NEW LEADERSHIP, NEW ENERGY, NEW DIRECTION:

The Métis Nation of Ontario follows up this year’s Louis Riel Day ceremonies on November 16th with a two day SPECIAL PRESIDENTS’ ASSEMBLY/AGA 2008 in Toronto, Ontario

What better way to start this special three-day event than on Riel Day, November 16th? Although Riel Day occurs on the anniversary of the day Louis Riel was hanged in 1885, we come together to celebrate his heroic life.

For those wanting transportation, shuttle buses will be available at the host venue, the Days Inn Hotel and Conference Centre – Toronto Airport East to take people to Queen’s Park where everyone will assemble by 10:40 A.M. for the raising of the Métis flag. Led by Aboriginal veterans, Elders and a Legion Honour Guard, participants will march to the Northwest Rebellion Monument, where the opening prayer will be delivered. This year’s MC, Chair, France Picotte, will open the ceremonies and make introductions and Vice-chair Sharon McBride will speak on behalf of the Women’s Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Other speakers will include representatives from First

O Creator
by Senator Leona Wilson
Grey-Owen Sound Métis Council

We ask you to teach us humility and wisdom in our everyday lives. Lead us to the paths that you would have us travel. Show us the way to give whatever we have in the way that we can best give, be it time, talents or community support. Remind us that we are here for such a short time, and that we may have only one chance to do something special with our lives. Before we know it we become the elders of our nation. Teach us the ways with which we can offer our life experience to our nation and our community. Help us to reach out and take an opportunity to give of ourselves to something that we truly believe in. Show us that we are not indispensable. Someone else will fill our shoes with new passion and energy. Keep us focused on our goals. Let us not be swayed by the opinions of others when we know the right way for us. Let us not take our blessings for granted. All things have their time, and can be gone in an instant. Let us not take our blessings for granted. All things have their time, and can be gone in an instant.

AMAZING RECIPES:
Wild Rice Blueberry Pudding
by TRACY BALD

This year I have been able to free a great deal of wild blueberries. I love to have them on hand for pancakes, oatmeal, and one of my favourites, wild rice pudding. I made this recipe for an event we held to honour our Elders back in June. The pudding was enjoyed by all and many asked for the recipe. I thought I would share it since I am not the only one that thinks it is delicious. Enjoy!

2 cups cooked wild rice
2 cups cream or 2% evaporated milk
6 eggs
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 cup blueberries
3/4 cup maple syrup

Whisk together the eggs, milk, vanilla, and maple syrup. Over medium heat, stir together the wild rice and blueberries in a large sauce pan. Gradually add in the milk mixture and stir well. Simmer over medium low heat for 30 minutes, stirring frequently until pudding thickens. Pour into bowls and cool slightly before serving. Serves 8.

Tracy Bald is the Community Wellness Coordinator for the Georgian Bay Métis Council.

MNO STAFF:
Welcome aboard!

Monique Richard joined MNO staff on September 2, 2008, as Executive Assistant to the President. Monique comes to us with over ten years of administrative experience. She was an executive assistant in a corporate organisation, and most recently an event manager in the hospitality industry. Monique is currently completing her degree in administrative studies at York University. “This position offers me the unique opportunity of working in the political arena. I am looking forward to assisting President Lipinski as he embarks on his quest to continually grow the Métis Nation of Ontario. As well, I look forward to meeting the MNO representatives, employees and citizens throughout Ontario and to attending Métis cultural events,” said Monique. As part of the Operations Team, Monique will also assist Chief Operating Officer, Doug Wilson. Please join us in welcoming Monique Richard as a new member to the Operations Team.

CONTACT:
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Métis writer
Maria Campbell
Received of Canada

Maria Campbell, was named to the Order of Canada this past July. Campbell may be best known for her first book, “Halfbreed”, which continues to be taught in schools today. She is honoured for “her contributions to Canadian literature and media as a writer, playwright, filmmaker and educator, as well as for her advocacy on Métis and Aboriginal issues.”

Moose on the loose!

Moose on the loose! Watch out for wildlife on all roads, hunting or not hunting. Be safe; alert; stay alive. Did you know that at 1.9m (6 ft) and 500 kg (1100 lbs.) a collision with a moose can be deadly? In northern and northern-western Ontario, one in four motor vehicle collisions involves a wild animal and results in personnel injuries.

So be sure to take your winter survival kit and prepare for winter travel. Bring: hat, gloves, blankets; shoe, extra warm clothing and footwear; flares; matches; flashlight and new batteries; candle; and first-aid kit. Have a successful harvest this fall!
THE CROWN’S DUTY TO CONSULT AND ACCOMMODATE:

Métis leaders sign historic Protocol in Timmins

ON JUNE 25TH, 2008, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski, joined local and regional Métis leadership in Timmins to sign an historic “protocol”, which aims to ensure that the Crown fulfills its constitutional duty to consult and accommodate Métis rights, interest and way of life in the region.

The protocol is the first of its kind within the Métis nation. It commits various levels of Métis government to work together to ensure that all Métis citizens who live in and use the Métis traditional territories of Abitibi/Temiscamingue and James Bay will be consulted in relation to upcoming environmental assessment, mining, forestry and hydro-electric developments in the region.

Based on this protocol, Métis will be participating in the upcoming environmental assessment on Ontario Power Generation’s Lower Mattagami Hydro-electric Project that is overseen by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. Based on this protocol, Métis will also ensure Métis in the region are considered in future exploration and development in the region.

“This protocol is based on over 17 community consultation meetings held throughout the region. It is dedicated to the consultations. Councils will ensure that all Métis citizens have a say on what is being done on the lands they have relied upon for generations.” said President Lipinski.

On thisprotocol, the MNO is building on the Supreme Court of Canada’s affirmation that all Métis citizens have a say on what is being done on the lands they have relied upon for generations. The MNO is optimistic that this community-driven initiative will begin to benefit from the energy, forestry and mining development that is happening within their traditional territories. 

Lipinski concluded: “This community-driven initiative will also ensure Métis in the region begin to benefit from the energy, forestry and mining development that is happening within their traditional territories. I want to congratulate the local and regional Métis leadership who have worked so hard to see this protocol become a reality.”

Copies of the English and French versions of the protocol are available on the MNO’s web site at www.metisnation.org/consultations.

WHAT IS BEING DONE ON THE LANDS THEY HAVE RELIED UPON FOR GENERATIONS.

— President Lipinski

OUR ONGOING MÉTIS RIGHTS AGENDA:

MNO releases report from community consultations on Crown’s Duty to Consult and Accommodate Métis Rights

ON JULY 29, 2008, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) released the final report from its community consultations on developing an Ontario Métis Consultation Framework.

In January, 2008, the MNO announced province-wide community consultations, jointly supported by the Ontario Government and the Government of Canada, on developing an Ontario Métis Consultation Framework. The proposed Framework will increase Métis engagement, input and participation in planning and development related to Ontario’s natural resources consistent with the Crown’s constitutional duty to consult rights-holding Métis communities on activities that have the potential to impact Métis rights, interests and way of life. The final report is based on over 17 community consultation meetings held throughout southern, central and northern Ontario, along with input received from Métis citizens via the MNO’s website.

The final report includes over 60 recommendations on a wide array of topics, including principles for an Ontario Métis Consultation Framework, education, training and communication initiatives on the duty to consult; Métis representation issues; capacity and funding issues; Métis research, mapping and data collection; and creating partnerships with industry in the forestry, energy and mining sectors.

The report will be used to inform ongoing bilateral and tri-lateral discussions with the Ontario Government and the Government of Canada on developing an Ontario Métis Consultation Framework as well as the MNO’s collaborative work with the Ontario Government on its recent announcements relating to the protection of the boreal region, revenue resource sharing with First Nation and Métis communities; reforming and modernising Ontario’s Mining Act, and the development and implementation of the New Relationship Fund, based on the recommendation in the Ipperwash Inquiry Report.

“This report provides an important foundation upon which the Métis Nation can build, but it is clear that Métis citizens and communities want to continue to be actively engaged as we move forward on this important rights-based initiative. The MNO is optimistic that this report will represent a starting point for a collaborative journey with both levels of government, in order to ensure Métis rights, interests and way of life in this province are respected and protected for generations to come,” added Lipinski.

The protocol is the first of its kind within the Métis nation. It commits various levels of Métis government to work together to ensure that all Métis citizens who live in and use the Métis traditional territories of Abitibi/Temiscamingue and James Bay will be consulted in relation to upcoming environmental assessment, mining, forestry and hydro-electric developments in these territories.

Based on this protocol, Métis will be participating in the upcoming environmental assessment on Ontario Power Generation’s Lower Mattagami Hydro-electric Project that is overseen by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency as well as engaging mining companies. The final report will represent a starting point for a collaborative journey with both levels of government, in order to ensure Métis rights, interests and way of life in this province are respected and protected for generations to come.”

— President Lipinski

PROVINCIAL RELATIONS:

President Lipinski set to meet with Premier of Ontario

Ontario Métis Consultation Framework. The proposed Consultation Framework will increase Métis engagement, input and participation in planning and development related to Ontario’s natural resources consistent with the Crown’s constitutional duty to consult rights
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS:
Métis Communities have their say

by CHELSEY QUIRK

The first round of consultations on the Duty to Consult, initiated in 2003, was completed at the end of June. “The attendance and interest at the community meetings was very impressive,” said MNO President, Gary Lipinski. “It was clear from these consultations that Métis citizens and communities want to know what is going on around them, as it relates to and impacts our rights, our way of life and our traditional territories. Our communities want to have an opportunity to assess and have a say in what governments and proponents are doing to protect, consult and accommodate Métis rights, interest and way of life in the region.”

“In this Protocol, the Métis Nation as a constitutional duty to consult and accommodate Métis rights, interests and way of life in the region,” said President Lipinski. “The Protocol commits various levels of Government to work together to ensure all Métis citizens who live in and use the Métis traditional territories of Mattawa/Lake Nipissing will be consulted in relation to upcoming hydroelectric, mining and forestry developments in these territories.”

“Métis rights are collective rights that the Ontario Government, and the MNO to undertake consultation and accommodate Métis rights for generations to come,” said President Trudel. “The signing of this protocol is a step forward for the Métis and the crown as people as a whole,” said Sudbury Métis Council President Richard Sarrazin. “The Crown’s Duty to Consult is vital to our Métis communities,” said North Bay Métis Council President Mel Jamieson. “Our entire Métis community will benefit from this initiative.”
Common Ground
Métis Nation of Ontario meets with provincial players in mining and energy

On the same day, President Lipinski met with Shane Pospisil, President and CEO of the Ontario Energy Association (OEA) and John Priddle, Vice-President of Government Relations and Public Affairs with OEA. During this meeting, President Pospisil proposed OEA's top five priorities for 2008, which identified common areas in which the MNO could be involved. Discussions moved on to ways to promote Aboriginal/private sector partnerships; MNO/industry MOUs related to increasing Métis employment opportunities and to assisting the MNO in securing funding commitments from government and industry for proposed projects to create targeted bursaries in the energy sector, and bringing OEA members to the MNO for possible partnerships.

MINING ACT MODERNISATION: Ontario wants to ensure that mining potential across the province is developed in a sustainable way that continues to benefit the province and respects communities. Premier Dalton McGuinty has established the context for a modernised Mining Act when he announced Ontario’s “Far North Planning Initiative” on July 14, 2008. The Premier stressed that the goal, both in the far north region and across the province, is to strike the right balance between conservation and development. Ontario wants to ensure that its mining industry remains strong. This includes making certain that mining practices are up to date, and that Aboriginal rights and interests are given the appropriate consideration.

“We think exploration and mine development should only happen with early consultation and accommodation with local Aboriginal communities,” the Premier said.

The Premier also announced that Ontario will develop a system of resource benefits sharing that would see Aboriginal communities benefit directly from resource development.

In February, 2007, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) released a discussion paper, Toward Developing an Aboriginal Consultation Approach for Mineral Sector Activities, and initiated a collaborative engagement process with the Ontario Government, mining industry, and the MNO. The MNO Chair, France Picotte, and MNO President, Gary Lipinski, met with Don MacKinnon, President of the Ontario Power Workers’ Union (PWU), as a part of the MNO’s ongoing efforts to build bridges with key provincial partners.

At the meeting, President Lipinski provided President MacKinnon and other PWU representatives information on the Métis people and the MNO’s governance structures and institutions, including the MNO’s employment and training branch.

