

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

ISSUE NO. 102, AUGUST 2019

THE SIGNING

History was made June 27, 2019 when the MNO and Canada signed a ground-breaking Métis Self-Government Agreement. [Page 9](#)



WHAT'S NEXT

Extensive consultations with MNO citizens and communities to develop a constitution. [Page 14](#)



TIMELINE

How did we get here? From Pre-Confederation to this historic Agreement. [Page 12-13](#)



FAQ

More on the Self-Government Agreement and what happens next. [Page 10](#)



Stronger together

Métis Nation of Ontario achieves federal recognition of its self-government. [More on pages 9-14](#)

ON JUNE 27, 2019 IN OTTAWA, THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO, THE MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA (MNA), THE MÉTIS NATION - SASKATCHEWAN (MN-S) AND THE HONOURABLE CAROLYN BENNETT SIGNED HISTORIC SELF-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENTS. (back row left to right) Aaron Barner, Senior Executive Officer MNA; Joe Wild, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada; Jason Madden Partner Pape Salter Teillet LL.B; France Picotte, MNO Chair; Sherry McLennan, MN-S; Marg Friesen, MN-S; Tammy Mah, MN-S and Ryan Carriere, MN-S (front row, left to right) Dan Cardinal, MNA Vice President; Audrey Poitras, MNA President; the Honourable Carolyn Bennett; Margaret Froh, MNO President; Glen McCallum, MN-S President and Gerald Morin, MN-S Vice President.

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Trapline to be forever in Métis hands

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THE
**MÉTIS
VOYAGEUR**
AUGUST 2019 – No. 102

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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**

Canada and the MNO sign historic Self-Government Agreement

Self-determination – our right as Métis people

For over 150 years, Métis in Canada have been fighting for recognition and respect of our inherent Métis rights. On June 27, 2019 Canada and the Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) signed a historic Métis self-government agreement. In this agreement, Canada finally recognizes what the Métis have always known – that the Métis communities represented by the MNO have an inherent and constitutionally protected right to self-determination and self-government.

The agreement establishes—for the first time—a path to the full and formal recognition of a Métis government in Ontario. Over the coming months, the MNO will be working with its citizens and communities to develop a constitution that will be the foundation for our Métis government, and Canada will be working with the MNO to craft federal legislation codifying the commitments made in the agreement.

While the hard work is far from over, this agreement represents a momentous step forward for the MNO which has been working towards the recognition of Métis rights and self-government in Ontario for the last 26 years. Since its creation in 1993, the MNO – its current and past leadership and citizens – have fought for the recognition of those inherent rights. Canada has now recognized that the MNO represents its Métis citizens and communities in their pursuit of self-government, and we have agreed on a path forward.

The story and struggle for recognition of the Métis in Ontario has long and deep roots. Métis communities grew and flourished around the Upper Great Lakes, as well as along waterways and fur trade routes of what is now Ontario long before confederation. European fur traders and explorers had families with First Nations women, and over generations, the children of these unions came together to form a new Indigenous people—the Métis. Métis does not just mean “mixed.” Métis are not just anyone with some Indigenous ancestry. Métis are the descendants of historic and distinctive communities of inter-connected Métis families, with their own shared customs, traditions, and a strong and unique collective identity, which grew together before Canada became Canada. Our Métis identity has always been, and remains, distinct from our European or First Nation ancestors. To this day, we retain our culture and way of life, and our communities hold inher-



*It is we, as Métis, that
will control what we
will become, and how
we will govern ourselves
and provide for our
communities. This is
true self-determination
– it is the legacy of our
ancestors, and our right
as Métis people.*



Supreme Court of Canada’s landmark decision on Métis rights in *R v Powley*—continued to advocate for its rights, but these calls fell on deaf ears. How fitting that in August 2019, Métis leadership and citizens from across Ontario will be gathering in Sault Ste. Marie for our Annual General Assembly to celebrate these enormous achievements of the MNO – from the Powley decision to our new self-government agreement, the MNO continues to drive progress on recognition of Métis rights!

This was a story that was repeated over and over again, as numerous petitions advocating for fair treatment from other Métis communities in Georgian Bay and James Bay, in the Red River and in North Western Saskatchewan, were also ignored by Canada. One Métis community in northwestern Ontario was successful in negotiating a “Halfbreed Adhesion” to Treaty #3 in 1875, which is the only known Métis-specific adhesion to any historic treaty in Canada. However, it was quickly disavowed by Canada, and the promises it contains have never been fulfilled.

It has always been clear that we, as Métis, cannot rely on other governments. We have always looked after ourselves and our communities. Other governments have long failed us and ignored us. We have seen our education and employment levels, socio-economic indicators and health outcomes fall below that of other, non-Indigenous Canadians. The fact is that no one knows what our communities need more than we do, and no one will strive harder to provide it. While we celebrate this momentous achievement, the work is not yet done. Through working together to implement this agreement and create our constitution, we will build a stronger Métis government that is designed by and for, and is accountable to, our Métis citizens and communities.

Our Métis government has secured this agreement for our citizens and communities – the long-sought recognition of our rights, and the commitment from Canada to negotiate full self-government with the MNO. Through this agreement, we will move forward with Canada as our partner in reconciliation, on a respectful government-to-government basis. And, as it always has been, it will be we, as Métis, that will control what we will become, and how we will govern ourselves and provide for our communities. This is true self-determination – it is the legacy of our ancestors, and our right as Métis people. ∞



MNO Founding President Tony Belcourt, MNO President Margaret Froh and Past MNO President Gary Lipinski at the June 27, 2019 signing of the Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement in Ottawa.

ent rights, including the right to self-determination and self-government.

When Canada began its expansion westward, Canada did not encounter empty land. Our Métis communities struggled for survival and recognition in the face of waves of settlers and the imposition of government policies. Time and again Métis communities brought their voices forward. In 1849, Métis from Sault Ste. Marie, as well as First Nations, protested the establishment of copper mines in Mica Bay, on the shore of Lake Superior, through forcibly closing down the mines. Afterwards, Canada began a treaty process with First Nations and refused to deal with the Métis. This Métis community—which would later become the home of the



2019 Submission Deadlines

NEXT ISSUE: **September 1, 2019**

• October 25, 2019 • January 30, 2020

PCMNO REPORT

PCMNO Appointments: Regions 5 and 6

by
MNO Staff

The Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) is very pleased to announce that Roger Rose will represent Region 5 and Lee Rivet will represent Region 6 on the PCMNO.

The announcement comes after Rose and Rivet, were appointed during a secret ballot vote at the PCMNO meeting on June 1, 2019.

Roger Rose has served as Chair of the MNO Mattawa Métis Council for the past 14 years. Rose has done work with the Mattawa/Lake Nipissing Regional Consultation Committee. Rose and the MNO Mattawa Métis Council also volunteer at the annual MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camps.

Lee Rivet currently sits on the Highland Waters Métis Community Council. Rivet is a registered Veteran with the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council (MNOVC) and has been presented with the MNOVC's Louis Riel Commemorative Medal.

On April 2, past Region 5 Councilor Dan Boulard and Region 6 Councilor Tom Thompson Jr. resigned from their position. The PCMNO is grateful for Dan and Tom's service to the MNO and wishes them well in their future endeavours.

The resignations 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 April 23.

MNO citizens that expressed their interest were reviewed by PCMNO at their meeting on June 1, in Toronto. The PCMNO would like to acknowledge all candidates that had put forward their names to serve.

"On behalf of the PCMNO, I want to congratulate Roger and Lee on their appointments. We are very much looking forward to working with them to better the lives of MNO citizens and communities and know they will be a strong advocates for MNO citizens in their respective regions," stated MNO President Margaret Froh.

Rose and Rivet will serve as Regional Councilors until the MNO election in 2020.



PCMNO Region 5 Councilor Roger Rose



PCMNO Region 6 Councilor Lee Rivet

MNO Secretary-Treasurer visits Australia with Northern Ontario School of Medicine

submitted by
Tim Pile
MNO Secretary Treasurer

At a conference on the other side of the globe, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile told attendees about the history of Métis in Ontario and the MNO.

Pile was part of a delegation from the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) that travelled to Australia to participate in the Global Community Engaged Medical Education Muster Conference from Oct. 15-18 in Mount Gambier. Pile is part of the NOSM Indigenous Reference Group, where he has volunteered on behalf of the MNO.

"We have a whole bunch of people from around the world that know a lot more about the MNO than they did before," Pile said, adding the presentation was well received.

The conference is part of a series hosted by Flinders University in



MNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile (right), with (from left) Ken Jones, a local Boandik elder who works with Flinders University, Donna Quinn, an Associate lecturer in Aboriginal Studies at Flinders University, and Jo Beyers, a researcher, public health nutritionist and registered dietitian in Northern Ontario.

South Australia and the NOSM and focused on discussing community engaged medical education and research, Aboriginal health, longitudinal learning and social accountability in healthcare training.

During the conference, Pile also presented founding Dean and CEO of NOSM Roger Strasser with a Mé-

tis sash a Métis coffee table book at a gala dinner.

"I wanted him and everyone else to know how much the MNO appreciated the work that he has done, and that we have a good number of Métis doctors from NOSM that are practicing physicians in the north," Pile said.

Annual General Meeting of Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak

On Thursday October 11, 2018 more than 50 Métis women from Ontario westward to British Columbia attended the eighth Annual General Meeting of Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (LMFO)—Women of the Métis Nation. The assembly ran from October 12-14 and held discussions on priority issues affecting Métis women. It featured keynote addresses from Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Carolyn Bennett and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh.

"We are the women of the Métis Nation," stated President Froh. "We are the keepers of the knowledge, culture, and traditions within our Nation. It's really important we take times like this to celebrate and honour that."

A number of MNO citizens attended the conference and several members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) had roles in the event. PCMNO Chair France Picotte co-chaired the event while MNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle led the opening and closing prayers. MNO Vice-Chair and Spokesperson for the MNO Women's Council Sharon Cadeau and PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case led discussions and seminars.

Cadeau reported on specific updates to the MNO Women's Council policy, including a more democratic process in electing the spokesperson. "This is a huge step forward, as the community will now choose the woman to speak on their behalf," she stated.

Case was invited to present at the conference and led a seminar on Métis beading. He provided an overview of Métis beading styles and techniques. After his presentation, "learn-to-bead" starter kits, a project developed by the MNO Youth Council were gifted to attendees by LMFO President Melanie Omenihio.

President Froh also addressed delegates on Saturday, emphasizing the importance of breaking down barriers, building up relationships, and reflecting upon what it is we stand for. She encouraged citizens be active in their communities and speak out about injustices they've witnessed or experienced. "There are a lot of hard fought victories we can't take for granted," she explained. "We cannot be complacent," she said.

MNO citizen Amanda Rheame moderated a panel discussion on lesbian, gay bisexual, transgender, transsexual, queer, and 2-spirit (LGBTQ2S) experiences. The panel reflected the community activism that President Froh addressed in her remarks and fostered a dialogue among attendees. The panel began with statements from MNO citizens Jennifer St. Germain and Gerald Lavallee, who expressed his gratitude for the support from the MNO when he felt most alone.

From Friday morning's "sashing our warriors" campaign against lateral violence, to Saturday evening's reception honouring Métis Veterans, it is clear that the Métis women are far from passive beings. They are active leaders in their communities, ready and willing to fight for their families, for their nation, and for their rights.

Minister Bennett also thanked the women and women veterans, which included MNO veterans Shelly Claus and June Smart.

As the keynote speakers acknowledged, events such as the Annual General Meeting are important as they create a space where Métis voices and perspectives can be heard.

"As Métis women, we never sit back and let others talk for us, it's not our way. Our voices matter, and kindness matters, and love matters, and care and empathy matters," said President Froh in her closing remarks. "And all that makes a tremendous difference."



(Left to right) Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle, MNO Chair France Picotte, Shirley Debassige, MNO Vice-Chair and Spokesperson for the MNO Women's Council Sharon Cadeau, Liliane Ethier, Berni Picco, Pearl Gabona, Kelly Camacho, Patricia Taylor, June Smart, Shirley Loubert, Shelly Claus and Suzanne Jackson.

Kenora adds Michif to city signage

When arriving in Kenora, signs will soon greet you in Michif.

The Métis language will join English, French and Ojibwe on the signs, after Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PC-MNO) Regional 1 Councilor Theresa Stenlund worked closely with the city to make sure Métis presence in Kenora was also showcased.

“Having Michif on the signs acknowledges that we are here and part of the community,” Councilor Stenlund said in a recent interview.

In her work to have Michif added to the signs, Councilor Stenlund reached out to the city and described Métis traditions, culture and the history of Ontario Métis, including her own family, which has deep roots in the area.

“Our Métis families have lived in this area for a long time. Other levels of government are finally recognizing us and this initiative welcomes us into the community and is a first step towards reconciliation,” she said.

Michif will be present on the Harbourtown Centre gateway located in the roundabout near Park Street and Second Street South. The new signs are part of a downtown revitalization effort in Kenora. Along with having Michif on the signs, Stenlund said the city is now working with Métis in the revitalization planning to make sure their presence in the city is recognized.

“I was happy to see this progress. It shows the city is willing to include the Métis. We are here and they are working with us. It’s an acknowledgment, instead of an afterthought.”

The signs are to be installed this spring.

“The City of Kenora is pleased to work with our Métis Nation of Ontario partners in the development of the Harbourtown Centre gateway signage as well as other key projects within our community,” said Kenora Mayor Dan Reynard.

Translations for the signs have been provided by the MNO Michif language speaker group.



MNO President Margaret Froh (right) with Ontario Premier Doug Ford at the First Ministers Meeting being held December 7, 2018 in Montreal.

MNO President Froh attends First Ministers Meeting

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh is attending the First Ministers Meeting taking place in Montreal today with other Métis Nation government leaders. A brief meeting was held with the Prime Minister, provincial Premiers and Indigenous leaders to raise priorities of rights recognition and strengthening government-to-government relationships. President Froh took the opportunity to engage Premier Ford as well as federal representatives on the importance of ongoing meetings with the MNO to address key priorities for Métis families and communities in Ontario.



Métis Nation of Ontario President Margaret Froh with Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras.

Pushing Forward on Canada-Métis Nation Accord

submitted by
Joanne Meyer, MNO Chief Operating Officer

MNO President Margaret Froh and Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras catch up during the third ministerial meeting under the Canada-Métis Nation Accord on Oct. 25. Federal Ministers, led by Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Dr. Carolyn Bennett and Minister of Indigenous Services Canada Dr. Jane Philpott, met with leaders of the Métis Nation to push ahead on the year two priorities under the Accord.



Meeting with Senator Yvonne Boyer

It was the MNO’s pleasure to host Canadian Senator (and MNO citizen) Yvonne Boyer this on April 1, as she took a quick tour of the office and met with MNO President Margaret Froh.

Conestoga College signs national Indigenous Education Protocol

submitted by
Melody Chislett-Morris,
MNO Education Officer Education
and Training

Citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) celebrated with Conestoga College on Oct. 31, when the school signed the national Indigenous Education Protocol.

More than 40 people attended the signing from Conestoga College and surrounding areas, including MNO Vice-Chair Sharon Cadeau and MNO Grand River Métis Council

President Jennifer Parkinson.

The national protocol has been signed by 60 colleges and institutions across Canada, after it was developed and approved by Colleges and Institutes Canada in September 2014. Its goal is to improve education for Métis, First Nations and Inuit people and build relationships with Indigenous communities.

“This is a special day for Conestoga as we come together for the signing of the Indigenous protocol. This will serve as an affirmation of the college’s continued commitment to Indigenous education and

provide the framework for ongoing efforts to better serve the needs of Indigenous peoples,” said Conestoga College President John Tibbits during his remarks.

“The protocol was developed by Colleges and Institutes Canada following consultations with partners and stakeholders in the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities. It includes seven guiding principles to address Indigenous peoples learning needs and support self-determination and socio-economic development of Indigenous communities,” he added.



MNO Vice-Chair Sharron Cadeau, Conestoga College Indigenous Studies Coordinator Andrew Judge and MNO Grand River Métis Council President Jennifer Parkinson celebrate Conestoga College’s historic signing of the national Indigenous Education Protocol on Oct. 31.

MNO signs on to Early Learning and Child Care Accord

Taking a step toward improving the lives of Métis families and children, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) signed the historic Canada-Métis Nation Early Learning and Child Care Accord on March 6.

The Accord, co-developed with the federal government, makes an investment in the MNO to design and deliver early learning and child care services and programs for Ontario Métis children. It also allows the MNO to determine its own early learning and child care priorities, and to develop new and culturally relevant programs and services for Métis families and children.

MNO President Margaret Froh; Member of Parliament Chandra Arya, representing Canada; as well as the Métis National Council (MNC) governing member presidents signed the Accord in Ottawa.

"Today is a great day for our Métis families and children, who have been vocal about needing more sup-

port and greater services. This Accord recognizes the important role of Métis governments in designing, developing and delivering programs based on the needs and realities of Métis families and communities," stated MNO President Froh.

MNO acknowledges an investment of more than \$45 million over the next 10 years and will be engaging with Métis families and communities in Ontario to move this forward.

Early learning and child care was identified as a priority for Canada and the Métis Nation in the Canada-Métis Nation Accord, signed in 2017. In 2018, the MNO signed the Métis Nation Skills and Employment Accord and the Canada-Métis Nation Housing Sub-Accord to address those priority areas. Early learning and child care is also a key subject matter for negotiations under the MNO-Canada-Ontario Framework Agreement.



Métis Nation-Saskatchewan President Glen McCallum, MNO President Margaret Froh, Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras, Métis Nation British Columbia President Clara Morin-Dal Col, MP Chandra Arya, and Manitoba Metis Federation President David Chartrand signed the Canada-Métis Nation Early Learning and Child Care Accord on March 6, in Ottawa.

2019 Federal budget invests in Métis priorities

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) welcomes investments promised in the 2019 federal budget that will provide greater support to Métis education, language and culture, and economic development, as well as long awaited recognition of Second World War Métis veterans.

The investments focus on advancing reconciliation with Indigenous people to help close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians. Métis-specific investments include:

- \$362 million was promised over 10 years to support a Métis Nation-led post-secondary education strategy to focus on financial assistance for Métis students
- To kick start the implementation of the Indigenous Languages Act, \$333.7 million will be invested over the next five years to support Indigenous language revitalization projects, including Michif
- Starting in 2019-2020, \$50 million will be invested over five years to enrich the funding for Métis Capital Corporations. The funds will go to support the start-up, development and expansion of small and medium-sized Métis enterprises
- An additional \$100 million will be available to establish an Indigenous Growth Fund to encourage investments in Indigenous-led businesses by Indigenous financial bodies, including Métis Capital Corporations
- Budget 2019 also proposed to

invest \$30 million to recognize the contributions made by Métis veterans during the Second World War and to commemorate the sacrifices and triumphs of all Métis veterans

"This kind of investment — along with the commitments made over the past year in areas like housing, early learning and child care, employment and skills training — will help us make real progress in improving socio-economic outcomes for Métis and advance reconciliation between Canada and the Métis Nation. These commitments from Canada to advance reconciliation will change the lives of Métis children, families and communities across Ontario," said MNO President Margaret Froh. "We will continue to work with the federal government to realize our shared vision of a true renewed relationship, to move forward in the spirit of cooperation and partnership, for the benefit of the entire country."

The signing of the 2017 Canada-Métis Nation Accord set up a permanent bilateral process that marked the beginning of a new relationship based on recognition, rights and respect. The 2019 Budget is informed by this new relationship and builds on significant investments already made to support Métis Nation governing members in advancing priority policy areas such as housing, skills and training, early learning and child care, and governance.



MNO applauds Indigenous Languages Act

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) applauds new legislation, which will help it protect its language for generations to come.

On Feb. 5, Canada introduced the Indigenous Languages Act to reclaim, revitalize, strengthen and maintain Indigenous languages across the country, including Michif.

The legislation will provide the mechanisms to recognize Indigenous language related rights under Section 35 of the Constitution; support the reclamation, revitalization, strengthening and maintenance of Indigenous languages in Canada; support and promote Indigenous languages; provide long-term sustainable funding to reach these goals; and establish an office of the commissioner of Indigenous languages.

"This legislation is worth celebrating and is an excellent example of what happens when we engage with Canada through a government-to-government process" stated MNO President Margaret Froh.

"I look forward to the full implementation of the Indigenous Languages Act, seeing the recognition of Michif grow and watching

it flourish within our communities and families here in Ontario," she added.

Language and culture are among the priorities set out in the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose, the MNO-Canada-Ontario Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation and the Canada-Métis Nation Accord which MNO was signatory to in 2017.

The MNO was involved in the

"This legislation is worth celebrating and is an excellent example of what happens when we engage with Canada through a government-to-government process."

legislation's co-development, and a large MNO delegation attended a session in Toronto on July 12, 2018 focused on Ontario Michif.

The MNO has been working

to develop Michif educational resources and promote, protect and revitalize Michif for the benefit of future generations. A MNO language workshop/engagement session is planned in the first half of 2019 for community representatives and knowledge holders to discuss language protection and revitalization initiatives.

MNO Chair and Michif speaker France Picotte said the new legislation will strengthen the MNO's efforts to preserve and promote our language.

"This Act will set the stage for the work that the MNO will be able to do. Language and culture go hand-in-hand, and it's important to keep our stories alive in our own language," Picotte said. "Michif is an important part of Ontario Métis history and culture, and the MNO is dedicated to its preservation and promotion."

The legislation addresses several Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, incorporates elements of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and comes during the UNESCO declared International Year of Indigenous Languages.



MNO President Margaret Froh (centre) participates in a panel in Ottawa discussing Persons Day on Oct. 18. She was one of three participants, including Penny Collette (left), Adjunct Professor at the University of Ottawa, and Shari Graydon (right), Founder of Informed Opinions.

Persons court case opened door for women to participate in political life

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh marked Persons Day on Oct. 18, 2018 by participating in a panel discussion at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

Persons Day is the annual celebration of Oct. 18, 1929, when the historic decision to include women in the definition of “persons” was handed down by the country’s highest court of appeal. The decision gave women the right to be appointed to the Senate and allowed women to participate in public and political life.

President Froh was joined by Penny Collette, Adjunct Professor at the University of Ottawa, and Shari Graydon, Founder of Informed Opinions.

The panel focused on the historic decision to in-

clude women in the legal definition of “persons” and that women’s equality is a matter of justice. The audience was also reminded that achieving a woman’s right to vote didn’t end in 1929 with the Persons Case. It wasn’t until 1960 that Indigenous Canadians were granted the right to vote federally and some Indigenous Canadians were still excluded from some provincial votes until 1969.

