

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

1885

2003

Louis Riel Day

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& POWLEY ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

2013



FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

MNO & Ontario sign extension of historic Framework Agreement.

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REMEMBRANCE DAY

MNO & community councils remember Métis veterans.

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SUCCESS STORIES

Learn how MNO programming helped Nick Allard and others achieve their career goals.

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CAPOTE WORKSHOP

Read about exciting community council events like the MNO Grand River Métis Council's capote coat workshop.

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THE
MÉTIS
VOYAGEUR
MIDWINTER 2013, No. 78

Produced by the
Métis Nation of Ontario
Communications Branch:

Emmanuel Akohene-Mensah
Alysha Akoodie
Mike Fedyk
Marc St. Germain

Contributors:

Alysha Akoodie
Nick Allard
Mark Bowler
Jane Brennan
Cora Bunn
Mitch Case
Richard Cuddy
Malcom Dixon
Liliane Ethier
Mike Fedyk
Larry Ferris
Greg Garratt
Theresa Hendricks
Marissa Hendricks
Steve Henschel
Lawrence Hill
Anne Huguenin
Linda Krause
Marc Laurin
Gary Lipinski
Glen Lipinski
Sharon McBride
Judie McKenney
Mandy Montgomery
Melissa Perreault
Brenda Pont
Amanda Pont-Shanks
Jon Rochon
Loma Rowlinson
Storm Russell
Ken Simard
Jenniffer St. Germain
Theresa Stenlund
Jean Teillet
Huguette Trottier-Frappier
Marie-Claire Vignola (Ethier)
James Wagar
Doug Wilson
Wenda Watteyne

Submissions:

Mike Fedyk
Director of Communications
Métis Nation Of Ontario
500 Old St. Patrick Street, Unit D
Ottawa ON K1N 9G4
Mikef@Metisnation.org

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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.



FAMILY

Chief Tecumseh Tribute

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



▲ MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council President Jon Rochon, his daughter Sienna Rochon and father MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council Councillor Wilfred Rochon at the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Thames.

On September 21, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Windsor-Essex Métis Council President Jon Rochon, wife Debrah and daughter Sienna attended the Town of Tecumseh's celebration commemorating Chief

Tecumseh and the First Nation contributions of the War of 1812.

The event featured a bonfire, marshmallow roast, a complimentary BBQ, a presentation by Tecumseh descendent Patricia Shanoo, as well as music and speeches from the Point

First Nation Drum Group, Caldwell First Nation, local history groups and representatives. At the event, a permanent plaque commemorating the event was unveiled.

The Rochon family, now joined by MNO Windsor-Essex Council Coun-

cillor Wilfred Rochon, also attended the 200th anniversary of the Battle of the Thames on October 5 in Thamesville. At which battle, Chief Tecumseh was killed trying to create a First Nations homeland. ∞

Captain's Corner

Ken Simard, MNO Region 2 Captain of the Hunt



▲ MNO Region 2 Captain of the Hunt Ken Simard with his long-time friend Esko Savala cruising across Lake Superior.

Captain Ken takes to the waterways

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

The journey began by crossing over into the rapids which lead to the Georgian Bay. They arrived at the Midland Bay Port Marina to fuel up and get some rest. The next day, Captain Ken took his turn at the wheel and navigated the ship for an hour and a half to Tombermory.

One of the highlights of the trip was when they passed a commercial fishing boat that was flying a Métis flag. The ship had just lowered its nets and Captain Ken waved and flashed his Métis sash with pride.

Throughout the rest of the journey they made their way to the top end of Lake Huron; to the Marina in Sault Ste. Marie; to Batswana Bay; and back down Lake Superior. They had great weather and the lake was calm. They docked safely in Thunder Bay. ∞

Moose call very successful

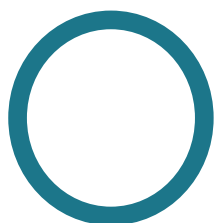


▲ MNO citizen Bill Smith during his first harvest of the year.

Bill Smith, a former president of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Thunder Bay Métis Council, goes hunting every September with his brother Doug. Both are very proud of their Métis ancestry and continue to involve Métis traditions and Way of Life in their everyday lives.

This September, the two were fortunate to have harvested a moose their first time out. Bill's moose call is distinct. It's a technique which has proven to get the moose running right to him. Bill is more than willing to teach other MNO citizens how to call for moose effectively. ∞

MNO & Ontario extend Framework Agreement



On Friday, November 15, just two days shy of the fifth anniversary of the signing of the historic *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement*, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the Government of Ontario signed an agreement to extend their current Framework Agreement until a new agreement can be put in place. The signing took place at a special dinner commemorating the 10th anniversary of the landmark *R. v. Powley* Supreme Court decision, and only two days after a meeting between the MNO leadership and MNO senior staff with the Right Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario and the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

The meeting with the Premier and the Minister took place on November 12 in Toronto. Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) members, President Gary Lipinski, Chair France Picotte, and Youth Representative Mitch Case, with MNO Chief Operating Officer Doug Wilson also participated. During the meeting the MNO representatives stressed the success of the *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement* that was originally signed on November 17, 2008. “MNO communities and people have achieved success after success,” indicated President Lipinski, “in all areas right across the board: from the Métis Voyageur Development Fund; to Memo-

randums of Understanding with government ministries, universities and colleges; to the renewal of the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy; to the many Duty to Consult and Accommodate engagements across the province, to name only a few items – we have achieved a great deal working together with the Government of Ontario.” President Lipinski stated it was an MNO priority to renew the *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement* and continue building on the successes already achieved.

The province agreed that as the current *Framework Agreement* expired on November 17 this year that the current agreement should

be extended while a new *Framework Agreement* continues to be negotiated. MNO and government officials were able to draw up the particulars of the extension agreement quickly and Minister Zimmer was able to announce the agreement extension during provincial Louis Riel Day ceremonies at Queen’s Park on November 15.

President Lipinski and Minister Zimmer signed the agreement extension that same evening at the Powley Anniversary event. “This [agreement] is a true reflection of the positive relationship we have been building with the Ontario government certainly since the signing of the first *Framework Agreement*,”

stated President Lipinski. He added, reflecting on the early years of the MNO, when previous Ontario governments were not interested in working with the Métis: “It is such a relief to have government whose priorities line up so much with our priorities. We share a focus on children and youth; to encourage them to be the best they can be, and health and the environment that connects to the work going on with the Green Energy Act. It is rewarding to go and meet with the Minister and the Premier to discuss all successes we are achieving by working together.”

“It is such a relief to have government whose priorities line up so much with our priorities. We share a focus on children and youth; to encourage them to be the best they can be.”

— President Lipinski

PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case and MNO Senator Brenda Powley also signed the agreement as formal witnesses. Mitch’s participation symbolized the bright future of the Métis people that the *Framework Agreement* will help realize while Senator Powley’s (who was also a signatory on the original 2008 agreement) participation demonstrated the link to the sacrifices and dedication of the MNO’s founders to building the Métis Nation.

The signing of the extended agreement was followed by another immensely symbolic moment. Jean Teillet, the Powley case Lawyer and great grandniece of Louis Riel, on behalf of the MNO, presented Minister Zimmer with the most recent version of her book, *Métis Case Law*. Beautifully decorated with a cover by Métis artist, and daughter of past MNO President Tony Belcourt, the book is a massive compendium of all legal cases and precedents related to Métis rights in Canada.

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



▲ Signatories and witnesses to the *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement* extension. (Left to right) PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case, MNO President Lipinski, the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and MNO Senator Brenda Powley.

► MNO leadership and senior staff with Premier and Minister at Queen’s Park on November 12. (Left to right) MNO COO Doug Wilson, MNO Chair France Picotte, Minister David Zimmer, Premier Kathleen Wynne, MNO President Gary Lipinski and PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case.



A day to reflect on gender-based violence

WORKING TOGETHER TO ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE WAS SENT TO ALL MNO CITIZENS FROM PRESIDENT LIPINSKI ON DECEMBER 6, 2013

Today I am writing you not only as the President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) but also as a son, a husband, a father of a young woman and as a man who wants to end violence against women.

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

While gender-based violence af-

fects everyone, part of the legacy of colonialism is the cycle of intergenerational trauma resulting from systemic abuse that has left generations of Aboriginal women particularly vulnerable to acts of violence and crime. Statistics clearly indicate that Aboriginal women are significantly over-represented as victims of assault, sexual assault, spousal abuse and homicide. Métis, First Nations and Inuit women are three and a half times more likely to experience spousal violence than non-Aboriginal women. The rate of spousal homicide for Aboriginal women is eight times greater than that of non-Aboriginal

women. In some northern Ontario communities it is estimated that 75 to 90 per cent of women experience violence. These are not numbers. These are our sisters, moms, grandmas, aunts, daughters and granddaughters.

Statistics clearly indicate that Aboriginal women are significantly over-represented as victims of assault, sexual assault, spousal abuse and homicide... These are not numbers. These are our sisters, moms, grandmas, aunts, daughters and granddaughters."

There are over 3,000 missing or presumed dead Aboriginal women across Canada and many communities have walked to bring awareness, to bring change, and to acknowledge and remember these lost women. We have called for action and public inquiries into the murdered and missing Ab-

original women but we still wait for answers.

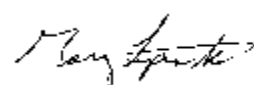
It is not enough however to wait for others to take action. Accordingly since 2010 the MNO, along with the Ontario Federation Indian Friendship Centres, Ontario Native Women's Association, Chiefs of Ontario, and Independent First Nations, has been part of the Joint Working Group to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women. Together we are committed to addressing the root causes of abuse within our Aboriginal communities.