In particular, Presidents Lipinski and MacKinnon discussed Ontario’s upcoming labour market needs in the energy sector and opportunities for the MNO as the country moves into the future. It was agreed that officials from PWU and the MNO would hold follow up meetings to identify and make progress on potential partnerships and initiatives, including, establishing targeted bursaries and scholarships for Métis students pursuing careers in the energy sector.

MNO welcomes Province’s review of Child and Family Services System

T he Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has responded to the recently announced review of the Child and Family Services system by Ontario’s Attorney General, in response to the tragic deaths of Katelynn Sampson.

Sampson, a seven-year-old Toronto girl was found dead, with signs of trauma on her body on August 5, 2008. Her guardian at the time is being accused of her murder.

There is serious discussion taking place around the proceedings regarding the custody of Katelynn Sampson and the possibility of the absence of any consideration of the best interests of the young child.

President Lipinski expressed his distress by saying that “this tragedy emphasises the need for improved collaboration, enhanced supports and stronger safeguards within the overall system as well as within the Aboriginal community in order to adequately address the best interests of our children and families in Ontario.”

The MNO has formally written to Ontario’s Attorney-General as well as the Minister for Children and Youth, requesting that the Métis nation have an opportunity to provide its perspective in relation to the current system and its challenges and impacts on Métis children, families and communities in the province.

The MNO has also publicly released two discussion papers, titled, Ontario’s Child and Family Services: The Law, Current Policies and the Métis and How the Ontario Child and Family System Deals with Ontario Métis, which it hopes will help inform the government’s review as it relates to Métis children. These papers were compiled as a part of the MNO’s ongoing tripartite process with the Ontario Government and the Government of Canada. These documents can be found on our web site at www.metisonation.org.

“On several other jurisdictions, the Métis play a significant role in the delivery of child and family services to their communities. For example, Métis child and family services agencies exist in Alberta and British Columbia. As well, in Manitoba, the delivery of child and family services has been successfully devolved to the Manitoba Métis Federation through legislation.

Why is it important to consider Child & Family Services for Métis?

In response to increasing attention of Métis citizens in Ontario to issues related to child and family services, the MNO is undertaking preliminary work aimed at gaining a more comprehensive understanding of child welfare in Ontario.

The child welfare system in Ontario is large, complex multi-faceted system that spends over $1.16 billion annually on child protection services. Child and family services, which generally refer to public social services intended to protect children from neglect, abuse and exploitation, are growing rapidly in this province and in jurisdictions across Canada.

Ontario was one of the first provinces in Canada to officially legislate consideration of the Aboriginal identity of children in child welfare decisions. The provision for child welfare services to First Nations communities in Ontario follows a delegated model initially put in place by an agreement between the province and the federal government in 1965. However, there is no such arrangement for the Métis nation in Ontario and the child welfare system in Ontario is largely unaccountable to the Métis nation as an Aboriginal people.

While there is evidence that Métis, like First Nations and Inuit are grossly over-represented in the child welfare system, ‘on the ground’ research demonstrates that there is no formal surveillance, tracking and monitoring. Child welfare is an emerging field and it is timely for the Métis nation of Ontario to be considering these issues. The fundamental principle of self-determination will guide any approach aimed at meeting quality of life for Métis citizens. The challenge ahead is to reconcile with the past and build a foundation that is respectful of today’s aspirations of the Métis nation.

On June 24th, MNO President, Gary Lipinski, met with Don MacKinnon, President of the Ontario Power Workers’ Union (PWU), and initiated a collaborative engagement process with the Ontario Government, mining industry, and the MNO. The meeting resulted in establishing a context for modernised Mining Act when he announced Ontario’s “Far North Planning Initiative” on July 14, 2008. The Premier stressed that the goal, both in the far north region and across the province, is to strike the right balance between conservation and development. Ontario wants to ensure that its mining industry remains strong. This includes making certain that mining practices are up to date, and that Aboriginal rights and interests are given the appropriate consideration.

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In February, 2007, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) released a discussion paper, Toward Developing an Aboriginal Consultation Approach for Mineral Sector Activities. The report was shared with the MNDM which resulted in further discussions and finding to move forward on the next steps identified in the report to undertake a Métis legal review and analysis of the Mining Act and its regulations and MNO/MNDM conducting further regional consultation meetings on Mining Act modernisation.
THE NIAGARA REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL JOINS WELLAND’S ROSE PARADE

By RICK PAQUETTE

Celebrating Father’s Day and Welland’s 150th anniversary on the same day did not sound like a very good idea to me. However, as it turned out, it was a wonderful day!

The NRMC participated in the Welland Rose Parade under beautiful summer skies and warm weather. The parade had 150 contributors in various forms from marching bands, pipes and drums, antique fire trucks, the Shriners and a wide variety of floats. Maybe I am a little biased, but I think the entry for the Niagara Region Métis Council was one of the best. We received many cheers as the float drove by and several people jumped up and started to dance when they heard that Métis fiddle music coming from our float. Others tapped their feet from their lawn chairs.

When we first decided to enter the parade, there were many details that we had to address. We formed a committee right away that consisted of Derrick Pont, Councillor, and Stephen Quesnelle, Senator. They came up with a great theme: “Métis Then and Now.” Since the parade is the “Rose Parade” the organizers encourage the use of flowers on the floats. Margaret Quesnelle, wife of Senator Stephen, spent hours and hours sewing flowers onto material which was later attached to the sides of our float. The finished product appeared to look like a Métis sash.

Thanks to the efforts of Karen Pierce, Councillor, we were able to secure a truck and trailer supplied through the generosity of her employer, Vancor Supply. Karen’s husband, John, was our driver for the day. John likes to drive race cars, so this was a bit of a slower pace for him. Rick Paquette, Chair, and Senator Stephen put the banner together with the assistance of Rick’s daughter, Andrea. On the day of the parade, Andrea and Stephen’s two daughters, Theresa and Kathleen, were our colour guard with the red and blue Métis flags flanking the Canadian flag. Some of the outfits that were worn were borrowed from Glen Lipinski, while the rest were worn were borrowed from Amanda Lipinski. These ladies spent many hours working on the clothing and everyone looked just great.

We received many cheers as the float drove by and several people jumped up and started to dance when they heard that Métis fiddle music coming from our float.

Some modifications to the trailer at Karen’s and then assembled and rearranged the pieces on the float until they were satisfied with the look of the finished design. On the day of the parade everything came together beautifully with a wonderful turnover of almost 40 Métis citizens.

Becky Vander Sanden and Tammy Wintle from the MNO staff attended with their families. Becky’s son Dalton was a good sport and looked great in his costume. It was really terrific that our Region 9 Councillor, Peter Rivers, and his fiancée drove all the way from Windsor to walk with us in the parade.

A special thanks goes to Amanda Lipinski who was our photographer for the parade and who did a great job of taking all those pictures. She had a difficult task weaving her way through the crowds on both sides of the street and still keeping up with us, but she managed. Other people who had a tough job were those people assigned the task of pulling the Red River Cart. I think they had a taste of what some of the ones assigned the task of pulling the Red River Cart. I think they had a taste of what some of the early Métis went through because we had trouble with the wheels which created a great deal of work for them, but they did not slow the parade down at all.

Everyone deserves a great big thank you for helping to make the Métis float the success that it was. Each of you should be very proud of your contribution!

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Everyone deserves a great big thank you for helping to make the Métis float the success that it was. Each of you should be very proud of your contribution!

Words from Windsor

by SENATOR R.E. SCOFIELD

Well the staff in the Windsor office is busy and keeping the work of the MNO up-to-date. They are working in co-operation with the rest of the Aboriginal community.

Our council has been holding meetings—starting in September—to fill all the vacant positions and rebuild our council. We thank the PCMNO and the Hamilton office for their help.

A big thanks to Jim Turner for sending the picture of the Métis flag pole in my front yard to the ‘Hoggapar’. It was a real surprise to me to see the picture. The flag pole was a gift to me, built by Jim and installed by Jim and Roger Steigh.
INTRODUCING NIIMKII!

The creator of this magnificent canoe has named it. It’s called, “Niimkii.” The birch bark that Marcel used is from a tree that was hit by lightning. This makes our canoe special. Niimkii is “thunder spirit.” Niimkii was built with tremendous heart, spirit, and genuineness and is pictured above.

The council will be discussing the fundraising efforts, and putting our heads together to come up with the best plan to ensure that everyone has a chance to win this wonderful piece of artwork. Of course, we will require the assistance of our Métis citizens to accomplish the best fundraising effort ever!

We will be asking the MNO to post this on their web site, as well as in the Voyager so that all will know when this is going up for raffle.

Built from a lightning-struck tree, Niimkii (thunder spirit) will be used to raise funds for council.

Owen Sound Métis celebrate heritage

by SCOTT DUNN

Monday, June 23, 2008

Leora Wilson said she didn’t know who the Métis people were when family research revealed herself was descended from French and native Indian blood. That discovery more than 10 years ago led to her presence Saturday afternoon at Grey Roots, where she welcomed visitors to a celebration at the museum of Métis heritage.

“It’s been forgotten, or hidden, all this time,” Wilson said, wearing a traditional Métis sash and dream catcher earrings. “Everybody swept it under the table, didn’t want to be recognized as being part native.”

Wilson, a retired Bell Canada operator, antique store owner and Markdale chiropractic office assistant, now holds the elected post of senator in the Grey-Owen Sound Métis community of about 150 people. She is considered a role model.

Métis people were critical to the expansion of the fur trade and initial settlement of Canada. Inter-marriage was encouraged by the government and often it was the Métis who bridged the language barrier between French and later British traders and the Indians.

As more European women returned to fish, hunt and trap. He was tall, 6’4”, big and strong, a great boxer and wrestler. “But with all his strength and all his love for game, he was never quarrelsome. He was always considered one of Owen Sound’s most peaceable and law-abiding citizens.”

Yet Wilson said that when her great-grandfather died, his family had to leave home because they were considered squatters.

Another newspaper item announcing Couture’s death in early September, 1909, about 80 years old, lamented the passing of “part of the French-Cana- dian element of the area.” It said he was one of the original settlers of the “French Village” – a hamlet that had extended along the eastern shores of the bay from the Imperial Cement Works to Carney Mills.

He was known for wearing “shoepacks or moccasins, never shoes.”

Story reprinted with the kind permission of the Owen Sound Sun Times.

COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS:
Thunder Bay’s new Aboriginal Liaison, working to improve community relations

On August 5, 2008, the City of Thunder Bay welcomed its new Aboriginal Liaison, Anna Gibbon, into the fold. As part of the city’s 2007-2010 Strategic Plan, the Aboriginal Liaison will work to improve relations between the city and its Aboriginal community.

Anna brings to this position a unique cultural and professional background. A Thunder Bay girl, born and mostly raised, she has always had her feet firmly planted in two cultures—Anishinaabekwe from her mother’s family and western European from her father’s side.

Anna’s professional career spans both public and private sectors. She has been a correctional officer, consultant, trainer, mediator, negotiator and a human resources manager. Throughout her career, Anna has enjoyed working with various Aboriginal groups and around Thunder Bay, focussing primarily on alternative justice and dispute resolution. Her combined personal and professional experiences have laid a solid foundation on which to build the Aboriginal Liaison Office.

As we enter the traditional ‘gathering’ season, Anna has begun gathering the people, ideas, resources, stories and histories she will need to help guide her on this new and exciting journey. She invites you to join her as she works to make things better for all members of the Aboriginal community and the community as a whole.

Anna’s office is presently located in the City Clerk’s office in Victoriavile Mall and she can be reached by calling (807) 625-2146 or email at agibbon@thunderbay.ca.

Anna Gibbon is the City of Thunder Bay’s new Aboriginal Liaison.
COMMUNITY ART & CRAFTS: "G’bee” MC

by TRACY BALD

For nearly two years a group of women has gathered at the Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) under the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy to make a quilt. A lot of thought and reflection went into making this piece. The turtle reminded us of the Aboriginal creation story and the reverence given to the turtle in Aboriginal culture. The right pointed star, symbol of the sun is a powerful figure in traditional spiritual life. The choice of colours symbolise the four nations and the directions. The turquoise represents the blue of the sky and the green of the earth, the brown, the soil of the earth, and the hand quilted waves are for the water, the basis of all life, and the infinity symbol in each corner for our Métis heritage.

The women contributing to the project include: Jeannette Brunelle; Rose Beaman, Rose Cadeau, Anne Zoschke; Carole Anne Moyer; Helen Bradle; Yvonne Bald; Marie Moreau; Mary Pazur; Anita Laurin, Georgette Rohiticallie; Gertrude Main; and Mary Mackie.