The event was hosted by Informed Opinions and Famous 5 Ottawa, which hosts events honouring prominent women who lead. The foundation is named after the group of women who initially launched the Persons Case and became known as the Famous Five - Emily Murphy, Nellie McClung, Louise McKinney, Irene Parlyb and Henrietta Muir Edwards.

MNO President Froh addresses Daughters of the Vote delegates

Speaking of her own personal journey into politics, Métis Nation of Ontario President Margaret Froh addressed Daughters of the Vote delegates during an Indigenous Women in Politics panel on April 1.

At Equal Voice’s Daughters of the Vote event, young women ages 18 to 23, from across the country apply to be one of 338 delegates, representing every riding in Canada, to take their respective Member of Parliament’s seat at the House of Commons.

Almost 50 of those delegates attended the Daughters of the Vote Indigenous Forum where President Froh fielded questions. She appeared alongside Gail Gallagher, a First Nations Cree woman from Frog Lake First Nation in Alberta, Aluki Kotierk, President of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., and Gabrielle Fayant, from Fishing Lake Métis Settlement in Alberta, who began an initiative called Assembly of Seven Generations.

“Leadership really is about service. The people will decide, but if I can bring some skills and knowledge and assist that’s what I wanted to do and that’s why I ran,” said President Froh.

“For me it’s all about the future. That means doing what I can to make sure the opportunities are there for our young people and the generations that are coming to really be whatever it is that they want to be, to have healthy families and really vibrant communities where you feel nothing but pride about who you are as Métis.”

President Froh encouraged the women in attendance to get involved, have hope for the future and to include their identity in all that they do.

“Don’t let anyone tell you that you can’t do something. Even if you are not reflected in those spaces and institutions, your voice is important.”



MNO President Margaret Froh answers questions during an Indigenous Women in Politics panel at Equal Voice’s Daughters of the Vote event, held in Ottawa on April 1.



Métis Infinity Investments acquires Red Lake Plumbing and Heating

RED LAKE, ONT. (June 18, 2019) – Métis Infinity Investments (MII) has realized some early success since it has acquired Red Lake Plumbing and Heating Inc., the area’s largest residential, commercial and industrial plumbing and heating company. The acquisition, through a direct sale by the previous owner, was approved by the Board of Directors of MII in late 2018 and officially closed on January 2, 2019.

Red Lake Plumbing and Heating has established itself as the market leader in providing residential and commercial customer service. That standard will not only be kept, but exceeded, according to Mr. Lindsay Boyd, Chairperson of Red Lake Plumbing and Heating and board member for Métis Infinity Investments.

“In assessing this opportunity, we not only focused on the bottom line and return on investment, but to continually improve on the customer service experience and quality of work that has always been expected of Red Lake Plumbing and Heating,” said Mr. Boyd, who has extensive experience in the industry with his long tenure at Union Gas.

Red Lake Plumbing and Heating was envisioned to be the preferred supplier of plumbing and heating services in the Red Lake District and northern communities. They provide a “one-stop” plumbing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning solutions. Red Lake Plumbing and Heating aims to achieve their goals by providing a high level of service and trust to our customers through honesty, integrity and professionalism. They value safety, teamwork, and respect as the essence of their business.

Throughout the transition to new ownership, new customers and sales revenue for Red Lake Plumbing and Heating has been trending to near record levels. This is a welcome measure of success for the new Board and for Métis Infinity Investments.

MII also hopes to use their business networks to expand to new areas of opportunity in the natural resource sector including development across the region and in First

Nations communities. As a result of this trend, Red Lake Plumbing and Heating is committed to building a representative workforce with a focus on growing its Indigenous staffing.

Over the past year, Red Lake Plumbing and Heating has hired new Métis workers already, and is seeking to add more to its training roster. This was an immediate priority given MII’s focus on building the increasing employment for Métis citizens.

“There is so much potential in supporting Indigenous apprentices who are willing to grow with us and obtain professional certification in specialized trades,” said Mr. Boyd. “Red Lake Plumbing and Heating is eager to invest in training and education opportunities for our workforce of the future, as

our employees are a key success measure for our business.”

Red Lake has a large Indigenous population. Métis people account for ten per cent of the overall population. Métis business in

northwestern Ontario has historically focused on the natural resource development and providing value-added services to the industry. This will continue under the new Red Lake Plumbing and Heating. According to Mr. Scott Patles-Richardson, Chief Executive Officer of MII and Board member for Red Lake Plumbing and Heating, there is great potential in the opportunity to serve residential and commercial customers in the community directly.

“We also want to focus on being a strong part of the community of Red Lake. Many Métis and First Nation citizens call Red Lake their home. They want to be able to depend on a company that reflects their priorities and their values. That’s what makes this development quite unique and exciting for us,” said Patles-Richardson.

Job advertisements have been sent to Métis Councils and First Nation organizations around the region in an effort to promote employment and apprenticeship opportunities with Red Lake Plumbing and Heating. This will continue throughout the summer.

“There is so much potential in supporting Indigenous apprentices.”

Métis Infinity Investments (MII) is the economic and business arm of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Established in 2015, MII was created as a direct result of the Métis Nation of Ontario’s Prosperity and Self-Sufficiency Law, reorganizing all of the MNO’s economic development activities through one organization. MII also holds business interests in renewable energy, construction, equipment rental, mining transportation, security and mining camps operations.

NATION

Métis veteran Alex Boucher turns 106

submitted by

Greg Garratt

Secretary Treasurer

MNO Veterans' Council

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) veteran Alex Boucher celebrated his 106th birthday surrounded by friends, family and the MNO Veterans' Council, putting a well-deserved smile on his face.

On Jan. 26, veterans from as far away as Windsor, Ont. attended the celebration at his home in Britt, Ontario.

During the Second World War, Boucher was part of the Medical Corps and trained new recruits in both battlefield medical procedures and on the rifle range. Boucher is the oldest Métis veteran in Canada and one of the oldest Indigenous veterans in the country.

He was given a Hudson Bay Company fleece throw and knitted socks from the Veterans' Council and was presented with letters of recognition from Queen Elizabeth and Canada's Governor General.

MNO President Margaret Froh also attended the celebration and asked all MNO citizens to send Boucher well wishes that will be shared with him and his family. Dozens of birthday wishes came in, wishing Boucher well and thanking him for his service. ∞



(left to right) **MNO President Margaret Froh, MNO Veterans' Council President Joe Paquette, Chair Brian Black, Rob Baskey, Women's Representative Shelly Claus, Paul Pirie, and Secretary-Treasurer Greg Garratt at the 106th birthday of Métis veteran Alex Boucher (front).**

Indigenous child and family service legislation

Legislation co-developed with Métis Nation leaders to reduce the number of Indigenous children in foster care was introduced in Parliament on Feb. 28.

Bill C-92: An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families was introduced by Indigenous Services Minister Seamus O'Regan.

The legislation aims to support Indigenous families to raise their children within their homelands and nations, to increase efforts to prevent child apprehension when possible and safe, and affirms Indigenous peoples' right to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services.

"On behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario, we want to express our support and appreciation for the work of the former and current Ministers of Indigenous Services, Jane Philpott and Seamus O'Regan, and the Government of Canada for moving this important legislation forward," stated Métis Nation of Ontario President Margaret Froh. "This legislation will be incredibly important for our Métis families, communities and for our future generations."

In Canada more than 52 per cent of children in foster care are Indigenous, while only accounting for seven per cent of the children. Indigenous children are also at

greater risk of adverse health outcomes, violence and incarceration, and living in poverty.

The Bill outlines factors to be considered when determining the best interests of an Indigenous child, including their cultural, linguistic, religious and spiritual upbringing and the importance of the community and Indigenous group they belong to. It also seeks to preserve the child's connection to family, community and culture.

Indigenous Services engaged with national, regional and community organizations throughout 2018 to develop the proposed legislation. Beginning with the January 2018 Emergency Meeting on Indigenous Child and Family Services, more than 65 different sessions were held.

"With the introduction of Bill C-92 today, we mark an historic turning point for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children and families. Bill C-92 will finally put in law what Indigenous peoples across this country have been asking of governments for decades: that their inherent jurisdiction over child and family services be affirmed so that they can decide what is best for their children, their families, and their communities. The overrepresentation of Indigenous children in foster care in this country is a crisis, and we cannot sit idly by," said Minister O'Regan. ∞



Representatives from MNO meet with Industry partners on March 20.

Métis & Mining: A collaborative forum with Industry

This year's Collaborative Forum with Industry was held in downtown Toronto on March 20, bringing together Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) industry partners for a daylong session of presentations and discussions. Among those in attendance were members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), Community Council Presidents, Captains of the Hunt, and proponents and leaders representing mining and energy sectors.

Welcoming this year's attendees, MNO President Margaret Froh recognized the value of building relationships with industry proponents.

"By working together to build relationships and a greater awareness of the realities and interests of our Métis Citizens, families and communities we can

collectively make Ontario a better place. [Through our actions], we can build a relationship that offers opportunity, prosperity and ensure that our rich culture and way of life is respected and protected."

Presentations covered historical and contemporary perspectives of the Métis in Ontario. Participants reviewed the development of Métis rights in Ontario, as well as heard from Know History Director Ryan Shackleton about Métis stories and history, MNO Lands Resources and Consultation Manager Linda Norheim on the 'duty to consult' and its processes, and MNO Associate Director of Education Brian Tucker on Métis in mining.

The forum provided an excellent opportunity for attendees to showcase accomplishments, strengthen relationships through networking, and give recognition

to the importance of sustainable action, so that the land, integral to Métis identity and culture, is protected.

Proponents from Detour Gold and Avalon gave presentations in the afternoon, speaking to sustainable project developments and to their commitment to work alongside local Indigenous communities.

Thanks to these relationships, the MNO has achieved great success over the last few years – including the establishment of four Impact Benefit Agreements, the first of which was signed with Detour Gold in 2012.

The MNO is committed to enhancing its relationships with proponents to address the many priorities of Ontario Métis families and communities. ∞



Métis gathered in Thunder Bay on Nov. 24-25 to create the Two-Spirit Métis Circle: (back row left to right) **Kelly McCallum, Gerald Lavallee, Todd Ross, MNO President Margaret Froh, Tera Beaulieu, MNO Chief Strategic Officer Jennifer St. Germain.** (front row, left to right) **Micki Belcourt, Bobby Jay Aubin, Bekki Wilson, Ron LePage, Benny Michaud, Kate Stewart and Rihkee Strap.**

MNO hosts first-ever Métis 2SLGBTQI+ gathering

Sitting in a circle, in Thunder Bay, about a dozen Métis people discussed how to make life better for generations of two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex Métis to come.

The weekend gathering was more than two years in the making.

At the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly in 2016, Benny Michaud, President of the MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council, and Tera Beaulieu, President of the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council, moved and seconded a motion that the MNO establish a provincial working group comprised of Métis people to assist in developing two-spirit and LGBTQI+ cultural and wellness programming, the identification and advocacy for two-spirit and LGBTQI+ rights and consider the establishment of an MNO provincial representative body.

A call for interest in the working group went out the following December.

Those who answered that call now form the Two-Spirit Métis Circle - A collective of 2SLGBTQI+ Métis that will start to implement the vision and goals that were inspired by its first meeting, held Nov. 24-25.

"Two-spirit people have always been an integral part of Métis communities," said Michaud. "It was only after Christianity became entrenched in many of our communities that the gifts and roles of two-spirit people were seen to be negative in any sense."

"The purpose of this gathering was to bring two-spirit folks from across Ontario together to discuss how MNO can support the two-spirit community and better fund strat-

I knew that I wanted to be part of the group right away. I was very excited that the MNO was moving forward with this sort of initiative...

egies and programs which account for our communities' unique needs."

Throughout the weekend, participants discussed what it means to be two-spirit, about representation within the MNO, creation of resources, an education strategy, creating Métis safe spaces to share personal stories, the group's goals and began to establish a list of two-spirit Métis elders and knowledge keepers.

Michaud explained that the term two-spirit came about in the early 90s during a meeting of First Nation, Métis and Inuit members of the queer community in Winnipeg.

"It is an English representation of the many terms in our languages that describe who we are. The term I use is ayahkwew, which means 'not really a woman' in Michif. It best embodies the way I understand my gender," Michaud said.

The group also started to develop a sash, and made plans for creating an online community for 2SLGBTQI+ people and allies interested in making recommendations to the MNO on how to better

support the community.

"I knew that I wanted to be part of the group right away. I was very excited that the MNO was moving forward with this sort of initiative," said Ron LePage, Councilor with the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council. "It's just something that I wanted to be part of - to share my story and my experiences and build on the work of the circle."

That circle became like a family. "We accomplished what we set out to do and it was just fantastic: the laughter, the camaraderie and even the tears that were shed. The sharing was phenomenal."

For Bobby Jay Aubin, from Sudbury, the gathering felt like an important milestone.

"It's the first time any Métis community has ever taken on this endeavour and it feels great. Hopefully other Métis communities throughout Canada will take ownership and create spaces like this," Aubin said.

"It's been long in coming and I'm honoured to be part of the journey."

One of the group's many functions will be to act as a support system for 2SLGBTQI+ Métis, so that young people can look to the group and the nation and see that support.

"They see that it's OK to be gay and it's OK to be two-spirit and there's a network of people that they can come to and be part of this overall family," said Todd Ross, Chair of the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council. "Although we came together as two-spirit individuals, we are coming away as a two-spirit family of Métis and it's only going to get better."

Keep up to date with the Two-Spirit Métis Circle, by joining their Facebook group. ∞



MNO meets with Minister Rickford at PDAC

Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and Minister of Energy, Mines, Northern Development, met with MNO Mineral Development Advisor Erin Van Breda, PCMNO Region 3 Councilor Marcel LaFrance, PCMNO Region 4 Councilor Ernest Gaten, PCMNO Region 2 Councilor Cam Burgess and MNO Mineral Development Coordinator and Region 3 Captain of the Hunt Andy Lefebvre at the 2019 Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Convention. This year's convention took place March 3 to 6.



Métis involvement in the First World War shared in Waterloo

submitted by
Guy Mandeville
MNO Veterans' Council Senator

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council Senator Guy Mandeville, CD, standing between two Great War re-enactors, participated in Waterloo Region Museum's Great War Education Days on Oct. 1-2, 2018.

On Oct. 1-2, Senator Guy Mandeville, shared the history of First World War Métis soldiers in the historical church building of Doon Heritage Village at the Waterloo Region Museum.

Approximately 900 students

from Waterloo Region high schools attended the event, which featured a number of stations about various aspects of the Great War. The educational program also included artifacts and paraphernalia, a military fashion show of the different nations, equipment demonstrations and information about the home front and role of women.

At his station, Senator Mandeville fielded many questions about veterans of the first war and modern-day soldiers.

This was the second time MNO representatives participated in the event. ∞

Ways of Knowing Symposium at uOttawa

Métis youth, academics, knowledge holders and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff gathered in Ottawa to further the conversation around Métis research and ways of knowing.

Held on Feb. 23-24, the 2019 Ways of Knowing Symposium aimed to further the discussions and build on the knowledge generated during a similar event held in April 2018. There, participants talked about Métis-centred research and lived experiences that illuminate

the historical and contemporary conversations of Métis in Canada.

This time, with youth, academics and knowledge holders working together in small groups, the symposium was focused on answering key questions to provide practical strategies and ways to change the system, so that Métis people are supported, encouraged to complete Métis research and encouraged to partner with the broader research community.

The work comes after the Truth

and Reconciliation Commission of Canada called on governments, educational and religious institutions, civil society groups and all Canadians to advance reconciliation. One priority identified by the federal government was the need for a national dialogue to co-develop an interdisciplinary, Indigenous research and research training model that contributes to reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

During the event, several themes

were explored, including:

- Supporting Indigenous talent and research careers
- Engaging Indigenous knowledge
- Mobilizing knowledge and partnerships for reconciliation
- Fostering mutually respectful relationships

Using information gathered at the event, the MNO is preparing a report with recommendations for

the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to examine as it establishes the national research program to advance the understanding of reconciliation. ∞

SELF-GOVERNMENT



On June 27, 2019 in Ottawa, the Métis Nation of Ontario, the Métis Nation of Alberta, the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan and the Honourable Carolyn Bennett signed historic self-government agreements. (back row left to right) Joe Wild, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada; Jason Madden Partner Pape Salter Teillet LL.B; France Picotte, MNO Chair; Sherry McLennan, MN-S; Marg Friesen, MN-S; and Tammy Mah, MN-S (front row, left to right) Dan Cardinal, MNA Vice President; Audrey Poitras, MNA President; the Honourable Carolyn Bennett; Margaret Froh, MNO President; Glen McCallum.

Métis Nation of Ontario achieves federal recognition of its self-government

JUNE 27, 2019 (OTTAWA) -- In a special ceremony held near Parliament Hill, history was made with the Métis Nation of Ontario ("MNO") and the Government of Canada signing a ground-breaking Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement ("Agreement") that sets a new government-to-government relationship between Canada and Ontario Métis.

MNO President Margaret Froh, the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario and the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Canada's Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, signed the Agreement. They were also joined by other Métis leaders, youth and Elders from Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta with the Métis Nation of Alberta and Métis Nation-Saskatchewan signing similar agreements. These are the first Métis self-government agreements in Canada.

The Agreement provides the MNO with long-sought-after federal recognition of its self-government by immediately recognizing that the Métis communities represented by the MNO have the right of self-government. This upfront rights recognition is unique among self-government agreements that Canada has negotiated with other Indigenous communities.

The Agreement also recognizes Métis jurisdiction and law-making power in the core self-government areas such as citizenship, leadership selection and internal operations, and sets out next steps for the MNO to transition from its current corporate form to an Indigenous government recognized in Canadian law.

“**Our journey to get here has not been easy, but we stayed strong and focused on where we wanted to go and that the MNO is grounded on Métis rights and self-government.**”

These next steps include: the development and ratification of a constitution through a province-wide referendum; the negotiation of fiscal and intergovernmental implementation agreements; the development of a transition plan; and the passage of federal implementation legislation.

"This self-government agreement is a testament to the strength and determination of the MNO's citizens and communities. From the MNO's Statement of Prime Purpose that was first adopted in 1993, the recognition of Métis rights and self-government here in Ontario has been fundamental to the MNO's purpose, decision-making and successes," said

MNO President Froh.

President Froh added, "From our pursuit of Métis rights all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada in R. v. Powley in 2003 to the passage of the MNO Act by the Ontario legislature in 2015, our citizens and communities have always been united in wanting to protect and preserve our unique history, culture and identity for generations to come. With this agreement, we have secured a way forward to do just that."

President Froh specifically acknowledged the work and efforts of Métis citizens and leadership at the local and regional levels for being the backbone of the MNO's self-government as well as the Provisional Council and the MNO's negotiating team. She also acknowledged former MNO Presidents Tony Belcourt and Gary Lipinski for their unwavering commitment to Métis rights and self-government. "This has been a team effort from beginning to end," said Froh.

"Ontario Métis working together is what the MNO has always been about over the last 26 years. Our journey to get here has not been easy, but we stayed strong and focused on where we wanted to go and that the MNO is grounded on Métis rights and self-government," reflected MNO Chair France Picotte.

Picotte concluded, "While today we celebrate, our work is far from over. We must once again come together to develop a constitution that is anchored on Métis rights to solidify our self-government for future generations. This next step is now rightfully in our hands and it will be up to all of us here in Ontario to keep moving this forward." ∞



With us in spirit...

If you look carefully at the photo above you will see some very special items.

The Métis sash and pin are the ones that Steve Powley was wearing at the Supreme Court of Canada when he won the landmark Métis rights case that bears his name. Steve gave these items to former PCMNO Region 4 Councilor Brent McHale.

The infinity flag was the one that draped the casket at Steve's funeral when he passed in 2004. Brenda Powley gave the flag to Mr. McHale after the funeral.

PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case brought these special items to the June 27th signing.

SELF-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT



Frequently Asked Questions

On June 27th, 2019, the Métis Nation of Ontario and the Government of Canada signed the *MNO-Canada Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement* (the “Self-Government Agreement”). These FAQs provide more information on the Self-Government Agreement and what happens next:

1

Why is the Self-Government Agreement significant?

As of the signing of the Self-Government Agreement, Canada—for the first time—recognized that the Métis communities represented by the MNO hold the inherent right to self-government, and that the MNO is authorized to implement that right on behalf of these communities. This kind of immediate recognition is unique among self-government agreements that Canada has negotiated with Indigenous nations. It is a momentous step forward for the MNO. The MNO has been advocating for this recognition since its creation 26 years ago, as did Métis throughout Ontario long before MNO was established.

The Self-Government Agreement also provides a clear path for the MNO to transform into a recognized public Indigenous government. After this transition, the new Métis Government will have law-making powers in the areas of citizenship, leadership selection, and internal operations. Through the Self-Government Agreement, these steps are “locked in” and cannot be swept away by changing political winds or circumstances.

This is the first time that a self-government agreement has been signed with a Métis government in Canada.

2

What are the next steps?

While the Self-Government Agreement provide for immediate federal recognition that the Métis communities represented by the MNO hold the inherent right to self-government, there are a series of requirements that must still be completed in order for the MNO to be recognized as an Indigenous government in Canadian law. These next steps include:

- Development and ratification of a constitution through a province-wide referendum;
- Negotiation of fiscal and intergovernmental implementation agreements;
- Development of a transition plan; and
- Adoption of federal implementation legislation.

The very first step in this process will be extensive consultation and engagement with citizens and communities on the Self-Government Agreement and the development of a constitution.

3

How will I be consulted and engaged on the Self-Government Agreement and the Constitution development for the future Métis Government?

The MNO is beginning to plan an extensive, province wide consultation, engagement, and education on the Self-Government Agreement and the development of a constitution for the future Métis Government.

The constitution will be the foundation for the new Métis Government. In order for the future Métis Government to be authentic and accountable, its constitution must reflect the values, principles, and voices of the MNO’s citizens and communities. This constitution is entirely in our hands to develop. All MNO citizens and communities throughout Ontario can be a part of this process as well there will be opportunities for future MNO citizens to be informed and provide input.

To ensure that every community and citizen has a meaningful opportunity be to heard in this process, the MNO is working with the MNO’s regional and community-level leadership to ensure that the consultation process will be responsive to specific circumstances and concerns of all MNO communities and constituencies. In addition, MNO is developing materials and processes that can ensure citizen can be reached and provide input through a variety of methods. More information will be available on the consultation and engagement process in the coming months.

Not only will the MNO be consulting with communities and citizens, the Electors will have the opportunity to vote on the Self-Government Agreement and the constitution in a ratification process. Electors are MNO citizens whose files meet the MNO’s current requirements for citizenship as set out in the MNO Bylaws and MNO Registry Policy.

