

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR



Ontario Métis to gather
IN THUNDER BAY

— Read on page 3



Métis youth ready to work

Workshop on transitions to the
labour market.

— page 5

Remembering Mandela: an honorary Métis.



— page 11

MNO Canoe Expedition

Back by popular demand!
The MNO Canoe Expedition
is returning for a third time.

— page 4



Infinite Reach

University of Waterloo event
a big success.

— page 15



Appointment to University Council

Métis perspective
at Carleton.

— page 19



"We are here"

Exhibit recognized by Ontario
Museum Association.

— page 16



Hanging with the Hendricks

Citizen to be featured in
documentary.

— page 15



Tiny Voyageur

MNO Citizen authors
children's book on
Métis history.

— page 18

THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

WINTER 2014, NO. 79

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Publication #: Pm 40025265

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.

2014 submission deadlines:

March 7, 2014
May 2, 2014
September 5, 2014
November 1, 2014



FAMILY

Joseph Oliver Brabant – "GUS"

March 11, 1947 – September 24, 2013

It is with immense sadness that we announce Joseph Oliver Brabant's (Gus) passing, in his 67th year, with his family by his side. Gus will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by his wife, Sally (nee Ladouceur), his sons Joseph (Lindsay), Arthur (Susan), and Bob (Gina), and his grandchildren Taylor, Naomi, Benjamin, Tristan, Cali, Ryder and Ryann. He is survived by his brother Marcel (Norma) and predeceased by his parents, Joseph and Lena, his sisters, Stella (Estelle), Lucy, Lorraine, Theresa and his brother, Allan. His many relatives, friends and community will dearly remember Gus, his warm embrace and his generous heart. A celebration of life was



held in his honour on the October 4, 2013 at the Penetanguishene Legion.

All the staff at the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Midland office will miss Gus's visits and his cheerful attitude. Gus was very caring and spent many hours as a volunteer driver for the MNO Healing and Wellness Branch. ∞

Vanessa Black (Bennett) passes

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is sad to report that Vanessa Black (Bennett) passed away on February 6, 2014. Vanessa worked as a MNO Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinator in 2007-08. She is survived by her daughters, Taeha and Christina, her mother Gale, her dad Ed, birth father Erick, her partner Arliss as well as many other family members and friends. Vanessa or Nessa, as she was affectionately known, had a kind-hearted nature with the sensitivity to help anyone in need.

She had compassion and empathy towards everyone and her wonderful sense of humor will be missed. Funeral Services will be held at Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, Kenora, Ontario at 11:00 am on February 12, 2014 with Interment to take place at the Sioux Narrows Cemetery in Sioux Narrows with a luncheon to follow at the Sioux Narrows Community



Hall. Vanessa's family would like to acknowledge with heartfelt gratitude the people of Sioux Narrows/Nestor Falls.

Special thanks to the doctors and nurses of the 6th Floor and ICU at St. Boniface Hospital for the wonderful care they gave her and her family. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the St. Boniface Hospital, Winnipeg, Manitoba. ∞

Online condolences may be made at www.brownfuneralhomekenora.com

A Christmas surprise

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

The St. Germain-Calder family received a very exciting gift this Christmas, the birth of their beautiful baby girl.

Daughter of MNO Director of Education and Training Jen St. Germain, Autumn Rose was born December 25 at 2:21 am.

A wee Christmas surprise, Autumn Rose decided to arrive a month early, making it a very joyous holiday. Happily she was a healthy 6.2 pounds at birth.

Congratulations to the St. Germain-Calder family! ∞



A Métis treasure

Submitted by: **Yvonne Jensen**,
President of the MNO North Channel Métis Council

Proud parents Renee and Robert Jensen Jr., and big brother Cameron, all from Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) North Channel Métis Council, welcomed their little girl Morgan born

August 18, 2013. Grandparents to this little treasure are: Tim and Suzanne Lamour, Region 4 Councillor Ernie Gatien and Bob and Yvonne Jensen, President of the MNO North Channel Metis Council. ∞



NATION

The 2014 AGA

THUNDER BAY, AUGUST 22-25

The 2014 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA) will be hosted by the Region Two MNO Chartered Community Councils in Thunder Bay. The formal AGA will start the evening of Friday, August 22 with the traditional arrival of the voyageur canoes and continue all day Saturday and Sunday before wrapping up around noon on Monday, August 25.

"We are very excited to bring the AGA back to Thunder Bay," stated Region Two Councillor Cam Burgess. "We have had many great AGAs here in the past and we are confident we will be continuing that tradition this year!"

"We are very pleased that the three Region Two MNO Chartered Community Councils are coming together to host this year's AGA," MNO President Gary Lipinski stated. "The Greenstone, Superior North Shore and Thunder Bay Métis Councils will each bring something special to their role as host and this kind of regional cooperation is great to see."

Thunder Bay is an excellent location for an AGA as the area has been important to Métis for centuries; going back to its earliest history when it played a pivotal role in the fur trade to more recent times such as in 2004, when the MNO and the Ontario government signed the Interim Harvesting Agreement at the AGA that year. Today, Métis are important players in the culture and economy of Thunder Bay through Memorandums of Understanding between the MNO and resource companies such as Osisko, Detour Gold and Union Gas as well as with similar agreements with educational institutions such as Lakehead University and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. It is through agreements like these that the MNO contributes to building a stronger future for Métis people in Ontario.

During their stay in Thunder Bay, MNO citizens can explore spectacular natural wonders like Eagle Canyon and Kakabeka Falls, sail on the waters of Lake Superior, and golf at the luxurious Whitewater Golf Club. They may also unwind from outdoor pursuits by visiting art galleries and museums or taking in musical and stage shows. And don't forget to travel back in time at Fort William Historical Park - the world's largest reconstructed fur trade post!

Mark your calendar for the 2014 AGA and look for announcements about AGA registration, activities, venues, accommodations and meals on the MNO website and Facebook page. ∞



Mural painted on the outside of the MNO and the MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council building in Thunder Bay



Collage of images from the 2013 MNO AGA held in Ottawa. ▶

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND...

MNO Canoe Expedition

It was recently announced that the third Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Canoe Expedition will take place this summer. MNO Canoe Expeditions celebrate Métis history and culture and inspire Métis pride across the homeland. Expeditions provide Métis youth with a unique, once in a lifetime opportunity to follow in the shadows of their ancestors by retracing the historic Métis voyageur trade routes.

Past expeditions took place in the summers of 2003 and 2005. The 2003 expedition traced the old North West Company trading route from Lachine, Quebec towards the Great Rendezvous at Old Fort William in Thunder Bay, Ontario. In the 2005 expedition, youth began their journey in Thunder Bay, Ontario and were bound for Batoche, Saskatchewan where they joined the annual Back to Batoche celebrations. These expeditions were extensively covered by many news outlets including the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN), The Weather Network, CBC Radio and numerous local media along the routes.

This year, 10 adventurous Métis post-secondary students will put their limits to the test and participate in this life changing experience. Details regarding the route are still to be determined but you can be certain it will follow one of the historic paths of the Métis voyageurs and end at the 2014 MNO Annual General Assembly in Thunder Bay (see page 3).

"The MNO Canoe Expedition will provide our Métis youth with not only a unique opportunity where they will paddle in the wake of our Métis ancestors," stated MNO President Gary Lipinski, "but an opportunity to build concrete life skills that will help them succeed on and off the water."

Expedition participants will spend their days paddling, portaging and camping in Ontario's wilderness. Throughout this journey, youth will

connect with nature and their heritage as well as re-live the past through experiences similar to those of their Métis ancestors.

"I never felt more alive than I did when I was on the Métis Canoe Expedition," wrote Ginny Gonneau who participated in both previous expeditions. "I was living the adventure of a lifetime, seeing all the most beautiful and pristine parts of Ontario's wilderness."

A major component of the expedition is the promotion and celebration of Métis people in Canada's history. Along their route, the youth will be visiting communities to share their experiences and provide educational sessions on Métis history and culture.

I never felt more alive than I did when I was on the Métis Canoe Expedition. I was living the adventure of a lifetime, seeing all the most beautiful and pristine parts of Ontario's wilderness."

— Ginny Gonneau

They will also be visiting the local MNO Chartered Community Councils. The MNO encourages its communities to take part in supporting and encouraging the youth throughout the journey as they have done for the past expeditions.

"Providing this kind of opportunity for our youth," stated President Lipinski, "is another example of how

the MNO helps young people become all they can be."

Besides coming out to see the young voyageurs when they visit communities, MNO citizens are encouraged to follow the adventure online. Daily updates will be provided on the MNO website, Facebook page and videos will be posted on the MNO YouTube page.

"My experiences from the Métis Canoe Expedition have definitely changed my life," wrote Gonneau. "I have a new interest in my Métis heritage and a continuing desire to learn more about Métis culture... The voyage was a test of my courage and ambition and it is something I am very proud to say I accomplished." ∞

For more information contact:

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TOP: Past MNO canoe expeditions have been remarkable experiences and are an incredible way to spend the summer! **BOTTOM:** MNO President Gary Lipinski greeting participants of the 2005 Métis Canoe Expedition along their journey from Thunder Bay, Ontario to Batoche, Saskatchewan.

