

# MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

■ **Manitoba Métis Federation v. Canada**

## Historic ruling favours the Métis

MNO President Lipinski pleased with decision

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

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

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

and rights amid concern of encroaching Canadian settlement.

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

When the case finally reached the Supreme Court in December 2011, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) obtained intervener status in order to offer its support and to ensure that the voice of Ontario

Métis was heard in this important case. The MNO was represented at the Supreme Court by Jean Teillet, the Métis lawyer who, 10 years earlier, represented Steve Powley at the Supreme Court and who is the great niece of Louis Riel. MNO President Gary Lipinski, as well as many MNO citizens and MNO staff members were in the foyer on March 8

awaiting the decision in solidarity with their Manitoba colleagues including MMF President David Chartrand as well as Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras and Métis National Council President Clement Chartier.

“After our long hunt for justice in the landmark Powley case, we knew it was important for us to be here at the Supreme Court,” explained President Lipinski. “We

**“After our long hunt for justice in the landmark Powley case, we knew it was important for us to be here at the Supreme Court.”**

— MNO President, Gary Lipinski

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Scenes from the Supreme Court of Canada as the *MMF v. Canada* decision is released on Friday March 8, 2013.



### FARMING THE WIND

Region 9 Consultation Committee tours wind farm

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Local events and training strengthen MNO communities

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### DISCOVER CULTURE

Métis high schoolers gathered in Mattawa for March Break

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### AGA 2013

Join us this summer to celebrate 20 years of achievement

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# FAMILY

## THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

SPRING 2013, NO. 75

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### Submission Policy:

MNO encourages contributions from  
MNO citizens and staff.

All submissions are edited to conform to the Canadian Press Style Guide as well as for grammar, repetitiousness, spelling and to accurately reflect the official names and titles of individuals, organizations, bodies and agencies referenced in submissions.

Excepting letters to the editor and submissions to the family and passages sections, submissions should not be written in the first person. Submissions written in the first person will either be changed to the third person or not published.

The recommended length for a submission is between 400 and 600 words. Submissions longer than that may be edited for length.

## NEW ARRIVAL



▲ (left to right) Members of the Lent family, Darlene Lent, Bertha Tolles holding Jena Lent (in her first pair of moccasins) and Christopher Lent.

## Welcome Jenavieve

Submitted by **Darlene Lent**  
MNO Credit River Métis Councillor

The growing Lent family is pleased to announce and welcome a wonderful addition to our Métis citizenship. **Jenavieve Marena Lent** was born on January 24, 2013 in Brampton, weighing 7 pounds 15 ounces.

She is the daughter of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens Christopher and Melodie Lent. Jenavieve is the first niece to MNO citizen Ian Lent, granddaughter to Darlene and Don Lent and great granddaughter to MNO citizens

Bertha and Jim Tolles Senior.

Other proud relatives are: Traditional Knowledge and Past MNO Credit River Métis Councillor, great uncle Jim Tolles Jr., MNO Credit River Métis Council Treasurer, great aunt Joyce Tolles and MNO Credit River Métis Council Youth Representative, second cousin Tlitha Tolles.

"At a recent family gathering we took this fourth generation picture. My mother is very proud of her family's participation in our Métis Community," said Darlene Lent. "Who knows, one day Jena may follow in Talitha's footsteps and become a Youth Representative."

## OBITUARY

### Raymond Malette

1974-2013

The family of Raymond Malette announces with sorrow his passing in St. Catherine's on Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2013 at the age of 38 years. Raymond is fondly remembered

by family and friends. He is the beloved son of Pierre Malette and Lise (née Gervais) Malette of Sturgeon Falls and the loving father of Jennifer, Marie-France, Patrick and Pierre "Balou". He is also survived by his brother Michel and grandfather Maurice Gervais of Sturgeon Falls.

"Raymond was a devoted volunteer for staff and Council. He enjoyed attending events and giving his time for the Métis Nation whenever his health permitted and often he didn't let it get in his way of volunteering.

## ISN'T IT IRONIC



▲ Mr. and Mrs. Semple on their wedding day.

## A little rain can't dampen special day

By **Susanna Suchak**  
MNO Community Wellness Coordinator

While most January weddings in Canada can expect a little snow to fall, this year on January 12th in London, Ontario promised a little rain as it was unseasonably warm.

Karyn Paige (Kate), the daughter of Susanna Suchak, Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) Community Wellness Coordinator based in Owen Sound, chose that day to

marry Matthew Semple in an intimate ceremony.

We were prepared for the rain with MNO umbrellas! However, the sun shone and the rain stayed away. We thought we'd share this photo of Mr. and Mrs. Semple with you.

Many years of wedded bliss to a lovely and loving couple!



▲ **Raymond Malette**  
(1974-2013)

## OBITUARY

# Veteran and MNO Senator George Kelly passes

By **Joseph Paquette**  
President, MNO Veterans Council

We mourn the loss of our Veteran, Senator George Kelly.

While vacationing in Florida with his wife Carmen, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veteran Council Senator, Veteran George Kelly, passed away on Friday, March 1, 2013.

George joined the Royal Canadian Navy at the age of 17 and served from 1952 until his honourable discharge in 1957. During his five year career, George served on the High Seas with NATO COMMAND and during the Korean Conflict he served on board the H.M.C.S. SIOUX, the H.M.C.S. ATHABASKAN and the H.M.C.S. ALGONQUIN. George was

well known for wearing his "original issue" Naval "flat top hat". He was so proud of his "white pancake".

A founding member of the MNO, George attended the 1994 MNO Founding AGA Meeting in Toronto and has been involved with MNO activities ever since.

George joined the MNO Veterans Council as Senator for the MNO Veterans in June 2012. During this time, he offered support to the Veterans Council and established an "open door policy" between the MNO youths and Veterans.

At the 2012 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA), George was awarded a Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal and the Louis Riel Certificate. He was also honoured by the Métis National Council and the

Saskatchewan Back to Batoche Days in 2011.

A City of Ottawa employee of 33 years, George also served as a Special Constable with the Ottawa Police and as a City of Ottawa Councillor.

George was very involved in the Ottawa community and gave much of his time to volunteering with a myriad of organizations. He also volunteered as Santa Claus at community events for 20 years.

Dedicating much of his life to volunteering, George was honoured with the Humanitarian Award for Dedicated Unselfish Service, the highest award presented to a community volunteer by a service club, in 1988 from the East Ottawa Optimist Club.

George was always about community and his heart was with the



Métis Veterans.

We will surely miss you George ... mon vieux Vieu! Lest We Forget.

More on page 4

▲ **Veteran and Métis Nation of Ontario Senator George Kelly with his sisters Senator Lois McCallum (left) and Senator Reta Gordon (right).**

# NATION

## PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

# MNO President Lipinski welcomes appointment of David Zimmer as Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

MNO hopes to continue work towards objectives agreed upon in the *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreements*

(Ottawa) On February 11, 2013, the new government of Premier Kathleen Wynne was sworn in at a ceremony in Queen's Park. Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski attended the ceremony and welcomed the appointment of the Honourable David Zimmer as the new Minister of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA). "We enjoyed a positive relationship with Minister Zimmer in his previous capacity as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs," stated President Lipinski, "and we look forward to building on that relationship."