4

Does this Self-Government Agreement deal with other Métis rights or claims?

The Self-Government Agreement is about recognition of the inherent right of self-government of the Métis communities that the MNO represents and providing a path forward to become a recognized Métis Government on that basis.

The Self-Government Agreement does not extinguish, limit, or modify any Métis rights whatsoever. Nor does it settle any Métis claims, or limit the ability to settle those claims in the future.

5

The Self-Government Agreement recognizes Métis law-making power over citizenship, leadership selection, and internal governance. What about other areas like health, culture, and child and family services?

The Self-Government Agreement recognizes the future Métis Government’s law-making power related to certain “core” areas: citizenship, leadership selection, and internal governance. The Self-Government Agreement also provides for further negotiations that could enable the Métis Government to assume jurisdiction over a long list of matters affecting our citizens and communities, including rights, land, and social welfare. It will be for the Métis Government to decide what areas to pursue and when.

“The Self-Government Agreement does not extinguish, limit, or modify any Métis rights whatsoever.”

6

What about section 35 Métis rights-holders in areas like the GTA or other parts of southern Ontario—are they included in the Self-Government Agreement? How will they participate or benefit?

All MNO Citizens can participate in the consultations on the Métis Government constitution, and all Electors—including those who live in southern Ontario—will be able to vote in the ratification process for the constitution and the Self-Government Agreement.

The MNO has committed that Métis Government citizens living outside of the traditional territories of regional rights-bearing Métis communities will be able to meaningfully participate within the new Métis Government and be represented within it, as well as to access programs and services, and participate in and celebrate their Métis culture. The constitution-building process will also address how citizens living in southern Ontario be able to participate within decisions related to their rights and claims, which are located within their traditional territories in other parts of the province.

7

Who will be the Citizens of the future Métis Government?

The Self-Government Agreement provides that all Electors will become automatic citizens of the new Métis Government on the Self-Government Implementation Date. This is because Electors are Citizens of the MNO who have been verified as meeting all of the MNO’s current citizenship criteria. MNO Citizens who are not Electors due to missing or incomplete documentation, will have to apply through the Métis Government’s new registration process and meet those requirements in order to obtain citizenship in the Métis Government.

“The very first step in this process will be extensive consultation and engagement with citizens and communities on the Self-Government Agreement and the development of a constitution.”

8

What happens to the MNO Harvesting Policy and my Harvesting Card as a result of the Self-Government Agreement?

Nothing happens to the MNO Harvesting Policy as a result of the Self-Government Agreement. The MNO negotiates with the provincial government on harvesting issues. The Framework Agreement on Métis Harvesting that the MNO has in place with Ontario is not affected by the Self-Government Agreement.

9

Has Canada signed similar Self-Government Agreements with other groups? Who?

Canada has signed agreements similar to the Self-Government Agreement with the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and the Métis Nation of Alberta. The MNO is the only representative of Métis in Ontario with which Canada has signed a Self-Government Agreement.

SELF-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT



Photo courtesy Métis Nation of Alberta



(top, standing) **Audrey Poitras, MNA President; Margaret Froh, MNO President; and Glen McCallum, MN-S President.**
(seated) **Norma Spicer, MNA; Senator Joseph Poitras, MNO; and Norm Fleury, MN-S.**

(above) **Senator Joseph Poitras offers an opening prayer.**

(left) **PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case records the signing for posterity ... and Instagram.**



A round of applause for MNO Founding President Tony Belcourt and MNO Past President Gary Lipinski.



A procession of delegates is lead by fiddlers, Brianna Lizotte from MNA and MNO's Alica Blore.

Federal recognition of Métis Self-Government is a Big Deal



Commentary by **Tony Belcourt**
MNO Founding President

At last, Métis will be out of the clutches of governments. Without recognition of our right of self-government, we have been forced to operate our collectives as “not-for-profit” corporations or associations.

The bottom line is that the leaders of those organizations are legally bound by the provincial corporations acts and their allegiance is therefore bound to the corporation – not to the people. They are sworn to uphold the interests of the corporation and when lawyers tell them they are bound to secrecy, they obey.

Nobody can mistake my intense dislike for “incorporating” under provincial laws. When we started the Métis Nation of Ontario, we decided we would operate as a Métis governing body outside of those laws. But, regrettably, we were forced to incorporate a secretariat for the purpose of doing business because we would otherwise not be eligible for any government funding.

So we did that. But we never the less tried to operate as a governing body that was accountable to only the citizens of the MNO. We adopted the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose, set out our values and aspirations and set about to advance the recognition of our rights. But because we were operating under provincial laws we soon got caught up in policies and by-laws that saw us drift more and more towards operating as a corporation: a corporation that delivered federal and provincial programs and services according to their policy and objectives rather than our own.

The Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement now affords us the opportunity to finally once again be a free people. We can develop our own constitution, our own laws and determine for ourselves how we want to allocate or deliver funding. And we are now a giant step forward to addressing the biggest issue of all – land!

Now that the agreement is signed and in force, it is incumbent upon the MNO to establish a process of consultation with MNO citizens – a process that is open and transparent and one that gives every MNO citizen an opportunity to be fully engaged. The MNO must use every means to do this: face-to-face meetings and conferences, electronic media including use of the web for open debate.

This will, of necessity, be a long process. We must develop a constitution, laws and governance structures that are of the people, by the people and for the people. We may choose to build upon some existing policies but we must develop the constitution based on our values and traditions and not merely copy cat federal or provincial structures. How will we build in full representation and the means for opposition to be heard and taken into account? What models of historic Métis governance can we draw upon?

This can't be done overnight. An Intergovernmental Relations Agreement must be developed. A Fiscal Financing Agreement and a

Transition Plan must be developed and signed. In the end, this Agreement and the MNO Constitution must be ratified by a process that surely must include a referendum.

The Agreement states that the constitution must deal with the following matters at a minimum:

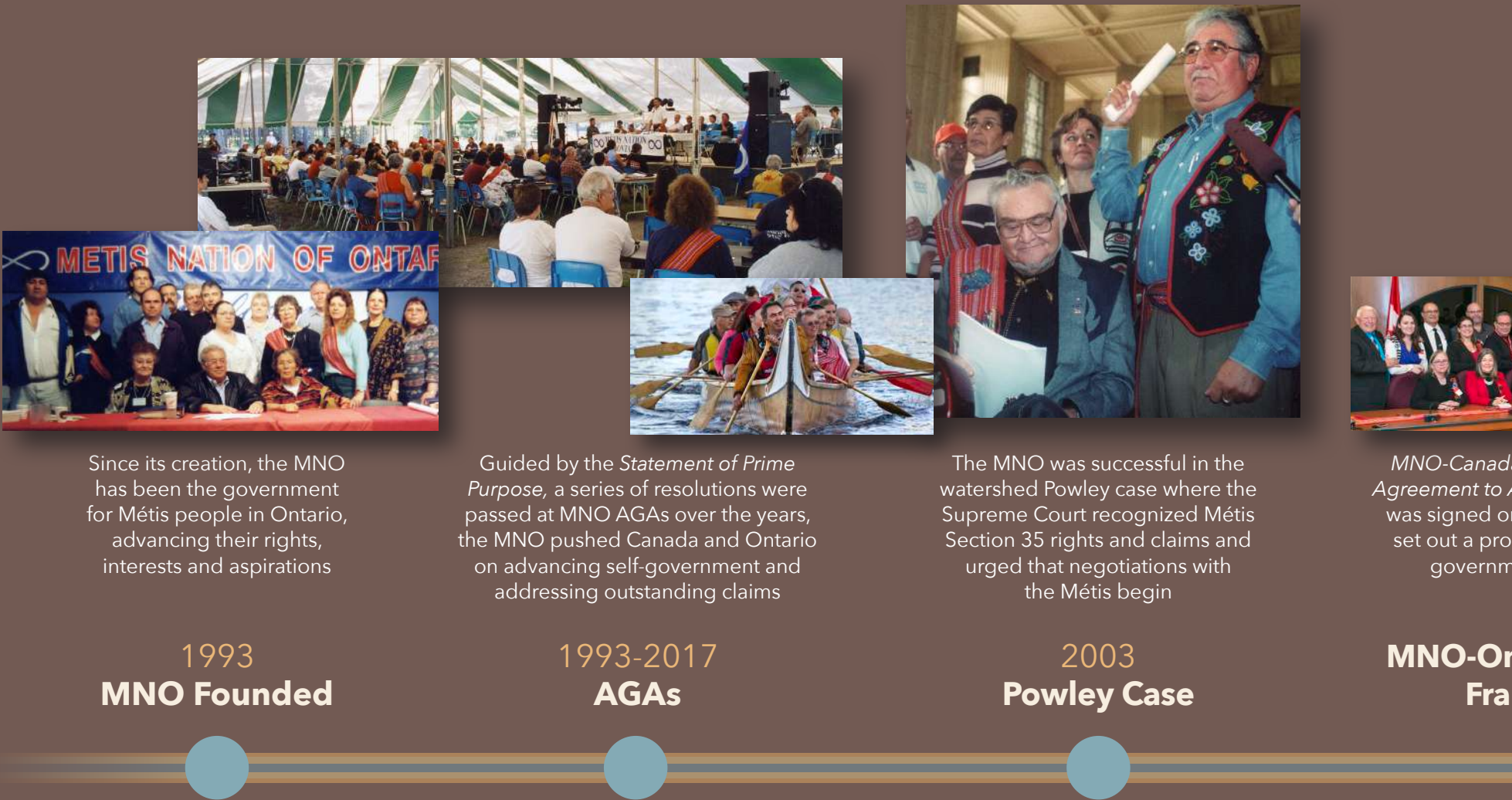
- (a) the definition of, and requirements for, being a Citizen;
- (b) the Métis Government's Governance Structures that represent the Métis Communities Represented by the MNO at the local and regional levels;
- (c) the processes for leadership selection of the Métis Government's Governance Structures;
- (d) financial management and accountability of the Métis Government to its Citizens;
- (e) criteria for delegation of Authority by the Métis Government;
- (f) processes for the recognition or establishment of Institutions by the Métis Government, including provisions for accountable governance of those Institutions;
- (g) political accountability of the Métis Government's leaders to its Citizens;
- (h) enactment and amendment procedures of Métis Government Laws, including their publication;
- (i) internal appeal and redress mechanisms;
- (j) conflict of interest;
- (k) voting and referenda;
- (l) access to information;
- (m) amending processes for the Constitution; and
- (n) any other matters.

In addition the MNO will be developing future agreements regarding the following:

- Additional Self-Government Jurisdiction;
- Language, Culture, and Heritage;
- Education;
- Training;
- Child Care;
- Early Childhood Development;
- Child and Family Services in a Manner that is Consistent with any Relevant Federal Legislation;
- Administration of Justice;
- Housing and Infrastructure;
- Health Services and Promotion;
- Economic Development;
- Environment;
- Veterans' Affairs;
- Application of Métis Government Laws on Lands held by the Métis Government or a Governance Structure;
- The Métis Government's Role, Involvement, or Shared Decision-Making in Relation to: Water and Subsurface Rights; Wildlife, Fishing, and Fisheries; Forests; Protected Areas; and Land Management;
- Environmental Assessment;
- National Parks; and
- Any Other Matters Agreed to by the Parties, including Taxation.

The Agreement signed by the MNO and the Federal Government on June 27, 2019 represents great opportunity for us. It can, and will, be difficult to reach consensus on every issue but we must all work hard towards achieving that end. Every MNO citizen has the right and the opportunity to take part in the debate. I urge everyone to read the entire agreement and to take part in this historic development.

HOW WE GOT TO THE MÉTIS SELF-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT



The **MNO's Statement of Prime Purpose** affirms a commitment to advance Métis rights, self-government and self-determination

2016: The Isaac Report makes recommendations on the need for negotiation processes with Métis on rights, outstanding claims and grievances

2017: MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement negotiated with the Province of Ontario, tasked with advancing Métis self-government and meeting

THE SELF-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT WHAT WILL IT DO?

The Self-Government Agreement does two key things:

1

Recognizes that the Métis Communities represented by the MNO have the inherent right of self-government, and that the MNO has been authorized by these Communities to implement this right. This is the first time in history that this has been explicitly acknowledged by Canada.

2

The Self-Government Agreement sets out the process for the MNO to become a recognized "Métis Government". The MNO has always asserted and acted as a government for its citizens, but the Self-Government Agreement provides a path to formal recognition of this by Canada.

TIMELINE

PRE-CONFEDERATION TO SELF-GOVERNMENT

Early 1800s: Distinctive Métis communities emerge around the Upper Great Lakes, and along the waterways and fur trade routes of what is now Ontario with their own cultures, identities and traditions. As settlers moved in, Métis continued to assert themselves and their rights.

1845: An Order in Council recommended "the Commissioner of Crown Lands to survey a Town Plot and Park Lots at Sault Ste. Marie, giving the occupants [Métis] a title to such lots..." While the survey occurred, official title for the Métis did not materialize.

1849: A group of Métis and Anishinaabeg protest the Québec Mining Company at Mica Bay in response to intrusion on their traditional lands. This spurred negotiations of the Robinson Huron Treaty, from which Métis were excluded.

1840-50s: Members of the historic Georgian Bay Métis community petition for lands due to increasing settler encroachments.

1850: The Métis at Sault Ste. Marie advocate for inclusion in the Robinson-Huron Treaty and for protection for Métis lands.

1875: The Halfbreed Adhesion to Treaty 3 is signed by Nicholas Chatelaine, on behalf of the "Halfbreeds of Rainy Lake and River", the only known adhesion to a treaty negotiated and signed by a Métis community, as Métis.

1905: Several "half-breed" families at Moose Factory petition to the government for scrip to be issued to them.

Mid-late 1900s: Métis in Ontario advocate Métis rights and interests through various political and indigenous organizations.

1982: The *Constitution Act, 1982* is adopted, including section 35 which provides that Métis rights, are to be "recognized and affirmed".

1993: The Métis Nation of Ontario is founded with the *Statement of Prime Purpose* as its founding document, which commits the MNO to advance Métis rights and self-government in Ontario.

2003: The Supreme Court releases the *Powley* decision, affirming that the Métis community in Sault Ste. Marie and environs have Métis vesting rights in their traditional territory protected by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

2004: MNO and Ontario sign a Harvesting Agreement that relies on MNO's Harvester's Card system.

2004: The National Definition is adopted by MNC governing members. The definition focuses on Métis citizens being descendants of Métis "Halfbreed" ancestors

2008: MNO and Ontario sign a five-year Framework Agreement committing them to jointly pursue reconciliation in a variety of ways.

2013: Supreme Court's *Manitoba Métis Federation* decision, declared that Canada breached its honour of Crown in failing to implement longstanding promises to the Manitoba Métis Community under section 31 of the *Manitoba Act, 1870*.

AND SELF-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT

SELF-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT ...



Ontario Framework
Advance Reconciliation
Dec. 11, 2017 -- this
ess to advance self-
ent negotiations



MNO and Canada signed a Métis Self-
Government Agreement which recognizes
MNO as an Indigenous government and
locks in a mandate to negotiate Métis self-
government based on the inherent right

CONSULTATION & ENGAGEMENT

Métis citizens and
communities discuss
what kind of government
they want. Métis self-
government will require
direct and extensive
engagement. Work begins
on constitution-building,
the development of laws
and transitioning from
a not-for-profit to a fully
functioning government

BUILDING & 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

2017 Ontario-Canada Framework Agreement

2019 Self-Government Agreement

The Next Steps ... More about these on page 16

MNO establishes a
negotiations committee
with representing
citizens during
negotiations with Canada

**2018: Update to
the MNO AGA on
Self-Government
negotiations**

2018/19: Two information
sessions were held on
the self-government
agreement with Provincial
and community leadership
in May 2018 and Jan 2019
as well as a meeting on
the draft self-government
implementation agreements
in June 2019

2014: The MNO AGA formally adopts the Registry
Policy

2016: The Supreme Court of Canada releases the
Daniels decision, declaring that Métis are included
as "Indians" within section 91(24) of the *Constitu-
tion Act, 1867*. Canada can no longer justify the
exclusion of Métis from federal negotiations on the
basis that it lacks jurisdiction.

2017: MNO-Canada-Ontario Framework Agree-
ment on Advancing Reconciliation sets out a
negotiations process for a core self-government
agreement.

2017: After an extensive and rigorous review of
historical reports The MNO and Ontario announce
six historic Métis communities in Ontario, in addi-
tion to the one recognized by the Supreme Court
in *Powley*.

2017: Registry and Self-Government Readiness
Process (RSRP) is launched.

2018: MNO and Ontario conduct an indepen-
dent review of the MNO Harvester's Card system,
which concludes that MNO has a credible system
for identifying Métis rights-holders; and, MNO
and Ontario sign *Framework Agreement on Métis
Harvesting*, which relies on the MNO's Harvester's
Cards system.

2019: MNO and Canada sign the **Métis
Government Recognition and Self-Government
Agreement**.

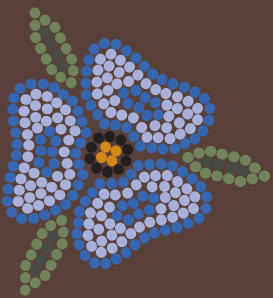


UNDERSTANDING THE MÉTIS GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION AND SELF-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT

The June 27th, 2019 signing of the Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement, from here on we will call it the **Self-Government Agreement**, was the culmination of decades of activism by the MNO, its citizens, and its elected leadership to secure recognition of the MNO as a government for its Métis citizens in Ontario. The long road to this historic moment is illustrated in the timelines on page 14 and 15.

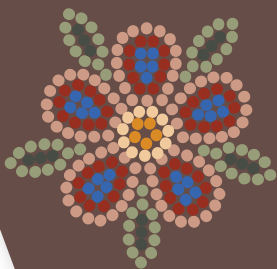
The **Self-Government Agreement** provides a clear path for the MNO to transform into a recognized public Indigenous government. This brief explainer shows how the MNO will work with its Regions and Community Councils to implement the **Self-Government Agreement**, develop a Constitution for the future Métis Government and grow greater capacity within MNO Regions and communities in preparation for the additional responsibilities of self-government.

Consultation and Engagement



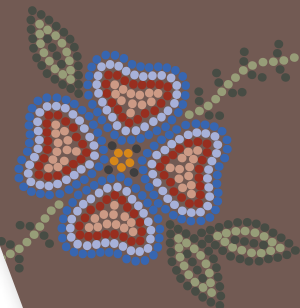
We Get There Together

Implementing the Self-Government Agreement is up to the MNO, its citizens, and communities. It can **NOT** be implemented solely by the MNO at the provincial level or by PCMNO. There are decisions that must be made that require citizen and community involvement and approval such as the development and ratification of a Constitution for the future Métis Government.



Authentic & Accountable Métis Government

The future Métis Government's legitimacy depends on Métis citizens and communities believing in it, participating within it, and seeing themselves in it. If not, the Métis Government will not be a reflection of the Métis it is meant to represent, and it cannot succeed. The participation and informed consent of all MNO members and communities must be heard. This is essential to ensure the future Métis Government will be authentic and accountable to these unique Métis communities and constituencies.



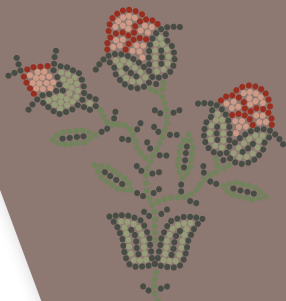
Regional Implementation Agreements (RIAs)

The MNO has drafted Regional Implementation Agreements which align with the steps and general commitments made by the MNO within the Self-Government Agreement. The RIAs provide some further details and clarity on how the steps and commitments within the Self-Government Agreement will be carried out in collaboration with the Métis communities and citizens represented by the MNO. The MNO will work to negotiate RIAs with each of the MNO's nine Regions.



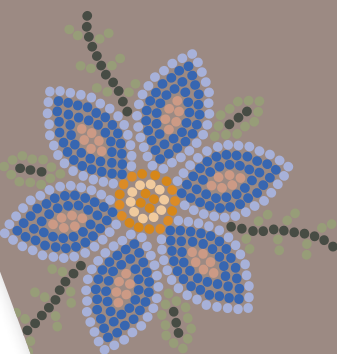
RIAs act as Roadmaps

The MNO represents multiple distinct regional rights-bearing Métis communities as well as constituencies of Métis citizens that live outside of Métis traditional territories, which have all come together to authorize the MNO to represent them for the purposes of their Métis rights and self-government. Because of this unique reality, the Self-Government Agreement includes specific commitments to ensure their participation and consent, as well as protection for their unique rights and claims. While these commitments are found within the Self-Government in a general way, the RIAs act as a "roadmap" for exactly how these commitments will be implemented.



Consultations on an Ontario Métis Constitution: Ensuring All Voices Are Heard

One critical step in the Self-Government Agreement is the development and ratification of a Constitution for the future Métis Government. To implement this step in the Self-Government Agreement, the RIAs provide specific commitments for the MNO, MNO Regions, and Community Councils to collaborate on the design of the Constitution consultations to ensure that Métis voices across the province are heard. Workplans created as part of the RIAs will set out these details, including timelines.



Some Key Aspects of RIAs

One key aspect of the Regional Implementation Agreements is commitments for the MNO, MNO Regions, and Community Councils to collaborate on the design and execution of a consultation process for the Métis Government Constitution. This will help to ensure that each community is consulted in an effective way, and that every MNO citizen has the opportunity to participate. The Constitution will be the foundation of the future Métis Government, making it critical that the Constitution be developed through close consultation with MNO citizens and communities. Once the Constitution is completed, it will be voted on in a ratification process that will ensure the informed consent of MNO communities.



REMEMBRANCE DAY



Métis youth joined the MNO Veterans' Council and Canadian Senators in Ottawa for Remembrance Day ceremonies marking the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. Pictured are (back row, left to right) Brian Black, Colin Deacon, Shelly Claus, Guy Mandeville, Yvonne Boyer, Paul Pirie, Sharlene Lance, Doug Woods, Greg Garratt, (front row, left to right) Jonas Black, Katie Ann Baltzer, Angelique Faith Belcourt and Dalton Latondress. Absent: Jeff Dusome and Makayla Beachamp.

