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# MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

ISSUE NO. 101, FEBRUARY 2019



(back row left to right)  
Andy Lefebvre, Sarah McCaveney, Markus Tushimaa, James Juneau, Kaylee Wilkes,  
(front row, left to right)  
Alexia Deschamps and Josh McBride set off in the woods to learn about the fall harvest during the Otawn: Métis Autumn Camp Experience.

## Été et Otawn

Youth gather to learn Métis culture, history and way of life at the MNO summer and fall Cultural Camps. **Pages 14 & 15**



### Métis Achievers

Page 21-22



### Community events and activities

Page 16-20



### MNO'S 25th Annual General Assembly

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# THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

JANUARY 2019 - No. 101

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**Publication #:** PM40025265

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**SUBMISSION POLICY:**

The Métis Nation of Ontario (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.

The MNO does not accept submissions including editorials and letters to the editor that make partisan political statements.

With the exception of letters to the editor and submissions to the family section, all submissions should NOT be written in the first person.

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



## Message from the President

**T**he pages of this *Métis Voyageur* highlight several momentous months for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO).

Certainly, the principal highlight was the 25th MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA), hosted by the MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council. We should all recognize the council and Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Region 6 Councilor Tom Thompson for all their work in preparing for and hosting our milestone AGA in their beautiful city.

The AGA section features beautiful photos that show all the energy, excitement and Métis spirit of our annual assembly (special section). At AGAs, MNO citizens and leadership gather to discuss and debate. This year was no different, as we set a course for moving the MNO forward.

On behalf of the PCMNO, I want to thank everyone involved in planning and executing the AGA, from MNO staff to citizens and also our sponsors and venues. Without the hard work and support of everyone involved, the AGA wouldn't have been possible.

Most of all, I want to thank all of the citizens who attended, made their voices heard and participated in what is our most important gathering and a fundamental part of our governance structure. I'm looking forward to seeing the incredible progress we can make throughout the next year.

### Métis youth making memories

During Été and Otawm, the third and fourth Métis Youth Cultural Camps, our youth had the amazing opportunity to work and learn together about Métis way of life, culture and history. This summer, youth set off on a memorable canoe journey retracing the route of their Métis ancestors and this fall, another group set off to learn about harvesting before winter. After reading and hearing about their adventures and what they learned, it is abundantly clear how important it is to provide these opportunities for our youth and all Métis citizens.

### Finding inspiration in community

I always thoroughly enjoy hearing about all the wonderful work of our community councils. Made up of volunteers, they devote so much time to sharing what it means to be Métis with others.

The community section of this paper (pages 16-19) provides just a sample of the good work that's happening across the province to promote Métis culture, history and to introduce contemporary Métis issues to our allies and supporters. If I'm ever in need of inspiration, I can always find it in the work of the Métis community and the achievements of MNO citizens.

Our citizens are immensely talented and the extent of that is evident in the achieve-



▲ Participants at Otawm the MNO Métis Youth Cultural Camp held this past fall near Timmins.

ments section (pages 21-22). MNO citizens shine brightly by being the best in their fields. With Métis-inspired beadwork being shown on an international runway to MNO citizens winning a fishing derby, being Métis is a strength that binds us and our resiliency knows no end.

### Tributes and celebrations

We have also celebrated and acknowledged two vitally important days for Métis people. On June 21, MNO leadership and citizens recognized National Indigenous Peoples' Day and on Sept. 19, we celebrated Powley Day. Both provide the opportunity to remember the struggles of our Métis past, but are also a great opportunity to see how far we've come. We must always remember to be proud of who we are, where we come from and where we are headed.

As many of you know, Region 7 PCMNO Councilor Pauline Richardson has resigned from her position. Councilor Richardson served on several PCMNO committees and was a passionate advocate for citizens of her region and for the rights of Métis people in Ontario. David Dusome will now represent Region 7 on the PCMNO after being appointed on Jan. 13 (page 3).

### MNC General Assembly

This fall, the MNO executive and PCMNO attended the Métis National Council (MNC) General Assembly in Winnipeg (pages 5-6). During the Assembly, delegates narrowly voted to place the MNO on probation for one year. This decision of the MNC has no impact on MNO citizenship and Métis rights, or on the MNO's day-to-day operations, its relationships with Canada and Ontario or its direction. The MNO continues to be the government for Métis people in Ontario and continues to work on behalf of all of its citizens. Discussions about next steps are ongoing and will take place with all

MNO leadership and citizens.

As we face tests like this one, it's important that we all continue to work together and move forward united in the aspirations outlined in the MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose*, which has guided the progress of the MNO for more than a quarter century.

### Moving forward on self-government

The MNO is taking unprecedented steps toward achieving its goal of Métis self-government. A full update on our progress can be read on pages (12-13). We have created a committee tasked with leading negotiations with Canada and its work has been informed by the recommendations from the MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government *What We Heard Report* and is guided by the MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose*.

We are now working with the Government of Canada to lock-in through legislation recognition of the MNO as a government.

We are now negotiating with the Government of Canada towards recognition of the MNO as a government. This is an exciting approach and quite unique as normally this wouldn't happen until the very end of what is often a decades long negotiations process. This will lock in recognition that future governments won't be able to take away, and provide time and resources to consult with all Métis citizens on building a constitution and approving our final self-government agreement. We are working hard to achieve this vital step on our path towards full Métis self-government.

The time is finally here for reconciliation and the recognition of Métis governments. This is an important and exciting time for the MNO and we must all work together to finish the work that began with our founding over 25 years ago.

Merci - Thank you - Marsee,  
Margaret Froh



## 2019 Submission Deadlines

NEXT ISSUE: **April 19, 2019**

• July 19, 2019 • October 18, 2019



# PCMNO REPORT

## David Dusome to serve as Reg 7 PCMNO Councilor

David Dusome will represent Region 7 on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO).

The announcement comes after Dusome, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council President, was appointed during a secret ballot vote at the PCMNO meeting on Jan. 13.

"I love the Métis and I'm passionate about moving forward the needs of Region 7 and moving forward all our regions together," Dusome said. "I love what we stand for and I'm looking forward to working with the PCMNO and our Senators and pushing the good work of the MNO forward."

Dusome has been involved with the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council since 2007, first as treasurer.

Late last year, on Nov. 15, past Region 7 Councillor Pauline Richardson resigned

from her position. Her resignation began the process to fill the vacancy on the PCMNO following the MNO Bylaws. "If any vacancy occurs the PCMNO may appoint as a replacement a citizen of the MNO, and that person shall hold office until the next election."

The PCMNO announced that MNO citizens wishing to fill the position should make their intentions known by submitting a short letter and current resumé. Applications for the position were accepted until Jan. 4.

The Region 7 MNO citizens that expressed their interest were reviewed by PCMNO at their meeting on Jan. 13, in



David Dusome

Toronto.

"On behalf of the PCMNO, I want to congratulate David on his appointment. We look forward to working with him to better the lives of MNO citizens and communities and know he'll be a strong advocate for MNO citizens in Region 7," stated MNO President Margaret Froh. "David joins the PCMNO during an exciting time as we are making unprecedented steps toward self-government and the recognition of Métis rights. With all of his experience with the MNO, I'm confident David will be an excellent addition to the PCMNO."

Dusome will serve as Regional Councilor until the MNO election in 2020.

## Updates:

### Sixties Scoop Symposium

In October, Métis survivors met in Winnipeg, Man. for a symposium on the Sixties Scoop.

During the Scoop, Indigenous children were removed from their families and communities and adopted into non-Indigenous families. Following a class action lawsuit in 2017, the federal government committed hundreds of millions of dollars as part of reconciliation for First Nation families—however Métis were not included.

"It was a very heartfelt several days, listening to these stories," said MNO Vice-Chair Sharon Cadeau, who attended the event. "It was very, very difficult."

Addressing the issues of the Sixties Scoop is one of the priorities established by the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord*.

Survivors are encouraged to reach out to the MNO. Please contact Alisha ([alishak@metisnation.org](mailto:alishak@metisnation.org)). Privacy and confidentiality will be respected.

### Captains of the Hunt Update

This past September, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Captains of the Hunt met in Toronto to discuss legal updates and challenges facing Captains and harvesting citizens.

The *Framework Agreement on Métis Harvesting* was raised at the meeting, and the Captains discussed their vision for the implementation of its components. MNO President Margaret Froh referenced Article 16, which among several recommendations, prioritizes the need for an agreed upon map determining the geographic scope of Métis harvesting rights in Ontario.

"As Captains, we need to address the map first before we can move into other areas," explained President Froh.

### Quotable PCMNO:

**"Our path to self-governance has been a long journey, but worth it. It's incumbent that we know who we are. It's not always an easy process, but it's necessary. As we move forward we need to be thinking larger, as a Nation, rather than individuals."**

— PCMNO Senator Ray Bergie



## MNO Cultural Gathering in Region 7

by  
MNO Staff

In November, MNO citizens from across the province journeyed north for a two-day cultural gathering in Rousseau, Ont.

This year, PCMNO regional councilors provided information on the event to its local MNO Community Council Presidents, who then selected three community representatives to attend. Youth and women representatives also participated.

Held from November 20 to 21, participants engaged in a variety of activities which ranged from lectures to events and workshops. Speakers like Ryan Shackleton, Director of Know History, shared untold Métis stories and hidden records of the past; and Métis author, Maia Caron, presented on healing and building old kinship networks.

Participants wishing to stay indoors attended programs on beading, blanket-making and fiddling; while the more adventurous participated in guided snow shoe walks, horse-drawn wagon rides, and even beaver skinning, led by Region 5 Captain of the Hunt Denis Lefebvre.

An additional objective of the Cultural Gathering was to inform attendees of the many programs and services offered by the MNO.

Those in attendance are encouraged to fill out an evaluation of their experiences.





# Métis sign Housing Sub-Accord with Canada

by  
MNO Staff

Governing Member Presidents from the Métis National Council, including the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), signed the *Canada-Métis Nation Housing Sub-Accord* with the federal government at the General Assembly of the Métis National Council.

MNO President Margaret Froh and Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, were among those who signed the Housing Sub-Accord in Saskatoon, Sask., on July 19.

This is the second Sub-Accord under the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord* signed in 2017. Earlier this year, a similar Sub-Accord was signed on skills and employment. Both housing and employment and training were year-one priorities under the *Canada-Métis Nation Accord*.

The Housing Sub-Accord, which was co-developed by the Métis Nation and federal government, gives the governing members of the Métis Nation control over the design, delivery and administration of housing services. The federal government's



(left to right)

**PCMNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile, MNO Chair France Picotte, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Dr. Carolyn Bennett, MNO President Margaret Froh, PCMNO Region 1 Councilor Theresa Stenlund and PCMNO Region 4 Councilor Ernest Gatien.**

2018 budget outlined a \$500 million investment over 10 years to support the Métis Nation's housing strategy.

"Under the Canada-Métis Nation Accord, we are moving the Métis Nation forward," stated MNO President Froh. "This new Sub-Accord means that we will have the funds to create a Métis-specific housing strat-

egy to best determine how housing funds for Métis across the homeland and in Ontario are used and distributed to best serve our citizens," stated President Froh.

"With new investments in housing, the Métis Nation of Ontario can build capacity and programs that will help those most in need," she added.

According to the federal government, nearly one in five Indigenous people live in housing that needs major repairs and one in five live in housing that is overcrowded.

"The needs of the Métis Nation are best identified by the Métis Nation and we need to work in partnership to address them. The agreement is one step in demonstrating

our government's commitment a renewed relationship with the Métis Nation – one based on the recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership. I look forward to continued dialogue supporting the interests and aspirations of the Métis Nation and those of all Canadians," said Minister Bennett. ∞

Housing programs and services for the MNO are operated by Infinity Property Services, an agency of the MNO. For more: [www.infinitypropertieservices.ca](http://www.infinitypropertieservices.ca)

## MNO President presents at Union Gas lunch and learn

submitted by **Joanne Meyer**, MNO Chief Operating Officer  
with information from **Union Gas**

Union Gas employees in the company's Toronto office marked this year's National Indigenous Peoples Day with a lunch-and-learn session led by Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh.

President Froh shared a detailed and engaging presentation about the origin, culture, historical challenges and modern-day issues of the Métis people with an audience of about 50 Union Gas employees, including Union Gas President Steve Baker. Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Executive Senator Joseph Poitras delivered an opening blessing for the session and MNO Chief Operating Officer Joanne Meyer also participated in the event.

"For National Indigenous Peoples Day, I felt it was not only important

to celebrate the history, accomplishments and culture of the Métis, but to also help educate others about our people," stated President Froh. "Union Gas has been a partner to the Métis Nation of Ontario for many years and has worked proactively to make sure we are included and consulted in its projects and campaigns. I applaud their efforts to learn about Indigenous peoples through these educational talks and events."

The company's Associate General Counsel Armanda Pinho, who introduced the trio of guests, said, "Union Gas has a long history of strong partnerships with Indigenous communities across Ontario. We are fortunate to have leaders from the Métis Nation of Ontario with us on this special day."

The event was one of about a doz-



(left to right)

**Union Gas Senior Analyst Jessica Newman, Vice-President Canada Gas and Union Gas Tanya Mushynski, PCMNO Executive Senator Joseph Poitras, Union Gas Associate General Counsel Armanda Pinho, Union Gas Indigenous Affairs Consultant John Bonin, MNO President Margaret Froh and Union Gas President Steve Baker.**

en held between June 18 and 22 in Union Gas offices across Ontario. The events were supported by 21 employees who volunteered as Indigenous champions in their respective offices.

The company decided to build the week-long education campaign around National Indigenous Peoples Day to help its 2,300 employees

build understanding of Indigenous peoples, their nationhood and the significant contributions they make to society.

"Our relationships with Indigenous communities are built over decades and guided by a set of principles that recognizes their treaty rights, connections to the land, and the valuable role they play in our

business today and into the future. Engaging our employees and increasing their awareness of the heritage, diverse cultures and achievements of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples is one way we will continue to build and strengthen these partnerships," said Lindsay Boyd, Manager of Indigenous and Municipal Affairs for Union Gas. ∞



### MNO President meets with youth in Saskatoon

MNO President Margaret Froh connected with Métis Nation youth at the General Assembly of the Métis Nation in Saskatoon on July 18. Youth gathered for a conference to discuss how to support Métis youth in building connections to their peers, communities and culture.



### Senator Yvonne Boyer visits with MNO reps

Ahead of an Indigenous languages engagement session the following day, Canadian Senator Yvonne Boyer (right) visited with representatives of the Métis Nation of Ontario in Toronto on July 11, including MNO President Margaret Froh, PCMNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle and MNO citizen Victor Brunelle.



## NATION



◀ MNO President Margaret Froh addresses the MNC General Assembly on Nov. 28, 2018.

# MNO responds to MNC General Assembly resolution

Métis National Council General Assembly places MNO on probation

**T**he Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) will always represent the collective aspirations, rights and interests of all of its citizens, as it has for the past 25 years.

That's the message MNO President Margaret Froh and MNO leadership is sharing, following the Métis National Council (MNC) General Assembly's decision to place the MNO on probation for one year. That narrow vote, 29 in favour and 24 opposed, took place on Nov. 28, 2018.

"We have spent 25 years fighting to protect and defend the rights of Métis people in Ontario and we will not turn our backs on that now," said President Froh. "What the MNO has built has been built by Métis citizens throughout Ontario, it will be up to all of us to decide the kind of relationship we want to have with MNC. The MNO has always stood on its own and stood strong as a Métis government and we always will."

The decision to place the MNO on probation was taken after the MNC released a report entitled, "Addressing the Integrity of the Historic Métis Homeland," by MNC President Clément Chartier. The report contained a number of errors and omissions and the MNO was not consulted during its creation and did not contribute to it.

It makes a series of claims, including that the MNO has failed to apply the citizenship criteria of the historic Métis Nation adopted by the MNC General Assembly in 2002 (National Definition) and has consistently ignored and been in breach of MNC General Assembly resolutions on citizenship and grandfathering. It also argued that the MNO has attempted to extend the boundaries of the historic Métis Nation homeland by a unilateral declaration in 2017 of "new historic Métis communities" without the consent of the MNC.

The MNC resolution gives the MNO one year to comply with a number of conditions in order to lift the probation decision:

**"We have spent 25 years fighting to protect and defend the rights of Métis people in Ontario and we will not turn our backs on that now."**

Margaret Froh, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario

- That all MNO members must meet the criteria for citizenship in the Métis Nation set out in the 2002 General Assembly citizenship resolution (National Definition) to be eligible for enrollment and are connected to the historic Métis Nation homeland as set out in the homeland map;
- That the MNO must abide by the 2004 Métis Nation directive providing that all members shall re-register under the 2002 criteria with no grandfathering-in of members;
- That a committee of the MNC Board of Governors shall be established to organize a registry review of all MNO members to ensure the above two conditions are met, as well as provide general oversight; and
- That a panel of registrars from the western Governing Members working under the direction of the above committee shall conduct the registry review of existing MNO members and will ensure that all future citizenship applications shall abide by the 2002 criteria.

Following the MNC General Assembly's decision to place the MNO on probation, a telephone town hall was held with MNO leadership across Ontario to discuss these recent Métis National Council decisions.

During the town hall, President Froh clarified that the decision by the MNC has no impact on MNO citizenship—including current citizens or individuals applying for citizenship. The MNC decision also has no impact on harvesting rights or on program or service delivery.

"We have always believed that our Métis governments, from Ontario to British Columbia, are much stronger by working together," stated President Froh. "We are extremely disappointed in this decision as it fundamentally ignores what MNO has been fighting for over the last quarter century... The MNO continues to fight for Métis rights and recognition. The MNO's government-to-government relationship with Canada and Ontario to advance Métis rights remains solid and strong."

Additional meetings with leadership, MNO Chartered Community Councils and citizens will be scheduled to provide further updates and to discuss any decision about what relationship the MNO will have with MNC. ∞

**Flip the page for Frequently Asked Questions on the MNC resolution.**

**The full report, as well as further reaction, FAQs, videos and more is available on the MNO website:**  
[www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org)



MEDIA

**View a video of a portion of President Froh's address to the MNC General Assembly on the MNO website:**  
[www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org)



MEDIA

**Watch the APTN an interview with MNO President Margaret Froh:**  
[www.aptn.ca](http://www.aptn.ca)



IN THIS ISSUE

**See page 7 to read the Windspeaker story: How Can it be? The Powleys not included in the Metis Nation**



# MNO responds to MNC General Assembly resolution: Frequently Asked Questions

**What does this MNC resolution mean for my MNO citizenship or my harvesting rights?**

This decision has no impact on MNO citizenship or harvesting rights.

**What does this mean for the MNO’s day-to-day operations?**

This decision has no impact on MNO program and service delivery operations. The MNO continues to provide services and programs – business as usual.

**Does the Métis National Council provide funding to the MNO?**

No, MNO’s funding relationships are through direct funding agreements with federal, provincial and other funding sources.

**How long has MNO been a part of the MNC?**

The MNO has been one of the governing members of MNC since 1994.

**Does this decision about putting MNO on probation mean the MNO is leaving MNC?**

The existing relationship with the MNC is embedded in the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose. The decision about what relationship the MNO will have with MNC requires further discussions with leadership, MNO Chartered Community Councils and citizens.

**The MNC President’s report talks about MNO not applying the MNC definition citizenship criteria -- what is the MNC definition?**

The MNO adopted the MNC’s National Definition in 2004. Click here to read the National Definition of Métis and to read more about the MNO Registry Policy.