"MAA played a big role under Premier Wynne, when she held that portfolio" explained President Lipinski, "in the implementation of the *MNO-Ontario Framework*

*Agreement*, which was signed in 2008. The Framework agreement proved a solid foundation for cooperation between our two governments and resulted in the advancement of Métis rights as well as achievements in a whole range of other areas including education, health, job creation and economic development."

"We are looking for Minister Zimmer to continue to work with us towards the objectives agreed upon in the *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement*," stated President Lipinski. "Among our key priorities are insuring Métis children and youth have every opportunity available to be the best they can be. Ensuring our youth have the necessary tools to succeed is a win-win for both our governments and something we are deeply committed to."

"I have confidence that by working together - we will continue to achieve positive results for Métis citizens, families and communities in Ontario," concluded President Lipinski.



▲ MNO President Lipinski (left) with the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs in 2010. Minister Zimmer was presenting President Lipinski with a certificate recognizing the second anniversary of the *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement*.

## FEDERAL RELATIONS



▲ Bernard Valcourt is the new federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

## New Federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs appointed

On February 22, Bernard Valcourt was appointed federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development. Valcourt succeeds John Duncan, who resigned from cabinet earlier in the year. Valcourt is a Member of Parliament from New Brunswick who previously served as a Minister of State in the Harper government and held several portfolios in the Mulroney and Campbell governments. He also served as leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of New Brunswick.

# Historic ruling favours the Métis

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wanted to show our support for the MMF and ensure the voice of Ontario Métis is also heard."

The decision was scheduled for release at 9:45 am, shortly beforehand, the principals of the case gathered in the clerk's office anxiously waiting for Supreme Court officials to handout the decision document. As it was released and they began handing the several hundred page document out, the lawyers and representatives of the Métis began to furiously look through the pages but it only took short minutes before the intent of the Court was clear and a resounding cheer rose. They then rushed down the stairs brandishing the decision in their hands to the applause of the assembled.

In a 6-2 ruling in the Supreme Court stated: "the Federal Crown failed to implement the land grant provision set out in s.31 of the *Manitoba Act, 1870* in accordance with the honour of the Crown."

The federal government "acted with persistent inattention and failed to act diligently," the ruling explains, adding that it "could and should have done better."

"This was not a matter of occasional negligence, but of repeated mistakes and inaction that persisted for more than a decade," it says.

Writing the reasons for the majority decision, Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin and Justice Andromache Karakatsanis out-

lined lasting effects of the federal government's failure to honour obligations.

"So long as the issue remains outstanding, the goal of reconciliation and constitutional harmony, recognized in s. 35 of the *Charter [of Canadian Rights and Freedoms]* and underlying s. 31 of the *Manitoba Act*, remains unachieved," they explained, "the ongoing rift in the national fabric that s. 31 was adopted to cure remains unremedied."

"The unfinished business of reconciliation of the Métis people with Canadian sovereignty is a matter of national and constitutional import," the Judges added.

In response to the ruling, MNO President Lipinski stated: "this is an important day for the Métis. The Supreme Court of Canada acknowledged that there is unfinished business with the Métis and that this includes our land issues. Hopefully the federal government will begin to negotiate with the Métis."

The MMF have indicated they are ready for negotiations and that they are not looking for the land originally promised but rather for a modern land settlement agreement. The federal government has yet to comment on the decision.

See Also: ***The Time Has Come - Reconciliation with the Métis*** by Jason Madden on page 4.

## UPDATE: Métis Rights

## Métis harvesting rights decision to take months

Based on the articles: "Metis hunting rights battle lands in Alberta court", *The Calgary Herald* and "Métis Rights in the Courts Again", Métis Nation of Ontario

On Thursday Feb. 7, 2012, a three-member panel of the Alberta Court of Appeal heard the first harvesting rights case to be considered by an appellate court since the landmark Powley case over a decade ago.

The defence, represented by the two Métis lawyers who won the Powley case, Jean Teillet and Jason Madden, argued the nomadic buffalo hunters of southern Alberta pass the Powley test. However, a decision on whether Métis can harvest on the southern Alberta prairies may take months. The defence acknowledged the case is likely destined for the Supreme Court of Canada.

"One of the things we were able to do was show evidence the Métis were in southern Alberta," said Madden. "The issues we are dealing with transcend Alberta. They're really about how we deal with the larger Métis people on the plains."

Currently, the province only recognizes Métis' right to hunt around a 150-kilometre radius of eight northern Métis settlements and 17 northern communities.

## R. v. Hirsekorn

### BACKGROUNDER:

The case – *R. v. Hirsekorn* – dates back to the Stelmach Government's 2007 cancellation of a Métis harvesting agreement that implemented the Powley decision in Alberta. Following the cancellation of this agreement, the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) proceeded to organize traditional hunts across the province to protest the cancellation. The Hirsekorn case is one of the charges that came out of those hunts, and was taken as a test case for Alberta Métis.

In the Fall of 2007, Garry Hirsekorn shot a mule deer in the Cypress Hills. At a 42 day trial which included 35 expert and community witnesses, Mr. Hirsekorn asserted a Métis right to hunt for food protected by s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. At trial, Mr. Hirsekorn was convicted because the trial judge found the Métis had not established a site-specific settlement in southern Alberta prior to the arrival of the Northwest Mounted Police in 1874.

On appeal, Chief Justice Wittmann of the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench noted the "ironic" result that applying the Powley test to the unique fact situation of the Métis on the prairies resulted in his conclusion that the Métis had no harvesting rights. However, he concluded "it would be inappropriate to modify the Powley test at this level of court in light of the weight of Supreme Court of Canada authority."



■ MÉTIS RIGHTS IN THE COURTS

# The Time Has Come

## Reconciliation with the Métis

By **Jason Madden**

*[T]he time has finally come for recognition of the Métis as a unique and distinct people.*

In 2011, this was the Supreme Court of Canada’s ‘call to action’ to governments in a unanimous decision called *Cunningham v. Alberta*. For those who were paying attention, the case was a forewarning of things to come in the recently released *Manitoba Métis Federation v. Canada* judgment (the “MMF case”).

In the *Cunningham* case, the Supreme Court recognized that for more than two centuries “the Métis have struggled ... for recognition of their own unique identity, culture and governance.” The court acknowledged that the historic unwillingness of governments to recognize and deal with the Métis – as a distinct rights-bearing aboriginal group – had created a legal gap. The court went on to affirm that the inclusion of Métis in s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* was intended to change this history of denial and neglect in concrete ways.