MNO Generation Innovation Challenge video

For the second year in a row, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), in partnership with the Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation and other sponsors held the Generation Innovation: Métis Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge. It was held March 16-17, 2013 and was modeled after the popular CBC TV program *The Dragon's Den*. The Generation Innovation Challenge is a project designed to provide Métis youth (aged 13-29) with confidence, motivation and, above all, concrete business skills and mentoring. Also for the second year, the challenge was recorded and edited into a fast-paced and exciting video that is now available on the MNO website. In the video viewers get a taste of the training and the excitement of the competition.

Métis youth from across Ontario were invited to submit applications describing their business or innovation, in order to receive business training and compete for prizes in a *Dragon's Den* style competition where they pitched their business ideas to a panel of judges.

Deanna Parker, a recreation therapist from Dryden, was awarded first place. Parker pitched an idea for a Sioux Lookout Aquatic Rehabilitation Centre that she hopes to start in the "Hub

of the North" where she can practice aquatic therapy. She hopes to expand across the region in the next 10 years.

"The experience was amazing," said Parker, who won a \$1,000 cash prize, a new laptop computer and a printer. "I felt like a movie star! I was very surprised at the amount of work that goes into one show."

From the applications received, seven Métis youth were chosen to receive online training from the GoForth Institute as well as face to face business and pitch training from Peter Smith, President of the Commerce Assessment Group. Andre Laurin, President of Ocean Transportation Services Freight Forwarding Inc. provided the trainees practical business advice. The candidates also had the opportunity to receive pitch and business advice from Ryan Foley, President of NuvoCare Health Sciences Inc. and past contestant on CBC's *Dragon's Den*.

Based on the business plans of the seven trainees, three finalists were chosen to pitch to the judges in studio. The 2013 judges were Chinyere Eni, National Director, Aboriginal and Public Sector Markets at RBC; Peter Smith, President Commerce Assessment Group; Larry Mah, Director of Programs at Youth in Motion; and



▲ The judges and the participants in the 2013 Generation Innovation challenge.

Paul Ungerman, Manager of Government Affairs at Union Gas.

Contestant Renée Michaud, a Liaison Officer with the University of Ottawa, came in second place with an idea for a mobile restaurant (food truck) serving Aboriginal cuisine cooked over a wood fire. Taylor Hari, a Ph.D. candidate from

the University of Ottawa, placed third with a pitch for an exclusive sock design company that manufactures with an emphasis on quality material and fit.

The 2014 challenge is now underway. Stay tuned to the MNO website for details. ∞

Métis youth ready to work

MNO two-day workshop on transitions to the labour market

Submitted by: **Guylaine Morin-Cleroux,**
MNO Education and Training Operations Coordinator

From January 18-19, Métis youth from across the province gathered in Owen Sound to attend the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Métis Youth Ready to Work: Transitions to the Labour Market workshop.

This two-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 their 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.

Students were full of energy and left the session knowing more about the different offerings the MNO provides and felt optimistic about what their future careers will hold. ∞



▲ Participants and staff of the MNO Métis Ready to Work workshop. (Left to right) **BACK ROW:** Jessica MacLean, Chanelle Larocque, Ashley Desjardins, Deidre Thomson, Sydney Ducharme, Gabrielle Fayant and Senator Roland St. Germain. **MIDDLE ROW:** Rebekah Wilson, Melody Chislett, Sarah MacLean, Steven Pelletier and Freeman Jones. **FRONT ROW:** Tegan Mandeville-MacKay and Guylaine Morin-Cleroux.



Celebrating 20 years of achievement

MNO DOCUMENTARY FILM NOW ONLINE

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was founded in 1993, making 2013 its 20th anniversary. To recognize and commemorate this landmark, the MNO produced a 48 minute documentary film telling the story of how the MNO was founded and its growth and achievements over two decades.

The Métis Nation of Ontario: 1993-2013 features interviews with some of the MNO's founders and early leaders including Tony Belcourt, Gary Lipinski, Jean Teillet, Jason Madden, Louis Goulding, Senator Reta Gordon and many others as well as rare archival interviews with Steve Powley and Marion Larkman. The film features hundreds of photographs and rare video clips that

show the amazing work of the MNO citizens who worked so hard to build the Métis Nation in Ontario.

The film describes the MNO's beginnings and then relates the gripping tale of the "Hunt for Justice"; the ten years of litigation that finally resulted in the historic victory for the Powley case in the Supreme Court of Canada. It explains how the MNO used its legal victories to convince the government that it was time for Ontario and the MNO to work together and how this led to many successes. In this film, viewers get an appreciation for the incredible work of MNO leaders, senators, veterans, women, and youth who built the Nation into the strong and vibrant Métis govern-

ment that it is today. Finally the film looks to the bright future of the MNO as it provides opportunities for Métis youth to aspire to achieve their full potential.

After a well-received showing of an advance version of *The Métis Nation of Ontario: 1993-2013* at the 2013 MNO Annual General Assembly, and the première of the final version at the Powley Anniversary dinner during Louis Riel Day events in Toronto, DVD copies have now been provided to all 29 MNO Chartered Community Councils. ∞

The full movie is also available on the MNO website at www.metisnation.org

Extending the MNO's blanket of care with the introduction of Home Flee Kits

Submitted by: **Jennifer Lord,**
MNO Manager of Mental Health and Victims Services

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) offers culturally relevant victim services within all its healing and wellness programs to address, deter, and end violence against Métis women and children. These services address the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual impacts of victimization and are available as part of the MNO's Victim Services Project.

The Victim Service Project enhances the core programs offered by the MNO such as Community Wellness, Community Support Services and Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children programming. This project is led by two victim services coordinators; each located in the northern and southern regions of Ontario. MNO Victim Services Coordinators are dedicated to assisting victims of crime by working with clients so they may live free from violence and begin their healing journey. They are also available to support MNO staff members.

Beginning in February 2014, the MNO Victim Services Project will embark on a new initiative in the area of Home Flee Kits. Home Flee Kits are a safety measure and will be available to persons in need at all MNO community offices. The kits provide essential personal hygiene items as well as a few additional items such as a change of clothes, personal cosmetics, a favourite toy and snacks to individuals and their children who are leaving abusive relationships or dangerous situations. In many cases, when someone leaves their home and goes to a shelter, they leave quickly without the basic necessities.

This initiative is part of the MNO's commitment to supporting its citizens to live healthy productive lives free of violence. If you know of someone who has just left or may be in an abusive or dangerous situation and is in need of a Home Flee Kit, please contact the MNO office in your community. ∞



▲ Contents of the home flee kit.

EDITORIAL

“We are not amused!”

About “Access to [Civil] Justice”

Submitted by: **Donn Fowler**

*All opinions expressed are those of the writer
and do not necessarily reflect Métis Nation of Ontario policies.*

During the long reign of Queen Victoria she once spoke singularly, but with a plural intent, when she exclaimed her famous comment that: “We are not amused!”, meaning-I suppose- the “WE”, being related to her Queenly role as the reigning monarch, of the then entire “British Empire” on which “the sun never sets”. She was, of course, quite supportive of her late father’s *Royal Proclamation of 1763*; especially, that part which concerned the presently extant rights and protection of her North American “Indians”, who were located within the vast areas of the English colonial territories of the “New World”. All was following the final conquest of “New France”. Of course, there was the demise of “New England”, which ultimately became absorbed by the United States of America, and the demarcation agreement of the 49th parallel, which made the distinction between the new “American”, to the south, and the very first “Province of Canada”, established in 1840/41. (This period does not forget the upheavals in Upper Canada in 1837 nor in Lower Canada in 1838). One by one the other eastern British colonies followed suite and became, respectively, the Provinces of: Nova Scotia; New Brunswick; and eventually Prince Edward Island. However, the former extremely massive “Province of Quebec”, possessed by France, was reduced to what is today known simply as the Province of Quebec. But all remained a British possession to 1867 and until the autonomy of 1982, give or take a “Statue of Westminster” or two in the interim.

The years 1840 to 1844 were a wonderful time for Jacob Corrigal and his unwed Métis adult children, because they had left behind them the harsh decades of life, living in the rugged Rupert’s land, beginning in 1790 until 1840. The family’s futures not only looked bright, but also quite cheerful. The untimely loss of their 35-year-old mother, Mary (Goodwin) Corrigal (b. 6 August 1788—d. 23 September of 1823), meant that, by 1840, the entire Corrigal family could now jour-

ney south and away from the cold, harsh, north, and enjoy the exciting and blossoming “Canada”, where they now would all be closer to the family of one of their two married sisters; namely Mrs. Mary (Corrigal) Scollie, of Otonabee Township, in Peterborough County. Their oldest sister, Ann (Corrigal) Nourse, had remained with her husband in Labrador, with the Hudson’s Bay Company. William Nourse was engaged as an HBC trader, and the son-in-law of Jacob Corrigal.