**The MNC President’s report talks about MNO expanding the boundaries -- what is the historic homeland boundary?**

Prior to this recent MNC Assembly no hard lines had been drawn around the historic Métis Nation Homeland. There have been many discussions at MNC Assemblies about the varying definitions of the historic northwest and the historic homeland boundary and it was consistently communicated that it extended into parts of Ontario and British Columbia.

**What does this mean for the ground-breaking Métis rights Powley decision?**

It means nothing. This decision has **no impact** on the Powley decision or the recognition of Section 35 Métis rights. Métis rights holders are Métis rights holders whether they are from Section 35 rights bearing communities in Ontario or connected to what MNC is now defining as the boundaries of the Historic Métis Homeland.

**“This decision has **no impact** on MNO citizenship or harvesting rights.”**

**What does this mean for MNO’s relationships with Canada and Ontario?**

MNO continues today as it did prior to this decision to engage in a government-to-government relationship with Canada and Ontario to advance a mandate of Métis rights and self-government and to improve the socio-economic well-being of Métis citizens, families and communities. Over the last 25 years, the MNO has worked directly with both levels of government to develop its program and delivery infrastructure of more than 30 points of service, with over 200 staff and an annual operating budget of over \$40 million.

**What about the Canada-Métis Nation Accord, the Permanent Bilateral Forum (PBM) with the Prime Minister and federal Cabinet, and all the policy and investments made through this process?**

The MNO, as one of the Métis National Council’s governing members, is a signatory

to the Accord and to several sub-accords under this agreement. While the MNO has been placed under probation, it remains a part of the MNC and as such continues to participate in the PBM, policy development and the investments that are being made through that Canada-Métis Nation Accord process.

**What impact does this decision have on the MNO-Canada-Ontario Framework Agreement to Advance Reconciliation?**

It has no impact on that work. The MNO signed this agreement back in December 2017 and this work continues today as it did prior to the MNC Assembly decision.

**TOGETHER,  
CREATING  
SUSTAINABLE  
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For us, that means a long-term commitment to social and economic support in the communities where we live and work through contributions to arts and culture, diversity, education, health, environment and community development.





# How can it be? The Powleys not included in the Metis Nation



by **Shari Narine**  
Published at Windspeaker.com  
December 17, 2018

**I**n 1993, father and son Steve and Roddy Powley were charged with hunting a moose without a license near Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. The Metis Nation Ontario (MNO) went into considerable financial debt to support the Powleys' fight to the Supreme Court of Canada, which upheld the ruling of the lower court giving Metis peoples rights under Sect. 35 of Canada's Constitution for the first time ever.

The official Metis Nation homeland map, however, does not include the Powleys' home community of Sault Ste. Marie. The map, approved last month at the Metis National Council general assembly, outlines a homeland stretching from northeastern British Columbia into a portion of the Northwest Territories and then east across the Prairie provinces in their entirety to a small section of western Ontario and areas of some northern states in the U.S.

Also at the general assembly, held Nov. 28 and Nov. 29, the MNO was placed on probation for one year for breaching citizenship requirements, unilaterally accepting six historic Metis communities and members that did not adhere to the citizenship criteria adopted at a MNC general assembly in 2002.

The whole situation – the exclusion of the Powleys' community of Sault Ste. Marie from the Metis Nation homeland map, MNO's probationary status, and having no input into the report "Addressing the Integrity of the Historic Metis Nation Homeland," which condemned MNO's actions – has MNO President Margaret Froh angry.

"We fought hard and we did it for all the right reasons and we were successful in securing the Powley decision which

was a total game changer in the history of Metis people in Canada. A total game changer," said Froh. "And to then be told that very community is not part of the historical Metis Nation homeland and to have the MNO placed on probation." Froh hails from Saskatchewan and now resides in the Georgian Bay Historic Metis Community.

Tony Belcourt, founding president of the MNO, is astounded by the MNC's decision not to include Sault Ste. Marie as part of the homeland.

"They want it both ways. They rely on the Powley decision for negotiations and for legal reference, but they do not rely on Powley for determining who can belong to the Metis National Council... You've got to come from the west or that little territory in Ontario and that's it. If you don't, you don't belong," said Belcourt, whose historical Metis roots are in Alberta.

The Supreme Court of Canada established a 10-point Powley test for determining the legal definition of Metis. However, MNC, and other Metis provincial organizations, say that Metis people, not the courts, determine who are Metis citizens.

And according to the MNC's definition of Metis, the Powleys do not meet the criteria for citizenship in the MNC.

"Addressing the Integrity of the Historic Metis Nation Homeland" states, "... while the citizens of the historic Metis Nation, as determined by their governments, meet the criteria set out in Powley, it does not mean that others who also met the Powley criteria, such as those

who were the subject of the Powley decision, are part of the historic Metis Nation."

The Powley decision (2003) is referred to by legal counsel Jason Madden, co-managing partner of Pape Salter Teillet LLP, which represents MNO, as part of "the trifecta of Metis case law" that has moved Metis rights forward. That trifecta also includes the Manitoba Metis Federation decision (2013) that says Metis have outstanding land claim and the Daniels decision (2016) that gives the federal government jurisdiction for Metis people.

"These three cases put together create the foundation for moving forward with this recognition around self-government within each of our responsible jurisdictions, advancing Metis rights," said Froh.

However, moving forward has become more complicated, she admits, as the federal government may need to expand its reach.

"This is the challenge that has now been created with the decision that the assembly has made," said Froh.

According to the MNC, Metis are persons of historic Metis Nation ancestry, which, as of late last month, is now defined by a specific Metis homeland map. The MNC and MNO intersect on only one historic Metis community and that is the descendants of the Half-breeds of Rainy River and Rainy Lake who collectively adhered to Treaty No. 3 in 1875.

However, the MNO and the Ontario government have identified six other historic Metis communities and those people hold citizenship in the MNO, but are not part of

the national registry.

To get full re-admittance to the MNC, the MNO must, in part, rescind its declaration of the six historic Metis communities and have its citizenship criteria align with MNC.

Froh says the next step for the MNO executive is to meet with its leadership and citizens to determine the path forward. One option is to look at the political relationship that can be formed with the MNC and the rights bearing Metis communities in Ontario that now fall outside the Metis homeland. Another path forward could be for the MNO to strike out on its own.

While the federal government has signed an accord with the MNC, it is also part of a trilateral agreement with the MNO and Ontario government.

"What is very clear from Canadian laws is that there is no hierarchy of Metis rights. Metis rights have to be reflected and recognized whether they fall in or outside what has now ... been defined as the historic boundaries of the Metis Nation homeland," said Froh.

Belcourt goes a step further.

"The government of Canada will not sign an agreement with one organization knowing full well that a whole bunch of people are not included in that agreement. So, if (MNC) kicks the MNO out, all it means, as far as I'm concerned, is that the government of Canada will be obliged to enter into an agreement with the Metis National Council and a separate agreement with the Metis Nation of Ontario. There's just no other way," he said.

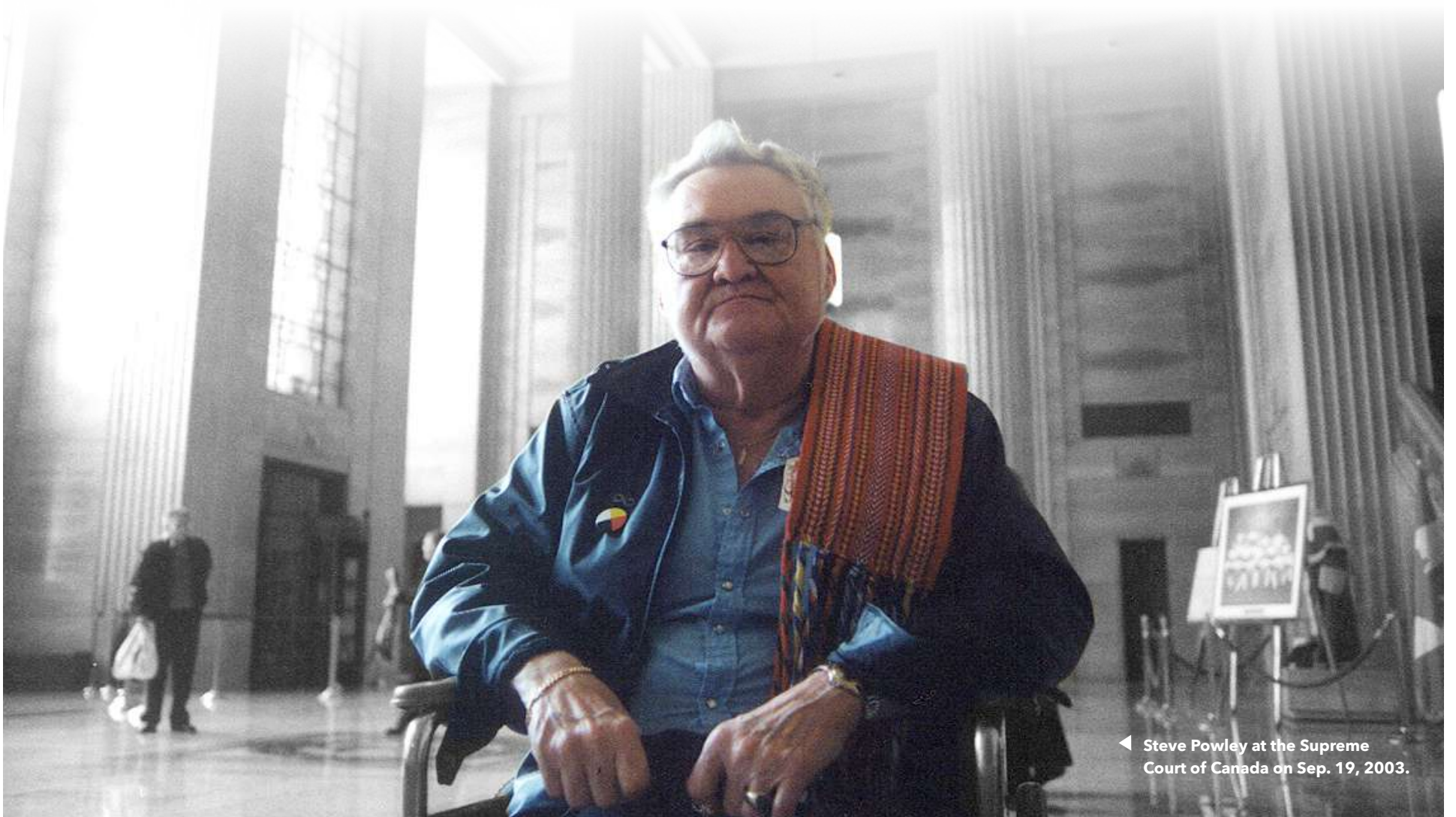
While Froh is frustrated with how things have transpired, she holds to two truths. The first is that the Metis government is stronger when it stands together.

The second: "Everything the MNO has built we have built that ourselves. When other governments refused to acknowledge us, denied the existence of Metis, denied our rightful place, we persisted and we fought and we fought for rights, we fought for recognition and we fought for the interest of our citizens in Ontario and that, when you see that through the Powley decision, that actually benefited all Metis." ∞



**We fought hard and we did it for all the right reasons and we were successful in securing the Powley decision which was a total game changer in the history of Metis people in Canada."**

Margaret Froh, President Métis Nation of Ontario



◀ Steve Powley at the Supreme Court of Canada on Sep. 19, 2003.



# Michif & Reconciliation

## MNO participates in Indigenous language forum

by  
MNO Staff

A large delegation from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) participated in an Indigenous languages engagement session in Toronto on July 12.

The information gathered during the session will inform the National First Nations, Inuit and Métis Languages legislation that will reflect the geographical, political, legislative and cultural context that impacts language preservation, promotion and revitalization. The session was one of 30 hosted by the department of Canadian Heritage between June and September with Métis, First Nations and Inuit across the country.

The session focussed on the preservation of Michif, which is the language of Métis people once spoken across the Métis Homeland. Like most Indigenous languages, the number of Michif speakers declined due to the colonization process that attempted to stamp out the use of languages other than English and French.

More than two-thirds of the 90 Indigenous languages still spoken in Canada are “endangered” according to UNESCO’s endangered languages criteria; the remaining third are defined as “vulnerable”. The number of overall speakers is also declining.



Representatives from the PCMNO, Community Councils and other MNO citizens participated in the federal government’s Indigenous languages consultation in Toronto on July 12. This picture features the MNO group with Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services and Minister Responsible for Women’s Issues, who was attending another meeting at the same location.

development of an Aboriginal Oral Testimonies Project; as well as \$6 million for the National Research Council to develop technologies aimed at preserving oral histories.

The MNO maintains a Michif language speaker group that has developed resources for schools and online to help preserve the Ontario dialect of Michif and teach young Métis their language.

“Future legislation that supports the preservation, revitalization and promotion of Michif and Indigenous languages will help support the goals of our dedicated Knowledge Holders and Michif-speakers whom have already undertaken this important work,” said MNO Chair and Chair of the Michif Language Speakers Group France Picotte. “I look forward to progress being made in this area, as it is a crucial part of Métis culture.” ∞

“The efforts to preserve and promote Michif, and all Indigenous languages, are an essential part of reconciliation,” stated MNO President Margaret Froh. “Michif is an important part of Métis culture and heritage and we look forward to seeing how our input is used in the

development of future legislation.” Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced in late December 2016, his government’s intention to introduce a languages act. A bill is expected to be tabled this fall with it reaching Royal Assent sometime in 2019.

Following the Prime Minister’s

commitment to an Indigenous languages act, the 2017 budget included \$69 million for the Aboriginal Language initiative, supporting a range of community language projects; \$14.9 million for the digitization of existing Indigenous language and cultural materials and the

## MNO Honourary Senator celebrates Màmawi Together

submitted by  
**Carolyn Kropp**  
Mamawi Together board member  
Written by  
**Karli Zschogner**

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Honourary Senator Reta Gordon spent the afternoon of July 14, as an honoured guest at the Màmawi Together barbecue celebrating the achievements of the volunteer-led 2018 Màmawi Together Speaker Series.

The 6th annual speaker series was held on May 23 and 24 at the University of Ottawa. It was a three-part event that included an evening program, academic panel discussions, as well as its second Youth for Reconciliation Day. During the event, the group also launched the Màmawi Together National Challenge, an initiative encouraging schools across Canada to commit to a legacy reconciliation project.

Legacy projects can include special projects and annual commitments that will have a meaningful and long-lasting impact



▲ Màmawi Together Co-founder Margaret Embleton and MNO Honourary Senator Reta Gordon celebrate the launch of the organization’s National Challenge on July 14.

in increasing Indigenous education and reconciliation activities in schools. Five schools in the Ottawa area have already taken up the challenge.

The initiative has been endorsed by Senator Murray Sinclair, former Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Màmawi Together was founded in 2009 in Ottawa, as a parent-led Indigenous awareness and education initiative.

The group, now a regis-

tered not-for-profit, is named after the Algonquin word for ‘Together’. It works to increase Indigenous awareness, education and reconciliation activities in schools and the broader community in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Calls to Action.

For more information on Màmawi Together, the National Challenge video endorsement from Senator Sinclair, legacy project ideas and toolkits for schools visit: [mamawitogether.com](http://mamawitogether.com). ∞



Métis Elder Lois MacCallum (left) and MNO Honourary Senator Reta Gordon.

## Telling the stories of Ottawa’s urban Métis

submitted by  
**Elena Abel**  
Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition  
Community Developer

Two Métis community members were recently interviewed by the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC) for a series of videos profiling Ottawa’s urban Indigenous community.

The OAC reached out to Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Honourary Senator Reta Gordon and Elder Lois MacCallum to take part in the project.

The short films will highlight the city’s cultural landscape using stories from community artists, Aboriginal student centres, interviews from the leadership of local service organizations and elders.

Gordon hosted the OAC in her home

and she and MacCallum told wonderful stories of the development of the Métis community in Ottawa. Both women expressed pride in the young people who are connecting with their culture and who are willing to share it with others.

They spoke of the change they’ve seen in Ottawa, with the growth of the community, and the number of organizations here to support them.

The OAC is grateful to Gordon and MacCallum for sharing their stories. For more information about the project, visit [www.ottawaaboriginalcoalition.ca](http://www.ottawaaboriginalcoalition.ca).

Established in 2001, the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition is an alliance of Aboriginal delivery organizations that provide front-line programs and services to Aboriginal people living in the National Capital Region. ∞





The cemetery at the Batoche National Historic Park in Saskatchewan.

# MNO veterans attend Back to Batoche

submitted by  
**Brian Black**  
Chair, MNO Veterans' Council

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) leaders and citizens attended the annual Back to Batoche festival in Saskatchewan to celebrate Métis history.

The event marks the decisive 1885 Battle of Batoche.

The festival first began in 1970 as a way to showcase Métis history and culture. This year, it took place from July 19 to 22.

The annual event included fiddle music and square dance and jigging competitions, as well as Voyageur Games including the hatchet throw, slingshot, log carry and flour sack carry.

Métis youth operated a MNO pavilion during the festival, teaching about beadwork and speaking about

the history of Ontario Métis communities.

On July 22, the MNO Veterans' Council participated in a procession from the festival grounds to the cemetery of the Batoche National Historic Park for a mass to remember those who fought in the 1885 Northwest Resistance.

MNO Veterans' Council Chair Brian Black and veterans from across the homeland carried flags during the procession. Black participated in the opening ceremony, the weekend's activities and the closing ceremonies at the Batoche National Historic Site of Canada grave site.

As the parade marched into the graveyard, an eagle flew directly overhead.

Throughout the weekend, family togetherness and fellowship were abundant. ∞



▲ MNO Veterans' Council Chair Brian Black (far left) carried the Canadian flag alongside veterans from Across the Métis Homeland during a procession leading to the National Métis Veterans' Memorial Monument in Batoche.

## Eagle Staff presented to Canadian Armed Forces

submitted by  
**Brian Black**  
Chair, MNO Veterans' Council

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was well represented during an Eagle Staff Ceremony at Canadian Forces Base Borden.

On Aug. 10, MNO Veterans' Council Sgt.-At-Arms Doug Woods and MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Senator Ken (Two Dogs) Fraser were among the guests who attended the ceremony.

The staff was created by members of the local Indigenous community and 3 Canadian Ranger Patrol Group. It features feathers and patches collected from several Indigenous communities and councils throughout Ontario and the MNO patch is located third from the top.

The Eagle Staff, which took two years to make, was presented by Master Corporal Talbot to Base Commander Col. Andrew Atherton. It recognizes past and present Indigenous members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

"This staff symbolizes bravery,



▲ An Eagle Staff was presented to the Canadian Armed Forces on Aug. 10 at CFB Borden. Pictured are Doug Woods, MNO Veterans' Council Sgt.-At-Arms, CFB Borden Master Corporal Talbot and Ken (Two Dogs) Fraser, MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Senator.

integrity, strength of character and honour," Atherton commented, according to the *Borden Citizen*. "The Eagle Staff will help to ensure that the sacrifices of Indigenous soldiers who lived and trained here at CFB Borden over the past 100 years will never be forgotten, and will represent the rich history, and promising future of CFB Borden's Indigenous Peoples."