Ottawa:
Métis youth and veterans mark Remembrance Day

Six Métis youth joined the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council for Remembrance Day ceremonies in Ottawa. Leading up to the commemorations, the MNO Veterans' Council and youth sat down with MNO Manager Mental Health and Addictions Wendy Stewart, who spoke about MNO services and programs that are available to all MNO citizens. A crowd of more than 60 people attended a short ceremony steps away from the National War Memorial at the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument, including many members of the Ottawa Region Métis Council. There were three Eagle Staffs present

and wreaths were laid by Métis, First Nations and Inuit representatives. MNO Veterans' Council Acting President Brian Black and Métis Veteran Paul Pirie placed the MNO wreath at the base of the monument. MNO citizen and Canadian Senator Yvonne Boyer and her colleague Senator Colin Deacon were also present for the ceremony at the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument. The ceremony at the National War Memorial, this year marking the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, began with the Veterans Parade to the memorial, followed by the singing of O'Canada and the playing of the Last Post. It was followed by two minutes of silence. MNO Veter-

ans' Council Women's Representative Shelly Claus and MNO citizen and veteran Sharlene Lance placed the wreath on behalf of the MNO. The MNO has laid a wreath at the national memorial during Remembrance Day ceremonies each year since 2004. The ceremony is just one of many participated in and attended by MNO citizens each year across the province. Métis have been proud defenders of Canada as far back as the War of 1812, the First and Second World Wars, the Korean Conflict and in peacekeeping missions across the globe. Most recently, Métis soldiers and veterans have served overseas in Afghanistan as well. ∞

A note of thanks from a Métis youth

submitted by
Mackayla Beauchamp

I want to say thank you for giving me the opportunity to see the veterans at the Remembrance Day ceremony in Ottawa. I also want to say thank you for letting me go to the meeting on Saturday morning. I had a great experience learning about the mental health care that we can get. I liked the ceremony it was amazing the jets flying over, the parade, the laying of the wreaths and hearing the Act of Remembrance in three different languages. The Indigenous Remembrance Ceremony had a beautiful monument. It was different than what I was used to with the laying of tobacco to say a prayer, the jets flying over and the parade and how long it was. I'm used to Penetang and how small it is. The Ottawa ceremony was a big step, but it was something new and exciting. I enjoyed it very much and thank you for letting me come. I had such a great experience that I can't wait to share with other people about the experience that I had.

Toronto: **Queen's Park Ceremony of Remembrance**



Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Margaret Froh and MNO Women's Council Representative Pearl Gabona took part in the Ceremony of Remembrance at Queen's Park in Toronto. (left to right) President Froh and Ontario Premier Doug Ford; President Froh, the Honourable Carolyn Bennett and MNOWC Representative Pearl Gabona; President Froh and Lt. Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell; President Froh and Pearl Gabona.

REMEMBRANCE DAY



Windsor Remembers

On Remembrance Day, Second World War veteran Wilfred Rochon and veteran Robert Desjardins laid a wreath on behalf of the MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council (WEKMC) at the city of Windsor cenotaph.

Rochon was accompanied by his granddaughter Sienna Rochon and her father Jon Rochon, making three generations present. The Remembrance Day ceremony attracted one of its largest crowds. MNO Veterans' Council Women's Representative Sharlene Lance, veteran Shelly Claus and MNO Region 9 Youth Representative Katie Baltzer attended the National Remembrance Day Ceremony in Ottawa, with Claus and Lance laying the MNO wreath.

Pictured above are MNO WEKMC Councilor Robert Desjardins, MNO WEKMC Councilor Gary Lovell, MNO WEKMC Secretary-Treasurer Jon Rochon, MNO WEKMC President Donna Grayer and (front row) Wilfred Rochon. Submitted by **Donna Grayer**, President - MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council



Remembrance Day in Sudbury

On Nov. 9, MNO Sudbury Métis Council Senator Richard Meilleur (above right) carried the Métis flag during a Remembrance Day ceremony at Collège Boréal, in Sudbury. The ceremony honoured all Canadians who have served this country, with a special emphasis on Indigenous service men and women. Submitted by **Richard Meilleur**, Senator - MNO Sudbury Métis Council

MNO Clear Waters Métis Council Remembrance Day events

Métis veteran Don Kennedy placed a wreath on behalf of the MNO Clear Waters Métis Council at the Remembrance Day ceremony at Canadian War Plane Heritage Museum in Mount Hope. More than 2,000 people attended the annual event. Elsewhere, MNO citizen Leon Fleury carried the Métis flag in the St. George Remembrance Day ceremony on Nov. 11, and MNO Clear Waters Métis Council President Jerry Clarke laid the wreath at the cenotaph. Submitted by **Jerry Clarke**, President - MNO Clear Waters Métis Council



A letter to all veterans

submitted by
Paul Pirie
Metis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council Rep
& MNO Georgian Bay Community Council

As an ex-teacher as well as a parent, I can tell you that you just never know what kids are thinking. In the weeks leading up to Remembrance Day each year, usually under the Legion program, veterans attend many schools and speak to the students about their experiences and the lessons of war.

Some kids take it in, some don't. When I ran into a colleague a week or so before Nov. 11, the subject of Remembrance Day soon arose. Joanna has an eight-year-old daughter, who 'out of the blue' started quizzing her mum about her granddad (a retired RAF member), the currently-serving uniformed members living on her street in our very military city of Barrie, those she saw shopping and doing things with their kids in her neighbourhood, etc.

A short while later Kinza announced to her mum that she had decided to write a letter to all veterans to tell them how she felt. The following is an exact copy of that letter:

To: All Soldiers

"Thank you for all the things that you have done for us. If it wasn't for you we wouldn't be here today. We all hope you will be safe. That is why we wear a poppy on Remembrance Day to remember the ones who have died in the war. I hope one day we will have world peace. Just think today you and me wouldn't be here maybe even no Canada maybe it would be a different country.

Forget about Superman, Flash and Batman. Those are all fake. We have the real deal. Well you might like the fake ones but the Soldiers sure are my superheroes. We will always be grateful for you."

Love: Kinza
(and there was a small heart drawn here!)

For those kids who do take in the school presentations, TV shorts, etc., the thoughts which flow through their minds can be profound. What struck me personally about Kinza's letter was that she had equated our servicemen and women with superheroes and that is what makes it not only true in a way that perhaps adults hadn't thought of, but in a way in which Canadians of all ages can understand and agree with – warts and all. Even Superman has his Kryptonite, but his service to the world is what counts.

Meegwetch and Marsi, Kinza.



WE WANT
YOUR
FEEDBACK

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Communications Survey

The MNO is committed to improving its communications both within the administration and with MNO citizens. As part of an improved communications strategy the MNO is conducting a survey. By filling out this survey, you are providing MNO with valuable information to help us communicate better!

Watch
www.metisnation.org
to take part in
the survey!

This survey is voluntary and your responses will be kept confidential. If you would like to know more about this project, contact marcs@metisnation.org.

Métis Nation
of Ontario 

MNO SEASONAL YOUTH CAMPS

EXPERIENCE
THE NORTH

Métis youth and staff pose for a photo after a day of snowshoeing and dog sledding in Thunder Bay.

IVÈR:

A Métis Youth Cultural Camp

Extrême weather conditions hit Ontario late January, forcing some to spend the weekend indoors, safe and warm. But not even a polar vortex could keep 19 adventurous Métis students from attending the 2019 winter Métis Youth Cultural Camp: Ivèr.

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) cultural camps offer high school students in Grades 10-12 a unique opportunity to experience first-hand traditional Métis culture and way of life. Ivèr, which ran from Jan. 31- Feb.3 in Thunder Bay, was the fifth in a series of seasonal Métis Youth Cultural Camps, bringing Métis youth from across Ontario together.

As these students prepare for life after secondary school, these camps equip them with valuable skills and life lessons; students develop leadership, confidence and a powerful sense of Métis pride and community.

"The camp allows them to question things and figure out for themselves who they are and [Camp Ivèr] adds to that personal growth. As they progress through the different programming, they're going to grow more and have a better understanding of Ontario Métis history, culture and way of life," says Scott Carpenter, MNO Manager of Projects and Partnership.

Bonding with peers

For many of the students, opportunities to come together with other Métis youth are rare, but proved a highlight of the experience.

Returning students were eager to

reconnect with friends, while the uninitiated found the confidence to step outside their comfort zones and form new relationships.

Some students, including Sarah McCaveney, from Pickering, Ont., have attended every cultural camp since March 2018.

"At all the camps, I've learned something new. [Camp Ivèr] will expand my understanding of the Métis way of life [and] help me gain leadership skills that will assist me in post-secondary. Métis camp isn't only a great way to connect with Métis youth, it's a way to connect Métis youth with their roots," she says.

Connecting with the land

Despite temperatures below -15 C, bright-eyed Métis youth were up early, ready to meet their bushy-tailed companions for lessons in dog-sledding. Paul Amano, owner/musher of Boreal Journeys took the students through a safety and training demonstration. They were taught commands to guide the dogs on the trail ("Gee!" "Haw!") and encouraged to bond with the team of 29 huskies.

When not riding dogsleds through the woods, Métis youth strapped on snowshoes and explored the winter wilderness, honing techniques practised by their Métis ancestors.

The following day brought the students to Hazelwood Conservatory, where a brief hike led to a vast and frozen lake. Students learned to use manual augers to drill deep into the ice, established fishing lines, built shelters, and even set up a fire by the shore to brew some hot chocolate and

keep warm.

From bonding with huskies, to releasing a young pike back into the waters, a profound sense of respect for nature underscored the outdoor activities.

Indoor lessons

Back indoors, MNO staff and Métis knowledge-holders from the area held various workshops for students.

Ranging from safety demonstrations and lessons in proper outfitting, campers learned the history and techniques employed by their ancestors to survive harsh winter environments.

Students also participated in crafting and quillwork, and classic Métis jigging and storytelling.

"The great thing about these camps is you really get to experience your culture and your history hands on, which I find is the greatest way to learn," explains Métis youth Josh Bombardier. "A lot of the times you read about it in a book and it may not stick, but when you're actually out here doing it, it's just amazing."

Following a fish fry, MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council Senator Ken Simard presented the newest camp participants with their very own Métis sashes.

Carpenter also took the opportunity to thank the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport for providing the funding for the camps. "The importance of culture and history for our youth goes beyond words. I think these youth, through their own words, have [described how] it's changed their lives. There's no value you can put on that," he said. ∞



(top and middle)
Students at the Ivèr camp had opportunity to try dog-sledding and ice-fishing.

(left)
Captain of the Hunt Ken Simard presented students with their own Métis sashes.





Trapline to be forever in Métis hands

Siblings Jim Tolles and Darlene Lent recount the eight-year journey to gain ownership of trapline

Near Georgian Bay amongst the towering trees and the clear waters, Darlene Lent and Jim Tolles, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens and siblings, grew up hunting, fishing and spending time outdoors. Lent, who is also the MNO Credit River Métis Council Women's Representative, remembers staying with her grandparents, whose back shed would be filled with beaver or muskrats drying out as they hung from the ceiling.

The family can trace its history in the area back to 1730 in Mash Dash Bay, to the Vasseur and Longlade - Ontario Métis Root Ancestors - and to a time when they trapped for fur to make clothing, for food and to make a bit of extra money.

"Back in the 1700s, 1800s, 1900s to live in an area like that you didn't run to the corner store, you had to live off the land," said Lent.

Their parents lived in the area for 50 years before selling their cottage, but Tolles has fond memories of living off the land, clearing paths and building blinds in the woods.

It's a tradition that Tolles and Lent now look forward to passing on. The duo recently acquired a trapline in their traditional territory - a vast area bordered by Georgian Bay in the West, 12 Mile Bay in the South, Highway 400 in the East and Moon River in the North.

The eight-year journey to gain ownership of the trapline included a lot of research, paperwork, follow-up phone calls and texts, but it has all been worth it.

"We're just so happy to let everybody know in the MNO, as well as our friends and family that we have the trapline and it will forever be in Métis hands," said Tolles, who is also the MNO Credit River Métis Council Senator.

Tolles first found out about the trapline when he tracked down the former First Nations owner of the line, so that he could become his helper. When he went to process his application, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry told him they were looking for someone to take over the line because it wasn't being used. They were also unable

to find someone on the reserve who wanted it.

Tolles and Lent, now a head trapper-helper team, submitted their applications, background information and lineage in the hopes of taking over the line. Then two years ago, they submitted even information about their family to prove that their family trapped in the area, reaching back to the 1700s.

At the end of October 2018, the trapper/helper team got the call from

one from their family wants to take it over in the future, other Métis families in the Georgian Bay and Moon River will have the opportunity.

"It's nice to keep roots in the area," he said. "It's very exciting. I've been offered other traplines, but this is in my traditional territory, and now I can share it with friends and family," he said.

Thinking back to seeing the beaver and muskrat hanging in her grandparents' shed, Lent said, "At the time it meant nothing to me, I just thought it was something that my grandfather did, but now it kind of gives me, I almost get a chill almost thinking that it's something that I'm going to continue to do.

"Something we will have to do is trap some muskrat. That's my mom's favourite dish, so that's going to be on our list to get some muskrat. We are very proud."

They have plans to share that pride among Métis in the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council and MNO Moon River Métis Council areas by setting up a cultural camp on the property and inviting youth out to partake in different activities, including hunting, tracking, trapping and more.

Tolles has a lot of experience teaching youth, putting on workshops and has done so for the MNO as both a Traditional Knowledge Holder and now as a Senator. He teaches about using all parts of the animal, as he tans his own hides, makes tools, drums and other traditional crafts.

"This is what it's all about, is the youth. We want to bring them out there," Tolles said.

Although Tolles didn't trap this winter, he's looking forward to getting his camp set up this spring and has plans to build a log cabin and a birch bark canoe.

As he rolls up his sleeves to get to work, he'll proudly shows off the tattoo on his forearm. There's a beaver chomping on a tree, a bear and between them an infinity symbol connecting the words that describe the boundary of his new trapline - 12 Mile Bay and Moon River.

It's a permanent reminder of the trapline that will forever remain in Métis hands. ∞



(top) Siblings Darlene Lent and Jim Tolles.
(bottom) Jim's tattoo featuring a beaver, a bear and an infinity symbol connecting the words that describe the boundary of his new trapline - 12 Mile Bay and Moon River.

the Ministry and went to sign the paperwork, giving them ownership of the line.

"They were impressed with all of the background information and lineage and research we had done to prove that our family lines were in that area, and they made a point of telling us that we made history as this trapline would become and remain Métis from here forward," Lent said.

It's the first time in Ontario that a trapline has transferred from First Nations to Métis hands. Even if no

UPDATE: MNC General Assembly Resolution

BACKGROUND

On Wednesday, November 28, 2018, during the Métis National Council (MNC) General Assembly, the President of the MNC Clément Chartier delivered a report that he had prepared entitled "Addressing the Integrity of the Historic Métis Homeland."

The report, which is full of errors and misinformation, makes a series of claims against the MNO 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 "six new historic Métis communities within Ontario" without the consent of the MNC.

The report included a number of recommendations and called for suspension of the MNO. Eventually a resolution was put to the MNC Assembly calling for MNO to be placed on "probation." Based on the report, the MNC Assembly debated and narrowly passed a resolution placing the MNO on probation for one year and outlining a number of conditions and detailing that the Assembly would revisit the issue after the probation period. The vote on this resolution was 29 in favour and 24 opposed.

CURRENT UPDATE

On May 15, 2019, President of MNC, Clément Chartier sent a memorandum to the Members of the MNC General Assembly, which claims to suspend the right of the MNO to participate as a Governing Member in MNC decision making.

President Froh has since responded in a letter to President Chartier regarding the memorandum, clearly stating: "This attempt to disenfranchise MNO is unjust and invalid, and contrary to the rights of MNO as a Governing Member and the guiding principles of MNC. This is reflected by the fact that the articles and by-laws established by the General Assembly do not provide for termination or expulsion of a Governing Member, whether by you or the General Assembly."

Within the letter President Froh called for an immediate Board of Governors meeting to further discuss the matter, and, as appropriate, to take steps to call a meeting of the General Assembly. "As we have consistently expressed, we welcome opportunities to have reasoned and fully informed conversations with all Governing Members about MNO's ongoing relationship with MNC, as well as to discuss many other pressing governance issues."

WHAT'S NEXT?

MNO continues today as it did prior to this decision to engage in a government-to-government relationship with Canada and Ontario and all Métis Nation governments 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 26 years, the MNO has worked directly with all 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.

Moreover, on June 27, 2019 the Métis Nation of Ontario and the Government of Canada signed the *MNO-Canada Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement*. MNO signed this historic agreement alongside Métis governments from Saskatchewan and Alberta.

In the Self-Government Agreement, Canada recognizes that Métis Communities represented by the MNO have an inherent right to self-government over their internal governance and recognizes that the MNO has been mandated by these communities to represent them and implement this inherent right on their behalf. This is the first time that the inherent right of self-government for Métis in Ontario has been explicitly acknowledged by Canada.

The decision of the MNC Assembly to place MNO on probation has **no impact** on MNO citizenship or harvesting rights. 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 far narrower boundaries of the Historic Métis Homeland.

The MNO has continued to engage as a member of the MNC Board of Governors on national files and to advance the work of the Canada-Métis Nation Accord on behalf of the rights and interests of Metis in Ontario.

As for the MNO's next steps with MNC, that will require further discussions with MNO leadership and citizens. The MNO has been one of the governing members of MNC since 1994 and the existing relationship with the MNC is embedded in the MNO *Statement of Prime Purpose*. ∞

EFFICIENT, ACCOUNTABLE AND HELPFUL TO MNO CITIZENS

UPDATE: MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

Registry

During the 2017 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Commission on Métis Rights and Self-Government, MNO citizens said they need better communication from us to be able to participate fully in the governance of this organization. Citizens also asked that citizenship applications be processed faster, and for more assurance from the MNO that we're regularly updating your contact information so you have access to everything you need to engage with us.

These requests were not new. For years, we've heard from MNO citizens about your desire for more interaction and assistance. As a result, the MNO has decided to restructure our internal Registry. Our primary goal is to ensure that the Registry is helpful to citizens, efficient, accountable, and provides excellent service. Citizens will receive more regular and consistent communications about the status of their files, applications, and renewals. Cards will be processed more quickly than before.

The day-to-day Registry functions are now being provided by an independent third-party organization called Know History, a historical services company based in Ottawa. Know History is the most experienced company in Canada in the field of Métis genealogical research. For the last five years, they have worked closely with the MNO to research Ontario's historic Métis communities and Root Ancestors. The firm has also done numerous Traditional Knowledge and Land Use interviews with MNO citizens across the province. Know History manages their projects with professionalism and confidentiality, and will deliver results on time.

The Registry of the Métis Citizens of Ontario, including all data and the genealogical database, still belong to and are maintained by the MNO. Know History has entered into a strict confidentiality agreement with the MNO and all personal information is completely secure.

Know History is designing processes and systems to meet our goals for a restructured Registry. But all Registry functions continue to be conducted in accordance with the MNO citizenship requirements laid out in our *MNO Bylaws* and *Registry Policy*.

What you can expect from the Registry?

Over the next few months, we ask for your patience as we work to improve Registry processes. However, you should notice a big difference right away in how quickly and efficiently your questions and concerns are handled by the Registry.

One of the biggest changes you'll notice is the team of Client Advocates working to assist you with your files. Client Advocates

work with individual citizens and applicants, becoming familiar with specific files and providing one-on-one support. Advocates will look into your questions and concerns and follow up with you directly. If you call or email the Registry for information, you can expect to speak with a Client Advocate immediately or receive a response from a Client Advocate within three to five business days.

You can also expect improved correspondence:

- **More than 15,000 letters have been mailed to citizens since the Registry Review and Self Government Readiness Process was completed. If you received a letter indicating your file is complete, you will get a new citizenship card in the mail by the end of July.**
- **If you applied for citizenship before December 2018, you should have receive a letter by the end of June with details about your application. If you have been approved for citizenship, you'll get a card in the mail by the end of July.**
- **If you applied for citizenship after December 2018, these applications are still being processed, and letters will be mailed by the end of August.**
- **From now on, anyone who applies for citizenship and meets all of the required criteria will receive a letter within three months of the Registry receiving the application.**

It will take time for Know History to implement all of the improved systems and processes required to ensure we have a Registry that operates efficiently and accountably. In the meantime, MNO citizens who call the Registry will receive exemplary customer service -- and the assurance that your files are being given the careful consideration you've asked for and deserve.

If you have any questions about the restructuring, please reach out to Joanne Meyer or Jennifer St. Germain.

Update your contact information

If you're waiting for a letter from the Registry, it may be that we don't have the correct contact information on file for you. If you'd like to confirm your address, please send an email to info@mnoregistry.ca or call **1-855-798-1006** and remember to include your citizenship number.



LOUIS RIEL DAY QUEEN'S PARK CEREMONY IN TORONTO



Fight for Métis rights highlighted at provincial Riel Day ceremony

Inspired by Louis Riel's legacy of fighting for Métis rights and recognition, progress on that continued fight and the recent progress towards self-government by the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was shared at ceremonies in Toronto this Louis Riel Day.

On Nov. 16, 133 years after Louis Riel was hanged, MNO leadership, representatives from the government of the MNO (PCMNO), citizens and members of the public gathered for two flag raisings in Ontario's capital. The flag was raised first at Toronto City Hall and later in front of Queen's Park.

Louis Riel Day is widely recognized as a day to pay respect to the legacy of Louis Riel and to celebrate Métis culture, heritage and resiliency. Riel was the great Métis leader executed by the Canadian government for leading the Northwest Resistance in defense of Métis rights and the Métis way-of-life. Every year Louis Riel Day is held to remember what Riel sacrificed and renew the commitment to complete his work. The MNO celebrates Louis Riel Day to recognize the many contributions of the Métis to Canada and to highlight the challenges that Métis continue to face.

"While it's a very sad day, it's also a very hopeful day," stated MNO President Margaret Froh in her remarks inside Toronto City Hall. "We are growing stronger and stronger and stronger."

Guests at the Queen's Park event included Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario Minister of Provincial Parliament (MPP) Rick Nicholls, MPP Sol Mamakwa, Ontario Minister of

...to declare ourselves not just a part of the history of Canada and the founders of Canada and Louis Riel as a founding father of Canada, but to declare ourselves as a vibrant and critical part of this country today...

Indigenous Affairs and Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines MPP Greg Rickford, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Dr. Carolyn Bennett and MPP Kathleen Wynne.

Minister Bennett highlighted the MNO and Canada's strong relationship as they work together on self-government and called Métis, and Métis youth, "fearless fighters for the section 35 rights that you understand and really hold us as Canada accountable."

In her remarks outside the Ontario legislature, President Froh said it's a fitting place to remember Riel and to raise the Metis Nation Flag, "to declare ourselves not just a part of the history of Canada and the founders of Canada and Louis Riel

as a founding father of Canada, but to declare ourselves as a vibrant and critical part of this country today, in 2018, as we move forward."