The Corrigal’s new and happy life in the Hamlet of “Amherst”- later the Village of “Hamilton” which became the “Town of Cobourg” – Ontario-- lasted for only four short years, before the agony and anxiety of deprivation had set in permanently for the Corrigals, following Jacob Corrigal’s death in March of 1844. Jacob Corrigal did not die “*Intestate*”; moreover, his abundant will intend to leave to his family, permanently, their beautiful home in Cobourg, which Jacob built in 1841/42, but also additional £18000 sterling for his children and grandchildren. Regrettably, the Corrigals, for a wide variety of reasons; not the least of which was that their Métis status was seen derogatorily as persons being “Half-Breed Indians”, and not truly as “British” Subjects; consequently, anyone perceived as being an “Indian” could not possibly inherit wealth, directly, even as a truly intended beneficiary, or even of one’s own European “white-skin”, and in this instance, an Orkney, Scotland, born father’s lawful will, with a clearly well intended desire to benefit his named children and grandchildren. Apparently, there was no such thing as true “Access to Civil Justice” for Aboriginals in those days. This matter of “Access to Justice” brings up another contemporary subject which is as follows:

Beginning at least in 2005 the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin, PC CStJ has been asking, quite publicly and frequently, for a legal solution to the problem of giving legal “Access to Justice” to

those Canadians who do not have the means for “Access to Justice”. It is therefore the opinion of this writer that while the Chief Justice has not specifically referred to the need for “Access t” CIVIL “Justice”, it seems obvious that Access to Criminal Justice has been extremely well taken care of, financially, by either our personal taxes alone, and/or through the federal governments’ borrowing of money on which we the tax-payer contribute toward the payments on the borrowed debt, and the interest on that debt, by more and more taxation. The problem appears to be that we Canadians can pay inexhaustible amounts of money for Criminal Justice court actions: for police; lawyers; judges; courts; jails and penitentiary etc. expenses, but there is simply no money available for acceptable or urgent Civil Justice court actions. In summary then, we who are the unwashed masses of the middleclass are likely to be too affluent for legal assistance through the so-called “Legal Aid” plan, and not sufficiently affluent enough to pay the huge cost of a desired “Civil Court Action”, as a plaintiff, without having possible to sell our homes and all our possessions. Criminals do not have to pay a cent when convicted and incarcerated; but we the honest citizen are truly denied what the good Chief Justice is seeking as a remedy; namely, better and more affordable “Access to Justice” for all, including those who wish to go before the courts, as a plaintiff, and with a reasonable cause for non-criminal court action, even in some instances without the legal “hammer” of the “Statue of Limitation” prevailing.

Finally, I believe the Chief Justice and the Supreme Court of Canada needs all the help it can get from all of us, in order to solve the problems found in the need to obtain a true “Access to Justice” in Canada; especially so, in matters of the wanting of Civil Law changes. A great deal of money will be needed in order to meet such qualified civil actions; therefore, could the “Lottery” systems in Canada not pay half of all major top-line wins to the Department of Justice, earmarked for justified Civil actions? That way we could all benefit when civil action is justified. The Department of Justice could and perhaps should administer the necessary establishment of policy and the requisite funds made available, in Trust, for such approved civil actions allowed. Failure would mean an even greater loss of respect for the “Rule of Law” throughout Canada. ∞



ACROSS THE HOMELAND



BRITISH COLUMBIA

“Vive Les Voyageur” Festival

From January 25-26, 2014, representatives from the Métis Nation of British Columbia (MNBC) attended the *Vive Les Voyageurs* Festival which was held at Historic Fort Langley Site in British Columbia. The event, hosted by Parks Canada, celebrated the vibrant French-Canadian culture that thrives today in British Columbia, and first emerged in the region when the Hudson’s Bay Company arrived in 1827 at Fort Langley.

Visitors had the opportunity to watch and learn traditional Métis dance, try their hand at finger-weaving, watch some black powder shooting, and sample some tasty bannock and butter after the baking presentation. They also could also fill up on delicious maple taffy and poutine, all while listening to live Voyageur-style music.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the performance by the Golden Ear Métis Jiggers. As soon as the music started crowds would gather around and join in the fun.

Source: Métis Nation of British Colombia



SASKATCHEWAN

All-female indigenous talk show takes off in Regina

A show unlike any other has taken to the screens of Regina, Saskatchewan. *The Four* is an all-female indigenous talk show where four co-hosts share their unique perspectives.

Two of the four co-hosts are Métis, Robyn Morin and Shannon Fayant. Morin works as a mentor co-ordinator for a non-profit organization and Fayant works in education. They are joined by Beavann Fox and co-producer Dr. Shaueen Pete.

The Four premiered Jan. 21, 2014, and airs on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. on Access Communications in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Access Communications is submitting the talk show to the Yorkton Film Festival and also to the Red Nation Film Festival in the United States.

Source: CBC News



ALBERTA

Neil Young tour raises \$500,000 for ACFN

Neil Young finished his Honour the Treaties tour in the backyard of Alberta’s major oilsands companies on January 19, bringing in \$500,000 in support of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation’s (ACFN) legal defense against the expansion of the Athabasca oilsands as well as a letter of support from 20 Canadian actors, authors, musicians and scientists.

The biggest project the ACFN, supported by the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), is opposed to is Shell’s expansion of its Jackpine Mine, located north of Fort McMurray. The expansion will bring the mine’s output to 300,000 barrels per day.

The ACFN and the MNA argue the project will harm lands deemed culturally and historically significant, and that they have not been adequately consulted by Shell Canada.

The ACFN’s legal defense fund—which will receive 100 per cent of proceeds raised from the concert tour—will go towards fights against several projects and legal challenges.

Source: Fort McMurray Today



MANITOBA

MMF, Norway House partner on Aboriginal-owned pharmacy

On January 7, 2014 the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) teamed up with Norway House Cree Nation to open an Aboriginal-owned pharmacy.

An agreement is in place to open another at Sagkeeng First Nation and MMF President David Chartrand said the MMF has been talking to Aboriginal groups across Canada and the United States about further expansion.

One outlet of the MMF-owned MEDO Care Pharmacy has been open at the MMF headquarters on Henry Street in Winnipeg for more than a year.

Chartrand said they believe operational systems and enough market intelligence is now in place to allow the enterprise to expand.

There is huge market in providing pharmacy services to Aboriginal people. Chartrand said the first three stores could generate as much as \$60 million in revenue over a 10-year period.

Source: Martin Cash, Winnipeg Free Press



▲ MNO Veterans' Council and Métis veteran Alex Boucher at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Ottawa during the 2013 Annual General Assembly.

MNO Veterans' Council

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council is open to all MNO citizens who have served in the Canadian Forces (Regular Forces and/or Reserves, have completed the Military Occupation Course and were honorably discharged). If you fit that description or know of a family member or friend that does, the MNO Veterans' Council wants to hear from them.

Métis veterans pledged to protect this great country and its people, and the MNO Veterans' Council continues to help them live up to that pledge. The Council represents Métis veterans within the MNO, works with youth and community councils to encourage recognition of veteran contributions and achievements and participates in veterans events. The Council supports veterans by helping where and when it can and works to insure that the great sacrifices made by every veteran are remembered and commemorated.

For more information about the MNO Veterans' Council and its activities contact the following:

President	Joseph Paquette	mnovc@rogers.com	Region 8
Chair	Guy Mandeville	gmandeville@sympatico.ca	
Senator	Alis Kennedy	alis.kennedy5@gmail.com	Region 8
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Sgt-at-arms	Greg Garratt	greggarratt63@gmail.com	Region 7

Métis Nation of Ontario veterans attend levées

Métis veterans started the New Year by attending levées that increased their visibility in communities throughout the province.

Levées are New Year's Day social events traditionally held by representatives of the Crown but can be also be hosted by other officials. This tradition dates back to the 18th century, originating in France.

One levée was held by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honourable David C. Onley. This will be his last levée as his term is nearing completion.

Held at Queen's Park in Toronto, the event was well attended by Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens including MNO Veterans' Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy CD, OMC.

MNO veterans also attended a levée

in honour of Her Worship, Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion. Celebrating her 36 years in office, the event marked Mayor McCallion's last levée. Held at the Mississauga Civic Centre, the event was attended by many, including MNO Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette. ∞



TOP: MNO Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette with Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion. BOTTOM: MNO Veterans' Senator Kennedy with the Honourable David C. Onley and wife Ruth Ann Onley.

Beloved MNO citizen and Métis veteran passes

Submitted by: Louise Goulding, MNO Deputy Chief Captain of the Hunt

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of Peter Jacques Grisdale. Pete just celebrated his 94th birthday on February 6th. He passed away peacefully the morning of February 13 with his daughter Deb by his side.

Pete like many Métis people grew up being denied his Métis heritage. He would ask his father questions like; why is our skin so dark? And the answer he would receive would be that he spent too much time in the sun. He knew in his heart though that he was Métis even if he was never able to openly be proud of who he was or where he came from.