At the end of the ceremony, the Eagle Staff was the handed over to the Base Commander, a symbolic moment to which he stated, "It is with a great sense of respect, pride and duty that I make this solemn oath that I will uphold the tradition of this sacred symbol, and look upon it always with strong mind and a positive spirit." ∞



## Métis veteran presented with Warrior Blanket

Representatives of the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council and MNO Veterans' Council presented Métis veteran Earl Cousineau (second from left) with a Warrior Blanket on Sept. 5 at the MNO office in Midland. The blanket is one of 30 made and donated by MNO citizen Irene Robitaille, who asked that the blankets be distributed to deserving Métis military veterans throughout Ontario. Pictured (left to right) are MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council President Dave Dusome, Cousineau, MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Senator Ken Fraser and MNO Veterans' Council Sgt.-At-Arms Doug Woods.

submitted by Doug Woods, MNO Veterans' Council Sgt.-At-Arms



## MNO Veterans' Council Senator attends change of command parade

submitted by  
**Guy Mandeville**  
MNO Veterans' Council Senator

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council Senator Guy Mandeville recently attended the Canadian Forces Postal Unit change of command parade at Canadian Forces Base Trenton.

The June 26 ceremony was presided over by Commander of the Canadian Forces Joint Operational Support Group Col. Carla Harding, CD.

Maj. Jane Ann Swim, CD relinquished command of the unit to

Maj. Pauline Hancock, CD.

Senator Mandeville was first assigned to the Postal Unit in 1976 and he served there until his retirement in September 2009. With the unit, he served in a number of UN Peacekeeping Missions, including in Egypt, Israel and Germany.

He has worked in many roles within the unit, holding jobs including Postal Museum Curator and historian.

Since his retirement from the Canadian Forces, he has been an avid supporter of the Canadian Forces Postal Unit at CFB Trenton. ∞



▲ Canadian Forces Recruiting Officers participate in a relay race during a Métis 101 presentation at Canadian Forces Base Borden on June 18.

## CF Recruiting Officers learn about Métis people

submitted by  
**Greg Garratt**, MNO Veterans' Council Secretary/Treasurer

Canadian Forces Recruiting Officers from across Canada learned about Métis culture and traditions during a presentation by the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO).

The information was presented on June 18 by MNO Veterans' Council Secretary/Treasurer Greg Garratt and MNO Education Officer Michael Smith. The goal

was to provide knowledge about Indigenous culture so Recruiting Officers can better understand and speak with Indigenous youth when they walk into a recruitment office.

Officers learned about Métis, First Nation and Inuit cultures and later participated in some Métis games. The history of Métis veterans in Canada, medals earned and the historic role Métis played in the War of 1812 were also highlighted.

It was a great educational and fun learning day for all.

During the final stages of one game, Garratt decided to play a prank on the final two competitors by yelling the command "room."

Anyone who has served in the Canadian Forces knows the command is given when an Officer enters a room. It signals the need for everyone to sit or stand at attention as appropriate.

After a brief moment, the competitors realized the prank played and finished the game, but it was a fun moment they will remember for a long time. ∞



▲ Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council Senator Guy Mandeville, CD (centre) stands with Maj. Jane Anne Swim, CD and Maj. Pauline Hancock, CD. Senator Mandeville was present for the change of command parade at Canadian Forces Base Trenton on June 26.

## Reconciliation with the Métis: The time is here

submitted by  
**Jason Madden**  
Métis lawyer & MNO legal counsel  
Canadian Lawyer

Five years ago, I wrote an article for *Canadian Lawyer*, Reconciliation with the Métis: *The Time Has Come*. On Sept. 22, the joint announcement made by Canada and the Manitoba Metis Federation, may finally signal that the time is now.

This announcement included a commitment from Canada to transfer \$154.3 million to the MMF to begin to address its outstanding constitutional grievance against the federal Crown that was recognized by the Supreme Court of Canada in 2013 and initiate formal self-government negotiations with the MMF to recognize it as an Indigenous government in Canada.

While the word "historic" is bandied around in most government announcements dealing with Indigenous peoples nowadays, this one is notable because the formal recognition of the MMF — as a Métis government — will very likely set a precedent for other Métis groups in discussions with Canada in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Significantly, this announcement represents the first federal Cabinet mandate to negotiate with a Métis government south of the 60th parallel in 148 years. The last time such a federal mandate was secured was in 1869/70, when Louis Riel's people formed a provisional government and forced negotiations with Canada through the Red River Resistance.

Instead of armed conflict this time, Canada's negotiation mandate with the MMF is in response to repeated Supreme Court of Canada decisions affirming Métis rights, claims and the need for negotiations over the last 15 years.

In 2003, Métis rights — as existing Ab-

original rights protected within the meaning of s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* — were confirmed in a case called *R. v. Powley*.

In 2013, in *Manitoba Metis Federation v. Canada*, the highest court in the land confirmed that Canada had breached the honour of the Crown by failing to provide the 1.4 million acres of land promised to the children of the Manitoba Métis as a part of the 1869/70 deal made with Riel's people.

In 2016, in a case advanced by well-known Métis leader Harry Daniels, *Daniels v. Canada*, the Supreme Court of Canada further confirmed that Métis are included with the term "Indians" in s. 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, which grants "exclusive Legislative Authority" to Parliament for "Indians, and Lands reserved for the Indians."

This means that Canada has always had constitutional jurisdiction to establish nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationships with the Métis in the same way as it has with First Nations and Inuit.

This trifecta of Métis law, combined with the drive and determination of the MMF's current elected leadership and the Trudeau government's Indigenous agenda, led to this "historic" moment for the Manitoba Métis.

Lost in the focus of the \$154.3 million to be provided to the MMF, however, is the significance of the commitment to finally recognize the MMF as the government of Manitoba Métis.

Why this is so significant is that, unlike most First Nations who had Canada's colonial *Indian Act* imposed on their traditional government structures, the very idea of Métis Nation self-government has historically been denied, dismissed or ignored. In response, over the generations, the Métis Nation has built its own democratic, self-government structures from Ontario westward to represent Métis citizens and communities.

While these Métis Nation governments



Over the generations, the Métis Nation has built its own democratic, self-government structures from Ontario westward.



such as the MMF have been tacitly recognized by some governments and have successfully built effective program and service delivery structures for their members and communities, their inherent jurisdictions — as Métis governments — are still for the most part denied.

Canada's colonial legacy still looms large. Often, these Métis Nation governments are still denied, dismissed or ignored when it is politically convenient to do so. The most recent example of this can be seen with the premier of Manitoba, Brian Pallister (yes, that's

right, the premier of Manitoba) referring to the MMF as nothing more than a "special interest group" less than six months ago.

In addition, dubious "Métis" pop-up groups in Quebec and the East Coast have been able to proliferate because governments have delayed in dealing with the only recognized Métis people — the Métis Nation.

Meaningful reconciliation with the Métis Nation requires that the well-established governments of the Métis Nation finally be recognized by Canada on a nation-to-nation, government-to-government basis. Far from being "put under the thumb" of federal legislation, these self-government negotiations seek to have Métis jurisdiction and the governments Métis have painstakingly built for themselves recognized as such.

This is why last week's announcement is such a turning point for the Métis Nation. This formal recognition will require Canada, provincial governments and industry to come to grips with Métis governments in the same way that they deal with First Nations.

While this will represent welcomed clarity for those who have always respected and dealt with these Métis governments, for those that have continued to deny, dismiss or ignore the reality of Métis rights and self-government, it will likely represent a shock to the system.

Irrespective of where or when these Métis Nation governments become formally recognized, this announcement breaks the reconciliation "glass ceiling" that has been in place for the Métis Nation for generations. There is no turning back now.

Jason Madden is a Métis lawyer and partner in the law firm Pape Salter Teillet LLP. He has been legal counsel in much of the litigation advanced on Métis rights and claims from Ontario westward over the last 15 years. He is legal counsel for the MMF in its negotiations with Canada. ∞



# A piece of musical Métis history

MNO Staff

**M**étis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh along with representatives from the MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council and Peterborough Mayor Daryl Bennett visited the Peterborough Museum and Archives for a special viewing of Louis Riel's accordion.

According to information the museum has on file, the accordion was found in the belongings of Louis Riel in Batoche and was taken by Canadian

solider Walter Stewart after the 1885 Resistance in which many Peterborough men served.

The accordion has the initials "L.D.R" inscribed on it.

It was donated to the original Peterborough museum more than 100 years ago.

In 2002, the Peterborough Museum contacted the Saint-Boniface Museum suggesting that the accordion should be given back to the Métis. At that time, Saint-Boniface said they would be happy to discuss this option. ∞

**Peterborough Museum and Archives Museum Director Susan Neale, MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council Chair Christa Lemelin, Peterborough Mayor Daryl Bennett, MNO President Margaret Froh, MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council President Andy Dufrane, City of Peterborough Community Services Policy Analyst/Recreation Division Coordinator Rob Anderson and Peterborough Museum & Archives Museum Curator Kim Reid were present for a special viewing of Louis Riel's accordion on July 10 at the museum's curatorial centre.**



## Métis music in the archives

A new project led by Indigenous Music expert aims to address the issues of misrepresentation and appropriation

submitted by **Monique Giroux**,  
PhD Canada Research Chair in  
Indigenous Music, Culture, and Politics  
at the University of Lethbridge, Alberta

**A** new project led by the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Music, Culture, and Politics at the University of Lethbridge aims to address the issues of misrepresentation and appropriation while making Métis musical belongings more accessible to Métis communities.

Titled "Bringing Métis Music Home: Context, Challenges, and Priorities," the project will centre on creating a comprehensive list of all Métis musical belongings currently housed in archives and personal collections. These belongings include instruments, sound and video recordings, and interviews with Elders who discuss music-making in Métis communities, among other archival documents.

Once complete, this list will be made available to Métis communities. Meetings will be held across the Métis homeland to discuss where these belongings should be housed; in what ways they should be made accessible to Métis communities; and how to best support Métis communities in the repatriation of these archival materials.

The overarching goal of this project is to facilitate increased access to Métis musical belongings for Métis across the homeland and to support the resurgence of Métis musical practices.

The project comes after the University of Aberdeen opened an exhibit titled Nimitaau: Fiddle Dancing through Scots and Eeyou Cultures in July. A collaboration between the Anischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute in Quebec and the Elphinstone Institute in Scotland, the exhibit showcases Moose Cree fiddling and its connections to Scotland.

The exhibit includes a fiddle "in the white" (that is, a fiddle with no varnish) that is described as a Métis fiddle in the University of Aberdeen catalogue. The fiddle was purchased in Winnipeg by Scotland-based fiddle teacher and author Mary-Anne Alburger, who donated it to the University of Aberdeen in 2005.

The image of this fiddle conjures a mix of excitement and dismay, not to mention many questions. What is the story behind the fiddle? Is it really a Métis-made fiddle? How is it being represented in the exhibit? And most importantly, if it is a Métis fiddle, shouldn't it be housed in the Métis homeland instead of across the ocean?

As this example illustrates, archives present both challenges and opportunities for

those interested in Métis music. On the one hand, archives contain a great deal of information about musical practices of the past. They provide an exciting opportunity to hear Métis ancestors perform and talk about music and to see and even touch belongings used in the performance of Métis music. Yet on the other hand, archives all too often enable misrepresentation and appropriation.

If you have questions about this project, have or know of items that should be included on the list, would like to have a copy of the list, or would like to be involved in the project in some other way (including as a research assistant), please contact Monique Giroux at (403) 394-3969, or [monique.giroux@uleth.ca](mailto:monique.giroux@uleth.ca). ∞





# The Path to Self-Government

Since its creation in 1993, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has moved forward as a government to advance the rights, interests and aspirations of Métis citizens in Ontario. The MNO Statement of Prime Purpose declares that our “rights are recognized and affirmed under Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982” and that we have the “inherent right of self-determination and self-government”. The MNO has been directed through Annual General Assembly resolutions over the last 25 years to establish processes to engage in government-to-government negotiations to advance self-government, Section 35 rights and to address outstanding claims of Métis communities.

## WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR

The MNO took another step forward in December 2017 with the signing of the *MNO-Canada-Ontario Framework Agreement to Advance Reconciliation*. The MNO has provided updates about the Framework Agreement on the MNO website, in the *Métis Voyageur*, at a provincial self-government workshop held with community leadership on May 26, 2018 and Jan. 19, 2019 and during the 2018 Annual General Assembly.

The MNO established a negotiations committee to advance self-government negotiations and their work has been informed by the recommendations from the MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government *What We Heard Report*, and discussions are guided by the MNO’s *Statement of Prime Purpose*.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is reconciliation?

While the term “reconciliation” is increasingly used to describe any initiative done with or for the benefit of Indigenous peoples, real reconciliation requires that substantive issues such as Métis rights, self-government and outstanding claims against the Crown be dealt with. The Supreme Court of Canada has held that reconciliation is a process guaranteed to Aboriginal peoples by Section 35 of *Constitution Act*, 1982. This process requires that Aboriginal rights and claims protected by Section 35 be determined, recognized and respected by governments through honourable negotiations leading to just and lasting settlements (i.e., modern day treaties or other constructive arrangements).

### What is the MNO-Canada-Ontario Framework Agreement to Advance Reconciliation all about?

The Framework Agreement is about building and strengthening a government-to-government relationship with the Métis Nation of Ontario and to advance reconciliation.

### Why was the signing of the MNO-Canada-Ontario Framework Agreement to Advance Reconciliation important?

MNO has been directed by a series of resolutions from MNO Annual General Assemblies to engage with Canada and Ontario to establish negotiations processes that advance self-government and recognize Métis rights, interests and outstanding claims.

This Agreement marked a significant breakthrough because Canada has historically denied Métis self-government, rights and claims. These denials led to long and expensive litigation such as Powley, MMF and Daniels. The MNO seeks to advance reconciliation and self-government without having to spend decades and millions of dollars in the courts.

Métis living south of the 60th parallel have been excluded from Canada’s claims negotiation processes for almost 50 years. Despite Métis inclusion in Section 35 and successive court victories, Canada has not amended its policies to include Métis. As a result, there have been no negotiations of real substance on Métis self-government, rights and outstanding claims.

The Framework Agreement establishes a formal negotiations mandate to deal with the unique rights, needs and aspirations of Ontario Métis.

Unlike previous federal policy approaches to dealing



# WORK AGREEMENT TO ADVANCE RECONCILIATION

## TAKING THE NEXT STEP

At a negotiations committee meeting on Nov. 15, 2018, Canada discussed with the MNO negotiations team an approach to advance self-government. This approach would work to ensure MNO has a foot in the door to self-government and at the same time safeguards that there will still be plenty of time for Métis rights-holders to be meaningfully engaged and involved in all aspects of building and ratifying a constitution before full self-government can be realized. The negotiations committee expressed support for this new approach and moving forward with the development of a draft template Métis self-government agreement to be brought back for further review.

On Jan. 12, 2019 discussions were held with all MNO Regional Consultation Committees on this innovative approach to advance Métis self-government. A draft core Métis self-government template agreement was developed, through discussions Canada is having with MNO as well as other Métis governments. On Jan. 13 the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) reviewed and approved, in principle, moving forward to advance this draft Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement. On March 11, 2019 another meeting was held with Regional Consultation Committees to review the details of the confidential draft agreement. As negotiations have been ongoing the agreement has had to remain confidential but updates continue to be provided to leadership and MNO Citizens more widely.

It should also be recognized that self-government will only be fully realized when Métis Section 35 rights holders all across Ontario have been fully engaged and consulted and have through a province wide referendum developed, approved and ratified the Constitution and this agreement specifically.

For more than 25 years, the MNO has been pressing governments to move forward on its promise of reconciliation. This is the next step. This new process is an opportunity for the MNO to lock in a self-government negotiation mandate now that will be difficult for any future government to take away. **It also means that the MNO will have time to properly engage and consult with all Métis citizens across Ontario on self-government and on their visions for the future.** Once this recognition is locked in, the real work begins.

## THE JOURNEY AHEAD

With self-government now within reach, we must discuss and decide what kind of government we want as we move toward full Métis self-government. This will require direct engagement and consultation.

The MNO will have to create a constitution informed by its Métis citizens during an extensive consultation process. The constitution will set out governance structures, how decisions are made, the rights and values of citizens, requirements for citizenship, the process for making laws and how to resolve disputes.

## WE WILL DO THIS WORK TOGETHER

Fully recognized self-government will not be realized until Métis rights-holders all across Ontario are engaged and ratify a constitution, through a province-wide referendum.

The MNO is taking self-government seriously and will follow a communication and engagement plan to ensure Métis are informed and engaged throughout the process.

Self-government is a goal that has driven the MNO since its founding. To achieve it, Métis will have to work together to move the process forward and make it happen. ∞

**Where  
we are  
now**

### MNO establishes a negotiations committee

The committee is tasked with representing Métis citizens during meetings with Canada to advance priorities in Framework Agreement, including self-government

## 2019 ANOTHER STEP CLOSER TO MÉTIS SELF-GOVERNMENT

The MNO is working with Canada on a Metis Government Recognition Agreement and to lock in a mandate to negotiate Metis self-government as an Indigenous government based on the inherent right of self-government.

## NEXT STEPS...

### CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

With self-government within reach, Métis rights-holders must discuss and decide what kind of government they want. Métis self-government will require direct engagement. Work begins on constitution-building, the development of laws and transitioning from a not-for-profit to a fully functioning government.

### BUILDING AND RATIFYING A CONSTITUTION

The constitution must be built and ratified. Before adoption, all Métis right-holders will be heard again through a province-wide referendum.

with Métis—which solely focused on programs and service delivery or the development of Métis institutions—these negotiations deal with big issues such as Métis self-government, rights and outstanding claims against the Crown.

### Why is this opportunity so significant?

The MNO is working to ensure Métis rights holder in Ontario have a foot in the door to self-government regardless of any future changes in the federal government. This approach is working to will lock in recognition of MNO and secure a mandate for self-government negotiations. At the same time this opportunity would ensure there will still be plenty of time for Métis rights-holders to be meaningfully engaged and consulted in all aspects of building and ratifying a constitution before full self-government is realized.

### Who will be part of developing and ratifying a constitution?

The constitution will set out governance structures, how decisions are made, the rights and values of citizens, requirements for citizenship, the process for making laws, how to resolve disputes, etc. Métis citizens in Ontario that meet the MNO's definition of citizenship will be responsible for developing and ratifying the constitution. It will be up to Métis rights-holders to work together to decide what their government will look like and what protections will be built in to ensure the rights of future generations are protected.

**Does this process include all Section 35 Métis rights holders in Ontario including those that ancestrally connect to the West and to communities within Ontario?**

Yes, this new process involves all Section 35 rights holders. This new process requires that Métis citizens that meet the MNO's current definition of Métis citizenship be meaningfully engaged and consulted in the development of laws, policies and in building and ratifying a constitution.

### Does this work to advance Métis self-government have anything to do with the Métis National Council (MNC)?

No, the MNC has absolutely no role in these negotiations. Métis self-government has been at the heart of the MNO's mandate since 1993. This is about advancing the Section 35 rights of Métis citizens in Ontario and protecting and advancing these rights for future generations of Métis in Ontario.



# Été

## A Métis Summer Camp Experience

The water lapped softly and as the sun came up on the north shore of Lake Huron, Métis youth began to stir in their tents.

As the day began in Blind River, so did an almost week-long canoe journey for Métis students in Grades 10, 11 and 12, participating in the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Été: A Métis Summer Camp Experience.

Their journey to retrace their ancestors' route began on July 30 when campers learned about boat safety, on-water communication and how to navigate, paddle and manoeuvre the canoes. Each day they paddled up to 30 kilometres on their way to Sault Ste. Marie.