During the ceremony, remarks were given by MNO Women's Council Representative Pearl Gabona, MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council President Tera Beaulieu and MNO Youth Council Chair Paul Robitaille spoke about Riel and his legacy.

"As a Métis youth, I will continue Riel's fight to preserve our nationality. I will continue the fight to preserve our identity: not mere mixed-bloods and half-breeds, but a distinct nation with a strong political consciousness," he said.

"I will continue the fight for self-determination, so that rights-bearing Métis citizens, alone, can decide the future of the Métis Nation. And I will continue the fight for our Métis youth, so that we can all cherish our collective inheritance and preserve our Métis nationality - just as Riel asked of us."

Following the Queen's Park ceremony, a reception was held at the Ontario Law Society, which featured a discussion about Métis Identity, Métis rights and Section 35 with panelists MNO citizen and Métis lawyer Jason Madden, great-grand-niece of Louis Riel and lawyer Jean Teillet and Associate Professor at Saint Mary's University Darryl Leroux, whose recent work focuses on self-indigeneity and eastern Métis.

Métis culture was also featured prominently at each of the events, with music provided by MNO citizens Alicia and Liam Blore and jiggging demonstrations by Auriele Diotte, Megan Southwell and Kyle Burton.



(above) Jean Teillet, a Métis lawyer and great-grand-niece of Louis Riel, addressed the crowd during the Louis Riel Day ceremony.



(above) MNO President Margaret Froh receives a Louis Riel Day commemoration from Deputy Speaker of the Legislative of Ontario MPP Rick Nicholls during the 2018 Louis Riel Day ceremony outside Queen's Park on Nov. 16.



(right) The No. 10 Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion has participated in Louis Riel Day ceremonies for the past 18 years.



LOUIS RIEL DAY ACROSS THE PROVINCE

MNO Grand River Métis Council marks Louis Riel Day with a week of events

submitted by

Diane Kilby

MNO Grand River Métis, Councillor and

Jennifer Parkinson

MNO Grand River Métis, President

The Métis flag flew in locations across the Grand River community, marking Louis Riel Day in Kitchener, Cambridge and Guelph.

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) participated in a number of events starting with the Riel Celebration at Waterloo Regional Museum in Kitchener on Nov. 12 and 13.

There, the council welcomed more than 180 Grade 6 to 8 students and teachers from across Waterloo Region, who participated in different activities and workshops highlighting Métis history and the life of Louis Riel.

The day began with a land acknowledgment by the museum's event coordinator Dave Neufeld, and a prayer by MNO GRMC Senator Carol Lévis. Then MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson delivered a speech about Louis Riel and the history of the Métis flag.

Students bundled up and went outside to raise the Métis flag in front of the museum and enthusiastically cheered and waved mini Métis flags as the flag was raised to the top of the pole.

Students also participated in Métis games with MNO Family Wellness Coordinator Sam Cressman and MNO GRMC Councillor April Lacrouix-Bellinger; watched a video on Métis Games and asked questions



Left to right: **Guelph Mayor Cameron Guthrie, City Councillor Dominique O'Rourke, MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson, MPP Mike Schreiner and MNO citizen Paul Smith raise the Métis flag during Louis Riel Day celebrations on Nov. 16.**

to Senator Lévis; tried finger weaving a bracelet with MNO GRMC Chair Alicia Hamilton, Councillor Diane Kilby and Secretary Pandora Wilhelm; and enjoyed an interactive historical account of Louis Riel's life, including why Métis celebrate Louis Riel Day, led by President Parkinson and Treasurer Leslie Muma.

For the fourth time, on Nov. 15, the Métis flag was raised at Cambridge City Hall. MNO GRMC was joined by Central Public School Grade 6 students, who were eager to share what they remembered from last year's event.

The group was also joined by Cambridge Councillor Donna Reid and Mayor Doug Craig. Following the flag raising, students learned about the Métis sash, its uses, its history and about finger weaving.

Louis Riel Day was a busy one this year. It began with a flag raising outside Guelph City Hall, with special guests Mayor Cameron Guthrie, who was attending his fifth Riel Day celebration as Mayor, MPP Mike Schreiner, community members and city staff. Grade 3 students from Paisley Road Public School and Grade 8 students from Sacred

Heart Catholic School also joined in to learn more about the Métis.

After, the Grade 8 students joined GRMC to learn how to finger weave. Each student made a bracelet and learned about the Métis sash. MNO GRMC Women's Representative Colleen Brunelle and her daughter, Stella Booth, not only mastered finger weaving for the first time, they were also a great help to President Parkinson and Treasurer Muma in teaching the students how to finger weave.

That afternoon, President Parkinson, Treasurer Muma and MNO

citizen Kathleen Lannigan travelled across town to the raise the Métis flag at the University of Guelph for the first time.

As the flag was raised, a large crowd gathered and clapped as the flag reached the top of the pole. Many stayed to ask questions, including a student social media reporter who interviewed President Parkinson on the history of Riel, the flag and why it's important to celebrate Riel Day. Meanwhile, Treasurer Muma and Kathleen Lannigan headed to the Aboriginal Resource Centre to enjoy some refreshments with university staff and students.

To finish off a fun-filled day, MNO GRMC was invited by Conestoga College's Infinite Reach Representative, André Nault, to join their celebration. The three Infinite Reach facilitators from Conestoga College, University of Waterloo and Laurier University joined forces to hold a Louis Riel Day Celebration at St. Paul's College University of Waterloo. There was lots of food, fiddle music and Métis games.

Around the city of Guelph, Métis flags were also flown for the first time at the Upper Grand District School Board office, John F. Ross High School, The Wellington Catholic District School Board office and the Ontario Service building at 1 Stone Rd. The MNO GRMC would like to thank the Upper Grand Indigenous Board Liaison Colinda Clyne, Wellington Catholic Indigenous Board Liaison Val Marks and MNO citizen Paul Smith (1 Stone Road location and John F. Ross) for making this happen at these locations this year.



Left to right: **Silvia Ursini, Employment and Social Development Canada Learning Consultant; Réjean Belcourt, Service Canada Indigenous Employees Circle member; Charlotte Lee, Employment and Social Development Canada Student Employee; Jean Teillet; Senator Reta Gordon and Natasha Bertrand, Indigenous Employees Circle Co-Representative for the National Capital Region.**

Sharing Métis history on Riel Day

submitted by

Natasha Bertrand, NCR Co-Representative, Indigenous Employees Circle

written by

Réjean Belcourt

Nov. 16, 2018 marked 133 years since Louis Riel was hanged for treason by the Government of Canada under Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald.

To mark this date and celebrate the life of the great Métis leader, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Honourary Senator Reta Gordon and Métis lawyer Jean Teillet presented, "The Métis Nation of the North-West" to an interested

group of Employment and Social Services Canada (ESDC) employees.

Senator Gordon provided insightful and heartfelt opening and closing words and Teillet helped steer the crowd through her vast knowledge of the Métis Nation.

The ESDC Indigenous Employee Circle would like to thank Senator Gordon and Teillet for taking the time to educate government employees about the Métis. Through events like these, it hopes that the relationship between the Government of Canada and Métis people will keep strengthening.

As Senator Gordon said, "We can't go forward if we don't know our past."

Riel Day in Kingston

submitted by

Samantha Alkenbrack

MNO Community Wellness Coordinator

On Nov. 16, MNO staff in Kingston hosted a celebration where about a dozen MNO citizens and community members came together to honour Louis Riel and participate in cultural activities.

Community members enjoyed a feast, sharing stories and finger weaving key chains. The event was organized by MNO Community Wellness Coordinator Samantha



(above) **Finger-woven keychains created at Kingston's Riel Day event.**

Alkenbrack and MNO Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinator Joie Ouderkirik.

Raising the Métis flag

submitted by

Marlene Greenwood

MNO North Bay Métis Council Senator

MNO North Bay Métis Council raised the Métis flag for Louis Riel Day at its city hall with North Bay Mayor Al MacDonald. MNO North Bay Métis Council Senator Marlene Greenwood had the honour of raising the flag, which was followed by a luncheon.



MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council marks Louis Riel Day

submitted by
Donna Grayer
President
MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council (WEKMC) commemorated Louis Riel Day with a celebration of Métis history and culture on Nov. 18.

The event included breakfast, lunch, and a drum making workshop, as well as ornament making, dot art on bags and wood burning workshops led by MNO Healing and Wellness staff.

Opening the day, MNO WEKMC Senator Jim Turner said a prayer and shared a story about Louis Riel, followed by a moment of silence.

MNO Region 9 Women's Representative Suzanne Jackson led the drum making workshop for the council and MNO citizens based on the teachings of Métis knowledge keeper Leon Fleury.

Each drum maker was gifted with a traditional drum stick from Elder Fleury and the council was gifted a drum from MNO Veterans' Council Women's Representative Shelly Claus.

The 10 new drums will be birthed in a special ceremony in 2019.

Louis Riel Day provided the first opportunity for MNO WEKMC representatives to share new knowledge gained from cultural training as part of a council-wide initiative to learn an aspect of Métis culture that they may not have known or grown up with.

"The MNO WEKMC took on the initiative to have cultural training for each of the MNO citizens that take on the position of an elected official and the work involved as volunteers," said Donna Grayer, MNO WEKMC President. "Council members should be equipped to take on the responsibility of their positions, and cultural training is as important as understanding MNO governance."

It's the hope of the council that representatives will be able to share their knowledge and time to further educate about Métis history, culture and way of life with the entire council, MNO citizens and members of the public when additional grants become available.

MNO WEKMC representatives have also applied for MNO Harvester Cards, as harvesting is a part of Métis culture that can also be shared.

Additionally, MNO WEKMC Women's Representative Sharlene Lance has begun weekly beading days, with starter kits available for those who attend. Simple Michif phrases will also be taught, with resources and videos from the MNO Education Branch.



The MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council, including (left to right) Youth Representative Katie Baltzer, President Donna Grayer, Senator Jim Turner, Councilor Robert Desjardins, Councilor Garry Lovell, Treasurer Jon Rochon, Women's Representative Sharlene Lance and council founder and Honorary Senator Wilfred Rochon (seated), commemorated Louis Riel Day with a breakfast and lunch for MNO citizens. Absent from photo: Councilor Isaiah Grayer

MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council hosts fifth annual Louis Riel Day

submitted by
Darlene Braz

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) hosted its fifth annual Louis Riel Day celebration on Saturday, Nov. 17. The event was held at the Native Canadian Centre of Canada and was attended by more than 100 guests throughout the day.

Guests enjoyed a feast of tacos, Three Sisters Soup, salad, wild blueberry jam and bannock, along with a variety of desserts served by the Toronto restaurant Tea-N-Bannock.

Those in attendance were led in a prayer by MNO citizen Suzanne Brunelle. MNO TYRMC President Tera Beaulieu gave her opening remarks, expressing thanks for the Mississauga's of the New Credit First Nation and other Indigenous peoples who have historically cared for the Toronto and York Region.

She spoke about the events hosted by the council over the past few months, including the Powley Day celebration in September and the Lands and Resources Symposium and Annual General Meeting in October.

She concluded by presenting the first MNO TYRMC Community Volunteer Award to Jim Morrison. Morrison has been a vibrant



contributing member of the community and generously volunteered his time supervising the council's teepee at the Indian Residential Schools Survivors Legacy Celebration hosted by the City of Toronto in October.

Among the invited performers for the day were guitar and fiddle duo Alicia and Liam Blore and jiggers Kyle Burton and Meghan Southwell, who led attendees in a jigging workshop.

After a short break, the multi-talented Aqua Nibii Waawaaskone hosted a drum circle and provided several instruments for attendees to use and join her in song. Award-winning Métis singer-songwriter Amanda Rheume closed the show with some of her music, including her song We Aspire, based on the MNO Statement of

Prime Purpose.

In addition to the music and dancing, cultural activities for children were provided by Jennifer Lafontaine and Ojibikens. Children participated in screen-print t-shirt making, potato-block printing, guessing games, and even created a medicine bag.

Attendees were also able to shop the Métis vendor market surrounding the space and took home bundles of fresh vegetables from Fresh City Farms and a game meat giveaway from Whitehouse Meats.

The MNO TYRMC would like to thank all the community members who participated in making this event a joyous occasion of remembrance and gratitude for how far the Métis have progressed and have advanced Louis Riel's legacy over the last 133 years.



All Our Relations Métis Drum Circle performs during the MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council's Louis Riel Celebration Lunch at the Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough on Nov. 18.

Louis Riel Day celebrated in Peterborough at Canoe Museum

submitted by
Christa Lemelin, Chair
MNO Peterborough and District
Wapiti Métis Council

In honour of Louis Riel Day, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council hosted a Louis Riel Celebration Lunch on Nov. 18 at the Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough.

Attendees included MNO citizens, family and friends of the community, as well as special guests Dawn Lavell-Harvard and Betty Carr-Braint of Trent University (First Peoples House of Learning),

Peterborough City Councilor Keith Riel, Medical Officer of Health Dr. Rosana Salvaterra and staff from the public and catholic school boards.

The celebration consisted of a wonderful feast of bison and venison and entertainment by All Our Relations Métis Drum Circle, formed by women from the MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council, and a fiddling/banjo duo of Luke Mercier and Lotus Wight.

Guests also had the opportunity to tour the museum, and get a viewing of Louis Riel's concertina that was graciously brought to the event by Susan Neale of the Peterborough Museum and Archives.



See you in the Soo!

Every year, the citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario hold our Annual General Assembly (AGA) where we gather together to conduct the business of the MNO, to celebrate our rich history, culture and way of life, pass on traditions to younger generations and future leaders and share our stories.

As the home of the Supreme Court of Canada's landmark decision on Métis rights in *R. v. Powley*, the Sault Ste. Marie region holds a special historical significance, not just for the Métis Nation in Ontario (MNO), but for Métis across Canada. As the MNO continues to advance the *Statement of Prime Purpose* and longstanding mandate of rights, self-determination and self-government it is difficult to imagine the political landscape for today's Métis without the contributions of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community. This celebrated site is considered a "hidden gem" in Ontario, offering scenic views, vast wilderness and friendly locals eager to introduce you to the "Soo".

AGA IS OPEN TO ALL CITIZENS

The MNO AGA is open to all MNO citizens, whether or not they have been designated by a local Community Council to attend.

The venue for the AGA will be the Quattro Hotel steps away from downtown attractions. For those interested in camping options, please email aga2019@metisnation.org and information on available camping sites will be emailed to you.

VOYAGEUR CANOE ARRIVAL

As has been the MNO's tradition, prior to the start of the AGA, delegates will gather to cheer on the arrival of the voyageur canoes, paddled by MNO leadership, special guests and other dignitaries. This year, the canoes arrive on Thursday, August 22 at 6:30 pm, at Bellevue Park on the north shore of the St. Mary's River.

TRADE SHOW, CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES & MUCH MORE

A trade show will be held at the Quattro Hotel, starting on Friday, August 23 through to the end of the AGA on Sunday, August 25. Adult-supervised children's activities will be available for the delegates' children starting on Friday through to the end of the AGA on Sunday, August 25.

More details and announcements about even more activities are posted on the MNO website. If you have any questions please email aga2019@metisnation.org.



Map of **AGA Venues**

The financier of Choice for **Métis** Entrepreneurs in Ontario

Financing up
to \$1,000,000
for resources and
related sector
businesses

Rates & security
customized to
promote Métis
business success

Contributions
for business
plans and
ongoing
support



mvdf.ca

Our Métis History, Our Stories:

In 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) released the **Métis Root Ancestors** project, which included the research, review and compilation of more than 100,000 historical records to identify Métis Root ancestors from historic Métis communities in Ontario. Today, the MNO is beginning to share some of their stories, as told by their descendants:

Hungry Hall

Island from Rainy River at the mouth of Lake of the Woods is what's left of Hungry Hall, a once bustling fur trade outpost. For many fur traders, it was just a trading post, but to Ontario Métis root ancestors, it was also home. Now, it's a key Métis geographic hub in the Lake of the Woods area.

MNO citizen Floyd Triskle remembers being told how it got its name. It happened when a group of voyageurs arrived after overturning their canoes. The group went straight to his grandmother, Sarah Jane McPherson, for food.

"They swamped the canoes out there and lost their food, so they come to see grandma, but she couldn't feed that many people," Triskle remembered.

Built in 1825, abandoned in 1834 and used again in 1863 as an outpost, the grounds hold the memories and history of the McPhersons, O'Connors and the Morrises. These families are still firmly rooted in the area.

"We have a long history in the region. We are fortunate that we come from a long Métis family line of the Morrises and the McPhersons, who came together," said Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Region 1 Councilor Theresa Stenlund. "Our families travelled the lakes and rivers in the whole territory - the Lake of the Woods area, Rainy River area, up north into Manitoba and the Red River area."

In fact, the descendants of the McPhersons and Morrises still own the land adjacent to where the outpost stood. On a map created when establishing a reserve, 160 acres were carved out for Michel Morrissette, who was listed as the Interpreter in charge of Hungry Hall from 1868-1871. This ensured their place at Hungry Hall forever.

Métis descendants still fish there in the summer, harvest in the fall and share memories of growing up there.

MNO Region 1 Captain of the Hunt Sandy Triskle, whose dad (Floyd) is the brother of Stenlund's grandfather, said their ancestors were fur traders, fishermen and lighthouse keepers. The responsibility for the lighthouse was passed down through the family.

"The family all did it together on Sable Island just out from Hungry Hall," said Sandy, who is also the Treasurer of the MNO Kenora Métis Council.

Stenlund and Sandy trace their Métis ancestry back to Ontario Métis Root

George McPherson Sr., who was present at the signing of Treaty Three in North-West Angle, and worked as an interpreter. His son, George McPherson Jr., was a factor with the Hudson Bay Company, working in Fort Alexander, Mattawa, Eagles Nest and Rat Portage. Before retiring, he settled in Rat Portage (Kenora) for a time, and also moved into Sabaskosing Bay. According to a local museum, he was the first resident of Kenora.

It was George and Sophia Morrissette's daughter, Sarah Jane McPherson, who helped inspire the name of Hungry Hall.

Her descendants remember stories of her skinning animals with a butter knife, hunting with her grandchildren and of never speaking about being Métis.

"I think of my grandmother, who wouldn't speak of being Métis and had to hide her darker skin, but I want her voice to come alive and not be quiet," Sandy said.

"From what I understand my great-grandmother Sarah Jane was a very feisty old lady that was very strong. She hunted on the land, she fished on the land, she did all of her own trapping, took care of many kids, plus she also took care of some of the grandkids that moved into the house, and she didn't stop until the day she died."

"She was a fighter and it's in our blood. We are there and we are proud Métis and we need to advance and move forward and make those voices alive."

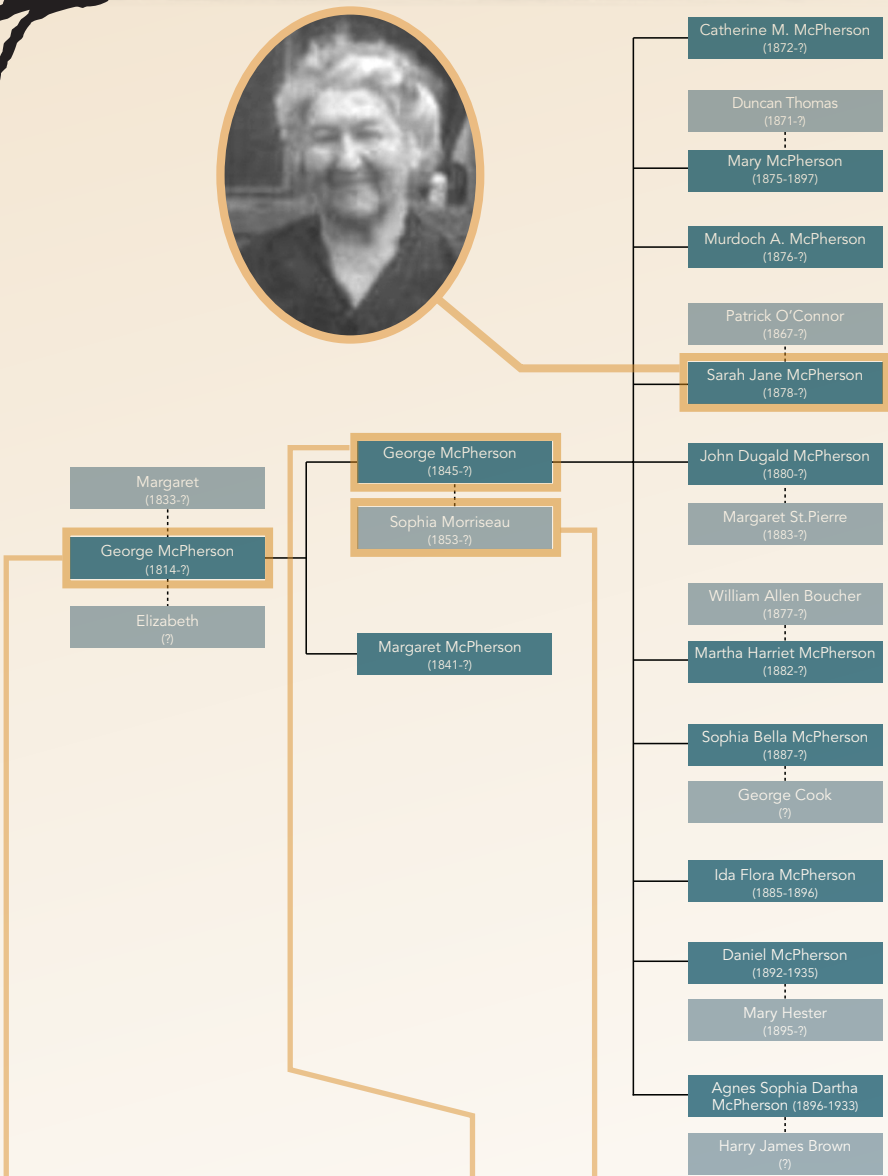
Her legacy lives on in the traditions still practiced by her descendants.

Stenlund remembers being a young child and being brought to the trapping cabin, where they would live off the land, pick berries and learn about the trees and other plants.

"As a youngster, with a beaver pelt or whatever animal it happened to be, you were assisting or helping, and maybe being a nuisance, but they were teaching us and continuing those traditions," Stenlund said.

Stenlund did the same with her children, even as babies in her arms, bringing them hunting, fishing and teaching them Métis way of life, so that they can bring that with them.