In his 85th year, Pete learned of a meeting of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Moon River Métis Council and even though he had just undergone a second leg amputation, with the Council's help he was able to attend the meeting and apply for his MNO citizenship. He had been a citizen since then and was Moon River's eldest citizen.

Pete had many accomplishments. He loved to hunt and fish; was a formidable trapper; a guide; and a boat builder. He was an amazing gunsmith; even making his own gun stalks. He was even quite the artist and he

loved woodworking and created unbelievable leather work. Eight years ago Pete became a published author, when he wrote his autobiography. During a presentation honouring Pete at the 2011 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) President Gary Lipinski congratulated Pete for his many achievements commenting that his shining example demonstrated that it is never too late for someone to re-claim their Métis heritage.

Pete was also a Métis veteran who proudly served his country in World War II as a Royal Engineer. At the 2011 AGA, the MNO Veterans Council presented Pete with an Eagle Feather and Métis National Council (MNC) President Clement Chartier recognized his military service by presenting him with the Order of the Métis Nation, which is the highest honour the MNC can bestow. He was also recognized by the MNO Veterans' Council with a Louis Riel certificate in 2013.

Pete's legacy will be forever remembered in the many publications that the MNO Moon River Métis Council has published over the last several years. He was a remarkable man and will be missed by many!

A celebration of life will be held in the spring. ∞



▲ Peter Jacques Grisdale 1920-2014 (centre) accepting congratulations from MNO President Gary Lipinski (left) and MNC President Clement Chartier (right) at the 2011 MNO AGA.

Statement from MNA President on Hirsekorn case

On January 23, 2014, the Supreme Court of Canada announced that it would not hear an appeal on the Hirsekorn case. As reported in past issues of the *Métis Voyageur*, the Hirsekorn case involved a Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) citizen, Garry Hirsekorn, who was charged with illegally hunting in the Cypress Hills in south eastern Alberta. The MNA had defended Hirsekorn on the basis that while Hirsekorn was not from the area where he was hunting, because Métis were a highly mobile people, his harvesting rights should be extended to the Cypress Hills, which was a traditional area for Métis harvesting.

After being unsuccessful at several lower courts, the MNA asked the Supreme Court to hear the case but the Court declined the request. Following the decision, MNA President Audrey Poitras released this statement on January 23, 2014:

As you may have already heard, the Supreme Court of Canada did not agree to hear our appeal in the Hirsekorn case. This is extremely disappointing, but we remain committed to our 'hunt for justice' in this province. Alberta Métis are not going anywhere and we will not be deterred in continuing to advance our rights as a distinct Aboriginal people.

Next week, the MNA Provincial Council will be meeting with our lawyers and discussing options and next steps. We will be consulting with MNA members, locals and regions to see what our people want to do. I will also be meeting with the new Minister of Aboriginal Affairs in Alberta in order to discuss issues related to Métis harvesting and Métis consultation in order to see if some progress can be made on these issues through negotiations.

As MNA President, I still strongly believe we have

harvesting rights in southern Alberta that flow from our ancestors the Métis buffalo hunters of the plains. I stand by our position that we have rights throughout Alberta as a part of the larger Métis Nation. We will continue to fight for the recognition of our rights throughout the province, but we will need to develop new strategies and approaches as well as respect the law as it currently stands in Alberta while we continue to push forward.

We have to remember that our ancestors never stopped fighting to have their distinct identity as Métis and rights recognized. Neither will we! One day true justice will be achieved for our people. Unfortunately, today wasn't one of those days. But we will start writing a new chapter starting tomorrow.

Best regards ... Audrey ∞



▲ Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) President Audrey Poitras speaking at the 2013 MNO Annual General Assembly.

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Welcome Aboard

TO NEW STAFF AND CONGRATULATIONS TO STAFF
STARTING NEW POSITIONS

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) congratulates Amanda Desbiens on her new position within the MNO and is pleased to welcome six new staff members to MNO offices in Ottawa, Dryden, Kingston, Bancroft and Timmins.



AMANDA DESBIENS

Amanda, who has been part of MNO team since 2005, has now become the Community Support Services Supervisor and continues to work out of the MNO North Bay office.

Previously a Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program Coordinator, Amanda gained valuable experience working with children, youth and families in the areas of prenatal health, FASD and addictions.

Amanda completed her studies at Canadore College where she received a diploma from the Drug and Alcohol program. She also holds a diploma in Social Work.

DANIELLE DELARONDE

Danielle joins the MNO Dryden office in the position Community Action Program for Children Coordinator. Danielle comes to the MNO from Abinoojii Learning Centre where she worked as an Aboriginal Child Care Worker. Danielle also has experience as a teacher's assistant.

Danielle holds a diploma from the Educational Assistant Program at Confederation College.

JUDY GREENWOOD-SPEERS

Judy joins the MNO in the position of Site Manager with the MNO Urban Aboriginal Services in Kingston.

Judy comes to the MNO as a seasoned senior executive within the health care sector.

Her past work experience includes; Project Management for the Kingston General Hospital, Executive Director for Shawanaga Healing Centre and Director of Operation and Information Management for the Country Roads Community Health Centre. She is also a certified Human Resource Professional and Registered Nurse.

Judy holds a MBA in Management & Organizational Behavior and Marketing from Wilfrid Laurier University. She has also holds a diploma in Nursing, Gerontology and Management/Leadership.



01: JENNIFER B. LORD

Jennifer joins the MNO Ottawa office in the position of Manager of Mental Health and Victim Services.

Jennifer is a passionate and dynamic Métis woman originally from Lac Ste. Anne (Edmonton, Alberta) who embraces her traditional roles as wife and mother. Jennifer has more than eight years of experience in the field of Violence against Aboriginal women. You may already be familiar with her advocacy work on missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls through the October 4 Sisters In Spirit Vigils and the Faceless Dolls Project.

Jennifer holds a B.A. in Honours History from the University of Ottawa and a Masters in International Affairs from Carleton University.

Jennifer applies a client-centered approach to her work and encourages 'giving voice' to those around us that are silent or silenced. She is excited to share her knowledge and experience with the Métis Nation and is looking forward to being a positive force within the organization.

02: ELLE SARE

Elle joins the MNO North Bay office in the position of Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinator.

Elle comes to the MNO from L'arche Canada where she worked as a Developmental Service Worker. Elle also has experience working with the Alzheimer's Society.

Elle holds a Bachelor in Social Work from Algoma University and a Bachelor of Sociology and Anthropology from Carleton University.



03: ROBIN SIMPSON

Robin joins the MNO Bancroft office in the position of Community Action Program for Children/Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinator.

Robin comes to the MNO from North Hastings Children's Services where she worked as an Ontario Early Years Program Coordinator. Robin also has experience as a childcare center staff member.

Robin holds a diploma in Early Childhood Education from Sir Sandford Fleming College. She also holds a certificate in Triple P Positive Parenting and Theory and Practice in Family Support.

04: RYAN PLANTE

Ryan joins the MNO Timmins office in the position of Community Wellness Coordinator.

Ryan comes to the MNO from the Jubilee Centre in Timmins where he worked with clients facing mental health and addiction issues. Previous to that, Ryan worked as an outreach worker at a homeless shelter in Sudbury, ON.

Ryan holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Laurentian University and a diploma in Community and Justice Services from Loyalist College. He is also currently working towards a certificate in Addiction Studies.

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

The MNO is very excited to have these new staff members join the team and congratulates Amanda on her new position!

Métis Nation
of Ontario 

NWMO Completes Phase 1



PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENTS WITH EIGHT COMMUNITIES

Four communities will continue to more detailed study; all eight recognized for leadership

On November 21, 2013, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) announced completion of the first phase of preliminary assessment in collaboration with eight of the 21 communities that expressed interest in learning about Canada's plan for the safe, long-term management of used nuclear fuel. Preliminary assessments are the third of nine steps in a multi-year process for evaluating potential suitability to host a deep geological repository for Canada's used nuclear fuel and an associated Centre of Expertise.

Creighton in Saskatchewan, and Hornepayne, Ignace and Schreiber in Ontario, were assessed as having strong potential to meet site selection requirements and have been identified for further study. The communities of English River First Nation and Pinehouse in Saskatchewan, and Ear Falls and Wawa in Ontario, were not selected for more detailed study. Findings to date do not confirm suitability of any site, and no community has expressed interest in hosting the project at this early point. These findings do not affect work in other communities involved in

earlier stages of the process.

Phase 1 assessments evaluated in a preliminary way the potential for an area to meet or exceed strict safety and geoscientific requirements, and to align with the community's long-term goals and vision. Any site selected in the future must have an informed and willing host, meet strict scientific and technical criteria for protecting people and the environment for the very long term, and meet or exceed regulatory requirements.

Recognizing community leadership

At this milestone in the process, the NWMO is recognizing the contribution all eight communities have made to advancing Canada's plan for safely managing used nuclear fuel over the long term. Through their multi-year participation, each community has built understanding of the project and helped shape and deliver engagement and ensure meaningful involvement of citizens.