The MNO has also, with funding from the Ministry of the Attorney General, initiated a Victim Services program. This program offers services at 18 MNO offices across Ontario and advocates for victims while also supporting and building violence-free communities. Recently we have se-

cured funding and are working with our partners to address sexual violence and the human trafficking of people with a focus on high-risk areas like Thunder Bay.

While ongoing programs and awareness will help, the responsibility for healing our communities from violence against women lies with all of us. On December 6, 2013, please take time to remember all the victims of gender-based violence and join us in working to end all forms of violence against women.

Thank you, Marsi, Megwetch! ∞



Gary Lipinski
President, Métis Nation of Ontario



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

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

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

The MNO has been a key player in advancing the agenda to end VAAW. It has participated in five summits on ending VAAW, is a full signatory to the Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women and an active member of the JWG on VAAW since its inception in 2010. The MNO has also been integrating awareness about VAAW within the MNO and in particular the Women's Secretariat of the MNO has been heavily involved in this critical issue. Also representing the MNO were MNO Chief Operating Officer Doug Wilson and MNO Director of Healing and Wellness Wenda Watteyne.

The meeting was the second

opportunity for the JWG, which consists of 10 provincial ministries, the MNO, the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, the Ontario Native Women's Association, the Chiefs of Ontario and Independent First Nations to report on its progress. The MNO commended the Government of Ontario for supporting efforts to reduce the very high rates of violence affecting Métis, First Nations and Inuit women in Ontario and called upon the two lead Ministers to report back to their cabinet colleagues on progress and ongoing challenges articulated in the meeting. It is expected that the JWG will continue to convene on an annual basis. ∞



▲ **Joint Working Group on Violence Against Aboriginal Women representatives during the October 21 meeting in Toronto. (Left to right). Front row:** MNO Chair France Picotte, Minister Teresa Piruzza, Minister David Zimmer, Sheila McMahon (Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres), and Dr. Dawn Harvard (Ontario Native Women's Association). **Back row:** Tobias McQuabbie (Shwanaga First Nation), Grand Chief Harvey Yesno (Nishnawbe Aski Nation), Deputy Grand Chief Denise Stonefish (Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians), and Lynda Lynch (Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek First Nation).



▲ (From left to right) Professor Lee Stuesser, Founding Dean of Lakehead University's Faculty of Law; Lakehead President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Brian Stevenson; Deputy Grand Chief Goyce Kakegamic, Nishnawbe Aski Nation; Chief Gary Allen from Treaty #3 (signing on behalf of Grand Chief Warren White); Regional Grand Chief Peter Collins from the Union of Ontario Indians; and President Gary Lipinski from Métis Nation of Ontario.

Lakehead University's Faculty of Law signs Aboriginal Protocol Agreement

November 27, 2013 – Thunder Bay, ON

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

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

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

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

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

"Lakehead University, with the

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

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

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

"As an Aboriginal government in Ontario, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is excited to partner with Lakehead University and other Aboriginal governments through this protocol

agreement," said MNO President Gary Lipinski.

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

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

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

Métis back in the courts

Daniels case Federal Court of Appeal hearing

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

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

The Federal Court Trial Division released its long-anticipated judgment for *Daniels v. Canada* on January 8, 2013. The case was initiated by now deceased Métis Leader Harry Daniels, for the purpose of forcing the federal government to acknowledge that Métis people fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government and should enjoy rights and recognition comparable to First Nations. The Federal Court of Canada ruled that *Daniels v. Canada* establishes that Métis fall under federal jurisdiction and meet the definition of "Indian", outlined in the Canadian Constitution. After which, the federal government appealed the decision.

"Depending on the outcome of the case, it could potentially impact Métis people across Canada because the federal government has not yet

acknowledged responsibility for the Métis," said MNO President Gary Lipinski. "If the ruling goes in our favour, we will be in a much stronger position to press the government for negotiations on a whole range of issues."

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

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

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

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

The federal government has denied its responsibility for the Métis and the case has been before the courts for 13 years. ∞

"Depending on the outcome of the case, it could potentially impact Métis people across Canada because the federal government has not yet acknowledged responsibility for the Métis."

— President Lipinski



▲ (Left to right) MNO President Lipinski with Métis lawyers Jason Madden and Jean Teillet and Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras earlier in the year at the Supreme Court.

MNO Métis Youth Ready to Work

Transitions to the Labour Market workshop

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

This one-day workshop offered a unique opportunity for Métis youth to connect with Métis culture and history, develop new skills and experiences, as well as engage with fellow Métis youth.

The workshop featured an overview of the MNO

including an in-depth focus on MNO's education and training programs. A resume writing workshop, job preparedness orientation and a budgeting class were also facilitated.

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



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



▲ Métis paramedic John Budarick addressed the group about his experiences completing post-secondary education and the struggles and successes he encountered.

ACROSS THE HOMELAND



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Métis culture and heritage supported in B.C.

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

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

Source: Métis Nation of British Columbia



SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatchewan's Black Rod features Métis sash and Infinity symbol

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

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

Source: Métis Nation of Saskatchewan



ALBERTA

Métis Nation of Alberta releases first report on Métis health status

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

Source: Métis Nation of Alberta



MANITOBA

Manitoba Metis Federation officials present recommendations to United Nations Special Rapporteur

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

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

Source: Manitoba Metis Federation

Launch of MNO Métis Baby Bundle Book

From October 17-18, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) attended the final dissemination meeting of the Indigenous Knowledge Network for Infant, Child and Family Health (IKN) national project at the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health in Ottawa.

The MNO is one of five community partners involved in the project. The goal of the IKN project is to enhance Métis and First Nations infant, child and family health in Ontario and Saskatchewan by developing an indigenous knowledge network to gather, synthesize and apply locally relevant indigenous and public health knowledge to culture-based parenting and infant/toddler health promotion programs.

The final meeting provided an overview of the project methods, deliverables and outcomes. All five partners presented a unique frontline oral history and knowledge sharing project processes and findings.

The MNO presented the newly created Métis Baby Bundle Book as its knowledge application project. An initiative lead by MNO staff members Amanda Cox and October Fostey, the Métis Baby Bundle Book puts traditional knowledge in a form that will always be remembered and can be passed down through generations. The book was presented at the meeting by Fostey and MNO staff mem-



▲ MNO representatives and friends at the launch of the Métis Baby Bundle Book during the IKN final dissemination meeting. (Left to right) MNO Senator Reta Gordon, Dr. Janet Smylie, MNO staff members October Fostey and Jo MacQuarrie and Carleton University Adjunct Research Professor Mike Patterson.

► The Métis Baby Bundle Book cover.



ber Jo MacQuarrie. MNO Senator Reta Gordon was also in attendance.

During the presentation, Fostey described the process in creating the Baby Bundle Book. Fostey and Cox dedicated a day per week for the past five years to conduct interviews with Métis elders in their communities in order to compile traditional knowledge and stories.

“How we were going to use the stories and the knowledge from the

elders was unclear in the beginning but as I thought about how I wanted to use the stories to pass on it came to me so very clearly, a baby book” explained Cox in a note as she was unfortunately unable to attend the final meeting.

“This would not have been possible without the help of the Métis elders who shared their stories with us,” said Fostey. “I cannot thank them enough.”

The Baby Bundle Book includes stories and inspiring quotes collected from Métis elders on the topics of family, parenting and first baby experiences with plenty of room to record personal stories and pictures.

Five years in the making, the IKN project is led by Research Scientist for the Centre of Research on Inner City Health at St. Michael's Hospital Dr. Janet Smylie who is of Métis descent.

“It has been an honour and privilege to act as the principal investigator for this five year, Canadian Institute's for Health Research funded project,” said Dr. Smylie.

In addition to the Baby Bundle Book, Fostey and Cox had to submit digital stories explaining their involvement with the network. These videos were also presented during the meeting. ∞

Canada's most vulnerable: Improving health care for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis seniors

A new report by the Health Council of Canada says that governments must make a greater effort to collaborate to improve health care for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis seniors.

The report, *Canada's most vulnerable: Improving health care for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis seniors*, shows they often do not receive the same level of health care as non-Aboriginal Canadians because of poor communication, collaboration, and disputes between governments about who is responsible for the care of Aboriginal people. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) contributed the following passage to the report:

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

ally safe care can be a challenge for older Métis citizens.

It is for all these reasons and more that the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) provides programs and services at the community level. Situated in 18 Métis communities distributed across the province, and based on a holistic, family-centred model of care which is firmly rooted in Métis culture and way of life, MNO community centres serve as important cultural and service hubs that link our Métis citizens to each other, and to essential health services and supports in their local areas. The MNO community centres are especially important in providing our Métis seniors with the kinds of culturally grounded services and supports they need, along with help in accessing medical services. Some of our MNO centres also offer specialist services such as foot care clinics for seniors and other Métis people suffering from diabetes. MNO community centre workers do much in the way of outreach to Métis seniors in need of assistance,

visiting their homes to help with things like meal preparation, house maintenance, and other tasks of daily living, while at the same time providing that important cultural connection and support. Through the MNO Community Support Services program we are also able to provide transportation services to help Métis seniors travel to and from their medical appointments.

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

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



Welcome Aboard

TO NEW STAFF AND TO STAFF STARTING NEW POSITIONS



01

01: ANNE WILKEN

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

Anne is an enthusiastic person with an Accounting Diploma and several years of experience in accounting.

Anne also creates and sells jewellery that she designs!

Anne is looking forward to working with everyone in MNO and we are pleased to welcome her to the team.