While neither the *Cunningham* case nor the Supreme Court’s landmark 2003 decision in *R. v. Powley* on Metis harvesting rights set out a clear path forward for how reconciliation should take place with the Métis, the MMF case provided an opportunity for the court to do just that. In dealing with the specific facts in the MMF case and declaring that Canada failed to implement the Métis children land grant provision set out in s. 31 of the *Manitoba Act, 1870* in accordance with the honour of the Crown, the highest court of the land has also now put the Métis on the same path to reconciliation it has fleshed out for First Nation and Inuit peoples over the last forty years. This well-trodden way forward consists of negotiation, accommodation, and, ultimately, “just and lasting settlements” that reconcile pre-existing aboriginal title, rights and interests with the sovereignty of the Crown.

Following the Supreme Court’s seminal decision in *Calder v. British Columbia* in 1973, which recognized aboriginal title continues



▲ **MNO President Gary Lipinski; Lawyer Jason Madden; Lawyer Jean Teillet and Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras at the Supreme Court of Canada in March.**

to exist in various parts of the country, Canada re-engaged its treaty-making with Indian peoples where their title, rights and interests had not yet been addressed. This has led to modern day treaties being negotiated or finalized with First Nations in northern Canada, British Columbia as well as parts of Quebec and Ontario. During this same post-Calder era, Canada initiated negotiations with the Inuit. In less than forty years, we are now witness to the claims of the Canada’s Inuit reconciled through four modern day land claim agreements in the north and the creation of Nunavut.

As the Supreme Court confirms, the Métis were also one of the “indigenous peoples who were living in the western territories” of Canada prior to the assertion of sovereignty. However, the Métis south of the sixtieth parallel have been excluded from the reconciliation processes initiated with similarly situated Indian and Inuit peoples, despite the fact that Canada has analogous jurisdiction for them as confirmed by the Federal Court in

the recent *Daniels v. Canada* judgment. The MMF case signals that this ongoing Métis exclusion from meaningful negotiation processes cannot be sustained. Put simply, reconciliation cannot just be happening with only two of Canada’s constitutionally-recognized aboriginal peoples. Canada must finally make a space at the negotiation table for Canada’s Métis.

Without question, negotiation and just settlement with the Manitoba Métis is required to address the unfulfilled promise in s. 31 of the *Manitoba Act, 1870*, but that is just the beginning based on the new framework set out by the Supreme Court. Canada’s history with the Métis is riddled with a trail of unfulfilled promises from Ontario westward that also require reconciliation. From the promises made to the Métis in Ontario during the Robinson-Huron treaty negotiations to the Halfbreed Adhesion to Treaty #3 to the legislative promises in the *Dominion Lands Act*, which gave rise to the Métis scrip system that left the Métis largely landless on the Prairies, much “unfinished business” with the Métis people remains.

Of course, the changes required to current government policy will take time. Unfortunately, it may take more litigation for governments to finally come to grips with the broader implications of the MMF case. Thankfully, however, the Supreme Court has clearly set out the way forward. Real negotiations with the Métis on issues such as land, self-government and their existing rights and interests must begin. Just and lasting settlements, whether they are called treaties, modern day land claim agreements or something else, must ultimately be reached with Canada’s Métis. Anything less would not achieve reconciliation or the promise of section 35 to “the recognition of the Métis as a unique and distinct people.”

*Jason Madden is a Métis lawyer and partner in the law firm Pape Salter Teillet LLP. He has been legal counsel in much of the litigation advanced on Métis rights over the last decade, including, acting for the intervener, Métis Nation of Alberta, in the MMF case.*

■ AGA 2013

## Making MNO history

One of the highlights of the 2013 AGA will definitely be the premiere of a documentary film about the history of the Métis Nation of Ontario. “At the last AGA,” explained MNO President Gary Lipinski, “a motion was passed that to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the MNO, that the history of the MNO should be recorded and the most accessible way to tell that history would be in film.”

The yet untitled film will feature and highlight the creation, development and growth of the MNO over its 20 year history and clearly link the MNO to its roots in Métis history and culture while also looking forward to its continued success. While the film will tell a single coherent story, it will be produced in so that several smaller vignettes can be drawn from the larger narrative and utilized for other purposes on websites and in presentations.

The film will feature interviews with the MNO’s founders and other citizens who have played key roles in the development of the MNO. “In many ways,” stated President Lip-

inski, “this film will be a tribute to the vision, courage and tenacity of the MNO’s founders whose efforts built the MNO into the success it is today.”

The creation of the film is being coordinated by Marc St. Germain, who has worked in the MNO Communications Branch since 1999 and is himself familiar with much of the history of the MNO. “It is both an exciting and daunting task,” said St. Germain.

If you have pictures of important moments in the MNO, please send them to the address below no later than April 30, 2013. While every picture that is submitted will not necessarily appear in the movie, the movie will benefit greatly the more people share their pictures with the producers. All submitted pictures will be returned. Please send your photographs to:

Marc St. Germain  
**MNO History Movie**  
500 Old St. Patrick Street, Unit D  
Ottawa, ON  
K1N 9G4



▲ **Andrew Gilbeau with Senator George Kelly at the MNO Annual General Assembly in Sudbury in 2009.**

## MNO Senator Remembered

By **Daniel Gilbeau**  
*Ottawa Métis Regional Council*

As I am sure you heard the news of Ottawa Métis Veteran George Kelly passing away, I came across this picture of Mr. Kelly with Ottawa Métis youth Andrew Gilbeau. This picture was taken a few years ago at the AGA in Sudbury.

I know Andrew and many other youth will be saddened by the loss of Mr. Kelly. He always had a smile and a story or two to tell. RIP, George Kelly.

## Across the Homeland



MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA

### Métis Nation British Columbia and Kwantlen Polytechnic University sign agreement

On March 12, the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) and Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) joined in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. KPU and MNBC recognize the importance of post-secondary education and training for Métis and are establishing an endowment at KPU for Métis students in British Columbia. *Source: Métis Nation British Columbia*



MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA

### Alberta, Métis strike \$85M deal to make communities self-sustaining

The Alberta government has struck an \$85-million agreement with Métis settlements in Alberta to help these communities become self-sustaining. The 10-year deal will see money allocated to pay for infrastructure, education and other programs for the 4,800 people who live on the eight Métis settlements. *Source: CTV News*



MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION

### Métis threaten to sue Hydro over Bipole III

*MMF says proper consultation lacking*

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF), has threatened to take Manitoba Hydro to court over their failure to consult with the MMF over the new Bipole III transmission line. MMF lawyers are looking at legal action to get heard by Bipole and the proposed Keeyask and Conawapa generating stations. *Source: Winnipeg Free Press*

### Rare Manitoba photos of Riel found in Australia

Rare, historic photographs of Louis Riel and Manitoba, taken in the 1860s and 1870s, were found amongst civil war memorabilia at a recent auction in Australia. The eight photos are now in part of the archives and special collections at the University of Manitoba. *Source: CBC News*



MÉTIS NATION - SASKATCHEWAN

### Métis Youth Suicide Prevention program hits the road

The Métis youth suicide prevention program was officially launched in early December. Facilitators are providing Métis communities across Saskatchewan with education sessions on suicide intervention and prevention through their newly created Métis youth suicide prevention tool kit and training manual. *Source: MN-S Landscape*

# OPPORTUNITIES

## Down on the wind farm

MNO Region Nine Consultation Committee tours wind farm as guests of the Niagara Region Wind Corporation

By **James Wagar**  
MNO Consultations Assessment Supervisor

Over the past two years, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region Nine Consultation Committee has been meeting with the Niagara Region Wind Corporation (NRWC) to discuss their planned wind power project in south-western Ontario. The Committee wanted to get up close to these turbines and NRWC responded by inviting Committee members on a field trip. In November, Committee members and NRWC officials went to visit ENERCON's turbines

(the manufacturer chosen by NRWC) at an existing wind farm called "Bisnett" and owned by Boralex.