The old fashioned quilting bees brought much sharing and joy to the women involved. The quilt will be displayed at the new GBMC offices (555 Cranston Crescent, Brampton) and we hope to enter the quilt into area quilt shows. Many thanks for every one’s hard work, for funding from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, and for the continued support of the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy.

The sewing circle started at the end of the Reclamation project in 2006 with funding from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. The quilt was made as a memorial to the residential school intergenerational legacy. For more information about the quilt, or wish to join in future quilting projects, contact Tracy at 705-526-6555 or email tracyb@metisnation.org.

Tracy Bald is Community Wellness Coordinator for the GBMC.

Kenora knits for a cause

by CHELSEY QUIRK

The Kenora Métis Warmth and Wellness Group are staying true to their name and knitting up a storm to ensure that less fortunate Kenora citizens will find warmth and wellness this winter.

What started as a few friends sitting around with knitting needles and good conversation has turned into more than a dozen women with big hearts spending one evening each week knitting for a great cause at the Kenora Métis Centre.

The project was initiated by Métis Nation of Ontario’s Emily Quirk, granddaughter of head office’s Communications Officer, Chealsey Quirk with funding assistance provided by a New Horizons Grant. The New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) supports the Government of Canada’s overarching social goals to enhance the quality of life and promote the full participation of individuals in all aspects of Canadian society.

The idea came after Senator Quirk was involved in a no-charge winter jacket project last winter – the concept of “Drop a jacket off, take a jacket home” stuck with her and she quickly adapted the concept to fit the Kenora situation. Something so simple, much appreciated, and highly necessary – especially given the harsh temperamnents Kenora faces every winter.

“We need to keep children and those less fortunate warm and healthy, and as a group that we are working towards,” said Quirk.

Since the group was formed in July, it has produced more than 65 scarves, 50 pairs of mittens, 8 pairs of gloves, and countless pairs of socks. Next on the list are throws for people in the community and quilts for babies.

On September 22nd, group leader, Wendy Langlois, went into all of the schools across Kenora to assess the needs of students, so that the knitters can set some short and long term goals for the future.

“We want to challenge other communities out there to start their own variation of our ‘Métis Warmth and Wellness Group’, added Quirk. “The work we are doing really makes a difference, and the outcome has been phenomenal. Not only are we helping people, but we leave the children with even more good conversations too!”

Gathering promotes awareness

MNO Community Wellness Worker promotes Healing and Wellness at Brampton Aboriginal Gathering

by SIOMHAN MARIE LAVIERDIERE

On June 7th, 2008, Brampton held its first annual Aboriginal event to promote awareness in the community and to recognize "Aboriginal month". Hosted by the Region of Peel and in partnership with the MNO, Credit River Métis Council and Peel Aboriginal Network, A Gathering was an entertaining and educational event, featuring the "Grandfather Teachings", Métis, First Nations and Inuit entertainment, cultural displays, vendors and agency booths.

The Seven Grandfather Teachings, the main theme of the June 7th event, connected people and the healing community.

According to the 2006 census, there are 26,656 Aboriginal citizens residing in Brampton, 785 self-identifying as Métis. MNO Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy (AHWS) provided a booth at the event to inform citizens about the many health services (and other services) MNO provide. Based on the trends of MNO AHWS Brampton clientele since July 2006, depression and anxiety appear to have a significant impact in the community and surrounding areas. One reason might have to do with the lack of culturally appropriate services in the Brampton community, a contributing factor to self-esteem and self-awareness.

As of now, MNO continues to provide the only Aboriginal-specific health service in Brampton and the surrounding suburban areas, with a staff of only one person at that. Below is a breakdown of the areas served by the program and the corresponding population:

- Brampton: 2665 total Aboriginal population, 785 total Métis population.

- Mississauga: 2475 total Aboriginal population, 750 total Métis population.

- Caledonia: 360 total Aboriginal population, 100 total Métis population.

- Oakville: 665 total Aboriginal population, 200 total Métis population.

- Toronto: 15,050 total Aboriginal population, 3,650 total Métis population.

That’s a total of 19,770 Aboriginal people and 5,450 self-identified Métis, with only one Métis-specific service in the area—the MNO. It comes as no surprise that those aware of MNO AHWS Brampton seem hungry to learn about their heritage and connect with community Elders. The youth are accessing the service more frequently as time goes on. So, where does the future of MNO AHWS Brampton lie? That’s difficult to say with the upcoming AHWS renewal lingering on the sidelines. However, based on the feedback given by some clients and community members, there is a definite need for the program and more funding seems to be key to providing more staff.

As always, AHWS Brampton continues to approach health on an holistic level. It is this worker’s hope that the Region of Peel, along with other Brampton community agencies, will continue to advocate for Aboriginal awareness and that, A Gathering, is only the beginning of a bright path filled with health and wellness for the entire community.

Siobhan Marie Lavierdier Community Wellness Coordinator 170 Steelwell Rd, Unit 102 Brampton, ON Tel: 905-454-8951 siobhanm@metisnation.org

More about "A Gathering" in Peel Region

On June 7, 2008, Peel celebrated Aboriginal peoples and their culture in the first annual ‘A Gathering’, Peel’s Aboriginal Celebration”. This free, family-oriented event took place between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. at the Sheridan Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning in Brampton. Hosted by the Region of Peel’s Early Years Integration division, A Gathering featured First Nation, Métis and Inuit artists, Métis fiddlers and jiggers, Inuit throat singers, and teachings by elders. The theme was, 7 Grandfather Teachings.

In addition to Aboriginal entertainment, guests experienced cultural displays highlighting Aboriginal heritage while community-based early childhood-focused agencies and organisations exhibited information on services and programs in Peel for First Nations children from birth to six.

The Region of Peel’s Early Years Integration division has been working with the Credit River Métis Council, MNO, Peels Aboriginal Network, Peel School Board, Sheridan College and Sheridan College to address service/program gaps for Peel’s Aboriginal Elders and their families. Together, they established the Peel Aboriginal Steering Committee in 2007, to raise awareness and educate Peel’s residents about Aboriginal heritage and culture.
Walking in Nature

Medicine Walks in Brampton

by SIOBHAN MARIE LAVERDIERE

On July 5th, 2008, twenty-one participants gathered to take part in a “medicine walk”, conducted by Elder Joe Paquette. The medicine walk, which was planned by the MNO Community Wellness Co-ordinator in Brampton, was a way to encourage individuals to learn about cultural remedies and also to initiate physical activity.

The walk took place at the Cawthra Trail, near Toronto, a hidden jewel behind the busy traffic and urban setting. One participant mentioned that at one time, developers were trying to cut down the forest for condo buildings. Thankfully, residents fought to keep the woods standing.

Among the various plant medicines the Elder covered, was Bloodroot. He dug up a sample to show participants. “Bloodroot is a perennials plant, one of the earliest and most beautiful spring flowers. It has a lovely white flower and produces only a single leaf and a flowering scape about six inches high. When the leaf first appears it is wrapped round the flower bud and is a greeenish-yellow colour covered with a downy bloom, leaves palmate five to nine lobed, six to ten inches long. After flowering, the leaves increase in size, the underside paler showing prominent veins. The white flower is wax-like with golden stamens. The rootstock is thick, round and fleshy, slightly curved at the ends, about one to four inches long, with orange-red roots that contain an orange-red juice. When dried it breaks with a sharp fracture, little smell, taste bitter acrid and persistent, powdered root causes sneezing and irritation of the nose.”

Although Bloodroot is poisonous in large doses, including such symptoms as burning in the stomach, intense thirst, vomiting, faintness, vertigo, and dizziness of eyesight, it does exhibit medicinal properties. According to M. Grieve some values of the root include the lowering of high blood pressure, stopping with heart disease, reduction of rings worm and fungi growth. Of course, you should talk to a health professional before medicating yourself. Bloodroot root was commonly used by Aborigi nal peoples for dying their bodies and clothing.

The Elder also told a story about a plant called, Queen Anne’s Lace, a lovely, white flowering plant, with a purple floret in the centre. The premise of the story goes that there was once a good queen named, Anne, and her evil twin, Queen Anne had a beautiful, white flowering umbrella that her sister replicated. The people were confused as to who was the real queen, Queen Anne despised. A forest fairy appeared to her and gave her a special purple flower to place on her umbrella so everyone would know who the genuine queen was. Participants at the medicine walk learned that white flowers with the purple floret are non-poisonous, whereas those without the floret are poisonous (a plant called Water Hemlock).

Also known as Wild Carrot, the root of Queen Anne’s Lace is edible when it is young, but quickly becomes highly tasting as it matures. The root has been used as a natural contraceptive. The leaves of the plant can be a skin irritant, so caution should be used when handling.

Additional walks were held on July 18th at the Robesone Trail in Brampton and July 26th at Heart Lake Conservation Trail. Each walk seems to rejuvenate participants on an holistic level: physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

Lemon Squares

1 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup butter/margarine, softened
1/4 cup confectioners’ sugar
2 eggs
1 cup granulated sugar
1/2 tablespoon baking powder
1/3 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons lemon juice
Heat oven to 350°F. Mix thoroughly flour, butter and confectioners’ sugar. Press in lightly greased 8-inch square pan. Bake 20 minutes.

Cream peanut butter, icing sugar and butter. Add Rice Krispies and nuts. Shape into balls and roll in coconut.

Butter Balls

1 cup peanut butter
1 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup nuts (optional)
1 cup coconut to roll balls into

Queen Anne’s Lace

by LISA PIGEAU

The Ottawa Regional Métis Council (ORMC) Community Wellness Program is currently planning for an eventful 2008-2009. Our largest gathering each year, co-hosted by the Ottawa Regional Métis Council is the “By the Campfire” event. This event highlights local Aboriginal musicians and artisans in celebration of National Aboriginal Day.

Last year, the event welcomed a whopping 342 guests! These types of gatherings require countless hours of volunteer support and co-ordination. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the 2007 By the Campfire event. It is truly amazing to see the culmination of all the efforts from the 25+ volunteers.

We look forward to continuing our efforts to provide one large cultural gathering family fun day per season. We will also be hosting various other learning and growth opportunities aimed at improving Aboriginal health and reducing family violence. In the month of July, we participated in a provincial Community Wellness Initiative called “Nation in Motion”. This initiative saw the Ottawa Regional Métis community invited to participate in a different physical activity over each of the four weeks.

Although the moocamn telegraph is an effective means of message transmission, we are currently trying to populate an email message list. If you live in Ottawa or surrounding area and would like to receive information on upcoming events, please forward your contact information to me. My contact info is at the end of this article.

Technology does help us connect with our community. The Métis Nation of Ontario Mental Health Demonstration project uses the technology of video-conferencing to facilitate the Mental Health and Wellness initiatives across Ontario. Further, the MNO Health Branch is able to use technology to facilitate enhanced training opportunities for staff. Along with providing tele-psychiatry interventions through Providence Care Centre, we look forward to introducing provincial Senator Eider visits over the video-conferencing units. The internet is another way to seek out information pertaining to wellness. There are several reliable sites that you may choose to visit such as Health Canada’s website www.hc-sc.gc.ca. You might consider exploring this site to assist you in making informed decisions pertaining to your wellness. Further, in the Ottawa area, you might want to explore the City of Ottawa’s website www.ottawa.ca. You’ll find lots of great information on recreational activities and other service information in this area. Please use the internet as an information tool only, be cautious of the web sites you visit and remember the information you discover should only be used as a guideline and does not substitute for the advice given by your primary health care provider.

I wish you all the best in your wellness journey.

Lisa Pigeau is the Lead for Mental Health and Community Wellness Co-ordinator for MNO in Ottawa. Tel: 613-798-1488 x 102 lisap@metisnation.org
Sharon McBride
Vice-Chair

Sharon was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and has lived in Ontario for over 35 years. She currently resides in Brampton, Ontario, with her husband Joseph of 22 years and their two boys Ryan and Michael. Sharon is very aware of her Metis ancestry to the historical Metis community of Penetanguishene. Sharon became aware of her background in 1997 and from that time on has been actively involved within her community.

As an active volunteer for the Metis nation, Sharon was the founding President of the Credit River Metis Council in Brampton and was the Regional Councillor for Region 8 and the spokesperson for the Women’s Secretariat for the Metis Nation of Ontario (WMN). She is involved with and sits on many Metis councils in the Peel region.

Sharon is currently the Past President of the Peel Metis Women’s Council and chairs the binational binational Children’s Committee that believes in the education of Metis youth. Sharon received the Ontario Heritage Award in 2007 and was a Volunteer of the Year by the Chair of the Region of Peel. Sharon was on the advisory committee of the Peel Region Aboriginal Advisory Committee and many different boards: the Regional Councillor for Credit River Metis Council in the Metis nation, Sharon was quite simply to continue growing within her community.