Submitted by: **Judie McKenney,**
Director of Finance



02

02: DEVON MARTIN

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

Devon is a young and ambitious professional with several years of office work experience. In the past he has worked in the insurance and medical industries. He has been the Director of Concessions on the Oshawa Curling Club's Board of Directors since 2011 and enjoys curling during his downtime. He enjoys challenges and is looking forward to working with the Métis Nation of Ontario.

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



03

03: DR. BRIAN TUCKER

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

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

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



05

04: EMMANUEL AKOHENE-MENSAH

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

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

Submitted by: **Mike Fedyk,**
MNO Director of Communications



06

05: RACHELLE BRUNELLE-McCOLL

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

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

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

06: VELVET JOHNSON

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

Velvet started her journey with the MNO in 2001 with the MNO Education and Training Branch and the Branch is very pleased to have her return. Her background with the MNO provides her with excellent understanding of employment, training and business functions as well as file management.

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

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

PALOMA D'SILVA

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

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

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

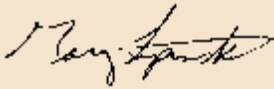
The MNO is very excited to have these new staff members join the team and congratulations Brian and Velvet on their new positions!

A journey from addiction to support and discovery

When traveling to our communities across the province, I often hear stories from Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens about the incredible work being done by our MNO staff. What follows is a testimonial from one MNO client that speaks to the work being done and the kinds of success that are being achieved by MNO staff. It is a moving story about how the MNO assisted her on her personal journey to wellness.

We are grateful to the client for sharing her experiences with us and for permitting us to publish them in the *Métis Voyageur*. This kind of genuine and unsolicited feedback cannot help but provide further motivation to MNO staff members who work in our communities in many different fields across the province; to do the very best they can in service delivery.

We commend the client for her progress. She is an inspiration to all and the MNO will continue to support her and learn from her experience. In her case, she was overcoming an addiction but all our clients face hurdles whether they are dealing with a healing and wellness issue or trying to obtain education and training, find a rewarding job or suitable housing. It is the dedicated and tireless work of MNO staff members that often make a huge difference in breaking down barriers and creating success stories like the one you are about to read.



Gary Lipinski
President, Métis Nation of Ontario

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

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

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

Before contacting the MNO I was going through a bad part of my life. I was in a very abusive relationship which I was coping with by using drugs and alcohol every day. I was also a single mother of two children and a student at Niagara College.

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

The MNO office in Welland set me up with CWW Terry-Lynn Longpre. I saw Terry-Lynn one to two times a week. Terry-Lynn began the healing process by connecting

me to community support programs. The first person I saw was my drug and alcohol counsellor Dave Labbe of the Native Friendship Centre in Fort Erie. She also connected with Dr. Chan, a psychiatrist I saw through MNO's telemedicine program. This was a life saver as Dr. Chan was able to discover the root of my problem and diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

Kicking the habit was very hard. I needed a new environment; I needed to get out of Niagara. With the support of Terry-Lynn and my new husband Dan, we did just that and moved to Woodstock in December 2012. MNO's support followed me through this move. Once in Woodstock, Terry-Lynn connected me with a MNO CWW based in Hamilton, Lisa Scott.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HATS OFF TO THE Métis Nation of Ontario! Each day I thank the creator for them! ∞

La joie de partager mon héritage métis

Par: **Marie-Claire Vignola (Ethier)**

De janvier à juin 2013, j'ai eu le privilège de travailler pour le Conseil scolaire catholique Franco-Nord à titre de personne-ressource en éducation autochtone. Dans le cadre de ce travail, j'ai pu partager mon héritage métis dans les écoles d'Astoria, de River-Valley, de Sturgeon Falls, de Verner et de North Bay. Les professeurs et les élèves se sont montrés très accueillants et réceptifs à savoir plus sur les communautés autochtones du Canada et en particulier sur la nation métisse. Plusieurs présentations d'émontraient la ceinture fléchée des Métis; je vous partage un chant que j'avais composé pour l'événement.

Air: C'est l'aviron qui nous mène
(Légère variante: ajouter une 4e ligne au couplet sur le même air que la 3e ligne)

Refrain:
C'est la ceinture, la ceinture, dite métisse
C'est la ceinture, dite aussi, fléchée

(1) Regard' le rouge de la ceinture métisse
Regard' le rouge de la ceinture métisse
C'est tout le sang qu'les Métis ont versé
C'est toutes les vies qu'ils ont bravement données-ées

(2) Et puis le bleu de la ceinture métisse
Et puis le bleu de la ceinture métisse
Ça fait penser à leur beau caractère
Comm(e) le ciel bleu et les grandes rivières!

(3) Voyez le vert de la ceinture métisse
Voyez le vert de la ceinture métisse
On dirait bien les arbr(es) de nos forêts
Comm(e) les Métis qui vivront à jamais-ais

(4) La couleur jaune de la ceinture métisse
La couleur jaune de la ceinture métisse
C'est le soleil et nos beaux champs de blé
Et des Métis, tout(e) la prospérité-é

(5) Puis c'est le blanc de la ceinture métisse
Puis c'est le blanc de la ceinture métisse
Qui chant(e) bien fort l'amour du Créateur
Et le respect des Métis dans leur coeur-œur
Et des Métis, tout(e) la prospérité-é



▲ Marie-Claire avec les étudiants taisant une prière pour remercier le Créateur lors d'une belle journée ensoleillée.

English version

Chorus:
We are Métis, we're a proud and happy nation
We wear the sash, love to sing, and jig
Sung to the tune of a Voyageur French Traditional:
C'est l'aviron qui nous mène

-1-
Look at the RED in all the Métis sashes
Look at the RED in all the Métis sashes
It speaks of men who spilled their blood, resisting

-2-
Look at the GREEN in all the Métis sashes
Look at the GREEN in all the Métis sashes
It speaks of life that flows and never ceases

-3-
Look at the BLUE in all the Métis sashes
Look at the BLUE in all the Métis sashes
It speaks of depth, the depth of Métis spirit

-4-
Look at the GOLD in all the Métis sashes
Look at the GOLD in all the Métis sashes
It speaks of hope, and prosperous tomorrows

-5-
Look at the WHITE in all the Métis sashes
Look at the WHITE in all the Métis sashes
It speaks of faith, and love of the Creator

Métis Sash

Submitted by: **Anne Huguenin**

The Métis Sash I wear with pride
For that is who I am inside
Like woven threads we wear our symbol
We are strong, us Métis people
Times were not easy and struggles were many
But we survived and had furs of plenty
Spirits of elders, like beads that were sewn
Fiddle music runs through our bones
Our feet eager to get up and jig
Like a colourful rainbow whirligig
The Métis Sash we wear with pride
For that is who we are inside
Stories of this portaged land
Métis people, we proudly stand
Our journey from Drummond Island
To Penetanguishene
With many hard miles in between
We trap, we hunt, we fish
In giving thanks we say "Migwetch"
Let the spirits live within our souls
White be our skin or darkened coal
We wear the Métis sash with pride
For that is who we are inside



1885

2003

Louis Riel Day

& POWLEY ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

2013

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE WAS
SENT TO ALL MNO CITIZENS
FROM PRESIDENT LIPINSKI ON
NOVEMBER 15, 2013

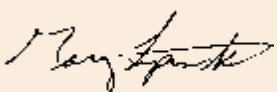
Louis Riel Day commemorates the anniversary of the execution of Louis Riel on November 16, 1885.

Riel made the ultimate sacrifice for defending Métis rights and although these events took place in the West, his resistance had repercussions for Métis in Ontario. We were labelled traitors and for generations our culture was forced underground. We became the “forgotten people.”

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

Louis Riel Day is especially poignant this year because 2013 marks the tenth anniversary of *R. v. Powley*, the monumental Supreme Court of Canada case that affirmed the Métis right to harvest is protected under section 35 of *The Constitution Act, 1982*. In their decade of struggle to have their Métis rights recognized, Steve and Roddy Powley were fighting the same battle as Louis Riel.

On November 16, 2013, I encourage you to join with your community and your Nation in Louis Riel Day events. It is a day to proclaim proudly as both Louis Riel and Steve Powley did: “We are Métis.”



Gary Lipinski
President, MNO

Finding balance

Provincial Louis Riel Day ceremony highlights

Every year, Métis from across the Homeland honour the anniversary of the unjust execution of Louis Riel on November 16, 1885, by holding Louis Riel Day events. Although Louis Riel Day commemorates one of the great tragedies of Canadian history, it is also a day to celebrate Métis culture and the continuing progress the Métis people towards taking their rightful place within Confederation.

Queen's Park Ceremony

Many Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) chartered community councils held flag raisings, feasts and cultural celebrations to recognize Louis Riel Day and as in the past, provincial ceremonies were held at Queen's Park in Toronto. Provincial ceremonies take place at Queen's Park because the Northwest Rebellion monument and the Legislative Building are both located there. This year the provincial ceremony was held on Friday, November 15, rather than the traditional November 16, because the Legislative Building would not be open on the weekend and access to the Legislature is necessary to properly stage the ceremonies. Ironically, the Legislature is where a price was put on Louis Riel's head and the monument recognizes the Canadian soldiers who fought in the Northwest Resistance against the Métis, but on Louis Riel Day they are the focal points for honouring Riel and the monument is draped with Métis symbols and a portrait of Louis Riel is reverentially placed upon it.

It was a beautiful fall day in Toronto for this year's provincial ceremony. Over 100 people attended from the Toronto area as well others from across the province, including some people who came from as far away as Thunder Bay. As in the past, events started with a flag raising ceremony in front of the Legislature. APTN, OMNI and City TV news

reporters were on hand to witness MNO President Gary Lipinski and Mitch Case, the Youth Representative on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), raise the Métis flag while a crowd of MNO citizens, dignitaries and guests looked on and cheered enthusiastically.