Our tour guide was an ENERCON engineer who answered just about anything Committee members asked, and they had lots of questions. The Committee and NRWC officials first met with their guide in Eriau for a great lunch of local fish and chips and discussed what they were about to see. The turbines in the tour were ENERCON's E-82's that stand about 120 metres tall.

Upon arrival, the Committee stood under the turbines and were told that these turbine used newer technology, which does require

a gear box. Instead, it has a direct drive, which has significantly reduced noise.

The interior features a maze of buttons, screens and knobs that a technician used to explain provide how the machine operated. These turbines use significantly less oil (due to no gear box) reducing possibility of oil spills and fires. The towers are primarily cement and can be readily decommissioned.

Much to the Committee's surprise, even inside they did not feel vibrations from the large spinning machines and there was hardly any shaking. After a good hour visiting the turbines, the tour was taken 550 metres away, which is the regulated setback for turbines in Ontario. From there, no noise could be heard from the machines.

ENERCON is a Germany-based company that is supporting the Ontario economy by

establishing a converter and control panel manufacturing facility in the Town of Lincoln (one of only two in the world) in south-western Ontario. This facility brings with it over 50 high paid jobs. In addition, ENERCON will be building a concrete tower manufacturing facility. The NRWC Project will create approximately 770 jobs annually during the four-year development and construction period and 110 long-term jobs during the subsequent 20-year operational period.

The MNO discussed the importance of contracts and employment for MNO citizens and NRWC agreed to participate in a MNO employment and contractors job fair in the Spring of 2013. This job fair will be co-hosted by Union Gas and include both companies' sub-contractors.



The Region Nine Consultation Committee with their tour guides from NRWC and ENERCON at a Wind Farm located in Eriau, Ontario

### Correction



On page 17 of the previous issue of the *Métis Voyager* (No. 74, Winter 2013) in the last paragraph of the article entitled MNO citizens participate in Waterloo Region Museum Festival it stated "The MNO Grand River Métis Council thanks the Windsor Region Museum ..." This should have read Waterloo Region Museum.

We apologize for the error.



▲ Captain of the Hunt (Region 2) Ken Simard ready for take off.

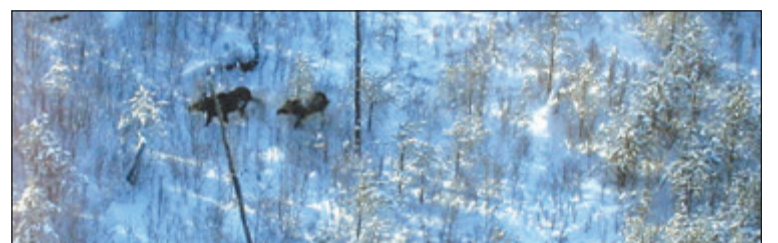
### ■ CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## Captain Ken Simard takes to the skies

Following his duties as Captain of the Hunt (COTH), Simard took part in two flights with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to conduct a moose survey of Region Two's harvesting area.

The COTH act as a direct line of communication between Harvesters

and the MNO and MNR. They help manage the annual harvest in concert with the province of Ontario, support the implementation of the *Interim Harvesting Policy* and determine the appropriate management of the harvest in their respective regions.



▲ A helicopter-eye view of a pair of moose on the move.

INDUSTRY PARTNERS

# MNO builds relationships with leading mineral developers

The Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) is a national association representing the mineral exploration and development industry. The association's convention is the world's largest annual gathering of the mineral industry, focusing on exploration, discovery and development of new mines and innovative developments. The 2013 PDAC Convention was held March 3-6 at the Metro-Toronto Convention Centre.

The Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) presence at the PDAC conference built upon the MNO's mandate to foster new relationships with mining companies operating within the Métis Nation's traditional harvesting territories. Mineral proponents impacting the lands and waterways traditionally used by MNO's historic, rights-bearing Métis communities, have the Duty to Consult and Accommodate with the MNO.

"Mineral exploration and development is an important part of Ontario's economy and MNO's increased involvement with mineral proponents promises new opportunities for Métis people to benefit from potential education and training programs, as well as employment for Métis citizens and businesses," stated President Lipinski.

The MNO was well-represented at the conference by President Gary Lipinski; Marlene Davidson, President of the MNO Atikokan and



▲ Marlene Davidson, President, MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council; Juliette Denis, PCMNO Region 5 Councillor; the Hon. Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Developments and Mines; Gary Lipinski, MNO President; Theresa Stenlund, PCMNO Region 1 Councillor; Back row: Marc Laurin, President, MNO North Bay Métis Council; Cam Burgess, PCMNO Region 2 Councillor; Nelson Montreuil, President, MNO Mattawa Métis Council; Ernie Gatien, PCMNO Region 4 Councillor; Nina Henley, Secretary-Treasurer, MNO Kenora Métis Council.

◀ MNO President Gary Lipinski and Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne.

Area Métis Council; Nelson Montreuil, President of MNO Mattawa Métis Council; Marc Laurin, President of MNO North Bay Métis Council; Nina Henley, Secretary-Treasurer for the MNO Kenora Métis Council; Regional Councillors Juliette Denis, Theresa Stenlund, Cameron Burgess, Ernie Gatien among other MNO representatives.

The conference featured an MNO information booth which was visited by hundreds of government representatives and members of the min-

eral exploration and development industry. MNO staff distributed information, answered questions about Métis rights and provided guidance on the process by which government and proponents need to consult with the rights-bearing Métis communities across the Métis homeland of Ontario.

Amongst notable visitors, MNO President Gary Lipinski and MNO representatives had the opportunity to meet with Premier Kathleen Wynne; David de Launary, Assistant

Deputy Minister responsible for the Ring of Fire Secretariat; Lori Churchill, Community Capacity and Economic Development Senior Policy Advisor for the Right of Fire Secretariat; and the Hon. Michael Gravelle, Ontario Minister of Northern Development and Mines.

"We have already begun to see exciting opportunities arise from our relationships with several mineral developers and we look forward to more," said President Lipinski.