Within her community. Sharon’s diverse background includes attending the University of Toronto, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Master of Arts in Public Policy. Sharon has lived in Ontario for 20 years, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and is currently living in the small town of Matachewan. It is a town in northern Ontario, about 165 km west of Kirkland Lake. The Montreal River runs through town and it is a beautiful place to live. In the fall I love to go hunting for moose. I am married to a lovely woman named Debbie. She has been my partner for over 20 years. We have two children, 9 years and Trevor. We have two grandchildren: Sky Lynn and Antho- ny. Trevor has a little bundle of joy called Isabella. I have been on a disability pension for a few years. Because of the age of my spouse I now have a disease. We are very close and my heart, among them—Sena- tor Reta Gordon and Senator Louis McCallum, thank you for your support and encouragement. I can tell you that I am very overwhelmed with all the support and such kind words from our citizens across Ontario.

This is a very exciting time for the Metis Nation of Ontario. We have come so far in the past 35 years and we couldn’t have done that without Tony Belcourt as our pres- ident. With the charge in lead- ership I am looking forward to working with the newly elect- ed team on the PCMN to assist with the mandate of the Metis Nation of Ontario over the next four years.

I would like to thank all cit- izens that ran in this past elec- tion, it is people like you that help build a strong nation. I would like to thank everyone that believed in me; I will not let you down.

CONTACT: Tel: 905-846-8645 sharonm@metisnation.org

Sharon McBride with Newfoundland Premiere Danny Williams
Sharon McBride with British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell

Marcel Larfarce
Region 3 Councillor

Hello, my name is Marcel Larfarce. I live in a small town in northern Ontario, called Mirapecwan. It is about 65 km west of Kirkland Lake. The Mont- real River runs through town and it is a beautiful place to live. In the fall I love to go hunting for moose. I am married to a lovely woman named Debbie. She has been my partner for over 20 years. We have two children, 9 years and Trevor. We have two grandchildren: Sky Lynn and Antho- ny. Trevor has a little bundle of joy called Isabella. I have been on a disability pension for a few years. Because of the age of my spouse I now have a disease. We are very close and my heart, among them—Sena- tor Reta Gordon and Senator Louis McCallum, thank you for your support and encouragement. I can tell you that I am very overwhelmed with all the support and such kind words from our citizens across Ontario.

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MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL NEWS:
Government of Canada signs Protocol with Métis National Council

OTTAWA—On September 9th, the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-status Indians, announced the signing of a protocol with the Métis National Council (MNC) to begin discussions on a wide range of issues of interest to the Métis people represented by the MNC.

This agreement marks a significant turning point in Canada’s relationship with Métis in Canada, said Minister Strahl. “It usherers in a new era of open dialogue between the federal government and the Métis National Council, one that I believe will lead to constructive change and improvement in the lives of all Métis.

“This protocol is the result of several months of productive discussions between the federal government and the Métis National Council,” said Métis National Council President, Clément Chartier. “If we can keep this momentum going in the coming months, and years, it could lead to a real breakthrough with some substantial improvements to the lives of Métis people in Canada.”

I commend Minister Strahl for his commitment to build a positive and productive relationship with the Métis nation. I also thank him for extending his hand in the spirit of partnership and mutual respect,” said MNC Vice-President, David Chartrand. “We look forward to working with Minister Strahl and the Government of Canada to address outstanding issues including issues faced by our Métis veterans, as well as moving forward on Métis governance, economic development, and other priorities important to the Métis community.”

The range of issues expected to be covered under the protocol include Métis Aboriginal rights, economic development, roles and responsibilities, jurisdictional questions, and possible areas of federal-provincial-Métis cooperation on socio-economic and other Métis issues.

THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES THAT ARE SHARED ACROSS THE HOMELAND ARE A VITAL PART OF THE LEGITIMACY AND STRENGTH OF OUR GOVERNMENTS.

Bruce Dumont was first elected in December, 2005, when he won a large majority in the MNBC provincial by-election. Beginning his second term, President Dumont said: “I am commited to continuing the level of excellence and professionalism we have built at the MNBC for the past few years. Also I will ensure the MNBC Five Year Implementation Plan will continue as we address the socio-economic issues of health, education, housing, and economic development.”

MNBC immediately began to prepare for the inauguration of the newly elected leaders who were sworn into office on September 26th, 2008, at the beginning of the MNBC 11th Annual General Meeting in Kelowna, B.C.

BRUCE DUMONT
RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF METIS NATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Métis Nation of Ontario President, Gary Lipinski, offered congratulations on behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario to Bruce Dumont on his re-election as President of the Métis Nation - British Columbia (MNBC).

President Lipinski said “I wish to congratulate Bruce and all of the candidates in the Métis Nation British Columbia’s recent election. The democratic processes that are shared across the Homeland are a vital part of the legitimacy and strength of our governments.”

“The Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) looks forward to working with President Dumont and the MNBC Board of Directors to advance the Métis nation’s agenda,” added Lipinski.

On June 20, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Canada (CIBC) celebrated the culture, accomplishments and the contributions of its Aboriginal employees across Canada as part of the bank’s diversity celebrations.

At a special event hosted by the bank’s Aboriginal affinity group, known as the CIBC Aboriginal Employee Circle, more than 100 guests were treated to a traditional smudge ceremony storytelling by Aboriginal Elder Derek Brenette, and dancing and drumming by the Council Fire Singers & Dancers. The celebrations were preceded by a semi-annual national Aboriginal employee forum on promoting awareness of Aboriginal culture at CIBC in the coming year.

CIBC has a rich history as a proud supporter of Canada’s Aboriginal communities. For the past 15 years, CIBC has been the lead sponsor of the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, which recognise outstanding career achievements of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in diverse occupations. The awards also help build self-esteem and pride and provide valuable role models for Aboriginal youth.

In March of this year, CIBC donated $100,000 to the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAP) education program of annual bursaries and scholarships that are provided to more than 600 First Nations, Inuit and Métis students enrolled in full-time post-secondary studies in a broad range of fields. This year’s donation raised CIBC’s total sponsorship of NAAP scholarships and bursaries to $400,000 since 2001.

In April, eight Aboriginal students graduated from CIBC’s six-week Job Readiness Training program offered in Calgary. The graduates received training as analysts, transaction processors and in customer service roles and are now pursuing new careers with the bank. CIBC was the first to offer job readiness training as part of a proactive recruitment strategy to attract and retain prospective employees for a career in the financial services sector.

“I am proud to work for CIBC, which offers a holistic and integrated approach in providing specialised financial services to First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples,” said Frances McIsaac, Vice-President of Training and Development and Executive Sponsor of the CIBC Aboriginal Employee Circle.

“Our Aboriginal Banking team provides access to financial services in remote communities, through seven on-reserve branch offices and an on-reserve agency to help meet the personal and business financial needs of our Aboriginal clients.”

CIBC celebrates culture of Aboriginal employees

Traditional dancers at CIBC’s Aboriginal Day celebration.

AUDREY POITRAS
RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF METIS NATION OF ALBERTA

Métis Nation of Ontario President, Gary Lipinski, offered congratulations on behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario to Audrey Poitras on her re-election as President of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA).

President Poitras is beginning her fifth consecutive term as president of one of the Métis National Council’s oldest governing members. Under her leadership, the MNA has become a recognised leader in financial management and accountability, the delivery of Métis training and employment services; economic development, and Métis identification.

President Lipinski said, “I want to congratulate Audrey and all of the candidates in the Métis Nation of Alberta’s recent election. Our democratise processes across the Métis Nation Homeland are at the heart of the legitimacy, vitality and strength of our governments. Everyone who participates in these processes—whether it be by voting or putting their name forward for a candidate—should be thanked for their contribution to strengthening Métis self-government.”

“The entire Provisional Council of the Metropolitan Council of Ontario, looks forward to working collaboratively with President Poitras and the MNA’s new provincial council to advance the Métis nation’s agenda. Specifically, I look forward to continuing to serve with President Poitras on the Métis National Council’s Board of Governors,” added President Lipinski.

Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, Chuck Strahl, and Métis National Council President, Clément Chartier.
On June 11th, 2008, in the House of Commons, Prime Minister Stephen Harper delivered an apology for the residential school system which shattered so many Aboriginal families. Below is the text of that speech:

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to offer an apology to former students of Indian residential schools.

The treatment of children in Indian residential schools is a sad chapter in our history.

In the 1870s, the federal government, partly in order to meet its obligations to educate aboriginal children, began a policy of removing them from their families and placing them in government schools. The residential school system operated for over 100 years, ending only in the 1990s. In that time, about 150,000 aboriginal children spent between six months and six years in residential schools.

These schools were often far from the children's homes, families, communities, and tribal nations. They were often forbidden to speak their mother tongue, and they were often forbidden to practice their culture. The consequences of the Indian residential school policy were profoundly negative and it has had a lasting and debilitating impact on aboriginal culture, heritage and language.

While some former students have spoken positively about their experiences at residential schools—these stories are far overshadowed by tragic accounts of the emotional, physical, sexual abuse and neglect of helpless children and their separation from powwow families and communities.

The legacy of Indian residential schools has contributed to social problems that continue to exist in many communities today. It has taken extraordinary courage for former students, their families and their communities to come forward and tell their stories.

Today, the Government of Canada sincerely apologises and asks the forgiveness of the Aboriginal peoples for the harm that was done in the residential school system.

I reach out to all Canadians today in a spirit of reconciliation. I reach out to all Canadians today to say that the time has come to embrace a new beginning. We have heard the pain of the residential schools. I can see through its eyes and its heart the despair, hope and trepidation all at the same time. Apologies are not worth the mouthed words they come out of without sincerity and I pray to the Creator that the Government of Canada, and all Canadians can share and understand what has transpired. This is such an important step in Canada’s history for the reconciliation process that needs to continue with the resources required to ensure that the residential school system, the victims and their families are not forgotten.

To those students who have come forward to tell their stories, the Government of Canada apologises.

To the survivors, to the families of the residential school system, to the victims and to their communities, to all Canadians, let us take this moment in history to acknowledge and to ask for forgiveness.

As we all know, many Metis were forced to attend residential schools. Their and their descendants are still suffering the consequences. Following are comments and reactions from some MNO citizens.

Lorna Rowlinson, Metis Human Health Resources Co-ordinator (Ottawa):

There has been a great deal of media coverage and discussion about the residential school system, and the pain and suffering that it caused to aboriginal people. As a Metis woman, I am proud to have been a part of this process. The apology was long overdue, and I believe it will resonate in aboriginal communities across the country.

Dale Mathias, son of Lorna Rowlinson:

I think that this is an important [part] of our family’s past—and that you told me I had to watch it. I didn’t think the apology would take so long. I am also confused about comments made by the Prime Minister of Canada and the Indian Residential Schools Policy. I think it was a mistake to do this.

Jamie Pance-Fox, Aboriginal Babies Healthy Children (Sault Ste. Marie):

I’m just thankful that I was able to raise a fine family and that this will resonate in aboriginal communities across the country. It has been a long time coming, and I pray that it will resonate in aboriginal communities across the country.

The apology is long overdue, and I believe it will resonate in aboriginal communities across the country.
but is sorry enough?

The thousands of survivors move forward to speak for those they suffered. They remember their residence as the strength of their story, many former students today, and demand a full apology of Canada. Canada recognizes that the story has been a long and reconciliation on behalf of the Government of Canada and all Canadians. I am in this chamber so that a country to apologize to peoples for Canada’s residential schools. There were nearly 80,000 living former students, and all family members and communities, the Government of Canada now recognizes that it was wrong to forcibly remove children from their homes and we apologize for having done this.

We now recognize that it was wrong to separate children from rich and vibrant cultures and traditions. This is a point we have tried to reiterate to communities, and we apologize for having done this. We now recognize that, in separating children from their families, we undermined the ability of many to adequately parent their own children and slowed the seeds for generations to follow and we apologize for having done this. We now recognize that, far too often, these institutions gave rise to abuse or neglect and were inadequately controlled, and we apologize for failing to protect you.

Not only did you suffer these abuses as children, but as you became parents, you were powerless to protect your own children from suffering the same experience, and for this we are sorry. The burden of this experience has been painful shoulders for far too long. The burden is properly ours as a government, and as a country. There is no place in Canada for the articles that inspired the Indian residential schools system to ever again prevail.

You have been working on recouping from this experience for a long time and in a very real sense, we are now joining you on this journey. The Government of Canada sincerely apologises and asks for the forgiveness of the Aboriginal peoples of this country for failing them so profoundly. We are sorry.