*Riel told us:
We can have
beautiful
dreams ...
and that
we should
believe in
those dreams
and believe in
ourselves.”*

— Senator Reta Gordon

Following the flag raising, the participants formed a procession led by members of the No. 10 Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion and accompanied by Métis fiddler Alicia Blore and her brother Liam on gui-

tar. The No. 10 Legion Branch has been participating in Louis Riel Day ceremonies for 13 years and their dedication and service was commented on by several of the speakers during the ceremony that followed the procession.

The procession made its way to the Northwest Rebellion monument where the official Riel Day ceremony was held. PCMNO Senator Rene Gravelle provided the opening prayer and gave thanks for the many blessings received by the Métis and for bringing people of many different affiliations together on Riel Day. MNO Chair France Picotte, emceed the ceremony and set a positive tone by welcoming everyone and acknowledging guests and dignitaries. In addition to those who would later speak in the ceremony, other dignitaries and guests in attendance

included Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Employment Dr. Eric Hoskins, Member of the Provincial Parliament Rosario Marchese, Member of Parliament, Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs David DeLaunay and Assistant Deputy Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Hillary Thatcher as well as proponents who work with the MNO, John O'Toole and Lisa Thompson.

The first speaker was PCMNO Executive Senator Reta Gordon who told the story of Riel's death. She related the difficulties his family had in recovering his body and returning it to his home in Manitoba for burial. She commented that Riel told us “We can have beautiful dreams ... and that we should believe in those

(Continued on page 11)



▲ (Top) Métis rights lawyer and great grand-niece of Louis Riel Jean Teillet speaking at the Queen's Park Louis Riel Day ceremony. (Bottom) Legion Colour Guard proudly carry Métis flags.



(Continued from page 10)

dreams and believe in ourselves.”

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

Vice-chair McBride was followed by the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. Minister Zimmer spoke about the significance of the dual anniversaries that the MNO is celebrating in 2013. Commenting on the tenth anni-

Powley was instrumental in recognizing Métis rights as well as in recognizing the distinctiveness of Métis culture and communities.”

— Minister David Zimmer

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

Norm Miller, a Progressive Conservative MPP represented Opposition Leader Tim Hudak at the ceremony. MPP Miller, whose constituency of Parry Sound-

(Continued on page 12)



▲ Roddy, Paul, Brenda and Evelyn Powley prior to the Louis Riel Day ceremony at Queen’s Park.



▲ Senator Reta Gordon speaking at the Queen’s Park Louis Riel Day ceremony.



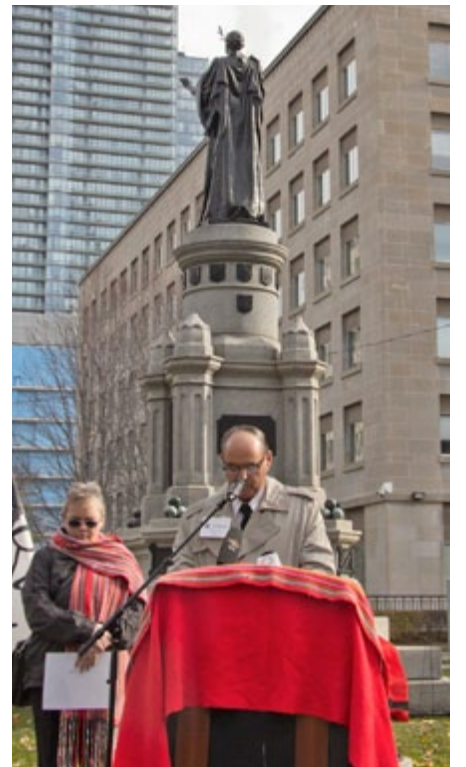
▲ MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride speaking at the Queen’s Park Louis Riel Day ceremony.



▲ Conservative MPP Norm Miller speaking at the Queen’s Park Louis Riel Day ceremony.



▲ MNO President Lipinski and Youth Representative Case look skyward as they raise the Métis flag at Queen’s park.



▲ Senator Rene Gravelle providing the opening prayer during the Queen’s Park Louis Riel Day ceremony.

2013 LOUIS RIEL DAY & POWLEY ANNIVERSARY EVENTS



▲ MNO President Lipinski speaks at the MNO/Law Society of Upper Canada joint Louis Riel Day event.

(Continued from page 11)

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

Métis youth were well represented at the ceremony by PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case. Representative Case is extremely active at all levels of the MNO. He leads the MNO Youth Council, serves as an MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator and is very active on his local chartered MNO community council. All of that in addition to his PCMNO duties! In his address Representative Case spoke about the emerging generation of MNO leaders. “The Métis spirit is strong among our youth,” he stated, “and it is getting stronger everyday – I promise!” (For the full transcript of Representative Case’s remarks see page 13).

As in most past years, the MNO

was honoured with the presence of Jean Teillet at the Queen’s Park Ceremony. Ms. Teillet is the great grand-niece of Louis Riel and is the famous Métis rights lawyer who

“It is encouraging at this moment in history to be working with a government as friends. It is by working together that we will all succeed.”

— President Gary Lipinski

took the Powley case to the Supreme Court of Canada. Ms. Teillet focused her comments on the incredible change in attitude towards the Métis in Ontario, in particular within the

Ontario government, in the last 20 years. “In 2003 we couldn’t even get the janitors [in the Legislative Building] to talk to us,” she explained, “but today and for several years now, we have government Ministers here with us at this very ceremony.” She added: “A lot of people gave of their time and energy to this cause and today we are on a good road – with our current leadership we are doing well.”

The final speaker was MNO President Gary Lipinski. President Lipinski mourned the tragic lost opportunity represented by the execution of Louis Riel. He pointed out that Riel had made every effort to negotiate with the Canadian government and that the government’s intransigence led to the events of the North West Resistance. “We cannot allow ourselves,” he declared, “to be in a position where negotiations fail.” President Lipinski explained that Riel had sought balance and that what had been missing until recently in Canada and Ontario’s relationship with the Métis. Referring to the North West Rebellion monument and the lack of a similar monument at Queen’s Park recognizing Métis contributions and achievements he stated: “In the not too distant future, we hope to even have balance of these grounds [Queen’s Park].” President Lipinski indicated that since the signing of the MNO-Ontario Framework Agree-

ment that the need for balance has increasingly been recognized and respected in Ontario. “This is taking us from an era of denial,” stated President Lipinski, “towards an era of reconciliation.” He concluded by saying: “It is encouraging at this moment in history to be working with a government as friends. It is by working together that we will all succeed.”

The ceremony ended with the laying of wreaths of remembrance on the Northwest Rebellion monument. The wreaths were laid by executive members of the MNO Veterans’ Council; President Joseph Paquette, Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy and Sgt-at-Arms Greg Garratt. Most of the speakers during the ceremony recognized the sacrifices and on-go-

ing contributions of Métis veterans and the laying of the wreath at the monument by veterans is always a poignant moment.

MNO Chair Picotte wrapped up the ceremony on a thoughtful note by stating: “On each Riel Day, I ask those assembled to think back to the last Riel Day and remember what they have done to advance the Métis Nation in the last year; and to also think forward about what they will do in the upcoming year for the Métis people.”

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



▲ Aboriginal Affairs Minister David Zimmer speaking at the Queen’s Park Louis Riel Day ceremony.



▲ Métis fiddler Alicia Blore and her brother Liam accompanied the Louis Riel Day procession at Queen’s Park.

◀ Métis lawyer and great grand-niece of Louis Riel Jean Teillet and President Lipinski during the moment of silence at the Queen’s Park Louis Riel Day ceremony.



He taught us to be proud

Mitch Case, PCMNO Youth Representative

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

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

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

"He taught us to be proud" they said. "He showed us we should al-

ways stand up for what we believe in", "He showed us that it's okay to be who we are, okay to be Métis and important to be proud."

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

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

Riel was right, the battle in 1885 may have been lost, but we as a people have remained and our rights are now, over 100 years later, being recognized and respected by governments across Canada. This is because our people never lost our



▲ PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case speaking at the provincial Louis Riel Day ceremony.

courage to fight and for that, I thank the Powley family, the lawyers, the political leadership and the communities who stood with them through the fight.

Riel told us: "We must cherish our inheritance. We must preserve our nationality for the youth of our future. The story should be written down to pass on." This has and continues to be done by our people and communities. The generations who have gone on before us have made

sure that the stories of who we are have never died.

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

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

Marcii, Miigwetch!

ADVERTISEMENT

TRANSCANADA ANNOUNCES ENERGY EAST PIPELINE PROJECT TO SAINT JOHN

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

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

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

to get their crude oil to market.

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

The Energy East Pipeline project involves converting a portion of natural gas pipeline capacity in approximately 3,000 kilometres (1,864 miles) of TransCanada's existing Canadian Mainline to crude oil service and constructing approximately 1,400 kilometres (870 miles) of new pipeline. The pipeline will transport crude oil from receipt points in Alberta and Saskatchewan to delivery points in Montréal, the Québec City region and Saint John, New Brunswick, greatly enhancing producer access to Eastern Canadian and international markets. The pipeline will terminate at Canaport in Saint John, New Brunswick where TransCanada and Irving Oil have formed a joint venture to

build, own and operate a new deep-water marine terminal.

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

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

TransCanada's has developed an Aboriginal Relations Policy that is guided by trust, respect, and responsibility. This policy must be flexible to address the legal, social and economic realities of

Aboriginal communities across Canada.