## New Staff

*The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome three new staff members to the Ottawa office. Each new staff member joined the MNO in March:*

### ALYSHA AKOODIE

Alysha is a Communications Assistant with the Communications Branch. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Communications Studies from Carleton University (Ottawa) and a Post-graduate Certificate in Corporate Communications from Seneca College (Toronto).

Alysha comes to the MNO from the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (Ottawa), where she was a Communications and Webmaster Assistant and has done contract work as a Social Media and Digital Marketing Specialist for such companies as VPM Marketing (Toronto).



### SHEILA GRANTHAM

Sheila is the Postsecondary Education Officer with the Education and Training Branch. She is Métis and hails from North Bay and southwestern Ontario. She is a graduate student at Carleton University (Ottawa) and has worked for the MNO as a summer student.

While attending Carleton, Sheila was very involved in several Aboriginal organizations. She is looking forward to working with the MNO again and meeting all her new colleagues.



MÉTIS EDUCATION

# Métis youth leader speaks out about Aboriginal Education

Jennifer Henry, Post-Secondary Representative with the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario recently discussed the future of Aboriginal education and its underlying issues with TVO's *The Agenda* host Steve Paikin at Trent University in early March.

As part of *The Agenda's* Learning 2030 series, Henry represented Métis students in a meet-up panel discussion. Additional panel members included Ryan DeCaire of Wáhta Mohawk Territory and David Newhouse, Chair of Indigenous Studies at Trent University.

During the one-hour session, Henry discussed the need for Métis history to be further incorporated into the Ontario public school system.

"People tend to make First Nations a synonym for all Aboriginal peoples and this is a prominent issue in the current public school system," stated Henry. "Indigenous teachings are dominated by First Nations history and Métis and Inuit people tend to be forgotten. Learn-



▲ PCMNO Youth Rep Jennifer Henry (third from left) with (left to right) Steve Paikin, host of TVO's *The Agenda* and Ryan DeCaire.

ing about the First Nations is very important, but I believe there needs to be more focus on Métis and Inuit people as well."

Another underlying issue that Henry expressed regarded the importance of educating the educators about indigenous culture and history.

"It is very important that teachers

are educated in what they are teaching," said Henry. "Currently, a one-day indigenous studies training course is provided to teachers and that is not enough. They should be taught about Canada's indigenous history and culture at a university

level."

Henry does agree that there is a conscious effort by the public school system to promote indigenous culture. "The ball is rolling, we just need to push it further," she explained.

A suggestion made by Henry, which all panel members agreed with, regarded the lack of contemporary indigenous life in the Ontario public school system. "We are only talked about as people of the past; we are not just history. Contemporary indigenous culture needs to be incorporated into all subjects," she stated.

Growing up as a source of information to her peers, Henry believes it is important for indigenous students to remain part of the public school system but the underlying issues in regards to the future of Aboriginal education need to be addressed.

Watch video clips or listen to the audio podcast of the panel discussion:  
<http://theagenda.tv.o.org/story/looking-future-aboriginal-education>

### KASIA KOZYRA-KOCIKOWSKA

Kasia is an Intake Assessment Officer with the Registry Branch. She holds a Master of Arts in Polish Philology from the University of Warsaw. Kasia majored in Polish Language studies and Polish Literature, and minored in Media Communications.

Kasia came to Ottawa from Warsaw, Poland in 2004. She has a great understanding of the Métis people from studying the history required for her Canadian citizenship. Once she obtained her citizenship she worked as the manager of a well-known downtown therapy clinic.



We are very excited to have Alysha, Sheila and Kasia join the MNO team!

## COMMUNITY

# We Are Here (On Nay Icit)

## MNO Credit River Métis Council participates in grand opening of Aboriginal exhibit at the Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives

By **Bill Morrison**

Vice President and Chair, MNO Credit River Métis Council

On Saturday, February 16, 2013, the Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) Credit River Métis Council participated in the grand opening of the Aboriginal exhibit, *We Are Here* at the Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA).

It was a very proud and meaningful moment for all who contributed and attended. MNO Chair France Picotte spoke at the event and provided the translation of *We Are Here* into Michif as *On Nay Icit*.

Before viewing the exhibit, Chair Picotte participated in the symbolic Ribbon Ceremony held during the opening ceremonies where she and Aboriginal representatives (Garry Sault, Carolyn King and Vince Musson) joined red, black, yellow and white ribbons together to symbolize unity and the future.

The exhibit featured a video station presentation by MNO Credit River Métis Council President Richard Cuddy describing the organization and its activities. A panel board that depicted the history, culture and arts of our nation was also featured. A great deal of pride and dedication was portrayed in all the material presented within the exhibit.

MNO Credit River Métis Council members who attended included: Senator

Ray Bergie, Talitha Tolles, Karen Derocher, Chair Bill Morrison and Councillors Darlene Lent and Jean-Marc Maheu. Regrets were also acknowledged from President Cuddy, Treasurer Joyce Tolles, Councillor Murray Berger, Councillor David Neville and Jim Tolles.

Prior to the opening ceremony, a Smudging ceremony was performed by Karen Derocher and Elder Garry Sault of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation.

Approximately 100 participants attended the ceremonies and were welcomed by PAMA manager and event master of ceremonies, Clair Loughheed. Sault began the ceremony with the opening prayer which was followed by introductions of notable speakers by Loughheed.

Among notable speakers were: Emil Kold, Chair Regional Council and CEO for the Region of Peel; the Hon. Susan Fennel, Mayor of the City of Brampton; Allan Thompson, Acting Mayor for the Town of Caledon; John Sander-son, Councillor for the City of Bramp-ton; Carolyn King, Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation; and Pat Chrisjohn, Oneida First Nation and PAN member. Members of PAMA's Aboriginal Committee were also announced and included: Jo-Anne Absolon, Debbie Alves, Kevin Alves, Judy Carter, Pat Chrisjohn, Delmor Jacobs, John KL Keeshig, Carolyn King, Damian Mac-



▲ (Top left) Brampton Mayor Susan Fennel. (Bottom left) PCMNO Chair France Picotte. (Right) Red, black, yellow and white ribbons are woven together during a symbolic Ribbon Ceremony at the opening ceremonies.

Seain, Pauline Sutherland; and MNO Credit River Métis Council members President Richard Cuddy, Senator Ray Bergie, Vice-President and Chair Bill Morrison and MNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride.

Following the speeches, participants enjoyed the music of Alorut Inuit Throat Singers, Raiglee and Jennifer Alorut, as well as hand drumming performed by Judy Carte, Pat Chrisjohn and Jo-Anne Absolon and traditional Métis fiddle music performed by Rajan Anderson.

As part of the grand opening celebrations, PAMA hosted a Family Day on Monday, February 18, at the Gallery Museum. The event was a huge success and over 300 visits to the "We Are Here" exhibit.

A number of activities were planned and supported by MNO Credit River Métis Council for the youngsters in attendance. Instruction was supplied by MNO Credit River Métis Council citizens, Kyl Morrison and three of his daughters Matilda, Parker and Jordan. They demonstrated the skills of finger weaving and assisted many children create multi-coloured bracelets.