In moving towards healing, reconciliation and resolution of the sad legacy of Indian residential schools, implementation of the Indian residential schools settlement agreement began on September 19, 2007. Years of work by survivors, communities, and Aboriginal organizations culminated in an agreement that gives us a new beginning and an opportunity to move forward together in partnership. A cornerstone of the settlement agreement is the Indian residential schools truth and reconciliation commission. This commission presents an unique opportunity to educate all Canadians on the Indian residential schools system.

It has been a positive step in forging a new relationship between Aboriginal peoples and other Canadians, a relationship based on the knowledge of our shared history, a respect for each other and a desire to move forward together with a renewed understanding that strong families, strong communities and vibrant cultures and traditions will contribute to a stronger Canada for all of us.

God bless all of you and God bless our land.

The speeches delivered by National Chief Phil Fontaine, Liberal leader, Stephane Dion, and NDP leader Jack Layton, may be found at: http://www.adsc.gc.ca/ies/vf/785-apologies/indigenous.html

For more information on the Indian residential schools, you can also go to the following web sites:

Leaves of Hope Foundation: www.legacyofhope.ca
Aboriginal Healing Foundation: www.aboriginalhealing.ca

Fallen Feather Productions: www.fallenfeatherproductions.com

The healing for the survivors might just be starting and I feel that those are the voices we need to hear back from as they have their own stories of what it was like being in those schools. I touched many years later, my dad as a survivor who was extremely dysfunctional. As a front-line worker I truly believe that in some way the “sixties scoop” still exists in a more politically correct manner. As the prime minister was apologizing yesterday, the Child’s Day School (CAS) was down at the hospital apprehending a newborn baby. Let this time have more clients involved with CAS than not involved with CAS, so to me, I having a hard time buying into the whole “we’re sorry” story. As we all try to recover from some of the damage we may or may not have experienced as children, we must understand that good things come in time. At 50 I truly hope I’m still around to experience a time when the number of Aborigi- nal children in care is fewer than the number of non-Aboriginal children in care.

Bevley Newton, MNNO Manager Human Resources (Ontario):

So many tears were shed yesterday, and for so many reasons. But we can only hope that each tear will wash away some of the suffering.

Pauline Desroches-Saulnier, PCNNO Counsellor, Region 7 (Midland):

Even though my family was fortunate not to be part of the residential schools, the compassionate side of me tends to agree that the apologies are only worth anything if the person moulding the words is sincere, speaking the real truth, and if it is coming from deep inside. Let’s see how far this government will go once the media displays have gone and the real moment of truth is upon them.

I ask the Creator to empower all these systems to change the history books, to put in laws that prevent this ever happening to any other people and to make sure that it never ever can happen again.

The healing for the survivors might just be starting and I feel that those are the voices we need to hear back from as they have their own stories of what it was like being in those schools.

Gary Lipinski
President of the Métis Nation of Ontario:

Thanks for... Let us know first hand the gambit of emotions someone so closely connected is going through. It truly was an historic day, an emotional day, and a day of new hope for the future. Any apology is only as good as the sincerity with which it is delivered and when the actions which caused the apology in the first place are changed. In this case, how government moves forward will demonstrate if they truly get the magnitude of the inter-generational consequences of those past actions, how government not only deals with those who have been directly and indirectly affected by the past, as well as how those issues have affected the broader communities and respective Aboriginal nations.

Going forward, we have to be optimistic and take people at face value believing that they will live up to their commitments. However, the proof will only be there when we see action and commitment. Our hearts go out to all those who have been affected by this. Let us be supportive of those individuals, families and communities in the future.

Special thanks to Loma for sharing her correspondence with the Voyageur.
MÉTIS VOYAGEUR
has been delivered will be held on November 17th, 2008.

What is the Ipperwash Inquiry?
The Ipperwash Inquiry was established by the Government of Ontario on November 12, 2003, under the Public Inquiries Act. Its mandate was to inquire and report on events surrounding the death of Dudley George, who was shot and killed in 1995 during a protest by First Nation members at Ipperwash Provincial Park. The Inquiry was also asked to make recommendations that would avoid violence in similar circumstances in the future. The Honourable Sid- ney B. Linden was appointed “Commissioner” in November, 2003. The Commission delivered its final report containing its findings, conclu- sions and recommendations (100 recommenda- tions) to the Attorney General of Ontario and the Report was made public on May 31, 2007.

What is “The New Relationship Fund”?
A key recommendation of Justice Linden’s Ipperwash Inquiry Report was the establish- ment of a fund to improve the capacity of First Nation and Aboriginal people in Ontario to par- ticipate in the many land claim, treaty, or Abo- riginal policy and consultation processes under- way in the province at any given time.

What is the purpose of the Fund?
The Fund has two broad purposes:
• supporting First Nations and Métis commu- nities to enhance their consultation ability to participate in meaningful consultations with government and the private sector on important land, resource and other develop- ment initiatives; and
• supporting Aboriginal individuals, organisa- tions and First Nations and Métis communi- ties to enhance skills development, training and education and build business partner- ships for sustainable economic develop- ment, and employment.

What is being done?
Following the May, 2008, announcement, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA) engaged the MNO in discussions on the details of the Fund. MAA also engaged First Nations, Inuit organisations, other Aboriginal organisations, financial and business institutions, industry, the federal government and Ontario Government ministries on the details of the Fund. Specifically, MAA is engaging partners on the following issues related to the Fund:

How can I get involved?
Consultation material on the details of the Fund have been circulated to MNO Community Councils and the PCMNO. As well, this material is available on the MNO’s website at: www.metisnation.org/ipperwash. Métis citizens are encouraged to provide comments to their local and regional leadership or respond via the MNO’s web site. A workshop on the details of the Fund was also held at the PCMNO meeting in September. As well, the Fund has been dis- cussed at various community meetings held during the summer and fall of 2008.

What happens next?
Based on the input received from these consult- ations, the MNO will be preparing a submis- sion to the MA with the MNO’s interest and position in relation to the Fund. Prior to the MNO formally tabling this submis- sion with Ontario, it will be brought to the MNO’s upcoming AGA for review and validation by Métis citizens. Specifically, a workshop on the Fund will be held on November 17th, 2008 at the MNO AGA.

When will the Fund be operational?
It is likely that resources from the Fund will not be available to Métis communities until the next fiscal year (starting in April 2009). The MNO is hoping that funding will be available sooner, but various internal Ontario Govern- ment processes need to take place before fund- ing flows. The MNO will continue to keep Métis citizens updated on progress related to the Fund.

What is the New Relationship Fund?
On May 15, 2008, Minister Michael Bryant, along with MNO President, Gary Lipinski, and Chief of Ontario Regional Chief, Angus Toulouse, announced the creation of the “New Relationship Fund” ($25 million over the first two years).

What is the Ipperwash Inquiry Report?
The Ipperwash Inquiry Report was made public on May 31, 2007. It was as if they were sacrificing their lives to uplift your wounded spirits.

The Uplifting Falls
by Raymond D. Tremblay

The Uplifting Falls
Did you ever notice the elegant And fluttering dance of leaves as They glided towards Mother Earth? It was as if they were sacrificing their lives to uplift your wounded spirits. They died to remind us of Life. You never meant to hurt them. They gingerly cushioned your falls. To their Creator just like you and me. They died to remind us of Life.
Grey-Owen Sound Métis Council members participate in the David Thompson Brigade Event.

By CAMERON BURGESS

We have had a busy spring and summer; here are the details.

May: The Thunder Bay Métis Council and health staff hosted two, first year Northern Ontario Medical Students for the month of May. This is the third year of hosting and the purpose is to show these future doctors Métis governance and culture. This year, they were involved in a meet and greet with all the staff, lunch and music and dancing, a day with a Métis commercial fisherman on Lake Superior (700 lbs. of fish caught), a day and night spent at a Métis trappers shack, involved with skinning beaver and deer; a day at the Regional Hospital in Geraldton, followed by a day on the lake fishing for walleye and a fish fry. Thanks go to the health staff for their participation.

June 19th: The 5th Annual Métis Community Centre golf tournament was won by Cam’s foursome of Denise Kowalski (finance housing) her sister and Edwin Martinez from Best Western NorthWest, retaining their title from 2007.

July 12th: The David Thompson Brigade, comprised of 160 paddlers, travelled across four provinces to take part in the Great Renactment at Fort William Historical Park. Two MNO canoes with Métis citizens and invited guests paddled from the Fort to meet the Brigade and guide them to the Fort where we were met by cannon fire, musket fire, singers and dancers and a welcome from the Fort’s governors. A huge feast was enjoyed by all.

August 15-17th: Fort William Historical Park invited MNO to participate in their 2nd Annual Reenact Pow Wow Days. On the Saturday night the fantastic Asham Métis Dancers and Paddlers from Winnipeg entertained the large crowd and showcased our culture. At this event we were also given the contract for the parking. Thanks go to John, Terry, Robbyn, Nancy, Ken and Cam for raising $2510.00 for the Community Centre.

A $10,500.00 grant was awarded to Thunder Bay Council from the City of Thunder Bay to produce and install a 16’ x 32’ mural on our building. More details to follow in next issue.

Cameron Burgess is the PCMNO Councillor for MNO Region 2.
Filling the freezers for the needy

by MICHELLE DALE

The season is upon us, when we’re booking our holy days, checking gear, rounding up our friends, all in the name of preparing for this winter season. This year, I would like to put out a “challenge” of sorts. In the past, the Métis Nation of Ontario health programs have supported local community gatherings for our hunts. However, sadly enough, many of our community freezers have sat empty! What I, and my co-workers in Region 4, as well as the historian, Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council are proposing is to get as many of our Métis hunters together as possible. Not only to gather meat between November 1st, 2008, starting at 6:00 AM. This event will have the sole purpose of filling our local freezers and assisting our community in ensuring that families who fall on difficult times or who are not able to harvest for them- selves will have access to meat over the long cold winter.

Métis Nation of Ontario, Region 4 staff, council and volun- teers will be preparing and cook- ing you a delicious breakfast of bacon, sausage, eggs, home fries, toast, coffee and juice, pro- viding you with a warm and hearty lunch or a bag lunch if you wish to not come in, as well as a family-style dinner. If you are unable to make it to our gathering, but have been able to harvest meat, please donate some to your local health branch. A pound of burger, or a roast, or steak from every hunter will go a long way in providing for our community!

Information contact: Michele Dale
Community Wellness Coordinator 261-262
Sault Ste. Marie, ON
Tel: 705-254-1768

Check with your local councils or health branches in other Regions for information on their community freezers and gatherings.

NEW DIRECTOR FOR MNO

It is a pleasure to announce that Robert Waldon joined MNO staff on September 2, 2008, as Director of Natural Resources, Environment and Community Relations.

Bob has a strong background of working with Aboriginal peo- ple, diverse interest groups and local communities, as well as natural resource and environ- mental agencies through man- agement and consulting roles with non-profit organizations. He also brings experience as a volunteer and board member for non-profit organizations.

Bob says: “I feel confident of working in a transparent and respectful way within MNO and its governing structures. The MNO statement that every voice is heard resonates with me.” We are confident that Bob’s past experience, insights, knowledge and enthusiasm will be a great asset to the MNO as we move forward. Please join us in welcoming Bob Waldon as a new member to our team.

CONTACT: Robert (Bob) Waldon, Director of Natural Resources, Environment and Community Relations bwaldon@mtonation.net

EDUCATION:
McGuinty Government offers more Support for Students, Strengthens Programs

School boards across the province are strengthening programs and resources that support First Nation, Métis and Inuit students.

The McGuinty government is increasing its annual investment in First Nation, Métis and Inuit education by $5 million, to help First Nation, Métis and Inuit students increase their success.

This new funding is part of a $15.5 million annual grant for culturally-specific and community programs to assist First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. These programs are open to all students, with a focus of the government’s strategy to edu- cate Ontarians about First Nation, Métis and Inuit histo- ries, cultures and perspectives.

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10th Annual North Simcoe Children’s Festival:

**Good time had by all**

by MARY MACKIE

Children and their parents, grandparents and caregivers had lots to do at the North Simcoe Children’s Festival this year.

Over 200 children and parents attended the 10th Annual Children’s Festival held out doors this past June at the Penetanguishene Centennial Museum.

Mary Mackie, MNO’s Aboriginal Babes Healthy Children worker in Minden, Region 7, with staff and volunteers from Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Penetanguishene Centennial Museum, La Cle d’la Baie, Ontario Early Years and Canadian Action Program for Children (CAP-C), coordinated the day of free activities.