TransCanada is a leading North American energy infrastructure company with one of the best safety record in the industry. Energy East will be designed and operated with safety being a top priority – that is what Canada expects, and that is what TransCanada will deliver. TransCanada recognizes that oil is essential to our daily lives, from heating homes to the thousands of products relied on every day. We will ensure this oil is delivered in a safe and responsible way.

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

For more information on the Energy East Project, please visit www.energyeastpipeline.com and for TransCanada's complete Aboriginal Relations Policy, please visit www.transcanada.com.



▲ The moderator and panelists at the MNO/Law Society of Upper Canada event during Louis Riel Day commemorations.



▲ MNO veterans prepare to place a wreath in honour of Louis Riel.



▲ MNO leaders with dignitaries and guests at the Queen's Park ceremony.



▲ MNO President Lipinski speaking at the Queen's Park Louis Riel Day ceremony.



▲ Provincial Louis Riel Day ceremony in Queen's Park.



▲ MNO Chair France Picotte at the Queen's Park Louis Riel Day ceremony.



▲ No. 10 Royal Canadian Legion members leading the Riel Day procession at Queen's Park.



▲ MNO leadership and dignitaries at the Louis Riel ceremony on November 15 at Queen's Park in Toronto. (Left to right) Assistant Deputy Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Hillary Thatcher; Hon. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Employment; Métis lawyer Jean Tillet; PCMNO Treasurer Tim Pile; MNO Chair France Picotte; Hon. David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs; MNO President Gary Lipinski; and David DeLaunay, Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.



▲ Susan Hare with the Law Society of Upper Canada presents MNO President Lipinski with a gift to commemorate the MNO's 20th anniversary.

▲ Louis Riel Day: A time to catch up with old friends.

Louis Riel Day

& POWLEY ANNIVERSARY EVENTS 2013



“The people of the Métis Nation... will always keep Riel's spirit alive...”

— Sharon McBride, MNO Vice-chair



Louis Riel Day: We feel it in our hearts

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

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

– **Art Bennett**, Region 4 Captain of the Hunt

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

– **France Picotte**, MNO Chair

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

– **Andre Bossé**

"Today is really special with the 20th anniversary of the MNO and the 10th anniversary of the Powley decision. It is not only a time to reflect and recognize, but to educate and share who we are with the rest of the world. I was even asked in the hotel lobby about my sash."

– **PCMNO Senator Verna Brunelle**

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

– **Theresa Stenlund**, PCMNO Councillor Region 1

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

– **Anita Tucker**, PCMNO Councillor Region 8

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

– **Sharon McBride**, MNO Vice-chair

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

– **Tom Thompson Jr.**, PCMNO Councillor Region 6

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

– **Cam Burgess**, PCMNO Councillor Region 2

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

– **Senator Audrey Vallee**

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

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

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

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

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

– **Executive Senator Reta Gordon**



“Blood” and the Métis connection

An evening with award winning author Lawrence Hill

By: Alysha Akoodie, MNO Communications Assistant

One of the great things that happened during this year's Louis Riel Day events was a reading by Lawrence Hill from his new book *Blood: The Stuff of Life*, which was the basis for this year's Massey Lectures. The reading was part of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and Law Society of Upper Canada event held on November 15.

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

Broken down into five chapters, *Blood* draws on the topics of biology, history, religion, culture, nationality, sports, arts and more.

When learning about Hill's speaking engagement, I found myself asking what the connection is between Hill's book and the MNO. I rushed out to purchase a copy of the book and as I read through the pages, the connection became more and more apparent. By chapter three I had found it! *Blood* is not only relevant to Métis people but also specifically to Louis Riel Day and the 10th anniversary of the Powley decision. I was fortunate to have been given the opportunity to discuss *Blood* with Hill at the event.

In chapter three, “Comes By it Honestly: Blood and Belonging”, Hill explores the connection between blood, race and identity. He explains that blood has almost become interchangeable with race due to the long history of formal government policies linking the two together. He discusses how fixation on blood and the notion of blood purity has led to horrific events such as the Holocaust, South Africa's apartheid and the Sixties Scoop.

Throughout this chapter, Hill argues that race, culture and identity should not be determined by this fixation on blood. During our discussion Hill stated, “I believe that identity and belonging are things that are defined by your personal and group practices... It seems to me that the most meaningful way to define a people is by the notions of group acceptance, cultural practices and self-identity.”

Hill illustrates this argument by focusing on Métis people. With assistance from Métis lawyer Jean Teillet, he shined light on the Powley case and the Daniels case to further his argument. Turns out, this was the same argument Riel made in his last memoir before being executed.

Quoting Riel, Hill writes: “...we honour our mothers as well as our fathers. Why should we be so pre-

occupied with what degree of mingling we have of European and Indian blood? No matter how little we have of one the other, do not both gratitude and filial love require us to make a point of saying, “We are Métis”.”

Perhaps it is not surprising that these lines also appear in the opening of the MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose*.

When asked if he could elaborate on this, Hill stated, “Louis Riel's comments helped crystalize and cement the point I was already making. Even Riel said there is a fixation on blood quantity...He said we are Métis and we should forget about the numbers.”

Hill furthers this argument by using the Powley case as an example. He writes that the Powley case illustrated “...how thoroughly we have lost sight of Louis Riel's reminder that there is no need to preoccupy ourselves with degrees of blood mixing, and how profoundly the connection between blood quantum and Métis identity has lodged itself in the collective consciousness of Canadians.”

What interested Hill in this case was how forcefully the Ontario government raised arguments about blood quantum in its efforts to see the Powleys convicted.

“The Ontario Ministry argued in court that they [Steve and Roddy Powley] were guilty [for hunting without a license] because they are not Métis,” he explained. “Why are they not Métis? Because Steve Powley was 1/64 Aboriginal descent...they were fixated on quantifying the blood.”

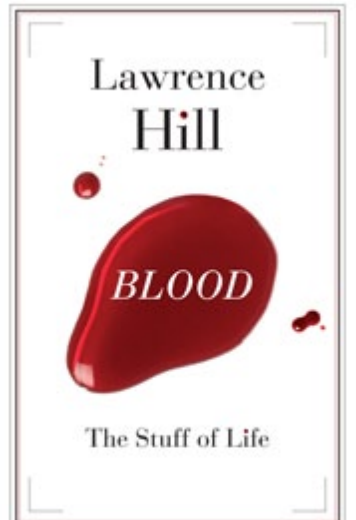
In the end the Supreme Court of Canada rejected this way of thinking and focused on Métis as distinctive peoples with their own customs and cultural practices. This decision was a first of its kind.

After the many years of litigation, in the end the Powley case not only ruled in the favour of Métis but it also illustrated progress in altering the blood quantum way of thinking. Hill explained how the historic Powley case was not only extremely significant to Métis people, but to all Canadians.

He writes, “I would argue that the blood quantum argument, as raised in the lower courts during the Powley case, reflects enduring perceptions – within Aboriginal cultures, and in the broader Canadian community – about the fundamental link between racial identity and blood.”

This fundamental link is still very much a reality but the Powley case was a stepping stone in the right direction.

More recently, this progress was illustrated in the Daniels case. In this case, the Federal Court of Canada did not fixate on blood when declaring that Métis and “non-status” Indians



▲ Author Lawrence Hill reading from his book *Blood: The Stuff of Life* during the MNO/Law Society of Upper Canada event where he also autographed copies of the book.

About Lawrence Hill

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

Community Council Riel Day photos

Every year Louis Riel Day ceremonies are held to remember what Riel sacrificed in the defense of Métis rights and the Métis Way of Life. Riel Day has become a time to not only remember the sacrifice but to rejoice and reflect upon all things Métis.

Along with the provincial ceremony held at Queen's Park, MNO chartered community councils organized Louis Riel events in their communities

across the province. Flag raising ceremonies were held at City Halls in Thunder Bay, Welland, St. Catharines, Guelph, Cochrane, Dryden, North Bay and Toronto to

name a few. Riel Day celebrations and feasts were also held by several community councils, and one was even hosted by the MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council at the Ottawa Police Service headquarters. The event included a flag presentation and jiggging with Chief of Police Charles Bordeleau.

The MNO Northwest Métis Council held a dinner event which was followed by dancing. Nearly

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

The MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council held a flag raising ceremony

ny which many public officials attended. Notable attendees included: City Councillor Ken Boshcoff, City of Thunder Bay Aboriginal Liason Ann Magiskan, City of Thunder Bay Police John Walmark and Larry Baxter.

Here are some photos from these events. Additional council Riel Day event details are featured on pages 20 and 21.



01: MNO Credit River Métis Council Riel Day celebration included a great buffet of food.

02: MNO Northwest Métis Council Riel Day flag rising at Dryden City Hall which was followed by a reception.

03: MNO Northwest Métis Council Riel Day flag raising ceremony.

04: MNO Northern Lights Métis Council Riel Day flag raising ceremony.

05: MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council Riel Day flag raising ceremony. Many city officials were in attendance.

06: Rochelle Ethier and Darlene Lent during the MNO Credit River Métis Council Riel Day celebration.

07: MNO Grand River Métis Council Louis Riel Day flag raising ceremony at Guelph City Hall.

08: MNO citizens and staff members at a Louis Riel Day event in Sudbury.

09: As they did over the past four years, representatives from the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council met with local officials to raise the Métis flag in honour of Louis Riel Day at Welland City Hall.

10: MNO Bancroft office staff at the Louis Riel harvest dinner celebration.

11: MNO Northern Lights Métis Council Riel Day flag raising ceremony.

12: Chief of Police Charles Bordeleau, MNO staff member Jo MacQuarrie, MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council President Chris Lavigne and an expert jigger celebrating at the Ottawa Police Service headquarters.