On the way, they set up camp, participated in cultural activities, including finger weaving, voyageur games, embroidery and jigging, and stopped at Métis historic sites.

The group's first set of stops was at a Métis trading post and the Mississauga Delta Cemetery.

Several ancestors of MNO North Channel Métis Council President Yvonne Jensen are buried at the gravesite. She paddled alongside the campers to the site and shared some family history with them. Among those who are buried there is Henry Sayer, a Métis man who worked for both the North West Company and Hudson Bay Company.

Jensen enjoyed sharing the stories of her ancestors with the campers

while they searched the grave site.

"We need to carry on our history. We are trying to teach our own children, so I think it's important for everybody to know what was in this area," she said. "This is an opportunity I never had as a youngster, so for these kids to be able to do this and do the route of the voyageurs, I think is just fantastic."

After their first day of paddling, the excitement of the campers was more obvious than their sore shoulders or blistered hands.

"So far it's been amazing. My shoulders already hurt, but I'm having a really good time," said camp participant Jaxsen Cress. He added that the experience taught him about hard work and perseverance.

"You have to be consistently working hard and that's true too if you want to achieve goals. You have to work hard for a long time. You can't quit when it hurts."

Later in the week, campers visited Fort St. Joseph National Historic Site, which was the most westerly fort in Upper Canada and home to soldiers, fur traders, Indian Department officials and Indigenous peoples. The youth explored the ruins with a tour from Parks Canada staff.

"This camp has given me the opportunity to learn more about my culture and the challenges of the people who used to live before faced," said Métis youth Leah St. Germain. "Everything I face now seems so, so difficult, but then you look at what they had



▲ The MNO'S Été: A Métis Summer Camp Experience began on the North Shore of Lake Huron in Blind River. Youth arrived on July 29, and set out on an almost week-long canoe journey towards Sault Ste. Marie the following day.

to do, canoeing for days and days. It kind of puts things into perspective for me."

Combining the Métis Youth Cultural Camp with a canoe journey was important for connecting youth to their ancestry, said MNO Manager, Education, Way of Life and Special Projects Scott Carpenter.

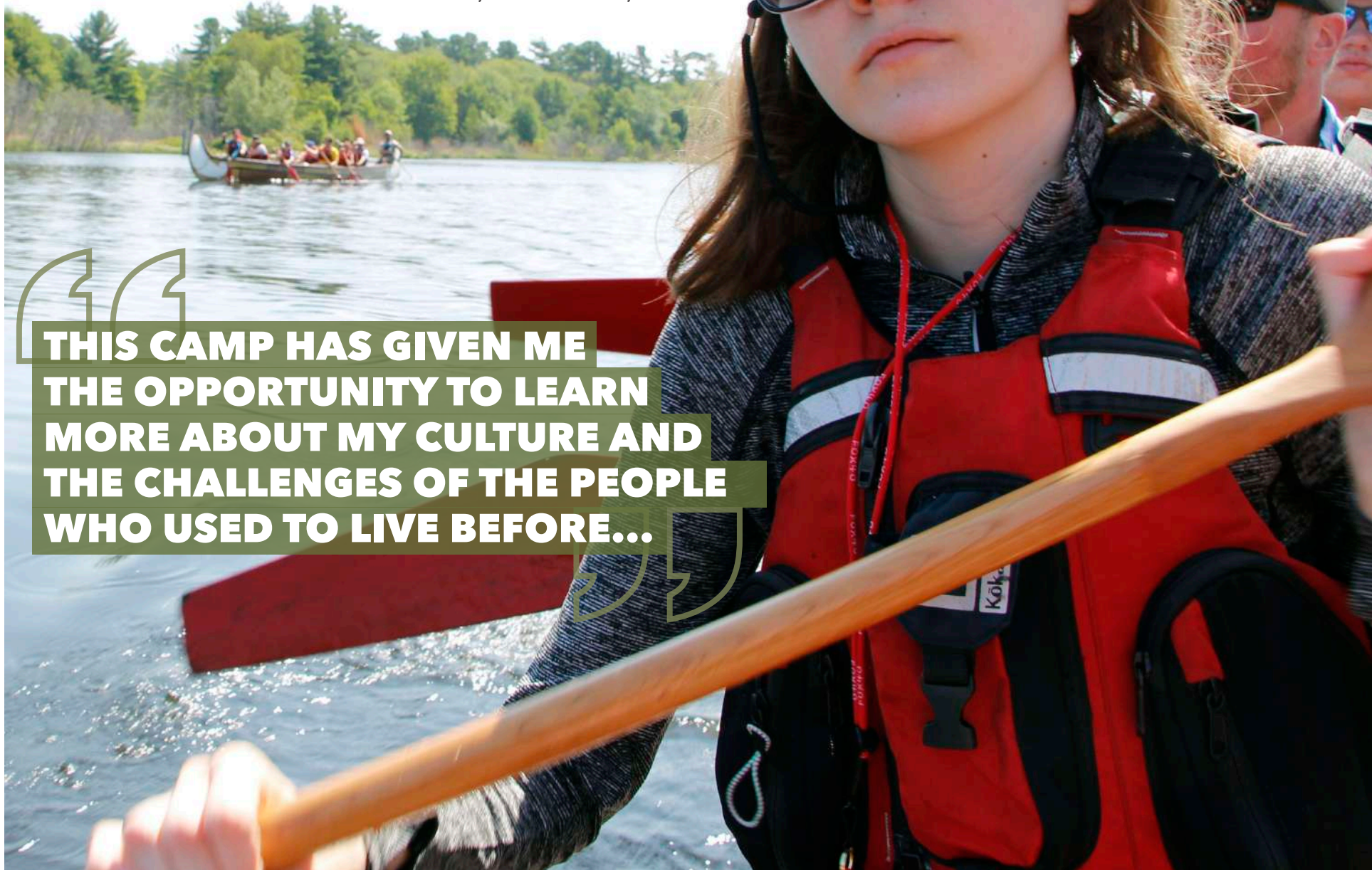
"Our historical ancestors were a vital part of the fur trade and they played an ever-increasing role in the fur trade in the 1700s and 1800s. It's part of who we are. We are known as the children of the fur trade and the youth are able to experience what that really means," he said.

The activities were part of the third of five seasonal camps organized by the MNO and funded by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.



▲ Logan Daoust, from Timmins, and Sarah McCaveney, from Pickering, enjoy some breakfast before heading out in the canoes.

▼ Participants in the MNO Été: A Métis Summer Camp Experience paddle to the Mississauga Delta Cemetery



THIS CAMP HAS GIVEN ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MY CULTURE AND THE CHALLENGES OF THE PEOPLE WHO USED TO LIVE BEFORE...



IT'S A GREAT EXPERIENCE;  
EVERYONE HERE IS A POSITIVE  
INFLUENCE. THE FOOD IS GREAT.  
THE ACTIVITIES ARE WONDERFUL  
AND THE VIEW IS BEAUTIFUL.  
IT'S A GREAT PLACE TO BE.

# Otawn

## A Métis Autumn Camp Experience

Sitting around a fire, a group of Métis youth from across Ontario pressed hot coals into pieces of drift wood to hollow out the bowl of a spoon.

In a nearby cabin, others prepared for dinner, traced patterns for woolen mittens or chose delicate beads to add to their crafts.

At the same time, a final group arrived back from hunting with a grouse in hand.

Those 19 Métis youth participated in Otawn: A Métis Fall Camp Experience from Oct. 25-28 at Horwood Lake Lodge, near Timmins.

The campers, in Grades 10 to 12, enjoyed a packed schedule of activities that included jigging, fishing, hunting, making wool mittens, whittling spoons from driftwood, cooking and more all centred around the fall season and preparing for winter. The camp also celebrated Métis history, as well as traditional and contemporary Métis culture and way of life.

The activities were part of the fourth of five seasonal Métis Youth Cultural Camps organized by the MNO and funded by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

"Every camp is different," said Nathan Freeman, who is from Ancaster. "There are new people that come and it's great to come back and learn more and share with new people," he said.

The campers are grateful to learn more about Métis history and way of life, and for the friendships they make. They also look forward to sharing the experience with others at home.

"It's important for Métis youth to understand who they are and what the traditions are because I know that my parents they didn't have the opportunity to know more about it and what Métis did.

And now I'm going back and teaching them," Freeman added.

The campers were joined by Region 3 MNO Captain of the Hunt Andy Lefebvre who taught them about harvesting on the land.

While hunting, campers learned more about the health benefits of chaga mushrooms, found on birch trees. They also inspected moose tracks determining the sex of the animal, speed and direction of travel.

"There are definitely some cool tricks," said Logan Daoust.

"I've been hunting before, but I learned about how animals use their ears to find different predators and about the shape of their ears and the positioning."

Among the campers, there's a camaraderie that begins the moment they meet, whether it's at the airport or around the campfire.

"Right off the bat, within a day or a couple of hours, we all make friends because we are all so similar. Even though some of us have different interests, we are all one," said Alexia Deschamps, from Sudbury.

Though a little shy the first day, it doesn't take long for first-time campers to become part of the group.

"When I first came here, I was quiet. Since it's a small group you just get thrown in there and there's no choice but to open up. And that's not bad, it's actually great," said James Juneau from Midland.

"It's a great experience; everyone here is a positive influence. The food is great. The activities are wonderful and the view is beautiful. It's a great place to be."



For more photos of MNO camps,  
check out our social media pages:



Métis Nation  
of Ontario



@metisnationon



@MetisnationON



# COMMUNITY

## Creating connections through art

submitted by  
**Amanda Farrell**  
MNO Métis Family Wellbeing  
Program Coordinator

On July 24, North Bay office Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Healing and Wellness staff with the support of MNO North Bay Métis Council hosted a Summer Métis Family Celebration.

Families were invited to participate in archery, bannock making, a nutrition workshop and community art project.

The idea for the event was to shed light on how various art forms play a role in creating and promoting healthy relationships, families and communities.

For example, archery is a form of wilderness art traditionally used for harvesting, culinary arts play a role in nutrition and the community art united participants through paint and creativity.

Indigenous Community Art Facilitator Christine Charette led the community art project and guided participants through the artistic journey.

“Making art in the Métis community allows for the participation of everyone. It makes the creative process accessible and this makes everyone happy,” Charette said.

She added the satisfaction that comes from making something is a feeling everyone can enjoy.



▲ The art displayed above was created during the North Bay Summer Métis Family Celebration. Attendees also participated in bannock making, archery and a nutrition workshop.

“When we make this wonderful thing together, our community not only grows closer, and richer in the process. I always hope that the take away is that the art process can continue at home alone, or with the family, so that the Métis culture and traditions find a place to flourish and grow in creativity. Creativity is healing, and our path here is endless. Together Métis art keeps us strong.”

Historically, Métis people used art to represent themselves, their history and culture. Examples of this include: birch bark canoes, floral beadwork, leather crafting, snow shoes, finger weaving, embroidery and so much more. Creating each piece provided an opportunity for personal growth and community connection.

Now, life is full of technology, eating at

restaurants, shopping or driving, but connections can be re-established by getting back to nature and creating and reflecting on art.

As Louis Riel said: “Les miens dormiront pendant 100 ans, et quand ils se réveilleront, ce seront les artistes qui leur rendont leur esprit.” / “My people will sleep for 100 years but when they awake, it will be the artists who will give them their spirit back.”

Art can be a special recipe or the way you present a homemade meal before serving it to your family. It's the layout of your garden and your audience is the people you share the harvest with. You can gather and celebrate with music and make connections through song and dance.

The creation of art also promotes healing and wellness. As a nation, we can heal together by establishing a connection through community. Some examples include skipping out on fast food and instead growing a garden, harvesting it, using your grandmother's recipe and sharing the meal with others or choosing the canoe trip or rustic cottage over the all-inclusive cruise ship.

These are just some ways to promote wellness, create an emotional connection with family and friends and enhance physical health through outdoor activity and nutrition.

Our spirit is nurtured through our ancestral connection and culture. Let us all feel inspired to rediscover Métis culture, empower one another and heal our communities. ∞

## Bancroft Volunteer Appreciation Day

submitted by  
**Rose-Anne Boyle**  
MNO Community Support  
Services Coordinator

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) volunteers in Bancroft were recognized for contributing time and energy during Volunteer Appreciation Day on June 6.

MNO staff wanted to show the MNO Community Support Services program volunteers that their time, generosity and commitment to the MNO is recognized and truly appreciated.

Volunteers were served a special lunch, prepared by MNO staff and as a token of appreciation they were gifted a car cleaning kit.

During the event, they also participated in annual training that involved reviewing the MNO Community Support Services Program - Volunteer Handbook.

While each volunteer has his or her own reasons for giving their time, Sandra Searle finds the experience incredibly rewarding.

She has been volunteering with the MNO Community Support Services program for a little more than a year.

“Volunteering for me is really a two-way street. I get to help people to do the things that they would not be able to do independently. I love to drive, so being able to help someone get to an appointment makes me feel good,” she said.

She added it's a crucial part of her everyday life.



▲ Sandra Searle, who has been volunteering with the Métis Nation of Ontario's Community Support Services program for more than a year.

“It fills a void in my life. It gets me out of the house to meet new people and talk about new things. It also keeps me active, so I really look forward to the days that I get to volunteer.”

Volunteers are an essential part of the MNO Community Support Services program and more volunteers are always needed.

Opportunities include providing medical transportation, friendly visiting and community supports to program clients.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact your local MNO Community Support Services Coordinator. ∞

## Métis spirit shines through rainy Heritage Celebration

submitted by  
**Terri Head**  
President, MNO Oshawa and  
Durham Region Métis Council

It was a rainy weekend in June but that didn't stop the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council (ODRMC) from hosting another great Heritage Celebration.

The amazing line up of entertainers for the 12th annual event, including Ariko, Amanda Rheame, Leah Belle, Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers, Alicia and Liam Blore, Auriele Dittot, All Our Relations Drum Circle and the Gravel Road Fiddlers, kept the audience tapping their toes all day long.

The event took place on June 23 and 24 at Memorial Park in Oshawa, which also featured a number of vendors and exhibitors. Among the other activities for attendees were Voyageur Games, a silent auction, storytelling and cultural workshops in fiddling, jiggling, spoons and more.

A highlight of the event was a talk by Trent University Durham graduate Sean Badgley who spoke to the audience about reconciliation. Badgley studied the history of Canada's Indigenous people, and the history of Indigenous rights activism.

“To me, reconciliation means respecting and advocating for the rights of Indigenous people, their histories, cultures and traditions. In addition, reconciliation means working towards righting the wrongs of the past, learning from those wrongs, and making sure that they do not



▲ The weekend of June 23 and 24, the MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council held its 12th annual Métis Heritage Celebration in Memorial Park in Oshawa.

happen again,” he said.

In 2015, he started volunteering at Oshawa Community Health Centre drum socials and in September that year was asked to be Trent University Durham's first Firekeeper, a job he held for three years.

“With my position as a Firekeeper, I also learned firsthand the importance of elders and Indigenous traditions, protocol for the territory we are situated on, and an immense number of details that no book could teach you, which I am beyond grateful for,” he said.

“And all of this, helped form my views on reconciliation... Things as simple as learning about the traditional territory you are standing on,

learning the about the treaties associated with it, or learning some of the languages of Indigenous nations, which can even be learned through an app on your phone, can be some steps in working towards reconciliation, and respecting the history and cultures of Canada's Indigenous peoples.”

The MNO ODRMC would like to thank special guests MNO President Margaret Froh, Oshawa Mayor John Henry and Oshawa Member of Provincial Parliament Jennifer French for their attendance and participation.

Hopefully the rain stays away next year! ∞



# Métis youth meet at Camp Kitchikewana

submitted by  
**Larry Ferris**, MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Chair  
With information from  
**Erin Hadaway**, MNO Moon River Métis Council Treasurer

**M**étis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) and Moon River Métis Council (MRMC) youth attended a three-day adventure at Camp Kitchikewana from June 13 to 15.

There were 22 youth and five councilors attending from the MNO GBMC and five youth from MNO MRMC.

The camp, run by the YMCA, is located on Beausoleil Island National Park in Georgian Bay and is one of the first places Métis stayed when they came to the area.

This is the eighth year the MNO GBMC organized the excursion for youth and the first time MNO MRMC joined in. It provided an excellent opportunity for Métis youth from the two councils to get to know each other.

During the camp, youth learned about the healing benefits of Métis salve from Knowledge Holder Janice Ferris, tried finger weaving and beading with Knowledge Holder April La-Croix-Bellinger and heard Métis stories from MNO MRMC Treasurer Erin Hadaway.

They also learned about orienteering and how to start a fire, and went canoeing, kayaking and swimming. On a medicine walk, they found

turtles and several types of snakes.

Later during a Parks Canada presentation, the youth were able to hold a live fox-snake named Pineapple.

Campers ranged in age from five years old to 16. The experience provided a wonderful opportunity to watch older Métis youth help out the younger participants.

The campers bonded quickly. Though they met just a few days before, they looked like they had been friends for years. The sense of community was amazing and was supported by MNO GBMC Youth Representative Dalton Latondress and his brother Devin, former youth campers, who came back as councilors.

The Métis youth bonded as a community and worked to support each other, creating a successful experience for everyone and increasing everyone's self-confidence in the process.

The children were awesome ambassadors for the Métis people and will be great future leaders.

The experience was possible thanks to the support from MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council and the financial support from Ontario Power Generation. ∞



▲ Métis youth from the MNO Georgian Bay and Moon River Métis Councils learned about Métis way of life during a recent trip to Camp Kitchikewana. The annual excursion took place from June 13 to 15.

# Métis culture on display at solstice festival

submitted by  
**Carole Langlois**,  
Councilor MNO Ottawa  
Region Métis Council

**T**he Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Ottawa Region Métis Council (ORMC) was among the many Indigenous groups to participate in the Ottawa Summer Solstice Indigenous Festival on June 23 and 24.

The festival is a highlight of the summer for the local council. With participation of Métis, Inuit and First Nations, it showcases the diversity within each culture.

About 40,000 people attended the event in Vincent Massey Park on the traditional territory of the Algonquin people. Surrounded by tall trees, it is easy to leave the noise of the city behind and is an ideal place for an Indigenous gathering.

The summer solstice festival gives the MNO ORMC an opportunity every year to celebrate and share Métis culture and heritage. This year, events and teachings were scheduled throughout both days at the booth. Pamphlets, handouts and informa-



▲ MNO Ottawa Region Métis Councilor Marie-Louise Perron, Senator Parm Burgie, Councilor Wendy Langlois and Youth Representative Iain Best at the MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council booth during the Ottawa Summer Solstice Indigenous Festival.

tion about MNO's many programs were available and it was also a great time to find out about upcoming events and gatherings.

MNO ORMC representatives began both days offering local, farm

fresh, strawberries to festival goers along with strawberry plant teachings. Often referred to as the heart berry because of its shape, it is an important food and medicine in many Indigenous cultures. The

berry is also a reminder of reconciliation and teaches how to maintain relationships in families and communities.

Representatives also explained the significance of the Métis sash, includ-

ing its many practical uses during the fur trade and the important role the sash plays in Métis history.

Any Métis gathering would not be complete without traditional jigging and fiddling. Accordingly, Jonas Wesselake-George filled the air with the sounds of his fiddle and many toes could be seen tapping as people stopped at the MNO ORMC booth and listened to him play.

Geraldine Spence, from northern Manitoba, jiggled to Wesselake-George's Métis music. They did a wonderful job performing on two very hot days. MNO ORMC Councilor Marie-Louise Perron, Jeff Dusome and Anthony Brascoupe also joined Wesselake-George for a few tunes.