"Through their leadership, these communities

have advanced this major national project on behalf of all Canadians," said Kathryn Shaver, Vice-President of APM Engagement and Site Selection at the NWMO. "Each has helped design and lead dialogues to ensure important questions about safety are asked and learning continues. By working within their communities, and through early outreach to neighbours and Aboriginal peoples, they have underscored the importance of working together and

helped set the stage for the next several years of study."

In acknowledging these significant contributions to the process, the NWMO will provide \$400,000 to each of the eight communities upon establishment of a Community Well-Being Reserve Fund. Administered by the communities, these funds will support continuing efforts to build community sustainability and well-being.

Next steps

For communities that continue, the next phase of work involves more intensive community learning and engagement. Work will take on a broader focus to include First Nations and Métis peoples, and surrounding communities.

"The NWMO acknowledges and respects the unique status and rights of Aboriginal peoples – First Nations, Inuit and Métis," said Bob Watts, NWMO Director of Aboriginal Community Relations. "The NWMO has sought to develop its processes and plans with the involvement of Métis people, laying a foundation for ongoing consultations and engagement

that are respectful of traditional practices and approaches to decision-making."

Annual updates on Adaptive Phased Management during the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual Assembly and a close working relationship with the MNO have provided excellent opportunities to share information on this work. Community meetings in 2013 and in the continuing work in Phase 2 will build the strong foundation that is so important to mutual learning and ensuring that decision-making takes into account the interests of the whole community and includes the wisdom that can be derived from

Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge.

As individual studies are completed, the NWMO will continue to gradually narrow its focus to areas with strong potential to be suitable for hosting a repository. Ultimately, the project will only proceed at a site that can safely contain and isolate used nuclear fuel, with the involvement of the interested community, First Nations and Métis peoples, and surrounding communities, working together to implement it.

It is expected to take several more years to complete the necessary studies to identify a preferred site and an informed and willing host.

To learn more,
please contact:

Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO)

22 St. Clair Avenue East

Sixth Floor

Toronto, Ontario

M4T 2S3 Canada

Tel: 416.934.9814

Email: contactus@nwmo.ca

Website: www.nwmo.ca

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) wants to hear from its citizens about this project. If you have any questions or comments please e-mail consultations@metisnation.org or call the MNO Land, Resources and Consultations Branch at 1-888-466-6684.

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PASSAGES

MNO remembers Nelson Mandela, an honorary Métis

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) mourns the loss of Nelson Mandela. An inspiration to the world, Mandela's legacy will always be remembered.

Mandela, South Africa's anti-apartheid icon, passed away at his home in Johannesburg while surrounded by family on December 5, 2013. He was 95.

The MNO pays tribute to this great man by sharing the story of how Mandela became an honorary Métis citizen.

Mandela became an honorary Métis during his visit to Ottawa on September 24, 1998, when he was presented with a Métis sash by the late Métis Senator John B. Boucher. Boucher had the privilege of wrapping the sash around Mandela's waist and presenting Mandela with an honorary Métis name, "Diamant", which means Diamond in French. Mandela wore the sash proudly for the remainder of the day, even during his induction into the Order of Canada.

A distinctive honour, the Métis sash is given to special people as a symbol of honour, pride and respect. This monumental moment was captured in a beautiful portrait which is and will remain on display at the MNO head office in Ottawa.

Mandela's struggle for justice and equality holds deep meaning

to the Métis. His courage and selflessness serves as an example of excellence to the world.

A distinctive honour, the Métis sash is given to special people as a symbol of honour, pride and respect... Mandela's struggle for justice and equality holds deep meaning to the Métis."

Mandela was a visionary hero; he truly 'belongs to the ages'. ∞

Métis Senator John B. Boucher was a Canadian Métis leader. He was active in Métis politics since the 1960s. He sat on the Aboriginal Advisory Board for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and was a member of the Senate of the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan as well as a member of the Métis National Council. He also received the Order of Canada in 2002.



TOP: Nelson Mandela with Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien on September 24, 1998 prior to his address to Parliament in Ottawa. **RIGHT:** Portrait of Métis Senator John B. Boucher presenting Nelson Mandela with a Métis sash during his visit to Ottawa in September, 1998.



Remembering "Augie"

Submitted by: Rick Zonadah Meilleur

Rick Zonadah Meilleur considers himself very fortunate to have met Canadian-born actor August Schellenberg in 2004 while visiting Thessalon, Ontario.

Schellenberg, who is fondly nicknamed "Augie", is a famous Aboriginal actor who had major roles in such films as *The Black Robe*, *Free Willy* and *The New World* to name only a few. In 2012, he performed the title role in the all-Aboriginal production of William Shakespeare's *King Lear* at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa (see page 15).

Meilleur remembers meeting Schellenberg in Thessalon when he was playing music with the famous Giroux family. After a performance he decided to go to a local restaurant. Proud of his ancestry, Meilleur's personalized license plate said "Métis", which attracted Schellenberg's attention. After leaving the restaurant,



▲ Rick Zonadah Meilleur (left) with August Schellenber (right) in Thessalon, Ontario.

Meilleur found Schellenberg and his wife Joan waiting by his car.

"He told me that he wanted to meet a Métis from the Northern part of Ontario," explained Meilleur.

They headed back inside the

restaurant and shared stories and some good laughs, which led to them becoming good friends.

"He was a people person, a down to earth kind of guy," said Meilleur. "We kept in contact and shared gifts.

Anyone who knew Augie, knows the kind of person he was."

Sadly, Schellenberg passed away on August 15, 2013 at his home in Dallas, Texas after a long battle with lung cancer.

"He was a people person, a down to earth kind of guy... I will miss our conversations and his laugh that always came straight from the heart."

— Rick Zonadah Meilleur

"I was saddened to hear that my good friend had passed," said Meilleur. "I will miss our conversations and his laugh that always came straight from the heart. Be in peace my brother." ∞

COMMUNITY

MNO citizens join community members walk to oppose violence against women



From Bancroft This Week

A group of about 75 Bancroft community members came out to walk and participate in a vigil marking the 25th National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, which takes place every year on Dec. 6.

On Dec. 6, 1989 a man killed 14 young women at the Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal because they were women. This awful event galvanized Canadians to create a yearly day of remembrance for all the woman and girls who have suffered violence, and to reflect on entrenched gender-based violence, and how to eliminate it.

Support for the local walk came from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), Maggie's Resource Centre for Women, local members of

the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, and other concerned community members. Bancroft is one community that has been observing this day of remembrance since the beginning. Bancroft Deputy Mayor Wayne Wiggins and Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk Hazel Lambe attended on behalf of Mayor Bernice Jenkins who was out of town.

During the event, Marsha Depotier, MNO Victim Services Coordinator read a message issued by MNO President Gary Lipinski on December 6, which included this passage:

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. 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 missing and murdered Aboriginal women, but we still wait for answers.

Depotier also spoke about the collective work of a number of Aboriginal groups in Canada to address these serious problems, and the current working group's report to government ministers responsible for women's issues and Aboriginal affairs. ∞



▲ (Left to right) Rochelle Ethier, Stephanie Montague from the Knight's Table and MNO Credit River Métis Council Councillor Darlene Lent during the Council's Riel Day gathering where 250 pounds of food from the community garden was donated to the Knight's Table charity.

MNO Credit River Métis Council community garden

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

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council members embarked on a community garden, a small venture which has yielded substantial rewards.

The Métis Community Garden Project was created by Council members Rochelle Ethier and Councillor Darlene Lent. The Métis Community Garden grew over 450 pounds of fresh produce throughout the season. This fresh produce was donated by the Council to needy Métis families and to charities such as The Knight's Table and St. Leonard's House. The garden also provided most of the vegetables for the Council's Louis Riel Day gathering.

To highlight the project and its success, Ethier created the short film documenting the garden project that was shown at the Council's Riel Day gathering. The documentary was

created in hopes that it will inspire more volunteers for next season. After the viewing of the documentary, there was thunderous applause from the audience for Councillor Lent and Either.

"This is a great way to promote one of the positive ways Métis give back to their communities. Not just the Métis communities but to the towns, municipalities and the province we live in," said MNO Credit River Métis Council President Richard Cuddy. "We are excellent partners and collaborators. We care, we share, and our culture and traditions have so very much to offer."

Regional Councillor for Wards 3 and 4 in the City of Brampton John Sanderson was in attendance at the Riel celebration and was so impressed with the project and its outcomes that he plans on personally donating to project. ∞

Keeping the tradition: A Métis hunting tale

Submitted by: **Lucille Nelson**

This article was edited for length and according to the Métis Voyageur submission policy (see page 2).

Lucille Nelson has been an avid hunter for the past 25 years. She usually hunts with a rifle but on Christmas Day 2012 she received a compound bow that she enjoys very much. As a young adult Nelson hunted with a re-curve bow so with a little practice, the technique of using a bow came back to her in no time.

Since receiving the bow, Nelson takes it everywhere with her, even when attending weddings. Yes, weddings. Nelson actually caught her first live animal at a wedding where she was practicing her bow in

a farmer's field. While practicing, the local farmer asked if she could give him a hand getting rid of a nuisance ground hog. Eager to tackle the challenge, Nelson found the hole, got behind the bail and waited for the groundhog to make its appearance. After waiting for about 10 minutes, she spotted it and at 27 yards away she took her shot and the rest is history.