Other activities included paper canoe making, sash colouring and fiddle drawing. The activities were well received and enjoyed as a great Family Day experience.

Fun was had by all and the PAMA staff appreciated the support provided by the MNO Credit River Métis Council children.

## MNO GEORGIAN BAY MÉTIS COUNCIL

# GBMC youth group hosts Aboriginal night

By **Larry Ferris**

On February 5, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Council youth group hosted the Midland 1st Wye Marsh Scouts for an Aboriginal night.

Previously the Midland 1st Wye Marsh scouts would receive their Aboriginal badge through contact with the First Nations but this year we were able to teach them about Métis culture.

The scouts were shown beaver and coyote pelts, as well as a stretched moose hide, traps, sashes and different animal horns. Guest speaker, Ken Frazer, also shared some enjoyable Aboriginal stories.

Meals of venison, moose, beaver and duck were served. Scout Leader Ralph Charlesbois commented later,



▲ Métis youth creating leather medicine bags.

"I can't believe how much they ate."

Later in the evening the Midland 1st Wye Marsh scouts joined the Métis youth in some drumming. It was a good night for all made possible by volunteers like John Bernice and Trish Pardis and Janice Ferris.

The Midland 1st Wye Marsh Scouts have since invited the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council youth group to join them in the activities of safe knife handling and fire starting.

The MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council youth group gathers every Monday night from 6-7 p.m. to participate in a variety of activities.

The most recent meetings have included leather work, creating medicine bags and pouches and listening to stories on Métis culture and history told by elders.

Future events will include an Aboriginal week Camp Kitchi trip to Beausoliel Island. All youth are welcome to join in on the fun.

▼ The MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council youth group and Midland 1st Wye Marsh scouts drumming during Aboriginal night.





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The MNO Atikokan Métis Council was pleased to welcome a group of talented jiggers from neighbouring MNO Sunset Country Métis council to share in the traditional dance.

The eager and lively group had the opportunity to learn the arts of jigging, square dancing and spoon playing. "It was a wonderful afternoon of storytelling, music and dancing," said Tiffany Burbeck. "It was a joyous way to share the Métis culture with our community."



- ▲ Scenes from the MNO Atikokan Métis Council's first Jigging workshop on February 9, 2013.
- ◀ Senator John George with a jigging puppet.

**Office of Aboriginal Initiatives**  
aboriginalinitiatives.lakeheadu.ca  
1-807-766-7219 or toll free 1-888-558-3388

Department of Indigenous Learning  
Native Nurses Entry Program  
Native Access Program

Honours Bachelor of Education (Aboriginal) P/J  
Native Teacher Education Program  
Native Language Instructors' Program

Office of Aboriginal Initiatives  
Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services  
Métis Student Liaison Facilitator  
Nanabijou Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement  
Lakehead University Aboriginal Alumni Chapter  
Lakehead University Native Students Association  
Elders Program



## CONCLUSIONS

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# MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO SENATORS

# MNO Senators: Sharing our Métis culture and heritage

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senators are very involved with their communities and seldom miss the opportunity to pass on their knowledge of Métis traditions and heritage to young people and the general public.

On March 4, Senator Micheline Boisvert of the MNO Chapleau Métis Council paid a visit to Sacré Coeur Primary School and Trillium High School in Chapleau where she gave presentations on Métis culture and traditions.

Using her replica of a voyageur canoe that was given to her by Métis canoe builder Marcel Labelle as a visual, Senator Boisvert the process involved in building a canoe and how the Métis people used them for travelling.

She also provided an overview of Métis traditional knowledge, includ-

ing traditional healing. The students and teachers were given the opportunity to view, touch and smell cedar, tamarac, wild menthe and buffalo sage while learning the benefits of each.

Senator Boisvert provided gifts to the class, friendship bracelets made out of buffalo, deer and moose hide were given to the students and Métis medicine bags were given to the teachers.

**Senator Micheline Boisvert ready to visit the students and her Métis canoe replica.**



# GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE TRAINING FOR MNO COMMUNITY COUNCILS

# Three "Rivers" participate in Governance and Finance training

By **Richard Cuddy**

President, MNO Credit River Métis Council

With contributions from **Glen Lipinski**

MNO Consultation and Community Relations Coordinator

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) benefits immensely from the dedicated volunteers who are members of our chartered community councils. These hard-working individuals spend hundreds of hours building and strengthening their Métis communities.

Through funding provided by the *New Relationship Fund*, the MNO has been able to develop and deliver a Governance and Finance Course that helps community councils perform their important work. The Governance and Finance Course is delivered by Glen Lipinski and Andy Lefebvre, the MNO's Consultation and Community Relation Coordinators.

The course is a two-day seminar in each council's community. The program explains the role of com-

unities to budgeting and the various financial practices, regulations and legislation that community councils follow.

The MNO Grand River Métis Council of Region Nine and the MNO Credit River Métis Council of Region Eight teamed up to participate in the two-day Governance and Finance Training from March 9-10 in Milton.

The first day of training focused on governance and began with an opening prayer led by Credit River Senator Ray Bergie. Rowlinson and Lipinski began with a "Métis 101" and facilitated participants' navigation through many subjects covered in parliamentary procedures and meetings. The day ended by covering such topics as visioning, challenges, opportunities and planning for Councils.

On day two, Rowlinson and Lipinski concentrated on Finance and the NRF. They delivered sessions focusing on policies, procedures, aspects of budgeting and general reporting. The day concluded with a closing prayer from Grand River Senator Carol Lévis.

During the two-day course, Rowlinson and Lipinski were able to successfully incorporate different strategies that kept the content interesting and lively. Sessions involved discussion, participation and group assignments.

Attending from the Grand River



▲ **MNO Moon River Métis Council members who participated in Governance and Finance Training** (left to right) Front row: **Rose Lepage, Linda Harbridge**; Middle row: **Tony Muscat, Larry Duval, Tammy Porter, Lisa McCron, Eugene Boucher**; Back row: **Richard Whalen**.



▲ **Members of MNO Grand River Métis Council and MNO Credit River Métis Council participating in Governance and Finance training.** (left to right) Front row: **Bridget Brown, Carol Levis, Karen Derocher, Darlene Lent, Barbara Lair**; Middle row: **Glen Lipinski, Jennifer Parkinson, Joyce Tolles, Jean-Marc Maheu, Richard Cuddy, Cora Bunn, Hank Rowlinson**; Back row: **Bill Morrison, Ray Bergie, David Neville and Don Crawford**.