A very big thank you goes out to Senator Parm Burgie, Councilor Marie-Louise Perron and Youth Representative Iain Best who were responsible for all on-site activity and were the hosts at the booth. Also, thank you to Cecile Normand for volunteering her time Saturday morning. Their help and hard work made MNO ORMC's presence at the festival possible. ∞

# Art Bennett recognized for work as MNO Captain of the Hunt

submitted by  
**Yvonne Jensen**  
MNO North Channel Métis Council President

**R**epresentatives from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) North Channel Métis Council (NCMC) celebrated Art Bennett's work as Region 4 Captain of the Hunt at the end of March.

Bennett, who has also served on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) and as president of the MNO NCMC, was presented with small leather moccasins to hang from his car's

rear-view mirror and also a leather tobacco pouch during a small celebration. He has held the position for more than seven years. "It totally blew me away, I was not expecting that. I felt humbled for them to do that for me," Bennett said in an interview.

MNO MCMC President Yvonne Jensen, said the council wanted to recognize Bennett for everything he's done to represent harvesters as Captain of the Hunt and for his contributions to the wider Métis community.

"He's been involved since the beginning," Jensen said, referencing his past positions

with the MNO, community council and his being a cousin to the Powleys.

Bennett was asked if he'd become Captain of the Hunt when called by former MNO President Gary Lipinski.

"I've always been involved in the MNO and the North Channel Métis Council," Bennett said. "I liked the interaction with the harvesters, getting out and seeing them and getting out in the bush."

Bennett is also Vice-Chair on the board for the Métis Voyageur Development Fund, which provides funds to Métis owned and controlled businesses. ∞



▲ MNO North Channel Métis Council (NCMC) celebrated Art Bennett's work as Region 4 Captain of the Hunt at the end of March. Pictured are MNO NCMC Councilor June Smart, MNO NCMC President Yvonne Jensen, Art Bennett, PCMNO Region 4 Councilor Ernie Gatien, MNO NCMC Secretary Treasurer Jennifer Jensen and MNO NCMC Councilor Reg Bennett.





## Moon River Métis Council celebrates National Indigenous Peoples Day

The MNO Moon River Métis Council gathered at Bethune Memorial House National Historic Site on National Indigenous Peoples Day to celebrate Dr. Norman Bethune’s Métis heritage. Bethune is known for his work as a frontline surgeon during the Spanish Civil War and during the Second Sino-Japanese War. A sash was tied on a statue of Bethune and participants toured the museum before heading back to the council’s office for lunch, cake and other activities. **submitted by Marc Mantha** with information from **Erin Hadaway MNO Moon River Métis Council Treasurer.**

## COUNCIL CORNER

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Councils are the cornerstone of a strong foundation for the MNO in its push toward its inherent right to self-government. Since December, the following MNO community councils have had elections. Thanks and congratulations go to all the candidates who participated in these elections and to the new council members listed here:

MNO North Channel Métis Council	MNO Moon River Métis Council	MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council
President <b>Yvonne Jensen</b>	President <b>Tony Muscat</b>	President <b>David Dusome</b>
Chair <b>Allen St. Pierre</b>	Chair <b>Erin Hadaway</b>	Chair <b>Gwen Lindsay</b>
Senator <b>Fern McCoy</b>	Senator <b>Larry Duval</b>	Senator <b>Ken Fraser</b>
Secretary/Treasurer <b>Todd Showan</b>	Secretary <b>Rose LePage</b>	Secretary <b>Lorraine Mountney</b>
Women’s Representative <b>Michelle McCoy Smith</b>	Treasurer <b>David Cruise</b>	Treasurer <b>Laurie Barrantes</b>
Councillors <b>Reg Bennett, Roly Blanchette, Pete Descoteaux</b>	Women’s Representative <b>Ruth Wagner</b>	Women’s Representative <b>Patricia Taylor</b>
	Councillors <b>Eugene Boucher, Victor Brunelle, Marc Mantha</b>	Youth Representative <b>Dalton Latondress</b>
		Councillors <b>Heather Garratt, Justin Dumont, Tricia Paradis, Ron Lepage</b>

## Community council partners with museum for film screening

submitted by  
**Senator Guy Mandeville CD**  
*MNO Veterans’ Council*

Leading up to National Indigenous Peoples Day, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) and Waterloo Region Museum partnered for a screening of the documentary *Women in the Shadows*, which was followed by a panel discussion and question and answer session.

The event was one of three that took place at the museum, highlighting Métis, First Nations and Inuit films. *Women in the Shadows* was shown on June 18. The film, released in 1991 by the National Film Board of Canada, was directed by Norma Bailey and was written and filmed by Christine Welsh. Her intent was to create the film to help her reconcile with her Métis past.

Filmed in Saskatchewan from the Qu’Appelle Valley to Hudson Bay, the documentary traces the filmmaker’s quest for her Métis foremothers in spite of her relatives’ reluctance to speak about their Métis roots. The film articulates Métis women’s experiences with racism in both a current and historical context, and examines the forces that pushed them into the shadows.

After the viewing, David Neufeld, Education Coordinator at the Waterloo Region Museum, held a panel discussion with questions from the audience. The panel included MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson, Councillor Diane Kilby and MNO Veterans’ Council Senator Guy Mandeville.

The discussion was informative for many in the audience, who learned that Métis hid their identity after the Northwest Resistance of 1885, for fear of being branded traitors to Canada. The landmark inclusion of Métis in Canada’s Constitution in 1982, helped bring increased acceptance and pride. The Métis Nation across the homeland continues to negotiate with the federal and provincial governments for their rights, recognition and to advance reconciliation.

Though the film was made in 1991, the discussion showed how relevant it is still. It is eye opening and brings to the forefront why many Métis didn’t talk about their ancestry.

All Métis present at the event expressed pride in the Métis Nation and thanked the Waterloo Region Museum for their support during the National Indigenous Peoples Day presentations.

∞



▲ (left to right) **MNO GRMC Senator Carol Lévis, MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson, MNO Veterans’ Council Senator Guy Mandeville CD, MNO GRMC Councillor Diane Kilby and MNO GRMC Treasurer Leslie Muma.**

## Keeping Children Safe in the Digital Age GAMING ADDICTION

Video games have been compared to “kiddie crack” and obsessive gaming often opens the door to problem gambling issues developing in children. (source: Hugh McBride)

The World Health Organization officially recognized gaming disorder – an addiction to playing video games - as a diagnosable mental health condition. The Métis Nation of Ontario commenced developing resources last year and has now included digital media (the Internet, smartphones, and video games) awareness into our Gaming-Gambling Awareness Program.

**What is Digital Dependency?**  
When you are dependent on your digital devices and need constant connection to the internet.

**What is Digital Addiction?**  
When using technology is making a negative impact in your life and taking time away from responsibilities. Digital addiction includes:

- Gaming
- Smart Phones
- Internet
- Social Media

### GAMING ADDICTION WARNING SIGNS:

- Lies or is secretive about gaming activities.
- Unexplained absences from school or sudden drop in grades.
- Appears to be ‘sucked in’ to the game and is frequently hard to arouse
- Has outbursts or gets angry when it is time to put the game away
- Takes money from others to purchase add-ons or to advance online game status
- Spends money on gaming that was intended for a different use (lunch, bus fare, etc.)
- Sleep disruption
- Arguing with parents about gaming, smartphone and or internet activities
- Loss of interest in other extracurricular activities
- Stops going out with or playing with friends outside of the video game
- Neglecting hygiene

**Message for Parents:** screens are not toys. Younger children are spending too much time on screens, which could impact their development.

(source: Dr. Michelle Ponti - Canadian Paediatric Society)

**HELPFUL HINTS:** To ensure that your children have a healthy relationship with digital media manage where, what and when your children play, set time limits, and to teach them balance with other activities:

- Kids under 2 years old should not be getting any screen time at all
- Children between 2 to 5 years old should limit screen time to less than one hour per day
- Video games should be played no more than one or two hours per day
- Do not let your toddler play on your smartphone
- Keep computers, iPads and smart phones out of your child’s bedroom
- Avoid all screens at least an hour before bedtime
- Set a rule that approved games can only be played after homework, chores or other responsibilities
- Get children involved in other activities
- Use Content-filtering software and block sites that require your children to pay to play
- Never give credit card information or bank details to your kids to access gaming websites
- Spend time together, including having regular family dinners
- Help your children develop healthy coping strategies for the stresses of adolescence

(Source: American Academy of Pediatrics)

**GETTING HELP:** If you are concerned a family member’s gaming may be getting out of hand confidential help is available. For information and support contact a MNO Healing and Wellness Worker near you or our Provincial Coordinator: Loma Rowlinson, *MNO Gaming-Gambling Awareness Program* [lmarm@metisnation.org](mailto:lmarm@metisnation.org)



# Day-tripping to Beausoleil

submitted by  
**Larry Ferris**  
Chair, MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council

**M**étis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) teamed up with the Midland office MNO staff to organize a day trip to Beausoleil Island for about 30 Métis people.

Georgian Bay Island National Park provided a wonderful boat ride from Honey Harbour to Beausoleil Island on July 30. Parks Canada staff, some of whom are Métis, volunteered to work that day to meet the group. The staff was wonderful and looked after every need so that everyone had an amazing day. They provided rides for visitors with mobility issues and made everyone feel important and welcome.

Parks Canada staff members led nature walks and explained the rich Indigenous history of the island and the area. The group also hiked to the Cemetery of the Oaks where MNO GBMC Chair Larry Ferris provided a history of the cemetery and explained its importance to Indigenous peoples.

Several MNO citizens were able to find the resting place of ancestors and saw a sign written in Michif honoring their descendants.

While on the island, they also saw some of the trees planted by the MNO GBMC during one of its many conservation projects.

The MNO GBMC would like to thank MNO Community Wellness Coordinator Tera-Lynn Moreau-Vivian and MNO Personal Support Worker Debbie Ferris Giamattolla for doing a wonderful job of organizing a fun family day for everyone to visit and enjoy the island. ∞



▲ About 30 people from the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council area travelled to Beausoleil Island on July 30 to learn more about the Métis history of the island.



▲ MNO Grand River Métis Councilor Pat St. John (right) took MNO GRMC Councilor Diane Kilby, Treasurer Leslie Muma and President Jennifer Parkinson on a tour of his Welland radio station in Wainfleet.

## Celebrating Métis entrepreneurship

submitted by  
**Jennifer Parkinson**  
President - MNO Grand River Métis Council

**P**at St. John, a Métis Nation of Ontario citizen and MNO Grand River Métis Councilor, never let go of his dream to own a radio station. His is a story of Métis entrepreneurship.

He started out as an announcer at CHUM Toronto (now part of Bell Media), and soon moved into management positions that took him across the country. He moved from Toronto to Halifax, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Kitchener, Sarnia, back to Halifax and then returned to Ontario to become Vice President (Ontario) for Power Corporation - Broadcast Division.

After seven years, St. John joined Conestoga College in Kitchener and spent five years as Vice-President of Continuing Education / Training and Development. He also held the position of Communication Studies Chair. During his time at Conestoga College, he also worked as a consultant for the Government of Poland as they moved from state-controlled media to a public and private system.

St. John moved from Conestoga College to lead SHAD International as the President and Chief Executive Officer. SHAD is an award-winning enrichment entrepreneurship program and network that empowers exceptional high school students to recognize their own capabilities and envision their extraordinary potential as tomorrow's leaders and change

makers.

It was during his time with SHAD that St. John met Suzanne Rochon-Burnett, the first Métis woman to own a radio station, a MNO founder and trailblazer for whom the MNO named its annual volunteer of the year award.

He helped her launch a new FM station in Niagara and they became good friends. During this time, he also met Tony Belcourt, who was MNO President. Belcourt and Rochon-Burnett encouraged St. John to further explore his roots, which he was able to trace to St. Luc Cardinal and Marguerite Desjarlais from the Métis Nation Homeland in Alberta.

In 2000, St. John was also awarded the Alumni of Distinction from Mohawk College in Hamilton.

Four years later, St. John finally realized his dream by purchasing the radio station from Suzanne. For the past 14 years, he has been the President of RB Communications in Niagara and the Executive Producer of Holgate Productions, the documentary film division based in Toronto. St. John has always been involved in the community serving on many boards and committees.

He recently provided a tour of his Welland radio station in Wainfleet to fellow members of the MNO Grand River Métis Council, including Councilor Diane Kilby, Treasurer Leslie Muma and President Jennifer Parkinson.

They had the opportunity to see how one Métis entrepreneur made his dream come true. ∞



▲ The MNO's second annual Community Family Ice Fishing event in Kenora on March 17.

## MNO ice fishing event attracts dozens in Kenora

submitted by  
**Leanne Rush**, MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

**C**ars lined up the side of the Kenora's ice road for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Community Family Ice Fishing event on March 17.

Registration was full and extra holes had to be drilled to accommodate the almost 100 participants, who received a cooler bag with snacks and an ice fishing rod.

The annual event, now in its second year, was organized by

MNO Métis Family Well Being Coordinator Leanne Rush and Triple Play's Deb Novak.

Along with angling for the largest and smallest catch, attendees also enjoyed cooking bannock on a stick over an open fire thanks to Theresa Jamieson from the Ontario Native Women's Association. Free hot dogs and homemade chili were also available.

Youth were also encouraged to join in a broomball game, try the minnow races or take an exciting dog sled ride with a team of Alaskan huskies.

Four conservation officers from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry drilled all the holes and assisted everyone with tying on hooks and measuring their catch of the day. The event highlighted just how important the MNO partnership with the Ministry is in the community.

If you would like more about the MNO Métis Family Wellbeing programs and events in Kenora, please contact Leanne Rush at 807-468-3569 or email Leanne@metisnation.org. ∞



**Robert J McDonald**  
Métis Driftwood Artisan



A DIVISION OF  
**ASAP**  
COMMUNICATIONS

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# ACROSS OUR COMMUNITY



## MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council meets with Senator Boyer

Representatives from the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) met with Canadian Senator and MNO citizen Yvonne Boyer in September to share with her the opportunities and challenges facing the Métis community. Pictured (left to right) are MNO TYRMC Women's Representative Shirley Debassige, Secretary/Treasurer Marilyn Hew, MNO President Margaret Froh, Senator Boyer, MNO TYRMC President Tera Beaulieu and Chair Todd Ross. submitted by **Joanne Meyer**, MNO Chief Operating Officer



## MNO Sunset Country Métis Council passes resolution to fly pride flag

At their Annual General Meeting, on June 20, MNO Sunset Country Métis Council (SCMC) unanimously passed a resolution to proclaim the week of July 9 to 15 as Borderland Pride Week. With the support of MNO citizen attendees and Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario Region 1 Councilor Theresa Stenlund, council resolved that they whole-heartedly support their LGBTQ2S friends and flew the rainbow pride flag alongside the Métis flag at the MNO Sunset Country Métis hall throughout Pride Week. Pictured (left to right) MNO SCMC Secretary/Treasurer Corey Chowhan, President Brady Hupet, Women's Representative Sarah Marusyk, Senator John George, Youth Representative Kimmy Daley, Councilor Karen Chowhan, Councilor Judy Klyne and Councilor Wade Nelson. Absent, MNO SCMC Chair Roz Calder.

submitted by **Sarah Marusyk** MNO Sunset Country Métis Council



## MNO represents at Nipissing Powwow

MNO North Bay Métis Council Senator Marlene Greenwood and 2017 MNO Canoe expedition participant Samantha La-vallee took part in the Welcome Powwow at Canadore College and Nipissing University. The 13th annual powwow took place on Sept. 14 beside the Education Centre pond. A booth was set up to provide information for students about MNO programs and opportunities. Both Canadore and Nipissing now have bursaries for Métis students. submitted by **Marlene Greenwood**, MNO North Bay Métis Council Senator



## Senator participates in national gathering

On the weekend of June 9 and 10, Métis Nation of Ontario Honorary Senator Reta Gordon participated in the Native Women's Association of Canada's Indigenous Post-Secondary Education National Gathering at the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health in Ottawa. With her guidance, the students participated in a weekend full of healing and medicine. The goal of the event was to create a safe space for women to build community with each other.

submitted by **Reta Gordon**, MNO Honourary Senator



## MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council celebrates Canada Day

MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council President Marlene Davidson, Senator Brian Gouliquer, Councilor Elizabeth Fiore, MNO Aging At Home Coordinator Korri Loveday and Métis youth Keira Cameron celebrated Canada Day at the Atikokan Canada Day Carnival. The group set up a Métis booth on Main Street, which highlighted MNO programs and services, had a door prize draw and those who stopped by also tried Métis games. The carnival also featured food vendors, games, live music and more. submitted by **Marlene Davidson**, MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council President

## Arts on the Trail in Elliot Lake

MNO North Channel Métis Council Senator Fernand McCoy was one of the many talented musicians and artists showcased during Elliot Lake's annual 2018 Arts on the Trail. In his full Métis regalia, Senator McCoy enjoyed playing music for those who came to listen on September 29, 2018. The event featured three different venues, live musicians, demonstrations and open art studios.

submitted by **Yvonne Jensen**  
MNO North Channel Métis Council President



## Auriele Diotte participates at Masters' Indigenous Games

Auriele Diotte, who is part of the Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers, and MNO Oshawa and Durham Métis Council Senator Cecile Wagar attended the Masters' Indigenous Games Opening Gala at the Royal Ontario Museum on July 12. During the event, Diotte took the stage and showed off her jigging. The Games took place from July 12 to 15 at a number of venues in the Toronto Area. It provides an opportunity for Indigenous adults, 20 years old and up from across North America, to compete in a variety of contemporary and traditional sporting activities. Some of the sports include, archery, arctic games, basketball, canoeing, golf, tomahawk throwing, tug of war, standing kick, teepee raising and more. submitted by **Joanne Meyer**, MNO Chief Operating Officer



# ACHIEVEMENTS

## Métis beading on the catwalk

MNO citizen Justine Woods brings her culture to high fashion

**J**ustine Woods began sewing at age six, making gifts and clothes for family and friends in Midland, Ont. Her peers wanted to be princesses. She wanted to create their outfits.

"I wanted to be a fashion designer and that never changed," Woods, a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen, said in an interview. "I feel so fortunate to wake up every day and to be doing something that's my passion and something that I love."

When Woods went to Ryerson University to study Fashion Design, she started doing more research to understand her heritage.

"Expressing my individual Métis identity has become important in my life and important to me."

During her final year at Ryerson, Woods received support from the MNO Métis Training Purchase program, for help with tuition, books, other program-related costs and living expenses.

Her undergraduate program culminated with a thesis project, a five-piece runway collection showcased in April. When it came time to complete the designs, Woods decided to add a Métis detail.

"I wanted to do something that was bringing a bit more of an awareness and emphasis on Indigenous art forms. For me as Métis, this floral beading is a big part of expressing that tradition."

Floral beadwork has become one of the most distinctive symbols of the Métis and beading is a tradition practised by many Métis to this day.

Not only is Woods' collection, which she began working on the previous fall, beaded by hand, a majority of the menswear pieces are also handmade and hand stitched.

When she first proposed the idea, creating a bespoke - handmade and tailored- menswear collection, and adding Métis inspired beading patterns, Woods said her professors were a bit skeptical about whether she could complete it in time.

The nine-week timeline had strict deadlines.

"I was even nervous for myself," Woods admitted.

To complete the work, Woods sewed the garments in the university's lab and then took them home at night to work on the beading for another five to six hours. The beading for the sleeves of one jacket took more than 40 hours.