Wanting to continue her success with the bow, this August Nelson and her husband purchased bear tags and went hunting for a week. From 22 yards away, again with a single shot, she managed to catch her very first bear. Adrenaline rushed through her when she realized her great accomplishment. Nelson was able to retrieve a good amount of meat from the bear and it also provided a lot of traditional necessity. Nelson gave the bear fat to local elders for making medicine and

glue and the hide went to making moccasins.

Next on her hunting list was a moose. Nelson could not wait for the September harvest to arrive. But before she could go hunting for moose, she needed work on her pull weight. Nelson was on a mission to get the weight up so she purchased a cow tag and went hunting. Unfortunately, after a long week it came to a close and all she was able to catch was three grouse.

October arrived and with it, rifle hunting season, but that didn't stop Nelson from brining her bow. Rifle season means that hunters must be dressed in orange, so camouflage is out of the question. Trying to sneak up on a moose wearing bright orange is quite the challenge but that didn't stop Nelson from trying. Unfortunately, all she was able to come home with was sand and mud in her boots. ∞



▲ Lucille Nelson during the 2013 hunting season.

MNO Hamilton-Wentworth Métis Council Christmas potluck

Submitted by: **Jerry Clarke**, *President of the MNO Hamilton-Wentworth Métis Council*

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Hamilton-Wentworth Métis Council held a Christmas potluck on Saturday, December 14, at the Church of Latter Day Saints in Hamilton. Even with the onset of a terrible winter storm, a large number of MNO citizens attended the event.

It was a festive gathering that boasted an array of live festive music, including the sounds of the Trailblazers, a women’s drumming group, along with the musical talents of guitarist Jordan Clarke and accompanying vocalist Jennifer Cain.

This family fun event also featured a children’s colour-

ing corner and medicine bag craft table organized by Tobias Clarke as well as a drum and sacred medicine display organized by newly elected Council Traditional Knowledge Keeper, Leon Fleury. Of course, there was also a great variety of food and drink.

The Council used the event to introduce its newly elected members. Newly elected Council President, Jerry Clarke, was the acting Master of Ceremonies for the day.

A great success, the event was organized by Margaret Fleury, Terese Clarke and newly elected Council Chair Suzanne Jackson. ∞



▲ Community Council members having fun at the Christmas potluck.



Not your typical “Jam Night”

Submitted by: **Larry Ferris**

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council youth group recently held a “Jam Night” without any musical instruments. Instead of a traditional “Jam Night”, council member Janice Ferris and youth members made homemade strawberry jam from scratch.

The youth were included throughout the entire process from “mushing” the berries to mixing and of course sampling. All participants were able to bring the strawberry jam home with them and some was donated to elders. ∞



▲ Janice Ferris and youth members sampling the homemade strawberry jam.

Métis family Christmas potluck

Submitted by: **Fern Tremblay**

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Timmins recently held their annual Métis Family Christmas Potluck at St. Dominique Parish Hall. Roughly 80 adults and 30 youth attended the festive occasion. Even jolly old Saint Nick made an appearance.

A special treat for the youngsters, Santa handed out gifts and posed for photos before heading back to the North Pole to get ready for the big day.

The event was enjoyed by all and kicked off the Christmas season surrounded by loved ones and friends. ∞



▲ Children posing with Santa at the Timmins annual Métis family Christmas potluck.



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▲ MNO Sudbury Métis Council members who participated in the MNO Governance and Finance training. (Left to right): Don Prevost, Jay Wilson, Maurice Sarrazin, Liliane Chretien, Cleo Melanson, Richard Sarrazin, Steven Callaghan and Normand Prevost.



▲ MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council members who participated in the MNO Governance and Finance training. (Left to right): Senator Terry Bloom; Tom Thompson, PCMNO Region 6 Councillor; Terra Knapp, Secretary Treasurer; Brad Hodgson, Councillor; Christa Lemelin, Chair; Andrew Dufrane, President; and Deidre Thompson, Interim President for the MNO High Land Waters Métis Council.

Councils participate in MNO Governance & Finance Training

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

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

The MNO developed the Governance and Finance course to help community councils perform their important work. Recently, the MNO Sudbury Métis Council and the Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council participated in this two-day seminar.

The MNO Sudbury Métis Council participated in the training from November 30-December 1. It was facilitated by Glen Lipinski, MNO Community Relations Coordinator and Hank Rowlinson, MNO Community

Relations Manager. The MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council took part in the training from January 25-26 and it was facilitated by Lipinski and Beth Honsberger, MNO Community Relations Coordinator.

The training explains the role of community councils as the MNO's local governments, whose structure and purpose is coordinated through each council's charter agreement with the MNO. The course covers everything from how to run effective meetings and engage citizens in council activities to budgeting and the various financial practices, regulations and legislation that community councils follow. ∞

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2014-15 Publishing Schedule

- March 7, 2014 (publication date April 11)
- May 2, 2014 (publication date June 16)
- September 5, 2014 (publication date October 1)
- November 1, 2014 (publication date December 12)

For more information please contact AlyshaA@metisnation.org

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WALRUS

MNO Infinite Reach hosts the largest Métis specific event ever held at the University of Waterloo



Submitted by: **Alicia Blore**, MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator for the University of Waterloo

A Métis cultural event held in November at the University of Waterloo was not only a great success but it was also the largest Métis specific event the university has seen. The event was hosted by Alicia Blore who is the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Infinite Reach Facilitator for the university.

This was Blore's first time hosting an event in her position as a MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator. The event was held at the university's Aboriginal Education Centre and provided an opportunity to promote Métis culture to the university's students and faculty. It also served as an outreach opportunity for Métis and other indigenous students who were unaware of the university's Aboriginal community.

The event had an amazing turnout of roughly 100 people. The opening prayer was presented by MNO Grand River Métis Council Senator Carol Levis. This was followed by a Métis poetry reading by

a University of Waterloo student and a presentation by MNO Grand River Métis Council President Cora Bunn and Senator Levis on Métis people, history and culture, including background on the MNO.

Other aspects of the event included a finger weaving workshop, several display booths, a community development board where attendees wrote down what community means to them, and traditional bannock and hot cedar tea tastings.

The event would not have been complete without the toe tapping sounds of traditional Métis fiddling. Accordingly, the talented Blore played the fiddle and taught several audience members how to jig the "Red River Jig".

Blore's favourite moment at the event was when a Métis student who was not very familiar with the university's Aboriginal centre or very knowledgeable of his Métis heritage, dropped in and tried his first piece of bannock!

A first of its kind at the university, many of the attendees have requested for more Métis events in the future. Blore is very grateful to the volunteers, the MNO, and the coordinator at the University of Waterloo's Aboriginal Education Centre who took time out of their busy schedules and provided materials to help make the event possible. ∞

The MNO Infinite Reach: Métis Solidarity Network is comprised of incoming and upper year post-secondary students who have the common goal of working together to enrich and enhance their post-secondary education experience. Infinite Reach facilitators offer assistance to incoming Métis students by helping them adjust to university life and also work to create and maintain a sense of community among Métis students. Throughout the year, Infinite Reach facilitators host cultural and informative events to connect students to the local MNO community councils and various programs, services and events of the MNO. To learn more about MNO's Infinite Reach program visit: www.metisnation.org



▲ **TOP.** MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator Alicia Blore (left) with University of Waterloo students who attended the Métis cultural event. **MIDDLE.** Bannock and hot cedar tea tastings. **BOTTOM.** Alicia Blore (right) teaching an attendee how to finger weave.

Hanging with the Hendricks

MNO citizen to be featured in documentary

In 2012, MNO staff member and citizen Theresa Hendricks and family were volunteer actors in the all-Aboriginal production of William Shakespeare's *King Lear* at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

Starring the late August Schellenberg, the production was Schellenberg's long-time vision which after 40 years, became a reality. The play was a great success and it is currently being made into a documentary.

Creating the documentary entitled *The Making of King Lear* is

the production company Ungrateful Daughters Productions (UDP) Documentary Inc..

The Hendricks family was approached by UDP and asked if they were willing to be featured in the documentary. Eager to take part in the project, Theresa, her husband Keith and their two daughters Marissa and Jordan were set to film a "day in the life" sequence.

Each day a camera crew would follow one of the family members from morning to night. They followed the girls to school, Keith

to his job as a Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Officer whose current position is with the Prime Minister Protective Detail, and Theresa to the MNO head office. Each family member was also interviewed one-on-one in their Ottawa home.

The documentary is set to air on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN). A release date is yet to be determined but it is anticipated it will complete by late 2014. ∞



▲ Theresa Hendricks (left) being filmed for *The Making of King Lear* documentary at the MNO head office in Ottawa.

ACHIEVEMENTS

“We Are Here” exhibit recognized by the Ontario Museum Association

Awarded Honourable Mention for Excellence in Exhibitions

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

In 2013, the Peel Art Gallery Museum and Archives (PAMA) embarked on a project to represent the Aboriginal identity and history in the Region of Peel. Accordingly, an exhibition entitled, “We Are Here” or “On Nay Icit” in Michif, was created.