**"The course covers everything from how to run effective meetings and engage citizens in council activities to budgeting and the various financial practices..."**

munity councils as the MNO's local governments, whose structure and purpose is coordinated through each council's charter agreement with the MNO. The course covers everything from how to run effective meetings and engage citizens in council activ-

Council were: President Cora Bunn, Senator Carol Lévis, Chair Jennifer Parkinson, Secretary Treasurer Barbara Lair, Women Representative Bridget Brown and Councillor Don Crawford. Attending from the Credit River Council were: President Richard Cuddy, Senator Ray Bergie, Chair Bill Morrison, Women Representative

Karen Derocher, Treasurer Joyce Tolles, Councillor Darlene Lent, David Neville and Jean-Marc Maheu.

During the weekend of February 9-10, the course was also offered to the MNO Moon River Métis Council.

The training was a great opportunity to bring new Councillors up

to speed while providing a refresher course to others. It was also a great opportunity socialization and networking.

Past courses have been available in Ottawa, Atikokan, Sudbury, Niagara, Peterborough, Toronto and Georgian Bay.

■ REGION 8 MNO COMMUNITY COUNCILS



▲ MNO Region Eight council members and PCMNO representatives.

# Big City Métis

Chartered MNO Community Councils in Region 8 take part in historic first regional meeting

By **Richard Cuddy**  
President, MNO Credit River Métis Council

Chartered Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Community Councils in Region Eight took part in their first historic regional meeting on Sunday, February 24, 2013.

The MNO Toronto-York Region Métis Council hosted the other Region Eight Councils; which are the MNO Oshawa and Durham Métis Council and the MNO Credit River Métis Council.

The meeting was organized by MNO Toronto-York Region Métis Council Secretary Treasurer, Marilyn Hew and was held at a Royal Canadian Legion in Toronto.

MNO Toronto-York Region Métis Council President, Robert Bird, opened the meeting by welcoming and introducing council members and other guests. After which, MNO Toronto-York Region Métis Council Senator Alis Kennedy delivered the

opening prayer.

In attendance were: MNO Toronto-York Region Métis Council members President Bird, Senator Kennedy, Marilyn Hew, Kate Stewart-McNeil, Patrick Diamond, Jo-Anne Diamond and Christine Skura; MNO Oshawa and Durham Métis Council Interim President Kevin Henry, Senator Cecile Wagar, And e Bosse, Claire Kearns, Michael Diotte and Auriele Diotte; MNO Credit River Métis Council President Richard Cuddy, Bill Morrison, Joyce Tolles, Darlene Lent, David Neville and Jean-Marc Maheu; Provisional Council of the MNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride, Senator Joe Poitras, Region Eight Councillor Anita Tucker and Post-secondary Representative Jennifer Henry.

Guest speaker Mark Bowler, Director of MNO Lands, Resources and Consultations, provided the participants with an overview MNO's

program related to the duty of the Crown to consult and accommodate regional rights-bearing Métis communities throughout the province.

Bowler's presentation, *What is consultation and how does it work?*, outlined the MNO's regional consultation protocols. He led discussions on the definitions associated with consultations and how to strengthen and effectively engage in consultation and accommodation processes. Bowler explained the potential triggers and desired outcomes of consultations which included examples of what could go right and wrong. He also described the communications surrounding consultation processes and the importance of building relationships with proponents.

Participants were enthusiastically engaged and asked questions or made comments which often led to in depth discussions. "Mark's presentation was most helpful. His skill at presenting and maintaining the infor-

mal conversational style with such a large group was a delight to watch," stated President Bird. "We are most fortunate to have someone of his ability as MNO's Director of Lands, Resources and Consultations. I hope that he will be available again to offer more insight and another opportunity to discuss further the themes

and topics that were introduced."

Participants learned how the MNO is working for its citizens for the future; for their environment, harvesting, traditional knowledge, culture and language. This long term focus helps the MNO make clear decisions.

Bowler ended the presentation by discussing the responsibilities of the MNO, the community councils and communications with MNO citizens. It is important that citizens understand that the MNO governance structure operates with a high degree of transparency with input all the way down to the community level. This is a rare structure and something that Métis Nation of Ontario citizens should be proud of.

The regional meeting was a very successful opportunity for council members from Region Eight to trade experiences and information, and how to become stronger as a region and nation.



▲ Mark Bowler, Director of MNO Lands, Resources and Consultations branch.

■ NEW RELATIONSHIP FUND

## Consultation training held throughout province

By **Glen Lipinski**  
MNO Consultation and Community Relations Coordinator

Over the past few weeks, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) delivered training to Métis communities across the province on how to conduct effective and meaningful consultations.

The training, funded by the *New Relationship Fund* (NRF), included a session on collaboration and an issues and opportunities analysis.

During the weekend of February 23-24, participants from Re-

gion 1 and Region 2 attended a two-day training session in Thunder Bay where they gained knowledge that will enhance their communities' ability to conduct meaningful consultations.

The next session is being held March 16-17, in Timmins for regions 3, 4 and 5. By March 31, the *New Relationship Fund* funding will have trained 75 Métis citizens in Toronto, Thunder Bay, North Bay, Midland and Timmins.



▲ Back Row: Jordan Botsford, Randy Carmody, Dean McMahon, Kevin Muloin, Ken Simard, Mike Renaud, Jean Camirand, Trent Desaulniers; Middle Row: Joel Henley, Jaymie Triskle, Nina Henley, Cameron Burgess, William Gordon, Tim Sinclair, Ron Robinson; Front Row: Marlene Davidson, Valorie Pelepetz, Theresa Stenlund, Kelly Camacho, Beth Honsberger, Alvina Cimon, Joanne Hamelin.

## MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp



▲ André Bourguignon, Tegan Mandeville, Denise Bartolucci, Genevieve Routhier, Scott France and Nikki-Lyn Doucette during a snowshoe adventure.

PHOTOS: Marc St.Germain

# Métis students discover their culture

Over March break, Métis high school students from across Ontario gathered at the Canadian Ecology Centre in Mattawa for a four-day retreat designed by the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to engage Métis high school students in discussions on post-secondary education and to learn about their Métis heritage.

Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) Chair France Picotte, President of the MNO Veteran's Council Joe Paquette, Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy and Infinite Reach Facilitators were all in attendance and shared their personal experiences with the students.

The local MNO Mattawa Council provided a feast for the students. It was a great evening where students were able to learn about and appreciate the work of MNO community councils.

Throughout their stay, students participated in various cultural activities. They connected with nature while enjoying a snow shoe hike through the beautiful grounds. They were also taught about different tree types while taking a winter hike along the very same waters their voyageur ancestors traveled through.

Traditional Métis crafts were a big hit.

Students spent afternoons making beaded medicine pouches and souvenir paddles. They were also taught how to finger weave tradition Métis sashes.

High school student Josh Freeman thoroughly enjoyed the camp. "I didn't know much about my culture before attending the camp," he said. "This was a great experience for me to get in touch with my roots and connect with other Métis youth while learning about the future job market and

were provided an overview on the future job market, information on various post-secondary opportunities, programs and disciplines and took part in a resume workshop.

"Instilling the importance of education is the first step towards something that is truly great," said Tegan Mandeville, an Infinite Reach Facilitator at Loyalist College. "And you can't know where you are going in the future if you don't know where you come from in the past. Being able to help them through this process is pretty amazing."