It was exciting to have 20 different groups/organizations and volunteers bring arts and crafts, interactive activities and educational material to one location.

Clowns and strolling musicians kept the crowd entertained while the children participated at the various stations of activities such as Aboriginal beading, face painting, bike and helmet safety, obstacle courses, family health display, wooden boat and knotting demonstration, a bouncing castle, and reptile petting zoo, just to name a few.

Aboriginal Youth Drummers (ages 8-12 years) and a jingle dancer performed. The Moreau children (in the photo) were talking to Sparky the fire safety dog about fire safety at home. Sparky’s home is at the Penetanguishene Fire Department.

Garfield Doaklop, MPP for Simcoe North, presented a plaque to the Children’s Festival committee recognizing the 10th anniversary of the event. The plaque will be hung in the Penetanguishene Centennial Museum, Penetanguishene’s Mayor, Anita Dubbeau, brought greetings from the town and Bruce Stanton, MP for Simcoe North, brought greetings from Parliament Hill.

A good time was had by all.

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**Métis students receive scholarships for their role in making communities better**

Two Métis students are among the winners of the 2008 Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation’s excellence awards. The award recognizes outstanding achievements in leadership, social innovation, academic performance and community service.

The award’s goal is to assist outstanding students pursue a post-secondary education. This year’s 1,052 entrant award laureates believe themselves a result of work in their local, regional and international development projects, information and biological technologies and community fundraising initiatives, while preparing themselves for studies and, ultimately, a career.

Hard work and dedication have spelled success for:

Cheyde Dallyn, a student at Carpenter High School in Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan.

Nicole Laplante, a mother of two, attending Sakeewn High School in North Battleford, Saskatchewan.

Cheyde and Nicole are Provincial Award winners. They will both receive a cash award of $4,000 towards the cost of studies at any university or college this fall, renewable to a maximum of $16,000.

“An investment in the education of these outstanding citizens is an investment in our society’s future,” said Norman Riddell, executive director and CEO of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation. “These individuals have already demonstrated their ability to better the world around them, they know how to make a difference – something they will continue to do wherever the Foundation’s mandate winds down at the end of next year.”

Since 2000, the Millennium Foundation, through its different awards programs, has delivered 800,000 bursaries and scholarships, worth $2.3 billion, to students. For a complete list of this year’s laureates and more information visit: www.millennium-scholarships.ca.

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**A young Métis’ first harvesting expedition**

**BY GERRY BEDFORD**

Carter Dodd, who is affectionately referred to as “Sir Carter” by Executive Senator, Reta Gordon, went on his first fishing trip on August 16th, 2008. Sir Carter was accompanied by his dad, Darryl Dodds, and his grandma, PCMNO Senator, Gerry Bedford.

It was a beautiful hot summer day on a private lake just outside of Orangeville, Ontario. Like real Métis, the trio headed out onto the water. He had no trouble handling the dew worms and expertly putting them on the hook. He did not know how to make a difference — something they will continue to do.

Carter was a little nervous in the boat at first, but it wasn’t long before he was leaning over the side and splashing his hands in the water. He had no trouble handling the dew worms and helping to put them on the hook. As he learned fishing trips, the fish were not cooperating — no action whatsoever.

After a couple of hours, it was decided that we would head back to the dock. We decided to try off the end of the dock, and almost right away Sir Carter had hooked onto an eight inch small mouth bass. His reaction was: “More! More!” In 20 minutes he had caught three bass, which we returned to their rightful domain.

We packed up and Carter could not wait to tell his grand-ma Carol and his mama, Coral Dodds. (Women’s Representative of the Credit River Métis Council), of the successful outing.

It was a very good day for all of us and we hope to do it again soon.

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**Youth & Veterans’ Council Vacancies to be filled at AGA**

Vacancies for the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC) and the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans Council (MNOVC) will be filled at the 2009 MNO Summer AGA, in accordance with Article 9 of the MNO Electoral Code:

**ARTICLE 9 Vacancies filled at Summer Assembly**

1. If, after the close of nominations and nominations are vacated, the chief electoral officer shall, by May 15th, announce in writing that elections to fill any such vacancies will be held at the next Annual Summer Assembly. The chief electoral officer shall conduct any such Annual Summer Assembly elections to fill vacancies and shall follow the rules set out in this Code with any necessary practical amendments.

Therefore, no vacancies will be filled during the Special Presidents’ Assembly / AGA 2006 in November and further information will be posted on or before May 15, 2009.

Should you require further information please contact:

**HANK ROWLINSON**

Deputy Chief Electoral Officer
500 Old S. Patrick Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5G4
Tel: 613-764-1077
Fax: 613-722-4225
hankr@metisnation.org

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**Scholarship Foundation**

The 1,052 entrant award laureates believed themselves a result of work in their local, regional and international development projects, information and biological technologies and community fundraising initiatives, while preparing themselves for studies and, ultimately, a career.

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In year three of our Substance Abuse Program we will be focussing on substance abuse and seniors.

One of the most serious issues facing many of our Métis elders is the misuse and/or overuse of prescription medications. Although medication is a part of reality for most seniors there are concerns coming from seniors themselves. I spoke with Métis elders and asked them for their comments on the subject.

Are our seniors being used as guinea pigs? "Yes", according to one of our elders. Doctors and more important the pharmaceutical companies are constantly developing new medications and want our seniors and elders to try them. Seniors often don’t feel comfortable asking about medications or just can’t be bothered. Drug expenditures are responsible for an increasing proportion of the Canadian health care cost. $9.9 billion in 1993 and $14 billion in 1999. Approximately one-third of the increases in cost are related to new drugs entering the market, and 24% to increased use by patients (more prescriptions per person).

Seniors, rather than youth or the middle-aged, are more often given prescriptions and receive prescriptions for medications that are potentially inappropriate, nearly 46% of seniors receive at least one inappropriate prescription per year. Prescribing errors account for up to 36% of drug-related hospital admissions.

Western medicine is concerned solely with treating the symptoms of a condition rather than trying to cure it completely. Treatment of these symptoms mostly involves prescribing some kind of product from the “Big Pharmaceutical Companies”.

Seniors trust doctors to make the best decisions for them and will not question doctors about their choice of medications. All too often seniors are not aware or do not notice changes to their own bodies as a result of the medications they are on. Most doctors do not have the time to make sure that the medications they are prescribing are not conflicting with other medications.

At least one of the seniors I spoke with referred to taking a look at the typical senior visiting a doctor’s office, they all carry their little bag filled with drugs. The majority of seniors have many different drugs in their “drug bag”. The average number of prescriptions is projected to grow to 38 prescriptions per elderly person by 2010.

Thinks for a moment of all the seniors that you know. How many of them are on regular pre- scription medications? According to a survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation, 75% of seniors with at least three chronic health conditions, take at least five or more medications regularly.

The “prescription drugs and seniors” issue is “pathetic” and possibly even border on elder abuse according to one of our Métis elders. Seniors are not always aware of the side effects of their medications. Improper use or prescription by seniors is another one of the problems that we need to be concerned about. Researchers at the University of Manitoba conducted a study on prescription drug use. Results showed that 39% of acute care admissions were due to improper use of medication by persons aged 50 and over.

Prescription drug use and its costs are like a runaway train. Where is it heading? Can we, “slip to slow it” through proper balance between effective medication use and overmedication?

Here are some things seniors can do to reduce potential conflicts and over medication.

• When you receive a new medication from your doctor have your son/daughter or family member research the medication, check it out online, to ensure it doesn’t conflict with your other medications.
• Find out the effects about all medications currently being used, including over-the-counter (OTC) drugs.
• Always use the same pharmacy to fill prescriptions.
• Be aware of the symptoms and adverse drug effects, such as unsteadiness, dizziness, confusion, dizziness, headaches, irritability and changes in heart rate (Addiction Research Foundation, 1993).

There is not enough education done to prepare the medical advice of a doctor. Doctors should not make any alterations or changes to any prescription drug use without consultation with a physician. This article in no way recommends changes to your current medication use without the permission of your doctor.

Why are substances like alcohol and drugs abused? Contact with Europeans and European culture has harmed the traditional way of life of First Nations, Inuit and Métis. This damage includes the loss of homelands, traditions, languages and culture over generations, which in turn has damaged the overall health of Aboriginal communities, families and individuals.

Some Aboriginal communities don’t have more substance abuse problems than the rest of Canadians, but others do. Many Aboriginal families have to live and deal with poverty, isolation and unemployment in their communities. Some people abuse alcohol, tobacco and prescription drugs as a way to deal with difficult life conditions.

There are also very personal reasons why someone might abuse alcohol and drugs or other substances, including:

• escape from pain (could be emotional and/or physical)
• a family history of substance abuse
• to relieve
• the loss of a relative or friend
• peer pressure.

One of the most serious reasons why someone might abuse alcohol and drugs or other substances is the feeling of being abused, how often and how much, it can also be:

• peer pressure.
• escape from pain (could be emotional and/or physical)
• a family history of substance abuse
• to relieve
• the loss of a relative or friend
• peer pressure.

Some Aboriginal communities have taken action against substance abuse problems by developing programs and policies that actively discourage substance abuse. These actions recognize that healthy communities are made up of healthy people. For example, some communities restrict the sale of alcohol or tobacco, and other communities plan cultural activities (such as games, crafts, and community meals) to offer people something to do that doesn’t involve drinking alcohol or drugs.

More provinces, and one has to wait for the community to make a decision on how it will become more healthy. The best way to make an impact is to ask our selves who is going to be more healthy? What can my family do to become more healthy? If we all take these basic steps toward better health, imagine the impact we could have on our Métis nation.
A terrifying tale about child services

by SABRINA STOESSINGER

A child comes to school with a red mark on her face and tears in her eyes. Teacher says, “what’s the matter child?” Child says, “my mother is angry and hits me all the time.” Teacher says, “don’t worry; you are safe now,” and sends the agency.

Mother apprises agency with apologies and promises not to do it again. After the agency leaves mother states at the child, “Don’t ever tell anyone what happens again.”

Another year, another school, another teacher who sees child is sullen and withdrawn and wearing bruises. “Child what is the matter child?”

Child says nothing. “Don’t worry child you will be safe.” “No I won’t, I will be in trouble.” Teacher says, “I won’t let that happen. You will be safe if you tell me what is wrong.” Child says, “my mother punishes me and kicks me and pulls my hair out in clumps. She calls me stupid and fat and ugly and destroys and smashes the things I love.”

Again the agency comes, and again they leave, and after they send a counsellor. The counsellor talks and listens and gives advice. Weeks later mother tells the counsellor all about her child and the duties that she has to fulfill.

Child and people expect children to lie and she even brings in another lady and she too says it’s okay to say they lied. Mother turns the story around and confuses the children and tells them their little sister misses them and if they would just tell everyone that they lied they could come home and see their little sister.

The children are scared and uneasy and don’t know what to say. So mother tells the judge the children lied. Mother says she is outnumbered by the children and needs to protect herself. Mother says whatever she needs to say so the judge will believe her.

The judge does believe her and says the children must leave the agency and go back home and it’s no use how loud the children wail and how tight they cling to the bench the judge just won’t change her mind.

Six months later the child and her sister run away again because the change didn’t last and both are homeless and both are on the street, but anything is better than being at home. They go to the agency and say please, please, please, help our little sister. She is there with mother now all alone and there is no one to protect her.

“Don’t worry” says the agency “your little sister must be safe because if she were being hurt she would tell her teacher at school.”

A terrifying tale about child services

by JOYCE CAMERON

The Sudbury Métis Council of Health Branch staff

T

campsites on Rich Lake.

The MNO Long Term Care Program volunteer drivers were recognized as valuable service providers to the Sudbury MNO LTC medical transportation program. These individuals provide transportation to MNO clients and citizens to and from medical appointments. They contribute many hours monthly offering individual support and friendship.

The day included a complimentary lunch, a “Problem Gambling” presentation, an “Individual Wellness Planning” presentation, a focused stretching activity and an invitation to take part in a sharing circle. We concluded the day by presenting the volunteers with certificates of appreciation for their ongoing dedication and contribution to our clients. Unfortunately, not all of the drivers were able to attend.

Certificates of Appreciation were prepared for Pamela Gagnon of Spanish, Edward Burke of Killarney, John Haiste of Killarney, Monique Boulard of Verner, Norman Guerin of Almon, Yvette Gervais of McKerrow, Angele Lemieux of Almon, Betty Fairhair of Wehlwood, Stella Dumont of St-Charles, Norman and Alice Vais of Noelville, Armand Trottier of Warren, and Kevin Dupuis.