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was heavily involved in this project having three citizens part of the project committee. Representing Métis on committee were MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride, MNO Credit River Métis Council President Richard Cuddy and MNO citizen Bill Morrison. The committee worked with the Vilnis Cultural Design Works to make the project a reality. Through innovative presentation and authentic voice, this exhibition provided visitors with an understanding of the Aboriginal experience over the past two centuries.

On November 7, the “We Are Here” exhibit was recognized by the Ontario Museum Association (OMA) for outstanding contributions to the Ontario museum community. The exhibit was awarded the Honourable Mention for Excellence

in Exhibitions at the 2013 Awards of Excellence Ceremony in Markham, Ontario.

MNO Vice-chair McBride and MNO Credit River Métis Council President Cuddy attended the ceremony and accepted the award on behalf of all Métis. The award was presented by Honourable Michael Chan, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

The OMA awards are designed to recognize outstanding contributions to the Ontario museum community with an emphasis on innovation, to advance the museum profession in Ontario and to encourage high standards of excellence in the museum field.

PAMA generously donated a duplicate of one of the actual display panels from the exhibit to the MNO Credit River Métis Council where it will soon be on display at the Council office.

The “We Are Here” exhibit will continue to be displayed at PAMA with the intention to continually update the content, keeping the experience fresh and expanding the learning potential. ∞



▲ (Left to right): MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride, the Honourable Michael Chan, MNO Credit River Métis Council President Richard Cuddy and PAMA Acting Manager Marty Brent at the 2013 OMA Awards of Excellence Ceremony.

MNO co-chairs first Annual Investing in Aboriginal Canada (Mawiommi) Conference

Submitted by: **Jide Afolabi**, Managing Director, The Commons Institute

December 9 -11, 2013 marked the first Annual Investing in Aboriginal Canada (Mawiommi) Conference which was held at the Ottawa Convention Centre.

The conference was presented by The Commons Institute, an Ottawa-based policy promotion organization. This newly created event brings together Aboriginal leaders, Canadian businesses, entrepreneurs, researchers, government actors, consultants, negotiators and many others from across Canada.

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was approached by the institute to Chair the conference. MNO Manager of Natural Resources and Consultations, James Wagar, was chosen to Chair the conference alongside Steve Vanloffe from the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council.

The three-day conference offered updates on matters across the full spectrum of Aboriginal affairs. It enabled business to business matchmaking and featured an exhibition of artisan goods and services. The conference also showcased business offerings, new research findings and best practices. Emphasis was placed on social issues and business as well as education. Discussions included resource extraction partnerships, the duty to consult, treaty relations, education, financial management, and corporate social responsibility.

This conference truly illustrated the potential that exists within the Aboriginal community... We are organized, we are experienced and we have the resources needed to see tremendous leaps forward in the years to come.”

— James Wagar

“This conference truly illustrated the potential that exists within the Aboriginal community,” said Wagar. “We are organized, we are experienced and we have the resources needed to see tremendous leaps forward in the years to come.”



▲ The 2013 Investing in Aboriginal Canada (Mawiommi) Conference.

Notable speakers included: Jean Paul Gladu, Canadian Centre for Aboriginal Business; Kelly J. Lendsay, Aboriginal Human Resource Council; Amanda Lipinski, Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative; Chris Henderson, Aboriginal Power on Clean Energy and the Future of Canada’s First Peoples; Michelle Poirier and Percy Barnaby, Abenaki Associates; Amy Desjarlais, Dodem Kanonhsa; Carolyn Bennett, Liberal Party; Rob Clarke, Conservative Party; and Scott Munro, First Nations Financial Management Board.

In addition to the conference, the First Nations Financial Management Board pro-

vided a dinner on December 9 at the Ottawa Convention Centre.

A raffle was also held with proceeds benefiting the Kocihta Charity, a charity created by the Aboriginal Human Resource Council.

The conference was a safe space designed to facilitate discussions on Aboriginal issues and provided organization representatives the opportunity of working together to create positive change for the future. Relationships were built, networks were expanded, all while gaining more knowledge. ∞


 Energy
East
Pipeline

TransCanada announces Energy East Pipeline project to Saint John's

On August 1, 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 a 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 Ameri-

can 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.

Media Relations

→ For further information:

-  1.800.608.7859
-  Communications@TransCanada.com
-  EnergyEastPipeline.com
-  Blog.TransCanada.com
-  Twitter: @TransCanada

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) wants to hear from its citizens about this project. If you have any questions or comments please e-mail consultations@metisnation.org or call the MNO Land, Resources and Consultations Branch at 1-888-466-6684.

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 Tiny Voyageur

MNO citizen authors children's book on Métis history

Citizens and staff of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) know Rebekah Wilson very well. Not only is she a proud citizen who worked at the MNO as a Communications and Registry Assistant, she was also an indigenous dancer in the opening ceremonies of the 2010 winter Olympics. A Sheridan Institute of Technology Alumni, Wilson currently works for Motivate Canada as a GEN7 Program Coordinator. Adding to this list of accomplishments, Wilson has now become a successful author.

Wilson recently authored a children's book entitled *The Tiny Voyageur: A Young Girl's Discovery of Métis History*. The story is beautifully illustrated by her father Jeffrey Wilson and is also available in French.

While a fun story that children will love, it is also educational as it promotes and explains Métis history and culture. As the synopsis explains: "A curious young girl, who asks her grandmother to tell her a bedtime story about her Métis ancestors, goes on an adventure of a lifetime back in time. In her dream, she learns about Métis traditions, the Michif language, accompanies her great-great grandfather on a fur trade and brings back and very special souvenir from the past."

The story is inspired by Wilson's late great grandfather Rudy Couture and his journey of identity.

"He hid his Métis heritage for many years as it was something he was taught to be ashamed of," explained Wilson. "In his early 80s, he began to speak about his own family history ... For the remainder of his life, my grandpa Couture was fiercely proud to be Métis. He was a huge part of the inspiration behind the book because seeing how proud he was

made me proud to be Métis as well."

The idea for the story arose when Wilson was working on a project while a journalism student at Sheridan College.

"We were asked to create a fictional project about the part of our history that we most identified with," explained Wilson. "I had learned about my own Métis heritage about four years before and felt a strong connection to my roots so I chose to write this story. I had a lot of great feedback on it, and in turn applied for funding from the MNO and it has been such an exciting and worthwhile process!"

Wilson is thankful to the MNO for providing funding that helped her make the concept of the book into a reality. Wilson received funding through MNO's Métis Culture Based Economic Development Grant (MCED) program. This grant is available to MNO citizens seeking to launch an arts or culture related career.

Wilson hopes that her book will create a greater awareness about Métis history and heritage in young people.