"I just really love that feeling of knowing I started that piece with one bead and it blossomed into that design of tiny little beads. It's a feeling that I just love. I'm not going to be able to stop beading."

Part of what inspired her to add the beaded details was to be able to showcase the technique to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, who don't know about the art form. She hoped to create a voice for Métis people through the collection.

"In Canadian society, Indigenous people have not been fully seen, or fully noticed and I feel that by

continuing to do this, it's my way of emphasizing the beauty and the importance of the culture and people that should be heard and should be considered equal," she said.

Her hard work paid off. After her creations debuted down the runway at Ryerson's Mass Exodus Fashion Show on April 6, her designs were chosen to appear in an additional show for fashion designers and industry insiders to see. Her work was one of 15 chosen for the curated VIP show.

Less than a month later, she learned her collection was chosen by a panel of judges to represent Canada at Graduate Fashion Week in London, U.K. in June. More than

40 competitors from 22 countries showcased their undergraduate work at what is the world's largest event for fashion graduates. She was the only person representing the country competing in the event.

"I am so incredibly excited and honoured to have been chosen. It's such an amazing opportunity and I feel so lucky to be able to show the world these Métis beading practices I have incorporated into my garments," she said after hearing the news.

Having her collection on the London Catwalk meant there was more work ahead. She planned to add even more beading

to her garments and made some changes to how they were styled and accessorized.

"I'm willing to work hard over the next month to produce something that will make my school, Canada and Indigenous communities across Canada proud."

Ryerson's School of Fashion Chair Robert Ott said he found Woods' work intriguing and called her collection "personal, powerful and passionate."

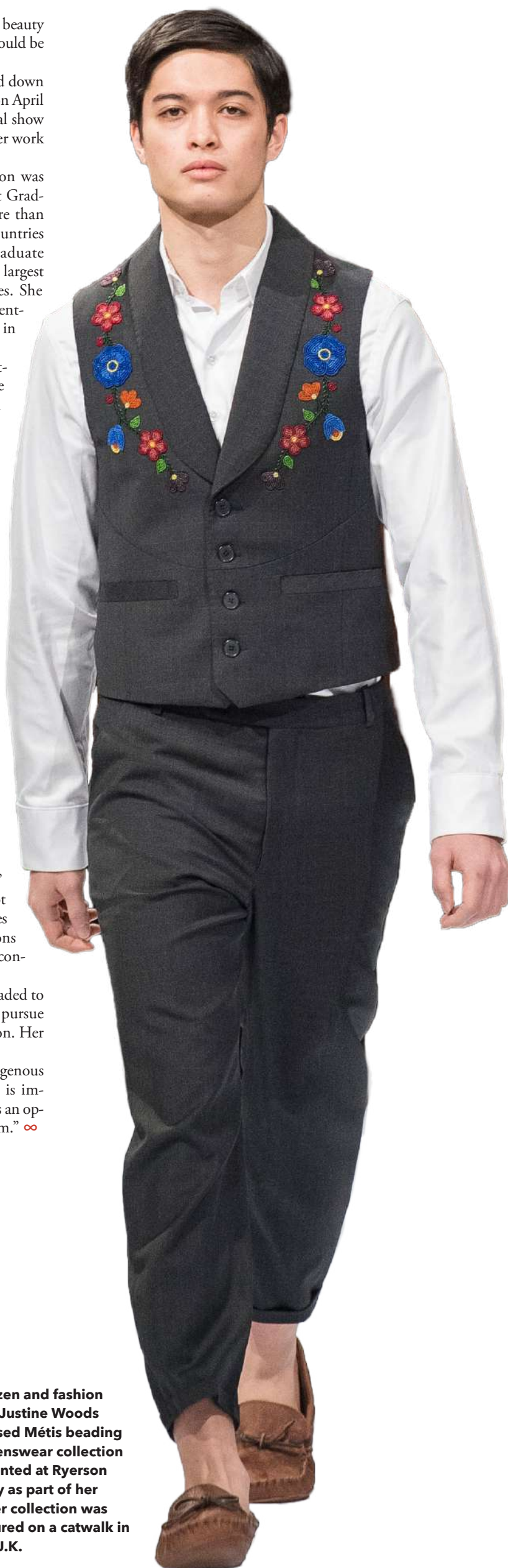
"I was really struck by the beautiful craftship that combined traditional tailoring with glass beading," he wrote. "I was really struck by Justine's passion about telling a story of her heritage through fashion."

"Justine is so focused on her work that she does not need to follow trends. She struggles with the challenges of being of Métis heritage and seeks to find solutions through her creative work. I'm just so proud of her conviction."

After showing her collection in London, Woods headed to the Academy of Art University in San Francisco to pursue a Master of Fine Arts Degree in the School of Fashion. Her studies began in the fall.

"I want to continue to identify as an Indigenous designer from Canada. I feel that it is important to stay with my roots, but it's an opportunity to further share this art form." ∞

“Indigenous people have not been fully seen, or fully noticed and I feel that by continuing to do this, it's my way of emphasizing the beauty and the importance of the culture and people



MNO citizen and fashion designer Justine Woods (centre) used Métis beading on the menswear collection she presented at Ryerson University as part of her thesis. Her collection was also featured on a catwalk in London, U.K.





MNO citizens Amber and Bruce Griffiths, a father-daughter team, won the Bronzeback Classic Bass tournament in Kenora.

## MNO citizens win fishing tournament

submitted by  
**Nancy Hatch**  
MNO citizen

The father/daughter team of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens Amber and Bruce Griffiths led from start to finish at the Bronzeback Classic fishing tournament in Kenora.

The annual tournament took place on July 21 and 22 and drew families, friends, local anglers, summer residents and youth competitors. The team with the heaviest combined Smallmouth Bass catch wins the tournament.

The Griffiths team's two-day winning weight was 30.80 pounds. One hundred and ten teams participated.

At the event, Bruce said this is the third year fishing with his daughter, and it's been a good partnership.

"We had fun today. Yesterday when we got all the big fish coming in, my daughter was dancing in the boat, so she was pretty happy".

The Griffiths had the big weight on day one as well at 16.48 pounds. ∞

This is a condensed version of a story that was originally published at [www.cjrl.ca/news](http://www.cjrl.ca/news)



André Moreau of Penetanguishene, is seen in Pangnirtung, Nunavut where he is working with the government on adoption law.

## MNO citizen travels the globe for social justice

submitted by  
**Scott Carpenter**  
MNO Manager, Education, Way of Life and Special Projects  
written by  
**Gisele Winton Sarvis**  
Midland Mirror

André Moreau, a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen from Penetanguishene, is one semester away from being a lawyer, but André Moreau is already making a mark in the field of social justice.

This summer, he is working in Iqaluit, Nunavut updating policy with its Department of Health.

Moreau's summer work is with regard to an act that allows the names of more than two parents on a birth certificate, in cases of same-sex parents or adoptions.

"It's interesting and also kind of strange that a territory of only 30,000 is running these policies," he said.

One of Moreau's passions is advocating for the rights of In-

igenous people. He's done work for four organizations including the Indigenous Law Association at McGill and the Provost's Task force on Indigenous Students and Education.

With regard to Indigenous people, there is a lot of room for improvement he told Simcoe.com.

Starting with education, students being educated on reserves (federally funded) only get two-thirds the funding compared to students off reserve (provincially funded).

"It's a major issue. It means passing rates is much lower and the attrition rate is much higher," he said.

In addition, Indigenous youth, men and women are incarcerated in the prison system at much higher rate per capita than the rest of Canadians. Nearly half of all youth who end up in custody across Canada are Indigenous.

"That is quite alarming."

Moreau is also dedicated to helping people everywhere.

“André has put into action his belief that equity, economic stability, education and social supports are at the crux of achieving justice in a community.”

His interest in social justice has also led him to work as a summer intern in Uganda in 2016, where he worked on legal research pertaining to right to access to emergency medicine and advocating for sexual reproductive health with the Center for Health, Human Rights and Development. For his efforts in the social jus-

tice field, Moreau was the 2017 winner of the Justice Main Award, which is given to individuals who demonstrate a commitment to bringing justice to their community through academic study and community involvement.

"André has put into action his belief that equity, economic stability, education and social supports are at the crux of achieving justice in a community," read the award statement.

The McGill University law student will complete his last semester of school in Budapest, Hungary from September to December. Moreau's next step after graduation is to do 10 months of articling. He has recently confirmed a position in Ottawa for the National Judicial Institute, which looks after training for judges. ∞

This is a shortened version of a story that originally appeared online at [www.simcoe.com](http://www.simcoe.com)

## MNO citizen receives Joe Lewis Eternal Warrior Award

submitted by  
**Reta Gordon**  
MNO Honourary Senator

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Perry William Kelly has done it again.

At the 50th edition of the Battle of Atlanta karate tournament, held June 14 to 16, Kelly won silver medal and picked up a Joe Lewis Eternal Warrior Award.

Kelly came within two points of winning gold in the over 60 years old/under 190 pound division. In the dying seconds of the fight, he landed a kick only seen by one of the judges. "Like I tell all my students - you either win or you learn," said Kelly, an instructor in five martial arts. "Next time, I'll make sure to throw that kick from a position where all the judges can see it."

After the fight, the tournament founder, Grand Master Joe Corley, presented Kelly

with the Joe Lewis Eternal Warrior Award. It recognizes his achievements as a combat athlete and his 30-year career as a martial arts writer and as an innovator in law enforcement officer safety for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Correctional Service of Canada.

In the last three years, Kelly put together a string of gold medal performances in national and international tournaments culminating in his over 50 World Championship win at the 2017 World Police and Fire Fighter Games. His training features weekly sparring sessions with members of both the Canadian Karate and Muay Thai teams, and pro Mixed Martial Arts fighters, often a third of his age.

The nephew of MNO Honourary Senator Reta Gordon, Kelly comes from a family of warriors. His great-uncles fought in the Second World War. His uncles, MNO Veterans' Council Senator George Kelly, John Kelly and Robert Kelly, all served in the

Canadian Forces. His father MNO Senator Donald P. Kelly, who introduced him to martial arts, was one of the first karate students in Ottawa.

Kelly retired after a multi-commendation career at the Department of Public Safety. A personal highlight was once being invited to smoke a ceremonial pipe with the Deputy Solicitor General of Canada, the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Vice-Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

The author of recent articles in *Black Belt* and *MA Success* magazines isn't content to remain behind his keyboard just yet. Now that he has his first over 60 tournament under his belt, Kelly (whose fight moniker is The Punisher) is gearing up to win a second World Championship at the 2019 International Sport Karate Association World Championship in Orlando, Fla. ∞



▲ Perry William Kelly, a MNO citizen from Ottawa, won silver during a recent karate tournament in Atlanta, Ga.



# Obituary

## Larry “King” Hupe 1930-2018

Larry Hupe, age 87, passed away peacefully at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre with his family surrounding him, on June 25, 2018.

He was born in Noranda, Que. on Oct. 7, 1930 to Albert and Bertha Hupe. Larry is survived by his wife of 55 years, Joyce; three sons, Derek (Astrid), Chris (Cathy) and Dale (Fran); three daughters, Kandi (Dave Rithaler), Cindy (Bruno Mercier) and Penny (Peter Neniska); numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews; and his special buddies, cat Spazz and dog Sox.

He was predeceased by his parents Albert and Bertha, infant brother Norman and sister Gertrude Larocque. Cremation has taken place and we will honour his wishes for no funeral service. A Celebration of Life will be held in the near future.



Should friends so desire, donations to the Alzheimer Society would be appreciated. Special thanks to the staff in the ICU unit for their excellent care and compassion. “Life up your heart and share with me, God wanted me now, He set me free.” We will miss you Chief Wahoo, happy fishing in paradise.

submitted by **Joyce Hupe**

This section contains information about assault and violence which may be triggering to survivors

## Tell Someone

submitted by **Anne Huguenin**

It takes a much bigger man To treat a woman well To him it was heaven To her a living hell Fists the tools he liked to use To beat her to the bone Leaving her black and blue No one's fault but his own Like watching a violent train wreck One that had no end Marks he left around her neck As she made excuses to a friend Physical and emotional wounds Triggers that never go away Scars of that tortured gloom She must live with every day So many times she tried to flee Fear held her tight and close Confusing for some to see This was not the life she chose Threatened by words he said A price no one should pay An axe slammed towards her head Nightmares that haunt her to this day	He abused her, and violated her Wherever he did please It didn't matter where they were To him, her duty to appease Flowers meant to soften With an "I'll never do it again" Where words she heard to often Just hollow words in the end No one heard her silent weeps She couldn't see the light She was drowning deep With no life boat in sight In her pleading prayers Her will to live was dead She prayed for God to take her But He gave her strength instead There are many just like him Cowards at second glance She is not a victim But a survivor of circumstance She ran away and never did look back Healing took much time it's true She gained the confidence she once lacked and now she's writing this to you.....
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## Hunters, Trappers, Patriots, Soldiers

submitted by **Robert McDonald**

Young First Nations, Inuit and Métis, many still boys,  
Most approaching the prime of their lives, drawn by the radio noise;

Entire communities were nearly emptied, armed with Indigenous pride;  
From the four corners they went - they'd walk or else on horseback they'd ride;

150 thousand or more signed up to join the cause;  
From Cumberland House; Pine Creek; and Nain – they did it without pause;

For they had something to offer – these expert hunters and trappers;  
Skills that would come to serve them well - as sharp shooters and trackers;

With Moccasins on feet, deep into the night, like rabbits they went,  
Guided by the stars, teams of young scouts, in search of the enemies tent;

They had no doubt; they were serving their country well;  
Fighting for freedom in far off lands, enduring a living hell;

From Vimy Ridge to Passchendaele, Dieppe to Juno Beach;  
Hill 19 to Berlin, from the mud and the misery, they fought hard in the streets;

When it was all over, these Indigenous soldiers - first boys, now men had heeded the call;  
While many returned home, several others took the ultimate fall;

Their spirits still lay in that land so far away;  
Lying in wait to someday return home, or so their Whispers Say.

OTEPEMISWAK  
The Métis people  
were once known as  
“the people who rule  
themselves”,  
self-governance is a  
Métis value

Métis Nation  
of Ontario ∞

# Ending Human Trafficking

**What is human trafficking?**

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery whereby traffickers use force, fraud or coercion to control victims for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or labour services against his/her will.

By educating ourselves, we can help to prevent and heal from the impacts of human trafficking.

For more information, please contact  
MNO Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women Team:  
**EVAIW@metisnation.org**





KATELYN

PCMNO POST-SECONDARY REP

"My involvement in the MNO has had an incredible impact on who I am, as a Métis woman, a professional and as a person. The most marketable skills I have are a direct result of the opportunities I have gained through this work."

# We Want to Unleash Your #InfinitePotential

## Help us create a strong, connected and engaged Métis youth community!

The Infinite Potentials Strategy will allow Métis youth from across the province to build meaningful relationships with one another and with their communities, develop their leadership, personal and professional skills, and empower them to collaboratively explore and celebrate their Métis identity. Through developing a strong and engaged network of Métis youth within the province, local and regional communities will benefit immediately from having access to a growing pool of engaged and motivated young people, who can assist at local events, initiatives and community building.

The role of a **Youth Mobilization Lead** (YML) will consist of organizing ongoing activities related to your **Priority Working Group** (PWG). The five PWG's include Environment, Health and Wellbeing, Language and Culture, Nation Building and Education. YML's have the opportunity to choose which PWG best suits their interests and personal gifts and will be responsible for reaching out to other Métis youth

across Ontario, creating safe pathways for involvement. YML leads will take part in monthly conference calls to discuss the progress and accomplishments of the initiatives being developed within their group. If a Youth Mobilization Lead position does not fit your schedule, you still have the ability to volunteer as a General Participant in any PWG of your choice. This position still allows for you to connect with other Métis youth and take part in the activities being implemented.

### A Real World Example

Here is an example of an initiative that was brainstormed at the 2018 Youth Conference: **"Water you doing for the environment?"**

- One day a month - Canoe cleanup along the waterways
- Invite knowledge holders to give medicine

walks, harvesting information, awareness talks on environmental reciprocity

- #canUcleanup #InfinitePotential

This example gives you an idea of a creative activity that was designed by youth in the Environment PWG. Not only does it benefit the environment, it can engage other Métis youth and teach them about their heritage and identity. You can be as creative as possible and we will work to help your ideas become a reality!

### Infinite Potential Project Leads

MNOYC President: **Mitch Case**  
MNOYC Chair, **Paul Robitaille**  
MNOYC Region 7 Rep: **Jordan Playne**  
MNO Post-Secondary Rep: **Katelyn Lacroix**  
IPS Project Coordinator: **Melissa St. Amant** (main point of contact)



**CONTACT:**  
MELISSA ST. AMANT, Infinite Potentials Project Coordinator  
[Infinitepotentials@metisnation.org](mailto:Infinitepotentials@metisnation.org)  
705-770-7899



This strategy is completely run by youth and has the ability to empower all young Métis people across the province.



# Métis Nation of Ontario's 25<sup>th</sup> AGA held in Peterborough, Ontario

Métis culture, growth and progress on self-government  
celebrated at MNO Annual General Assembly



## Governance & Leadership

pages 1-4

## Volunteer of the Year

page 7

## AGA Resolutions

page 15

## Métis Culture

page 6







▲ MNO citizens Alicia and Liam Blore bring the sound of Métis music to the canoe arrival.

# AGA '18

**The 25<sup>th</sup> Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly (AGA)** was one of the most successful to date, attracting over 400 MNO citizens and guests to events throughout Peterborough and area

“Ours is really an incredible story but there is so much more to that is yet to be written,” said Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh at the MNO Annual General Assembly in Peterborough.

President Froh made her remarks during her State of the Nation Address where she reflected on progress towards self-government made both recently and over the MNO’s 25 year history. Over 400 MNO citizens, guests and partner representatives from across Ontario attended the three-day gathering where MNO leaders reported on recent agreements with the federal and provincial governments that have advanced the Métis rights agenda.

President Froh stressed the importance of the *MNO-Canada-Ontario Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation* that she described as “monumentally historic.” She stated that the MNO is fully prepared to keep advancing its mandate of self-determination and self-government on behalf of the rights of Metis people throughout Ontario. This she stated “is about respect for our rights, our government and our people and we will continue to advance these collective goals as we build for the future.”

The MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council hosted the AGA. In addition, important decisions and discussion took place on Métis rights and eco-



**Ours is really an incredible story but there is so much more to that is yet to be written.”**

MNO PRESIDENT  
**Margaret Froh**

nom development. Delegates also heard about the Registry and Self Government Readiness Process that is gathering key citizenship data and that has already resulted in the development of a cutting edge database that will further strengthen the integrity, capacity and efficiency of the MNO Registry’s system. Citizens also celebrated the 25th anniversary of the MNO and participated in numerous Métis cultural celebrations and activities. President Froh stated: “Over the past 25 years the MNO has made many ad-

vances,” and she credits much of MNO’s success to “grit, determination and our ongoing commitment to rights of a people with a distinct culture, history, language and way of life.”

That commitment is recognized every year during the AGA through the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award. The award is presented to a MNO citizen who has made ongoing contributions to the Métis Nation and his or her own community. This year, Rochon-Burnett’s daughter Michele-Elise Burnett presented the award to MNO Great Lakes Métis Council President Peter Coture.