We would like to thank Senator Rene Gravelle and the Sudbury Métis Council President, Richard Sarrazin, for attending and for their assistance, also our provincial Addiction Wellness Coordinator, Glen Lipinski, for his presentation on Problem Gambling. We would also like to thank everyone who attended and helped make this day special.

A terrific tale about child services

by SABRINA STOESSINGER

Practice makes perfect

A child comes to school with a red mark on her face and tears in her eyes. Teacher says, “what’s the matter child?” Child says, “my mother is angry and hits me all the time.” Teacher says, “don’t worry; you are safe now,” and sends the agency.

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T his past year has to be con- 
densed to make the overall picture simpler. Moon River Council’s President, Louise Goudreau, who is Captain of the Hunt for Region 7, arranged a grant through NDOTI and the Moon River Council, to research the history of the Métis people in the Penetangashenaua Midland area and publish it in book form. I wrote a poem called “The Métis Paddling Song” describ- ing the progression of the history of the Métis, and also composed a Paddling Song, to which it was sung, and named the tune Louise’s Waltz after our “go-get- 
ing” president, because she takes on and accomplishes so much. The song was performed and sung at our spring general meeting, which was the book launching. Then President Tony Belcourt, Registrar Karole Dissault Belcourt, and several fed- eral and provincial members of parliament who were there all complemented me on how well it described the history of the Métis people.

Aboriginal Day

I saw in the local newspaper where the (former) Lieutenant Governor, The Honorable James Bartlemont (whose mother was First Nation and father English) had just written him to attend our June 21st Aboriginal Day cele- bration held at the Huntsville Heritage Place, and Julia Fitzpatrick of the Brace- bridge Examiner newspaper, all asked for copies of my speech, and permission to print it. The following weekend I headed to Oshawa Council’s Aboriginal and Heritage Day Cele- bration where I had been asked to play O Canada on the fiddle, and do a Métis fiddle making demonstration. I was pleased to see Senator Olivene Tiedema presented with a Métis sash with her picture on it. This sash was specially made, and is to be worn by the Oshawa Métis Council members, and will be allowed to Oshawa Bousquet Dance Group, in honour of all she has done for the Métis cause.

Senators’ Forum

I attended the Senators’ Forum at the AGA in Thunder Bay, and during the tributes to the recently deceased Senator Marion Larkman, I composed a tune for Marion, and played it for the Senators.

As a Senator at the AGA I was asked by Christi Belcourt who was doing an art class, to partici- pate, and interact with the kids who might attend. We spent a very interesting morning. Three of the boys and one of the teenage girls, told me about how they were made fun of at school because of the way they talked— with a Michif accent, because that was spoken at home to live- in grandparents, and about how they went hunting with their families, and although they liked doing it, they felt different from their peers at school. We talked about how we must learn to be proud, not ashamed of who we are as Métis. At the AGA I also attended the Senators’ Youth story telling time. Where I pleased to have the opportunity to play the fiddle along with the very talented auto harp player, Senator Leonardo Wilson, and Senator Elmer Ross on his Métis mouth organ. Senator Leonardo asked me to play the Marion Larkman Song I had composed, and she picked up it right away, and we had a good time jamming.

Best director honours for Métis film-maker

by LINDA LORD

While the audience was waiting for the speakers Film Festival, 2008: “And the winner for best director is Shane Belcourt.” More Cheers, more applause and more whistles. And “Bravo” too.

Then there was the Covocian International Aboriginal Film Festi- val and the American debut at the 2008 Palm Springs Festival of Native Film and Culture. All of the excitement began last fall when Shane Belcourt’s film, “Tkaronto” was a highlight of the 2007 imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival. With over 100 people turned away from the sold-out closing night gala screening, Kerry Swanson, the Executive Director of the festival, called it “the most successful closing night screening in the festival’s eight year history.” Since its opening a year ago the film has received positive reviews from just about every- one—The Globe and Mail, EYE WEEKLY, NOW, The Ottawa Sun, and the Ottawa Citizen.

In true Métis fashion, the movie was made on a minus- one—-The Globe and Mail, EYE WEEKLY, NOW, The Ottawa Sun, and The Ottawa Citizen. It’s a theme that recurs in almost every book and every movie. Is it universal, quest, but in this case it is more per- sonal because the two leading charac- ters are Aboriginal. They are travellers, as well as— metaphorically speaking—and they aren’t just looking for per- sonal identity, they are looking for cultural identity. As Shane said in an interview with The Globe and Mail, “In the city, you see churches and mosques and other cultural places, but for Aboriginal people, the visual reminders of your identity are supposed to be outside the city... But many aboriginals are born and raised in cities, so where is our place? Largely autobiogra- phical, the story seems to ring true for many, native or not…” I think if you take it a step back, it’s anyone who has mixed ancestry or mixed identity or anybody that is trying to fit into the North American thing but is still trying to maintain their sorta cultural identity within that,” said Belcourt.

DVDs will not be available until July 2010. Check out www.tkaronto.net where screenings will be posted from now until January 2009. DVDs have not been released. More!...
The World Drum

A sacred drum created to encourage people to take care of our Mother Earth is seized by U.S. authorities. MNO’s Charlie Fife led the charge to get it back.

by LINDA LORD

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here are many unsung heroes among us. Charlie Fife, MNO Region 8 Councillor, is one such person. Back in July a flurry of emails regarding the seizure of the World Drum by U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials caught my attention. At first I thought it was a joke, but it wasn’t. In case, like me, you have not heard about the drum, it is the aim of The World Drum Project to bring attention to the critical condition of Mother Earth. The drum, which made an appearance at the Ottawa Métis Council celebration in June (search YouTube for video), began its around the world journey in Norway and was created by Roger Mikkelsen.

The drum’s goal is to draw attention to pollution in our singing ceremonies in public places, and generally encouraging people to take better care of the planet. How could anyone object to that?

Here’s what happened. Charlie Fife says: “After our wonderful World Drum ceremonies in Oshawa at the Ottawa Métis Council’s Annual Heritage Celebrations in June 28-29, we sent the World Drum on to its next destination in Hot Springs national Park in Arizona where it was to be received by the Manatake Indian Council. The Drum was sent June 30th via UPS. Upon its arrival the World Drum was seized by US Fish and Wildlife service. An information package travelled with the Drum clearly explaining the Drum and its mission. This Drum is sacred, it is on a healing mission for Mother Earth and all her peoples... Let us offer our prayers that the World Drum be allowed to continue its mission of healing Mother Earth and the hoop of life that includes us all.”

Charlie did not sit on his hands waiting for something to happen. He made it happen and when I next visited www.worlddrum.com I found the posting below, reproduced here with the permission of The World Drum Project, Morten Wolf Stor- eide, Norway.

The World drum released!

It is with great joy and gratitude we now can celebrate the release of The World Drum from its captivity by the U.S. Government.

The unconditional release is, as far as we know, historical. Never before has such an object been released unconditionally from the US Department of Fish & Wildlife and the US Department of Homeland Security.

This “victory” and celebration have become possible thanks to: Charlie Fife of the Métis Nation of Ontario and Amanda Morningstar Moore of Manatake/MNO, in co-operation with Maureen Angela Blanchard of the Canadian Embassy in Canada together with Annie Prigge of Canada’s Department of Foreign and International Affairs and several others involved.

We in The World Drum Project would like with much respect, to express our warm and grateful thanks to all those involved in the release of The World Drum, and especially Charlie Fife who has been most dedicated to this matter.

Also we would like to thank for all support from both participants around the world, as well as other people who have contacted us regarding this matter and who have been ready to take further action if needed.

Also our thanks go to the US Department of Fish & Wildlife and the US Department of Homeland Security Officials who always realized there would have never had the opportunity to be effected by The World Drum and its Sacred Mission, but who through it has occurred situation got to know The World Drum’s Sacred Journey.

Fortunately, with the understanding that love is our most powerful weapon, this matter has now been solved and The World Drum released. Knowing the way of our Creator sometimes can be difficult to understand. We also know that all happens for a reason. And what we see now is that the situation occurred all together have united and brought people together in the Spirit and the Mission of The World Drum.

The World Drum will now be returned to Charlie Fife – Métis Nation of Ontario, in Canada untouched and with all objects and bundles attached. Knowing that attached objects and bundles may create several problems in the world in the future and one of the goals for The World Drum is to be in motion, we have decided to remove all objects from The World Drum.

These objects and bundles are sacred and will for that reason be treated as this. Removing these objects and bundles will be done during a sacred ceremony with Oshawa Métis Council.
**MÉTIS VOYAGEUR**
2.5"x16"
her
of the drum is the beat of Mother
forward to the continuing jour-
the Creator of all things, and look
sion that all mankind has a stake
the story of the Spirit of the
nous Peoples on the world stage,
for all of the America's Indige-
strength to speak with one voice
the Condor, uniting to gather
the greatest warriors, uniting to
both on a world stage. Like two of
Drum to an International status,
raise the issue of The World
Wildlife and the powerful Depart-
ed States Department of Fish and

**Honouring our veterans:**

RED FRIDAYS FOUNDATION OF
CANADA is an organisation to
promote support for the men
and women who serve our country.
Our Canadian military has made
many sacrifices in the name of
peace, not only for Canada but
for all of the Americas. This
issue is for all Canadian troops
regardless of their activity whether
at home or abroad.

As Canadians we need to show
support for the men and women
who place themselves in harm's
way for all Canadians. They are our
national treasure.

United we stand for peace in
Canada no matter of opinion,
creed, religion, colour or race.
Show you care by becoming a part
of this sweeping support. Wear
RED on Fridays to show you care.
(This message is excerpted from
www.redfridays.ca)

**Moon River Senator’s busy year**

Moon River Council covers a
large geographic area. I
researched Trillium Foundation
grants, and brought the forms to
our council who inquired further
we would continue to meet at coun-
cillors' homes for our monthly
meetings because some of us
have to drive an hour and a half
each way to meetings. This way it
spreads out the travelling. For
our two general meetings, we
choose Mactier, because there is
a large Métis community popula-
tion in the town and an arena
which facilitates our meeting and
dinner.

In the fall at the Mactier
Rendezvous, I was very pleased to
have the opportunity to make
music again with Senator Leora
Wilson, who is not only an auto
harper player and fiddler, but also a
composer of some wonderful
tunes. It is too bad we live so
far apart.

In the winter I was asked to
attend an Elders forum in Thun-
der Bay put on by the Chiefs of
Ontario. Senator Eimer Ross and
Senator Kay Lynch also attended.
There were representatives from
the Ministry of Natural Resources
(MNR) and the provincial and
federal government. Basically
put, the water in the whole of
Canada has serious pollution
issues.

When I was asked to go to
Thunder Bay for the Chiefs of
Ontario Elders forum, I was told
by Paul Heigington (MNN Senior
Policy Analyst) that I
would be met at the airport by
someone. When I arrived at the
Thunder Bay airport I was wear-
ing my winter coat with the Métis
sash sewn down the front and
around the hood. As I looked at
the sea of unknown faces around
the baggage carousel I felt lost,
and suddenly, across the room, I
saw a girl holding up a Métis
sash sewn down the front and
around the hood. As I looked at
the sea of unknown faces around
the baggage carousel I felt lost,
and suddenly, across the room, I
saw a girl holding up a Métis
sash and smiling at me. I smiled back,
and as she approached, I
felt found! Thanks to the Métis sash!
We all have such a marvelous way
of recognising each other, our
sashes and our identity symbol.

I was invited to Senator
Olivine Tiedema’s 80th birthday
party. I wondered what to give
her. I sat down at the piano to
practice, and piddled with the
keys, all the while thinking
Olivine, Olivine, Olivine, and sud-
dy, another composition came
to mind. I grabbed manuscript
paper and wrote it down—
Olivine’s Birthday Waltz: her
birthday present, and a signature
dance piece for the dance group
named after her!

Recently, I was interviewed by
a CBC reporter who had seen me
give my speech on being Métis
and had heard me fiddling. She
recorded some of my thoughts,
and a lot of my fiddling. It is to air
on a programme dealing with Métis
heritage and harvesting.

I sit on the advisory board
of the Orillia Campus of Lakehead
University as the Métis represen-
tative, and as such attend meet-
ings and functions.

Recently, I was asked by
the office of Aboriginal Initiatives
of Lakehead University in Thunder
Bay, to sit on their advisory board
on behalf of the Aboriginal Man-
agement Council as a satellite
member from the Orillia Lake-
head University Campus. In this
capacity I attend some meetings
via teleconference, and other
functions I will attend in person.

Of course, jigging and fiddling!