Commemorating the landmark Powley case

On September 19, 2003, after 10 years of litigation, the Supreme Court of Canada, in an unanimous judgement, declared that Steve and Roddy Powley as members of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community had the Métis right to harvest and that this right is protected under section 35 of *The Constitution Act, 1982*. Because the Powleys had the courage of their convictions, Métis rights were recognized and affirmed by the Supreme Court for the first time.

As 2013 marks the 10th anniversary of the historic Powley case, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) held two events coinciding with the annual provincial Louis Riel Day commemorations to recognize the ongoing significance of the Powley case to the Métis Nation.

The first event was public legal education equality event co-sponsored by the MNO and the Law Society of Upper Canada. Each year the MNO holds an event with the Law Society that focuses on developments in Métis law in Canada. Due to the anniversary of the Powley case, this year's event was entitled "Ten years after *R. v. Powley*: looking forward and looking back." Well over 100 lawyers, MNO citizens and other interested individuals filled a ballroom at the Hilton Toronto Hotel to hear Métis lawyers Jean Teillet and Jason Madden as well as MNO President Gary Lipinski speak about the Powley case and its ongoing legacy.

Appropriately, the opening prayer for the event was said by Senator Brenda Powley, the wife of the late Steve Powley. The event was chaired by Métis lawyer Margaret Froh, who is also the MNO Director of Strategic Policy, Planning and Compliance. Prior to the main speakers, Susan Hare, a Benchler with the Law Society brought greetings and presented MNO President with a framed letter congratulating the MNO on its 20th anniversary. In thanking the Law Society, President Lipinski credited the Law Society with helping insure the voice of the Métis was heard. President Lipinski spoke of the early years of the MNO when it was difficult to get any kind of official recognition of Métis rights and how the Law Society had been one of the first organizations to provide the MNO with a forum for Métis rights.

Jean Teillet, who served as the Powley's lawyer during their historic case, was the first speaker. She provided an extensive history lesson going back to the very emergence of Métis as a distinct people and showed the continuous line of development from there to the Powley case. She outlined how the Métis had developed as an Aboriginal people with rights that they had asserted and that have never been extinguished. She spoke about the dark period when the Métis became the forgotten people and their eventual re-emergence as they again began to assert their rights after the Second World War. Teillet left off by saying that while the Powley case and other victories have been important there was still much business left unfinished.

It was to this unfinished business that President Lipinski addressed when he spoke after Teillet. He reported that the MNO continues to grow stronger with successful programs that provide opportunities and services to Métis people across Ontario and in such areas as healing and wellness, education and training, housing as well as cultural activities. The MNO has also seen success in its efforts to make itself self-sufficient with its recent economic self-sufficiency law and the green energy FIT projects. Despite these successes, however, he stated that "the struggles we have today are still the struggles that Riel had

when he was fighting to protect our way-of-life as a distinct people." As an example of the ongoing struggle Métis face to have their rights and contributions recognized. President Lipinski cited the Daniels case. "How can it be," he asked, "that the Métis are the only Aboriginal group that the federal government doesn't have responsibility for? Why is it that we can't begin negotiation now? It is absurdity in the extreme that we must go through this dance." While the tendency of government to sometimes drag everything through court is discouraging, President Lipinski concluded saying, "The hope we always have is that good government will negotiate rather than litigate and rather than force social unrest and taking things to the extreme. That is the hope we all have."

Following President Lipinski, Jason Madden's presentation looked forward to upcoming and ongoing court decisions that will impact Métis rights in the future. The key cases will include the Daniels case which will likely determine whether the federal government has jurisdiction for Métis and if Métis enjoy the same rights as "Indians" under the Canadian constitution. Another case with important implications is the Hirsekorn case from Alberta that could establish Métis mobility rights and thus expand the area where Métis people can harvest. Madden also indicated that even though the recent *Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) v. Canada* was a clear victory for Métis rights, how this court case will play out is still largely unknown although he expects to be using the case to support other Métis rights litigation well into the future.

After an afternoon of intense and detailed legal discussions, the recognition of the Powley case continued into the evening but at a more personal level. A tribute dinner was held to honour the Powley family and thank them for their sacrifices and courage. Members of the Powley family were present including Steve Powley's son Roddy and his wife Senator Brenda Powley. The evening was emceed by MNO Chair France Picotte and Senator Verna Brunelle provided blessings at the beginning of the event.

The evening saw the signing of an extension of the *MNO/Ontario Framework Agreement* but the main focus was on the Powley case and the Powley family (see page 3 for the complete story). During supper, the crowd of over 100 people including MNO citizens, dignitaries and other invited guests enjoyed Métis fiddling from Alicia Bloor with her brother Liam on guitar.

President Lipinski remembered fondly being invited to dinner at the Powley home while on one of his many journeys that took him through Sault Ste. Marie where the Powleys live. "The Powleys are to use the old-fashioned phrase," he stated "salt of the earth. On behalf of all MNO citizens I want to thank you for the burden that your whole family carried and your commitment and sacrifice throughout the whole ordeal."



▲ (Top) Senator Brenda Powley speaking during the Powley Tribute dinner. (Bottom) The Métis Fiddler Quartet had everyone's toes tapping during the Powley Tribute dinner.

President Lipinski also explained that besides being an important Métis rights case, the Powley case was crucial in the development of the MNO. "The Powley case," he said, "was the glue that helped bring the MNO together. People need a cause; they need something to stand behind. Without question, the MNO, all of its citizens, its communities, put their full support behind Steve and Roddy and this crystalized to bring the MNO together for that 10 year struggle."

After President Lipinski expressed the gratefulness of the entire Nation to the Powleys, Senator Brenda Powley spoke about the impact of the Powley case on her family. She explained that Steve Powley had been a very private man, who did not like to even be photographed and that it was a huge adjustment for him to adapt to the media glare that had accompanied the Powley case. She described the fear of being taken to court and the resulting confiscation of their meat by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the hurt caused by false accusations such as that they had been hunting at night. She thanked her children for their support during this difficult time. "They were there at all times," she said.

Senator Powley did not dwell on the negatives though. She described it as "the luckiest day of our life is when Tony [former MNO President Tony Belcourt] brought Jean [Teillet] over."

Senator Powley praised Teillet's handling of the case and remembered the excitement when the Powley decision finally came down from the Supreme Court. She described how the court room was full; how even the lawn outside the Supreme Court was full and how they made a lot of noise. "I guess Jean that we got away with a lot that day," she laughed.

"One thing that I have to say," Senator Powley commented, "is that I have made beautiful friends and it [the MNO] is such a big family. If I had a chance, I would do it all again!"

"You don't do something like this by yourself," she added, "we had support right across the province." Senator Powley related that towards the end of the case, as Steve Powley was suffering from a severe illness he asked: "What was my purpose in life? with all his illnesses; that [the case] was his purpose in life – he was determined to see it through [and once the case was won] his job was done – he did it."

The evening concluded with the Métis Fiddler Quartet providing one of their epic toe tapping performances followed by the premiere of the final version of *Métis Nation of Ontario 1993-2013*, the documentary film about the history of the MNO produced to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the MNO.

MNO Credit River Métis Council Louis Riel Day gathering

Celebrating the recognition of Métis culture, identity and history

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



▲ (Left to right) **City of Brampton Regional Councillor Jon Sanderson** and **MNO Credit River Métis Council members Councillor Joyce Tolles, President Richard Cuddy and MNO Senator Ray Bergie** during the Riel Day gathering in Brampton.

On November 17, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council hosted a Louis Riel celebration and gathering in Brampton. MNO citizens from neighbouring MNO Hamilton-Wentworth and MNO Grand River Métis Councils also attended bringing the total number of guest to over 150!

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

During the event, MNO Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch staff presented a “Métis 101” information session. MNO Heal-

ing and Wellness staff were also present.

A highlight of the event was Jim Tolles’, a traditional knowledge specialist, display of Métis culture, artifacts and information that spanned more than 50 feet; right across the back of the hall!

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

— Richard Cuddy

Entertainment included performances by the drumming ensemble, the Group Orange Ladies & Good Hearted Women’s Singers, who took the stage for several powerful, traditional songs, Métis Fiddler’s Duo, Kim and Rajan Anderson, champion jigger Modeste McKenzie, and the Olivine Baisquet Métis Dancers.

A door prize, 50/50 draw and a silent auction were conducted by Councillors Maheu, Neville, T. Tolles, Derocher and Senator Bergie.

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

The Council would like to thank their volunteers for organizing a successful event; Wendy Elliott, Janice Graham, Helen Barron, Don Lent, Darlene Lent, Mike Kerr, Jacqueline Warll, Christina Tolles, Ryan Maheu, Angela Cuddy, Samantha Cuddy, Ms. Karen Tolles, Bertha Tolles and Pamela Philips, Jean-Marc Maheu, David Neville, Joyce Tolles, Karen Derocher and Taliltha Tolles. Councillor Joyce Tolles was recognized for her hard work, efforts and dedication she exhibited as the lead for the gathering.

Special guests included representatives

from Peel Diversity and Inclusion Charter Phase II Combating Racism; Conservation Halton; Centre Ontarien de Prévention des Agres-sions (COPA); Mississauga Halton and Central West LHINs, Dufferin Peel District Catholic School and Peel District School Boards; Peel Children’s Aid Society; the Region of Halton and Councillor John Sanderson, Regional Councillor for Wards 3 and 4 in the City of Brampton.

“Gatherings like these are vital to our community’s stability, sustainability and growth,” stated President Cuddy. “The Council and MNO staff use these opportunities to deliver important information and to receive instant feedback. All in an afternoon surrounded by family, friends and colleagues; with the chance to jig and enjoy a feast of traditional Métis foods while being serenaded by traditional Métis music.”