Many dignitaries attended the AGA and brought greetings including: Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett, Status of Women Minister Maryam Monsef, Director of First Peoples House of Learning at Trent University Dawn Lavell-Harvard, Métis National Council President Clément Chartier, Métis Nation British Columbia President Clara Morin Dal Col, Peterborough Mayor Daryl Bennett, Curve Lake First Nation Chief Phyllis Williams, Hiawatha First Nation Chief Laurie Carr, Member of the Provincial Parliament for Peterborough-Kawartha David Smith and Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak – Women of the Métis Nation President Melanie Omeniho. ∞



▲ (from top to bottom)  
**PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case makes his way ashore. MNO Honourary Senator Reta Gordon tries to spot the Métis voyageur canoes as they make their way across Little Lake in Peterborough. MNO founding President Tony Belcourt speaks with Minister of Status of Women Maryam Monsef.**





▲ MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council President Andy Dufrane welcomes everyone to Peterborough for the milestone 25th MNO AGA.

◆ On behalf of the MNO, MNO Vice-Chair Sharon Cadeau and Chair France Picotte present Region 6 PCMNO Councilor Tom Thompson with a print of artwork by MNO Youth Council Region 1 Representative Kelly Duquette.

◆ **SPECIAL GUESTS BROUGHT WELL WISHES TO THE AGA:**  
(from top to bottom) Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Status of Women Maryam Monsef, Nuclear Waste Management Organization President and CEO Laurie Swami and Dawn Lavell-Harvard, Director of First Peoples House of Learning at Trent University, pictured with MNO Vice-Chair Sharon Cadeau.



▲ **GETTING THE CROWD ON THEIR FEET:** MNO citizen Amanda Rheame performs her song We Aspire, which is based on the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose



# Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario



Accompanied by the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario, MNO citizen Amanda Rheaume sings *O Canada* and *We Aspire* as the MNO AGA gets underway inside the Showplace Performance Centre.

**STATE OF THE NATION:** (right) In her address, MNO President Margaret Froh reflected on progress towards self-government made both recently and over the MNO's 25 year history. "Over the last 25 years The MNO has made many advances and we have to acknowledge and respect the foundation that was built in its earliest days with no real resources, with no government to give them respect, just grit and determination and that good old-fashioned Métis resiliency," she said.



MNO President Margaret Froh delivers the State of the Nation Address on Aug. 17.

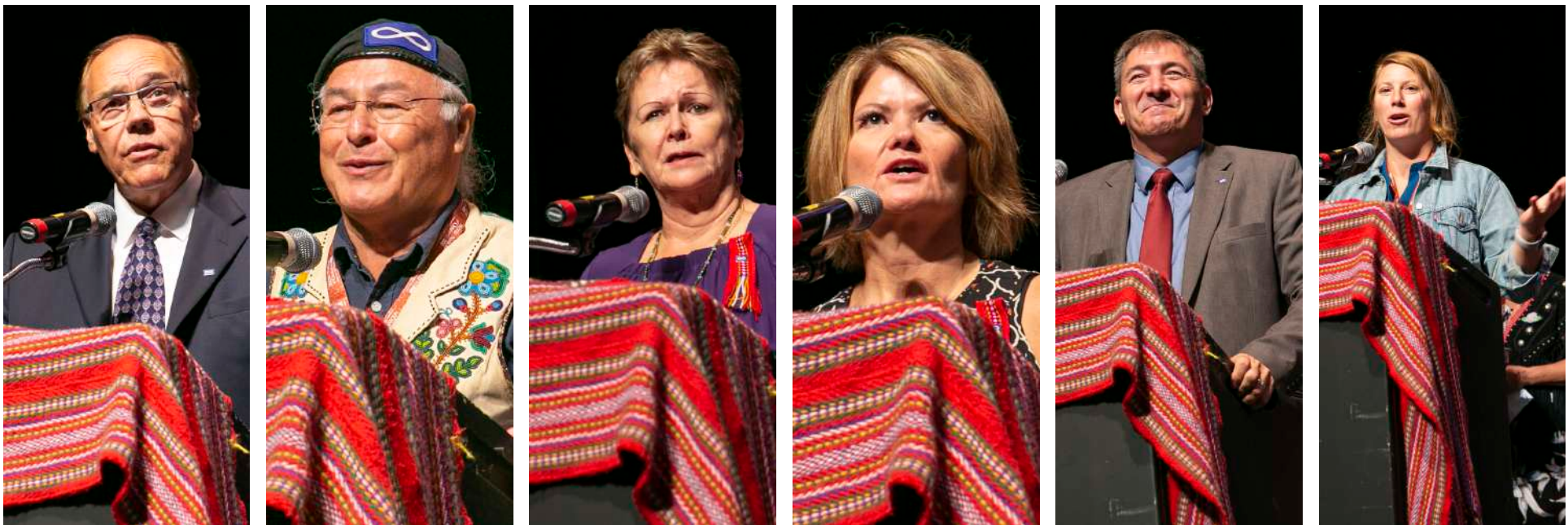


MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council Senator Terry Bloom brings everyone together with the opening prayer.



PCMNO Region 2 Councilor Cam Burgess presents Métis Nation British Columbia President Clara Morin Dal Col with a print of artwork created by MNO citizen Kelly Duquette.

PCMNO Region 1 Councilor Theresa Stenlund presents Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak President Melanie Omeniho with a gift.



During the opening ceremony, guests bring warm wishes for a successful and productive AGA (left to right) Peterborough Mayor Daryl Bennett, Métis National Council President Clément Chartier, Curve Lake First Nation Chief Phyllis Williams, Hiawatha First Nation Chief Laurie Carr, MPP Peterborough Kawartha Dave Smith and Canoe Museum Executive Director Carolyn Hyslop.





▶ PCMNO Region 4 Councilor Ernest Gatien speaks to a resolution on the floor.



▼ The AGA Resolutions Committee at work.



▲ (top) PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case and Region 6 Youth Representative Aly Dusome speak to a resolution. (middle) Métis lawyer and MNO citizen Jason Madden. (bottom) Know History Director Ryan Shackleton.

◀ **TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS:** MNO citizens raise their IDs to be counted for quorum during the start of business sessions.



Métis Lawyer and MNO citizen Jason Madden speaks about contemporary Métis legal cases and issues at the 25th MNO AGA inside Peterborough's Showplace Performance Centre.





► **FAMILY TIME:** Emlyn Cameron (top) poses with her grandmother MNO Atikokan Métis Council President Marlene Davidson and sister Region 1 Youth Representative Kelly Duquette for a quick family photo.

# Work Hard, Play Hard

## ► OUR GRACIOUS HOSTS:

MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council (PDWMC) Women's Representative Taryn Blackstock, MNO Chief Operating Officer Joanne Meyer, MNO PDWMC Councilor Luke Thompson, MNO PDWMC Senator Terry Bloom, MNO PDWMC Chair Christa Lamelin, MNO President Margaret Froh, MNO PDWMC President Andy Dufrane and MNO PDWMC Councilor Barbara Card.



The MNO AGA isn't all about business. MNO citizens and guests look forward to a number of cultural activities, and opportunities to learn more about Métis history, heritage and way of life. This year, voyageur games were played at the Canadian Canoe Museum, the tradeshow was held at Showplace Performance Centre and Know History joined the MNO AGA to help with genealogical research.





## 2018 Suzanne Rochon Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award



► Peter Coture was the 2018 recipient of the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award. This year the award was presented by Suzanne's daughter Michele-Elise Burnett (left) and MNO President Margaret Froh (right).

## “I’m more of a doer” Peter Coture receives volunteer award

At the AGA, Peter Coture, who has been called the best fish cleaner of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), was recognized for his volunteer efforts.

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

“One of the realities of the Métis Nation of Ontario is we are driven by our people and all of that volunteer time that all of you put in to ensuring that we are doing the things that we need to do for our families and our communities,” said MNO President Margaret Froh.

When Peter’s name was announced, the audience gave the MNO Great Lakes Métis Council President a standing ovation.

“I’m not much of a speaker or anything, I’m more of a doer, but I want to thank everyone for this and it’s well appreciated,” he said.

For the first time, the award was presented by Suzanne’s daughter Michele-Elise Burnett, who spoke powerfully about her mother’s legacy and the need to recognize those in the Métis community that go above and beyond each day to make their com-

munities better and stronger.

“Let us always remember where we came from, honour those who trail blazed relentlessly and at times with blood, sweat and tears to create the MNO dream. Let us be grateful to those that continue in their footsteps by giving generously by being strong, unwavering advocates of the Métis Nation and giving selflessly and being the backbones of success of today’s MNO,” Burnett said.

Peter was nominated by several individuals in the MNO Great Lakes Métis Council region for his more than 20 years of work with the council and for his willingness to help everyone in the community.

“He is a vital figure in the Owen Sound grassroots Métis movement. With his selfless commitment of time and energy, he helps to preserve our Métis heritage by teaching traditional hunting and forest management techniques and preserving our history,” Burnett said.

The nomination noted Peter’s crucial participation in the erection of a Mudtown plaque recognizing Métis history in Owen Sound.

“But perhaps the most important thing you need to know about Peter is that he puts his words into practice.” She added, “And no Métis freezer in the area lacks for fresh fish for dinner.”

On his nomination papers,

Helen Marietta praised Peter for his compassion and respect.

“He’s always out seeing our elders if they need anything and if he can help them in any way. He keeps everyone well informed on what is happening; he is well trusted by council and our citizens,” she wrote on the form. “He always puts our children and our way of life first and foremost and he has worked very hard to earn and keep our respect.”

“He volunteers more time than most people work,” added MNO Great Lakes Métis Councilor Murray Hilleyer.

As President, Peter plays an ac-

tive role in bringing the concerns of local MNO citizens forward during consultations with local industry.

“Pete always gives his time to the greater cause and he has all Métis peoples’ rights and ideas in mind when in meetings and in public,” said James Coture, Peter’s son, who is also part of the community council. “He has tried to move forward all of our people in every way possible.”

For more information about the award, the nomination process and past participants, visit [www.metisnation.org/culture-heritage/srb-volunteer-award/](http://www.metisnation.org/culture-heritage/srb-volunteer-award/).

“[Peter] helps to preserve our Métis heritage by teaching traditional hunting and forest management techniques.”



► As President of the MNO Great Lakes Métis Council, Peter Coture has been an integral part of the Métis community. Above, he’s pictured with MNO citizens and his fellow councilors during the Métis of Mudtown plaque dedication (left) and presenting MNO Veteran Peter Grendrop with a Louis Riel Certificate (right).



## MNO AGA Update on

# Métis Rights Self-Government



**Métis lawyer and MNO legal counsel Jason Madden provided an update about Métis rights and self-government during the MNO's Annual General Assembly in Peterborough on August 18.**

On the second day of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Peterborough, Métis lawyer and MNO legal counsel

Jason Madden provided an update on Métis legal issues, including an update on Métis self-government negotiations taking place across the Métis Nation. Madden has been at the forefront of advancing Métis rights in the courts for many years, including appearing before the Supreme Court of Canada in all of the Métis rights related cases over the last 15 years. He is managing partner in the law firm Pape Salter Teillet LLP and represents Métis Nation governments and communities from Ontario westward.

Madden began with an update on recent court cases and noted a number of cases to watch in 2018. A decision from the Supreme Court of Canada, he said, on whether the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate Aboriginal peoples applied to legislative action taken by Parliament or legislatures would likely be released soon (*Mikisew Cree First Nation v. Canada*). He also noted that a recent court decision from Alberta that upheld the Métis Nation of Alberta's bylaw changes provided clarity about its authorization to represent its citizens for the purpose of Métis rights, interests and claims (*McCargar v. Métis Nation of Alberta*).

Finally, he discussed a recent case from the Quebec Court of Appeal (*R. v. Corneau*) that upheld a lower court decision that there was no historic or rights-bearing Métis community in eastern Quebec. He emphasized this case was one of more than 15 cases from Quebec and the East Coast that have confirmed that simply pointing to "mixed Aboriginal ancestry individuals" in the historic record without any evidence of a distinct people, culture or collective identity emerging cannot ground a claim to Métis rights.

Madden also provided an overview of the process undertaken to get to the recently signed *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement on Métis Harvesting*. This agreement more formally recognizes the MNO Harvesting Policy and Harvesting Areas, removed the dreaded "cap" on the number of Harvesters Cards the MNO can issue and sets out a process for further negotiation on issues such as mobility and arriving at a new MNO Harvesting Area map. Madden noted that it was the hard decisions made by previous Annual General Assemblies, which resulted in complete Harvester Card files being cancelled, that led to the MNO scoring a 100 per cent

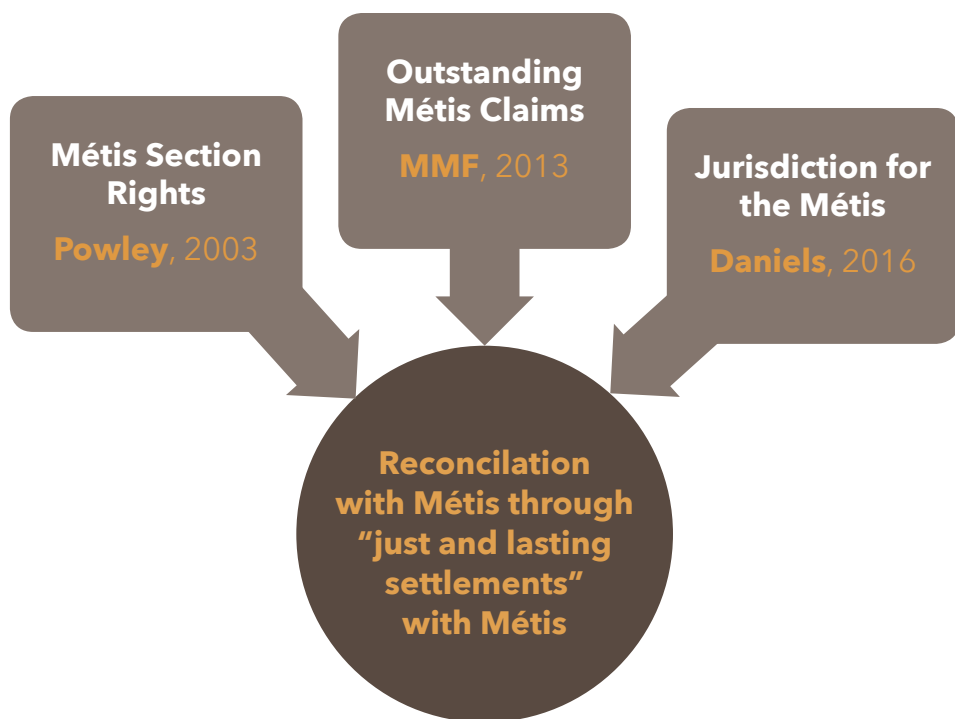
verification rate in the independent review of the MNO Harvesters Card system. This perfect score led to the MNO being able to negotiate a new agreement without any "cap" on Métis rights-holders obtaining a Harvesters Card.

## "Trifecta" of Métis Law

Madden spoke on the recent significant gains made across the Métis Nation Homeland on Métis rights and self-government. He said that recent and historical developments have ushered in new opportunities for negotiations with Métis Nation governments south of the 60th parallel. In particular, he cited what he called the "trifecta of Métis law;" *R. v. Powley*, *Manitoba Metis Federation v. Canada* and *Daniels v. Canada* as well as recent political commitments and will at the federal level. Framework Agreements have been signed with Métis governments in Manitoba (November 2016), Alberta (November 2017) and Saskatchewan (July 2018). In December 2017, the MNO signed its Framework Agreement with Canada and Ontario that sets out a process to establish a "nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationship" between the MNO and the Crown. The objectives of this agreement are to formally recognize the MNO's jurisdiction and law-making power as a "Métis government," make strategic investments in areas such as health, education and housing, as well as negotiate on Métis rights and outstanding claims against the Crown.

## "Regional claims"

Madden also highlighted that the *MNO-Canada-Ontario Framework Agreement* contemplates the potential of "regional claims" being advanced by rights-bearing Métis communities represented by the MNO, either individually or together. These claims against the Crown may relate to land related promises made to Métis communities or actions taken by the Crown that damaged Métis economies and way of life related to fisheries or flooding. Madden noted the land related petitions advanced by Métis in the Georgian Bay region as well as the promise made to Métis at Sault Ste. Marie with respect to keeping "full and free possession" of their lands will need further research and investigation. He also noted that in December 2017, the MNO and Canada already signed an agreement to advance reconciliation with the Northwestern Ontario Métis community in relation to the Treaty 3 Halfbreed Adhe-



▲ The "Trifecta" of Métis Law: Powley, Daniels and MMF.



▲ Members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), other signatories and guests following the signing of the MNO-Canada-Ontario Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation.

sion, which promised Métis lands for a village and harvesting area as well as the same benefits under Treaty 3 promised to First Nations. Madden highlighted that similar to how the Powley case was a "test case" that benefited other Métis communities, these negotiations with respect to the Treaty 3 Halfbreed Adhesion will serve as a template for other Métis communities seeking to pursue their claims.

## An MNO Constitution

Finally, Madden spoke about how the next steps in the MNO's self-government discussions with the Crown will need to focus on developing a constitution based on the Métis inherent right to self-government and self-determination. This next step will require the MNO to move away from its corporate bylaws to a constitution ratified by its citizens. He highlighted that the Métis self-government metamorphosis is well on its way across the Métis Nation. Within Ontario, this process will require the MNO to clarify key questions such as exactly who it represents, including, its relationship with the larger Métis Nation, who its citizens in a future Métis government will be, how the rights and liberties of Métis citizens and Métis communities will be protected in a future government, what the MNO's fu-

ture self-government will look like, amongst many other things. He noted that while corporate bylaws can be more easily changed and groups can more easily go their own way, constitutions are forever. In order to get to a constitution, deep and meaningful consultations are required with MNO citizens, and, just as importantly, the rights-bearing Métis communities that make up the MNO need to agree to any new arrangement. Madden also noted that the MNO's ongoing Registry Review process is key to answering the question of exactly who the MNO represents in order to develop a constitution that all parties can agree to.

## An Exciting Time

Madden concluded by saying that this is an exciting time for the Métis Nation and the advancement of Métis rights and self-government from Ontario westward. He indicated that there will likely be some additional important announcement on progress made with respect to Métis negotiation in the fall of 2018 as well as the potential introduction of federal legislation dealing with the Prime Minister's previously announced Indigenous Rights and Recognition Framework.

A copy of Madden's presentation is available online at [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org)



# Métis Nation of Ontario Senators

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senators gathered for their annual meeting in the days ahead of the MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Peterborough. Participating in a meet and greet event, as well as self-defence training and important discussions about the MNO, the pre-AGA conference provided an opportunity for Senators to reconnect and share their experiences over the past year. Their place at the MNO AGA is a special one as they provide guidance and spiritual grounding throughout the event. ∞



**MNO Senators who attended the 25th MNO AGA in Peterborough in August:** Front (left to right) KRay Bergie, Verna Porter-Brunelle, Reta Gordon, Rene Gravelle, Roland St. Germain, Joe Poitras. Middle (left to right) Richard Meilleur, Guy Mandeville, Cecile Wagar, Christina Acton, Parmallia Burgie, Patsy Dryden, Karen Cederwell, Gerry Courville, Marlene Greenwood, Ken Fraser, Gerry Bedford, Joyceline Rose, Gary Laframboise, Maryjane Bутtenham, Brenda Powley, John George, Carol Levis, Terry Bloom. Back (left to right) Kevin Rath, Robert Lloyd, Alphonse Roussin, Larry Duval, Ken Simard, Brian Gouliquer, Jim Turner, Fearn McCoy.