With these words we thank
the Creator of all things, and look
forward to the continuing jour-
ney of The World Drum. The beat
of the drum is the heart of Mother
Earth as it is the beat of all
dwell upon her.

For more information about
The World Drum Project:
www.theworlddrum.com

**Election Notice:**

**Women’s Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario Elections**

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer accepting nominations for women’s representatives in the Women’s Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

The committee of four women representatives will be elected by the women citizens of the MNO for a term of 3 years. These ballot box elections will be held on November 16, 2008 between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm during the MNO Special President Assembly(AGA)2008.

Nominations close November 10, 2008 at 4:00 PM, EST

Please send Nominations to:
Hank Rowllinson /
Deputy Chief Electoral Officer
500 Old St. Patrick Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 9G4
Fax: 613-722-4225
hank@metonation.org

**Women’s Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario**

La Nation des Métis
de l’Ontario

**Honouring our veterans:**

RED FRIDAYS FOUNDATION OF
CANADA is an organisation to
promote support for the men
and women who serve our country.
Our Canadian military has made
many sacrifices in the name of
peace, not only for Canada but
for all of the Americas. This
issue is for all Canadian troops
regardless of their activity whether
at home or abroad.

As Canadians we need to show
support for the men and women
who place themselves in harm’s
way for all Canadians. They are our
national treasure.

United we stand for peace in
Canada no matter of opinion,
creed, religion, colour or race.
Show you care by becoming a part
of this sweeping support. Wear
RED on Fridays to show you care.
(This message is excerpted from
www.redfridays.ca)

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(This message is excerpted from
www.redfridays.ca)
New Métis Youth Group in Ottawa

by DAVID HARTLEY

On July 21st a small number of youth and adults got together at 500 Old St. Patrick Street for a meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to facilitate an opportunity for Métis youth to take the lead in planning, organising and participating in health promotion activities. As a result of this meeting the Métis Youth Group/Council was formed. First steps were taken toward organising a health camp for the fall and weekly meetings were planned with activities ranging from bannock making to safe biking and baseball.

For more information contact: David Hartley, tel: 613-798-1488 xt.102 or via email at davidh@metisnation.org.

Voyageur-style family reunion

By SENATOR JACK LEROUX

A gain this year, Senator Jacques Leroux reports that the Leroux family and cousins gathering, which took place on the weekend of August 7th to 11th, was a great success. Following in the foot steps of their voyageur ancestors the family reunion enjoyed fishing and camping at Pimisi Lake on the Mattawa River at the base of Lake Talon Chutes.

The Mattawa River has been used by native peoples as an important transportation corridor for many centuries. In 1630, Etienne Brûlé and in 1615, Samuel de Champlain were the first Europeans to travel the river. For some 200 years thereafter, it formed part of the important water route leading from Montreal west to Lake Superior. It was the primary access to the vast Canadian interior in the days of the fur trade. Canoes travelling west up the Ottawa or the Red River Jig. She has performed across Alberta, at the Calgary Stampede, for the Premiere of Voyageur-style family reunion.

By DAVID HARTLEY

Métis hoop dancer and budding poet Chantika Hazell.

I Am Canadian, I Am Métis

by JUNE FOGEN

The poem below was written by my 13 year old niece, Chantika Hazell, who is a Métis hoop dancer from Calgary. She is proud of her Métis heritage and demonstrates this through her dancing, whether it be hoop dancing or the Red River Jig. She has performed across Alberta, at the Calgary Stampede, for the Premiere of Voyageur-style family reunion.

I am Canadian when I stand up to my fears.
I am Canadian when I stand for my peers,
I am Canadian when I fight for my Rights.
I am Canadian when I stand for my flag,
I am Canadian when I stand in Victoria,
I am Canadian when I make kids smile.
I am Canadian when I do what’s right.
I am Canadian when I read the paper.
I am Canadian when I was born free,
I am Canadian when I study our history,
I am Canadian when I hike in Alberta.
I am Canadian when I go to school,
I am Canadian when I stand in Victoria,
I am Canadian when I swim in our lakes,
I am Canadian when I fight for my Rights.
I am Canadian when I swim in our lakes,
I am Canadian when I study our history,
I am Canadian when I hike in Alberta.
I am Canadian when I go to school,
I am Canadian when I stand in Victoria,
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I am Canadian when I swim in our lakes,
MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

TO reserve

As people are

Exit on col-

Framework Agreement;

DAY TWO

November 17th, the nation’s busi-

in of the new PCMNO including

with a dinner feast, the swearing

Hilton Ballroom around 6:00 P.M.

The day will culminate in the Lady

wreath. A moment of silence will

Youth. Finally, Gary Lipinski, Presi-

New Democratic Party, and Métis

Conservative Party; the Ontario

Nations; the federal government;

FROM PAGE 1

SPECIAL PRESIDENTS’ ASSEMBLY/AGA 2008

Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) is proposing construction of a 180 kilo-

metre double-circuit 500 kilovolt elec-

tricity transmission line adjacent to the existing transmission corridor extending from the Bruce Power Facility in Kincar-

dine to Hydro One’s Milton Switching Station in the Town of Milton (see map on this page).

Hydro One has recently obtained approval from the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) for the project. As well, an Envi-

ronmental Assessment (EA) will be con-

ducted on the project based on terms of reference that have been approved by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

An EA reviews the environmental effects of the project on health and socio-economic conditions, archaeology, wildlife, vegetation. As part of the EA process, the impact of the project on Aboriginal land use, way of life and traditional knowledge are reviewed. Métis Nation of Ontario citizens who are interested in more information on the project, can visit www.hydroonenet-

works.com/environmental/ This web site contains information, updates and docu-

ments on both the OEB and EA process-

es.

As part of both the OEB and EA processes, the Crown is obligated to ensure that appropriate consultation and accommodation occurs with the poten-
tially affected Aboriginal peoples. As can be seen in the map, the proposed project passes through the Georgian Bay trad-

itional Métis harvesting territory which has been recognized and acclaimed by the Ontario Government as a part of the

MNO’s harvesting agreement with the Ontario Ministry of Natural

Resources.

Because the project does not fall sole-

ly within the geographic scope of one

MNO chartered community council and

Métis right-holders throughout the entire

geographic Georgian Bay traditional harves-
ting territory may be affected, the MNO has taken the lead on ensuring all poten-
tially affected MNO citizens are infor-

mated about the project in order to make sure Métis rights, interests and way of

life are considered and respected by the Ontario Government as well as Hydro

One.

To see that Métis rights, interests and

claims are being considered and respect-
ed, the MNO is participating in the EA

process to ensure Métis rights and inter-

ests are recognised and respected.

To find out whether Métis harvesting

practices, land use, sacred places, cultural

practices, land use, sacred places, cultural

interests, and way of life in the region will

be affected by the project, the MNO has

been engaged in discussions with Hydro

One. Based on these discussions and work co-operatively with Hydro One, the MNO will be doing the following:

• conducting a preliminary survey of

holders of valid MNO Harvesters

Cards for the Georgian Bay territory in

order to identify the number of Métis

who actively harvest in and around the

proposed location of the project;

• sending a mail-out to MNO citizens

living in and around the project to pro-

vide them with more information on the

project and an opportunity to bring any

questions or concerns forward;

• providing information on the project to all potentially affected MNO citi-
zens through the Métis Voyageur,

MNO’s web site, etc.; and,

• encouraging all potentially affected

MNO citizens who have concerns or

would like more information about the

project to contact the MNO (contact

information below).

As new information about the project and the MNO’s work become available, the MNO will ensure affected MNO citizens and chartered community coun-

cils are made aware. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns about the project or if you would like the MNO to be made aware of, or

addres specific issues or concerns related to the project, please contact:

Métis Citizens on

PROPOSED POWER CORRIDOR

SPECIAL PRESIDENTS’ ASSEMBLY/AGA 2008

From Page 1

Nations; the federal government;

Ontario Government; the Ontario

Conservative Party, the Ontario

New Democratic Party, and Métis

Youth. Finally, Gary Lipinski, Presi-

dent of the Métis Nation of Ontario,

and Jean Tillet, repre-

senting the Riel family will lay a wreath. A moment of silence will

follow before the closing remarks.

Bus shuttles will be available to return participants to the Days

Inn Hotel and Conference Centre.

The day will culminate in the Lady

Hilton Ballroom around 6:00 PM with a dinner feast, the swearing

in of the new PCMNO, including

the newly elected Senators, live enter-

tainment, and the announcement of

this year’s recipient of the Suranne

Rochon-Burnette Volun-

teer of the Year award.

Beginning at 9:00 A.M. on

November 17th, the nation’s busi-

ness will get underway.

DAY TWO

NOVEMBER 17, 2008:

The signing of the MNO-Ontario

Framework Agreement;

Reports from Finance and

Administration (including,

• Report by MNO

Secretary/Treasurer (Tim Pile),

• Report by MNO Chief Oper-

ating Officer (Doug Wilson).

• Presentation on 2007/08 audit

by MNO Director of Finance

(Steve Berry) and MNO audi-

tor (Collins Barrow LLP).

• Approval of 2007/08 audit

and appointment of auditor for

2008/09.

Workshop on Duty to Consult

and Accommodation (including,

• Update on Métis rights devel-

opments (Jean Tillet),

• Presentation on developing an

Ontario Métis Consultation

Framework (Jason Madden),

• Question and Discussion,

• Update on Ipperwash Report

implementation and New

Relationship Fund (Jason Mad-

den and Joanne Meyer),

• Question and Discussion,

• Resolutions from workshop on

Métis Rights and Crown’s

Duty to Consult.

As President Lipinski said,

what is needed “...is a solid busi-

ness plan on which to move for-

ward, a strategic plan that people

can contribute to...” Day three

will see this intention begin to

take shape...” This new PCMNO

is committed to putting MNO on a

solid foundation—going for-

ward—and if it means making

tough decisions and changing

touch decisions and changing how things have been done in the past so be it!”

DAY THREE

NOVEMBER 18, 2008:

• Strategic Planning Workshop

on Building a Stronger Métis

Nation and Empowering Métis

Communities & Métis Citizens,

• Presentation and facilitated

open discussion on developing a

strategic plan for the MNO

(Institute on Governance)

presentation on accessing eco-

nomic opportunities and build-

ing wealth and self-sustainabil-

ity with Métis communities and

Métis nation.

Participants will be treated each
evening following dinner to Métis

music, dance and culture.

Our Venue: As people are

preparing to attend this event, the

MNO has negotiated a special

corporate rate at the Days Inn

Hotel and Conference Centre –

Toronto Airport East, 677 Wilson

Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M1J

1A5. Our MNO Special Rate is

$87/night (single or double occu-

pancy) plus taxes.

Hotel Overview: The Days

Inn Hotel & Conference Centre -

Toronto Airport East is located

where highways 401 and 400

intersect. Guests can access the

airport via either the MacMillan

sauna, whirlpool and fitness

room, free on-site parking and

complimentary airport shuttle

service. Spacious guest rooms all

come equipped with coffee

maker, complimentary coffee/tea,

iron and ironing board, hair

dryer, data port voice mail and

free high speed internet access.

The lobby features two restau-

rants, lounge, gift shop and a

car rental agency. In the immediate

neighbourhood, are the 75 store

North York Sheridan Mall, several

plazas featuring restaurants,

banks, pharmacies, and numer-

ous other services. The hotel is

situated five miles from Toronto’s

 Lester B. Pearson International

Airport, close to the Yorkdale

Mall and only eight miles from the

CN Tower. Web: www.daysoto.com

Directions to Hotel:

From Highway 401 (east or

westbound): Exit on collectors for

Black Creek Drive. Exit at Jane

Street and turn left (north). Follow

Wilson to the Hotel.

From Queen Elizabeth Way:

Follow QEW and exit on Highway

427 north. Follow Highway 427 to

Highway 401 east. Follow Highway 401

and exit on Black Creek Drive.

Exit at Jane Street and turn left

(north). Follow Jane Street to Wil-

son Avenue and turn left (west).

Follow Wilson to the Hotel.

Reservations: To reserve your

room and secure our special cor-

porate rate please contact

Lorna Rowlison directly at the

MNO Head Office 1-888-245-4489

extension 113. Please reserve

soon to avoid disappointment as

rooms are limited.

Métis Vendors & trade show:

Be sure to watch for and support our Métis vendors who can be

found in the Trafalgar Room next to our large meeting room. Inter-

ested vendors, institutions, indus-

tries and government are encour-

aged to contact Lorna as soon as possible to ensure that a space is

secured and available for you.

As always we welcome you and

your family and hope that you

will join us as we continue to

look to the future, together.

For more information visit

www.metsvoy.com