▲ **MNO Niagara Region Métis Council** during the Louis Riel Day flag raising ceremony at Welland City Hall.

New reason to remember Riel Day

Recent Supreme Court ruling vindicates Métis leader.

By: **Steve Henschel** (*Niagara This Week – Welland*)

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

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

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

“He stood up,” said Pont, explain-

ing the Métis leader and his provisional government were influential in the establishment of Manitoba as a province, participating in negotiations with the Canadian government in 1870. Those negotiations were supposed to yield dedicated lands for the Métis.

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

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

“He ended up losing his life to that cause,” said Pont.

Now, 128 years later, vindication has finally come.

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

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

“What he was fighting for has been finally justified by the courts,” said Pont.

“The Métis people are not to be forgotten anymore.”

Dryden Riel Day Celebration

Submitted by: **Mandy Montgomery**,
MNO Employment Developer

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

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

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

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



▲ **Louis Riel Day flag raising ceremony** at Dryden City Hall.



North Bay Riel Day flag raising ceremony

Submitted by: **Marc Laurin**, *President of the MNO North Bay Métis Council*

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) North Bay Métis Council held a Louis Riel day flag raising event at the North Bay City Hall. The Council was very honoured by the presence of the North Bay Mayor Al McDonald and Nipissing Member of Provincial Parliament

Victor Fideli. Mayor McDonald read the Louis Riel Day proclamation and another highlight was a reading about the life of Louis Riel by Denis Tremblay, a councillor for the MNO North Bay Métis Council.



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



▲ Katelyne Stenlund at the grave of Louis Riel.

Métis youth visits historic grave of Louis Riel

Submitted by: **Theresa Stenlund**,
PCMNO Region 1 Councillor

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

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

Submitted by: **Glen Lipinski**,
MNO Community Relations Coordinator

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Niagara Region Métis Council held a beautiful flag raising ceremony in honour of Louis Riel Day at St. Catharines City Hall on November 15.

This was the Council's fifth year raising the Métis flag in honour of Louis Riel Day in St. Catharines. Among MNO council members and staff were St. Catharines Mayor Brian McMullen, Member of Parliament Rick Dykstra and Member of Provincial Parliament Jim Bradley.



▲ MNO Niagara Region Métis Council Louis Riel Day flag raising ceremony at St. Catharines City Hall. (Left to right): MP Rick Dykstra; MNO Community Relations Coordinator Glen Lipinski; Council Woman's Rep Barbaranne Wright; Council President Derrick Pont; Mayor of St. Catharines Brian McMullen; Council Senator Garry Laframoise; Fritz Steele; MPP Jim Bradley; and Harry Wright.

City of Toronto honours Métis people at flag raising for Louis Riel Day

Original article published by the City of Toronto.

At a ceremony and flag raising on November 15, the City of Toronto honoured the contributions of Louis Riel and the Métis people to the development of Canada.

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senator Joseph Piotras provided the opening blessing at the event. Councillor Mike Layton (Ward 19 Trinity-Spadina), Chair of the Aboriginal Affairs Committee, brought greetings and read the proclamation, followed by remarks from MNO Chair France Picotte. MNO Toronto Métis Council President Robert Bird and youth representative

Christine Skura also spoke. "Louis Riel Day is an important reminder of the contribution of Riel to the Métis people and to the development of Canada," said Councillor Layton. "This year also marks the 10th anniversary of the historic Supreme Court decision that ensured Métis rights in Ontario are protected under the Constitution. There is still work to be done to achieve Riel's vision. The City of Toronto continues to build strong working relationships with Aboriginal communities and partnerships for the development of successful programs and policies."

“There is still work to be done to achieve Riel’s vision.”

— Mike Layton



▲ Riel Day flag raising ceremony at Toronto City Hall. (Left to right) MNO Toronto Métis Council President Robert Bird, City of Toronto Councillor Mike Layton, MNO Senator Joseph Piotras and MNO Chair France Picotte.

OPPORTUNITIES

MNO Employment and Contracting Community Gathering

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

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

MNO citizens from Region 9 and Region 8 who attended had the opportunity to spend time with the community, speak with a number of universities and seek out new employment opportunities

with a variety of companies. Companies providing employment opportunities included Union Gas, Niagara Region Wind Corporation, Enercon, TSP Towers Canada, PCL, AECON Utilities and Link-Line.

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



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

Councils participate in MNO Governance and Finance Training

Submitted by: **Glen Lipinski**,
MNO Community Relations Coordinator

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Niagara Region Métis Council and MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council recently both participated in the MNO's two-day Governance and Finance Training.

Training was held from October 19-20 for the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council and from November 2-3 for the MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council.

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



▲ (top) MNO Niagara Region Métis Council Governance and Finance Training. (Left to right) Garry Laframboise, Giselle Legiehn, Amanda Pont-Shanks, Derrick Pont, Barbara-Anne Wright, Reg Bernier and Leah Brown. (Bottom) Participants of the MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council Governance and Finance Training. (Left to right) Front row: Janet Huttman, Kristin Randall and Frances Harris. Centre row: Cecile Wagar and Auriele Diotte. Back Row: Joe McCaveney, Jeanette Ireland, Kevin Henry, André Bossé, Ted McNally and Michael Diotte.

Region 9 Consultation Committee tours Dawn Compressor Plant

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

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

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

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

The Committee members enjoyed the tour which was very informative and provided greater insight into the work of Union Gas. ∞



▲ Region 9 Consultation Committee members, community council members and MNO staff during the tour of the Dawn Compressor Plant. (Left to right) Jon Rochon, President of MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council; MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Councillor Wilfred Rochon; John Bonin (Union Gas); MNO Niagara Region Métis Council Women's Rep. Barbaranne Wright; MNO Grand River Métis Council Senator Carol Levis; MNO Grand River Métis Council President Cora Bunn; MNO Hamilton-Wentworth Métis Council President Joanne Young; George Fleury; MNO Niagara Region Métis Council President Derrick Pont; and James Wagar.

COMMUNITY

Métis capote coat workshop



▲ Participants of the capote coat workshop. (Left to right) Jennifer Parkinson, PCMNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride, Barbaranne Wright, Fritz Steele, Carol Levis, Leslie Muma, Tobias Clarke, Cora Bunn, Margaret Donahue and Darlene Lent.

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

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council held a capote coat workshop earlier this month.

Members from the MNO Credit River Métis Council, Hamilton-Wentworth Métis Council, Niagara Region Métis Council and the Ottawa Regional Métis Council participated in the fun filled event. Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) Vice-chair, Sharon Mc-

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

Learning to harvest

MNO Georgian Bay Métis youth group

Submitted by: Larry Ferris,
MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Chairperson

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

As part of the training, MNO Captain of the Hunt for Region Seven Greg Garratt provided the youth with an overview of the MNO Harvesting Policy and the rights and obligations associated with the policy.

The MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council would like to thank the Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth for providing a grant to fund this course.

Perhaps someday these young people may even join the ranks of the MNO Harvesters.

On another evening, the youth group enjoyed an evening of sausage making.

Youth made sausages from venison provided by the Garratt and moose and some venison provided by Harvester

Larry Ferris. They grinded up the moose meat and mixed the meat with pork fat and then put it into the sausage casings. All the youth and some of the parents participated in the process.

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

Everyone enjoyed samples and where able to take some sausages home. Some sausages were given to Métis elder Gerry Dumont. ∞



▲ Members of the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council youth group who participated in the First Hunting/Fire Arms Safety course.



◀ MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council youth group during sausage making workshop.



▲ MP Malcom Allen, MNO Niagara Region Métis Council President Derrick Pont and MPP Cindy Forster at the annual potluck harvest dinner.

Celebrating the harvest

Submitted by: Glen Lipinski,
MNO Community Relations Coordinator

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

The event was a great success with over 100 attendants and great weather and of course, awesome food. The day's entertainment was

provided by the Niagara Old Tyme Fiddlers.

Among notable attendants were Member of Parliament for Welland Malcolm Allen, Member of Provincial Parliament for Welland Cindy Forster, and Mayor of Welland Barry Sharpe event would be memorable and fun for everyone. ∞

Harvesting with the MNO Temiskaming Métis Council

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

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

On September 21, the MNO Temiskaming Métis Council hosted a harvest gathering in New Liskeard. The gathering was a great

success with over 90 people attending. The highlight of the evening was the fish fry which attracted 75 people.

During the celebration, the children demonstrated their talents in face painting taught by Elizabeth Morland. Métis entrepreneurs were also invited to display information about their services. This also pro-

vided the opportunity for the community to learn about Métis culture.

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



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

Remembrance Day

NOVEMBER 11 2013

LEST WE *forget.*

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

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

The Métis have a strong tradition of military service. Our involvement in the defense of Canada started in the War of 1812, and Métis have served in both World Wars, the Korean Conflict, in Peace-keeping missions and most recently in Afghanistan.

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


Gary Lipinski
President, Métis Nation of Ontario



Welland Remembrance Day parade

MNO NIAGARA REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL PLAY SIGNIFICANT ROLE

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

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

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

Senator Laframboise placed the

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

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

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

Lest we forget. ∞



Photo credit: Brenda Pont

MNO Atikoken and Area Métis Council remembers

Submitted by:
The MNO Atikoken and Area Métis Council

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

Council Treasurer Sandra Gauthier-Poelman, whose now deceased father is a veteran, represented the Council and laid a wreath in honour of all Métis Veterans. ∞



▲ MNO Atikoken and Area Métis Council Treasurer Sandra Gauthier-Poelman.