Many students showed up to camp as strangers but left as great friends. The camp proved to be a great opportunity for students to build networks not just with each other but with the Infinite Reach facilitators, MNO staff and elected leaders as well.

"This camp gave students the opportunity to regain a sense of cultural value and build a network of community people which one day will benefit them greatly," said Infinite Reach Facilitator at Sault College Melody Chislett-Morris.

MNO keepsakes and memorabilia were provided to the students which included an Infinite Reach journal, a re-usable water bottle, a traditional Métis sash, a fleece vest and a hoodie messenger bag.

“This was a great experience for me to get in touch with my roots and connect with other Métis youth while learning about the future job market and post-secondary opportunities.”

post-secondary opportunities.”

The Ecology Centre provided a tour of the facilities and showcased their animals which included the opportunity to hold a snake. At night, a wolf howl was held and although no wolves howled back it was enjoyed by all. The evenings consisted of delicious meals, free time and camp fire socials.

Along with cultural activities, students



▲ (left to right) Front row: **Sheila Grantham, Genevieve Routhier, Niki-Lyn Doucette, and Alexandria Town;** Second row: **Melanie-Rose Frappier, Tegan Mandeville, Brianne Gosselin;** Third row: **James Lane, Joshua Freeman, Brandon Chiddle, Denise Bartolucci, Katrina Harrison, André Bourguignon, and Tamara Shepherd;** Back row: **Tyler and Arron (Ecology Centre staff), Chris Paci, Tera Beaulieu, Scott France, Melody Chislett-Morris, David Bauer and Chantal Cote.**



▲ MNO Chair France Picotte (right) and MNO Education Manager Chris Paci (left).



▲ MNO Veterans Council President Joe Paquette speaking to youth.

For more information on the Infinite Reach program and how to get involved please visit [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org) under Education and Training.

AGA 2013

THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO 1993-2013

THE 20<sup>TH</sup> MNO ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY • AUGUST 23-26, 2013 • OTTAWA, ONTARIO



# Celebrating 20 Years of Achievement

In 1993, the citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) celebrated their first Annual General Assembly (AGA) and we have been gathering together with our friends, family and colleagues every year since to conduct the business of the Nation, showcase our rich culture, pass on our traditions to younger generations and celebrate our stories.

AGAs are Métis self-government in action, and each year, the MNO leadership has been able to report successes in all the areas outlined in the *MNO Statement of Prime Purpose*, which was enacted by the MNO founders at its first meeting.

In 2013, as MNO citizens come together for the 20th AGA, we have two decades of achievement to recognize and by so-doing, acknowledge the vision of our founders whose courage and tenacity built the MNO into the champion of Métis people that it is today.

2013 Annual General Assembly

The 2013 MNO AGA is taking place in beautiful Ottawa at the recently renovated Delta Ottawa City Centre Hotel. Located centrally in downtown Ottawa, the Delta is close to Parliament Hill, the Supreme Court, the Canadian War Museum and the Museum of History as well as great downtown shopping and other amenities. The Delta is also close to Victoria Island on the Ottawa River, which will be the site of the AGA Opening Ceremonies and cultural

activities. (For more information on the Delta Ottawa: [www.deltahotels.com](http://www.deltahotels.com)).

Community Council Co-hosts

The AGA is being co-hosted by Region Six MNO chartered community councils; the MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council and the MNO High Land Waters Métis Council.

"We are very pleased that the two councils in Region Six have stepped forward to provide the MNO with this opportunity," stated MNO President Gary Lipinski. "Ottawa is an exciting city with great venues for AGA events including several with important ties to the Métis Nation."

Tom Thompson Jr., Region Six Provisional Council MNO (PCMNO) Councillor and past President of the MNO High Land Waters Métis Council added: "The Métis played an important part in the history of Canada, and the dual anniversaries of the MNO and Powley, make 2013 the perfect year to bring that to the attention of the entire country."

Among the locations of special interest to Métis are: the Supreme Court of Canada building where the Powley decision was announced, the stunning Museum of History in nearby Gatineau that was designed by Métis architect Douglas Cardinal, the Aboriginal Veterans Monument and the Ottawa River, which was a major fur trade route.

The AGA starts the evening of Friday, August 23, but will be preceded during the day and on August 22 with meetings and

training, the details of which will be announced in coming weeks. The Friday evening will start with the traditional opening ceremonies and welcome to the AGA campfire hosted by President Lipinski and the PCMNO. This year these events will take place on Victoria Island in the Ottawa River, which is very close to the Delta. No alcohol is permitted there.

Métis leaders and special guests will paddle in canoes to the island where they will be greeted by AGA delegates and their families. This ritual, which connects the MNO with its Métis voyageur roots, is always an exciting parts of the AGA. This will be followed by a procession from the shore to the campfire where everyone is encouraged to bring their musical instruments and jigging shoes for some rousing good times! Victoria Island will also be the location for this year's Métis Games and Cultural Activities, which are scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, August 25. (For more information on Victoria Island go to: [www.aboriginalexperiences.com](http://www.aboriginalexperiences.com)).

A community evening hosted by the Region Six Community Councils will take place on Saturday, August 24, with details to be announced in the coming weeks. Through most of the AGA, there will be a trade show featuring many vendors as well as cultural and heritage displays. Other highlights will include the presentation of the *Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award* and an elegant gala the evening of Sunday, August 25.

AGA 2013  
AGENDA

Thursday and Friday:  
Workshops/training for invited delegates/staff

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

- 1 - 4 pm

AGA Registration Location:  
Delta Ottawa
- 7 - 10 pm

**Opening Ceremonies  
and Welcome to the AGA**  
Location: **Victoria Island**  
*Please note that alcohol is not permitted on  
Victoria Island*
- Bring your music and jigging shoes and  
join in the excitement with President Lipinski  
and the PCMNO*

MNO AGA DAY 1  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

- 8 am - 5 pm

**MNO AGA Business  
Meeting**  
Delta Ottawa
- The MNO AGA Trade Show**  
Saturday, August 24 to  
Monday, August 26  
*Visit our vendors as well as cultural and  
heritage the displays.*  
Delta Ottawa
- 6:30 - 9 pm

**MNO AGA Community  
Evening**  
*Details to be announced*

MNO AGA DAY 2  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

- 9 am - Noon

**MNO AGA Business  
Meeting**  
Delta Ottawa
- 1 - 5 pm

**Métis Games and Culture**  
Victoria Island
- 6 - 10 pm

**MNO AGA Gala**  
Delta Ottawa City Centre  
Ballroom

MNO AGA DAY 3  
MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2013

- 9 am - Noon

**MNO AGA Business  
Meeting**  
Delta Ottawa
- Noon

**MNO Development  
Corporation Annual General  
Assembly**  
Delta Ottawa
- 12:30 pm

**MNO Cultural Commission  
Annual General Assembly**  
Delta Ottawa

