River Boat Cruise by the Chief Commanda II Cruise, which will include a BBQ on board.

Registration information as well as more details about the program will be available in the coming weeks. These will be available at: metisnation.org/news-media/the-2016-mno-annual-general-assembly

PCMNO Senator Elections

In accordance to the provisions on the MNO Electoral Code Part A, nominations are now being accepted from MNO Senators wishing to stand for election as one of the four Senators who sit on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO). Current community council Senators as well as Senators currently serving on the PCMNO and any Senators who have previously held PCMNO Senator Positions and who are in attendance at the 2016 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) shall choose from among themselves the four Senators to sit on the PCMNO.

From among these four, one will be selected to become the Executive Senator who also sits on the PCMNO Executive Committee. Senators will be elected for a term of four years and only those Senators registered for the MNO 2016 AGA being held in North Bay may vote for those candidates nominated as a PCMNO Senator.

These ballot box elections will be held on August 26, 2016 between 1:00 P.M. and 4:00 P.M. during the Senators Annual Meeting. Nomination forms are available on the MNO website (www.metisnation.org) in the AGA section and in the Senators section.

Nominations close August 12, 2016 at 5:00 P.M. EST.

Women’s Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario Elections

In accordance to the provisions of the Women’s Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO) Terms of Reference nominations from MNO women citizens interested in standing for election as WSMNO representatives are now being accepted. Nominees must be women who have been verified as MNO citizens and have been residents of Ontario for a minimum of one year.

The committee of four women representatives will be elected for a term of four years by the women citizens of the MNO who are registered for the MNO 2016 Annual General Assembly being held in North Bay. These ballot box elections will be held on August 26, 2016, between 3:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M. during the WSMNO Annual Meeting. Nomination forms are available on the MNO website (www.metisnation.org) in the AGA section and in the WSMNO section.

Nominations close August 12, 2016 at 5:00 P.M. EST.

Please send nominations to:

Glen Lipinski
500 Old St. Patrick Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 9G4
Fax: 613-722-4225
glenl@metisnation.org