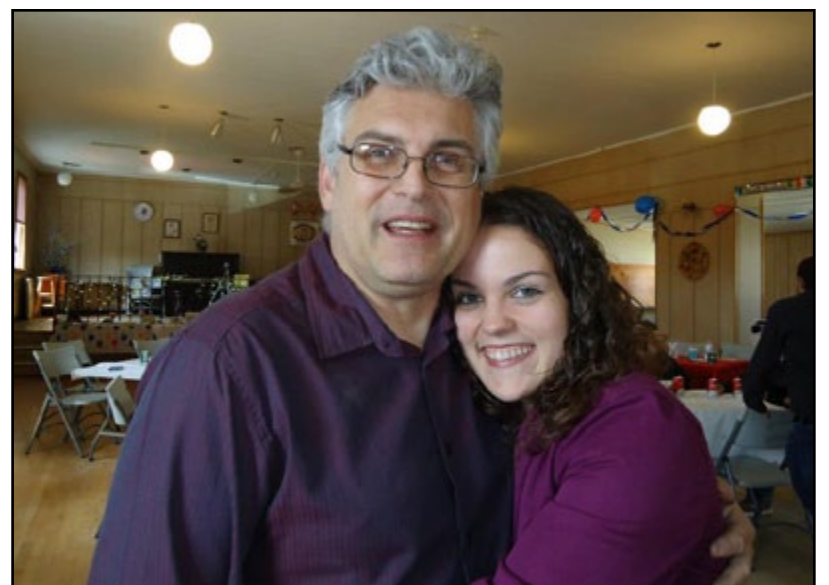
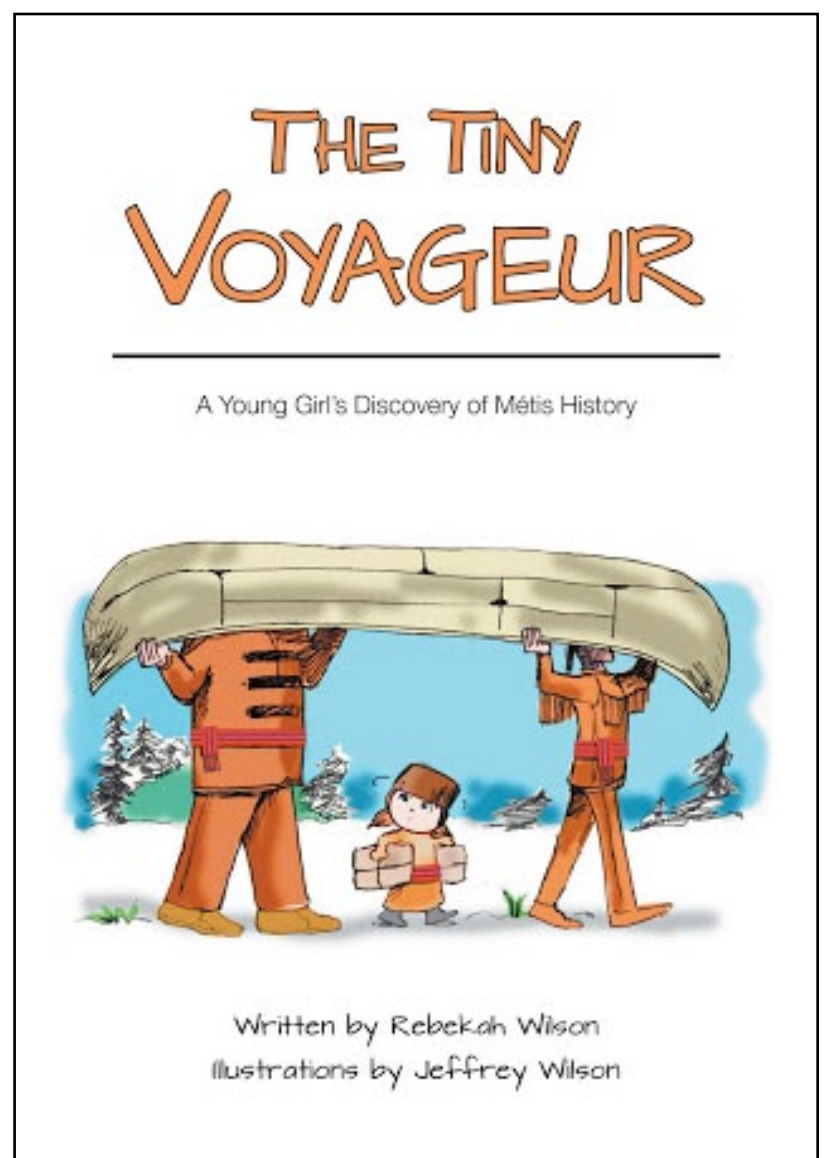
"I'm so proud of my Métis roots and I want others to feel the same," stated Wilson, "and for those who are not Métis, just for them to get an idea of the culture and know who we are."

Wilson's book already has one big fan, MNO President Gary Lipinski.

"It is great to see our youth in touch with their Métis heritage," said President Lipinski, "this is yet another example of Métis youth succeeding and becoming all they can be. We are very proud of Rebekah." ∞

The *Tiny Voyageur* and its French counterpart *La Petite Voyageuse* were officially released on January 29, 2014. Both editions of the book are available for purchase on Wilson's website at www.rebekahwilson.ca

Jeffrey and Rebekah Wilson. ►



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MNO staff member appointed to Carleton University Aboriginal Education Council

Based on the article originally published by Carleton University

Sheila Grantham who is the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Post-secondary Officer and a Carleton University PhD student has been appointed to sit on Carleton University's new Aboriginal Education Council. Her role is to ensure the Métis perspective is represented in the university's Aboriginal strategy.

The 33-member council was announced on November 19, 2013. In a statement from Carleton announcing the council's formation, its purpose was described as "providing knowledge and guidance on programs, courses and services that have an Aboriginal focus and it will be the main resource on education and support needs of Aboriginal students, staff and faculty."

"I have been a student at Carleton since 2001," stated Grantham. "Ever since I started there I have worked towards greater inclusivity and supports for indigenous students. I continue this important work in my position at the Métis Nation of Ontario as I support many Métis students within MNO's Infinite Reach Métis Student Solidarity Network."

"As an indigenous student," she continued, "I know what it is like to have



Photo credit: Carleton University.

▲ MNO Post-secondary Officer Sheila Grantham (left) during an Aboriginal graduation ceremony at Carleton University.

additional barriers in post-secondary, as such my role with the council provides me with a greater voice for Métis and other indigenous students to help ensure that they succeed in school and look to Carleton as a place where they can reach their full potential."

The council meets once a month and includes Carleton students, staff and faculty, as well as several representatives from First Nation and Inuit communities.∞

"As an indigenous student, I know what it is like to have additional barriers in post-secondary, as such my role with the council provides me with a greater voice for Métis and other indigenous students..."

— Sheila Grantham

MNO Bursary awarded to 11 Algoma University students

On January 15, Algoma University celebrated the academic achievements of its students at its 20th Annual Algoma University Student Awards. Among the numerous awards, 11 Métis students were presented with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Bursary.

The MNO Bursary is one way the MNO strives to create more opportunities for Métis students in post-secondary education. Recognizing the absence of dedicated post-secondary financial assistance

for Métis students, the MNO initiated its bursary program in 1998. Today, 36 post-secondary institutions across Ontario offer the bursary.

Recipients of the bursary include: Diandra Bellerose, Corey Caple, Mitchell Case, Kimberly Cavanagh, Megan Gjos, Jocelyn Moreau, Bernadette Pizzezy, Taylor Smith, Kristal Strawbridge, Chelsey-Ann Waddell and Lyndsay-Lee Waddell.

Congratulations to these deserving Métis students! ∞



▲ MNO Bursary recipients who were present at the Algoma University Student Awards ceremony. (Left to right) Bernadette Pizzezy, Kristal Strawbridge, Diandra Bellerose and Corey Caple.

Moving up the ranks

Métis youth benefits from MNO programming

Submitted by: **Juliette S. Denis**, PCMNO Councillor for Region 5

Jessica Boulard is yet another example of a young Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen who has benefited from MNO's education and training programs.

A recipient of the MNO bursary and participant of the MNO Summer Career Program, Boulard is very grateful for the assistance the MNO has provided her. Assistance she believes allowed her to obtain and achieve her educational goals.

In June 2013, Boulard successfully obtained a master of arts (MA) in psychology, specifically in the experimental stream, at Laurentian University. Boulard's degree specializes in shared book reading and eye movements, which relates to all child and adult reading activities.

During her studies, Boulard completed her thesis which was recognized by the Canadian Psychology Association. Her thesis entitled: *Si je pointe, est-ce que tu regardes?: Examen empirique quant à la lecture conjointe*, which translates

to: "If I point it out to you, do you look at it?" was awarded Certificate of Excellence 2013 from the association.

Through MNO's Summer Career Program, Boulard obtained the position of Payroll Clerk with Ferus Industrial Contracting, where she still works today. Boulard has moved up the ranks and currently holds the position of Finance and Administrative Manager.

Continuing her work in the field of psychology, Boulard also works part-time at Laurentian University as a Professional Researcher, in collaboration with Dr. Annie Roy-Charland and Dr. Nancy Young, on a research project aiming at developing a process and tool of health self-reporting for Aboriginal children. This measure will allow health care specialists to evaluate the health status of Francophone Aboriginal

children, generate data which will lead to health interventions, and help reduce the unjust disparities related to health care. Part of the project includes the translation and modification of a questionnaire aiming at evaluating the quality of life of Aboriginal children. Boulard is currently working with Métis children on the Métis-specific component of the research project.

Starting in January 2014, Boulard will begin teaching a course offered by the Psychology Department at Laurentian University entitled *Histoire de la psychologie* (History of Psychology).

The MNO has not only helped Boulard financially through bursaries and summer career placement, but they also allowed her to further her knowledge about Métis culture and traditions. ∞



▲ Jessica Boulard during her graduation at Laurentian University in June 2013.

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

POSTER CONTEST

The Métis Nation of Ontario invites all Métis youth ages 10 – 29 to participate in an exciting poster contest.

Theme of the contest is

"What is Family? What is Safety?"

7 winners will receive one (1) prize each of a **Dell 16 GB Android Tablet**.

Posters should be created on standard 8.5 x 11 inch paper.

Winners will be awarded according to the following categories:

- 10 – 14 years – 2 winners
- 15 – 18 years – 2 winners
- 19 and older – 3 winners

ALL ORIGINAL ENTRIES SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE CONTEST ENTRY FORM, AND MAILED NO LATER THAN MARCH 20, 2014 TO:

THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

ATTENTION: SHELLEY GONNEVILLE – POSTER SUBMISSION

D-500 OLD ST. PATRICK STREET. OTTAWA, ON K1N 9G4

All entries should be of the original work and submitted via mail. Please do not use fax or email, and do not send copies. Winners will be contacted in writing by April 20, 2014. Should you have any questions, please contact Shelley Gonneville at 1-800-263-4889 or Jason Jamieson at 1-704-474-2767 ext: 308.

All submissions become the sole property of The Métis Nation of Ontario, which can use the posters to for promotional purposes. Artists will be credited when their poster is used.

Métis Nation
of Ontario 