2013 REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

MNO remembers our Métis veterans

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

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

Standing in for Senator Gordon and Redmond at this year's ceremony was veteran and MNO Registrar Jane Brennan and her husband, Veteran

Steve Mackenzie. Registrar Brennan has had a distinguished record of military service and is well known to MNO veterans for her interest and support of their projects.

"The Métis veterans I know have served with dignity and courage that are a source of pride to their families," explained Registrar Brennan. "You can see this in the support and respect given to them."

"Remembrance Day is important because for veterans it is a time to reflect, remember and honour those that didn't return with them," she continued. "For everyone else it is not only the opportunity to reflect, remember and honour those that didn't return but also a chance to learn and un-

Attending the Remembrance Day ceremonies and laying a wreath is a form of respect. It is a way of saying that we haven't forgotten the service and sacrifice."

— Jane Brennan

derstand the history of what occurred."

Registrar Brennan, has done many tours as a Peace Keeper, comes from a military family. Her father served in World War II and in Korea and her son, who is currently in the Armed Forces, did a tour in Afghanistan. She has never missed a Remembrance Day ceremony and has always supported Métis veterans.

"Attending the Remembrance Day ceremonies and laying a wreath is a form of respect. It is a way of saying that we haven't forgotten the service and sacrifice that goes hand in hand with serving and I feel honoured to be given this privilege." ∞



▲ Veteran and MNO Registrar Jane Brennan with her husband Veteran Steve Mackenzie at the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument.



Did you know...

There are four animal figures, one on each corner of the war monument. Each act as spirit guides, with a special attribute: a wolf (family values), a buffalo (tenacity), an elk (wariness) and a bear (healing powers).



▲ (Left to right) MNO North Bay Métis Council Senator Marlene Greenwood and Veteran Doris Evans lay a wreath in honour of North Bay Métis veterans during North Bay's Remembrance Day service.

Honouring North Bay Métis veterans

Submitted by: **Linda Krause,**
MNO Employment & Training Officer

This Remembrance Day, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senator Marlene Greenwood and Veteran Doris Evans laid a wreath in honour of North Bay Métis veterans during the Remembrance Day service held at Memorial Garden in North Bay.

Senator Greenwood and Veteran Evans are long-time active members of the MNO North Bay Métis Council; Senator Greenwood in the position of Senator and Veteran Evans in the position of Secretary-

Treasurer.

Both Senator Greenwood and Veteran Evans are respected representatives for Métis veterans.

Coming from families with military backgrounds, they understand the need to honour each and every man and woman who has served. Last year Veteran Evans was awarded the Diamond Jubilee Medal which was presented to her by North Bay Member of Parliament Vic Fedeli. ∞

Métis veterans lay wreath in Owen Sound

Submitted by: **Malcom Dixon**

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

The laying of a wreath is an important gesture that honours those who gave their lives for freedom and is a sign of remembrance for the men and women who have served, and continue to serve for Canada during times of war, conflict and peace. ∞



▲ Métis veterans Ernie Cotes and Peter Gendron at the War Memorial monument in Owen Sound.

Métis youth group veterans awareness night

Submitted by: **Greg Garratt,**
MNO Veterans' Council Sgt-at-Arms

This Remembrance Day, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council youth group hosted a veterans awareness and fun evening. Métis youth enjoyed crafts, colouring, trivia and education about Métis veterans and how they helped shape Canada.

Organized by MNO Veterans' Council Sgt-at-Arms Greg Garratt and MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council

Chairperson Larry Ferris, the evening included contests, prizes and sandwiches provided by Bernice Paradis.

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



▲ MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council youth group veteran awareness night. (Left to right) Youth group members Skyler, Jacob, Tamara and Dalton. Back row: Larry Ferris, MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Chairperson.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Métis youth presents at Burt Award for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Literature Gala

Submitted by: **Theresa Hendricks**, MNO Payroll Officer

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

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

Part of a unique global readership initiative, CODE's Burt Award

aims to recognize excellence in literary works for young adults by Métis, First Nations and Inuit authors. It is a unique literary award that strives to provide Aboriginal youth across Canada with access to culturally-relevant and engaging books.

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

Marissa was one of five youth

chosen to speak at the event and was introduced by Métis National Council representative Marc LeClair. The evening also featured Aboriginal music, including Métis fiddler Anthony Brascoupe.

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

First place winner was awarded to Richard Wagamese for his novel *Indian Horse*. Second place was awarded to Tara Lee Morin for her novel *As I Remember It* and third place to James Bartleman for his novel *As Long as the Rivers Flow*.

Congratulations on this great achievement! ∞



▲ Marissa Hendricks presenting at the CODE Burt Award for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Literature Inaugural Gala at the Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Quebec. (Middle) Marissa Hendricks with Métis author Catherine Knutsson during the gala.

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

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

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

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

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

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

phrenia.

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

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

"This award is an exceptional accomplishment and we look forward to the outcomes of Dr. Perreault's research in the area of schizophrenia," said Dr. Renee Linklater, CAMH's Manager of Aboriginal Community Engagement. "It is promising to see Métis scientists contributing directly



▲ Dr. Melissa Perreault with MNO Credit River Métis Council President Richard Cuddy.

to the field of evidence in mental health research. With expertise existing in the community, it will further the advancement of Métis specific interventions that will improve the healing and wellbeing of

Aboriginal populations in general."

Dr. Perreault's achievement, like all Métis success stories, demonstrates how much MNO citizens' contributions can benefit their own communities and also the popula-

tion of Ontario and Canada.

Congratulations on this great achievement! ∞

Métis youth awarded Aboriginal Youth Achievement Award

Submitted by: **Huguette Trottier-Frappier**

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) youth member Mélanie-Rose Frappier has been selected as one of the recipients of the Aboriginal Youth Achievement Award which she received at the award ceremony in Ottawa on October 18.

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

Infinite Reach March Break Camp in Mattawa.

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

Congratulations on this great achievement! ∞



◀ **Mélanie-Rose Frappier with her Aboriginal Youth Achievement Award during the award ceremony in Ottawa.**

Young Métis artist receives first award

Submitted by: **Loma Rowlinson,**
MNO Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Provincial Coordinator

Dakota Rowlinson, a new and young Métis artist received his first award. The 11 year old son of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staffers Hank and Loma Rowlinson, is one of the winners of a Christmas drawing contest that was hosted by the Caisse Populaire in eastern Ontario.

Darkota's image is one of four that is being printed as Christmas cards to be used by the bank this year. He also received a cash award.

Dakota has been drawing for over four years and has a collection of over 150 images being housed in two binders at home. He started to advance his skills by creating dimensional drawings using shading techniques and has recently taken up the challenge of creating charcoal images. His winning photo was created using a simple HB pencil and took him two hours to create.

Congratulations on this great achievement! ∞



▲ (Left to right) **Madame Louise Lafontaine direction adjointe, Madame Jacynthe Levac direction, Dakota and Sophie Bergeron.**



◀ **"Père Noël" by 11 year old Métis artist, Dakota Robinson.**

MNO assistance helps Métis youth achieve career goal



▲ **Nick Allard in front of the Health Canada building in Ottawa.**

The transition from school to work can be difficult for new graduates. Entering the competitive job market with little work experience is a hurdle new Métis graduates often face, but with assistance can be overcome. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) provides a variety of programs and services to help Métis people overcome such barriers and achieve their highest potential. These programs help Métis people advance their education and careers through funding and work placements.

Nick Allard is an example of one young MNO citizen who has experienced firsthand the benefits of MNO's education and training programs. Currently residing in Ottawa, Allard is a Senior Regulatory Affairs Officer for Health Canada. A position he believes would have been difficult to achieve without the assistance of the MNO.

While completing the process to obtain MNO citizenship in his hometown of Sault Ste. Marie, Allard inquired about MNO education and training programs. That's when Fran Sheepmaker, a MNO Regional Employment and Training Coordinator informed him about two MNO programs that would create the transition from university to work much easier. Sheepmaker is one of many MNO employees across Ontario whose job is to assist Métis like Allard.

Working with Sheepmaker, Allard approached the Sault Area Hospital with the concept of creating a summer internship through MNO's Summer Career Placement Program. MNO was able to provide the funding to subsidize the wage and make the idea of the position into a reality. In the summer of his fourth year in the Biomedical

Sciences program at the University of Waterloo, Allard moved back to Sault Ste. Marie to begin this new internship as a Research Intern.

"The program helped me quite a bit," explained Allard. "It gave me a

Without MNO's assistance it would have been much more difficult to get this position, a position which I love and is exactly what I wanted to do."

— Nick Allard

lot of hands on experience in clinical research and helped me see into the industry and essentially where I wanted to go with my career."

The experience gained through this

internship did not only confirm Allard's career path, but also provided essential real life work experience which proved useful when applying for graduate studies.

"Having this experience on my resume really helped me in the interview process after graduation," said Allard. "It intrigued a lot of employers and brought in more interviews. It also was essential to getting accepted into my post-secondary program in Pharmaceutical Regulatory Affairs at Seneca College."

This was not the only way the MNO helped Allard achieve his second diploma. Through the MNO Métis Training Purchase Program, the MNO provided funding which paid for his year's tuition and also assisted with his living expenses, which in Toronto can be quite high.

"This diploma was critical," explained Allard. "It is what got me my internship with Health Canada and after graduating I was bridged in to the position I hold today. Without MNO's assistance it would have been much more difficult to get this position, a position which I love and is exactly what I want to do."

Allard sees MNO's programs as a real benefit not only for himself but for other Métis youth. He concluded by saying:

"Thank you MNO for helping me establish my career path. MNO's programs played a key role in my education and finding employment afterwards. I would like to encourage other Métis youth to look into and take advantage of these programs because they help provide funding and invaluable career experience." ∞