So they will know who they are and where they come from. ∞



COMMUNITY SECTION



#MYHarvest



Follow along as Métis youth share stories about harvesting

From maple syrup tapping and sweetgrass basket making to chaga mushroom harvesting, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Youth are sharing what harvesting means to them.

Follow [#MYHarvest](#) on Facebook and Instagram for photos and stories shared by Métis youth, as part of the MNO Youth Council's Infinite Potential Strategy.

The strategy is focused on building a strong and connected Métis youth community and developing province-wide initiatives through working groups. The working groups focus on health and well-being, environment, language and culture, nation-building and education.

The [#MYHarvest](#) campaign is part of a contest, and is the first initiative put forward by the environmental working group, which hopes to encourage youth to connect with the land, share their experiences and teach others land-based knowledge. ∞

For more visit the MNOYC Facebook page or email: infinitepotentials@metisnation.org.

#MYHarvest means hard work for year-round enjoyment. I absolutely love picking blueberries!

#MYHarvest means spending quality time with my niece as we harvest birchbark.

#MYHarvest means spending time outside with the ones I love."

#MYHarvest means finding new ways to appreciate Mother Earth each and every day!

#MYHarvest means late nights, hip waders, nets and a feed of smelts with friends and family.

Harvesting isn't just a hobby for my family, it's a lifestyle.

Ballad of the Battle Buddies

MNO citizens take part in Exercise Collaborative Spirit

submitted by
Colleen Brunelle
MNO Grand River Métis Council
Women's Representative

A trio from Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) community councils spent a day with the Canadian Armed Forces during Exercise Collaborative Spirit 2018.

Diversity Recruiter Sgt. Ray Starks extended invitations to Indigenous community influencers to engage in the annual exercise, alongside senior members of the public service and leaders from Canada's business community.

Honorary soldiers MNO Credit River Métis Council Women's Representative Tobias Clarke, MNO Grand River Métis Council Representative April LaCroix-Bellinger and MNO Grand River Métis Council Representative Colleen Brunelle were the lucky participants in this memory-making and educational opportunity.

The objective was to garner a deeper appreciation of the expertise of Canadian soldiers and how their skills and capabilities support a variety of missions at home and abroad. In addition, Sgt. Starks explained a variety of Aboriginal Training and Recruitment opportunities.

Their adventure took place at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa. Early the first morning, participants gathered for breakfast and were then outfitted with 20 lbs. of gear and a C-7 rifle.

"It was at this moment that I for one, realized that my Métis companions get excited about shooting stuff," said Brunelle.

After a group briefing, they rode



MNO Grand River Métis Council's Colleen Brunelle, MNO Credit River Métis Council Women's Rep Tobias Clarke and First Nations student Andie Albert experienced life as a Canadian soldiers during Exercise Collaborative Spirit 2018. Absent from the photo is MNO Grand River Métis Councilor April LaCroix-Bellinger.

a LAV 6 armored vehicles and were escorted to a firing range where they all had a chance to experience Canadian Forces weaponry first hand. Shooting automatic rifles, light machine guns, grenade launchers, LAV III (Coyote), TAPV's, and LAV 6's were remarkable experiences. They also watched a sniper demonstration, the firing of an anti-tank gun and cannon.

Later, they took part in "Taking the Beach". Approaching in assault

*It was at this moment
that I for one,
realized that my Métis
companions get excited
about shooting stuff.*

boats, participants ran up the beach, firing blanks and fetching injured soldiers after a fighter jet dropped smoke bombs overhead.

From the beach they made their way to a village, which was set up to simulate what Canadian soldiers might encounter on overseas missions. Manning the perimeter, participants were instructed to watch for subtle changes in the people milling around. It quickly escalated into pandemonium and participants

ran for cover and took turns firing at enemy targets.

"While it was an adrenaline-infused flurry of activity, I have a newfound respect for today's soldier who pulls that off under more realistic circumstances," said Brunelle.

What followed was a highlight for many. The group was transported by a Boeing CH-47 Chinook helicopter from the field, across the Ottawa River and back to have dinner with the troops at CFB Petawawa. Without a doubt, grandbabies will hear about the time their mères got to play soldier for a day and fly in a Chinook!

Back at camp, they were treated to a feast – complete with s'mores and strawberry juice. The day was a fabulous success – as evidenced by the resounding laughter at dinner as the events of the day were recounted.

"We laughed to tears at such great memories made," said Brunelle.

On the way home the next day, Sgt. Ray Starks relayed information about the programs and opportunities offered to Métis, Inuit, and First Nations. With no obligation to join afterward, and no cost. Those opportunities include: Summer training programs, the Canadian Forces Aboriginal Entry Program and Aboriginal Leadership Opportunities Year.

For further information, contact Sgt. Ray Starks: 1-226-346-0790 or email Raymond.starks@forces.gc.ca.

The participants (The Battle Buddies) would like to extend their deepest gratitude to Sgt. Starks for allowing them to partake in Exercise Collaborative Spirit 2018. ∞



MNO citizen retired major Don Kennedy represented MNO veterans at a recent Canadian citizenship ceremony in Hamilton that was presided over by his wife Hoojung Jones Kennedy.

Métis veteran welcomes new Canadians

submitted by
Jerry Clarke
President
MNO Clear Waters Métis Council

On Oct. 23, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen retired major Don Kennedy represented Métis veterans at a Canadian citizenship ceremony in Hamilton.

Don, wearing the Métis sash and the Louis Riel Medal, reaffirmed his allegiance along with the new Canadians. He told the new citizens about the importance of veterans to the defense of freedom and how Métis, First Nations and Inuit have helped shape Canada into the great nation that it is today.

A total of 58 new Canadians from 22 countries took the Oath

of Citizenship from Hoojung Jones Kennedy, Don's wife, who is a volunteer presiding official at the citizenship ceremonies. Recently, she was awarded the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers for her advocacy of Korean War veterans.

As Hoojung will preside at future citizenship ceremonies, Don will continue to represent Métis veterans and welcome new Canadians. ∞

Cooking with the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council



On Jan. 26, and Feb. 2, the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council and Senator Gary Laframboise hosted two Métis cooking classes. Thanks to a grant from the Niagara Region, this workshop was offered at no cost to Métis citizens. Each participant cooked homemade chicken noodle soup, shepherd's pie and a pudding for dessert. Everyone left with the tools, recipes and ingredients to make these recipes again at home.

submitted by **Kelsey Dick**, MNO citizen

MNO Grand River Métis Council participates in rare ecological experience

submitted by

Colleen Brunelle

MNO Grand River Métis Council
Women's Representative

As part of their Annual General Meeting on Sept. 8, 2018 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council helped tag local migrating monarch butterflies to help conservation research.

The work was led by University of Guelph PhD student Alana Wilcox, who is conducting studies on the environmental contaminants and stressors which affect local ecosystems - with a particular focus on the impacts to the monarch butterfly. Wilcox guided and instructed participants on how to catch and tag the butterflies that were about to begin their 4,000 kilometer migration from Southern Ontario to the



MNO Grand River Métis Council members and MNO citizens gather to catch and tag monarch butterflies.

fir forests of Oyamel, Mexico.

Wilcox talked to participants about how this migratory phenomenon is under threat due to a reduction in milkweed and nectar sources, climate change, urbanization and the use of agricultural chemicals.

Neonicotinoid insecticides largely affecting honey bee populations are also impacting monarch populations.

The monarchs were tagged with small adhesive stickers placed on their hindwings. Prior to release, the

sticker number and the butterfly's gender was recorded (Male monarch's possess black spots on their hindwings). All of the data was later uploaded to the Monarch Watch database, a not-for-profit educational outreach program.

Environmental engagement opportunities like this allowed for participants to connect with nature and promoted a sense of stewardship in protecting this species at risk. Many of those who participated vowed to plant more milkweed next spring. ∞



(Front row, left to right) **President Yvonne Jensen, Jena Descoteaux, Morgan Jensen, Women's Representative Michelle McCoy Smith, Councillor Reg Bennett.** (Back row, left to right) **Councillor Pete Descoteaux, Senator Fern McCoy, Chair Allen St. Pierre, PCMNO Region 4 Councillor Ernie Gatien, Captain of the Hunt Art Bennett, Councillor Roly Blanchette and Secretary-Treasurer Todd Showan.**

MNO North Channel Métis Council holds successful AGM

Submitted by

Yvonne Jensen, President

MNO North Channel Métis Council

On Nov. 4, 83 people attended the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) North Channel Métis Council (NCMC) Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Among the guests were all members of the MNO NCMC, Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario Region 4 Councillor Ernie Gatien, Captain of the Hunt Art Bennett, Region 4 Women's Representative June Smart, MNO Métis Family Well Being Coordinator Cynthia Sopher, MNO Region 4 Youth Representative Taylor McNally and representatives of the MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council, including Senator Brenda Powley, Chair John Konawalchuk, Councillor Dianne Beaudry, Women's Representative Shirley Loubert and former councillor Ken Figures.

MNO NCMC Senator Fern McCoy began the AGM with a beautiful prayer, asking all attendees to join hands.

MNO NCMC President Yvonne Jensen welcomed everyone present and introduced all of the guests. The new council, elected earlier this year, was presented with a sash to welcome council members and show appreciation for all of their work and dedication.

PCMNO Councillor Gatien followed by welcoming everyone present and providing a summary of all the activities in Region 4 over the past year.

MNO NCMC invited guest speakers from Parks Canada - Svenja Hansen, Pamela Jalak, Jeanette Cowen and Elia Marini - who provided information for attendees. MNO citizens enjoyed a short film on Métis and the Parks Canada representatives discussed their involvement in gathering the history of Métis and how to distribute it to the general public. They also spoke about Fort St. Joseph and the Sault Canal.

Guest Mona Jones, from the Huron Superior Catholic School Board from Sault Ste. Marie, informed the citizens about how important it is to have children self-identify. She stressed the importance of knowing how many Métis, First Nation and Inuit are in the schools and talked about new programs offered in some schools.

The council also passed a motion to change the election time from every two years to every four years, which will come into effect after MNO NCMC's next election.

Citizens also enjoyed a beautiful meal made by A Touch of Home. Gifts were provided for all of the citizens to thank them for attending and listening and for the speakers who attended. ∞

MNO Grand River Métis Council offers beaded poppy workshop

submitted by

Diane Kilby, Councillor

MNO Grand River Métis Council

Moved by the growing popularity of beaded poppies and inspired by the sacrifices of Métis veterans, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council held two beaded poppy workshops.

On Nov. 7, in Kitchener, and on Nov. 28, in Guelph, members of council, using individual beading kits prepared by its dedicated volunteers, shared Métis beading culture and instructions with several dozen enthusiastic citizens and allies.

Especially heart-warming and rewarding was the number of allies who came out after attending an earlier beading outreach initiative, Bridges, with the City of Waterloo, which had been organized by MNO citizen Dr. John Lewis. ∞



MNO Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) Councillor Pat St. John looks on as MNO GRMC Treasurer Leslie-Anne Muma gets a beaded poppy started during a workshop.

MNO Timmins launches Aging at Home program

submitted by

Jacqueline Bouchard

MNO Aging at Home Coordinator

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Aging at Home program is now offered through the MNO office in Timmins.

The program supports Indigenous seniors (55 years of age or older) so they can continue to live independently in their homes for as long as possible.

The program provides individuals with home care services such as: bath preparation, light housekeeping, laundry and meal preparation.

The MNO Aging at Home program staff can also coordinate friendly visits to help with loneliness and schedule transportation to and from medical appointments,

the bank and/or the grocery store.

Staff can also help find other support services and provide information to help improve seniors' health and wellbeing. Contracted services for grass cutting and snow removal are also available.

During 2017-2018, the Aging at Home Program, which is offered at 13 different offices across the province, assisted more than 30 clients.

For more information about the Aging at Home Program in the Timmins area contact:

Jacqueline Bouchard
347 Spruce Street South
Timmins, ON
705-264-3939 ext. 225
1-888-497-3939

jacquelinebo@metisnation.org

Honourary Senator and MNO Ottawa Region Métis Councilor present Métis history and culture

submitted by **Benny Michaud**
Past-President, MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council
written by **Jennifer B. Lord**
Senior Policy Advisor Women of the Métis Nation

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Honourary Senator Reta Gordon and MNO Ottawa Region Métis Councilor Marie Louise Perron greeted public servants and provided information about Métis history and culture at the Status of Women Canada office in Gatineau on Nov. 8, 2018.

Grandmother Gordon (as she prefers to be called), opened the session with a lesson on thanks and gratitude to the Creator for the “best day” ahead.

Councilor Perron provided an overview of the history Métis people and their culture in both official languages. This presentation was

especially touching as she asked participants to follow along as she presented the history and journey of her own family through photographs, archived journal entries and a table full of family keepsakes and artifacts, including a handmade fiddle.

The session also focused on reconciliation, not only within the federal government, but also how individuals can complete their own reconciliations.

At the end of the session, participants were provided a hand-painted stone with the Métis infinity symbol to remind all to consider and include the Métis in their programming and policy work.

On Nov. 8, MNO Honourary Senator Reta Gordon and MNO Ottawa Region Métis Councilor Marie Louis Perron presented information about the history and culture of the Métis to federal public servants. (From left to right) Manager of Engagement for Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada Monique Lucie Sauriol, Senior Policy Advisor Women of the Métis Nation Jennifer B. Lord, MNO Honourary Senator Reta Gordon, MNO Ottawa Region Métis Councilor Marie Louise Perron and Senior Program Officer for Status of Women Canada Germaine Chazou-Essindi.



Métis artists collaborate on fur trade display

Submitted by
Alden Barty
MNO Consultation Coordinator

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens enjoy nothing more than a good challenge. So when the Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries requested Métis artwork for their offices in Port Elgin, Ont. the call went out for help. The theme of the display would be the fur trade.

To no one's surprise, the MNO Georgian Bay Traditional Territory Consultation Committee was overwhelmed with citizens' eager responses to put together a display representative of Métis traditions and way of life. Over the past six months, individuals from Region 3 and Region 7 came together to collaborate and bring the project to

completion.

The members of the MNO Georgian Bay Traditional Territory Consultation Committee would like to thank everyone for their participation, generosity, acts of kindness, countless hours of work and genuine sense of Métis pride.

The Métis artwork display was made possible by:

- **Hooped Beaver Pelt**
Rob and Cynthia Bartlett, Region 3
- **Beaded Paddle**
Vicki Jenkins, Region 7
- **Beaver Artwork**
Marilyn and Leah Prisque, Region 7
- **Sashes, Flag and Fiddle**
MNO Georgian Bay Traditional Territory Consultation Committee



MNO Great Lakes Métis Council President Peter Coture, OCNI Bruce County/Bruce Power Liaison Alison Fernandes, MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council President Greg Garratt, and PCMNO Region 7 Councilor David Dusome showcase their creations.

Deer hide prepared for community projects

submitted by
Greg Garratt
Region 7 Captain of the Hunt

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens from the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) area travelled through a snowstorm to attend a deer hide workshop led by Region 7 Captain of the Hunt Greg Garratt on Jan. 28.

During the workshop, the deer hide was fleshed and prepared so that it could be used for glove making, other crafts and even tanning.

Garratt spoke about traditional practices of brain tanning, smoke tanning, fur removal and short-term preservation using salt.

Traditional tools and methods were discussed, such as using edged bones for fleshing, as well as a variety of more contemporary methods.

“I am so grateful I got to learn how to clean a deer hide with Greg Garratt Captain of the Hunt Region 7,” said MNO Georgian Bay Métis Councilor Justin Dumont said. “As chair of the Harvesters Committee for the MNO GBMC, I hope we can do many more with the citizens.”

As usual when Métis communities get together big or small, there was friendly discussion about the MNO Harvesting Policy, using feathers for crafts, fishing and so much more. It was a great Métis social time.

“I was grateful for the oppor-



Region 7 Captain of the Hunt Greg Garratt, Vicki Jenkins and MNO Georgian Bay Métis Councilor Justin Dumont help prepare a deer hide for future crafts on Jan. 28.

tunity and the invite to participate in a little deer scraping activity this afternoon,” said Gary DuBeau following the workshop. “It was good to see that some will still challenge not only a winter day, but also a deer hide. I was able to share in some good conversations about the processing of, the mostly today dis-

carded, harvested hides.”

Hides were provided by various harvesters who wanted to see them used by the community rather than discarded.

Almost a dozen were donated this year, some for use by other MNO Chartered Community Councils for their own educational events. ∞



Family Engagement Day at MNO Windsor office

submitted by
Layne Hoskins, Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

A recent Family Engagement Day at the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) office in Windsor brought together families to share stories, make memories, have fun and learn something new.

Sixteen people attended the event, which was hosted by the Métis Family Wellbeing and Community Wellness programs on Feb. 21.

Participants used their creativity to design their very own works of art using tape and paint to make patterns on their canvas. The activity was led by community member Jordyn Mills. There were also plenty of games and opportunities to win a prize. ∞

Sixteen people created their very own works of art during Family Engagement Day at the MNO office in Windsor.

MNO Grand River Métis Council builds bridges

submitted by
Diane Kilby
MNO Grand River Métis Council

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) helped build bridges within the community by teaching Métis history, beading and dot art to seniors and youth on Nov. 5.

The workshop was part of the City of Waterloo learning program called Bridges, which offers inter-generational learning activities to promote sharing of knowledge, skills or life experiences. The activities are funded through a Government of Canada grant.

MNO citizen Professor John Lewis identified this program as an ideal opportunity to introduce some

of the history and art of the Métis. About 50 youth and seniors, from a wide range of backgrounds, came to listen to a presentation about Métis history delivered by MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson and participate in the activities.

They also enjoyed a menu of pea soup and wild rice with cranberry made by Professor Lewis. ∞



MNO Grand River Métis Council taught Métis beading and dot art to youth and seniors on Nov. 5.



More than 60 people turned out for the MNO Grand River Métis Council Christmas feast on Dec. 8.

MNO Grand River Métis Council Christmas feast

submitted by
Diane Kilby, Councilor
MNO Grand River Métis Council

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council invited MNO citizens and allies to join them in a celebratory Christmas feast on Dec. 8.

The council was able to rally after more than 60 people attended, which was almost double what was

expected. The council rose to the challenge to satisfy the appetites of all who attended.

There were also activities and games for kids and adults. One particular historic Métis game brought out the competitive spirits of some of the adults.

The council was pleased with the success of the day and is planning more feasts for 2019! Nothing beats good food, good music and good companionship. ∞

Hampers spread holiday cheer in Timmins

submitted by
Louise Cloutier
MNO Community Support Services Coordinator

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Health and Wellness staff in Timmins had the privilege of addressing the impacts of poverty, poor nutri-

tion and stress during the holidays by preparing the Christmas hampers for several clients.

The hampers were delivered to 20 Métis families the week before Christmas.

They included items such as turkeys, hams, potatoes, fresh vegetables, stuffing, cranberry sauce and all the fixings to help make their

“Without the Christmas hamper we wouldn't have had much of a Christmas”

season festive.

Each Christmas hamper delivered was greeted with a big smile and a thank you.

The hampers were well received and clients said it provided an opportunity for a great meal, and in some cases allowed them to purchase a few gifts for their families.

“Without the Christmas hamper

we wouldn't have had much of a Christmas,” said one client.

Staff from the MNO Community Support Services, Métis Family Wellbeing, Community Wellness Worker, Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children and Aging at Home programs were all involved in the initiative. ∞

MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council holds fifth Annual General Meeting

submitted by
Kezia Picard
MNO Toronto and York Region
Métis Council

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) held its fifth Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in the York Region.

The meeting, held Oct. 28, provided MNO citizens the chance to learn about past activities and future plans of the MNO TYRMC and to contribute any thoughts or ideas.

The AGM was officially called to order by Chair Todd Ross. President Tera Beaulieu then welcomed those in attendance.

Reports were brought forward by council representatives who lead on various committees. Key initiatives for 2019 include growing the council's social media presence, searching for new media outlets for publications, hosting a drum circle and a Rendezvous in 2019, building relationships with post-secondary institutions and sustaining Métis



MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council held its Annual General Meeting on Oct. 28. (left to right) MNO TYRMC Councilor Kezia Picard, Women's Representative Shirley Debassige, President Tera Beaulieu, Métis author Maia Caron, Chair Todd Ross, Secretary-Treasurer Marilyn Hew and Councilor Mike Berg.

representation on Indigenous Advisory Circles within Toronto and York Region.

The council also hopes to develop new relationships with lands and resource partners and host new community-based events with the help of three grants.

At the AGM, MNO TYRMC

also unveiled its new mission statement, which is "As part of the Métis Nation, we represent Métis people in Toronto and York regions. We aspire to provide cultural continuity, education and build healthy and reciprocal relationships in the spirit of reconciliation."

As well, it revealed a new vision

statement, which is "Métis people and the community of Toronto and York region are thriving, culturally vibrant and woven together like the threads of our sash."

The AGM keynote address was given by MNO citizen Maia Caron. Caron is the author of *Song of Ba-toche*, a historical fiction about the

Métis North-West Resistance of 1885. She shared some stories of her ancestors and how they inspired her to write. She spoke about her great-great grandmother Marguerite Dumas, who told Louis Riel if he didn't send ammunition to their men at the Battle of Tourond's Coulee, she'd go herself and her paternal great-great-grandfather, Pierre Parenteau Senior, who was Chairman of Riel's Provisional Government.

She also shared her journey of discovering her family history and Métis identity as she was doing research for her book, kicking off a discussion about the need to tell our stories as Métis people.

MNO TYRMC would like to express its sincere thanks to the MNO staff and to the Toronto and York Region citizens and community members for joining in celebrating its work over the past year, as well as providing direction and guidance for the coming year. It greatly looks forward to increasing Métis presence in the Toronto and York Region. ∞



MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council is shovel-ready for planting white oak trees on Georgian Bay Island National Parks property.

White oak trees planted by MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council

submitted by
Larry J. Ferris
MNO Georgian Bay Métis
Council Chair

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) completed another tree planting with Georgian Bay Islands National Parks.

Several large white oaks trees, which are endangered, were planted on Parks property, providing the trees with a safe place to grow for generations.

These trees were ready to produce acorns and will provide a seed orchard to promote generational growth of a forest on the surrounding property.

Several sugar maples were also planted and as Métis know, there are never enough sugar maples in the spring.

The council has planted butter-nuts, chestnuts and elm, as well as many other important species on Parks property to be sure that these trees don't disappear.

MNO GBMC's other partner was Ontario Power Generation, which financed the project. Without them, none of this would have been possible.

MNO GBMC would like to thank its President David Dusome, Chairperson Gwen Lindsey and PCMNO Senator Ray Bergie for coming out and supporting this effort. ∞



PCMNO Region 7 Councilor David Dusome breaking ground.

Our Brothers' Voyage

submitted by
Terry Lynn Longpre
MNO Community Wellness Worker

A series of eight workshops, aimed at encouraging men to speak out against violence in their communities, took place throughout November and December at the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) office in Thorold.

The workshops, called Our Brothers' Voyage, each focused on one of the seven sacred teachings and were related to a Métis specific cultural craft.

When moccasins were made, participants discussed humility.

Healing blankets represented love and bravery. The Métis dot art and talking sticks represented honesty and wisdom. Medicine bags and medicine walk symbolized respect and truth.

While working on the craft, participants discussed the teachings and also creating "good ripples," which are achievable exercises that the men will be able to carry out in their own communities.

Participants were fully committed to the series, learned cultural crafting and also gained insight into violence in their communities and how to speak out. ∞



Participants in the MNO's Our Brothers' Voyage workshops show off the talking sticks they made during one of the eight sessions held at the MNO office in Thorold.

MNO Grand River Métis Council offers workshops on self-defense and baking

Submitted by
Colleen Brunelle
MNO Grand River Métis Council
Women's Representative

On June 16 and 17 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) offered workshops on self-defense and diabetic baking. Women's Representative for MNO GRMC Colleen Brunelle organized two days of workshops with Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Métis Liaison Cpl. Cheryle Hayden in partnership with MNO Family Wellness Coordinator Sam Cressman.

The workshops were chosen by citizens through a social media poll using a host of potential training subjects offered by Cpl. Hayden. During the Women's Self-Defense and Personal Safety workshop, participants had the opportunity to learn how to protect themselves in the event of a physical confrontation. Participants ranged in age from eight years old to seniors as people of all physical fitness levels were welcomed. Women were educated in the basic techniques to disable an attacker. The focus was on taking advantage of the time and space needed to make a quick escape. Participants



Participants in the Women's Self-Defense and Personal Safety workshop learn how to protect themselves during a physical confrontation. The workshop was hosted by MNO Grand River Métis Council and taught by RCMP Métis Liaison Cpl. Cheryle Hayden.

also shared that their new-found knowledge empowered them to feel less anxious in certain situations moving forward. The second workshop, Healthy Choices and Diabetic Tips, was offered to help those living in the

community with diabetes and pre-diabetes to understand baking with sugar substitutes and healthy alternatives. This hands-on workshop involved baking in the kitchen and a copy of the Healthy Bites recipe. The MNO Grand River Métis

Council would like to thank Cpl. Hayden and MNO Family Wellness Coordinator Sam Cressman in assisting us to offer these learning opportunities in such a fun and engaging way. ∞



Healthy Bites

courtesy of
Cpl. Cheryle Hayden

- Ingredients:**
- 4 ripe bananas
 - 1 cup quick oats
 - ½ cup sugar free chocolate chips
 - 3 heaping tbsps. natural chunky peanut butter
 - ½ cup diced dates
 - ½ cup unsweetened cranberries
 - ½ cup large flake unsweetened coconut
 - 1/3 cup roasted pumpkin seeds
 - ¼ cup pea protein
 - ¼ cup chia seed

Directions:
Mix it all together, roll into balls and flatten slightly. Place on cookie sheet lightly coated with cooking spray. Bake at 350 for 15 minutes. Yield: approx. 15 pieces.



MNO North Channel Métis Council organizes lotion workshop

MNO North Channel Métis Council organized a lotion workshop for the Métis community on March 4. The workshop began with a meal from Touch of Home and then the fun began. Everyone went home with a jar of their choice of lotion, using different oils, beeswax and essential oils. Organized by the council's Women's Representative Michelle McCoy, she enlisted the help of local business Ojibway Natural to teach participants. The workshop was instructed by Nangoons Wabegijig. Submitted by **Yvonne Jensen**, MNO North Channel Métis Council President



Healthy food items were the prizes for Nutrition Bingo at the MNO office in Windsor on Jan. 22.

MNO nutrition bingo held in Windsor

submitted by
Audrey Bayliss
MNO Community Wellness Coordinator

Ten people gathered to play Nutrition Bingo at the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) office in Windsor, on Jan. 22. To play, participants designed their own bingo cards during a discussion on healthy food choices. Everyone was given the Canada's Food Guide Eat Well Plate, which shows how a healthy meal should be divided into fruits and vegetables, whole grains and protein, as well as a booklet from the Erie St. Clair Regional Cancer Program called Your Health Matters. Participants were encouraged to discuss

the booklet and plate with their family and friends to help spread knowledge on the importance of living a healthy lifestyle. All participants had the opportunity to win a variety of food items to take home and prepare healthy meals for themselves or their families. The event was hosted by MNO Community Wellness Program and Métis Family Wellbeing Program. MNO Community Wellness Coordinator Audrey Bayliss and MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator Layne Hoskins already plan to work on designing a similar event next winter to bring participants together during the bleak mid-winter weather and provide nutritional reminders on how to prepare and eat a holistic diet. ∞

MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council marks Powley and Remembrance days

submitted by
Benny Michaud
Past President
MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Ottawa Region Métis Council (ORMC) had an active fall season with events commemorating the Powley decision and Remembrance Day.

MNO ORMC representatives and MNO citizens met at the Wabano Centre in Ottawa to mark Powley Day on Sept. 23, 2018.

Tony Belcourt, founding President of the MNO, was the distinguished guest of honour. He provided his firsthand account of the Powley decision and what it means for Métis people in Ottawa and Ontario.

MNO ORMC was very appreciative of the time Belcourt spent with us; it is a rare opportunity to listen to a person who has truly made history. Council representatives also celebrated their Métis culture



(left)
The MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council held a Powley Day event with founding President Tony Belcourt as the guest speaker.

and heritage and remembered the sacrifice of the Powley family.

The event also provided an opportunity for everyone to reflect with pride on the many momentous and

historic achievements made in the Métis Nation.

On Nov. 11, 2018 at 9:00 a.m., MNO ORMC participated in the Aboriginal Veterans Remembrance

Day Ceremony at the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument in Confederation Park. The ceremony brought local Aboriginal veterans together to remember the sacrifices

of all veterans and places special emphasis on Indigenous ones. The ceremony included women drumming and singing and the MNO Veterans' Council presented a wreath on behalf of the MNO.

The MNO ORMC and the MNO Veterans' Council were honoured to be joined by Canadian Senator Yvonne Boyer, who is also a MNO citizen, and MNO Honorary Senator Reta Gordon.

The MNO ORMC wishes to thank the citizens who participated in our fall activities and looks forward to seeing citizens in the coming months and at its Annual General Meeting on Feb. 9, 2019. ∞

MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council holds lands and resources symposium

written by
Darlene Braz

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) hosted its Lands and Resources Symposium at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Kleinburg on Oct. 28.

The goal of the symposium was to tell citizens about the lands and resources-based initiatives in the region that the council has engaged in over the last year.

This year's theme was "Honouring the Land and Our Ancestors" and attendees heard from several guest speakers from the Toronto and York Region.

Among the invited speakers was Jonathan Araujo from the Centre for Indigenous Innovation and Entrepreneurship. He spoke about a space that is set to open in Toronto later next year that will serve as a cultural and technological hub for Indigenous people.

Arlen Leeming, of the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority, discussed natural revitalization projects in the city with an emphasis on water reservoirs. Next, Janet Sumner, of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, talked about her work on environmental sustainability while incorporating social and economic factors. She also highlighted some upcoming volunteer opportunities for attendees to get involved in.

Following a break for questions and coffee, participants were led in a gallery tour focusing on the Indigenous art pieces displayed in the McMichael art collection. ∞



Janet Sumner speaks at Lands and Resources Symposium on Oct. 28, 2018.

MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council shows off renovated office

submitted by
Donna Grayer
President
MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council (WEKMC) opened its doors on Dec. 5 to show off its newly renovated offices, MNO programs and introduce the community to council representatives.

Invitations were sent out to all local school boards, police, fire and rescue, universities and colleges, local unions, the Children's Aid Society, elected officials, museums and other Indigenous agencies and groups.

The event was a huge success with lots of visitors and good conversations. The goal of the event was to build good connections with the community, as well as share the resources that are available to MNO citizens.

The food was excellent and the MNO WEKMC would like to thank its guest



MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Councilor Garry Lovell, Unifor 444 representative Sue McKinnon and Women's Rep Sharlene Lance were among those who attended the council's open house on Dec. 5.

from Saskatchewan for the bannock and fry bread.

There were talks about the office being used for tutoring, as well as a Coffee with Cops opportunity.

The Women Representative from Unifor local 444 was gifted a sash from MNO WEKMC Women's Representative Sharlene Lance, who enjoyed conversations with many in attendance.

Senator Jim Turner kept the stories going at the council table, and of course the laughs.

MNO Veterans' Council Women's Representative Shelly Claus brought in information about the Veterans' Council to be displayed.

The help of MNO staff with food and answering questions about programs was greatly appreciated, as is their hard work within the community.

Plans are already underway for a second open house for those who could not attend. ∞

Reducing isolation through a Seniors Sharing Circle in Sudbury

submitted by
Nancy Martel, MNO Community Support Service Coordinator

Five seniors gathered on Nov. 28, to make Christmas centrepieces during a Seniors Sharing Circle at the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) office in Sudbury.

Prior to making the centrepieces, each person was asked to put their hand in a bag and take out one inspirational stone. On the stones there were words such as love, laugh, wish, hope and dream. Participants were asked to keep the word they selected in mind and share a story on that word during the activity.

The workshop's goal was to reduce

isolation by getting seniors out of the house and engaging with others.

Social isolation impacts quality of life. It increases the risk of developing mental health issues and has an impact on the person's self-esteem and confidence, and consequently can perpetuate isolation.

An important component to seniors' well-being is having an effective support system and social supports encourage feelings of self-worth and self-esteem.

For those who could not attend the workshop, MNO staff brought the activity to their homes. ∞



Florence Lortie makes a Christmas centrepiece as part of a program offered to reduce isolation of seniors in Sudbury.

MNO citizens begin process to found MNO Council in Barrie

submitted by
Joanne Meyer
MNO Chief Operating Officer

Sixty people gathered to discuss the possibility of founding a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) chartered council in Barrie.

The MNO sent a call out to MNO citizens in the Barrie area asking interested individuals to attend a meeting on Oct. 15, and the response was overwhelming.

During the meeting, a working group was established to develop the Community Code, Charter Agreement and other governance items prior to the elections for the new council.

These documents outline the rules and regulations for conducting

council business and for ensuring accountability through good fiscal management.

MNO community councils play an important role in fostering community empowerment, engagement and development for Métis citizens.

The council will be the fifth in Region Seven, which is also home to the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council, MNO Great Lakes Métis Council, MNO Moon River Métis Council and MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council.

NOTE: Just before this issue of *Métis Voyageur* went to print the MNO Barrie-South Simcoe Métis Council signed its charter! Watch for more information in our next issue and at www.metisnation.org.



A working group was established to move forward with the founding of a new MNO community council in Barrie. The members of the working group include: (Back Row, Left to Right) **Ryan Trudeau, Monica Poirier, Randy Gilchrist, Annie Pilon, Cindy Kennedy McNulty, Danielle Collander, Julieann McCoy, Avalon McCoy, Mila, MNO President Margaret Froh, Maureen Smith,** (Front Row Left to Right) **Lisa Bellisle, Region 7 Councilor Pauline Richardson, and Karey-Anne Fannan.**



MNO citizen Cameron Parkinson teaches students at the Turtle Island Heritage Festival how to use and aim a slingshot.

MNO Grand River Métis participate in Turtle Island Heritage Festival

submitted by
Alicia Hamilton, Chair
MNO Grand River Métis Council

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) ran two great events, April 23-26, at the Turtle Island Heritage Festival.

The festival was held at the Wellington County Museum in Fergus, Ont., in partnership with the Upper Grand District School Board. The festival is a celebration of Métis, First Nations and Inuit art, music and culture.

The students rotated through several Indigenous-focused activities so they could learn history or a traditional art form, such as drumming or finger weaving.

MNO GRMC taught finger weaving and Métis games, which

the children thoroughly enjoyed learning. They came away with their own bracelet from the finger weaving session and a greater appreciation for the strength and agility of the Métis people after playing poison circle, participating in a grain sack relay and learning to use and aim a sling shot.

Approximately 360 students, from Grades 6-8 attended each day of the festival.

Throughout the school year, MNO GRMC visits dozens of schools in the region and students who learned dot art had the opportunity to have their artwork displayed at the Wellington County Museum for the month of April. Students and their families were invited to an official art show opening during the festival. It is a wonderful opportunity for students to show off their beautiful artwork. ∞

Making the Grade (Métis style!)

A unique collaboration pairs Métis design with mathematics curriculum

by
MNO Staff

A new collaboration is teaching students about Métis culture in an unexpected context: math class.

Synthesizing Métis beading techniques with mathematic charts and formulas, students are engaging both right and left brain as they learn to weave their very own beaded bracelets.

Introduced as a pilot project in May 2018 to a fifth grade class in the Upper Grand District School Board, it was an immediate success. The program is a collective effort between project founder Ruth Beatty, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council's President Jennifer Parkinson and Treasurer Leslie Anne Muma, and other local leaders including math coach Bonnie Sears, and curriculum leader for First Nation Métis and Inuit education, Colinda Clyne. Together, they work to ensure a culturally sensitive, engaging and meaningful lesson.

Ruth Beatty, founder of the project, said the project demonstrates the connections between cultural designs and activities, such as beaded bracelets, and the math being taught in Ontario school's curricula. In these projects, students explore loomwork (an Anishinaabe activity) but informed by principles of Métis design.

By applying a cultural dimension to the lessons, complex concepts like spatial reasoning, patterning and algebraic reasoning, and two-dimensional transformations become more accessible -- and fun!

Along with an introductory lesson of the mathematical



Students use pencil crayons to colour in their design pattern, deciding on a core and how it will repeat.

concepts, Métis leaders like Parkinson and Muma facilitate Métis-specific history discussions and lend their expertise to ensure that the cultural component to the lessons are equally represented.

While Muma provides various floral designs and potential patterns for the loom, Parkinson presents Métis 101 lessons to students.

"Going into these classrooms, we aim to provide students with an overview of Métis history and culture, which includes the symbolism of the materials used in loom beading, such as concepts like the 'spirit bead' or the significance of the animal hide necessary for lacing," describes Parkinson.

Parkinson also remarks how students were so engrossed in their work that staff often had to remind them to take breaks to eat and exercise. But despite their intense concentration, the students were also quick to assist their

peers, whether with the math or the beading, and frequently shared their appreciation with instructors.

"Some of the students we worked with last year stated that the project was the best thing they had done all year, and that was because of the learning from the Métis artists," shared Beatty. "And the mathematics the students learn is done in a context of creating something important to them - so they care about figuring out how long their bracelet has to be, for example, or how to determine the unit of repeat and then reflect their design because it's meaningful."

The work being done in Upper Grand School District constitutes one of several research sites across Ontario. A five-day version of the program was recently held in January for a grade six class of 48 students and more upcoming workshops have also been scheduled for this spring. ∞

ACROSS OUR COMMUNITY



A real honour

MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council Senator Ken Simard (centre) attended the installation of Lakehead University's Seventh President and Vice-Chancellor, Moira McPherson (left) and the Conferring of an Honourary Degree (Doctor of Humane Letters) to Ron MacLean (right). The ceremony took place in the Lakehead University Hangar on Sept. 22, and also featured a presentation of the Academic All-Canadian Athletic Awards. submitted by **Ken Simard**, MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council Senator. photo by **Janet Fuchek**



Promoting Métis

MNO Niagara Region Métis Council Senator Garry Laframboise (second from left) took the opportunity to promote Métis priorities with Welland Regional Councilor Paul Grenier, Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland and MNO citizen MP for Niagara Centre Vance Badawey on Nov. 15. submitted by **Garry Laframboise**, MNO Niagara Region Métis Council Senator



Shawl workshop

On Oct. 16, the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Ladies Circle held a shawl making workshop facilitated by PCMNO Region 7 Women's Representative Patricia Taylor. Pictured (left to right) PCMNO Region 7 Women's Representative Patricia Taylor, Linda Lacroix, Lorraine Lacroix, Mary Crawford, Vicki Jenkins, Nancy Willette, Rose Cadeau and Barb Beaman. submitted by **Lorraine Mountney**, Secretary MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council



Tacos and bannock: MNO North Channel Métis Council meets with Senator Boyer

Thirteen people attended the Nov. 15, taco in a bag workshop led by MNO North Channel Métis Council Women's Representative Michelle McCoy Smith in Blind River. The feast included chili, tacos and dessert bannock with strawberries and whipped cream, which the children helped make. It was a great evening; everyone left with their tummies full and with a new understanding of bannock. submitted by **Yvonne Jensen**, MNO North Channel Métis Council President



Proudly carrying the Métis flag

Grade 5 student Colton Kozak carries the Métis flag during the Grand Entry at the Kenora Catholic School Board's winter powwow, held March 1 at Pope John Paul II School.

submitted by **Nina Henley**
MNO Kenora Métis Council Secretary



MNO partners with Bytown Museum for celebration of Métis culture in Ottawa

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the Bytown Museum partnered for a celebration of Métis culture during Ottawa's Winterlude on Feb. 9. The event included a jigging demonstration by Brad Lafortune, Métis themed ice carving and a beading demonstration organized by the MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council. The council also provided information about MNO programs and services and set up a display of furs and Métis beading.



MNO Veteran receives Quilt of Valour

MNO veteran retired Sgt. Harvey Horlock, of the Toronto Scottish Regiment, was presented with a Quilt of Valour by Virginia Rothwell. Horlock's granddaughter Sheyanne played the drum and sang with Horlock. Davy Jones performed a smudge while members of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 10 looked on. Quilts Of Valour - Canada acknowledges the significant contribution made by injured Canadian Armed Forces members and veterans with specially designed quilts. Submitted by **Marilyn Lawson**, Royal Canadian Legion District 'D' Service Officer



Christmas cards for Canadian soldiers

During the MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council Louis Riel Day event, attendees wrote Christmas cards for soldiers, which were supplied by MNO WEKMC Women's Rep Sharlene Lance and MNO Veterans' Council Women's Rep Shelly Claus. The pair also gave suggestions about items that could be sent in boxes along with the cards. Claus remarked in preparing the cards, "I was in the Golan Heights during the holidays and when I received cards/packages from people I didn't know, well it was very touching. To know that strangers at home were thinking about us that were away from home. It can be very lonely for some and they do have a hard time." Submitted by **Donna Grayer**, President MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council



Peterborough paints the night away

MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council hosted a Paint Night event with the Art School of Peterborough on December 12. Approximately 15 people attend the event, painting a landscape featuring a canoe on the water. The evening was enjoyed by all who attended and each person was able to bring home their own unique piece of art at the end of the night. Submitted by **Christa Lemelin**, MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council Chair

OBITUARIES



William Alfred (Bill) Ellis 1926- 2018

Bill Ellis, pictured with his wife Dora, will be remembered for his service to Canada during the Second World War and for attending MNO Annual General Assemblies where he taught spoons and bones workshops.

Second World War Métis Veteran and former Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Senator Bill Ellis passed away on Sept. 28, 2018 at the age of 92 with his children by his side.

Bill will be remembered at the MNO for his service to Canada and for attending MNO Annual General Assemblies where he taught spoons and bones workshops with his wife Dora. In 2016, for Bill's 90th birthday, he was presented with a certificate from the MNO Veterans' Council commemorating the milestone and thanking him for his service.

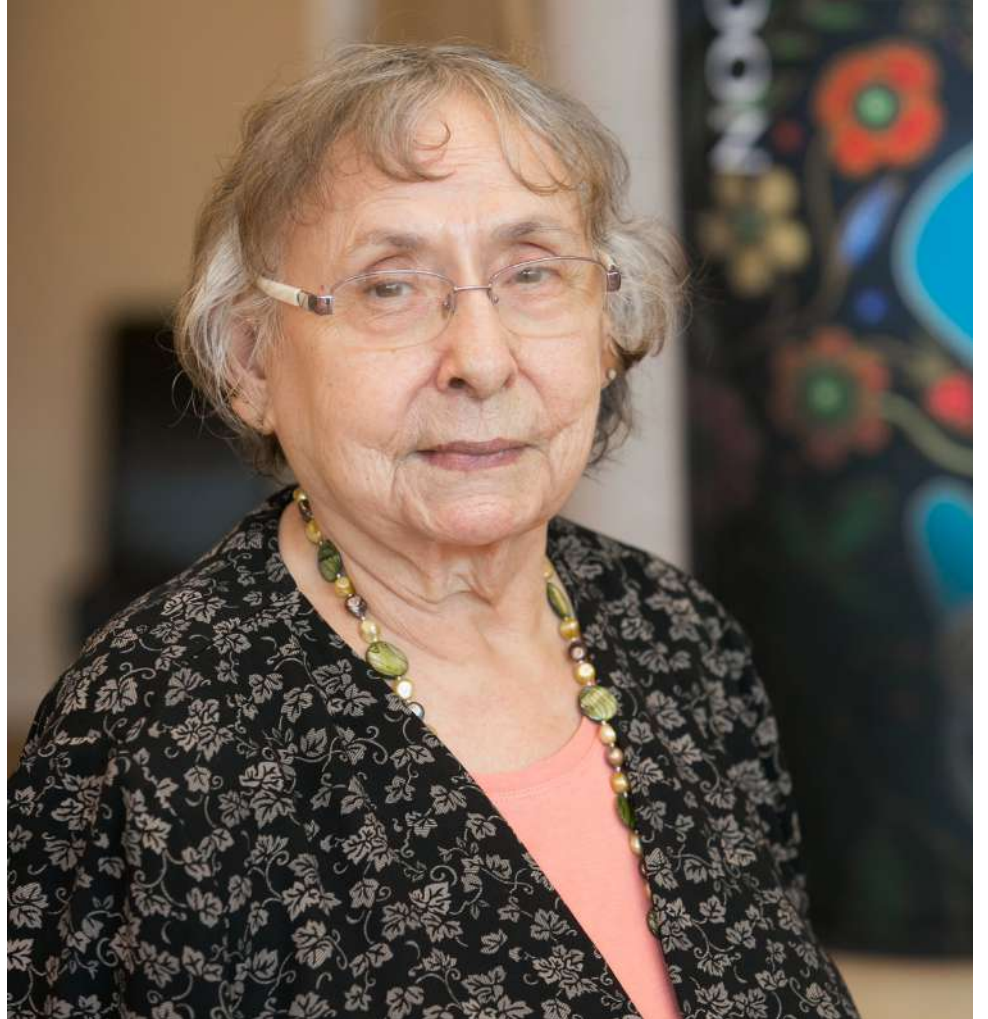
He is survived by his devoted partner and best friend Dora, daughter Monica, his five

children, Glenn (Liz), Murray, Ken Danna), Carol (Don) and Kim. Grandchildren; Gillian (Phil), Mandie (Nicholas), Christopher (Chelsea) Kristen (Kyle), Rowan, Meagan, David, Matthew, Mark (deceased), Steve, Ryan, Tyler and Aaron. Great-Grandchildren; Seraphina, Mackenzie, Kiely, Alison, Paige, Rylen (deceased), Cian, Oliver, Sam, Tyson, Selma, Logan and Aleena.

Bill was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 68 Penetanguishene. He was a Service Bureau Officer and a Senator for the Métis Nation of Ontario.

Most of all his passion for was playing his Rhythm Bones to fiddle music with his brother-in-law Jerry and friends. His big smile and a proud man, may the spirit journey you home safely.

submitted by **Greg Garratt**
President, MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council



Jo (Josephine) MacQuarrie 1934 - 2019

Métis Elder, nurse, community activist, volunteer and Ottawa Police Chaplain, Jo (Josephine) MacQuarrie died March 13, 2019 after a brief illness.

Jo was a Community Outreach Liaison for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) in Ottawa and also worked as a Knowledge Translation Consultant.

"I was recognized as a Métis elder by the Metis Nation of Ontario a few years ago," said Jo in a presentation at Carleton University in 2017. "And I thought I couldn't be an elder because I wasn't old enough. But they said, 'It's not about age, it's about wisdom,' and I thought, I can do that. So I accepted the honour."

She represented the MNO on a number of boards and committees, including the Ottawa Police Service Spiritual Team (as a Chaplain), Gignul non-profit housing, the Carleton University Elder's Council and the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition. She provided spiritual guidance for MNO staff and citizens and always provided insights and support during her opening and closing prayers.

"The entire Métis Nation of Ontario is grieving with the family of Jo MacQuarrie and will remember her for providing much needed spiritual and cultural guidance," stated MNO President Margaret Froh. "Our nation is stronger because of Jo's work and presence. She will be missed."

On moving to Ottawa in 1998, Jo quickly became involved in the city's Indigenous community and health programs. In 2014, she co-authored a study on Ontario Métis having a higher prevalence of asthma with other MNO citizens and staff and the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences.

"Jo MacQuarrie was at the very heart of the Métis community in Ottawa. Not only did she work with organizations throughout the city to increase awareness about Métis culture and traditions, she also worked tirelessly within the community to support Métis youth," said MNO citizen and former MNO Ottawa Métis Council President Benny Michaud.

"With a quick wit and dry sense of

humour, Jo encouraged us to be proud of who we are as Métis people. She was someone who showed us all how to work hard and never take ourselves too seriously. She was deeply loved and will be missed by so many."

Jo was born and raised in Alberta, daughter of Louis Solway (Salois) and Justine Laboucane. She moved to the Canadian North in 1966 where she spent more than 30 years living throughout the Northwest Territories and present-day Nunavut. A Registered Nurse, with post graduate studies in Psychiatric Nursing and Community Development, she devoted her life to the health and well-being of others.

She founded the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Chapters of the Canadian Mental Health Association, was a social advocate participant in the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline hearings, served three terms on Yellowknife City Council, and was Chief Coroner of the Northwest Territories. She was instrumental in the establishment of the Keewatin and Kitikmeot Regional Health Boards and was the first to begin helping Inuit families find their loved ones who had been taken away to southern Canada for health treatment, never to return.

Jo is remembered with love and pride by her four children and spouses Catherine (Clive Tesar), Don, Ken (Yoshie Nozaki) and Doug (Stephanie Carbert), and by her five grandchildren, Alexander, Julia, Mairin, Lindsay and Kouta. Her children said "The greatest gift our mom and grandma gave us was a deep respect for human beings, in all their diversity."

Her children are very grateful for the excellent and compassionate care she received at the Civic Hospital and at Elizabeth Bruyere, and for the visits and messages of support from her many friends and colleagues.

A celebration of Jo's life will be organized in Ottawa in late April. She will be buried among family in Camrose, Alta. For those who wish, donations can be made in her name to the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health.

Long-time Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) employee Janet (October) Fostey will be remembered for her laugh, dedication to her clients and advocacy for Métis people.

October, 68, passed away on Feb. 13, 2019. She was the loving wife of Steve for 36 wonderful years, mother to Jason Haney (Rayna) and Tiffany Haney (Paul), sister to Kathy Bignall and Gary Robinson and godmother to Jessie Allison.

"On behalf of the Provisional Council of the MNO, I want to express my heartfelt condolences to October's family," said President Margaret Froh.

October began working with the MNO in 2005, in Windsor, working as what's now known as a Métis Healthy Baby Healthy Children Coordinator.

"She was a tireless advocate for Métis people and their families, her contributions will always be felt and treasured by the community," stated MNO Chief Operating Officer Joanne Meyer.

"October was a huge part of the community," said MNO Windsor Essex-Kent Métis Council President Donna Grayer. "She was a strong voice for families and for Métis inclusion. She made sure Métis were always included." Grayer added October was spirited, funny and was always laughing. "She was an amazing woman,

will be missed by many."

October helped her clients with whatever they needed. Back in 2013, she was an instrumental part of creating the Métis Baby Bundle Book, spending time with traditional knowledge holders who shared their stories about family and parenting.

Lynne Picotte, MNO Manager of Quality Assurance, said October was an excellent advocate for her clients and had a lot of wisdom that she didn't hesitate to share.

"She fought hard for parents and their children. She was awesome," Picotte said. "Her passing is a loss for the MNO; she was loved."

As MNO Windsor Essex-Kent Métis Council Senator Jim Turner got to know October, he found she was one-of-a-kind and had a warm spirit.

"She was always laughing and making people feel good," he said. "Being around her was like sitting around a warm fire. She was warm and upbeat and her spirit radiated that warmth."

He added, "I know her clients are really going to miss her. I loved her to bits, and so did everyone else."

The MNO extends sincere condolences to the family and will treasure the many wonderful memories of October.

A celebration of October's life was held in Windsor on Feb. 18 hosted by the Skana Family Learning Centre and the Métis Nation of Ontario.



**Janet
"October"
Fostey**



MNO Consultation Committee continues work with Vale

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region 5 Consultation Committee meets with Vale Canada Ltd. biannually to keep apprised of the company's operations and promote the wellbeing of Métis citizens in the Sudbury area.

Vale is a household name in the region, as the operator of six mines, a smelter, a mill and a refinery in the Sudbury basin, producing nickel, copper, cobalt, platinum products, gold and silver.

The MNO Mattawa/ Lake Nipissing Traditional Territory (Region 5) Consultation Committee was pleased to hear Vale's announcement in September 2018 of the completion of its \$1 billion Clean AER (Atmospheric Emission Reduction) Project, which greatly reduces the company's environmental footprint. According to Vale, the Clean AER Project is the largest single environmental investment in Sudbury's history, achieving an 85 per cent reduction in previous sulphur dioxide emissions and a 40 per cent reduction in metal particulate emissions.

These environmental goals are being achieved through infrastructural changes, including the construction of two new converters, a wet gas cleaning plant, a new secondary baghouse and fan building and reconstruction of the smelter converter flues. In addition, two new 137-metre stacks are currently being constructed in the Copper Cliff Smelter, which will require far less energy to operate than the Superstack and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the Smelter by approximately 40 per cent. Following construction of the concrete shells, steel liners will be installed in the new stacks in 2019. In 2020, the Superstack's steel liner will be removed and the Superstack will be taken out of service and placed into care and maintenance. It is expected that removal of the concrete shell will begin thereafter and continue over several years.

In addition to its positive environmental impact, the Clean AER Project has generated local economic benefit for local suppliers and the community, with approximately 550 construction jobs created to date.



Powley Day - September 19

Powley Day marked at the University of Guelph

submitted by
Jennifer Parkinson
President
MNO Grand River Métis Council

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) partnered with the University of Guelph for a Powley Day Celebration on Sept. 19.

Many staff and students gathered in front of the University Centre to watch as the Métis flag was raised in honour of Steve Powley.

Special guests included the Vice Provost of the University Carrie Chassels and Guelph's Mayor Cam Guthrie, who said spoke about Powley Day and the relationship between the city and the MNO GRMC.

MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson told those in attendance about the significance of the Powley Case and the impact it has had on the Métis Nation.

Métis fiddler Rajan Anderson, with his mother Kim Anderson on keyboard, provided traditional Métis music and some jigging lessons for anyone wishing to learn. Many jiggers, including MNO GRMC Chair Alicia Hamilton, joined in the celebration.

Guests then moved to the Aboriginal Resource Centre for pea soup, bannock and great conversation.



Fiddler Rajan Anderson and Professor Kim Anderson dance the jig outside the University of Guelph for Powley Day.

The MNO GRMC would like to thank Chelsea Brant, of the University of Guelph Aboriginal Resource Centre, for organizing the Powley

Day event. Thank you also to the University of Guelph for its support in making the celebration a success. ∞

MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council hosts first-ever Powley Day Celebration

submitted by
Kezia Picard
MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Councilor

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TYRMC) hosted its first-ever Powley Day Celebration at Black Creek Community Farm on Sept. 23.

The event featured lunch provided by NishDish, cultural teachings from the MNO Credit River Métis Council, bannock making over a fire, vegetable harvesting and a game meat giveaway.

The MNO TYRMC Powley Day Celebration focused on Métis people's right to harvest, so the outdoor setting felt particularly appropriate. The event began with MNO Oshawa and Durham Métis Council Senator Cecile Wagar leading a prayer and she was followed by MNO TYRMC Chair Todd Ross, who explained the importance of Powley Day.

He described how, Steve Powley, tired of hunting at night to avoid conservation officers, openly harvested a moose in his back-



Powley Day was celebrated with lunch, cultural teachings, bannock and more at an event hosted by the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council.

yard. While Powley was initially charged, after many court battles, the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously voted that Métis communities have the right to harvest and that right is protected by Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. This day commemorates Powley's fight to protect Métis way of life for future generations.

Cultural teachings were provided by MNO Credit River Métis Council Senator Jim Tolles and his son, Steve Tolles. These teachings emphasized how Métis people utilize every piece of the animals and plants that are harvested. Senator Tolles shared

how Métis made canoes out of birch and would use spruce roots to tie the material together and animal fat to cover the holes. After his presentation, participants were given the opportunity to see and touch some of the displays that he brought such as fur, trapping equipment and some of the other ingenious tools used by Métis.

After the presentation, participants harvested some kale or squash from the Black Creek Community Farm and made bannock over a fire. They also went home with some bison, Guinea hen, and venison from the game meat giveaway. ∞



Métis students spend March Break experiencing
their culture and learning about post-secondary options

March Break Camp '19

At the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Infinite Reach March Break Camp, the high school participants can hardly contain their excitement. During breaks and activities, they share stories and conversation with their old and new-found friends.

But, as the MNO Infinite Reach Facilitators, current upper year post-secondary students, take the floor to talk about their path to college and university, all the chatter fades.

"It's an important aspect of the camp because the students gain more knowledge and insight into what it's currently like in post-secondary school and the students seem to really crave that information," said MNO Education Officer Alicia Blore. "The room will go silent when the Infinite Reach Facilitators start talking just because they are the role models, they have the information and they know best what they are experiencing currently."

This year's Infinite Reach Facilitators included Elijah Cadarette, Samantha Lavallee, Bree Johnson and Lindsay Gammon.

The camp takes place each year in Mattawa, at the Canadian Ecology Centre on the shore of the Mattawa River, a historic thoroughfare for Métis voyageurs.

The five-day camp presented 20 students in Grades 10-12 to some of their post-secondary options, including careers in the military and trades, as well as college and university. They were provided with information about application processes, budgeting, scholarships and supports from the MNO. The information sessions are combined with cultural experi-



Scenes from the 2019 MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp.

ences including Métis food, crafts, music and games. The campers were also visited by Roger Labelle and MNO Mattawa Métis Council President Nelson Montreuil, who taught them lessons in skinning and stretching pelts, as well as setting snares and traps.



"Some of these youth come from cities where they don't have access to the land. Other ones who do have access to the land may not have access to information about employment or post-secondary opportunities; it's kind of a mix. Everyone is coming here learning and

sharing information," Blore said.

First-time camper Laura Polischuk, a Grade 11 student from Kenora, wanted to meet more Métis youth and found that she learned a lot about her Métis background as well as her post-secondary options.

"Being a Métis youth is just being a part of a huge community. It's knowing you have a place that you belong and fit in," she said.

"Opportunities like this are really important for Métis youth because it makes them more aware of different things that are happening in our province with Métis and gives you more opportunities for your future."

"I really wanted to come to this camp this year," said fellow first-time camper Luc Couture, from Sudbury. "It's my first year and I got to meet new people and learn more about my culture. The people were very friendly and I made a lot of friends," he said.

The network of Métis youth that is created from MNO activities and camps, including this one, is important for participants.

"I think opportunities like this and other camps that run through the MNO are really important for Métis youth to connect to their culture, to connect to the land and to connect to one another and to really build those communities of Métis youth that are strong throughout the province," said Infinite Reach Facilitator Bree Johnson.

Samantha Lavallee added, "I wish I did it when I was younger; I hope this program only continues to grow in the future."

For more photos of this year's camp, visit the MNO Facebook page. ∞

Infinite ∞ Reach: A network of Métis learners

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Infinite Reach Student Solidarity Network keeps students connected to their Métis peers and culture as they pursue post-secondary options and many leave home for the first time.

This year, there were 29 Infinite Reach facilitators at different colleges and universities spread across the province. Facilitators are upper year students who help incoming students adjust to university life. They act as student representatives from the MNO.

"Our role there is to have different events that talk about Métis culture and raise awareness, to give a Métis voice to the campus. That way other Métis students, who are going into these postsecondary institutions, can feel that Métis presence and feel welcome and feel that Métis sense of community," said Infinite Reach Facilitator Breena Johnson, who attends Brock University.

"I think it's really important to create that strong representation of Métis so that other Métis youth can

identify with that and so the greater population can really understand who we are as Métis."

Infinite Reach Facilitators organize events like beading nights, attend powwows or other events at the school to provide information about the MNO and the Infinite Reach network.

"We let people know that we are there and can help them and be a support system to Métis youth who are coming into university," said Samantha Lavallee, an Infinite Reach Facilitator at Nipissing University

during a presentation to upper-year high school students at the Infinite Reach March Break Camp this year.

The Facilitators spoke about challenges that students might face -- being away from your community, family and friends, and being unsure about whether the school or programs are the best fit.

"It's a growth experience," said Johnson. You can do it. I had a hard time first year, but now I'm a lot more confident. You learn and adapt and grow. And growing is always a bit painful."



MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator Samantha Lavallee (centre) talks about her post-secondary experience during the 2019 March Break Camp.

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ACHIEVEMENTS

Métis students honoured for academic achievement

submitted by
Theresa Stenlund
PCMNO Region 1 Councilor

Three Métis students were recently honoured for their academic achievement by receiving the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Academic Achievement Award.

Grade 10 student Laura Polischuk, Grade 11 student Matthew Camire and Grade 9 student Emma Manzie received the award on Oct. 17 at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Kenora.

"I am very honoured to have earned this award; it has motivated me to continue to always try my best and work even harder. It was a special honour to be recognized with two other Métis students," said

Polischuk.

Each year the Kenora Catholic District School Board honours students in high school for their achievements in sports, arts and academics.

Several other awards were also handed out to Métis students at the school. Among them was Katelyne Stenlund, who received an award for personal and fitness activities during the 2017-2018 school year.

"I was in attendance as a parent, but was proud to see that so many of our Métis youth are excelling in school and that they are being acknowledged and recognized for their achievements as other awards were issued that day," said Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario Region 1 Councilor Theresa Stenlund.



Métis students Laura Polischuk, Matthew Camire and Emma Manzie received the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Academic Achievement Award on Oct. 17 at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Kenora.

MNO citizen wins prestigious music scholarship

written by **Liam Buckley**
This article originally appeared at
<https://www.fsu.ca/interrobang.php?storyID=14195>

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Jenna Bjornson was recently awarded the prestigious MusiCounts 2018 Scholarship, through which she received \$4,000 and a five-day mentorship program in Toronto.

Only six of these awards were given out across all of Canada this year to industry students who demonstrated excellence and a commitment to their craft.

The award was given to people specializing in one of several streams including, music production/ engineering, music business and performance.

Bjornson, a graduate of Fanshawe's Music Industry Arts (MIA) program, was one of only two students nominated in the business stream. She said she was honoured to receive the award and that when she heard the news of this scholarship she was "shocked and surprised."

MIA program coordinator, Dan Brodbeck remembered Bjornson's time at Fanshawe and recalled the mutual respect that all MIA professors had for her.

"When we gave her tasks to do they were performed like a professional would perform them. Even though stuff gets really rough around here she could handle it," Brodbeck said, referring to the extra level of responsibility Bjornson had to take on independently for extra-curricular



MNO citizen and Fanshawe alumna, Jenna Bjornson (centre) received the 2018 MusiCounts Scholarship from MusiCounts President and CEO Allan Reid and Executive Director Kristy Fletcher. Photo by Rish Cassling

projects during her final year, due to the faculty strike.

During the mentorship, students were taken to various industry facilities in Toronto, including, Spotify Offices, Noble Street Studios, Roy Thompson Hall, Coalition Music, Dine Alone Records and many more.

Although the trips to these locations were important, Bjornson shared that the biggest takeaway she got from the program was the relationships formed with others in the program as well as industry professionals.

During the mentorship portion, the winners heard from and were introduced to major figures in the music industry such as Allan Reid, President and CEO of the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS), JUNO Award-winning recording engineer John 'Beetle' Bailey, Nathan Wiszniak, Head of Canada, Artist and Label Marketing, Spotify and Jennifer Hyland, senior manager of Music Licensing / TV & Film Sync.

This served as a huge benefit to Bjornson's network within the industry.

"Now I have connections all across the country and I got to meet a bunch of really cool people who I will, hopefully, be seeing in the industry for the rest of my life," Bjornson said.

Bjornson also said how important it is that young people have programs such as MusiCounts supporting them from the beginning of their career.

"This industry is so hard to get into and it is all about relationships", she said. "This program gives young people the opportunity to meet and connect with industry professionals that [they] would never have had the opportunity to meet. It also reassures young people that this is an industry that you can have a career in."

As Bjornson gets ready for a successful career in the music industry and begins applying to jobs, she said is thankful for the experiences at Fanshawe and the impact MIA had on her.



MNO citizen wins bronze at Invictus Games

submitted by
Joe Paquette, MNO Veterans Council President

MNO citizen and veteran Derek Anderson, from Thunder Bay, was part of the men's archery team that won bronze during the Invictus Games, held in Sydney Australia. He also competed in sailing and rowing events. The games are an international sporting event for injured and ill armed forces members and veterans, highlighting the power of sport to inspire recovery and support rehabilitation. Anderson served one tour in Bosnia and two tours in Afghanistan.

FAMILY & MILESTONES

Joining the harvest

Four-year-old Benny Doucette (on the right in photo) joined his grandfather and father in harvesting grouse over Thanksgiving weekend in the Mattawa/Nipissing area. This was the first time he participated in the harvest. "It was important for myself and my father to share this tradition of hunting with my son," said Colin Doucette.

Benny learned about grouse, hunting safety and showing respect for the animals. Benny helped his grandfather Greg Doucette, who harvested the bird,



by walking in the bush to retrieve it for his Papa. Later that night, it was cooked for supper and Benny got his first taste of grouse. Benny is pictured with his grandfather Greg Doucette.

Submitted by
Colin Doucette



Fish On!

Brendan Gravelle from Sudbury caught and released this 31" 12lb walleye on June 1, 2019. Way to go, Brendan!

Submitted by
Richard Gravelle Blanchette,
MNO citizen and Brendan's Dad



Three generations of harvesters

Three generations of Métis took part in a harvest on Oct. 13 in Algoma District in the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Traditional Territory. Pictured (left to right) Keith, Calvin, Ruth, Damon and

Mark Blanchette. "We always enjoy some very special family bonding time during the Métis harvest," said Keith Blanchette. Submitted by **Keith Blanchette,** MNO citizen

Joseph Paquette honoured with tribute

by **MNO Staff**

On July 7, a special tribute honoured Joseph Paquette in recognition of his many years of service to both the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans Council and the wider Métis community.

The Service Appreciation Lunch was held at the Legion Branch #82 in Port Credit and provided a space for colleagues, friends and family to come together, share stories and express their gratitude for the dedication and leadership Joe has shown over the years.

Also attending Sunday's lunch were MNO President Margaret Froh and members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), MNO staff and MNO community members.

In addition to sharing stories, some tokens of appreciation were exchanged, including the gifting

of a special Warrior quilt from the Quilts of Valor organization.

While celebrating Joe's contributions over the years and highlighting his work with Métis Youth, PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case took the opportunity to announce a joint partnership between the MNO Youth and Veterans Councils which includes the formation of a new scholarship to be named in Joe's honour.

In a special presentation, Joe was bestowed with the Order of the Métis Nation. The Métis National Council's "Order of the Métis Nation" recognizes the positive impact a recipient has made in moving forward the rights and aspirations of the Métis.

The MNO would like to sincerely thank Joe for the leadership and support he has provided the MNO over the years. Thanks Joe! Your contributions, mentorship and service will be always remembered. ∞



above: MNO Citizens and well-wishers meet in Port Credit to honour MNOVC President Joseph Paquette in a special appreciation lunch. (Back row, left to right) Don Kennedy, Brian Black, Paul Pirie, Shelly Claus, Sgt Raymond Stark, Senator Guy Mandeville, Sharlene Lance, Doug Woods, Greg Garratt. (Back row, left to right) Margaret Froh and Joseph Paquette

right: Joe was presented with the Order of the Métis Nation recognizing for his efforts in moving forward the rights and aspirations of the Métis.



Métis Advisory & Awards Committees seeking members

The Metis Nation of Ontario is seeking Métis community members who are interested in volunteering as members of the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) or Métis Awards Committee (MAC). These roles offer an opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the Ontario Métis community.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- RAC members review and recommend training proposals through an anonymous review process with the assistance of the Regional Employment and Training Coordinator. Reviews are ongoing however time commitment is limited in nature.
- MAC members are required to review bursary applications once or twice a year.

- All RAC and MAC business is to be completed by fax, e-mail and/or teleconference wherever possible. MNO will provide the tools necessary to assist with making informed decisions
- RAC/MAC work is strictly voluntary

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