**MNO Senators had a busy schedule at the MNO AGA, but they also took time to enjoy some lighter moments.** (Top left) Ken Simard practises some self-defence moves during a workshop. (Top right) PCMNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle steps out of the canoe and gives the all clear. (Bottom left) MNO Niagara Region Métis Council Senator Garry Laframboise, MNO Mattawa Métis Council Senator Joyceline Rose and MNO Veterans' Council Senator Guy Mandeville catch up during the Senators' Meet and Greet. (Bottom right) No gathering is complete without some Métis music, featuring MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Senator Ken Fraser on the spoons and MNO Sudbury Métis Council Senator Richard Meilleur on the harmonica.





# MNO Community Council Presidents

The MNO chartered Community Councils were represented at the MNO AGA by either their president or a designate, who also attended a Presidents Meeting to discuss issues of common interest and concern throughout the Métis Nation of Ontario. The Presidents were a lively and engaged group at this year’s AGA, at the business sessions and the AGA’s various cultural events. ∞



▲ MNO Community Council Presidents and designates who attended the Presidents meeting at the 2018 MNO AGA in Peterborough: Front (left to right) Karen Derocher, Yvonne Jensen, Terri Head, Margaret Froh, Marlene Davidson, Benny Michaud, Jennifer Parkinson, Trent Desaulniers. Middle (left-right) Jerry Clarke, Donna Grayer, Liz Boucha, Brady Hupet, Dave Dusome, Liliane Ethier, Kathleen Anderson, Andy Dufrane, David Hamilton, Jean Camirand, Urgel Courville. Back (left-right) William Gordon, Ronald Robinson, Richard Sarrazin, Tera Beaulieu, Joe Paquette, Tony Muscat, Peter Couture, Marc Laurin, Derrick Pont, Nelson Montreuil, Kim Powley.

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Following the Métis Youth Leadership Conference participants gather for a family photo on the banks of the Otonabee River.

# Métis Youth

## Tomorrow's leaders gather for Métis youth conference

In the days ahead of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Peterborough, Métis youth from across the province gathered for the second Ontario Métis Youth Leadership Conference.

More than 70 youth participated in the two-day conference, which kept them busy with a variety of exciting, interactive and meditative workshops.

Those in attendance included out-of-province youth representatives, youth involved in the MNO's Summer Youth Cultural and Infinite Reach programs, the MNO Youth Council, MNO community council youth representatives and others.

Some of the guest facilitators included Dylan Miner, who helped youth learn birch bark biting and screen printing, MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council President Tera Beaulieu, who worked with youth to understand mental wellness and healing and Lisa Shepherd, who taught workshops on beading, plant medicines and floral designs and spent an evening teaching jigging. MNO Region 1 Youth Representative

Kelly Duquette's popular painting workshop returned for a second year and Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Youth Representative Mitch Case and Métis Nation British Columbia Minister of Youth Cassidy Caron taught attendees about how resolutions become bylaws.

Youth also had the chance to discuss what it means to be a two-spirit person with University of Manitoba instructor Chantal Fiola, PhD, and learn about the Feminist Twins' journey as activists and event planners.

On the second day of the conference, youth listened in on a panel discussion about the past, present and future of the Métis Nation with MNO Chair France Picotte, Case and MNO Chief Strategy Officer Jennifer St. Germain.

That day, the MNO Veterans' Council mingled with the youth, hearing their ideas and sharing stories. The council also presented the MNO Youth Council with a blanket that they plan to use as the backdrop for a beading project.



▲ The agenda for the conference was packed with workshops and activities over three days. Participants had the opportunity to participate in a lacrosse lesson, dot art workshop, an evening of jigging and more.



▲ MNO Youth Representatives attending a pre-aga meeting included:  
Back, left to right: Katelyn LaCroix, Kelly Duquette, Mitch Case.  
Front, left to right: Jordyn Playne, Taylor McNally, Aly Dusome, Paul Robitaille.



▲ From fellowship and jigging to learning about medicinal plants and the art of leadership there was something for everyone.





# Captains of the Hunt

The Captains of the Hunt (COTH) met with harvesters and citizens throughout the MNO AGA to receive input and discuss issues surrounding the upcoming fall harvest season. The COTH act as liaisons between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the MNO and its citizens on all harvesting-related issues and inquiries. One COTH represents each of the Traditional Harvest Territories within Ontario and is mandated by the MNO to have full authority over the Métis Harvest in their respective region. The MNO welcomes several new Captains of the Hunt this year.

◀ **MNO Captains of the Hunt at the MNO AGA in Peterborough in August 2018:** Left to right: Sandy Triskle, Andy Lefebvre, Greg Garratt, Margaret Froh, Art Bennett, Peter Rivers, Brian Tucker, Denis Lefebvre. **Kneeling:** Phillip McGuire.



MNO Sgt-At-Arms Doug Woods directs the colour party from centre stage following the procession into Showplace Performance Centre for the MNO AGA Opening Ceremony on Aug. 17.

# Métis Veterans

## MNO Veterans' Council Report

**Joseph Paquette**  
MNO Veterans' Council President

**This is the MNO Veterans' Council's unofficial report of its activities, as it has not been passed by the council's representatives**

Once again, much has transpired over the past year. The Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans Council represented the MNO and participated in several noteworthy events over the past year:

- Ottawa Commemorations in April 2017
- Attended Oshawa Métis Celebrations
- Attended the Aboriginal Veterans' Day in CFB Borden
- Made a presentation to Bruce Power in Kincardine
- Tour of Bruce Power Facility
- Attended the Change of Command in Trenton

- Sent representative to Batoche Days, Batoche
- Attended the Black Creek event
- Memorial Cup event in Windsor (front and center)
- 2017 Volunteer of the Year (second year in a row)
- Women in the Shadows Event in London
- Veteran Alex Boucher's 105th Birthday
- Attended meeting in British Columbia
- Presentations in Borden, Trenton and London
- Remembrance Day ceremonies across the province
- Métis Youth/Veteran event in Penetanguishene
- Moosonee / Moose Factory presentation
- Fundraising events in Windsor
- School events
- Bring a Veteran to Dinner event in Orillia

- Representation at Celebration of life in Penetanguishene for Departed MNO Veteran
- Representation at Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women event in Wasaga Beach
- Representation in Midland parade for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

It is great to see that we are engaging out there, providing awareness of Métis veterans. Promoting the Métis Nation of Ontario and its veterans is ongoing and an important part of our mandate.

Thank you to all that have participated and contributed to this awesome outcome. The MNO Veterans' Council is still very much active and looking forward to another great year.

*\* Due to scheduling issues during the MNO AGA, the MNO Veterans' Council did not hold its Annual General Meeting.*







Participants and guests at the MNO Women's Council gathering prior to the 2018 MNO Annual General Assembly in Peterborough in August.

# Métis Women

## MNO Women's Council Report

It has been one year since we have updated our name to the Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council. At this time I wish to introduce you to our Regional Women's Reps:

Region 1 - Colette Surovy  
Region 2 - Kelly Camacho  
Region 3 - Lillian Ethier  
Region 4 - June Smart  
Region 5 - Berni Picco  
Region 6 - Cora Bunn  
Region 7 - Patricia Taylor  
Region 8 - Pearl Gabona  
Region 9 - Suzanne Jackson

Our Women's Council representatives and Regional Women's representatives are the heart and soul of our nation; many times for-

gotten, they are my unsung heroes. At this year's MNO Women's Council Annual General Meeting (AGM) the women re-placed our Mission and Vision Statement. Our Vision and Mission statement was re-moved from our Terms of Reference. We felt that these should be stand alone and are something we all still find relevant. I am so very proud of the update and all the women that supported our change and I look forward to the future.

The MNO Women's Council has an inclusive understanding of womanhood. Women experience their lives differently based on their culture, home life, region, age, gender/gender identify, sexual identity, religion, edu-

cation, and many other factors. The MNO Women's Council (MNOWC) values each woman's experience and seeks to create a respectful space that includes Two-Spirited, Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Queer, and Inter-Sexual (2SLGBTWQ) women.

I wish to thank Berni Picco and her team of volunteers that helped work our Fundraising Table, I am pleased to announce that we raised \$2002.50. Thanks to all the people that donated and purchased from our table. We are all looking forward to next year.

We are currently working on year two of our three-year project with the Status of Women. This is only the start of so many good things to come.



There were hugs all around as things got underway at the MNO Women's Gathering.



MNO Veterans' Council Women's Representative Shelly Claus during a workshop at the Women's Gathering

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# Collaboratively implementing Canada's plan for the safe, long-term management of used nuclear fuel

## NWMO President and CEO Laurie Swami takes part in the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) President and CEO Laurie Swami recently joined more than 400 citizens and guests from across the province at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly (AGA) of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) in Peterborough. The three-day gathering focused on Métis rights and self-government, and celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MNO with numerous Métis cultural celebrations and activities taking place throughout the city.

"I was honoured to participate in the 25<sup>th</sup> AGA," said Ms. Swami. "It is always a delight to join in the celebration of the rich culture and tradition of the Métis people."

At the launch of the AGA, Ms. Swami spoke about the NWMO's commitment to continuing our work with the MNO to develop inclusive engagement and a learning process that foster community well-being.

"It is important that we ensure that Canada's plan for the safe, long-term management of used nuclear fuel is inclusive, respectful and transparent," added Ms. Swami.

Ms. Swami was invited to take part in the traditional voyageur canoe trip with MNO leadership, dignitaries and special guests. The ceremonial canoes honour the spirit of the Métis ancestors who paddled along waterways and watersheds for the fur trade.

The AGA was also an opportunity to directly engage with individual MNO citizens throughout the three-day event to provide an update on the NWMO's site selection process and engagement activities.



Sharon Cadeau, Vice-Chair of the MNO, Laurie Swami, President and CEO of the NWMO, and Theresa Stenlund, Provisional Council of the MNO – Councillor for Region 1, are all smiles as they head out on their canoe trip as part of the MNO's 25<sup>th</sup> AGA.

There are five areas currently engaged in studies to determine a potential host for the deep geological repository and associated facilities, including a Centre of Expertise. Three are located in northern Ontario – the townships of Hornepayne, Ignace and Manitouwadge. In southwestern Ontario, the Municipality of South Bruce and Township of Huron-Kinloss are also part of the process.

Ultimately, the project will only be sited in an area where it can be implemented in partnership with municipal, First Nation and Métis communities. The NWMO expects to identify a preferred site to be the sole focus of study by about 2023. Further planning timelines include construction starting around 2033 and the facility being operational in 2043.

We invite you to learn more.

Please visit our website:  
[www.nwmo.ca](http://www.nwmo.ca)



# Friday Night Lights



▲ An evening celebration of Métis culture included: (Clockwise from top left) Métis youth perform the Red River Jig. Auriele Diotte entertains with a spirited jigging performance. Her energetic choreography was cheered on by the crowd. Ginny McIlmoyle performs as part of The SweetGrass Band, a bluegrass group from Alderville First Nation. MNO citizens Alicia and Liam Blore had attendees clapping and toe tapping with the fiddle and guitar. MNO citizen Larry O'Connor amuses the crowd in between sets and introducing the new acts

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# AGA 2018 Resolutions

## Resolutions of the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario

AGA180819-01  
MOVED - **Mitch Case**  
SECONDED - **Alexandra Dusome**

WHEREAS a foundational principle of good governance is the right of Citizens to have their voices heard and meaningfully considered in decision-making that affects them; and  
WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is quickly moving towards self-government, which has involved beginning the process of Constitution building and negotiating numerous agreements, which affect MNO Citizens across the province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 25th MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) direct that there be a province-wide community engagement process on the issues related to economic development and self-sufficiency, self-government and other citizenship related issues as outlined in the MNO Commission on Métis Rights and Self Government Final Report and as discussed at the 2018 AGA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario and the MNO Secretariat seek out the necessary resources to implement the aforementioned engagement process; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that quarterly updates on these discussions be provided and a report provided to the 2019 MNO AGA.

### RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS

AGA180819-02  
MOVED - **Amanda Pont-Shanks)**  
SECONDED - **Derrick Pont)**

WHEREAS Métis across the province live with discrimination, racism and lateral violence on a regular basis based on their Métis heritage; and  
WHEREAS many Métis struggle with ignorance, lateral violence, and bias from other Indigenous organizations; and  
WHEREAS there is lateral violence within our own Métis community, which causes a divide in the Nation; and  
WHEREAS there is a demand for cultural competency training from entities such as, corporate sector, Medical Professionals, Local Government, Law Enforcement, Community Service Groups, and Small Businesses; and  
WHEREAS Community Councils are volunteers and most Community Councils do not have the time, capacity or funding to deliver effective and consistent cultural competency training; and  
WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) Statement of Prime Purpose states that the MNO will commit to "improve health and wellness of the individual, the family and the whole Métis community";

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the MNO establishes a process to develop an Anti-Racism, lateral violence and Equity Working Group comprised of Métis citizens, Community Council Members, Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) members, and other MNO Interest Groups. With the support of the MNO public service, the Working Group will assist in developing Métis cultural competency training. This Working Group will train MNO Community Councils; PCMNO, other MNO interest groups, and MNO public service using the resources developed and will assist in province wide implementation; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this Working Group will work with other Indigenous groups to improve relationships, tackle stereotypes and biases, and work together to promote the reduction of racism, ignorance, and lateral violence between Indigenous peoples. This Working Group will also tackle and solve concerns of lateral violence within our own Métis Nation to ensure that Citizens across the province feel welcome, safe and accepted within the MNO.

### RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS

AGA180819-03  
MOVED - **Diane Kilby**  
SECONDED - **Jennifer Parkinson**

WHEREAS the Royal Canadian Geographic Society (Canadian Geographic) has published a comprehensive Atlas titled the "Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada", which is available online [see <https://indigenouspeoplesatlasofcanada.ca/>] or as a hard-copy publication; and  
WHEREAS one booklet of this Atlas is dedicated to the Métis people of Canada; and  
WHEREAS this segment was developed in consultation with the Métis National Council (MNC) of Canada and includes an introduction by MNC President, Clément Chartier; and  
WHEREAS this Atlas puts forward and supports the erroneous contention that Métis identity is limited to Western Canada and "parts" of North-western Ontario only; and  
WHEREAS this description of Métis ignores/dismisses and diminishes the people, the historic Métis communities, the culture and the self-governing structure of the Métis Nation of Ontario;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario be directed to work directly with Canadian Geographic to correct this glaring omission to include the proud Métis peoples of Ontario acknowledging our people, our history, our government and our communities.

### RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS

AGA180819-04  
MOVED - **Suzanne Jackson**  
SECONDED - **Shirley Debassige**

WHEREAS the Voyageur Canoe is symbolic of the Métis Nation and it is an honour to have a designated seat in the canoe during the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA) Grand Entry; and  
WHEREAS honouring Women is part of our culture; and  
WHEREAS the MNO is striving toward equitable representation of all our communities; and  
WHEREAS the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario and all other Provincial Councils within the MNO structure, with the exception of the Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council, have a recurring seat in the canoe during the MNO AGA Grand Entry;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Women's representative from the hosting AGA Council or their MNO Women's Regional Representative or their MNO Women's Council designate chosen by the other MNO Women's Regional Representatives, have a reserved seat in the Voyageur Canoe for its Grand Entry at all MNO AGAs.

### RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS

AGA180819-05  
MOVED - **Brian Goulquier**  
SECONDED - **Sandra Triskle**

WHEREAS the moose population is too low and not recovering well; and  
WHEREAS the moose harvest is an important Métis cultural event (not a sport or hunting); and  
WHEREAS the moose population has not or has been slow to recover in many Wildlife Management Units (WMUs); and  
WHEREAS the Métis have lost their cultural connection to other species such as the caribou, buffalo, elk and others;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Ontario write the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests to curtail the issuance of the non-resident moose hunting licenses in the WMUs where moose numbers are at a low or lower than low number, until the moose population rises above that number.

### RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS

AGA180819-06  
MOVED - **Alexander Young**  
SECONDED - **Courtney Vaughan**

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) Statement of Prime Purpose declares to, "... promote and foster a community development...[to] promote the improved health and wellness of the individual...[to] establish good relations and maintain our historic alliances with all Aboriginal peoples for the pursuit of our common interests and goals."; and  
WHEREAS the MNO has put importance on supporting and funding cultural and heritage land-based and recreational programs including the Summer Youth Cultural Program, Youth Cultural Camps, and Canoe Expeditions in 2003, 2005, 2014 and 2017, programs that have had lasting positive impacts for the MNO by building awareness of the Métis people and culture in Ontario and empowering Métis participants involved; and  
WHEREAS the Aboriginal Sport and Wellness Council of Ontario (ASWCO) "plans, delivers and supports dozens of programs, tournaments, workshops, and events for Indigenous youth across Ontario each year, including multi-sport, cultural and leadership camps, sport clinics, invitational, championships, the Team Ontario, and the North American Indigenous Games."; and  
WHEREAS ASWCO has a mandate to support sport, recreation, wellness and cultural opportunities for First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples in Ontario; and  
WHEREAS there is a high interest for continued cultural and heritage programming for Metis people of all ages that promote Métis pride and Way Of Life; and  
WHEREAS the Government of Canada has allotted \$71.4 million over five years to support Indigenous history, heritage and the use of sport for social development;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the MNO Annual General Assembly 2018 directs the following:

1. That the MNO seek partnership with the ASWCO to support and develop culturally relevant Sport, Recreation and Experiential activities for Métis people of all ages across Ontario that promote and support Métis Way Of Life; and

2. That the MNO seek continuous funding from the Government of Canada and Province of Ontario that will provide immersive cultural experiences for Métis children, youth, adults and elders that reflect various skill levels and abilities.

### RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS

AGA180819-07 It was  
MOVED - **Alexander Young**  
SECONDED - **Courtenay Vaughan**

WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has invested substantially in equipment to outfit participants for canoe and camping related activities; including the purchase of two new 36 foot Montreal Canoe and hauling trailer, cargo trailer and everyday camping and cooking gear to outfit 25 or more participants; and  
WHEREAS the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) as a governing body, MNO citizens and MNO staff would benefit from the opportunity that would be derived from the Canoe Expedition that would raise Metis cultural and historic awareness by educating the general public, visiting communities, and by obtaining media coverage; and  
WHEREAS Canoe Expeditions relive and retrace the historic fur trade routes of the Voyageurs demonstrating Métis pride and Way Of Life as well as developing participants' Métis identity, self-reliance, endurance, healthy living habits, and many other transferable skills applicable to employment and life in our communities; and  
WHEREAS in the past the MNO has put importance on supporting and funding four previous Canoe Expeditions including 2017's, which focused on skill and educational outcomes through the use of Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) program dollars to provide multiple outdoor and leadership certifications from Challenges Canada and college credits as part of an MOU with Confederation College; and

WHEREAS there is a high interest from community members and past canoe expedition members for the opportunity to participate in a canoe expedition and following the canoe expedition on social media;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the MNO Annual General Assembly 2018 direct the PCMNO and Secretariat to:

1. Seek funding in order to support a 2019, and annual, canoe expedition(s), of different duration, which includes employment skills and training opportunities such as certifications and college credit, thus promoting employability and transferable skills; and
2. Collaborate with Aboriginal Sport and Wellness Council of Ontario and any other interested parties in the organization of canoe expeditions for the purpose of financial support and labour that is involved with the planning and execution of canoe expeditions.

### RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS